



Wild lessons

Local author explores threads of motherhood and spiritual ecology in new book. See Arts + Leisure.



Semi-tough

The Panther women's hockey team lost to a NESCAC rival in an NCAA semifinal. See Page 1B.



Early Child

Addison County has a lot to offer parents of young children. Get details in our special pullout.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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City youth club halted by finances

Board calls a pause with funding shortfall

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — It was a financial crisis that led the board of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes to announce on March 17 it would suspend the club's operations after Friday, March 28.

"Our hope was we could stay open through the end of the school year. It's absolutely devastating that we couldn't," board Co-Chair Sadie Jones told the *Independent*.

Jones said some board members met on Thursday, March 13, to review finances, and things moved quickly after they realized how

(See City youth, Page 10A)

Addy Indy gets 40 awards in New England competition

PORTLAND, Maine — The *Addison County Independent* and its sister publication *Vermont Ski + Ride Magazine* took home 43 awards for excellence in journalism at the annual Better Newspaper Competition held over the weekend in Portland, Maine.

The competition, held each year at the annual convention of the New England Newspaper and Press Association, honors the top newspapers and news websites

(See Awards, Page 3A)



Zoom!

BRISTOL ELEMENTARY FIFTH-GRADER Aleeya Rathbun is excited to see her rocket take off during a demonstration at the Mount Abe fields this past Thursday afternoon. Helping out is JoAnna Tebbetts, a training coordinator at Starbase Vermont. See more photos on Pages 4A and 9A.

Independent photo/Steve James

Ripton Elementary is going quiet this fall

Few remaining students heading to Salisbury

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — The town of Ripton, for the first time in more than two centuries, will enter this fall without a local public school.

The Addison Central School District board on Monday voted unanimously to shutter tiny Ripton Elementary School (RES) for the 2025-26 academic year while it sizes up the future of an RES that's been decimated by declining enrollment.

The board also directed ACSD

"The majority of the conversation tonight was so clinical that it was absolutely infuriating."

— Ripton resident Wendy Harlin

Superintendent Wendy Baker to transfer Ripton's roughly 22 grades 2-5 children to the neighboring Salisbury Community School this fall. It had already been decided that Ripton's anticipated three K/1 students would attend Salisbury School this fall because the cohort was too small.

The board arrived at its decision after more than two-and-a-half hours of debate and after considering a head-spinning

(See Ripton, Page 12A)

Bridport & Shoreham schools to join forces?

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRIDPORT/SHOREHAM — For the first time, elementary schools in both Bridport and Shoreham are slated to offer all multi-grade classrooms beginning this fall. It's a product of declining enrollment and an Addison Central School District policy stipulating a minimum of 10 students per class,

across two grades.

But school officials, parents and other stakeholders are joining forces to find creative ways they hope could salvage at least some single-grade instruction for students in both communities. And one of the ideas, at this early stage, would be to combine both student

(See Collaboration, Page 11A)

Locals eye trail network on Hogback Mtn.

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — A coalition of Bristol residents and local organizations are in the early stages of a multi-year project aimed at creating a multi-use recreational area on Hogback Mountain.

The recreational area would be located on a 2,000-acre lot on Hogback owned by the A. Johnson Company, which for generations has allowed the community to

"We seek to demonstrate that recreation can coexist with traditional land uses in Vermont."

— Samantha Morrissey

access and use the property. The parcel is situated on the east side of Bristol village and includes the

popular Ledges Trail accessed off Mountain Terrace.

Those involved in the effort said at a March 25 Holley Hall community meeting that the project would create new trails on Hogback, better allowing for multi-use outdoor recreation while also addressing erosion and degradation resulting from informal use.

"What really has been driving me is that before my father died,

I promised him that I would preserve access for the community to the Ledges Trail because he understood how important that was," Ken Johnson of the A. Johnson Company told those in attendance. "To let everybody enjoy the forest, that's the hope, and to leave a legacy for my family going back to the original A. Johnson four generations ago."

(See Trails, Page 13A)



By the way

If you're an ATV enthusiast, the Orwell selectboard has a message for you: The town's roads are not open to ATV use. Yes, Orwell residents at their March town meeting passed a petitioned article on the warning directing the selectboard to draft an ordinance that could allow ATV use on select town

(See By the way, Page 11A)



RESTORATIVE YOGA AT Green Mountain Shakti uses a variety of props, which allows one to focus on breathing while releasing tension from the body.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Bierman

From sound baths to kickboxing

Bierman launches Green Mountain Shakti venture

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Lauren Bierman has never allowed herself to be boxed-in by convention when mapping out physical and mental health care for herself and others. That's evident in her business Long Trail Psychiatry, through which Bierman blends psychotherapy, lifestyle modifications and mind-body techniques to help patients achieve balance and well-being.

So it was entirely within Bierman's multifarious brand when she recently established Green Mountain

Shakti, which among other things offers restorative yoga, wellness coaching, kickboxing and a host of other services. Bierman describes the offerings as "holistic modalities for physical, mental, and spiritual wellness."

Both her businesses are contained in a surprisingly large space (99 Maple St., Suite 15) once occupied by the former Medicine Chest business in Middlebury's Marble Works complex. Green Mountain Shakti (GMS) debuted there in January and continues to

(See Bierman, Page 14A)



KARIN PAGE IS the new executive director of Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society. Among her talents is putting animals at ease, as she does here with a visiting 6-year-old miniature Goldendoodle named Roxie.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Pet-lover takes helm at Homeward Bound

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Karin Page knows what it's like to care for humans and animals — and hit a target on a horse at full gallop.

The latter reference relates to the Cowboy Sports Association, which she founded in Webster, N.H., in 2011. She and her husband Patrick sold the association in 2015, and now she's taking aim at a new challenge: as the new executive

director of Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society, based in Middlebury.

"I've always had a passion for animals. I knew, when I was in 7th grade, that I wanted to be a vet tech," Page said during a recent interview. "I shadowed at the local veterinary practice. It was just something I knew I wanted to do."

She has an eclectic résumé that includes stints as shelter

(See Director, Page 14A)

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JO LAFONTAINE, LEFT, and Nanny-Co Lathrop put their thoughts into words on posters during a sign-making workshop on Sunday at Holley Hall in Bristol. The posters are earmarked for one of Saturday’s “Hands Off!” rallies, which will be held at 900 spots around the country.

Photo by Jim Mendell

Scores gather to make signs for big April 5 protest

BRISTOL — More than 100 citizens gathered at Holley Hall in Bristol on March 30 to make signs for *Hands Off!* demonstrations scheduled to place at 15 locations in Vermont and over 900 across the country on April 5. *Hands Off!* is

a national day of action protesting the Trump administration’s defunding of programs and services, illegal deportations and invasion of privacy. Children, parents and elders on Sunday created signs opposing

the administration — “Hands Off Medicare!” “Hands Off Libraries!” “Stop Being Mean.” Others articulated hopeful messages in support of democracy. Two children collaborated to craft “We rise by lifting others.”

There was an unmistakable spirit of community generated by so many people of diverse ages. The event included additional opportunities for action. Event organizers provided information for taking specific, timely action. Voters were encouraged to contact Vermont members of Congress regarding SignalGate (the incident in which top Trump security officials used an unsecure messaging app to share information about an upcoming military strike) and funding for public media. On the local level, citizens reached out to Addison County senators and representatives in support of H.169, the Housing Access of Immigrant Families Bill and in opposition to aspects of H.454, the Education Bill that could eliminate a town’s ability to vote on the closure of their community school.

Around 150 national and regional organizations including Indivisible, 50501 and MoveOn are sponsoring the April 5 *Hands Off!* protests. Demonstrations are planned in every state with a large rally scheduled for Washington, D.C. For more information, visit handsoff2025.com. Organizers hope to draw a huge group to Montpelier for a rally, noon-3 p.m., at the Vermont Statehouse.

In addition to the state capital, there will be demonstrations in Brandon (noon at Central Park) and Vergennes (noon at City Park). The Holley Hall event was organized by Northeast Addison County Indivisible. It’s a local group affiliated with Indivisible National, a grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible assemblies with “a vision of a real democracy — of, by, and for the people.” This chapter has over 300 members mostly from Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro and welcomes members from neighboring communities. For more information, email neaddisoncountylvtindivisible@gmail.com.

Editor’s note: This story was provided by Sarah Stott.



SOME OF THE 100-plus sign-makers do their thing at Bristol’s Holley Hall on Sunday as they prepare for the April 5 “Hands Off!” rallies that aim to send a message opposing President Trump’s defunding of many federal programs that affect life here in Addison County.

Photo by Jim Mendell

MAUSD students, community helping shape district’s future

By MARIN HOWELL
BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District Board last week heard from students and school officials about the district’s work with UP for Learning, an educational consultant helping the learning community develop a new strategic plan for the district, including a “Portrait of a Learner.”

Noelle, a student at Bristol Elementary School, was one of a number of students and UP for Learning representatives who updated the MAUSD Board at its March 25 meeting.

“My favorite part of being on this team is seeing people grow and expand in learning and to make new friends and to see people stay and participate,” she said.

UP for Learning has been guiding the district through a multi-phase visioning process aimed at guiding the creation of a Portrait of a Learner document. That document is intended to capture the MAUSD community’s shared aspirations for what every student will know and be able to do upon graduation.

The Portrait of a Learner is also intended to help inform the district’s next strategic plan and help update its ENDS policy, which, like the strategic plan, outlines district goals and helps guide work to reach those objectives. A core team of 49 MAUSD students, school officials and community members have been diving into this work over the past several months.

School board members on March 25 also heard from Cameron, a fifth grader at Bristol Elementary School involved in the process. “My favorite part of being on this team is having an awesome team and friends from Bristol with me,” Cameron said. “We all have had different opinions. My favorite part was meeting new people.”

The MAUSD Portrait of a Learner team has gathered for four retreats and met monthly over the past several months. The core team is made up of 26 students in grades 5-12, 11 district staff members, four school board members, four administrators and four local residents. Incorporating student voices into the visioning process has been a key part of the effort, and the core team’s work has followed a Youth Participatory Action Research cycle “in order to ground the Portrait of a Learner process in principles of equity, shared responsibility and community.”

“Really it’s kind of a theory of change that brings together essentially a team of researchers that are going to be mobilized and trained to go out in their communities, tap into the voices of the people in their communities, bring that data back, analyze it, and then do something with it,” said Susannah White, an UP for Learning program director. White said that at an initial gathering, members of the core team were trained in the concept of youth-adult partnership and why they should work together. “So much of the work of schools happens without youth at the table, and we miss out massively when that happens, when we forget to talk to and partner with the people who are the whole point,” she said.

The team in October was trained in how to collect data, and the group created plans for how to gather information throughout the district. Team members were looking to engage the MAUSD community around the question, “What are the skills, characteristics, and experiences that are most essential for MAUSD students to thrive in learning and in life?”

From November through January groups worked to collect data through a variety of methods, including conducting surveys, having sixth graders at Monkton Central School interview kindergarteners, and allowing Beeman Elementary School students to weigh in through a survey during the school’s mock election.

“In this Portrait of a Learner that we are going to share with you today, even the youngest voices are taken seriously and represented,” White said.

A core team retreat this past January was dedicated to analyzing the information groups gathered and identifying major themes. That was followed by another round of data collection and analysis that took place from January to February. The team met for its final retreat on March 18, where groups identified several pillars for the district’s Portrait of a Learner, brainstormed next steps and reflected on the process.

White noted that the Portrait of a Learner document that resulted is based on feedback from 1,140 voices throughout the district. In total, the group heard from 354 middle and high school students, 414 preK-6 students, 170 staff members, and 202 residents.

“(That total) is I think something to feel really good about, that you’re anchoring what will become a huge part of your strategic plan in these voices,” White said.

Currently, the team is working to finalize the language and design for the Portrait of a Learner, as well

(See MAUSD, Page 3A)

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— Susannah White, UP for Learning

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(See MAUSD, Page 3A)

CORRECTION: In last week’s edition, where we called out Middlebury Union High School girls’ hockey team members who were named Lake A Division All Stars, we neglected to mention one Tiger who was recognized. Junior defender Quinn Doria earned Second-Team Lake A Division honors. We’re sorry for the oversight.

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Awards

(Continued from Page 1A)
from all six New England states in 85 editorial categories and 35 advertising categories. Professional judges are hired to pick the region's best journalists.

The *Independent*, which brought home 15 first-place awards, 15 second place awards and 10 third-place awards, garnered the highest number of honors at Saturday's awards banquet among the 97 newspapers who submitted 1,966 contest entries.

"It's always a great feeling to take top honors among some of the best newspapers in the region," long-time editor and publisher Angelo Lynn said. "It's a true reflection of the high quality of work we do and of the hard work every member of the team contributes. It's a big commitment to bring the news to the county each week in print, and five days a week through our websites, newsletters and social media, and it's humbling to have that work honored by our peers and others throughout the six states."

"And, of course, we hope it's appreciated by our readers and supporters — they're the reason we work so hard to produce the best possible newspaper week in and week out."

Lynn also highlighted the fact that almost every staff member had a direct involvement in at least one of the awards.

"I'm particularly pleased to see that the awards honored every individual in the news, advertising and production departments for specific projects they worked on," Lynn said. "That demonstrates the exceptional team spirit and camaraderie we share at the Addy Indy, which no doubt helps us do our best."

The Addy Indy awards were split evenly — 20 for the Advertising and Marketing Department and 20 for the News Department. *Ski + Ride*, helmed by Addison Press Publisher Angelo Lynn and Editor in Chief Lisa Lynn, garnered a first-place nod as the Best Niche Publication, as well as a second-place award for a Lisa Lynn story and third place in General Excellence.

This year the Addy Indy advertising team really shined.

Jenna Hunsinger was named Advertising Director/Manager of the Year. Associate Publisher Christy Lynn and Elsie Lynn Parini teamed up with Angelo Lynn to create the Addy All Stars program, which earned the Best Business Innovation Award among New

England publications. The other eight first-place awards for the department revolved around specific advertisements, campaigns, partnerships and special sections. Contributors to those winners included Katy Foote and Tom Van Sant. Production Manager Sue Leggett was named as directly supporting four awards, but, of course, she has a hand in most of what the *Independent* creates.

Parini was also named Best Ad Designer among weekly newspapers.

A bright light for the News Department was winning the Best Local Elections Coverage category. News Editor John McCright was particularly proud of this since it was given for the *Independent's* Town Meeting Day coverage, to which the entire team contributed.

"All the reporters and the photographer worked their tails off to gather and collate news from 23 town under a tight deadline," he said. "And beyond them, the production folks not only produced camera-ready products, but they and the front-office staff helped bring it all together."

Independent photographer Steve James had a big night winning not only first prize for General News Photo, but he earned first, second and third places in the Sports Action Photo category.

McCright was also pleased that the Addy Indy's efforts to reach out to the community was recognized. First place in Excellence in Newsroom Collaboration and Partnerships went to Tom Morgan and Heidi Lacey, who were the driving forces behind a series of "Living Together" columns in which a dozen local people outside the newspaper gave their unique perspectives on the homelessness crisis.

Of the 20 awards won by the Addy Indy's advertising department, 10 were first place, six were for second, and four were for third place. In news, the department had 5 firsts, 9 seconds and 6 thirds. Those awards were:

The NENPA awards presented to the *Addison Independent* were:

- Advertising & Design awards:**
- Best Ad Designer: 1st place Elsie Lynn Parini, 3rd place Sarah Pope.
 - Overall Design and Presentation (Special Section): 2nd Sarah Pope for Weddings.
 - Advertiser Campaign: 1st Christy Lynn, Katy Foote, Staff;



KINDERGARTNER ELIZABETH HECK clearly loves smashing a paper plate of whipped cream in the face of Bristol Elementary School Principal Aaron Boynton in front of a whole school assembly. This Steve James photo ran in October 2023 and this week it was tapped as the **Best General News Photo** at the New England Newspaper and Press Convention.

Independent file photo/Steve James

2nd Katy Foote, Sue Leggett, Sarah Pope.

- Business Innovation: Angelo, Christy, Elsie & staff for the Addy All-Stars.
- Best Idea for Generating Revenue: 1st Jenna Hunsinger, Christy Lynn & staff for Independent Digital Marketing.
- Best Health Ad: 2nd Christy Lynn, Sarah Pope for Porter Medical Nurses Week, 3rd Christy Lynn, Sarah Pope for ACHHH Childhood.
- Best Holiday Ad: 1st Christy Lynn, Elsie Parini for Bradford holiday.
- Local Display Ad (Black & White): 1st Elsie Parini.
- Local Display Ad (Color): 2nd Katy Foote, Sue Leggett for Otter Creek Used Book Profiles.
- Local Online Ad: 1st Christy Lynn, staff for Mahaney.
- Real Estate Display Ad: 2nd Christy Lynn, Katy Foote, Sue Leggett for Berkshire Hathaway.
- Excellence in Revenue Collaboration and Partnerships: 1st Christy Lynn, Elsie Parini for THT Auction insert.
- Most Creative Use of Small Print Space: 3rd Katy Foote, Elsie

Parini for Woofpack.

- Themed Multiple Advertiser Pages: 2nd Christy, Elsie, Jenna, Katy, Tom for Midd Night Stroll pages.
 - Contests: 2nd Jenna Hunsinger, staff for Valentine's Contest.
 - Subscription Promotion: 3rd Elsie Parini, staff for Holiday Gift Subscriptions.
 - Special Section / Advertising Supplement: 1st Addy Indy Staff for Early Childhood Guide.
 - Advertising Director / Manager of the Year: 1st Jenna Hunsinger.
- News awards:**
- Business Story: 2nd Marin Howell for "Bristol lumber mill hurt by changing times."
 - Arts & Entertainment Section: 2nd Elsie Parini and Staff.
 - Sports Story: 2nd Andy Kirkaldy for "Sixth straight Panther field hockey title."
 - Crime and Courts Reporting: 2nd John Flowers for "Prosecutor faces scrutiny."
 - Human Interest Feature Story: 3rd John Flowers for "A young life back from the brink."
 - Reporting on Religious Issues: 3rd John Flowers for "As pews fill up, Middlebury churches need

room."

- Local Election Coverage: 1st Staff for Town Meeting Day coverage.
- Event Special Section: 2nd Sue Leggett and Staff for Field Days Program.
- Special Section or Editorial Supplement: 2nd Sarah Pope and John McCright for Fall Weddings.
- Serious Columnist: 3rd Karl Lindholm for "Rip Van Winkle" and "Nuf Ced."
- Sports Columnist: 3rd Karl Lindholm for "Mind over Matter" and "Bill Lee."
- Excellence in Newsroom Collaboration and Partnerships: 1st Tom Morgan, Heidi Lacey et al. for Living Together columns.
- Commentary: 3rd Angelo

Lynn for "No easy fix for costly education budgets."

- Editorial/Commentary Page: 2nd Angelo Lynn.
 - Sports Action Photo: 1st Steve James for Tiger #20 hit by pitch, 2nd Steve James for Grey at the finish line, and 3rd Steve James for Alpine skier Katie Fynn in Gates.
 - General News Photo: 1st Steve James for Pie in the face by excited kindergarten Elisabeth Heck.
 - Pictorial Photo: 1st Dottie Nelson for Snow Geese.
- Vermont Ski + Ride Magazine:**
- Best Niche Publication: 1st Lisa Lynn and David Pollard.
 - Sports Feature Story: 2nd Lisa Lynn for "Saving the Ski Hill."
 - General Excellence: 3rd Lisa Lynn, David Pollard, Angelo Lynn.

MAUSD

(Continued from Page 2A)
as sharing its work with MAUSD schools and communities.

At the March 25 meeting, school board members got a chance to review the draft language for the district's Portrait of a Learner and offer feedback. School officials and students were also invited to share takeaways from the process.

"Having youth at the same table with us, especially those who have participated in strategic planning and trying to identify those ends or that North Star many times in my career, this has taken on a different tone, which I really appreciate and kind of keeps us in check, me in check, in a way that has me be a

better listener in a lot of ways, so I appreciate that a lot," MAUSD Assistant Superintendent Catrina DiNapoli said.

MAUSD Board member Kielee Pelland has taken part in the visioning process and shared her thoughts on the effort.

"We did talk about some heavy stuff at times, (but) it still was really fun and uplifting," she said. "Everyone was really respectful. It was a great experience for me, and it makes me feel like the information and input we have is really global. We have so much input from all different parties, and that makes me feel better prepared going into the strategic planning knowing

that we've heard, hopefully, a wide variety of voices."

White outlined next steps for the visioning process. Those include engaging with MAUSD staff in May, using the Portrait of a Learner to revise the district's ENDS policy over the summer, and starting strategic planning with an equity lens in August.

"We added 'with an equity lens' just knowing that this process has really been rooted in making sure we're hearing all voices and are checking in with our own biases and our own traditional ways of viewing things and challenging ourselves where needed, and I think one of the most equitable things any

school district can do is to center young people in the process, which is a huge part of what we've been doing," White said.

MAUSD Superintendent Patrick Reen said that highlighting youth voices will remain part of the district's work moving forward.

"Thinking about the next steps and the task before us all to keep the youth voice strong in conversations around 'How do we change the ENDS in light of what we know about the Portrait of a Learner?' and keep that youth voice in the strategic planning process, and just keep that youth voice as a thread throughout these processes that we have to work through," Reen said.

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Editorials

Chilling arrests target everyone’s free speech

When it happened last week, I missed the CNN report. But while at a New England newspaper conference this Friday-Saturday in Portland, Maine, I saw the televised news clip of the Turkish grad student at Tufts University in suburban Boston being suddenly confronted by masked men while walking on a sidewalk near her apartment. It was clear from the newsreel the masked officers offered little explanation of what was going on, handcuffed the 30-year-old female student within a matter of seconds and escorted her into a waiting unmarked car. Without charges or given any rights, she was whisked first to a prison in Vermont, then swiftly moved to Louisiana where she remains incarcerated.

It was shocking this could happen here. In America. For what? Expressing an opinion more than a year ago in a student newspaper. That was all it took for the Trump administration to lock up a student who had the full rights to be in this country seeking a graduate degree at a prestigious American university.

This is what America has become under Trump and his administration. Here are the facts:

- On March 25, ICE agents confronted Tufts University Ph.D. student Rümeysa Öztürk on a sidewalk near campus during the day. A Turkish national, she was arrested by plain-clothed agents in unmarked cars.
- More than a year ago, in March 2024, Öztürk co-authored an opinion piece in the student newspaper critical of the university’s response to Israel’s attacks on Palestinians in Gaza. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson told the Associated Press that federal authorities detained Öztürk and revoked her visa after an investigation found she had “engaged in activities in support of Hamas.”
- But the only publicly known activity was her op-ed. According to Öztürk’s attorney, shesaid she is not aware of any criminal charges against Öztürk and when asked to detail the specific activities warranting the student’s visa being revoked, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio declined. More than a week later, Rubio has not provided any evidence that she has engaged in any unlawful activities.
- A Tufts spokesperson has said Öztürk, 30, is a student “in good standing” and that her op-ed did not violate university policies on protests and expression.
- A week later, Öztürk has still not been charged and, according to CNN, has not been allowed to speak with a lawyer.

If you missed the video clip, you’re missing a fundamental change in what many Americans have always believed to be our nation’s core strength — that we’re a nation ruled by law and the adherence to it. Apparently, that is no longer true under Trump.

Watch the chilling video here, (or google *CNN Tufts student arrested.*) Nationally, more than 11 newspaper groups are advocating for Öztürk’s release, including NEFAC (New England First Amendment Coalition), Student Press law Center, Freedom of the Press Foundation and many others. They say the detention appears to be a “blatant disregard for the principles of free speech and free press within the First Amendment.”

“The First Amendment is an asset, not an inconvenience,” wrote NEFAC and its fellow advocates in a *March 28 statement*. “Further, we note that these efforts may start with students, but it likely will not end there. If the federal government can take these steps for an op-ed in a student newspaper, what will prevent it from doing so with journalists and others with whom it disagrees?”

Nor is she the only student arrested by ICE without due process. According to CNN, “more than a dozen known students and faculty members at colleges across the country have been detained by federal agents amid the Trump administration’s crackdown on immigration, which on college campuses, has taken aim at pro-Palestinian student activists and Israel critics.”

Such unlawful arrests are one more thing to speak out against at this Saturday’s (April 5) *Handsoff* rally (see *handsoff2025.com*) against the alarming, and often undemocratic, changes taken by the Trump administration in its first 100 days. The statewide rally starts at noon in Montpelier, while a rally in Brandon goes from noon to 2 p.m.

Angelo Lynn

Of awards and the common good

The Addison Independent hit a milestone this year by being honored with 40 awards, plus three awards for our sister publication Vermont Ski + Ride Magazine. The advertising department won 20 awards, including 10 firsts, and the news department won 20, including 5 firsts. A perennial winner of NENPA’s annual better newspaper contest, this year represents the most awards the paper has won in any single year, and we earned more awards than any other newspaper or newspaper group.

We don’t say this to boast, but to recognize the excellent work our advertising, news, production and front office teams do to deliver the news to our growing number of readers — both online and in print. We’re up early, out late covering board meetings and sporting events, and working weekends whenever duty calls — which is almost always.

It’s no small feat to deliver accurate, trustworthy news through our print edition each Thursday and our four newsletters on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. And it takes a real team effort to provide articulate and insightful marketing ideas to area businesses to help them get the most out of their marketing dollar — whether that’s in print, or in one of the many digital products we offer.

None of that hard work is possible, however, without the iron-clad support of the business community, our readers and our supporters. As we’ve noted before, it costs us about \$35,000-\$38,000 to produce each edition of the Addy Indy, which means the \$2 you spend on each issue is one heck of a good deal!

How can you help? If you’re an occasional reader, buy a subscription and join us 52 weeks a year. If you’re a subscriber, consider joining the **ADDY ALL-STARs** — from \$50 on up. If you’re a business owner, consider calling our marketing team to help promote your company. Our team is among the best in the field, and just as buying goods locally is important, buying advertising locally also makes the community stronger.

Above all, keep reading, stay engaged, write letters, and work to make your community (town/state/nation/world) better by advocating for the common good. Be hopeful, diligent, and never give up. If enough of us can, and do, we’ll all be fine — here and across the country.

Angelo Lynn

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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The Addison Independent USPS 005-380

Ready for launch
STARBASE VERMONT TRAINING coordinator JoAnna Tebbetts helps Bristol Elementary School fifth-grader Makai Copeland ready his rocket for launch. The whole class went out to the Mount Abe playing fields on March 27 to cap a STEM unit on rockets.
Independent photo/Steve James

Make a statement, shop local

One of my first teaching positions was at a Montessori elementary school a block away from the United Nations. I was thrilled to land this job. The only hitch was my annual starting salary of \$9,000. Studio apartments in that neighborhood ran around \$1,500 a month in the 1980s, so I teamed up with a friend in grad school to try to find affordable housing.

The first place we looked at was a one-bedroom in Greenwich Village for \$500 a month. The place was small and dirty, but we could afford it. The landlord, dressed in a greasy undershirt, met us in a dingy hallway with the lease. Holding it against the wall, he said we’d first need to fork over a \$500 deposit and another \$500 for the month of June, even though June was already half over. He didn’t plan to clean up either — take it as is, or leave it.

I saw red. Let’s get out of here, I said to Martha. I’m not doing business with people like this. And we left. Given our financial situation it was a foolish move, but we were lucky and found a great place above Spanish Harlem with a cheerful Filipino landlady.

In recent years, many people have gotten frustrated with the unethical practices of large corporations. Not doing business with bad players seems like an easy way to make a quiet statement while becoming part of a large movement.

There is now a growing list of mega-businesses my husband and I — along with many others — don’t patronize. We left Amazon years ago, after learning about its devastating impact on authors and publishers

and later its willingness to put small retailers out of business by drastically undercutting their prices. Last year I cancelled my *Washington Post* subscription after its owner refused to publish the work of his own excellent staff, and I just left Facebook for deciding to stop fact-checking its posts. I also don’t plan on ever purchasing a Tesla or a trip to the moon. I couldn’t afford them anyway.

Like other Vermonters, we focus on buying locally. In the summer and fall, the produce we don’t grow in our garden is available from local farms. The food coop in Middlebury offers members a chance to be part of a worker and community-owned business. We make a monthly trip to Costco, saving money on bulk food. They have a reputation for treating employees well in terms of pay, benefits and career development opportunities. We’ve noticed that folks who work at Costco stay there.

But thankfully, those of us who reside in Bristol village can meet many of our basic needs just a short walk from home. That’s one of the incredible aspects of living here. We can walk to the grocery store, drug store, hardware store, dentist, doctor, library, bookstore, post office, bank and several lovely restaurants. We can find unique and lovely gifts for our friends and family. Our grandchildren love strolling into town to choose a birthday gift. I can splurge on a handmade pair of earrings or a carved wooden bowl or a lovely beret or a dozen roses, (See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Alice Leeds

Sharing the thrill of no-dig gardening

A year ago, I wrote about the new-to-me technique of “no-dig” gardening. While seeking advice online using search terms like “how to not suck at growing vegetables,” I had landed on a bunch of YouTube channels promoting this method.

Judging by the calm, beaming gardeners who espoused no-dig gardening, it seemed like a less adversarial process than the one I was familiar with. For me, gardening had always been a one-woman battle against nature, with nature pulling ahead in early July and running victory laps around my tired, sweaty, dirt-caked body every fall.

These experts claimed that no-dig gardening required less maintenance than traditional tilled gardening and resulted in fewer weeds and happier earthworms. Before I had even tried it, I became a vocal advocate. I gushed about it to my friends and explained as gently as I could that their traditional gardening methods were, no offense, dumb.

I knew the hard part would be preparing the beds that first year. But from the videos, it didn’t look all that difficult: 1. Lay sheets of old cardboard in the size and shape of the desired bed to kill the underlying weeds. 2. Cover the bed with six inches of composted soil. 3. Grow a beautiful, weed-free garden. 4. Harvest. The videos, accompanied by peaceful acoustic guitar

music, showed the first and last sheets of cardboard going down and the first and last scoops of soil getting spread with a rake. They skipped over the middle parts.

I soon found out why. As an example, for a decent-sized garden, a little math will show that you need a minimum of two tractor-trailer loads of flattened cardboard boxes to smother the space.

I wasn’t about to do the math, so every day I was caught by surprise when the three boxes I had found at stores in town wouldn’t even cover five square feet. (“No-dig gardening takes a whole lot of cardboard,” I told various checkout clerks, who, maintaining their professional demeanor, pretended not to be fascinated.)

It also takes a lot of soil to cover your entire garden six inches deep. I don’t know how many trips it took me to move four yards of soil from the pile on the lawn into the beds. But when I got done, I had to take the wheelbarrow in for its 40,000-mile check-up.

Looking back, it’s hard to say whether my first no-dig season was a success. I got a late start, having spent all of May and part of June just getting the beds ready. “But it’s not a waste of time; it’s an investment,” I told anyone who would listen, as if I knew.

My vegetables did grow well once they finally got (See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

Around the bend

By Jessie Raymond

Letters to the Editor

Skatepark’s funding at issue

A recent article on the front page of the *Addison Independent* reminds me of why we now have Trump, Musk and company in Washington, D.C., shutting off funding for many U.S. government agencies. The article noted that the proposed skate park renovation in Bristol will be partially funded with \$140,000 from the ARPA. The ARPA is a direct handout from our federal government. Why, in heaven’s name, is the U.S. government spending \$140,000 on a skatepark in Bristol, Vt.? I am not sure that is what our founding fathers envisioned as a primary (or even secondary) role for our federal government.

Jim Peabody
Bristol

Consider aid to Gaza victims

If you are disgusted and ashamed of man’s inhumanity and the abominable, wicked, outrageous, sinful and every other negative synonym to describe the continuing killing of innocent folks, — especially mothers and children — in Gaza, then please look up UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Work Agency). They are a nonprofit organization doing all they can for Palestinian refugees in Gaza.

Please consider sending UNRWA a check marking it specifically for Palestine to: UNRWA
PO Box 18697
Washington, DC 20036
202-223-3767

Jenn and Bob Nixon
Middlebury

Governor has wrong priorities

Governor Phil Scott still can’t find the time to publicly speak out about what is happening federally but can take the time to post about what’s really hurting Vermonters, Comcast no longer including the MLB in their basic coverage.

I appreciate that the Governor is a baseball fan. It is also tone deaf given his continued silence on the real hardships Vermonters are facing as a direct result of the Federal Government. While I know the Governor has a lot going on locally, I wonder, how bad will things have to get before our leader will lead?

Al Harder-Hyde
Vergennes

ART thespians were dazzling

This school year I’ve enjoyed two shows put on by the A.R.T. program at the Hannaford Career Center. The holiday Panto show was great, light-hearted fun and I was impressed and inspired not to miss future shows.

This weekend I saw “I’ll Tell You A Secret,” written and produced by the students; this letter is to publicly applaud them for an incredible show. The themes they tackled, the narrative tension they built up, the subtle storytelling, the ending, and how they incorporated the set into the story all combined to produce an impactful experience.

Hats off to everyone involved! Jessica Danyow
Middlebury

Writer’s views miss the mark

I have read Joanna Colwell’s editorials over the last few months and believe that her anti-Zionist beliefs cloud her view of what’s happening in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. Her views on Israel being an “apartheid” state and genocidal towards the Palestinians is purely subjective.

Why don’t I hear her calling out the Palestinian Authority for their “pay for slay” funds that they pay to the terrorists that kill Israelis? I never hear her mention that Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic jihad, and many Palestinian citizens (See *Greenberg* letter, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

All hands on deck for HandsOff event in Brandon

This Saturday, April 5, please take part in a HandsOff demonstration in Brandon, Vergennes, or Montpelier. This is a National Day of Action, protesting the Trump/Musk Wrecking Crew’s efforts to demolish the agencies of our government that deliver Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid,

accurate weather forecasts, protection from financial fraud, and protection of our country from attack. Join me and other members of Indivisible Middlebury for the rally in Brandon at 12 noon to urge our elected representatives to speak up and speak out against Trump’s efforts to neutralize and

coopt the press, intimidate lawyers and judges, and defund vital medical research at Middlebury College, UVM, and other colleges and universities. Sign up now at handsoff2025.com. We can do this. Keep Hope Alive!

Mike Palmer
Cornwall

Trump administration is cutting funds for NOAA

The Trump administration is gutting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, slashing staff, and undermining the science that keeps us safe. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick promised that NOAA wouldn’t be dismantled, yet layoffs and funding cuts show otherwise. NOAA provides free, life-saving weather data that Vermont’s farmers, emergency responders, and communities rely on daily. Weakening it now, as climate disasters grow more frequent and severe, is reckless and dangerous. Most of the public attention to the threat to NOAA has focused on weather forecasts, and it is certainly true that ready and free availability of weather data is

essential to Vermont’s economy and quality of life. NOAA also supplies the raw data that is used by various private organizations, like The Weather Channel/ weather.com. But I want to focus here on NOAA’s role in helping us understand what is happening to our climate and why. NOAA is a linchpin worldwide in climate monitoring and research. Weakening NOAA would have devastating consequences for global climate research and forecasting. Dismantling NOAA means ‘flying blind’ into climate crises. Without ready access to NOAA’s data, both current and archived, the world would lack essential tools to track and respond to rising sea

levels, worsening heatwaves, flooding, wildfires, and other climate disasters. Restricting or privatizing NOAA’s data would threaten public safety, economic stability, and the U.S.’s leadership in climate science. Gutting NOAA would not only undermine decades of critical research but also signal a retreat from the U.S.’s role as a global leader in science and innovation and in actions to prevent climate change. Our Senators Bernie Sanders and Peter Welch, along with Representative Becca Balint, must act to protect NOAA’s funding and ensure its essential data remains public. Vermont communities depend on it.

Richard S. Hopkins
Middlebury

Message to Trump: Hands off the U.S. Postal Service

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution reads: “The Congress shall have Power...to Establish Post Offices and post Roads;” (Section 7) I am deeply concerned with unconstitutional movement by the Trump Administration to privatize what is a mandated Power of the U.S. Congress! I have come to believe that there is a deliberate attempt by the Postmaster General, backed by the Administration, to deliberately slow down the delivery of mail across the nation. On Jan. 28, 2025, my husband and I mailed our tax information to our attorney in Shelby, Ohio. We sent the envelope first class

priority mail. The estimated delivery date was Jan. 31. The envelope arrived in the Nashua, N.H., Distribution Center on Jan. 28. On Feb. 2 it was “In Transit to Next Facility.” It arrived in Cleveland, Ohio, Feb. 21 and was finally delivered to Shelby Feb. 24. Concerned with the delayed delivery, including W-2 and 1099 documents, my husband had the information scanned, and we emailed them to our attorney. On Feb. 22, we wrote checks for our taxes and mailed them – *two days before the priority enveloped reached Shelby.* During that same timeframe we mailed: an Express Overnight

envelope to Willard, Ohio, which arrived a full 5 days later; and a certified first class letter arriving some 10 days later— and the stories continue. We are strong supporters of the Postal Service and know that the delays are not in the local offices. I have contacted our Senators and Representative and asked them to support the mandated Power of the Congress and demand that the Administration keep Hands Off the USPS. I ask you to do the same and to join in publicly rallying. to save this vital service.

Patti Welch
Bristol

Greenberg letter

(Continued from Page 4A) (who took part on October 7th) are calling for the destruction of the only Jewish state and killing of Jews. That the rockets continue to be shot into Israel from Gaza and Lebanon. The mantra of “from the river to

the sea” is just what Nasser, remember him?, use to say, “drive the Jews into the sea.” This letter in no way defends the right-wing government of Netanyahu or the settler movement but BOTH sides must learn to live together in a two-

state solution and accept each other’s right to exist. Joanna and others must stop villainizing Israel and act like they are the only ones at fault.

Marv Greenberg
Middlebury

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) then select a couple skeins of my favorite yarn and even learn how to transform it into a cozy cowl. All just minutes away. Recently I learned about the billions of dollars diverted to VISA and Mastercard each year, so I’m starting to switch over to checks and cash. It isn’t much more time-consuming than swiping a credit card. I do less

online shopping that way, though I haven’t yet figured out how to entirely avoid online transactions. Alone, it may not seem like we have much impact. But a recent Harris poll discussed in *The Guardian* found that “20% of Americans are permanently changing their consumption habits” for ethical reasons. As we encourage each other to allocate our resources more carefully, we

could shift a chunk of the present economic imbalance. It would be a step towards repairing our broken world. Alice Leeds, of Bristol, taught in a variety of private and public schools and colleges for forty years. Presently retired, she tries to engage in some useful endeavor each day. She enjoys hearing from readers at aleeds@gmavt.net.

House panel offers education path

On Friday, Vermont’s House Committee on Education voted out its much anticipated “Education Transformation” bill, echoing but not copying many of the shared goals with Gov. Scott. The proposals contained in the bill are potentially sweeping changes to our current school system to be enacted on a deliberate and sustainable pace. It is a responsible and realistic plan. Unfortunately, Gov. Scott has already criticized the plan as being just another study, despite the many shared goals and concepts. It is so much more than that.

Change can be exciting and stoke the imagination. Change can also be chaotic and destructive, confusing motion with accomplishment. The House proposal embraces change and transformation but at a pace that can actually be achieved without crippling our public school system and leaving kids behind. It is hard work that needs to be done carefully and methodically. First, instead of the five huge school districts proposed by the governor, the House plan empowers a group of retired school superintendents and business managers with broad knowledge of Vermont’s current system to propose new school districts. The five-member panel will review the existing structure, the historical development of those districts as well as the geographic

and programmatic needs, and recommend three versions for the Legislature to consider in 2026 with a minimum of 4,000 students in each district. Second, the plan proposes to achieve cost efficiencies and improved student experiences by establishing class size minimums for public and approved independent schools that are supported by research and that fit the Vermont scale. While Gov. Scott’s proposal looks at student teacher ratios of 25:1, the House proposal seeks class size minimums of 12-18, depending on grade. Third, several sections of the bill address facility needs by resurrecting State Aid for School Construction. Many bond votes to build new schools have failed in recent years due to the high costs and the lack of state aid. The proposal establishes a process to prioritize projects to receive aid, extending 20% towards annual debt service payments and another 20% if the project helps achieve the “newer and fewer” idea to achieve the efficiencies mentioned above. Now we just need to come up with the millions to make it a reality. Achieving school-size scale would be hard without funding the program. Fourth, the proposal changes the landscape for towns that pay tuition to other public or approved independent schools,

prioritizing public schools in Vermont and abutting states and limiting independent schools to ones that have traditionally served in place of public schools, such as the four historic academies. This keeps tax dollars in Vermont and concentrates those dollars on the schools that mainly serve public school students. Lastly, the proposal seeks to improve statewide systems and governance, such as establishing a uniform school calendar and graduation requirements, as well as uniform data systems. But it also reaffirms the role of the State Board of Education as an independent, rule-making organization for public education and the duties of the Agency of Education to execute the policies. Any one of these changes would be huge on its own. That is why the House Committee on Education put into place realistic expectations of what could be achieved, particularly after taking testimony from the people who would have to enact the changes. Some parts of the proposal will be controversial as is natural with any sweeping change. The bill will now go to the money committees for the crucial funding piece to support these policies. There will likely be additions and changes along the way, but this is a great start. Rep. Peter Conlon is chair of the House Education Committee, and Rep. Charlie Kimbell is ranking member of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Legislative Review

This week’s writers are Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, and Rep. Charlie Kimbell, D-Woodstock

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A) going, and the weeds seemed less antagonistic than in past years. But year two, I told people, is when the pros say I’ll reap the real rewards — in vegetable production, soil health, weed reduction and saved time and effort. Though friends urged me not to go to the trouble, I insisted I’d text them with daily updates on my crop yields this summer. Last week, I went out to check the gardens and face the consequences of not cleaning them out last fall (I’m a work in progress). To my surprise, the weeds I found

were not like the weeds I was used to, which had roots that extended into the center of the earth. These came right out, leaving me with dark, loose soil already primed for planting. No-dig was working. I hooted with joy. I cried. I may have taken a bow. It was the first time I had ever felt that gardening was something that could be manageable, perhaps even pleasant. With minimal effort, I got half the beds cleaned up in under an hour, putting me two months ahead of past years. I called Mark right

from the garden to share the good news. “Mm-hmm,” he cheered. He’s so supportive. I still need to bring in a bit more compost to top off the beds for the upcoming growing season. But my indoor seedlings are doing well. And — drum roll, please — I could put my peas in as soon as Saturday! Even though my no-dig journey is objectively a big deal, sometimes I worry that the people around me aren’t as interested in it as I am. I hope I’m wrong. If they think I’m boring now, they’re going to find me downright insufferable by Labor Day.

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

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Obituaries

Mary Jane James, 89, of Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Mary Jane James, 89, of Shoreham, Vt., passed away peacefully at home on March 31, 2025. The daughter of Leon and Janet (Larrabee) Swinton, she was born Aug. 8, 1935, in Middlebury, Vt. Mary Jane grew up in West Bridport on the family farm with her five sisters; they were known as the “Smart Swinton Girls.” She attended Middlebury High School and went on to graduate from Green Mountain College.

Mary Jane married her beloved husband, Edwin C. James, on Aug. 27, 1961, and lived the rest of her life with him and their son on their farm in Shoreham. Mary took care of the farm’s books and took pride in making home feel like a home. Mary was the most amazing mom, an excellent cook and avid reader, she made numerous quilts with her amazing sewing skills and had a love for all animals.

She was an active member of the Shoreham Congregational Church and also served as the Shoreham Town clerk for several years. She made many friends, young and old, through the years as Mary was such a sweet, loving soul who enjoyed everyone. Mom had a sweet tooth and was very fond of chocolate, ice cream and marshmallows;



MARY JANE JAMES

she always would say she never had a bad marshmallow! She also enjoyed seafood and would look forward to seeing her friend John deliver her favorite fish and chips or shrimp!

Mary is survived by her son, Edwin S. James and wife Stacy of Shoreham; grandchildren, Sumner and Rachel Andrews of Hyde Park, Sully Andrews and fiancée Kayleigh of South Burlington, and Sophie Benoit of Shoreham; great-grandchildren, Adella, Asher, Addison, Daxton, Evelyn, Josie,

and Hansen; her sisters Bobbie Swinton of Burlington, Audrey Keyes of Bridport, Cindy Belenger of Monkton and Louise (David) Richmond of Essex; sisters-in-law Sandra Adams and partner Joy Livingston of Hinesburg, Jenny Purinton of Utah; brothers-in-law Larry Clark of Shoreham and Dan (Ginny) James of Wisconsin; many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors, friends and her loving cat Dewey. Mary was predeceased by her husband, sister Peggy Clark, and brothers-in-law Bill Keyes and Fred Belenger.

We want to say a huge thank you to family and friends, the first responders, and to the hospice workers who go above and beyond; they are true angels! Donations in her name can be made to: Addison County Home Health and Hospice P.O. Box 754, Middlebury, VT. 05753, First Responders of Shoreham, or Shoreham Congregational Church P.O. Box 177 Shoreham, VT. 05770.

A memorial to celebrate Mary’s life will be held on Saturday, April 12, at 1 p.m., at the Shoreham Congregational Church with refreshments following directly after at the church. ◊

Milton Flake ‘Bob’ Campbell, 89, formerly of Middlebury

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Milton Flake “Bob” Campbell passed away peacefully on March 15, 2025, in Chattanooga, Tenn., at the age of 89.

Bob lived a wonderful life full of love and adventure. Born in Taylorsville, N.C. on April 24, 1935, to Rowe and Sophie Campbell, he was valedictorian of his high school class and went on to graduate from Davidson College, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1957. Bob graduated from Duke University Medical School in 1961 and did an internship at Cornell Medical Center in NYC followed by residency in Ophthalmology at Duke University. He served in the U.S. Navy as a Lt. Commander and was director of the Eye Department at the U.S. Naval Hospital in St. Albans, N.Y., from 1966-68.

In 1968, Bob and his wife Penny moved to Greenwich, Conn., where he started his practice in Ophthalmology, establishing Greenwich Ophthalmology and growing it into a large successful practice which remains in business today.

Bob loved being a doctor and caring for his patients. He was Chief of Medical Staff at Greenwich Hospital from 1990-1993 and Director of the Eye Department at Greenwich Hospital from 1980 until his retirement in 2000. Bob met Penny, the love of his life, on a ship returning from summer adventures in Europe with friends. They discovered that they went to school not far from one another as Penny was at University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Married in 1961, they raised their four daughters in Greenwich, Conn., and remained deeply in love when Penny passed away in Dec 2023



MILTON FLAKE “BOB” CAMPBELL

after 61 years of marriage.

In 2000, Bob and Penny retired to Vero Beach, Fla., and Middlebury, Vt., where Bob pursued a new passion as an artist and painter. Having never had art lessons, he started from scratch and became a prolific and talented artist. Painting brought him a great deal of pleasure and his many pieces featured the natural landscapes and birds of Florida and Vermont.

While in Middlebury, Bob and Penny joined the Congregational Church of Middlebury and got involved in the creation of the Town Hall Theater.

Penny and Bob shared a sense of adventure and loved to travel. They loved nothing more than planning their next trip, and they explored the world together, visiting a great variety of places such as Greenland, New Zealand, and Peru. Bob was well loved by all who met him. He was a kind and gentle man with a good sense of humor, a deep love of his wife, Penny, and

his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He and Penny shared a zest for life and a love of nature. He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Bob was predeceased by Penny, his beloved wife of 61 years; his sister, Ann Campbell Brown; and his brother, Buck. He is survived by four daughters and their families: Kimberly and Wade Cobb of Middlebury, Vt., (James, Helen, Nathan) Heather and Mark Leonard, of Winchester, Va., (Meagan, Nicholas), Catie and Phil Resor of Middle Haddam, Conn., (Tucker, Grayson, Ben), and Sarah and Keith Baker of Chattanooga, Tenn., (Sophie, Sam). He was also blessed with three great-grandchildren, Evelyn and Declan Pampreen, and Johnny Cobb.

The family would particularly like to thank Tom Caliendo for bringing companionship and friendship in Bob’s later years. Thanks also to caregivers: Rena Whitley, Shamela Bonds, Darlene Pasley and the amazing staff at The Lantern at Morning Pointe in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Eastview in Middlebury, Vt., for their loving care.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Bob’s name to the environmental or humanitarian charity of your choice or The Foundation Fighting Blindness, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology or The National Audubon Society. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 12, at 1 p.m., at the Congregational Church of Middlebury in Middlebury, Vt.

Arrangements entrusted to Lane Funeral Home, 601 Ashland Terrace, Chattanooga, TN 37415, (423) 877-3524, lanefh.com. ◊

Michael Julius Sullivan, 79, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Michael Sullivan, 79, of Salisbury, passed peacefully March 25, with his daughters by his side. He was a seventh-generation Vermonter, born in Middlebury Aug. 28, 1945, to Harry M. and Lois (Kelsey) Sullivan.

He attended schools in Addison County. After working with different construction companies and a stay in the Army, he set out on his own, mastering many different occupations, beginning with first purchasing a bulldozer doing excavation/construction and ending with working at the Nop Brothers and Sons farms, where he was known as “Uncle Mike.”

In his free time, you could find him spending it with his family at either his house or Maple Hill Farm, where he grew up.

Michael is survived by four daughters, Marlene (Jim) Thompson of Ripton, Melissa (Elroy Aunchman) Sullivan of Panton, Michele “Shelly/Spike” Sullivan and partner Samantha Turner of Salisbury, and Monica



MICHAEL JULIUS SULLIVAN

(Todd) Garthaffner of Addison; six grandchildren, Kristen, Erica, Kelsey, Alyza, Payden, and Sawyer; and eight great-grandchildren. He also leaves a sister, Mary Anne Sullivan of Salisbury, and many nieces, nephews and a cousin. He was predeceased by his parents and sisters Noreen Conant, Martha Sullivan and Margaret (Julie)

Tierney Leigh Provoncha, 20, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Tierney Leigh Provoncha, 20, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, March 26, 2025, in Vergennes.

She was born Feb. 1, 2005, in Middlebury, the daughter of Arthur Peryea and Hillary Provoncha.

Growing up, Tierney spent a lot of time at The Hub in Bristol, where she loved to do tricks on her scooter/skateboard/bike and teach little kids how to do tricks at the skatepark and play guitar. Tierney enjoyed snowboarding in the winter with her father and brother Gabe at the Snow Bowl and fishing at Panton Dam, where she would meet family and friends to just sit and fish. She loved Addison County Field days in August. She would spend the whole week attending, just walking around eating fair food, watching the events and being with her mother, family and friends. She loved her visit to Maine, camping and playing in the ocean for the first time.

Tierney with her partner, best friend Autumn, wanted to go to Tennessee, which they did last fall. They enjoyed the visit but soon realized Vermont was where



TIERNEY LEIGH PROVONCHA

they wanted to be. Upon returning home, the first thing she wanted was a family dinner of hamburger tomato soup over mashed potatoes. She enjoyed holidays, birthdays and family meals. She was strong, caring, loved the outdoors and family, a do-it-herself girl with phone calls to dad for advice. Always with a story to tell, Tierney had a beautiful smile, which we

Eleanor Jean Barnes, 79, North Ferrisburgh

NORTH FERRISBURGH — It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Eleanor “Ellie” Barnes, at her home in North Ferrisburgh, on March 25, 2025. A lifelong resident of Quaker St, Ellie was born in Charlotte, Vt., July 8, 1945, the daughter of Mitchell and Luella (Peryea) Lavalette.

Ellie graduated from Mount St. Mary’s Academy in Burlington, Vt.

Ellie married Larry Barnes on July 30, 1964. They enjoyed dancing, traveling the backroads of Vermont with a picnic lunch, and spending time with family and friends. They bought land and built a house together, choosing local products even if that meant dragging big stones out of the woods for the fireplace. She



ELEANOR JEAN BARNES

always said yes and was up for any adventure.

She was a devoted wife, mother

Dawson.

Michael didn’t just provide for his family; he taught them the importance of perseverance, integrity, and the strength that comes from hard work. Michael will be forever remembered for his hard work, his generous heart, and his enduring legacy. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The family would like to thank Brandi Whitney Backus for the compassionate, attentiveness, and generosity she gave Michael, and the Nop families for their friendship, appreciativeness, and generosity toward Mike.

Per Michael’s request there will be no funeral or calling hours. A private burial will happen at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salisbury Fire Department, Salisbury Vermont 05769

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

will miss. Love you Tierney Girl.

Tierney is survived by partner in life, Autumn Thayer; father, Arthur Peryea; and mother, Hillary Provoncha; on her father’s side, “Gram” Charlene Peryea, aunt Colleen French, cousin Michael French, aunt Laura and uncle Roger Brace, and aunt Lisa Peryea; on her mother’s, side brother and best friend Gabriel Cousino (Alanah Rockwell), “Gammy” Hannah Tierney, aunt “Tort” Courtney Provoncha (George Morgan IV), cousins George J. Morgan and Judson Morgan, Dawn Martin, and Amy Smith and family, where many memories were made growing up. She was predeceased by “Papa” Frank Peryea, “Gampy” Joseph Provoncha, great-grandparents Bernard and Patricia Tierney, Charles and “Gram Gram” Helen Lathrop, and William and Marguerite Holdman.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to The Hub tinyurl.com/Tierney-memorial To send online condolences to her family please visit www.brownmccayfuneralhomes.com ◊



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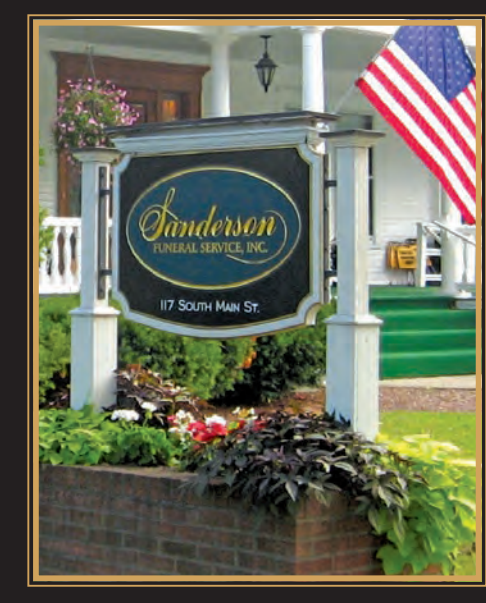
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Obituary Guidelines

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

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

Cremation with a Service

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

Susan Brown Peck celebration of life

SOUTH BURLINGTON — A celebration of life for Susan Brown Peck, who passed away on March 7, 2025, will be held at Gregory and Son Cremation Service, 472 Meadowland Dr., South Burlington, on Saturday, April 26, from 1-3 p.m.◊

**ADDISON
COUNTY**

Obituaries

Wyatt Jameson Rochon, 19, of Addison

ADDISON — Our beautiful, beloved son, Wyatt Jameson Rochon, left this world unexpectedly, carried on the wings of an angel, on March 23, 2025. During his short time in this world, he touched everyone’s heart and made their days brighter.

Wyatt was born in Burlington, Vt., on April 11, 2005, to proud parents Mike Rochon and Alaina Salgado of Addison, VT. He attended Addison Central School and Vergennes Union High School, graduating with honors. As a high school junior and senior, he also attended the Patricia Hannaford Career Center, enrolling in the Medical Professions program. This program gave him college credits that he subsequently transferred to Vermont State University, Castleton, where he began his pre-requisites for an Athletic Trainer major. In his freshman year at Castleton, he was already achieving honors.

As well as academic talent, Wyatt had a strong work ethic. He started working for the Starry Night Café when he was a junior in high school. He continued working there while attending Castleton. He started out as a dishwasher and quickly mastered all aspects of the restaurant profession. Starry valued him for his versatility, dependability and his cool head under pressure. Wyatt was often one of the last workers to leave after a shift, making sure to say good-bye to everyone with a fist bump. He loved his chicken wings and steak tartare.

Wyatt’s true passion was basketball. His favorite team was the Celtics. We are thankful that he was able to attend a live Celtics game in Boston! Wyatt truly looked up to all his coaches, who nurtured him in the sport he loved. He played from middle school through high school, joining the Pro-City and the West Central teams. His dedication to the sport motivated him to show up for practice at the gym, very early in the mornings, before his classes started. He had quite an impressive hook shot!

Wyatt’s other great passion was collecting Pokémon cards and gaming. He was so familiar with the cards that, with just one look, he could tell if a card was genuine or not. He had an impressively large collection and knew the



WYATT JAMESON ROCHON

value of all of the cards. His love for basketball and Pokémon led to a special friendship with an exchange student from Singapore, proving that Wyatt’s outreach had no bounds.

He was also an animal lover. As a boy he volunteered at Homeward Bound, the Addison County Humane Society. He had a lifelong love of cats, and will be especially missed by his feline friend, Chester, who was adopted from this shelter.

Wyatt had a special way of attracting the best in all. He always put his friends first, before himself. He was a gentle, respectful, compassionate, selfless, kind soul, a peacemaker. He outwardly had a passion for life, and he *loved* to make his friends laugh. He had a special gift for interacting with young children. He was a gentle playmate for them, able to get down to their level. This was especially evident in his relationship with his niece, Raein, who delighted in riding on his back, chasing him, and tugging on him. Wyatt was all for it!

Finally, Wyatt was a special part of the Addison Independent’s “employee family” for many years. He could often be found in the conference room, waiting for his mom to finish up her work for the day. Addy Indy staff might find him sleeping on the “blue couch,” reading, watching videos, belly-balancing on the medicine ball, or doing homework.

Wyatt was predeceased by his maternal grandfather, Frank Salgado and his paternal grandmother, Raymonde Rochon. He leaves behind his paternal



grandfather, Marcel Rochon and his maternal grandmother, Sandra Salgado. He is survived by his loving parents, Mike Rochon and Alaina Salgado; his brother, Devin Rochon and Devin’s wife and daughter, Chanda and Raein. Wyatt also leaves behind several uncles, aunts, and cousins: Uncle Maurice, Aunt Shannon, Morgan, Kielee, Jacob, Josh, and Anthony; Aunt Linda and Shawn; Uncle Tony, Aunt Amy, Danilo, Raina, Darion, Samantha, Brinley, and Tristan; Uncle Allen; Aunt Ann; and Chester (“For President”).

We would like to thank the first responders on the scene. We would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering support of our community, our friends, our family, and our church. To all of you who have so graciously and selflessly remembered our most precious son in your thoughts, prayers, and donations, God Bless!

There will be no public calling hours. A mass will be held at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 326 College St., Middlebury, Vt., on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 10 a.m. Wyatt’s celebration of life will follow the mass. The time and venue will be announced shortly.

Condolences may be left on Wyatt’s obituary webpage, courtesy of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Service, www.sandersonfuneralservice.com. Contributions in Wyatt’s name may be made to the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, 106 Pantan Rd., Vergennes, Vt., or to the Addison County Humane Society, 236 Boardman St., Middlebury, Vt.◊

Kristin Ann Barrows, 48, formerly of Shoreham

ARIZONA — Kristin Ann Barrows passed peacefully on March 26, 2025, surrounded by her immediate family. She was born on June 18, 1976, to James and Mary Barrows. Kristin graduated in 1995 from Middlebury Union High School. In 2012 she moved to Arizona to be closer to her family.

Kristin had an innate ability to uplift those around her. She had an extensive love of family near and far and always was up for a phone call. Kristin enjoyed an assortment of crafts. She even won multiple ribbons at Addison County Fair & Field Days. She continuously had a smile on her face and enjoyed life to the best of her ability, even when faced with life’s many challenges.

Kristin is predeceased by her maternal grandparents, Harvey and Ann Russett; her mother, Mary Sunderland; her father, James Barrows; and step-father Ross Sunderland.

She is survived by her siblings Kurt Barrows (Bhaskar), Karina Barrows (Auli), Kelly Barrows (Matthew), and Kylie Stevens (Matthew). Also, her nephews



KRISTIN ANN BARROWS

and nieces whom she adored, are Bruce, Hunter, Hayden, Greyson, Georgia, Gianna, and Lexi, as well as her great-niece Hazel Ann. Per Kristin’s request, there will not be a service. However, she will be laid to rest, privately in Vermont at a later date.

In place of flowers or cards, please consider a donation to your local Humane Society in her name. ◊

Victor J. Bergevin, 86, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Victor J Bergevin, 86, passed away April 1, 2025, at home, surrounded by family.

He was born June 15, 1938, in Whiting, Vt., the son of Jeanne (Desforges) Bergevin and Louis Bergevin.

He married Patricia Ann Nailor on Oct. 14, 1961. They owned and operated a dairy farm until 1987.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1956-1960, prior to his marriage. In 1962, he and Patty began farming at their property in Middlebury, Vt. After 25 years of farming, he worked at Middlebury Union High School and Middlebury College until his retirement.

In his earlier years, he and his wife were members of the Foot of the Mountain Snow Travelers snowmobile club. In his later years, he enjoyed telling stories about farming (though he was sure to tell you he did not miss it), being outdoors, maintaining their property, impossibly perfect



VICTOR J. BERGEVIN

lawn care, fixing so many bicycles, camping and vacationing with his family.

Survivors include three brothers, Yvon Bergevin and his wife Karen of Tuscon, Ariz., Andre Bergevin and his partner Carol, of Middlebury, and Bernard Bergevin

of Weybridge; a brother-in-law, Gordon Nailor and his wife Norma of Brandon; four children, Jean Lachat and her husband Wayne of Shoreham, Jane Aube and her husband Eugene of New Haven, Jacqueline Doty and her husband Paul of Brandon and Jacque Bergevin of Middlebury; 16 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents, Louis and Jeanne Bergevin, his wife, Patricia Bergevin, twin sons, Louis and Joseph Bergevin, and their eldest son, John Bergevin.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Wednesday, April 9, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Middlebury, with the Rev. Brandon Schneider as the celebrant. Burial will be in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Calling hours will be Tuesday, April 8, at the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home, 117 South Main St., Middlebury, where arrangements are being handled. ◊

Roger Benjamin Wales, 88, of Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Roger Benjamin Wales, lifelong resident of Weybridge, Vt., passed away peacefully on March 21, 2025, at the UVM Health Care Center. He was born in the family farmhouse on a Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, 1936. Leslie (Collins) Wales and Leonard Smith Wales welcomed their first-born son, who was the seventh generation of the Wales Family on the farm.

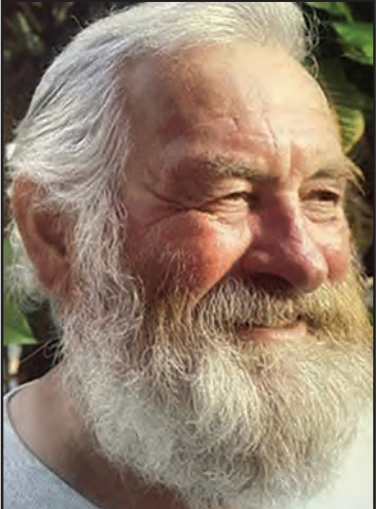
After attending school in Weybridge and graduating from Middlebury High School in 1954, Roger went to the Randolph School of Agriculture, graduating second in his class. From there he went to the Montana School of Mines, where he worked in the Orphan Girl Mine on weekends. Next, he went to Montana State University in Bozeman and was a ski jumper on the MSU team. Roger then joined the Air National Guard, where he worked on jet engines at the base in Texas.

Roger moved back to Weybridge to work on the family farm, where he married the late Joyce Hallock of Bristol and had three boys, Scott, Shawn and Steve. They later divorced and he raised his sons on the farm.

He was humble in his skills and knowledge but was confident in his decisions on farm operations. One of his accomplishments was building a free stall barn attached to a milking parlor where the milk was gravity fed to a bulk tank. Roger was also one of the first farmers in Addison County to switch from square bales to big round bales.

Known for his ingenuity and innovative thinking, Roger was popular in his community and was happy to share advice and problem solving with his friends and neighbors. After selling his dairy cows, he worked for John Baker as a welder at Wildflower Ironworks in Addison.

In 1976, Roger met Martha



ROGER BENJAMIN WALES

Winant and her son, Asa. They became engaged and married in 1995.

In the following years he would build herds of both Brahman cows and goats, along with helping his wife Martha with her catering endeavors. Roger always had

Martha’s back, and Martha always had Roger’s back. Together they made the decision to register over 250 acres with the Vermont Land Trust, keeping the farmland intact.

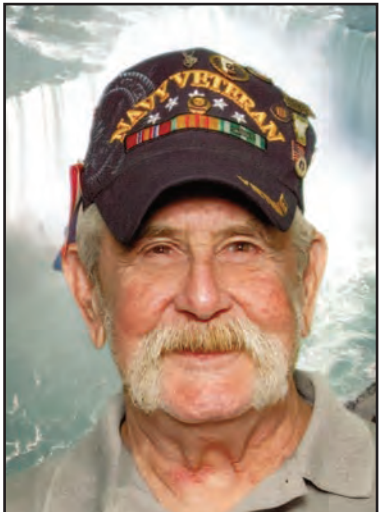
Roger was predeceased by his parents, Leonard and Leslie Wales, his younger brother Erle, and his son, Scott, who passed in 2023.

Roger is survived by his wife, Martha, plus his sons Shawn and Steve Wales and Asa Winant, and daughter-in-law Deb Wales, all of Weybridge. He was very proud of his grandchildren: Addison and Oziah Wales of Vermont and Remy and Ryder Winant of Oregon.

There will be a service of remembrance for Roger on May 10, at the Weybridge Congregational Church. The service will start at 3 p.m., followed by light refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralhome.com. ◊



ROGER HAMILTON STONE JR.

Roger Hamilton Stone Jr., 81, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Roger Hamilton Stone Jr., age 81, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Thursday morning, March 27, 2025, at his home in Salisbury.

A private celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made, in his memory to Homeward Bound, Addison County Humane Society, 236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to the Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 22, Salisbury, VT 05769

Arrangements are with the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon. ◊

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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Joseph Mario Cassarino, 90, 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 addition to his career, Joe was a



JOSEPH MARIO CASSARINO

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. ◊

Letters to the Editor

Wayne Smith gave back to Salisbury in many ways

We were shocked and deeply saddened to learn of Wayne Smith’s passing. Wayne had such a presence in the community! It’s hard to imagine Salisbury without him. He made the town and this region a better place.

Serving as Salisbury’s Town Moderator, a member of the Board of Selectman, and on the Volunteer Fire Department are but a few of the many ways Wayne gave back to the community he had called home since the 1960s after coming here from Bridport.

Who can forget the extravagant Christmas light displays that Wayne and Diane put up every year for the community! More than 10,000 lights and holiday figures lined and lit up their entire street. The Christmas display was a tradition everyone looked forward to, drawing visitors from near and far.

We first met Wayne about 20 years ago when we were looking for help in opening and closing our camp on Lake Dunmore. In one of our first conversations, Wayne spoke with pride about

being a seventh-generation Vermonter. Despite all the places he and Diane had traveled to over the years, Vermont was always where his heart was.

As the owner of Wayne D. Smith and Associates, Wayne opened and closed and dozens and dozens of camps around the lake every year — and took care of lawns, snow plowing, and almost anything else that a customer needed. He was a “can do” guy. “No” and “I can’t do that” weren’t in his vocabulary. Whatever challenges came his way (as they often did), he would find a solution. And he would do it cheerfully. Whether it was a burst pipe in the middle of the night, repairing a screen, a last minute driveway plowing request so that a visitor could come up on a winter weekend, or finding just the right kitchen faucet at a plumbing supply house, Wayne saw that it got done without fanfare. And he balanced all of those duties with his many other activities, including driving the Keewaydin campers to and from Quebec

for their wilderness adventures, calling the scores at the home games at Middlebury Union High School, and the tractor pulls at the Addison County Fair and Field Days.

We were always impressed by Wayne’s work ethic, his integrity, character, sense of humor, and his modest, matter-of-fact way of going about his business. He was a great guy — a man who enjoyed life and for whom family, community, customers and friends were very important. Over the years we have been fortunate to call Wayne and Diane friends.

In thinking about Wayne and his life, we’re convinced that the world could use more people like Wayne Smith. And although Salisbury’s loss may indeed be Heaven’s gain, we’ll still miss Wayne greatly. And no doubt lots of people feel exactly the same way.

Jim and Susan Farrell
Kingston, Mass.,
and Lake Dunmore, Vt.

Career technical centers are key to Vermont’s future

Career technical centers (CTEs) are key to Vermont’s future.

Below is a revised (shortened) discussion paper that I have submitted to our local representatives as well as a number of those in charge of education reform. Montpelier has focused on cost (tax) savings in education, but there’s a lot at stake here. The quality of our current CTE programs must be considered and attempts to reduce their costs must be reconciled with their successes.

Dear concerned representative: With cost-cutting “front and center,” I ask you to carefully consider the role of CTEs in addressing the needs of Vermonters and the pivotal role that these centers play in preparing our kids for the future.

Consideration of quality and costs and value of CTEs in Vermont.

How do we measure quality? Is it in how many kids graduate high school/go to college? Is it in how many kids do well on standardized tests? Or can it be in how well a high school prepares its students for their future?

For a CTE, the answer is simple. It lies in how well students are prepared for their future after graduation.

- In Vermont, just over half of high school graduates go on to college (53%). This leaves almost half of our students needing to prepare for the “real world” as soon as they graduate, or be faced with a low-wage job. For high school students, CTEs provide training and exposure to a broad base of career options, commonly graduating with industry credentials or certificates, college credit, and often a job offer on graduation.

- CTEs have higher graduation rates than regular high schools even though over 40% of CTE students are on Individualized Education Plans.

- More kids go to college after graduating CTE than regular high schools

How can we maintain quality while lowering costs? Are CTEs that costly?

The all-in budget for our local CTE (Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center) is just over 4% of that of the total schools budgets for the county, yet it currently serves 1 in 3 high school kids, and should be working with *almost half* of the kids in Addison County. Is this a bad deal?

Full enrollment of CTEs will reduce per-student costs.

Costs per student go down when more students attend CTEs. This should not be difficult. As noted above, almost half our graduates don’t go on to post-secondary education, yet only about 30% of high school students attend CTE at any time during their high school tenure. This leaves about 20% of high school graduates without job training or further education. High schools in Vermont need to step up their ability to help *all* their students find their way after graduation. Getting these kids enrolled in CTEs answers two shortcomings: it provides career training and lowers per-student costs. Let’s design consolidation of school districts so that catchment levels provide for all our students and optimize CTE enrollment so that all students who wish to attend can attend.

Eliminate the competitive funding model.

Sending schools are required to support 60-70% of a student’s tuition, which can put a school

into a conflict of interest when a student wants to sample or experiment with CTE classes. There should be no conflict of interest in deciding what is best for the student.

Finally, a significant percentage of student tuition is for infrastructure improvement (bond debt). Why is this left up to the local taxpayers? Vermont needs to step up and support infrastructure improvements. Infrastructure improvement is not optional when you are trying to maintain quality.

Consequences? You can’t maintain quality and breadth of training while cutting costs.

Trimming expenses by reducing staff and classes leads CTEs into a “death spiral” of losing students and losing even more revenue. Then what? It also leads us to ask: what programs should be cut? Forestry? Automotive? Diesel technology? Focus areas for training at CTEs haven’t been randomly chosen, but are based on employment needs and opportunities determined from research in local towns (for reference see: mcclurevt.org/most-promising-jobs).

Bottom line: The issues are complex and fluid, and the chaos in Washington leaves us with more nausea and less certainty. Too many states have shown us how *not* to run our schools. Let’s not join them in our haste. Taxpayers clearly are anxious about rising taxes, but they also look for wise, well-thought-out decisions that put their kids first. Reversing bad decisions is not easy or cheap.

Good luck and thank you for your consideration.

Dan Rossignol, Ph.D.
Patricia A Hannaford Career
Center Board Member
Addison



Taste the Valley

AROUND TWO DOZEN local food producers gathered in Middlebury College’s Wilson Hall on March 20 for “Taste the Valley,” a networking event hosted by the Addison County Relocalization Network that offers food producers a chance to showcase their offerings and connect with customers and buyers in the region. From maple syrup to mushrooms, the diverse flavors of the Champlain Valley and beyond were on full display. Among those in attendance was Dawn Wagner, owner of Daily Chocolate in Vergennes.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

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Having a blast

BRISTOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL fifth-graders got a fiery introduction to rocketry on the Mount Abraham Union High School campus last Thursday. Staff from Starbase Vermont in South Burlington accompanied the students to Mount Abe to launch the rockets they'd helped build. Pictured, clockwise from right, Calvin Zubow dives for a rocket as it ends its descent; a hooded participant preps her projectile; the first of three rockets screams skyward; Aleeya Rathbun shows off a rocket to JoAnna Tebbetts, a training coordinator at Starbase Vermont; two students jockey for position to grab a rocket parachuting to the ground; and Makai Copeland jogs back to base after her rocket's successful mission.

Independent photos/Steve James



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FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

City youth

(Continued from Page 1A)
2poorly things were going. Jones wrote in a text the club was \$70,000 short of what it needed to operate through the end of the school year.
After sharing details with other members on that Friday, the board’s leaders called a special meeting on Saturday, March 15. There, the board made the painful decision to indefinitely pause operations two weeks later, with the goal of allowing board members time to look at options for moving forward.
One of those options is a longer-term arrangement with the Vergennes Recreation Department and its Recreation & Programming Coordinator Martha DeGraaf. DeGraaf is temporarily filling the afterschool program gap by founding the Commodore Club.
That free afterschool program began running Monday, March 31, at the Boys & Girls Club’s Armory Lane property. It’s scheduled to operate until April 18, the last day before local schools’ spring vacation, when the club would close for a week anyway. Jones said the

club board has talked to DeGraaf — and Addison Northwest School District afterschool program officials — about an extended arrangement.
Another club option would be to merge with another Boys & Girls Club, possibly Burlington’s or Rutland’s. Jones confirmed the board has previously batted that idea around.
Jones said maintaining the status quo isn’t an option, given the funding shortfall.
“We’ve seen a significant drop in government and grant funding, which makes up a large part of our budget,” she told the *Independent*. “This includes the loss of the Vermont Afterschool Grant, which has historically provided up to one-third of our total budget, along with several smaller grants.”
The news of the pause hit hard, especially before the Commodore Club was announced.
One Front Porch Forum poster called it “heartbreaking news for our community. Boys and Girls Club is essential programming for

the youth of Vergennes.” The same poster also praised outgoing club CEO Alicia Grangent for her three years leading the organization: “Thank you so much to Alicia Grangent for her dedicated and unwavering support of the children in our community.”
A farewell event was held at the club on March 28 for Grangent. She told the *Independent* she had several job offers and chose to take one in St. Louis, Mo., not far from her hometown.
Grangent also served locally as a Northlands Job Corps Center director, on the Stephen Bates Historic Marker Committee and the city committee formed to work with the Vergennes Police Department on community relations, and as a member of the Porter Hospital and John Graham Housing & Services boards.
Another Front Porch Forum poster was unhappy that the timing of the announcement came after two weekend fundraisers — a bowling event on March 15 and a silent auction of donated goods and

services on March 16 — and that families were not looped into the discussions.
Jones said the board didn’t feel it appropriate to break the news to club personnel and families during the ongoing fundraisers.
“Given the seriousness of the situation, it didn’t feel right to inform staff online,” Jones said. “And while the timing wasn’t ideal, we didn’t want to disrupt the bowling event.”
As for the more than \$3,000 raised by the two fundraisers?
“The funds we received were immediately directed toward essential operating expenses, allowing us to remain open for even just a couple more weeks,” Jones said.
DIFFERING VIEWS
Grangent said she didn’t know in advance of the pause. She told the *Independent* financing “is not a new problem,” and that it was increasingly hard — but she felt not impossible — to keep the doors open.
“I was invested in making it work,” said Grangent, who gave her notice on March 17, but said she’d be “sticking with the kids until the end.”
She’d hoped that end would be further down the road.
“To shut it down prematurely is something I was not on the same page with (the board),” she said.
Grangent said until this point, support from the Vergennes community as well as larger grants have always come through, for which she was grateful.
“It’s always a money thing, but we always pull that out with the community,” she said. “The community has been great over the past three years with stepping up and doing that.”
Grangent said in recent months a computer glitch that incorrectly undercounted club membership (an error Jones said was resolved in Grangent’s favor) “started the (board’s) conversation with me that we might have to look at merging.”

Before then, Grangent said she believed at least some board members were already talking with the Rutland club, suggesting a potential blending of the organizations.
“I said it made more sense to merge with Burlington because all our resources, including Lowe’s and all the car dealerships, and all the (Vergennes-area) parents that work mostly navigate towards Burlington,” Grangent said. “That’s when it came out they were already discussing things with Rutland.”
Grangent said she had no interest in the board’s Rutland proposal and that she’d leave at the end of the school year if it went through.
When asked about Grangent’s remarks, Jones first said, “Alicia ran a really great organization, and she did a lot and then some.”
Jones added discussions of possible mergers with other clubs have been on the board’s table for a while, but that to her knowledge Grangent’s version of discussions with Rutland club officials wasn’t on the mark.
“That’s far beyond where we ever were,” Jones said. “We had engaged in two conversations with another club just to talk about what it could look like.”
LOOKING AHEAD
After the March 17 announcement of the pause, Jones said the club board was thrilled DeGraaf stepped up so quickly with the Commodore Club proposal.
Jones called DeGraaf’s idea “inspired and thoughtful,” and the board promptly decided to offer the Armory Lane property to the Commodore Club rent-free at least through April 18.
“We quickly saw that as an opportunity to meet an immediate need and address a hole that would be felt by the families that are currently taking advantage of the club’s services,” Jones said.
Could the Commodore Club be a more permanent solution?
“Right now we’re looking at the next three to four weeks. So we

have a lot of big conversations that need to take place, that are taking place, about what does our long-term stability look like,” Jones said.
“We have an opportunity to pause and be thoughtful about what we need to do moving forward as a board and as an organization ... We’re very optimistic this will be a great first run, and we can continue collaborating together to meet those needs and even more needs, but nothing is finalized at this time. We’re having some great conversations with Vergennes, the city of Vergennes recreation, with the afterschool program through the (school) district. We’re keeping our ears really open and hearing what the community wants and needs. So we’ll see what happens next.”
DeGraaf told the *Independent* last week she’ll stay in her job to make such a plan happen, but would consider extending the Commodore Club if logistics and finances can be worked out.
“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.”
Another option for the club is to continue to examine merger options, Jones said, a choice that means more in-depth research on pluses and minuses.
“There’s part of the conversation that could mean staying a Boys & Girls Club. And I’m not sure that I have enough information one way or another. But to be a Boys & Girls Club, we have to think differently, and it won’t be opening as we were,” Jones said.
Moving forward, Jones pledged the board would work hard, research the choices, and listen carefully.
“We are daily having conversations with ourselves as a board, with community leaders,” she said. “Our ears are really open, and it feels really optimistic. It feels really exciting that there are some options on the table.”

Week of the Young Child 2025 April 5-11

Local Libraries with open children’s programming

- East Middlebury - Sarah Patridge Library
Storytime on Tuesdays @ 10:30am
- New Haven Community Library
Story hour
Tuesdays @ 10:30am
- Middlebury - Ilsley Public Library
Storytime on Wednesdays @ 9:30
in the Mini Ilsley space
(National Bank of Middlebury)
- Monkton - Russell Memorial Library
New Children’s Room
planned to open Spring 2025!
- Bristol - Lawrence Memorial Library
Time for Tots on Mondays @ 10:30am
Storytime on Thursdays @ 10:30am
- Vergennes - Bixby Library
Storytime on Fridays at 10:30am in the Children’s room

Food specials during the Week of the Young Child

- Cubbers in Bristol
Tasty Tuesday, April 8th: Free Slice of Pizza to Children Ages Eight and Under from 3 - 6 PM
- The Mad Taco in Middlebury
Tasty Tuesday, April 8th: Free Kid’s Meal with the Purchase of a Regular Meal
- Rockers Pizza in Vergennes
Wednesday, April 9th, 12-6pm - \$1.00 Cheese slices for children 6 and under.

Visit these places for awesome displays of local kid art:

- The Ark Preschool/Kindergarten
artwork in Vergennes at Rockers, Shear Cuts, and Alpha.
- ANWSD Early Ed
at Park Squeeze and Ferrisburgh Bake Shop
- Quarry Hill School
artwork at Vermont Book Shop. and Middlebury Town Offices
- Evergreen Preschool
will have art on display at Bixby Library.
- Lincoln Cooperative Preschool
at the Lincoln Library.
- College Street Children’s Center
will have art on display at Ilsley Public Library.
- Starksboro Cooperative Preschool
at Starksboro Library.
- Addison County Early Childhood Network

You’re invited!

Come see the National Bank of Middlebury’s newly renovated lobby and Ilsley Public Library’s new home in the Duclos Building.

April 9, 2:00-4:00

30-32 Main Street Middlebury, VT

- Check out our new spaces
- Enjoy cake and cookies
- Entertain the kids with a crafting project
- Take home some fun giveaways
- Enter a drawing for a bookstore gift certificate





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Scholar champions

MT. ABRAHAM UNION High School took home the small-school state Scholars' Bowl championship on Saturday, March 22, when the Vermont-NEA Scholars' Bowl held its final day of competition at Montpelier High School. Mt. Abe successfully defended its crown as small-school state champion, securing wins over rivals Montpelier and Lyndon to finish highest among eligible schools. This was the Eagles' third overall small-school title.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Commo

Collaboration

(Continued from Page 1A)
bodies in a manner that wouldn't require closing either school building.

As it stands, both beginning this fall Shoreham Elementary School and Bridport Central School are slated to offer combined classrooms of K/1, 2/3, and 4/5 students. These combined grade configurations recognize current kindergarten-5th grade enrollment projections for both schools for 2025-2026 and would ensure neither school runs afoul of the 10-student minimum policy for classrooms.

Bridport Central currently serves 47 students, a number set to slide by five to 42 children next academic year, according to district projections.

Meanwhile, Shoreham Elementary's current K-5 enrollment is pegged to drop from the current 57 to 52 by this fall.

"Shoreham's enrollment is declining essentially because they're graduating a large fifth-grade class," ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker explained.

She noted next year would be the first time that the two schools in neighboring towns would simultaneously offer all multi-grade classrooms.

"It's a different type of teaching," Baker acknowledged of the practice of educating two grade levels in a single class.

Principals at both schools are aware of that challenge and have asked Baker for permission to see if there might be another way of delivering education without leaning as heavily into multi-grade classrooms.

"This configuration is new for

both buildings and has sparked discussions among our staff about how we can create grade configurations that ensure all of our students succeed," Bridport Principal Jennifer Urban and Shoreham Principal Lashawn Whitmore-Sells wrote in a recent email to the Bridport and Shoreham communities.

"We do not have a preconceived plan about what might happen next. However, we see this as an

"If you were to put both these schools in one building, it would be stuffed too tight; no one is thinking about doing that."

— Superintendent Wendy Baker

opportunity to hear directly from parents and staff and to explore any possibility that could make our learning environments even more vibrant and bring more success for our students," the principals added in their email.

Baker set the principals free to think outside the box on a new teaching strategy that could still honor district class-size rules.

"We're coming out of the pandemic era, where students are more ready to move into higher academic rigor," she said. "We're moving to bring those higher expectations back to the forefront. Single grades are far easier for students to work with if we're looking to make more than one year's worth of growth in multiple subject areas."

Urban and Whitmore-Sells aren't just talking amongst themselves. They'll be soliciting input from the schools' many stakeholders — particularly educators and parents — during the coming weeks.

Public meetings will be held in the Bridport Central library on Friday, April 4, from 6-7:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, April 8, from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Shoreham Elementary held its first gathering on Wednesday, April 2. A second is planned for Thursday, April 10, from 8-9 a.m., also at the school.

A joint stakeholder meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Middlebury Union Middle School. Baker stressed that school closure/consolidation isn't in play for either school right now. She noted that after this dip enrollment for both schools is expected to be "fairly steady."

"If you were to put both these schools in one building, it would be stuffed too tight; no one is thinking about doing that," she said. "If this is a structure that people like and that (the schools) go to, it could very well stay with them until we have school construction that changes the situation."

She's intrigued by the schools' collaboration options. For example, the Bridport and Shoreham stakeholders might agree on a scenario whereby children attend single grades four days a week in whichever of the two schools that grade is based, and are then assured of being in their home school on the fifth day.

"There's no foregone conclusion," Baker said.

If parents, educators and district leaders agree on a shared student body solution, officials would pivot to making it happen this coming fall. Transportation would be a key issue to resolve, but Baker said, "The logistics aren't prohibitive. If this was something that had overwhelming support ... our next step would be to have committees of parents we would work with and ask, 'What are your logistical needs, and how do we attend to those?'"

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
roads. But some ATV owners, according to Selectperson Andrea Treadway, are apparently under the impression that the town meeting vote was an immediate nod to allow ATV use on Orwell roads. It was not. Illegal use of ATVs on local roads has been on the rise since early March, Treadway noted. Plans call for the selectboard to work on an ATV ordinance during the coming weeks. Until and unless such an ordinance takes effect, ATV use remains a no-no on Orwell roads.

As the weather warms up and the spring flowers begin to emerge, take a stroll through Bristol's Peace Garden on the town green. It's symbolically and aesthetically beautiful, and has been around for 35 years. It was designed by Bristol Elementary students and built by area volunteers with support from the wider community. The Peace Garden is now showing some wear, and the local committee that oversees the garden plans to fix it — with your help. The restoration is projected to cost around \$20,000, of which around \$19,000 has been raised. Donations of any size can be sent to Patty Heather-Lea at 38 Pleasant St., Bristol, VT 05443. Checks can be made out to "Bristol Peace Garden."

Attention to members of the Mary Hogan Elementary School community: All bananas and any foods containing bananas are not permitted anywhere on the Middlebury school's grounds. That's because a pupil has what Principal Jen Kravitz called "a severe, life-threatening banana allergy." Families have been instructed to keep their students' lunches and snacks free of anything banana, and to consider checking ingredient labels for banana components in packaged foods. "We have already eliminated bananas

from our cafeteria menu and restricted them in certain spaces throughout the building. However, to create a fully safe environment, we need your partnership in maintaining a banana-free school," Kravitz said in a recent email to Mary Hogan community. She said the banana restriction will remain in place "until further notice."

Looking to meet people and make a difference? Stop by the Bristol Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, April 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Bristol's Holley Hall. At the fair, you'll meet local organizations looking for volunteers, learn about opportunities that match your interests, and discover how you can make an impact. Volunteering is one of the best ways to feel at home in a community. Plus, studies show that volunteering can boost happiness, reduce stress, and increase your sense of purpose. Whether you've just moved to the Bristol area or have lived there for years, this is your chance to connect, contribute and build meaningful relationships. This event is presented in partnership with Bristol Recreation Department, the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and Bristol CORE.

The nonprofit Addison County Parent Child Center in Middlebury is seeking new board members to help guide and support its mission of providing essential resources, education and advocacy for families with young children in all of the county. The Parent Child Center operates with a philosophy that all children deserve to grow up happy and healthy. Center officials are able to assist families with addressing concerns about children's development, navigating state-funded programs, providing financial assistance, or offering

emotional support. If you're passionate about strengthening our community and want to make an impact on the lives of local families, please reach out to Sara at sara_marshall@comcast.net or Kelly at komalley33@hotmail.com.

The "Mini Ilsley" has now been running for a month in its temporary home in the National Bank of Middlebury's Duclos Building on Main Street. Ilsley Library Director Dana Hart said the process for requesting books from the offsite facility in Vergennes is working well while the Ilsley's building is being renovated and expanded. Of the 4,442 books Ilsley patrons checked out in March, 651 were retrieved from Vergennes. If you haven't had a chance yet to visit the Mini Ilsley, it'll be showcased at an open house on April 8, from 2-4 p.m. There will be sweet treats, crafts for kids, and raffles for great prizes. Meanwhile, you might have noticed that construction fencing has gone up around the Ilsley building at 75 Main St. Abatement of asbestos tiles has been completed, and utilities in the upper parking lot have been relocated in preparation for construction. During the month of April, both the 1988 and 1977 additions of the library will be demolished.

A recent proclamation by Gov. Phil Scott honors the 25th anniversary of the Vermont Covered Bridge Society. He also declared Aug. 2-9 to be Covered Bridge Week, during which the state will highlight the historic, cultural and architectural significance of Vermont's iconic bridges. Vermont was once the home of more than 500 covered bridges. The mission of the VCBS is to preserve the 100 covered bridges in Vermont that remain.



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Deadline: Friday, April 18, 2025

On stands April 24th!

Hearings set on dam safety rules

MONTPELIER — Two public information meetings will be held by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) next week to discuss how upcoming dam safety rules may affect the management of state-owned, manmade dams that have been impacted by beavers.

Addison County residents should pay attention because state work done to address the beaver problem could result in lower water levels in bodies of water like Bristol Pond.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for implementing Act 161 of 2018, including the development of technical standard dam safety rules for a wide range of dams outside of federal ownership. Included under the rule are approximately 100 dams owned by ANR such as the dam at the popular Bristol Pond Access Area in Monkton.

According to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (FWD), beavers have built on or around roughly a quarter of ANR’s dams. Beaver activity and debris on manmade dams can restrict spillway capacity and the ability of dams to safely pass flood flows. Additionally, this can cause reservoir water levels to remain elevated, stressing manmade dams and making them more susceptible to damage. When this happens the beaver material must be removed or dam modified to restore compliance.

Another option is for the beavers to be removed. Removal of beaver materials from manmade dams will lower the water levels of affected waterbodies to varying degrees.

Engineers from DEC and wildlife biologists from FWD will present on the new dam safety rules and the options for bringing state dams impacted by beavers back into compliance. Following the presentation, a third-party moderator will solicit questions from attending members of the public to inform a written responsiveness summary from ANR that will be published by June 1.

Two in-person meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

- April 8, U-32 High School, 930 Gallison Hill Rd., Montpelier.
- April 10, at Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave., Middlebury.

A recording of the Montpelier meeting will be made available on ANR’s website, and questions to be addressed in ANR’s responsiveness summary may also be submitted via email to ANR. FWPublicComment@vermont.gov through May 2.

Ripton

(Continued from Page 1A)

array of motions and amendments to those motions.

While there were differences, all board members agreed the decision to close RES — at least temporarily — was a painful one.

“I was dreading this,” board member Jamie McCallum of Weybridge said.

“It will be very hard for people to go through this.”

Ripton residents have battled for around four years to keep their school open as student numbers have declined. Fearing RES might be on the ACSD’s chopping block, Riptonites voted overwhelming in 2021 to exit the district to try and form their own, independent Prek-12 system. But the logistics and financial implications of making that transition proved untenable, and residents voted to rejoin ACSD in September 2022.

Locals until recently held onto a flicker of hope that RES could at least serve kids in grades 2-5 during the 2025-26 school year. Forecasts called for 11 students for a grades 2/3 class, and 11 for a grades 4/5 class in the fall. This would have conformed to the ACSD’s recently revised policy stipulating classes of at least 10 students, from no more than two grades.

That plan suffered a fatal setback

last month when several Ripton parents told ACSD officials they wanted their children to attend a different ACSD school next year, based in part on concerns of RES’s growing instability and/or a desire to keep siblings together in one school.

Those exit requests, according to Baker, pared the prospective incoming ’25-’26 RES students to just 14 total in grades 2-5.

With that in mind, many locals who’ve been fighting to keep RES open have pivoted to urging district leaders to craft a dignified closure plan and smooth transition for Ripton students. So for many, Monday’s closure decision proved somewhat anticlimactic, though it bears parsing through some of what the panel didn’t do.

For example, the board didn’t initiate a formal closure process for RES under article 14 of the district’s articles of agreement. Among other things, article 14 would’ve called for at least 10 of the board’s 13 members — and a majority of voters in the seven-town ACSD — to endorse closure of RES.

If the board and ACSD electorate approved, the school building would be offered to the town for \$1, “provided that the town agreed to use the property for public and community purposes for a minimum of five years.”

ACSD currently includes schools in Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

Only Middlebury ACSD board rep Steve Orzech voted in favor of pursuing article 14 on Monday. Those opposed cited, among other things, what would be lengthy closure timeline under article 14 that might not be completed prior to this fall.

WHERE TO SEND THEM?

Board members also differed on transition options for the soon-to-be displaced Ripton students.

Members Ellen Whelan-Wuest of Cornwall and McCallum suggested Ripton families be given

more choice in which other ACSD elementary school to send their children, as opposed to the board’s majority position that the entire RES student cohort should move to the same school (Salisbury).

“It does feel like the right thing to do ... to consider the exceptional nature of the thing we’re talking about, and that’s why I originally was advocating for an opportunity for families to have some agency on where their kids go to school, in this particular case,” McCallum said. “Do I think it will destroy our ability to educate them in the best way we can? No, I do not.”

“My intention is to give us more time to figure out the future of (RES) and provide the people in the families most impacted by the loss for their community school, for at least one year, some options and some agency within this decision,” Whelan-Wuest said.

Other board members countered that separating the Ripton children might disrupt the sense of community and camaraderie they’ve been sharing since kindergarten. They were also reluctant to set a precedent for intra-district school choice in ACSD.

The district’s limited school transfer options are outlined in ACSD’s policy C30.

“I have some equity concerns when it comes to offering parents the choice to be able to send their kids to whatever school they choose, and also not providing transportation,” board member Laura Harthan of Middlebury said.

Board member Mary Heather Noble of Middlebury agreed.

“Though it seems like a compassionate offering to families in Ripton, I have concerns about equity and choice,” she said. “I have concerns about setting a standard to allow parents to choose where (their children) want to go, when we don’t really have the infrastructure in our district for that.”

ACSD in January estimated Salisbury school’s 2025-26 K-5 enrollment — minus Ripton children — at 69 students. Adding roughly 20 Ripton students would push it to 89. Middlebury’s Mary Hogan Elementary, with around 340 students, is by far the district’s largest grade school.

Baker said she’s confident Salisbury will be able to handle the extra Ripton students, who’ll be extended busing to that school.

RIPTON RESIDENTS

A handful of Ripton residents weighed in on the board’s decision after the final board vote had been tallied. Those commenting largely voiced frustration with Salisbury Community School being picked as the only option for Ripton kids next year.

“You keep using the word ‘wellbeing’ of the families of the students,” Samantha Isenberger said. “A lot of the wellbeing of the students is dependent on the wellbeing of the family. A decision like this — to spread out the families in a way that complicates and has less resources available and opportunity for the parents to be more present at home and more present at the school their child attends — is really concerning. And that doesn’t promote wellbeing, in my opinion.”

Resident Wendy Harlin told the board “(Salisbury Community School) is a lovely school with a lovely staff. But it doesn’t make any sense for the majority of our kids to go there, when their parents work in Middlebury, where their siblings are going to middle school and high school.”

Harlin thanked the board for its effort in considering RES’s fate, but said she believed Monday’s deliberations seemed dispassionate.

“The majority of the conversation tonight was so clinical that it was absolutely infuriating,” she said.

Some board members attributed the “clinical” nature of their discussion to Robert’s Rules of Order, a parliamentary guide.

“The argument that (Robert’s Rules are) ‘the only way to have a civilized, complicated

conversation in decision making’ I think is overly simplistic, and I think it’s something we should be thinking about how it can hinder hard decision-making through conversational discussion,” Whelan-Wuest said.

Monday’s decision offers finality only for next school year; it doesn’t speak to the long-term future of public education for Ripton and future use of the building. The district will explore potential short-term uses for the structure, which could keep the building teed up for a future resumption of classes — if Ripton sees a sizable influx of school-age children. But a statewide and local housing shortage makes that a tough proposition.

Meanwhile, finality is starting to set in for RES children, faculty and staff.

Roxanne Greene, the school’s associate principal, wrote in her April 1 newsletter that April 2025 in Ripton offers the ironic juxtaposition of a rebirth in nature and the impending closure of Ripton Elementary School.

“Oftentimes, we are kept in limbo by Mother Nature, not knowing what to wear each day, boots, heavy coats or just a sweatshirt,” she wrote. “This may resonate even more for some of you right now after hearing the result of the board meeting last night from the RES community. In my experience, the unknown can be more difficult, yet that feeling of something ending and a new transition beginning can bring a variety of emotions, sadness, worry, excitement. No matter where you are in those feelings, you’re not alone.”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Keep ad dollars in Vermont

MONTPELIER — A bipartisan group of Vermont lawmakers on March 25 called on the Vermont House to pass legislation that would keep state advertising dollars in Vermont.

During a press conference at the Statehouse, Republican Lt. Gov. John Rodgers and Democratic Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas urged the House to pass H.244, which is scheduled for a vote on the House floor this week.

They were joined at the event by House champions from opposite sides of the aisle — Rep. Barbara Rachelson, D-Burlington, and Rep. Kenneth Wells, R-Barton — as well as leaders of the Vermont news media.

The bill, which was recently approved by the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs, would require the state to spend 70% of its advertising dollars on Vermont-based news organizations — rather than out-of-state social media and search firms. The revenue-neutral proposal would ensure that tax dollars are spent on local businesses and nonprofits, such as community newspapers, radio stations, television stations and digital news outlets.

The bill exempts spending on tourism and job ads, an acknowledgement that the state sometimes seeks to reach audiences outside of Vermont. It also calls for new transparency, requiring the state to report each year on how much money is spent on advertising and where it goes.

The Senate is currently considering a companion bill, S.84.

“It just makes sense to me and many other Vermonters that Vermont government ought to be supporting Vermont businesses at each and every opportunity,” Rodgers said, thanking Copeland Hanzas and Rachelson for leading the charge. “I expect the House and Senate will follow suit in passing H.244.”

“A free and independent press is a key part of keeping government accountable and transparent,” Copeland Hanzas said. “Fact-checked and thorough reporting by Vermont’s local news outlets is absolutely critical and this legislation is a great way to keep our local, community news outlets viable.”

Wells, a former photojournalist, editor and publisher of newspapers in the Northeast Kingdom, said, “This bill gives Vermont media a home-field advantage in capturing state advertising. Vermonters want to keep ad dollars in the Green Mountain State and this bill guarantees that will happen.”

He added, “After all, who knows local businesses better than Vermont residents who produce the advertising and put their wares and services in the best possible light while providing a guide for buyers in the Green Mountain state? Let’s all buy Vermont Media first!”

Rachelson said she was proud to introduce a revenue-neutral bill that would support Vermont news organizations.

Visit tinyurl.com/ynrjrfc to read a letter to House members from leaders of many Vermont news organizations.

Trails

(Continued from Page 1A)

The A. Johnson Company and Mountain Bike Bristol have been exploring the idea over the past several months. Other collaborators include the Bristol Recreation Department, the Bristol Recreation Club, the Bristol Trail Network and Cool Motion Outdoor Sports.

Samantha Morrissey, co-owner of Cool Motion Outdoor Sports, shared the group’s vision for the project, which is “a multi-use recreational area that protects the land’s ecological integrity, offers inclusive outdoor recreation for all levels, boosts economic growth for Bristol, and successfully coexists with traditional forest land uses like logging, sugaring and hunting.”

“Bristol is often referred to as the ‘Gateway to the Green Mountains,’ and we think that we have an opportunity to really put that on the map and bring a lot more visibility to our community in a structured and positive way,” Morrissey said.

PROJECT SCOPE

Morrissey highlighted the project scope, which includes designated hiking and mountain bike trails, with a multi-use trail to link them.

“The idea is to have separate (mountain bike and hiking) trails, except for we will have one multi-use trail that kind of connects all the areas together,” Morrissey explained.

Morrissey said the plan is to continue to allow access for hunting, which already occurs on the property. Also, collaborators noted that the land is a working forest and will continue to be used for logging and sugaring, which will help cover property taxes.

“We will continue to see forest management and logging in that area, and we’re going to collaborate and work together to make that successful,” Morrissey said.

Morrissey outlined the coalition’s short-term goals. The group has developed a Request for Proposals that’s been shared with trail builders around the state.

The goal is to select a trail builder to begin working on a design sometime this year. That design would include access, parking and trails, according to the group’s presentation. If all goes to plan, the first mountain biking trail could be flagged for building this fall. Though, Morrissey noted that timeline is subject to the final design selected.

The group is also hoping to re-develop the Ledges hiking trail in fall 2025 or spring 2026, depending on how things shake out.

“You may or may not know that the Ledges hiking trail is not a hiking trail. It is a skid road that was developed as part of the logging operation that people have decided to hike,” Morrissey explained. “What’s happening is that’s creating a lot of erosion, it’s creating a lot of degradation, and it’s impacting the ecological integrity of the landscape.”

Re-developing and re-

designing the trail would address those issues, as well as ensure sustainability and improve the hiking experience, according to the group’s presentation.

Medium and long-term goals for the project include testing the compatibility of mountain biking with traditional land uses such as forest management, creating greater accessibility for users of all abilities, connecting the east and west sides of Hogback with the multi-use trail, and creating a safe pedestrian route to the Rockydale area.

“Our business is in the Rockydale side of town, and we see children walking that stretch and it’s incredibly dangerous, and this is an opportunity for us to remedy that,” Morrissey said.

She noted that the project has been guided by four pillars: outdoor recreation, community benefit, management and conservation, and education and awareness.

“We see this as a big opportunity to create greater awareness of forest stewardship, conservation and the ecosystem services that our forests provide,” Morrissey said.

EDUCATION, WILDLIFE

Part of the coalition’s vision for the project includes the creation of “education stations” around the recreational area.

Those stations could cover topics like forest management, history of the area, types of local wildlife, and the stages of growth in a working forest and the habitats they provide.

“We seek to demonstrate that recreation can coexist with traditional land uses in Vermont,” Morrissey said.

The coalition is also committed to engaging the community in the planning process. A survey

distributed ahead of the March 25 meeting garnered 117 respondents, the majority of whom said they were excited about the project, while expressing some concerns.

“Most of the comments we got were, ‘This is a really great idea, I’m really excited about this, I’m concerned about X, Y, and Z, if it’s done right, I think it will be really good for the community,’” Morrissey said. “I would say, 95% of the comments were framed in that way.”

Some of the things respondents were excited about included expanding recreational opportunities in town, youth engagement and potential for economic growth.

Residents shared concerns about ecological impacts and protecting sensitive areas, negative impact on wildlife, as well as parking and increased traffic at access points.

The coalition’s presentation explored some of those concerns, highlighting what the group is doing to consider and address them. When it comes to ecological protection and conservation, Morrissey noted requirements in the coalition’s RFP for trail builders include identification of environmental considerations, terrain and topographical studies, and an Environmental Impact Assessment to minimize disturbances and comply with regulations.

“Once they’ve done all that assessment, we’re asking them to actually field-truth their work by doing onsite assessments of the proposed trail corridors and ensuring that any wetlands, rare species and sensitive habitats are considered and addressed,” Morrissey said.

Morrissey also noted that the scope of the project does not

include nearby peregrine falcon nesting areas, which are located on land owned by The Nature Conservancy.

Morrissey noted other guiding values of the project include the “Leave No Trace” and “Ride With Gratitude” principles. She added that the coalition has the opportunity to learn from others and apply lessons from established trail systems.

“There’s a lot of this kind of work that’s happening in Vermont and beyond, and so we want to leverage that; we want to take that opportunity to apply the lessons where there are established trails, to be proactive about it,” Morrissey said. “We know what the risks are, and we want to make sure that we’re addressing that and that’s part of why we’re having you all in here tonight to have that conversation.”

Presenters later opened the floor up to the audience. A few in attendance shared concerns about the potential impact on wildlife.

Morrissey noted ecological studies will help the coalition understand what habitats and animals are present and inform specific management plans.

Others asked about uses of the land, parking areas and funding sources for the project.

Organizers explained that the effort is a private partnership with a variety of nonprofit organizations. The Bristol Recreation Club (a nonprofit) is operating as fiscal sponsor for the project, so donations for the effort could be made to the club.

Morrissey noted the land will continue to be owned by A. Johnson Company, and the coalition will eventually establish a landowner agreement. Since

it’s private land, the authority to make final decisions on the project will be retained by the landowner, but Morrissey said the coalition is committed to the effort being a public process.

“We will continue to hold public forums, we will continue to provide opportunities for feedback, and I hope that you feel leaving here tonight that we are taking that feedback seriously and we are taking it into consideration in the planning and that will continue to happen,” Morrissey said.

Next steps for the project include preparing a detailed summary with responses from the survey and last week’s meeting to distribute to the community. Other steps include securing funding, assessing and selecting a trail builder for the design phase, sharing design results with the community and working toward a design plan by the end of the summer.

Morrissey noted that the forthcoming summary will also include a call for volunteers and action.

To learn more about the project and view the slide deck presented on Tuesday, visit www.tinyurl.com/timberlandtrails.

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Bierman

(Continued from Page 1A)
ramp up services.
“I would have loved to have seen what yoga, Ayurveda, community and nature-based wellness could have done for my resiliency as a teenager, and as a young adult,” Bierman said of the services she’s now able to provide. “Perhaps the reason I couldn’t find it then was because I was supposed to build it now. The world works in mysterious ways.”

A recent tour of GMS revealed a cluster of offices, a generous workout/yoga room, and a separate area that will soon host a lounge, cold-plunge-and-sauna station, showers and a small kitchen.
On this day, the workout area was set up for GMS’s popular weekly kickboxing classes, held Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Attendees (wearing gloves) are each assigned a padded kickboxing stand and are taught proper techniques.
The payoff for participating kickboxers isn’t pugilism, it’s cardio exercise and stress release. Bierman, who’s been kickboxing since she was a teenager, is the class instructor. She places a premium on safety and proper body alignment. First-timers are loaned kickboxing gloves but are encouraged to invest in their own if they decide to become regulars.
“It really helps to build confidence, helps them feel strong and develop a sense of safety,” Bierman, 44, said of kickboxing, which she’s previously taught at Vermont Sun and Middlebury Fitness. “It’s such a nice



SOUND BATHS ARE a monthly activity at Green Mountain Shakti, which opened in Middlebury’s Marble Works complex in January. Attendees stretch out in a large room while an instructor plays a variety of gongs, singing bowls, chimes and rain sticks.

Photo courtesy of Lauren Bierman

community we’ve been building over the past few months.”

If you’re interested in the weekly sessions, check out the Green Mountain Shakti website, as the limited spots fill up fast.

Also gaining an avid following are GMS’s monthly sound healings, or “sound baths.” These sessions are led by sound healer Victoria Keen, who gently plays a variety of gongs, singing bowls, chimes and rain sticks.

Attendees dress in comfortable clothing and bring a mat and pillow. They stretch out in the yoga space while Keen plays the music and offers soothing and helpful messaging. It’s about relaxing, to the extent some participants fall

asleep. And that’s fine.

“It’s like an hour and a half of bliss,” Bierman said with a smile.

“When they leave, they’re grounded and relaxed. It’s wonderful to see that transformation.”

Bierman noted the sound baths, which can accommodate up to 30 people, also sell out fast.

And then there’s yoga. Bierman stressed she isn’t out to compete with other yoga businesses in the area, including the very popular Otter Creek Yoga located just a stone’s throw away from Green Mountain Shakti.

“I don’t have regular classes at this point; I do more workshops,” she explained. “I will do a Chakra yoga series where we’ll meet for seven weeks. I love restorative yoga, which helps people learn how to relax, so I’ll offer Friday

online classes where we get into Shavasana (a pose that involves lying on one’s back with arms and legs relaxed) and I’ll lead people through meditation and rest.”

Restorative yoga, according to Bierman, uses a variety of props to “bring the ground up to people,” thus relieving some of the burden for practitioners to move on the ground. It’s a more passive, meditative form of yoga that allows one to focus on breathing while releasing tension from the body.

“It really puts people in a comfortable position and allows them to fully rest. Then their body can start to stretch while they’re supported,” she said.

Bierman last month hosted the Middlebury Union High School girls’ basketball team for a yoga session, during which she also dispensed advice on calming one’s nerves and getting the body ready for competition.

She’s planning a Chakra yoga



LAUREN BIERMAN RECENTLY launched Green Mountain Shakti in the former Medicine Chest space in Middlebury’s Marble Works complex. The business offers kickboxing, yoga, sound baths and other activities geared toward physical, mental and spiritual wellness.

Independent photo/John Flowers

series in May. Meanwhile, she’ll be recruiting additional instructors, which will lead to more regular offerings.

Once fully staffed and established, Bierman said GMS will have added backpacking trips, dance classes, mindfulness classes, women’s circles, retreats and an Ayurvedic medicine workshop.

In short, Ayurveda is based on the belief that health and wellness depend on a delicate balance between the mind, body, spirit and environment.

Empowering women will be another emphasis of the business, according to Bierman.

Right now, though, she’s making sure not to grow too fast in order to ensure quality before quantity.

“I’m trying to do this the right way. I’m taking my time, gathering more instructors. Once I have more people coming in to teach, there will be a more regular schedule,” she said.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



Director

(Continued from Page 1A)
operations director at North Country Animal League (her most recent job); hospital director for VCA Capital Area Veterinary Emergency and Specialty in Concord, N.H.; laboratory client support supervisor for Northwestern Medical Center in St. Albans; and as an account

manager for Covetrus, a company that sells animal health products and related services for humans.

Prior to moving to Vermont around a decade ago, Page and her family lived for many years in the Concord, N.H. area. Patrick Page founded Concord’s Flag-Works Over America business in 1996. He’s now retired.

Karin Page took a brief professional side trip into human medicine, but soon felt the tug back into the animal welfare world.

She’s always had a burning desire to keep animals safe and healthy.

“It’s the emotional bond, always wanting to help them,” Page said.

The couple, who have two grown children, spent many months traveling the country with Cowboy Sports Association, which (until being absorbed by a larger association) organized and promoted the sport of cowboy mounted shooting. The Pages found Vermont to their liking, and ultimately settled in the Essex area.

When Karin Page saw the ad for the Homeward Bound vacancy, she quickly applied. She succeeds Jessica Danyow, who left the organization last year after a fruitful 10-year run.

“Homeward Bound has always had a great reputation in the community and in the state,” Page said. “They do a great job getting their name out there. It has a positive feel to it. The opportunity to be a part of that was great.”

Page began her Homeward Bound tenure on March 3.

At this point she has no plans for new programs, but would like to expand some of the ones the organization now offers.

In addition to offering shelter services to homeless, abandoned, and abused/neglected animals, Homeward Bound investigates animal abuse/neglect allegations and offers a variety of programs, including:

- PetCORE (Community Outreach Resources & Education), which supplies parasite preventatives, supplemental pet food, low-cost pet-wellness care, and access to affordable spay/neuter surgery to qualifying low-income residents. Right now, 125 people are receiving PetCORE resources for their pets. There’s a waiting list.

“We’d love to be able to expand the PetCORE program, to offer it to more people,” Page said.

That will mean gathering more donations.

- PetFIX, an affordable spay/neuter service for pets owned by low-income residents.

- Trap-Neuter-Return, through which cats are humanely captured in traps, spayed or neutered by a veterinarian, rabies vaccinated, and returned to their original location where they can live out their lives.

- Pets in Crisis, through which Homeward Bound arranges

short-term care for a pet while the family is navigating a crisis.

CANINE MAYOR

Homeward Bound has one new initiative teed up, and it’s mostly about fun and fundraising. It’s a “dog for mayor” competition, a vote-with-donation election with the winning canine declared Middlebury’s ceremonial dog mayor for a year.

“We envision a short campaign season, swearing in of the new mayor with media presence, and responsibilities for the winner to include regular visits to the town offices, appearances at downtown events, and a pledge to promote the adoption of homeless animals from the humane society serving our region,” reads a brief Homeward Bound narrative about the initiative.

The Middlebury selectboard on March 25 endorsed the dog for mayor effort, which will be further fleshed out by Homeward Bound Development Director Hannah Manley.

If you visit Homeward Bound these days, you’re apt to see Page on the front lines, working with the organization’s staff and volunteers.

“I will get out there and clean a cage if they need help. To me, that’s important, and I still

want that level of involvement with the animals. I don’t want to be just tucked away in an office doing paperwork,” she said with a smile.

It’s clear that Page has a great rapport with animals. This reporter brought his skittish (some might even say neurotic) miniature Goldendoodle, Roxie, to the interview. Page quickly put Roxie at ease, even getting her to pose for a photo with her.

Page’s dog-whisperer qualities probably stem from being around animals 24/7. She and Patrick have several animals of their own, including two dogs: Tilly, a Jack Russell/Chihuahua mix; and Sage, a black labrador retriever. The Pages also have two cats and two guinea pigs.

Homeward Bound feels like home to Page, who plans to stick around for a while.

“The reason I’m here is because of the animals. That’s my main purpose and passion,” she said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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Murray to step down as Middlebury planner

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Jennifer Murray's tenure as Middlebury's director of planning & zoning has spanned eight years, but the body of work accomplished during that span by her and the citizen committees to whom she answers makes one think she's been around much longer.

"Being a planning director can be an easy gig, or you can spend a lot of time doing it," said Murray, who chose the latter path.

"There's never any end to what you can take on as a planner; the planner is the ultimate generalist," she said, noting how the role dovetails with economic development, housing and other major quality of life issues.

It's a philosophy and work effort that Murray will now take with her to a new gig, as planning director for the town of Hanover, N.H. Her last day working for Middlebury will be April 15.

MURRAY'S MILESTONES

She'll leave a good legacy. In no particular order, here's a sampling of Middlebury's planning/zoning accomplishments during Murray's watch:

- Use of a master planning process to imagine what kind of future development might be appropriate on property neighboring the Amtrak passenger rail platform situated between Seymour and Maple streets. The area includes the Marble Works business district, a (northern) portion of Seymour Street, Exchange Street, and west to the lands bordering Otter Creek.
- Creation in 2020 of a first-ever downtown master plan, a 138-page blueprint showing how Middlebury's core village could grow and flourish during the next decade and beyond.

Among the plan's recommendations: Consider using areas of the Marble Works complex as a potential location to add small shops, artisan/maker spaces and/or live-work units; activate the town green in the winter for events and activities; and consider incentives for downtown property owners, such as a revolving loan fund for

upgrading existing rental housing and encouraging conversion of upper-story spaces on Main Street into apartments.

"I thought it would be great to have a planning process to bring people together to talk about their common love for the downtown and have a plan at the end that gives some great recommendations for where we saw the downtown going in the future," said Murray said. "It's helped us contemplate where we want to make zoning changes in the future, and it's helped us engage in conversations with developers, the neighborhoods and elected officials," Murray said.

- Creation of the town's first-ever "Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Plan," a document that suggests 28 specific spots in the community where such amenities could be improved.
- Securing a Neighborhood Development Area, or NDA, designation from the state for a large swath of property in the village. The NDA, among other things is designed to encourage construction of more local affordable housing, while giving the community priority consideration for state grants.

- Approval, following an extensive review, of Summit Properties' proposal to building Stonecrop Meadows, a 254-home, mixed-income neighborhood that's being built on 35 acres off Seymour Street Extension. Securing the aforementioned NDA — along with an abundance of federal grants, tax credits and assistance from

Middlebury College — have been key in getting Stonecrop off the drawing board.

The planning office laid the groundwork for Stonecrop to fall into place. The land used to be the HDR zone, which wasn't adequate for a Stonecrop-level development.

In 2019, Murray secured a state grant to update the town's zoning bylaws in a manner that would attract more housing.

This led to a designation of 20-units-per-acre for the Stonecrop property, with safeguards to ensure the new neighborhood would be walkable with the same kinds of amenities (streetlights, sidewalks, etc.) that are present in planned unit developments in other parts of town.

"It's great that we want to change zoning to encourage more housing, but I think we're a really special community and we have to be careful about what that housing is going to look like," Murray said. "Just up-zoning

everything and not thinking about the form could be really dangerous for Middlebury. It's up to local planners to make sure there are good standards that make sure the new construction looks right."

- Passage in 2022 of a series of zoning revisions designed to "encourage a wider variety of housing types for increasing residential density in the downtown area, and improve the overall vitality of the downtown in accordance with the 2020 Downtown Master Plan," according to a planning commission narrative summarizing the work.

MURRAY HIRED IN 2015

The selectboard hired Murray in August 2015. She succeeded Eric Blair, who had left to take a job with the Orton Foundation.

Murray had most recently served as a senior conservation planner for the town of Williston. Her résumé includes stints as town planner in Jericho, as an engineering inspector with Burlington's Engineering Ventures PC, as an office manager for Novus Engineering PC of Delmar, N.Y., as a watershed planner for the Schoharie County Planning Agency of Cobleskill, N.Y., and as an assistant planner with Lamont Engineers of Cobleskill.

"I am thrilled for the opportunity to apply my skills and experience as planning director in Middlebury," Murray told the *Independent* at the time of her hiring. "As a planner, I feel fortunate having the opportunity to work in a town where there is such a strong sense of place, and where people love where they live — that is a huge asset. I look forward to making a quality contribution to helping Middlebury stay ahead of the curve in terms of remaining one of the most desirable places to live, work and visit in the region."

Middlebury has felt like home to Murray, who grew up in an agricultural (Cobleskill) area of upstate N.Y.

"I'll miss the communality twice as much, because it feels like I'm leaving home *again*," she said.

But she believes she's leaving the town planning office in good shape.

"I know that when I leave, we're going to have good zoning in place that will protect this community and keep its character going forward. That feels like an accomplishment to me," Murray said.

She's headed to a new state and town, but Hanover has some things in common with Middlebury. It, too, is a college town, as it hosts Dartmouth.

"It's going to be really fun to see what their town-gown relationship looks like," Murray said. "Dartmouth is really also focused on sustainability issues and how to



MIDDLEBURY DIRECTOR OF Planning & Zoning Jennifer Murray will soon step down to become planning director for the town of Hanover, N.H. She has had a productive eight years leading the town of Middlebury's planning office.

Independent photo/Steve James

create more housing — for students, faculty and town at large."

Murray will depart with fond memories and gratitude toward the co-workers, citizens, elected officials and other planning stakeholders who made her job fulfilling.

Asked how she'd like to be recalled by those who did business in the planning office, Murray said, "I think I've been able to stick true to the rules, but make people feel they've been treated fairly. I've always been authentic and down-to-earth with people."

Plans call for Middlebury to

advertise the town planner vacancy statewide and regionally, according to Town Manager Mark Pruhenski. He and other town staff are now reviewing and updating the town planner job description for the posting. The town will reach out to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission and Vermont League of Cities and Town during the transition to a new planner.

"We hope to make it as seamless as possible for the public," Pruhenski said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.


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Students explore Estonian culture

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — The Lincoln Community School was abuzz this past Thursday, when over 100 students, staff and community members gathered inside the elementary school for what seemed like a trip to Estonia — the school’s gymnasium had been transformed into a scene fit for the Baltic coast, featuring a dragon ship, blood sausage and folk costumes.

Students at the elementary school have spent the past few weeks learning about the European country as part of this year’s annual cultural studies program, during which LCS students take part in an intensive study of another country and celebrate their learning with a festival.

Each year LCS seeks out an ambassador to help students further explore the culture of focus. This winter, LCS art teacher Linda Kangro-Lawrence shared her knowledge of Estonian culture with staff and students.

All four of Kangro-Lawrence’s grandparents emigrated to the United States from Estonia in the 1940s.

“I just grew up in a house that celebrated Estonia and identified

with it,” she told the *Independent*.

“When I was very little Estonia was not a country, it was part of the USSR, so the culture was kept alive by people in the country who did it secretly because you weren’t allowed to show the flag, you weren’t allowed to sing Estonian songs, the national anthem.

“Here in the U.S. and other places around the world, we just kept the culture, the language, all of it alive hoping that one day they’d be free again.”

Estonia formally declared its independence from the former Soviet Union in August 1991.

“When they became free it was amazing to be able to go back there,” Kangro-Lawrence said. “The culture is just so important to the people, because they haven’t been able to celebrate it all the time. They know what it is to be controlled by another country and not be able to have their voices heard.”

Kangro-Lawrence noted that Estonian culture was important to her family while she was growing up.. She’s done Estonian dances since she was a young child, and around a decade ago traveled to the country for its popular Song and

Dance Festival.

She and her family are now looking to pass on the culture to the next generation. Kangro-Lawrence said she’s trying to teach her young daughter Estonian; she and her mother try to speak the language around the house.

She noted that many of her friends are Estonian and they all continue to attend cultural activities like celebrations for Estonian Independence Day and festivals for St. John’s Day. The group also takes their children to Estonian schools on the weekends to help them learn about the culture and language.

Kangro-Lawrence previously attended Estonian-speaking camps in the summer, where she now helps out as a counselor, and plans to bring her daughter.

“It’s just a huge part of my life, and it’s so cool that I get to share it with everybody here, and they’re so welcoming and accepting of it,” Kangro-Lawrence said of the culture.

She added that exploring Estonia and its culture also feels timely.

“It’s so pertinent I think with everything that’s going on with Ukraine because Estonia went



SAVORY CARROT PIES and bread and butter were among the goods students made and distributed at the Lincoln Community School’s Estonian Culture Festival this past Thursday.
Independent photos/Marin Howell

through that very similar situation a hundred years ago, and they have since become huge supporters of Ukraine, and they send a lot of supplies and support there,” she said.

LANGUAGE, FOOD, DANCE

LCS students have spent the past several weeks diving into different aspects of Estonian culture, including the language, food and dancing. The fruits of students’ studies were on full display at the culture festival this past Thursday, where stations set up around the gymnasium allowed pupils to share their learning with those in attendance.

Students in the food group served up Kringel, an Estonian sweet bread, and Porganditaidis Pirukad, savory carrot pies, along with other fare. A weaving station showcased students’ creations, representing a key part of Estonian culture.

Community members also gathered around a cardboard “Drakkar” dragon ship constructed by students to learn more about Viking culture. Informational posters created by students explained that Vikings were seafaring people from around the Baltic Sea who farmed, fished and hunted.

Thursday’s culture festival also included the reciting of a folktale, dance performances and skits centering on Estonian language and stories. Other areas of study included traveling to Estonia and

the country’s history.

The celebration marked the culmination of a collaborative effort, supported by volunteers and fellow Estonian ambassadors Leena and Ragne Kangro.

Kangro-Lawrence thanked the Tari Shattuck Education Foundation and 5 Town Friends of the Arts for funding to support the cultural studies program, as well as the LCS community for diving into the exploration of Estonia.

“I’m so happy that you all embraced Estonia, the culture. You are all officially ambassadors for Estonia and can spread the word about our tiny and beautiful and wonderful little country and culture,” she told LCS students and staff. “I just really appreciate how much you have all embraced Estonia and me. It makes me feel like this school is just such a special place to be and has made me feel so welcomed.”



STUDENTS AT THE Lincoln Community School studied Viking culture and constructed this cardboard dragon ship as part of this year’s cultural studies program, which centered on the European country of Estonia.



A LINCOLN COMMUNITY School student demonstrates weaving during the school’s Estonian Culture Festival this past Thursday.

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PANTHER SENIOR DEFENDER Sabrina Kim bolts up ice with the puck during the March 27 NCAA D-III semifinal in Wisconsin. It was the Panthers’ 11th appearance in the tournament’s final four. Photo by Ricky Bassman

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

B Section

THURSDAY, APRIL 3 2025

SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Classifieds
- Legal Notices
- Police Logs

Panther women’s hockey falls to Amherst in national semifinal

By ANDY KIRKALDY
RIVER FALLS, Wisc. — Another outstanding Middlebury College women’s hockey season came to an end this past Friday, when the Panthers’ NESCAC rival Amherst edged Middlebury, 3-1, in an NCAA Division III semifinal played at Wisconsin-River Falls.

All four goals were scored in the third period of what proved, as expected, to be a closely contested defensive battle

in which the Mammoths earned a 21-18 advantage in shots on goal. The teams had met twice in the regular season and once in the NESCAC tournament, with each team winning once, and the third game ending in a tie.

Amherst took the lead early in the semifinal’s third period. The Panthers answered, but the Mammoths netted the game-winner with seven minutes to go. Amherst dodged a couple late bullets as

Middlebury pressed for the tie, and then clinched a berth in Sunday’s final with an empty-net goal. Amherst went on to fall in the championship game, 3-1, to top-ranked host Wisconsin-River Falls.

In the post-game press conference after Friday’s semifinal, Panther Coach Bill Mandigo said the game was even and hard-fought, but the Panthers had trouble finishing their chances as they wrapped up the season at 21-7-1.

“It was a typical Middlebury-Amherst game. It was a one-goal game. Amherst had an empty-netter. Who cares about that?” Mandigo said. “We had chances. Credit to them and their goalie. (Caroline) Stott always plays well. But I thought we had every opportunity to win the game and just didn’t capitalize when we should have.”

Amherst had plenty of chances, too. In the game’s second minute, Panther

goalie Sophia Will gloved Cara Mancini’s turnaround blast from the right side.

In the eighth minute, an Amherst defender blocked a Molly MacQueen shot she launched on a rush, and with 6:20 left in the period, Stott kicked away Cece Ziegler’s rising bid from the left point.

In the final seconds of the opening period Will stopped and then covered up a Bea Flynn shot from the left circle.

(See NCAA, Page 3B)

Score BOARD

COLLEGE SPORTS	
Women’s Hockey	
NCAA D-III Tournament	
Final Four at Wisc-River Falls	
3/28 Amherst vs Midd.....	3-1
3/28 W-River Falls vs Augsburg.....	4-2
3/30 W-River Falls vs Amherst.....	3-1
Women’s Lacrosse	
3/29 Midd vs Wesleyan.....	10-9
3/30 Midd vs Hamilton.....	12-7
Men’s Lacrosse	
3/29 Midd vs Wesleyan.....	10-9
4/2 Hamilton at Midd.....	Late
Baseball	
3/28 Midd vs Amherst.....	5-3
3/29 Amherst vs Midd.....	8-4
3/29 Midd at Amherst.....	PPD
4/1 Union vs Midd.....	6-2
Softball	
3/28 Midd vs Amherst.....	6-5
3/28 Amherst vs Midd.....	6-3

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS	
Baseball	
4/10 Fair Haven at OV	4:30 PM
4/12 OV at Windsor	11 AM
Softball	
4/8 Mt Anthony at OV	4:30 PM
4/10 Fair Haven at OV	4:30 PM
Girls’ Lacrosse	
4/9 MUHS at Harwood	4:30 PM
4/10 MAV at Stowe.....	4:30 PM
4/12 MAV at Essex.....	11 AM
4/12 MUHS at St. Albans	11 AM
Boys’ Lacrosse	
4/10 MUHS at Harwood	4:30 PM
4/11 OV at Fairfax	4:30 PM
4/11 Stowe at MAV	4:30 PM
4/12 St Albans at MUHS	11: AM
Boys’ Tennis	
4/10 MUHS at CVU	4:30 PM
Girls’ Tennis	
4/9 MUHS at U32	3:30 PM
4/12 Harwood at MUHS	11 AM
Track & Field	
4/7 VUHS/Mt Abe at MMU	3:30 PM
4/8 MUHS at Burlington	3:15 PM
Ultimate	
4/9 MUHS Boys at Montpelier.....	4 PM
4/11 MUHS Boys at St J.....	4 PM
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Women’s Lacrosse	
4/5 Midd at Colby	Noon

(See Schedule, Page 2B)



Getting ready

Spring high school sports practices were in full swing last week across the county, including on this sunny Thursday afternoon. Above and below, the Middlebury Union High School track team loosens up on the school’s football and Ultimate field. Left, the Tiger softball team practiced on the drier Middlebury Recreation Park fields that afternoon. Sunglasses helped when tracking fly balls.

Independent photos/Steve James.



Men’s lax nets big win

Panthers nip Cardinals with late goals

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men’s lacrosse team scored twice in the final 17 seconds to knock off visiting NESCAC foe Wesleyan, 10-9, on Saturday.

The Cardinals entered the game ranked No. 6 in NCAA Division III with a 5-1 record, 3-0 in NESCAC play. Wesleyan fell to No. 9 after the setback.

Meanwhile, the Panthers moved over .500 for the first time at 5-4 and improved to 3-2 in NESCAC play. And in the coaches’ poll they moved up one spot to No. 14 heading into two home games this week. Middlebury was set to host Hamilton (3-5, 1-4 NESCAC)

on Wednesday after deadline for this issue, and Colby (2-5, 0-5 NESCAC) comes to town on Saturday at 1 p.m.

In the wild finish, Cardinal Ben Burns scored with 1:24 to go after a minute-long possession following a Panther turnover.

In the next 40 seconds, the teams traded turnovers, but the Cardinals’ second miscue gave the Panthers the ball back, and this time they made no mistake.

Panther Cooper DeMallie worked the ball around the back of the net and found Russell Thorndike open 20 yards away from front of the goal, and from there Thorndike ripped a shot into the top right corner.

(See Lacrosse, Page 2B)

Panther nine takes 1 in 3 Split with Amherst before loss to Union

By ANDY KIRKALDY
AMHERST, Mass. — The Middlebury College baseball team lost two out of three recent games over the past week, including a split of two games with NESCAC foe Amherst. The Panthers dropped to 10-9.

Middlebury is scheduled to play a three-game NESCAC set at Wesleyan this weekend, with a Friday game at 4 p.m. and a noon doubleheader on Saturday. The Panthers will also host RPI this coming Tuesday.

On Friday, March 28, the Panthers defeated Amherst, 5-3. Kunal Handa earned the pitching win with four innings of scoreless relief of starter Owen Tross, who

allowed two earned runs in three innings. Dylan Knightly earned a save by allowing one run over the final two innings.

The Panthers took an early 3-0 lead with two runs in the first and one in the second. In the first, Kyle McCausland walked Anthony Pellagrini singled, and both scored on a Gus Parker double. In the second inning, Carter Chi doubled and scored one out later on a Brayden Mathews sacrifice fly. Amherst got a run back in the bottom of the second on a pair of walks and a single.

The Panthers added their final two runs in the fourth. Joe Basso reached on an error and scored relief of starter Owen Tross, who

(See Baseball, Page 2B)

Midd softball splits

Wins one, loses one vs. Mammoths

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College softball team opened up NESCAC play on Friday, March 28, by splitting a doubleheader with visiting Amherst.

The games were moved to that Friday because of an incoming winter storm. The results left the

Panthers with a 14-4 record, and the Mammoths at 9-5.

The Panthers will play two doubleheaders in Maine this weekend — at Bates on Saturday and at Bowdoin on Sunday, before hosting non-league opponent St. Lawrence on Tuesday for a doubleheader beginning at 3:30

(See Softball, Page 3B)



BOB FELLER PITCHES to White Sox batter Joe Kuhel in Chicago's Comiskey Park on April 15, 1940. Feller pitched a no-hitter that day, defeating the White Sox 1-0.

Painting by Graig Kreindler, used by permission of the artist



LEON DAY OF the Newark Eagles pitched an Opening Day no-hitter in 1946 defeating the Kansas City Monarchs 2-0. Day was elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame in 1995.

Painting by Graig Kreindler, used with the permission of Jay Caldwell

Bob Feller, Leon Day and their Opening Day Heroics

Last week, Thursday, was Major League Baseball's Opening Day, despite the fact that the Dodgers and Cubs had played two official games in Japan the week before.

There are those who have proposed baseball's Opening Day be a national holiday. What a good idea: Take the day off and go to a game, or watch your favorite team on TV.

Today's history lesson, baseball fans, answers the question, "Has there ever been a no-hitter thrown on Opening Day in the Major Leagues?"

In fact, there have been two, though until last year only one was acknowledged.

On April 16, 1940, before 14,000 fans in Chicago's cavernous Comiskey Park (capacity 50,000) on a cold and blustery day, 21-year-old Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians defeated the White Sox, 1-0, facing only 27 batters, allowing no hits, a walk and an error spoiling his bid for a perfect game.

Feller was a prodigy, a farm boy from the little town of Van Meter, Iowa, who signed with the Indians at age 16 and won 31 big league games before the age of 20. In 1939, at 20, he won 24 games

(against nine losses) for the third-place Indians. In his 18-year career with the Indians, he pitched two other no-hitters and 12 one-hitters.

In 1940, after his no-hit start, he had a year for the ages, leading the league in wins (27), earned run average, strikeouts, shutouts, games started, and complete games. The next year, he was nearly as good, winning 25 games. He was the best pitcher in the game in the 1940s. Ted Williams called him "the fastest and best pitcher I ever saw during my career."

In 1942, he won no games, nor in '43 or '44. Two days after Pearl Harbor was bombed (December 7, 1941), Feller volunteered for military service, the first American professional athlete to do so. "I wanted to do something other than standing around handing out bats and balls," so he enlisted for combat duty in the Navy and served as a gun captain on the USS *Alabama* in the Pacific theater, earning five combat ribbons and eight battle stars. He was made an honorary Navy Seal later in his life. In his first full season back

from the War, 1946, he was again dominant, leading the Majors in wins (26), strikeouts (348), innings pitched (371), shutouts (10), with a minuscule ERA of 2.15. As with his contemporary Williams, who missed nearly five full years in his prime to military service, one can only imagine what Feller's lifetime statistics might have been had he played from ages 23-26.

Also like Ted Williams, Feller respected the great skills and worth of Black players. In October of 1946, Feller organized a barnstorming tour of exhibitions with the great Black pitcher Satchel Paige. At a time when air-travel for ball teams was unheard of, Feller chartered two DC-3s and the Bob Feller All-Stars played the Satchel Paige All-Stars in 35 games in 32 cities across the country in 27 days. Feller was an entrepreneur as well as ballplayer.

Bob Feller, "Rapid Robert," was elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame in 1962, his first year of eligibility.

Until last year, Feller's gem was considered MLB's only Opening Day no-hitter. Now that statistics

from actual box scores of Negro League games from 1920-1948 are official MLB stats, we have another historic no-hitter.

On May 15, 1946, in Newark's Ruppert Stadium, before 8,614 fans, Newark Eagles pitcher Leon Day faced only 29 batters in a superb effort (he walked one and the Eagles behind him made two errors), allowing no hits in defeating the Philadelphia Stars, 2-0.

Day is often compared to his celebrated contemporary Satchel Paige but is his opposite number in most respects: Paige was tall and slender (6'3", 189 pounds); Day was short and compact (5'9", 170); Paige was flamboyant and self-promoting; Day was humble, low-key, workmanlike. His teammate with Newark Hall of Famer Monte Irvin said of Day, "Leon was as good as Satchel Paige, as good as any pitcher who ever lived, but he never made any noise."

Larry Doby, another of Day's teammates on the Eagles in 1946, and the first Black player in the American League when he suited up for Cleveland in 1947, said: "Day could throw as hard as anyone . . . I didn't see anybody in the major leagues was better than

Leon Day. Tremendous curveball and a fastball at 90-95 miles an hour. You talk about Satchel; I didn't see anyone better than Day."

Simply put, Day was a baseball player: he's in the Hall of Fame as a pitcher, but he played every day. Negro League teams could not afford to have rosters the size of their MLB brethren. On his "days off," Day played second base or centerfield. "He played centerfield as good or better than our starting centerfielder did," Irvin said. "The center fielder at that time was *me*."

Like Bob Feller and Ted Williams, Leon Day also lost time in his prime to military service in World War II. Drafted into the Army, he spent two and a half years, 1944-45, in a segregated amphibian unit that landed on Utah Beach during the Allied invasion of France.

Leon Day's first foray in the Negro Leagues was with the hometown Baltimore Black Sox in 1934, but he spent the bulk of his career with the Newark Eagles. Effa Manley, the only woman in Baseball's Hall of Fame, ran the Eagles and led it to great success in the 1940s.

In 1946, the Eagles started the season with Day's no-hitter

and went on to be Negro League Champs, defeating the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro American League in the NL World Series. Day led the league in wins with 13 (Negro League seasons were shorter than MLB's) and batted over .400.

Leon Day was elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame in 1995, five days before his death in Baltimore at 77.

In the long history of organized baseball (the National League was organized in 1876), just two Opening Day no-hitters have been thrown, as it happened by two brilliant pitchers, contemporaries, Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians and Leon Day of the Newark Eagles.

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

(I am indebted to Graig Kreindler and Jay Caldwell for permission to use Graig's stunning baseball art. Graig has painted 230 portraits of historic Black ballplayers in a collection that has been exhibited throughout the country and can be seen in Jay's beautiful book "Black Baseball in Living Color: the Artwork of Graig Kreindler." - KL)

Lacrosse

(Continued from Page 1B)

Wesleyan then won the faceoff. But Panther William Munroe forced a Cardinal turnover near midfield, scooped the ground ball and raced down the field.

With the clock ticking down, Munroe flipped the ball to Billy Curtis bolting toward the net, and Curtis fired the game-winning bouncer over the goal line with two seconds to go.

That dramatic play capped a statistically even game. One team or the other had slight edges in all categories. For example, in shots Middlebury led, 33-30, and in ground balls Wesleyan had the advantage, 28-25. The score was

tied at the end of every quarter (3-3 after one, 4-4 at the half, and 6-6 after three periods) — except the fourth. Middlebury goalie Hayden Kerns made eight saves, and Wesleyan's Conor Selfridge made 10.

Burns led four Cardinal scorers with four goals.

Finding the net for Middlebury were Logan White (three goals, assist), DeMallie (two goals, two assists), Thorndike (two goals, assist), Curtis (two goals), and Nick Marvin (goal, assist). Patrick Jamin chipped in two assists, and Will Spehr caused a team and career-high four turnovers and scooped up three ground balls.

Baseball

(Continued from Page 1B)

on after an Owen Fox single and another Mathews sac fly. Fox stole second and scored on a Nathan Samii single to make it 5-1, and the Panther pitching staff held the fort from there.

In a Saturday game shortened to seven innings by bad weather, the Mammoths improved to 7-8 by roughing up three Panther pitchers for 11 hits and six earned runs. The final score was 8-4, Amherst. Charlie Kutz allowed four of those runs in a three-inning stint as the starter and took the loss.

Offensively, the Panthers scored one in the first on walks, plus singles by Samii, Will Ashley and Chi, with a walk to Chi scoring the run.

Amherst score two runs in each of the second, third and fourth innings to go up by 6-1 before the Panthers made it interesting with three runs in the fifth.

In that inning, Aiden Han doubled, Samii walked, and Ashley singled Han home. Samii scored on a Pellagrini sac fly, and Ashley came home on a Parker sac fly.

Amherst held Middlebury scoreless the rest of the way and added two insurance runs in the sixth inning.

On Tuesday host Union improved to 14-7 with a 6-2 victory over the Panthers. The Dutchmen took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first — after Middlebury loaded the bases with

none out in the top of the inning and failed to score — and never looked back.

Middlebury made it 3-1 in the fourth on an error, a hit batter and two walks, with Han picking up the RBI on a bases-loaded walk. Union added two runs in the fifth and one in the seventh. Middlebury scored its second run in the sixth on a Basso double, Chi single and an error. Han led Middlebury with two hits.

Pellagrini started and took the loss. Jacob Sherf, Nico Terrabascia and Stefano Yozzo combined to pitch four innings of scoreless relief. Four Union hurlers limited the Middlebury to no earned runs on six hits and five walks.

Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

4/9 St. Lawrence at Midd5:30 PM
4/12 Tufts at Midd..... Noon

Men's Lacrosse

4/5 Colby at Midd1 PM
4/8 Midd at St. Lawrence4 PM
4/12 Midd at Tufts.....1 PM

Baseball

4/4 Midd at Wesleyan4 PM
4/5 Midd at Wesleyan (2) Noon
4/8 RPI at Midd4 PM
4/11 Hamilton at Midd4 PM
4/12 Hamilton at Midd (2)..... Noon

Softball

4/5 Midd at Bates (2)..... Noon
4/6 Midd at Bowdoin (2) Noon
4/9 St. Lawrence at Midd (2).....3:30 PM
4/12 Tufts at Midd (2) Noon
4/13 Midd at Trinity (2) Noon

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MEMBERS OF THE Middlebury College women's hockey team celebrate the third-period goal scored by Cece Ziegler, center right, that momentarily tied the Panthers' NCAA D-III semifinal with Amherst in Wisconsin on Friday.

Photo by Ricky Bassman

NCAA

(Continued from Page 1B)

The Mammoths nearly scored 1:08 into the second frame, but Will sprawled to make the save on a wrister from Sami Lester.

The teams traded chances in the sixth minute. Stott smothered a Raia Schluter bid from the left dot, and play went quickly to the other end, where Will shouldered away a Flynn wrister.

With 12:21 left in the period, Panther Avery McNerny had chance from close range, but Stott stopped it.

After both teams killed off penalties, Middlebury's Kylie Quinlan ripped a shot high late in the middle period.

In the second minute of the final period, Panther Cat Appleyard threatened on a shorthanded two-on-one rush, but fired just wide. The Mammoths countered and took the lead eight seconds later, still on the power play. Ziegler blocked Alyssa Xu's initial bid, but Xu picked up the loose puck and fired it home to make it 1-0.

Middlebury tied the game at 7:30. Ziegler fired a one-timer from the point on a pass from Appleyard. The puck deflected off a defender and tucked under the crossbar.

With 13:03 gone in the period, the Mammoths and Xu took advantage of a turnover to retake the lead. Maeve Reynolds forced the miscue and fed Xu for the game-winner.

In the late going the Panthers pulled Will for an extra skater. Their best chance came with 1:14 remaining, but Stott smothered Kate Flynn's bid from point-blank range, and a Mammoth blocked Ziegler's bid on the rebound.

Amherst's Flynn then added an empty-net tally with 50 seconds remaining.

11TH NCAA SEMIFINAL

Middlebury was making its 20th appearance in the NCAA D-III tournament and advanced to the semifinals for the 11th time, but came up short in its bid for a fifth national title.

Afterward, Mandigo and Ziegler and fellow senior Raia Schluter,

who along with classmate Jordan Hower led the Panthers in shots on goal with four against Amherst, gave the Mammoths their due.

"We have to give credit to Amherst. They're obviously an amazing team," Schluter said. "But I think our team is really special. Especially this year we have an especially close group, and we're always playing for the team and for each other."

One reason the team is special, they said, is because of the COVID pandemic two classes were blended together, and 10 seniors will graduate together in June.

"The Middlebury hockey program and school as a whole is something that is really special, and to put on this jersey for seven months this year, it was a long season, is something I will cherish forever," Ziegler said. "And to have a unique class size with the COVID year of 10 seniors, with some of my best friends, is something I will always be appreciative of and remember for the rest of my life."

Ziegler also said, after pausing to collect herself, the game meant more to her because she grew up in St. Paul, Minn., a half-hour drive from River Falls. She had plenty of people cheering for her in her final game as a Panther hockey player.

"I'm a little emotional about it. It meant a lot having it so close to home and having so many family and friends be able to watch the game," Ziegler said. "I wish we had been able to give them a better result, but they supported me so much in my four years at Middlebury, and I was really happy I could end my career here."

Mandigo spoke to the character and the personality of the group, and dropped in a reminder of what the seniors had accomplished in their careers, including playing for the 27-0 team that won the 2022 NCAA title, a feat unmatched by any women's hockey team at any NCAA level.

"This is a special group. These seniors, all of them, played in three final fours. They won a national championship, undefeated, as freshmen," Mandigo said. "It's a special group to me that I'll never forget. It was always fun being near each other."

Women's lax escapes upset bid

Panthers ride third-period Dion hat trick past Wesleyan

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. — The undefeated Middlebury College women's lacrosse team won two more games this past weekend, including surviving a scare on Saturday at Wesleyan, when the Panthers erased a two-goal third quarter deficit to win, 10-9. Middlebury also defeated another NESCAC foe, host Hamilton, on Sunday, 12-7, to improve to 10-0 and retain its No. 1 NCAA Division III ranking.

More challenges lie ahead. Middlebury visits No. 4 Colby this weekend, hosts unranked St. Lawrence at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, and then undefeated and second-ranked Tufts will show up on the Panthers' Kohn Field the following Saturday.

Wesleyan, ranked No. 7, started quickly this past Saturday, taking a 5-2 lead midway through the second quarter on the strength of scoring from Elie Priesing, Dylan Green and Sam DeLeo. Goals by Skylar Lach and Kylie Wilson (the career first for a player moved up from defense) cut the lead to 5-4 at

the half.

Middlebury then got goals from Caroline Adams and Lach to take a 6-5 lead early in the third period. But Wesleyan scored the next three to take its 8-6 lead. A Hope Shue free position conversion late in the period cut the Cardinal edge to one goal entering the final period.

Then Kelcey Dion took the game over for Middlebury, scoring three goals in the final 15 minutes.

Dion netted a free position from the center hash, then scored while falling to the ground to put Middlebury up, 9-8, with 9:22 remaining.

The Cardinals DeLeo tied the game with 5:17 to go by curling behind the goal and slipping a shot home. But two minutes later, Dion tossed in the game-winner, fending off a pair of defenders and flinging home an over-the-head shot.

In the late going, the Panthers tried to run off the clock, but Wesleyan caused a turnover. But before the Cardinals could attempt a shot, Shue forced a turnover and scooped the ensuing ground ball to clinch the win.

Almost all the statistics were even, except fouls: The Cardinals committed 22, and Middlebury 11. The Panthers put two more shots on target, 17-15. Middlebury goalie Gina Driscoll made eight saves; Wesleyan's Izzy Weintraub stopped nine shots.

After Dion's hat trick, Adams and Lach each scored twice. Shue added two assists, five ground balls and three caused turnovers to her goal.

On Sunday, the Panthers spotted Hamilton (3-5) a 4-2 first-quarter lead, but took charge by outscoring the Continentals, 5-0, in the second quarter on the way to the 12-7 victory.

Middlebury put more shots on goal than Hamilton, 20-11, and controlled 18 of 23 draws.

Eight Panthers scored, led by Adams with four goals, Lach with two goals and an assist, Maggie Coughlin with a goal and two assists, and Anna Spehr, Dion and Sophia Lee with a goal and two assists apiece. Driscoll made four saves, and Hamilton goalie Clara Paolucci made eight saves.

Softball

(Continued from Page 1B)

p.m.

In this past Friday's opener, the Panthers took a 5-0 lead after two innings and held off the Mammoths the rest of the way. Samantha Hausman went four innings for the win, allowing four runs (three earned) on four hits and two walks. Abibail Jankowski went 1.1 innings and allowed two runs, and Emily Ye pitched 1.2 scoreless innings to earn the save.

The Panthers plated three runs in the first. Kristyn Carroll singled and scored on a wild pitch and two passed balls, the second of which allowed Cate Viola to reach base on a third strike. Olivia Scholes singled, and she and Viola scored on sacrifice flies by McKenna Lont and Olivia Schulz.

Middlebury added two runs in the second on a Carroll single, Viola

double and Scholes single, making it 5-0. Amherst cut the lead to 5-3 with one run in the third and two in the fourth. Middlebury added what proved to be the winning run in the bottom of the fourth on back-to-back doubles by Lont and Jennifer Westphal.

Amherst scored twice in the sixth, with Ye allowing one inherited runner to score before ending the inning. Ye then worked out of a two-out jam in the seventh to nail down the win.

In the second game, the Mammoths took a 4-2 lead after three innings. Middlebury cut the lead to 4-3 with a run in the fifth, but Amherst added runs in the sixth and seventh innings to pull away.

Lont went three innings and took the loss, allowing four runs on seven hits. Ye went four innings and allowed the final two runs on

six hits.

Amherst plated three runs on five hits, including three doubles, to take a 3-0 lead in the second inning.

Middlebury got two runs back in the bottom of the inning. Lont led off with a solo homer, and singles by Uma Corcoran and Kelley Dever, followed by Carroll's RBI groundball, scored the second run. Amherst added another run in the top of the fourth on a single and double by the first two batters.

Westphal homered in the fifth to make it 4-3. After Amherst padded its lead to 6-3, Middlebury loaded the bases with two out in the seventh on singles by Ye and Carroll and a walk to Westphal, but a strikeout with the potential winning run at the plate ended the threat.



MIDDLEBURY SENIOR DEFENDER Cece Ziegler gathers steam in the Panther zone and looks up ice to make a play during the March 27 NCAA D-III semifinal in Wisconsin.

Photo by Ricky Bassman



Getting after it

A MIDDLEBURY UNION High School softball player stretches for the ball during a Thursday afternoon practice at the Middlebury Recreation park.

Independent photo/Steve James

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VGS

Accident at Feed Commodities proves fatal

VERGENNES — Vergennes police, firefighters and the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad on March 26 to a fatal workplace accident on Meigs Road in Vergennes.

Police according to their weekly incident report said they responded at 5:24 p.m. to Feed Commodities at 70 Meigs Road to a report of a worker trapped under a 1,000-pound feed bag. According to the police narrative, they assisted firefighters in administering CPR to the victim, who was identified as Tierney Provoncha, 20, a well-liked Waltham resident and former Bristol resident. But VARS EMTs pronounced her dead 14 minutes later.

According to the police department’s written report, an investigation determined that earlier in the afternoon Provoncha had been operating a forklift when she noticed a torn feed bag. She got off the forklift and was trying to fix the torn bag when a huge bag fell on her, “pinning her to the floor.”

Provoncha’s obituary appears on Page 6A.

Also between March 24 and 30, Vergennes police conducted nine cruiser patrols, one foot patrol, nine traffic stops and a VIN inspection; processed four fingerprint requests; and also.

On March 24:

- Referred a Kinney Drugs shoplifting offender to the Addison County Restorative Justice program.
- At the police station assisted a citizen with a probate matter.
- Helped VARS with a medical emergency at Vergennes Grand

Senior Living.

- On Monkton Road looked into a complaint that that a male took a video of a female with his phone. This incident is under investigation.
- At the station helped state police by evaluating a driver suspected of operating under the influence of drugs.

On March 25:

- Were told by a Vergennes Union High School official the school had received an email from a music distribution company alleging a student had made “terroristic threats” about “shooting up” the school. Earlier in the day, the school reported receiving an email from someone else about the same student. But police said the student attended high school in South Burlington. And the student told police there he was in a dispute with a music distribution company about music he was writing, and he suspected “someone was making the reports to get him in trouble.” The student added he had no ties to Vergennes or access to weapons. Police said they had no reason to believe that the student poses a threat to the Vergennes community.
- Checked the welfare of a temporary Green Street tenant after a city business owner raised concerns. Police learned the tenant’s dog had died, and arranged with a local vet to help with that issue. They also looked into the tenant’s concern about a possible gas leak, and the landlord had the heating system inspected and found no problem.
- Issued a case number for a

late report of a minor hit-and-run accident that damaged a vehicle while it was parked at one of several spots around the city.

- Cited Alicia Grangent, 49, of Vergennes for making a false statement and providing false information to a police officer stemming from a January event. Police allege that Grangent acknowledged she fabricated a story that she was accosted by an ICE officer in Shaw’s supermarket.

On March 26:

- Were told that the door of a vehicle parked on North Green Street had been struck by another vehicle and couldn’t be opened. Police gave the owner a case number.
- Began investigating the possible violation of a restraining order at a First Street home.
- Were told a drunken man was attempting to leave the American Legion headquarters on Armory Lane. State police stopped him before he left.

On March 27:

- Helped Vermont State Police arrest an assault suspect on North Street.
- Heard from a Green Street Air BnB owner that a customer had left personal property behind.
- Were told that a VUHS student had “made a Snap Chat video indicating she would shoot up the school.” Police said they spoke at length to the student and her parents and determined that she was “only frustrated with the school and had no intentions of harming anyone, nor did the student have access to

Vergennes

Police Log

any weapons.” Police spoke with school officials and left any further action up to them.

- Directed people involved in a Main Street civil dispute over personal property to the Addison County Sheriff’s Department.

On March 28:

- Dealt with a complaint about a construction boom blocking traffic on North Street.
- Provided a case number for a late report of a minor accident in an Maplefields parking lot.
- Took a report of a downtown vehicle vs. pedestrian accident. Police said there were no injuries, and they issued no tickets.

On March 29 enforced the city’s winter parking ban by having four vehicles parked on either Green or Main street towed.

On March 30:

- Looked for but failed to find a suspicious white van reported on Green Street.
- Checked the welfare of an Armory Lane resident, whom they learned had been taken to the hospital by VARS earlier in the day.
- Looked into to suspicious reports on Green Street, one of an unknown “pill/capsule” being left in a mailbox, and the other being a person poking around in garbage containers who was not found.
- Backed up state police at a traffic stop on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh.

Middlebury K9 unit aids other local law enforcement

Middlebury

Police Log

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police loaned the department’s K9 team to Vermont State Police at a vehicle stop on Route 7 on March 25. Police said K9 Guinness alerted on the vehicle, prompting police to seek a search warrant for the vehicle.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Gave a courtesy ride to an elderly patient who had been discharged from Porter Hospital on March 25.
- Responded to a report with what police described as a “seemingly highly intoxicated” man, with a bloodied face, who was yelling in the Route 7 South area on March 25.
- Responded to a report of a man yelling from the roof of a building on Route 7 South on March 25.
- Responded, with Middlebury Regional EMS, to a reported medical emergency at a Court Street business on March 26.
- Helped a homeless person find a warm place to stay the night of March 26.
- Assisted with a juvenile issue at Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS) on March 26.
- Responded to a dispute between some Jayne Court neighbors on March 27.
- Cited Abby Bray, 54, described as a transient from the Rutland area, for assault on law enforcement officer, after providing her a courtesy ride in the Court Street area on March 27.
- Responded to a report of a “sick looking skunk” in the Brookside Drive area on March 27.
- Helped a driver with car trouble on South Pleasant Street on March 27.
- Investigated a report of a sick or injured skunk in the Buttolph Drive area, on March 27. Police found the skunk to be deceased.
- Investigated an alleged assault at MUMS on March 28.
- Loaned the department’s K9 team to help find a missing juvenile in Brandon on March 28.
- Helped a local man who had been targeted by a gift-card scam on March 28.

- Assisted Vermont State Police with the loan of the department’s K9 team at a stop at the intersection of Munger Street and Quarry Road on March 28.
- Checked on the welfare of a person who was under the influence of drugs in the Court Street area on March 28.
- Arrested Emmalee Schroeder-Smith, 29, on an active warrant for her arrest, at the intersection of Munger Street and Quarry Road on March 28.
- Arrested Payton Artt, 25, on an active warrant for his arrest, on East Main Street on March 28.
- Assisted a person experiencing a mental health crisis in the South Village Green neighborhood on March 29.
- Responded to a noise complaint in the South Village Green neighborhood on March 29.
- Received a report about an alleged theft from Shaw’s supermarket on March 29.
- Served a no-trespass notice on a person who had attempted to steal merchandise from a Court Street store on March 29.
- Responded, along with Middlebury Regional EMS, to a two-vehicle crash, with injuries, at the intersection of Court and Cross streets on March 29.
- Took a very intoxicated person into protective custody on March 29.
- Responded to a report of a truck sliding off the road near Wright Park on March 29.
- Gave a ride home to an intoxicated woman on March 29.
- Got shelter for a person who was stranded on Academy Street on March 29.
- Responded to a report of downed utility wires on Burnham Drive on March 30.
- Dealt with reports of trees in the roadway on Route 7 on March 30.

Ferrisburgh

Have a news tip?
Email Sally Kerschner at
smwkersch@comcast.net

NEWS

FERRISBURGH — It is Spring and that means Green Up Day! Ferrisburgh will participate in this statewide event on Saturday, May 3. For more information contact Deb Healey at lumiere@gmavt.net or visit greenupvermont.org/. Green-Up bags will be available at the Town Clerk’s Office during regular business hours. Bags will also be available on Green-Up Day at the Ferrisburgh Central School from 9-10 a.m. Bags that are filled with trash can be dropped off from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. across from the Town Garage on Green Up day only.

Remember, this event is for roadside trash only. If you discover tires dumped on the roadside, call the Town Garage with the location and description. The location of any roadside dump sites or an excessive number of tires should be reported to the Sheriff. Thanks to all in our community for continued participation in this event that works to preserve our town’s ecosystems. Reminder to be careful to wear gloves, avoid poison parsnip, and check for ticks when you get home.

Ferrisburgh Grange “King Pedo” card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of April 12 and April 26. These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall. A 6:30 p.m. sandwich supper is followed by an evening of fun and games. King Pedo is a game that involves “trick-taking” such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch.

This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking!

Judy Chaves will be leading one of her famous history-focused guided hikes up Mount Philo on Saturday morning, April 26. Come learn the mountain’s fascinating history and discover evidence of that history hiding in plain sight. Early spring is a great time for this: no cars, no bugs, and no leaves masking the views. Participant numbers are limited to 15 and these hikes fill up fast, so contact Judy for more information at chaves@gmavt.net. And in the meantime, be sure to consult her book, “Secrets of Mt Philo” which can be found in libraries, bookstores, or ordered from the Vermont Historical Society at vermonthistory.org/secrets-of-mount-phil

The Bixby Library will host another event in their free spring concert series on Saturday, April 19, from 12:30-2 p.m., with a performance by Atlantic Crossing. For over two decades, the band has been stirring up the dance floors of New England with their Celtic-infused compositions. Now, they’re tuning up for an unforgettable concert experience right here at the Bixby. From foot-stomping reels to soulful ballads, Atlantic Crossing brings Vermont’s rich musical traditions to life. The Freda Fishman Stroh Free Concert Series is made possible by

a generous grant from the Vermont Community Foundation’s Freda Fishman Stroh Memorial Fund.

The Bixby invites you to step into the ancient world of Sumer with Josh Brooks on Thursday, April 17, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. VUES humanities teacher, Josh Brooks (VUHS ’93,) will read from his new, self-published book, “Anunnaki Tales: The Gods, Goddesses, and Kings of Ancient Sumer.” The author will share myths from the world’s first urban civilization about the creation of the world, the first people, and legendary god-king Gilgamesh, along with helpful historical context. Illustrator and CVU art teacher Jason Fearon (VUHS ’93) will join the conversation to discuss his artistic process. Copies of Anunnaki Tales will be available for purchase at the event. Visit www.bixbylibrary for more information and for the virtual link if you are unable to attend in person.

The Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall is sponsoring several events this spring, so find out all the details at their website at: www.unionmeetinghall.org. These events will be at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center due to the Union Meeting Hall building restoration. Friday movie nights will be held on April 4 and May 2 at 6 p.m. The film titles have yet to be announced so stay tuned. Homeschool art classes as hosted by Handiwork Studio continue with the next session to be held on Tuesday, April 29. These 90-minute art sessions are taught by art instructor

and studio owner Julie Cousino.

The Music Together program is the Middlebury Community Music Center’s mixed-age music class, for children from birth through age 5 and their parents/caregivers. The Spring theme is the Tambourine Song Collection. The dates for the classes held in Ferrisburgh will be Mondays, March 31-June 9, from 10 -10:45 a.m. Note there is a registration fee which includes the teaching materials for both the art classes and the music sessions.

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is hosting their next Repair Fair on April 5, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This will be a free event, held at the American Legion, 49 Wilson Road, in Middlebury. Addison County residents can learn basic repair skills and have minor repairs made on their household items such as bicycles, electronics, small appliances, clothing, etc. These events are successful in minimizing waste and keeping unnecessary refuse out of our landfills. For more information as to signing up for a timeslot or to volunteer as a “fixer,” visit www.addisoncountycycles.org/repair-fair.

Note: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related event announcements in this column, so if you have events that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net. You are also able to access these columns and other information about Ferrisburgh news and events by viewing the Ferrisburgh Town Website at www.ferrisburghvt.org

Road rage, hit and run, and drugs in car keep state police busy

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police were busy on the roads of Addison County at the end of March as they reported a road rage incident, dealt with a crash where one of the drivers left the scene and stopped an alleged drug trafficker for driving while under the influence.

Troopers received a call around 6:40 a.m. on March 26 reporting a road-rage incident on Route 22A near the Panton/Vergennes line. Police put out a call for the public to find the male driver who had assaulted a 53-year-old Panton man and fled the scene in a White Ridge Construction truck.

Thanks in part to several tips provided by members of the public, police identified the assailant as Justin Moulton, 43, of Orwell, and the next day troopers located Moulton, arrested him and took him to the Vergennes Police Department for processing. They cited Moulton for simple assault and negligent driving.

Troopers were assisted in this case by the Addison County Sheriff’s Department and Vergennes police.

Separately on March 27, at just before 6 p.m., Vermont State Police responded to a report of a two-car crash on Monkton Road in Monkton. Before police could get there, the driver at fault fled the scene.

Police report that Zackery Aubin, 21, of Monkton was at fault when he crashed a 2011 Subaru Outback into a 2019 Ford Escape driven by Megan Maloy, 29, of Ferrisburgh. Both vehicles sustained heavy front-end damage, and both drivers required treatment at Porter Hospital for minor injuries.

Aubin later identified himself to law enforcement as the driver of the Subaru. They cited him for leaving the scene of an accident and grossly negligent driving. A traffic ticket is pending.

State police were assisted by Bristol police, Bristol Rescue Squad and Bristol Fire Department.

Finally, on March 24 just before 10 p.m., state police observed motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near the Dog Team Road in New Haven

Vt. State

Police Log

and stopped the car. They identified the driver as Paul A. Neilson, 56, of Middlebury, screened him for impairment, and arrested him for suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs.

While searching Neilson during the arrest, troopers said they located 2.5 grams of fentanyl on him. Police cited him for DUI-drugs and fentanyl trafficking.

Three days later, troopers executed a search warrant on Neilson’s vehicle and say they located methamphetamine and cocaine that was previously in Neilson’s possession. They added citations for possession of meth and cocaine.

Police also issued a ticket for driving outside his lane, which could carry a \$220 fine and two points on his license.

In other recent activity, troopers:

- On March 16 at a quarter after 3 p.m. stopped a car driven by Randy Huffman-Wade, 45, of South Burlington on Route 7 near Satterly Road in Ferrisburgh and cite him for driving with a criminally suspended license.
- On March 17 at 9:07 p.m. stopped a vehicle driven by Allison Brown, 36, of Granville on Route 100 in Granville and cited her for driving with a criminally suspended license.
- Came across Jeffrey Preseau, 45, of Brandon on March 21 just before 8 p.m. on Seymour Street in Middlebury. Police said Preseau had an active arrest warrant and had also violated court ordered conditions that required him to go to court when he was told to, so they arrested him and lodged him at Marble Valley Correctional Facility with bail set at \$200.
- That same night at 10:30 p.m. made contact with 29-year-old Middlebury resident Antonio Johnson on North Pleasant Street in Middlebury. There was an active warrant out for Johnson’s arrest, so troopers arrested him.

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Village Green Market

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N. Ferrisburgh Short Stop
Russell Memorial Library

ORWELL:
Orwell Free Library

RIPTON:
Ripton Country Store

SALISBURY:
Kampersville Store (seasonal)

SHOREHAM:
Shoreham Service Center

STARKSBORO:
Jerusalem 4-Corners Store

VERGENNES:
BJ’s Farm Supply
Champlain Farms
Hare and the Dog
Kinney Drugs
Shaw’s
Maplefields Vergennes

PAPERS ALSO AVAILABLE AT:
Eastview at Middlebury Porter Hospital/Rehab

community calendar

april 3 THURSDAY

Ancilleno Davis, Michelle LeFebvre and Alexis Mychajiw in conversation in Middlebury. Thursday, April 3, 12:45 p.m., Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest, Room 103. Come to this panel discussion on necessary elements for transparent, equitable and community-engaged international collaborations.

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.

S.E.E.ing Sustainability through Changing (Social, Economic and Environmental) Climates in Middlebury. Thursday, April 3, 6 p.m., Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest, Room 103. Ancilleno Davis, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at the University of the Bahamas and Faculty Programs Coordinator of UB North Field Station, will present this talk.

april 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.

Movie night in Ferrisburgh. Friday, April 4, 6 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, Route 7. See a film and help support the Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall renovations.

april 5 SATURDAY

Spring Cleaning Saturday on the TAM in Middlebury. Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m., location TBD. MALT's Trails & Volunteer Manager Liam will await volunteers at the trailhead in the mornings with doughnuts, 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 or 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 www.maltvt.org/events.

American Red Cross blood drive in Bristol. Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bristol Federated Church, 37 North St. Give lifesaving blood or platelets now as seasonal travel ramps up. Spring break and holidays can make it challenging to keep donation appointments, but each donation is critical to patient care. All who give in April will be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$5,000 gift card. RedCrossBlood.org/Hope for details all three offers.

Crafters Market in Middlebury. Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Rescheduled from March 29. Come out to support local crafters, farmers market members, and musicians.

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.

Foster Care and VINS program presentation in Middlebury. Saturday, April 5, 11 a.m., Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Fostering takes many forms. Join the Department for Children and Families in celebration of National Foster Care Month as we host VINS Nature Center and their traveling raptor program. It is also an opportunity to learn about foster care and to celebrate those who provide care across Vermont. Staff will be on hand to welcome you and to share helpful information about foster care. Free and open to the public.

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.

april 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



Repair, learn and save

ADDISON COUNTY SOLID Waste Management District will hold its annual repair fair on Saturday, April 5, beginning at 10 a.m., at the 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 this free community event dedicated to fixing items, sharing knowledge, and building a culture of repair. Last year Jon Deming managed to fix a DVD player brought in by Larry Montague.

Independent file photo/Steve James

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!

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 www.maltvt.org/events.

april 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

april 8 TUESDAY

Charlie Nardozi on vegetable gardening in Middlebury. Tuesday, April 8, 1 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. In this Middlebury Garden Club talk, Charlie Nardozi, nationally known author, speaker and broadcast personality, will demystify small space vegetable gardening in garden spaces as well as in raised beds and containers. Additionally, he will speak on succession gardening as well as the best vegetable varieties for small spaces. Free and open to the public.

"Actually, you do trust the mainstream media" in Middlebury. Tuesday, April 8, at 4:30 p.m., Dana Auditorium. 356 College St. A talk by Olivier Knox, Senior National Correspondent at *U.S. News and World Report*, where he has written about national politics and foreign policy since June 2024. Throughout his three-decade career, Knox has focused on Congress and the White House, traveled the world on Air Force One, interviewed presidents and lawmakers and, crucially, 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.

Addison County River Watch virtual orientation. Tuesday, April 8, 7 p.m., Zoom. Addison County River Watch Collaborative will host a one-hour virtual meeting session for new and returning volunteers to hear a brief summary of the results from 2024 water quality sampling and to get up to speed on what volunteer river-watching we will be tackling in 2025. This year in addition to collecting water samples in six Addison County watersheds, ACRWC will be maintaining several riparian restoration sites and enlisting landowners in our Soak It Up! green stormwater program. If you are interested in helping monitor and care for local watersheds, please join this orientation session. To register, email or call acrcwvt@gmail.com; 802-434-3236.

"Less Lawn, More Life: Reimagining Yards as Wildlife Habitat" in Middlebury. Tuesday, April 8, 7 p.m., Unity Hall, Congregational Church of Middlebury, N. Pleasant St. What if your yard could support more than just grass? Pollinator Pathway of Addison County invites you to this talk by pollinator conservation biologist Emily May, who will explore how to reimagine Addison County's acres of lawns as vibrant, sustainable habitats for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. \$5 suggested donation. More info at pollinatorpathway.addisoncounty@gmail.com.

april 10 THURSDAY

Book sale donations in Vergennes. Thursday, April 10, 3-6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Finished with your winter cabin fever reading? Donate your used books to the Bixby Library book sale. Donations accepted in the back parking lot. Fiction should be published after 2014 or written by a popular author, and non-fiction should be current and saleable. Donated books will be featured at the book sale on Saturday, April 12. Bixby Library is located at 258 Main St., Vergennes.

Dam management meeting in Middlebury. Thursday, April 10, 6:30 p.m., Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. Come to this public information meetings held by the Agency of Natural Resources to discuss how upcoming dam safety rules may affect the management of state-owned, manmade dams that have been impacted by beavers. This is particularly relevant to Bristol Pond.

april 11 FRIDAY

Lenten Fish Fry in Bristol. Friday, April 11, 5-7 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish, 11 School St. Menu includes all you can eat fried or baked haddock, French fries, coleslaw dinner roll, beverage and dessert. Adults \$17; children age 9 and younger \$9; immediate family of 5 for \$50. More info call 802-453-2488.

april 12 SATURDAY

Spring breakfast in Shoreham. Saturday, April 12, 8:30-10 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, School Rd. Celebrate the arrival of spring with plain or blueberry pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, home fries, quiche, and beverages. Tickets \$12 adults/\$6 children/\$30 families. Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the Food Shelf to help those in need.

Push to the Pavilion craft fair in Vergennes. Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Vergennes Union Elementary School, 47 East St. Raffle prizes, bake sale, crafts, and a variety of vendors, all on hand to help raise funds for the Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion Project. For more information, to be a vendor, volunteer, or make a donation email progress8773761@gmail.com.

Clean Out the Closet sale in Vergennes. Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 So. Maple St. St. Peter's Resale Closet shop is cleaning out for new inventory and will hold a take what you want, pay what you can sale in the Parish Hall. Gently used clothing for men, women and children, household goods, books and more. The Closet Shop, behind Parish Hall, will also be open at that time with items for sale at regular prices. Proceeds from all sales go to St. Peter's charity programs.

Used book sale in Vergennes. Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., downstairs, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. April showers bring back the Bixby used book sale. Enter from the back parking lot and peruse the updated selection of donated books people have read over the winter.

Prize Bingo in Leicester. Saturday, April 12, 1 p.m., Senior Center, Four Corners. Sponsored by the Leicester Historical Society. Refreshments served and all are welcome. Plan to spend an afternoon with friends and neighbors and possibly win a special prize.

Turkey and all the fixin's supper in Vergennes. Saturday, April 12, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main St., across from the Opera House. Menu includes roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, roll and dessert. \$12. Takeout Only Preorder only by 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10 at 802-877-3150.

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Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — Stop by the library during the week of April 5-11 as they will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child. The children's room will be decorated with artwork created by the preschoolers. The purpose of this week is to highlight the importance of early childhood education, focusing on the needs of

young children and their families.

There will be an afternoon craft session at the library on Wednesday, April 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. Crafters will be making either sock or finger puppets.

Until next time ... Every Sunrise Is An Invitation To Brighten Someone's Day.

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Get ready to aid amphibians

MONTPELIER — Every year, typically in early spring, many of Vermont’s amphibians leave their overwintering sites and migrate to the wetlands and ponds where they will breed and lay eggs. The timing of this annual event, termed Big Night(s), coincides with melting snowpack, thawing soils, relatively warm evening temperatures, and rainfall.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife asks drivers to slow down and be cautious when travelling at night in early spring or to take alternate routes to avoid driving roads near wetlands and ponds that salamanders and frogs cross during their breeding season.

If you are trying to predict a Big Night, pay attention to the forecast and look for nights with consistent

rainfall and temperatures above 40° Fahrenheit after snowmelt has given way to patches of bare ground.

“One of the benefits of checking out amphibian road crossings,” says Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff, “is that you can see many individuals and species in a short period and in a small area, and some species may not be seen the rest of the year.”

The spotted and blue-spotted salamanders, for example, belong to a group referred to as “mole salamanders,” because after breeding, they retreat underground or under logs or stumps, and may not be seen until next spring.

Groff is encouraging Vermonters to explore the roads near their homes and report amphibian road

crossings to the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas.

If it is safe to take pictures of the migrating amphibians, please include them in your report. This information is used by Fish and Wildlife, the Agency of Transportation and other conservation partners to assess the need for wildlife passages and barriers that allow all wildlife, not just frogs and salamanders, to more safely cross roadways.

Vermonters who wish to contribute to the Fish and Wildlife Department’s work to conserve frog and salamander populations can donate to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on their state income tax form or on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.

Mosquito spraying begins around April 15

ADDISON COUNTY — Local mosquito control districts may be making ground and aerial applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI), *Bacillus sphaericus* (BS), spinosad and (S)-Methoprene to surface waters where mosquito larvae are present. These applications will

occur in the towns of Cornwall, Bridport, and Weybridge. Pesticide applications will begin on or after April 15.

Further information or comments about the larviciding activities or application exclusion requests can be obtained from Lemon Fair Insect Control District at info@

LFICD.org or phone our hotline: 802-349-5407

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture oversees the permitting of these mosquito larvicides and can be reached at 802-828-3473.

For more information go to www.lficd.org or tinyurl.com/mosquito-spraying.



ASA MACCALLUM (LEFT) and Jack Simpson took high honors in the Vermont State Scholastic Chess Championship held in Lamoille on March 29. MacCallum, undefeated, placed first in the third-grade division, while Simpson placed third in the fifth-grade division.

Students take home chess championships

ADDISON COUTNY — Three Addison County students placed in the Vermont State Scholastic Chess Tournament on March 29 in Lamoille. Asa McCallum of Weybridge was undefeated through five rounds and placed first in the third-grade division. Asa learned to play chess online using the ChessKid application, and now he plays chess with local college students.

Jack Simpson of Middlebury placed third in the fifth-grade division despite having to forfeit the first round due to the icy road conditions. Jack learned to play chess from his father, who was also a competitive chess player in his youth. Jack and Asa enjoy playing chess together at Haymaker Bun Company and with other kids at the Ilsley Library Chess Club, which is currently seeking a new location while the library is under construction.

Jacob Graham of Middlebury was undefeated until the final round and placed second in the high school division. He got started playing chess through classes at Bridge School with local expert Parker Montgomery.



JACOB GRAHAM OF Middlebury placed 2nd overall in the high school division of the Vermont State Scholastic Chess Championship held in Lamoille on March 29. Photo courtesy of Noah Graham

Leicester

Have a news tip?
Call the Addison Independent at 388-4944.

NEWS

LEICESTER — Dogs were due to be licensed by April 1. If residents have not yet registered their dogs, and to avoid fines and/or penalties, register your dogs as soon as possible.

The Leicester Historical Society will be sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., Apr 12, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center, the white building at the Four Corners. Refreshments

served and all are welcome.

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 3. Green Up Bags and gloves will be available at the Town Office, between the two doors, beginning April 24. As usual, there will be a free lunch for Green Up volunteers, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the loop between the historic buildings at the Four Corners. Your lunch ticket will double as a raffle ticket.

Raffle prizes include maple syrup, restaurant gift cards, a variety of items. Tickets will be available at the town shed, next to the trailer there to collect bags. The committee is hoping for a third straight year of 100% of roadside cleaning.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Diane Benware at 247-3786.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Maya Shea

Mt. Abraham Union High School introduces Maya W. Shea as our Student of the Week. Maya lives in both Bristol and New Haven. In Bristol she lives with her dad and stepmom, while in New Haven she resides with her mom and younger sisters.

Maya has received honors each semester of high school and is dedicated to her studies. Currently, she is enrolled at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center, where she enjoys working with her peers in the Medical Professions program. She has always had a passion for English and hands-on learning during her high school years. Maya has been actively involved in sports, previously playing soccer at the varsity level and participating in ice hockey through Middlebury. As a senior, she decided to step away from sports to concentrate on her classes and work.

Outside of school, Maya has worked for a year and a half as a server at the Residence at Otter Creek, a retirement community in Middlebury. She enjoys her role and plans to continue working there until she leaves for college. In her spare time, Maya enjoys skiing and spending time outdoors. A highlight of her high school experience was attending a semester of school at The Outdoor Academy in North Carolina. During her time there, she backpacked and lived off-grid, which deepened her love for camping and exploring the wilderness.

Maya’s most significant lesson during high school came from her time at The Outdoor Academy. She said she learned “the importance of productive interactions/relationships and made the strongest friendships I’ve ever had while there. I’ve been able to bring my skills home with me and learned how to focus on communication and self-improvement.”

After high school, Maya plans to spend her summer working at the Residence and traveling to Germany and Mexico with friends. Upon her return, she will attend Colby-Sawyer College, where she will enter the Honors College for Nursing. The Mt. Abe community wishes her all the best in her future endeavors!



Maya Shea
MAUHS

Otter Valley Union High School

Miley Lape

Miley Lape of Brandon is Otter Valley Union High School’s Student of the Week. This year she is involved in Otter Valley’s Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together program — a class focused on building leadership skills, learning how to analyze data, different communication styles, and ways to better serve our community. She says they even started a podcast where they discuss the impacts of food insecurity within the community and also in Vermont as a whole. Miley credits teacher Mrs. Callahan for being a major supporter of the process by providing the resources necessary to fulfill any/all needs and bringing ideas to life. Miley received an award for excellence during the end of semester award ceremony. She is also pursuing dual enrolment by taking classes at Community College of Vermont.

Miley is also involved in Up For Learning, a group dedicated to empowering youth to use their voice to create positive change within schools. Through workshops and retreats, students are given the opportunity to speak up about what they want their school community to look and feel like; the students are then provided the tools and resources to take steps toward that change. She is also interning at Neshobe Elementary School in Brandon.

In her busy schedule, Miley finds time to participate in Otter Valley’s Walking Stick Theater and its girls’ basketball team, serving as captain this year. She also plays unified basketball.

Outside of school, Miley babysits once or twice a week. She loves to hang out with friends, travel, listen to podcasts, play sports and sing. Currently, she’s participating in the Brandon Idol singing competition. This is an annual event in the small town of Brandon, but it’s her first year doing it, and she has found it very fun so far. She says she has won fan favorite in two rounds.

Miley’s advice to her peers: “Really get involved in all you can while you’re in school. My freshman and sophomore years I spent trying out various extracurriculars just trying to figure out what I liked and didn’t like, and I’m really glad I did. It’s scary to try new things especially as an underclassman, but if you never try anything new, you’ll never truly know what you’re passionate about.”

After high school, Miley plans to attend college down south, in either North or South Carolina, and major in Sociology. She hasn’t yet fully committed but plans to make her decision this month. All of us at Otter Valley wish her the best of luck!



Miley Lape
OVUHS

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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!

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

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THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 79 Court St, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.



Public Meetings

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

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

Services

BROWN'S CONSTRUCTION renovations, interior/exterior painting, drywall, plumbing/electrical services. Fully insured w/ 30+ years of experience covering Northern Addison and Southern Chittenden, references available. Call 802-238-4864

Services

CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

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

REFRESH YOUR ROOF Roof Cleaning and Exterior House Washing 802-989-3352 or www.refreshyourroof.com

SPRING GUTTER CLEANING: call or text Ian at 802-349-7871.

SPRING PROPERTY CLEAN UPS, some landscaping, brush cutting, lawn work, weed flower beds, grocery pick up. Call us today, we do other jobs too. low rates. 802-999-2194, John.

Free

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

Opportunities

WOODWORKING/ FURNITURE MAKING CLASSES in Waltham with furniture maker Timothy Clark. For more information- go to <https://www.timothyclark.com/classeshome.html> or Call or Text (802) 989-3204

WW LIKE CLASS lead by lecturer, only \$5. Monday 5pm, private weigh in. 1 Credit Union ramp to the right, 48 Green St, Vergennes.

Help Wanted



Auditors and Lister

The Town of Bridport seeks qualified persons for vacant officer positions for three auditors and one lister. Applicants need to be Bridport registered voters. These are part-time positions whose number of hours varies. These positions include working with other Town Officers. Skills required include: teamwork, communicating through telephone and email, organization, and computer skills. Prior local government experience a plus.

Auditors are responsible for examining the receipts and expenditures of the Town and for the Annual Town Report, including a detailed statement of the financial condition of the Town for its fiscal year (July to June). Prior experience in accounting and working with QuickBooks a plus.

There are two other elected listers. Listers are responsible for assessing real property to ensure equitable property tax assessments. Listers are required, by State statute, to take training and continuing education seminars on State regulations in person and/or on line. Prior experience assessing the value of real property a plus.

Send resumes to Town of Bridport, PO Box 27, Bridport VT, 05734 or by email to bridporttown@gmavt.net



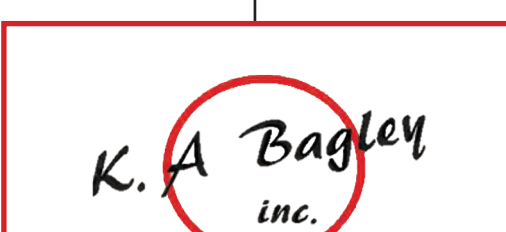
Teaching Co-Director

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.

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



Carpenter & Laborers – Exterior Package Focus

Stewart Construction | Middlebury, VT

Stewart Construction is actively seeking skilled Carpenters and Laborers to join our team for exterior work on an exciting project located on Seminary St. The scope of work includes, but is not limited to; siding, trim, soffit, window, door install and deck construction.

PAY & BENEFITS:

- Laborer - \$20-\$25/hr, DOE
- Carpenter - \$25-\$30/hr, DOE
- Health, Life Ins., SEP-IRA with matching, paid vacation

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Industry-leading pay
- Opportunities for growth
- Local work, minimal travel

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit resume/cover letter to info@stewart-construction.com. Applications are available on our website or upon request. We can be reached at (802) 879-0500

Help Wanted

MIDDLEBURY UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL

COACHING POSITIONS

Middlebury Union Middle School is seeking coaches for the following:

- Baseball
- Boys' Lacrosse
- Girls' Lacrosse
- Softball Coach
- Ultimate Frisbee Coach

Applicants must possess a strong knowledge of coaching principles with previous coaching experience preferred. Must possess strong organizational skills and the ability to communicate and relate to student athletes.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest, resume, and three current letters of reference to:

Dustin Hunt/Activities Director
Middlebury Union Middle School
48 Deerfield Lane, Middlebury, VT 05753
Applications will be accepted until the position has been filled. E.O.E.



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.

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Spring Cleaning!

Spring is right around the corner and nonprofits across Addison County are looking for volunteer groups to help with spring cleaning. Gardening, reorganizing, painting projects and more!

Great opportunity for team building or grabbing friends to spend some time outside while giving back to the community.

To learn more about the group projects, contact Amy Hoekstra at amyh@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org or call 802-388-7189.

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.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

• 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad

• 50¢ internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

- Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free** | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals |

** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____

Cost: _____

of runs: _____

Spotlight Charge: _____


Internet Listing: \$ _____

TOTAL: _____

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted Help Wanted Help Wanted



Addison County Parent/Child Center

**Join the Parent/Child Center Team
EARLY INTERVENTIONIST**

We are seeking an **Early Interventionist** to work with young families as an outreach worker on our highly skilled, creative and energetic team.

You will work in coordination with parents in the home, community, and in our program in Middlebury in order to ensure that children are growing healthy and strong.

Candidates must have a solid understanding of child development, early intervention Part C , family systems, communication skills and flexibility. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a related field is required.

Please contact **Donna Bailey** d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org



Experienced Project Foreman/Lead Carpenter Wanted!

Are you an experienced Project Foreman/Lead Carpenter in the Addison-Chittenden County (VT) area and looking for a new opportunity to showcase your skills?

Our leading construction company is seeking a talented foreman to join our dynamic team.

With a reputation for excellence and a commitment to quality, we offer a rewarding work environment where your expertise will be valued.

We offer competitive pay and a comprehensive benefits package. Please send a resume and brief cover letter outlining your experience to admin@smithmccclain.com.

Come build with us!



Opportunities

WW LIKE CLASS lead by lecturer, only \$5. Monday 5pm, private weigh in. 1 Credit Union ramp to the right, 48 Green St, Vergennes.

For Sale

1952 FARMALL CUB TRACTOR with side mount mower, starts and runs, has wheel weights, & tire chains. Does not charge, needs minor work on battery box and brakes. \$2200. cabessette@juno.com or 802-598-2476

2011 38' CAMPER needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

For Sale

ENCORE WOOD STOVE porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

FIREWOOD STOVE in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

TWO GOODYEAR TIRES 255/65R17, less than 30k miles. \$100 for both, call 802-352-4338.

Lawn and Garden

CUB CADET GT 2544 lawn tractor with mower deck, tire chains, wheel weights, and small cart. \$975. cabessette@juno.com or 802-598-2476

For Rent

1000 SQUARE FEET OF RETAIL available with parking on Bakery Lane in downtown Middlebury. 802-349-8544.

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.

For Rent

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

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

VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist 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.

For Rent

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

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.

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

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.

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 14th, 10am.

TOWN OF PANTON PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Panton Selectboard hereby warns and notices the following proposed amendment by addition to the Town Charter.

"Subchapter 5. Recall of elected Town Officers

Any elected town officer may be removed from office subject to the following conditions and procedures;

- A written petition, signed by not less than 15 percent of the registered voters of the town, seeking the removal of such town officers, and requesting a vote of the town at a regular or special town meeting called for the purpose, shall be filed with the Selectboard and the Town Clerk.
- If the petition is filed no more than 60 days, and at least 47 days before the next regular Town Meeting, the Selectboard shall place the question of whether the elected officer shall be removed on the warning for the next regular Town Meeting. Otherwise, the Selectboard shall call a Special Town Meeting, to be held within 45 days of receiving the petition, to vote on whether the elected officer shall be removed. In either case, the recall vote shall be held by Australian ballot.
- When such a petition is approved by a majority of the ballots cast at said Regular or Special Town Meeting, the town officer named in the petition shall thereupon cease to hold their office.
- The officer shall be removed only if at least as many registered voters of the Town vote to approve the petition as voted in the election wherein the officer was elected, or at least one-third of the registered voters of the Town vote, whichever is fewer.
- A vacancy resulting from the recall of an officer shall be filled in the manner prescribed by law.
- A recall petition shall not be brought against an individual more than once within 12 months."

The Selectboard of the Town of Panton will hold two (2) hearings on this proposed amendment on the following dates and times-**Wednesday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m., and Wednesday, April 16th, at 5:30 p.m.** Both hearings will be held at the Panton Town Hall, 2nd Floor, and available online. Please visit the Town's website at pantonvt.us for more information and a link to the hearings.

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).

Rules of the Vermont Employment Security Board.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P015
AGENCY: Vermont Employment Security Board; Dept. of Labor
CONCISE SUMMARY: This amendment to the Employment Security Board Rules implements provisions of recent legislation regarding unemployment insurance; specifically, unemployment benefit overpayments. The amended rule adds a procedure to apply for waiver of repayment of overpaid unemployment benefits where the individual is not at fault for the overpayment, and where ordering repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience. The amended rule adds definitions for "fault" and "contrary to equity and good conscience" and outlines the application process; notice requirements; determinations on applications; and appellate procedure.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Jared Adler, Staff Attorney, Department of Labor, 5 Green Mountain Dr., PO Box 488, Montpelier VT 05602 Tel: 802-863-7294 E-Mail: jared.adler@vermont.gov URL: <https://labor.vermont.gov>
FOR COPIES: Robert Depper, General Counsel, Department of Labor, 5 Green Mountain Dr., PO Box 488, Montpelier VT 05602 Tel: 802-522-8669 E-Mail: robert.depper@vermont.gov

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 3/27/25 & 3/31/25

BEEF	LBS.	/LB		\$
C. Butler	1560	1.69		\$2636.40
H. Veldman	1985	1.65		\$3275.25
J. Fifield	1995	1.60		\$3192.00
Vorsteveld	1400	1.60		\$2240.00
Deer Valley	1995	1.55		\$3092.25
Iroquois Acres	1635	1.52		\$2485.20
Nop Bros	1805	1.50		\$2707.50

CALVES	LBS.	/LB		\$
P. Livingston	85	12.00		\$1020.00
Deer Valley	80	12.00		\$960.00
Iroquois Acres	76	12.00		\$912.00
L. Garvey	90	11.00		\$990.00
UVM	78	11.00		\$858.00
Barnes Bros	94	10.60		\$996.40

Total Beef - 108 Total Calves - 164
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661



(1634) CONSTRUCTION & MECHANIC TOOLS

Auction Closes: Thursday, April 10 @ 10AM
Preview: Tues., April 8 from 11AM-1PM



Don't miss over 900+ Lots of Construction and Mechanic Tools. Highlights include: Drill Presses, Jack Hammers, Welding Equipment, AND MORE!
Items Located in Williston, VT - **BID NOW ONLINE!**

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 800-634-7653

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.**

- Addison (1)
- Bristol Stor-Mor (1)
- Gage Cemetery Association (1)
- Middlebury (1)
- Otter Creek Watershed ICD (1)
- Panton (2)
- Slate Valley UUSD (1)
- Starksboro (1)
- State of Vermont (1)
- Vergennes (5)

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING

ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84298072665>
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 842 9807 2665

For those wishing to watch but not participate:
Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV_Vermont
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

7:00	1. Call to Order 2. *Approval of Agenda 3. *Approval of Consent Agenda 3a. *Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Regular Selectboard Meeting 3b. *Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes 3c. *Approval of Applications - Renewal of State Licenses/Permits (if any) 3d. *Policy Review Committee - Proposed Assignment 3e. *Thank You Letters - Resigning Committee Members 3f. **FY26 Town Budget Report Update 3g. Consent Agenda Placeholder 3h. **Town Manager's Report
7:10	4. **Citizen Comments (Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda)
7:15	5. *Middlebury Police Department - Department Vehicle - Proposed Upping
7:20	6. *Annual Nominations to Town Boards/Committees/Commissions & Other Official Positions
7:30	7. **Town Plan 2025 - Follow-Up Presentation
7:40	8. *Appointment - Interim Zoning Administrator 9. Agenda Placeholder
7:50	10. *Approval of Check Warrants
7:55	11. **Board Member Concerns 12. Executive Session - Not Anticipated 13. *Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
8:00	14. *Adjourn

*Possible Decision **Discussion



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

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Email your Public Notices
to legals@addisonindependent.com and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

Lee Ann Goodrich steps down at Shard Villa

SALISBURY — The Executive Director of Shard Villa, Lee Ann Goodrich, will be retiring in May 2025.

“Shard Villa is deeply indebted to Lee Ann Goodrich, and she will be deeply missed by board, staff, and residents,” said Board President Harold “Satch” Nisun. “We thank her for her tireless service and dedication, and the board looks forward to finding the next leader for the Villa.”

Since 1921, Shard Villa has provided high quality personal care forseniors in an intimate, welcoming, home-like environment. The property is one of the architectural gems of Addison County. It is of historical significance as an example of Second Empire architecture and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1988.

“Shard Villa is deeply indebted to Lee Ann Goodrich, and she will be deeply missed by board, staff, and residents. We thank her for her tireless service and dedication, and the board looks forward to finding the next leader for the Villa.”

— Board President Harold “Satch” Nisun

Goodrich has been the Executive Director Registered Nurse of Shard Villa since August of 2017. Prior to that, she worked as the Villa’s full-time staff RN.

Lee Ann set a new standard

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on **Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.**

CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on April 21, 2025, at 7 pm as the second order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review and Local Act 250 Review for Application #2025-04 by Addison Northwest School District to construct a Gravel Wetland on the Property located at 50 Monkton Rd. Reviews will consider Article VII, Article XI, and Article XVI Section 1611.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a “hybrid meeting”, with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.

Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 842-5290-1890;
Meeting password: 689859.

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone:
To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9.
To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an “on the record” Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore assure that their participation in the Public Hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.

March 31, 2025
David Austin
Zoning Administrator

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT Addison Unit

CIVIL DIVISION DOCKET NO.: 23-CV-01699

MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC
PLAINTIFF

VS.

ANDREW H. MONTROLL, ESQ., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF ARTHUR DANYOW, JR.; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 56 DANYOW DRIVE, ADDISON, VT 05491
DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale filed on January 7, 2025, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by Arthur E. Danyow, Jr. and Patricia R. Danyow to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of Indymac Bank, F.S.B., dated February 23, 2006, and recorded in Book 88, at Page 437, of the Town of Addison Land Records, of which mortgage Plaintiff is the present holder by virtue of the following Assignments of Mortgage: (1) Assignment of Mortgage from Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC recorded in Book 95, at Page 163 (2) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee as nominee for Financial Freedom Acquisition LLC to Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust recorded in Book 115, at Page 21 and (3) Assignment of Mortgage from Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust to Mortgage Assets Management, LLC f/k/a Reverse Mortgage Solutions, Inc. recorded in Book 116, at Page 645, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on May 7, 2025 at 11:00 AM at 56 Danyow Drive, Addison, VT 05491 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:

Being a portion of the same lands and premises conveyed to Arthur E. Danyow, Jr. and Patricia D. Danyow by Warranty Deed of Philip R. Dubois and Evelyn M. Dubois dated October 26, 1970 and recorded October 28, 1970 in Book 34, at Page 328 of the Town of Addison Land Records and further described therein.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

Mortgage Assets Management, LLC
Bozena Wysocki, Esq.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com

for professionalism and a high standard of care and compassion for elderly residents and their families. During her tenure she solidified Shard Villa’s reputation in the area as a boutique elder care facility, that provides personal care for its residents. Lee Ann has balanced executive leadership, updates to policies and procedures, management of staff, compliance with all state licensing requirements, and has even jumped in to fill shifts on a

regular basis to ensure consistent quality care.

During the COVID-19 pandemic she worked tirelessly with the Vermont Health Department and Vermont Department of Aging and Independent Living to guide the Villa and every one of its residents safely through the unprecedented health crisis from 2020 through 2023. This service included living on-site for many months while the state-mandated

quarantine was in effect.

She forged strong relationships with residents of the Villa, furthering the home-like atmosphere, and nurtured relationships with other healthcare professionals involved in resident care.

The Shard Villa Board of Trustees thanks Lee Ann for all she has given and accomplished over the last seven and a half years, and we wish her well. The Board will shortly be initiating a search for her replacement.

CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the residents of the City of Vergennes that the City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. for discussion of the final draft of the revised Municipal Development Plan.

This public hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting with participation remotely through Zoom or In-Person at Vergennes Fire Station, 50 Green Street, Vergennes.

Join by Computer: <https://zoom.us/j/561577976>
• Join by Phone: Dial: 1 (312) 626-6799
• Meeting ID: **561 577 976**
• Meeting Password: **1234**

For participants joining by phone:
· To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9
· To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing the Zoom meeting, contact David Austin at 802-989-6315.

Statement of Purpose: Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4384, the Planning Commission proposes to amend Sections 1.1; 7.2.2; and 7.2.7 to provide reference regarding status as “third oldest ‘city’ in the United States”; to require conditional use review for low-intensity business including retail in the Historic Neighborhood (HN) district; and to require conditional use review for permitting residential uses in the Commercial (C) district.

Geographic Area Affected

Historic Neighborhood District (HN) Commercial District (C)

Table of Contents of Proposed Amendments – There is no change in the Table of Contents.

CHANGES ARE PROPOSED TO: Section 1.1 About Vergennes; Section 7.2.2 Historic Neighborhood District (HN); and Section 7.2.7 Commercial District (COM).

A copy of the full text of the final revised version of the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations is available for public review by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org. Copies are also available for review at the office of the City Clerk.

March 26, 2025
Betsy Sullivan
City Clerk
City of Vergennes

TOWN OF ADDISON PUBLIC NOTICE

The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, April 21, 2025 at the Addison Community Center at 6:30 PM (regular monthly meeting).

1. Open the meeting.
 2. Roll call given.
 3. No plans for Katie Raycroft-Meyer to work or meet with the Town Plan revisions until the May 19th meeting.
 4. Approve the meeting minutes for March 18, 2025 & continue the business meeting. ***Reorganize the board position for Chair.
 5. Public Comment time allowed (beginning & end, if deemed necessary)
 6. Review the progress with the Town Survey.
 7. Follow up with progress of board members taking ethics training online.
 8. If time, we may decide to work on projects.
- If needed, allow public comment time at the end..

*Deliberative Session if needed - after the meeting.

Jennifer Barrett, Vice Chair
Starr Phillips, Secretary
Addison Planning Commission

WARNING SPECIAL MEETING and BUDGET INFORMATIONAL MEETING SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell, West Haven)

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/aek-pdby-ndv>
Or dial: (US) +1 507-609-0082 PIN: 671 384 578#

April 14, 2025

The legal voters of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD) consisting of the towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell, and West Haven are hereby warned and notified to meet at Fair Haven Union Middle & High School Band Room on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM to conduct the following business from the floor:

Article 1: Shall the Slate Valley Unified Union School District hold its Annual Meeting on the 3rd Thursday of February?

April 15, 2025

The meeting shall then be recessed to Tuesday, **April 15, 2025** for the purpose of voting on the following articles at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to Bomoseen Fellowship Bible Church following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

The Town polls will be opened as follows:

Town of Benson	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Benson Community Hall
Town of Castleton	8:00 AM - 7:00 2M	Castleton Fire Station
Town of Fair Haven	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	American Legion Post 49
Town of Hubbardton	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Hubbardton Town Hall
Town of Orwell	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Orwell Town Clerk’s Office
Town of West Haven	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	West Haven Town Hall

Article 2: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Thirty-One Million Six Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Ten Dollars \$31,623,010.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Slate Valley Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of **\$11,564.69, which is 3.61% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.**

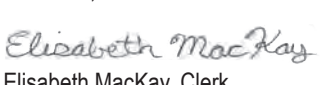
Informational Hearing:

Said persons and voters are further notified and warned that the meeting on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. at the Fair Haven Union Middle & High School in Fair Haven, Vermont will also serve as an informational hearing to discuss Article 2, which will be voted on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Dated at Fair Haven, Vermont
March 24, 2025


Julie Finnegan, Chair
Slate Valley Unified Union School District

Received and Recorded
March 25, 2025


Elisabeth MacKay, Clerk
Slate Valley Unified Union School District

GAGE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.
Ferrisburgh Town Offices
3279 Route 7

BRISTOL STOR-MOR

508 Burpee Rd., Bristol, Vt
Rebecca J. Shackett
36 Morgan Horse Ln., Bristol, VT
Unit #31A, 5'x10' and 40C, 10'x10'
Household items
Minimum bid required
Sale Date: Saturday, 04/12 at 9 am

CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on April 21, 2025, at 7 pm as the fourth order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review for Application #2025-09 by Gordon Telling to construct a Perimeter Drain on the Property located at 38 East St. Reviews will consider Article VII and Article XVI Section 1603.

Please note that the Hearing will be held as a “hybrid meeting”, with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.

Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 842-5290-1890;
Meeting password: 689859.

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone:
To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9.
To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an “on the record” Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore assure that their participation in the Public Hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.

March 31, 2025
David Austin
Zoning Administrator

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT

DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-01189

IN RE ESTATE OF: JOHN JEWELL

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: John Jewell, late of Vergennes.

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

George Jewell
54 Black Brook Road, Meredith, NH 03253
603-524-6586
GKJewell@metrocast.net

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Date: 04/03/25 & 04/10/25

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

TOWN OF PANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Development Review Board will convene the following public hearing at the Town Hall 3176 Jersey St., Pantan, VT 05491 and by Zoom and at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday June 12, 2025.

To consider an application from Thomas Sultas 2212 Pantan Road, Pantan, VT 05491 (25-302) for a review of their proposal to operate an auto glass business on the property. He is requesting a Home Occupation III (Non-Exempt for this use. This application is available for inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office. Interested parties who wish to appeal or be heard at the hearing may do so by attending in person or by a Zoom session and may also be represented by an agent or an attorney. (Information for the Zoom session login can be found on the Town of Pantan webpage or by contacting the Assistant Town Clerk at 802 475 2333 Option 2.) Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearing.

N.B.: Participation in the hearing is necessary to establish status as an ‘interested person’ and the right to appeal a decision rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 §\$4465(b) and 4471(a). Participation consists of offering, through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

David Martini
Zoning Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES

On or after April 15th, 2025, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) will be applying ground and possibly aerial treatments of mosquito larvicides on surface waters in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control mosquito larvae populations. Those treatments will use Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti), Bacillus sphaericus (BS), and Spinosad, which are bacterially derived larvicides. Ground applications of Cocobear (mineral oil) and Methoprene may also be used in selected wet areas to target mosquito pupae and prevent adult emergence.

Exclusion requests need to be renewed annually. Please send a written request to the OCW mail or email address below.

In accordance with paragraph 6.06 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has been granted a permit to conduct larvicide 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
OCW Operations Coordinator
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
P.O. Box 188
Brandon, VT 05733
(802) 247-6779
ocwcd@gmail.com
<https://ocwcd.com>

Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide 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

Know the health risks when raising backyard birds

WATERBURY — As warmer weather and peeping baby chicks mark the springtime return of migrating wild birds and backyard flocks, state health and agriculture officials are encouraging people to keep themselves and their feathered friends healthy.

Domestic poultry kept for producing eggs or meat can carry harmful bacteria and viruses, including Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli and avian influenza (bird flu), that can make people sick. Children younger than five years old, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are more likely to get severe illness from the germs poultry can carry. Knowing how

to protect your birds can keep you and your family safer from these health risks.

“Raising baby poultry like chicks, ducklings and goslings in your backyard can offer many benefits, such as fresh eggs, opportunities to connect with nature, and education for children and families,” said Dr. Natalie Kwit, the state’s public health veterinarian. “But these animals can carry germs that make people sick, so it’s important to take steps to stay healthy — like washing hands after any contact with birds, their eggs, and areas where birds live or roam.”

Wild birds can be a source of viruses, potentially infecting

“Raising baby poultry like chicks, ducklings and goslings in your backyard can offer many benefits, such as fresh eggs, opportunities to connect with nature, and education for children and families.”

— Dr. Natalie Kwit

domestic poultry and other animals. The H5N1 bird flu virus is most commonly spread to domestic poultry through direct contact with infected waterfowl like ducks and geese, or their droppings. While waterfowl can carry the H5N1 bird flu virus without becoming sick, it

is often fatal for domestic poultry. While these viruses usually do not infect people, the risk is higher for people who work with infected poultry or dairy cattle.

Since 2022, there have been five backyard flocks impacted by H5N1 in Vermont. There have been no human or dairy cattle cases of H5N1 bird flu in Vermont or any northeastern states.

Whether you are building your first coop, are a seasoned poultry owner, or are just visiting a farm or county fair, take these precautions to protect yourself, your family and your flock:

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- Wash your hands with soap and hot water after touching live poultry, their eggs or objects in the area where they live or roam.
- Supervise children around poultry, and make sure they wash their hands thoroughly after



BACKYARD FLOCKS CAN bring many benefits to Vermonters, but people should be aware that birds also bring risks of disease.

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on **Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.**

**CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on April 21, 2025, at 7 pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:
To consider Site Plan Review for Application #2024-60 by Dennis and Helen Van Auken to construct an addition to the Dwelling consisting of an attached Garage and Covered Porch on the Property located at 192 South Maple St. Reviews will consider Article VII, Article XV Section 1501 and Article XVI Section 1604.
Please note that the hearing will be held as a “hybrid meeting”, with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.
**Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 842-5290-1890;
Meeting password: 689859.**
**Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone:
To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9.
To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6**
If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.
Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an “on the record” Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore assure that their participation in the Public Hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.
A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.
March 31, 2025
David Austin
Zoning Administrator

**CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on April 21, 2025, at 7 pm as the third order of new business, for the following purpose:
To consider Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Review for Application #2025-11 by Leigh Cunningham to create an additional Dwelling Unit within the Primary Structure on the Property located at 20 New Haven Rd. Reviews will consider Article VII, Article VIII, and Article XVI Section 1604.
Please note that the hearing will be held as a “hybrid meeting”, with participation either in person, by Zoom, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.
**Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 842-5290-1890;
Meeting password: 689859.**
**Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; For participants joining by phone:
To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9.
To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6**
If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.
Persons seeking eligibility to Appeal must establish status as an Interested Person as defined in Article VI Section 603 of the City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations AND participate in the Public Hearing either in person or in writing in order to take any subsequent Appeal. The City of Vergennes is an “on the record” Appeal municipality with regard to Appeals to the Environmental Court from Development Review Board Decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider Testimony and Evidence provided during Public Hearings on the Application. Interested Persons should therefore assure that their participation in the Public Hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their Testimony and Evidence.
A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.
March 31, 2025
David Austin
Zoning Administrator

interacting with birds.

- Don’t kiss or snuggle backyard poultry.
- Collect eggs regularly and throw away any cracked ones. Clean eggs with fine sandpaper, a brush, or a cloth before putting them in the refrigerator.
- Keep backyard poultry and items used to care for them outside and away from areas where food or drinks are prepared, served, stored, or where dishes are cleaned.
- Don’t eat or drink in areas where poultry live or roam.
- Set aside a pair of shoes to wear while tending to poultry and keep those shoes outside.
- Stay outdoors when cleaning any equipment or materials used to raise or care for poultry, such as cages or food and water containers.
- Clean the coop, floor, nests and perches regularly.

ADDITIONAL H5N1 BIRD FLU PRECAUTIONS

- Keep your flock and your family away from wild waterfowl

like ducks and geese and their droppings. Ensure your birds do not share a water source with wild waterfowl.

- Do not touch dead wild or domestic birds. If you need to touch them, wear protective gear.
- Report dead birds if the cause is unknown or there is a suspicion of H5N1 bird flu. You can call the State Veterinarian at 802-828-2421 or the USDA’s toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.

Anyone involved with poultry production — from small backyard coops to large commercial producers — should review their biosecurity plans and activities to ensure the health of their birds. If you have concerns about your flock, contact your veterinarian or call 802-828-2421.

Learn more about backyard poultry safety from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more about poultry biosecurity and avian flu preparedness, visit the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

Make a Pete’s Stop!





Pete’s
TIRE BARNS, Inc.

Open Mon - Fri 7:30 am to 5 pm
28 Willow Dr., Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: (802) 388-4053

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Expires 6/15/25



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Expires 6/15/25



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tire storage**

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STATE OF THE ART ALIGNMENT EQUIPMENT

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

April 3, 2025

NATURE'S MOTHERS

LOCAL AUTHOR EXPLORES SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY AND MOTHERHOOD IN NEW BOOK



Rochester author Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder will publish her first book "Mother, Creature, Kin" on Tuesday, April 8. She will be in Middlebury at the Mini IIsley (located in the National Bank of Middlebury) to celebrate her publishing day with a reading and Q&A.

PHOTO / IAN MACLELLAN

They say you write the book you need," explained Rochester author Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder, who is preparing to publish "Mother, Creature, Kin: What we learn from nature's mothers in a time of unraveling" on Tuesday, April 8. "I wrote a book about spiritual ecology with a thread of motherhood woven in."

BY **ELSIE**
LYNN PARINI

Take a quick step back — what exactly does "spiritual ecology" mean?

Steinauer-Scudder earned her Master of Theological Studies degree at Harvard Divinity School in 2013, and became focused on the confluence of relationship to place with experiences of the sacred.

"I'm Jewish, but I grew up in a secular home," said Steinauer-Scudder, who grew up in Nebraska and Oklahoma. "I was raised with

"I'VE ENDED UP IN A PLACE WHERE **MY FEELING OF HOPE IS NOT STEADY...** OUR CURRENT SITUATION IS TANGLED UP IN ANGER AND DESPAIR — IT'S DISTORTED."

— Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder

an understanding for caring and respecting the earth... In my mid-20s I worked to put that together with my spirituality and got into the field of spiritual ecology."

OK great. Now we understand "spiritual ecology," next add motherhood.

Steinauer-Scudder became a mother herself in 2020 — during the Covid pandemic.

"There was a feeling of bottomless vulnerability," she remembered during an interview last week. "The world was feeling unstable and scary; on top of my climate anxiety."

Steinauer-Scudder began reading — culture, ecology, spirituality... she was even writing how others experienced spiritual ecology for *Emergence Magazine* (from 2017-2022). But there was a gap; Steinauer-Scudder couldn't find connection to motherhood in this spiritual ecology genre.

"When my daughter, Aspen, was born I began to wonder: What does it mean to be a mother to my child? What is mothering asking of me in terms of place? I began broadening my understanding of community and the living world to try to figure out how to navigate everything that is changing."

Steinauer-Scudder dedicated the better part of
SEE KIN ON PAGE 3

THE MONTH IN POETRY

ONE OF A LIVING CROWD



Susan Jefts is a poet, editor, and writing mentor from the southern Adirondacks. Her poetry book, *Breathing Lessons*, was published fall of 2023 by Shanti Arts Publishers of Maine and can be found on the publisher's site, the usual online outlets, and in local bookstores. Her poems have been published in many anthologies and journals throughout the country. She is currently taking new clients for editing manuscripts and individual works, and offers workshops using poetry to explore our connections to the vital wisdom of the natural world. Her website is SusanJefts.com

I wrote this poem after walking recently through my town on one of those first warm days in March. It happens every year; there's a warm up, the last snow melts, the sun beams down and you can feel everything coming alive. As I walked, I could feel the earth's waking energy pushing up through my feet. I thought of Walt Whitman who walked and wrote about his beloved New York streets celebrating what he saw, but also knowing very well the uncertainty and fragility of his new and fragile democracy of mid 19th century America.

The buds of March might not be quite ready to blossom, but their time will come. Everything—each plant, each tree, each blade of grass, every brook and river plays a part while they coexist with school buildings, houses, government buildings, the parks and waterways, alleys and bridges. The old oaks arch over the streets, a Robin pokes his head through a fence hole, a crocus edges the sidewalk. All of these, and we humans who walk amongst them, coming together at this first potent moment of spring. It is ours for the taking.

YES, A HARD RAIN'S A-GONNA FALL BUT WALT WHITMAN'S HERE SOMEWHERE TOO

*There's something happening, don't you think?
Do you feel it under the brown crusted snow,
under the wanting to break sky. There's something
even on the dimmest day, the most crowded day,
the airwaves hardly able to breathe day. I walk
past the old brownstones—and the pink and yellow
and peach ones. Victorian houses, Greek columned
buildings, City Hall, the Post Office. Churches
with stained glass windows pointing towards
the sky. Indigo, blood-red, and gold.*

*I walk under the great arms of old maples, the supple
softness of birches; I feel all their strengths. Past
towering pines as old as the city. Spired structures,
synagogues and meeting houses. Indian and Japanese
and Korean restaurants. The Irish pub. The Turkish
shop. The food pantries and shelters. I walk every
alley, all the hidden passageways. I walk into March.*

*I walk into our March, this our moving time, our
coming spring. What happens in the earth happens
in us and the earth is waking. These are our towns,
our cities. Our chance for reaching, for calling to
those who will come in fifty years hence or a hundred,
to those who, as Walt said, look back on me because
I look'd forward to them. So we will walk, we will
speak out, we will defend more than we've ever had to defend.*

*Can you feel it now? This is all of us awake, all of us
in abundance. Everything moving towards spring.
Voices reaching, pushing, sometimes as one, sometimes
as a song with many verses. We're learning to sing
and we're learning to move like a great wave gathering.
We will find where the shore is, we know what it will
feel like. It might be in spring or summer, fall or winter.
But first comes the spring, this spring, the most powerful
season. So much can rise, so much can bud, even overnight.
This brand new, this never before spring.*

— By Susan Jefts

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ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM



KIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a year to researching and writing this book. One of the first places she visited was coastal Georgia to see the calving grounds of the North Atlantic right whales.

and low tides. It is a thin strip of landscape that alternates between inundation and exposure as water rises and falls twice daily. Within this narrow, fluid edge, forms of life and pathways of movement are possible that are not possible elsewhere. What do the plants and creatures of these liminal ecosystems have to teach us? What can we learn of resiliency? Of adaptation? Of loss? Of change?"

"I had this visceral experience of this mother whale [named Maple] and her newly born calf," Steinauer-Scudder shared, opening her book to read a passage:

"The mother in me can't help but recognize the mother in Maple. Here is a mother resting from childbirth, directing her blubber reserves to her nursing calf. I see how she stays within one body length of her calf, and I think of my daughter hugging my thigh. The whale nurses her child, and I think of how I will later pump milk in my hotel room to keep the supply flowing for when I again hold my daughter to my breast. Bloodlines, milklines: these tether us to our kin. Me to my daughter, this right whale to hers. This has been true for tens of millions of years and beyond for all of us mammals.

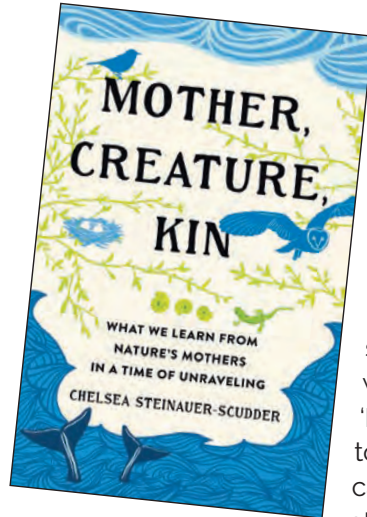
"Why am I looking for these similarities between me and this whale? I can feel myself reaching. Just as with my untrained eyes on the ocean, I am scanning for something and losing sight, perhaps, of what is real. But I keep searching for connections, for similarities, for echoes of form, because I want to find the node that the North Atlantic right whale inhabits in the web of life. I want to pinpoint the central knot in the pattern and then trace everything that will unravel if this species is cut out."

"These whales still really break my heart," Steinauer-Scudder told me, adding they are a critically endangered species. "This was my first step into the real grief of climate change."

Steinauer-Scudder then spent a week on the coast of Maine, at the late Rachel Carson's cottage — a place that "embodies an ecological sense of motherhood" for Steinauer-Scudder. Carson (1907-1964) is best known for her work in marine conservation.

"I've come here, in part, to get a better sense of Carson's embodiment of mothering. But I've also come to sit with her tide pools, to learn more about edges. I've come to suspect that this — the edge of land and sea — is the place where the walls come down.

"The beings who inhabit this edge make a home in a porous space. There is endless transformation in the littoral zone between high



"Mother, Creature, Kin" explores the silent flight and aural maps of barn owls, of nursing whales, of real and imagined forests, of tidal marshes, of ancient single-celled organisms, and of newly planted gardens. With a raw tenderness, Steinauer-Scudder uses her prose to show how creatures inhabiting these spaces might teach us something. "Rooted in wonder while never shying away from loss, 'Mother, Creature, Kin' reaches toward a language of inclusive care learned from creatures living at the brink," reads the publisher's description of the book.

"I'm wrestling with my sense of hope," Steinauer-Scudder said, dropping any veil. "At first I wanted to write a book that would convince me I have hope... But I've ended up in a place where my feeling of hope is not steady... Our current situation is tangled up in anger and despair — it's distorted."

Steinauer-Scudder found that

"THERE ARE THESE MOMENTS TO CONNECT WITH OUR HANDS AND OUR BODIES... WHAT IS ROOTING ABOUT THIS BOOK IS A DEEP SENSE OF LOVE. LOVE IS THAT FOUNDATION I CAN STAND ON."

— Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder

responding with anger and despair was not helpful in her experience. Instead she practices resting in this uncertain — and uncomfortable — space with love. What does that mean? Well, she started "very, very small."

"I did some local landscaping," said Steinauer-Scudder who moved from Portland, Maine, to Rochester in the spring of last year. Her husband, Andrew Fersch, teaches grades 4-6 at the local elementary school. "And my daughter and I planted a pollinator garden... There are these moments to connect with our hands and our bodies... What is rooting about this book is a deep sense of love. Love is that foundation I can stand on."

The book concludes with an explanation of the majesty of the Aspen tree — citing the tree as the world's largest living organism, noting the tree's incredible longevity, resilience and survival; the species's role rebuilding soil after destruction; and how different cultures believe the whispering leaves were speaking to spirits...

"All of these are among the reasons we gave our daughter this name. It's not that we wish to weigh her down with any burden of expectation
SEE MOTHER ON PAGE 12



**MIDDLEBURY
PERFORMING
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



Courtney Allenson's hand carved block prints will be on display at the Jackson Gallery, in the lower level of Middlebury's Town Hall Theater, April 11-May 24.

COURTESY PHOTO

Fishing and natural beauty on display in new exhibit at the Jackson Gallery

Courtney Allenson's "Hand Carved Block Prints" will be on display April 11-May 24 at the Jackson Gallery, in the lower level of the Town Hall Theater in downtown Middlebury. An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 11, from 5-7 p.m.

Allenson is a Vermont-based fish printmaker who specializes in creating hand carved block prints, particularly focusing on trout. Her love for fishing and the natural beauty of Vermont's waterways deeply influence her artwork.

A graduate of Saint Michael's College with a concentration in printmaking, she uses her block printing techniques to capture the details and vibrant patterns of various fish species, celebrating their beauty and the joy of fishing. Her dynamic compositions are created as she works from photographs of fish landed by family and friends.

A native Vermonter, Allenson's passion for the outdoors and her commitment to preserving aquatic ecosystems shine through in her prints. She often incorporates elements of her fishing experiences into her work, conveying a deep respect for nature. Her prints not only serve as beautiful decorations but also as reminders of the importance of conservation and sustainable fishing practices.

All are invited to a reception for the artist on Friday, April 11, from 5-7 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 12-5 p.m., and when performances are taking place.



"Autumn Catch" by 1 - Courtney Allenson.



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"All Things Great and Small." Our artists play with the concept of large and small in dimension and beyond. An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 4, from 5-8 p.m.

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.

"Flight Patterns," a group exhibition featuring Susan Raber Bray, Ellen Granter, Holly Harrison, Liz Hoag, Eric Tardif, and Molly Doe Wensberg. This exhibit reminds us to look to the skies in appreciation of birdlife and nature. Experience a "lift off" and the sense of hope that the coming season brings. On view April 11-May 11.

JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury

For hours and info visit middlebury.edu/events

"Beyond Walls" featuring works made by artist, image maker, and photographer Hannah Smith Allen, reimagining the U.S./Mexico border. This collection was created during Donald Trump's first presidency, including still photographs, unique screen prints, and Borderlands, an accordion book/sculptural object originally published by the VSW Press in 2021. Also included in this exhibition is "Target Practice," a series of military targets fabricated out of acrylic mirror. The work holds a mirror up to current politics and invites viewers to imagine new possibilities in interpreting, interrupting, and engaging with the American landscape and its political systems. Free and open to all during gallery hours: Sun. 1-7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Saturdays.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. This week you are going to take action on a project that has been on your mind for awhile, Aries. Trust your instincts, but make sure you are not moving too fast.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. This week brings an opportunity for intellectual pursuits, Taurus. You might think to enroll in a higher education class or a take a course on a specific hobby that has been on your mind.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Partnerships are key right now, Gemini. You might want to pursue new professional relationships. Embrace your ability and willingness to adapt and facilitate change.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. You need to take care of your body and mind, Cancer. Now is as good a time as any to begin this pursuit. Even small adjustments can lead to long-term health benefits.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, this is your week to look into matters of self-expression and creativity. Pour your energy into anything that gets you excited. Your enthusiasm may draw others in as well.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, home life takes center stage this week, and you might feel a strong desire to nurture your space. Decluttering and organizing could bring more harmony to your home.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, you are able to express your thoughts with clarity and charm, which is why personal relationships often come easy to you. This week you may use this superpower to make friends.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. You may soon find yourself reevaluating how you spend your money or what you value most in life, Scorpio. This is a good time to check financial goals and adjust them.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. There is a sense of fresh energy surrounding you this week, Sagittarius. If you have been putting off something, now is the time to take the leap.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, focus on rest and relaxation in the days ahead. You have been putting in a lot of work lately and now is a time to focus on your inner self and recharge.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Collaborations with others could prove fruitful this week, Aquarius. Don't hesitate to lean on your social network when you need to get something done.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. You might be presented with a way to take your professional life to the next level, Pisces. Strategize about how to move forward in this regard, and think through all decisions.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 4 — Dorothea Dix, social reformer (d)
APRIL 5 — Sterling K. Brown, actor (49)
APRIL 6 — Raphael, Renaissance painter (70)

APRIL 7 — Jackie Chan, actor (71)
APRIL 8 — Robin Wright, actor (59)
APRIL 9 — Charles Baudelaire, poet (d)
APRIL 10 — Joseph Pulitzer (d)

CALENDAR

APRIL 3-16
2025



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.

DISSIPATED EIGHT IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 3, 7:30-9 p.m., Anderson Studio, Town Hall Theater, 42-46 Merchants Row. Originally a barbershop octet, the Dissipated 8 evolved alongside modern a cappella by incorporating new musical styles. With 70 years behind them, they look forward to continued success through the blending of traditional and contemporary a cappella. Tickets Student \$5, General Admission \$15, available at addisonarts.org/event/dissipated-8.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

ART EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION IN BRANDON. Friday April 4, 5-8 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.

MOVIE NIGHT IN FERRISBURGH. Friday, April 4, 6 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, Route 7. See a film and help support the Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall renovations.

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 await volunteers at the trailhead in the mornings with doughnuts, 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 or 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

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, April 4 4 a.m. Energy Week 5 a.m. Under the Dome: Affordability in VT 5:30 a.m. Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard 11:30 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 1 p.m. Press Conferences 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week Saturday, April 5 5:30 a.m. Vote For Vermont 6:30 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Vote For Vermont 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Press Conferences 11 p.m. Energy Week Sunday, April 6 6:00 a.m. Affordability in VT 6:30 a.m. Energy Week		7:30 a.m. Vote for Vermont 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Selectboard 1:30 p.m. Press Conferences 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass Monday, April 7 4:30 a.m. Energy Week 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conferences 10 a.m. Selectboard 11:30 a.m. Public Affairs Tuesday, April 8 5 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 8:30 a.m. Affordability in VT 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 12:23 p.m. Legislative Bfst., Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Wednesday, April 9 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 10 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, April 4 5 a.m. A Celtic Concert 6:13 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Yestermorrow 8:10 a.m. All Brains Belong 9 a.m. Sharpe Takes 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5:30 p.m. All Star Hockey Girls 7:30 p.m. All Star Hockey Boys 9:35 p.m. Yestermorrow Saturday, April 5 5 a.m. Foltz Studio 6:05 a.m. Yestermorrow 7:10 a.m. VSO Quartet Plays Student Works 7:41 a.m. All Brains Belong Club 8:24 a.m. David Martin "Stories" 8:58 a.m. FM&P Night Owl Club 10 a.m. School Board Meeting/s		4 p.m. VSO Quartet 4:31 p.m. All Star Hockey Girls 6:30 p.m. All Star Hockey Boys 8:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes 9:35 p.m. New Stage Players Sunday, April 6 5:37 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Foltz Studio 8 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 2:15 p.m. A Celtic Concert 3:30 p.m. Cabin Fever Follies 6 p.m. Sharpe Takes 6:40 p.m. VSO Quartet 7:15 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 8 p.m. Me2 Burlington Winter Concert 9:30 p.m. Bob Amos -"Writing about Harriet" Monday, April 7 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:45 a.m. Tai Chi 7:10 a.m. Chair Yoga 8:15 a.m. All Brains Belong 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4:00 p.m. Foltz Studio 5:30 p.m. Special ACSD Meeting LIVE 8:30 p.m. A Celtic Concert		Tuesday, April 8 4:30 a.m. A Celtic Concert 5:37 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7 a.m. New Stage Players 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 5 p.m. Sharpe Takes 5:40 p.m. Me2 Winter Concert 7 p.m. Yestermorrow 8:08 p.m. VP Cabin Fever Follies Wednesday, April 9 5 a.m. Me2 Winter Concert 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 9:35 p.m. New Stage Players 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 10 p.m. Sharpe Takes Thursday, April 10 5:30 a.m. Foltz Studio 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 6 p.m. New Stage Players 8:10 a.m. Bob Amos 9:30 p.m. David Martin "Stories"	

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.t.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.

ZOLOTOJ PLYOS IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 6, 7 p.m., Middlebury Chapel, Old Chapel Rd. Come hear this unique folk-ensemble from Europe, whose members sing and play songs and instrumental tunes from Eastern Europe. They perform the oral traditions of many regions, singing their songs in languages like Ukrainian, Belorussian, Georgian, Russian, Roma, Armenian and Yiddish.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

CHARLIE NARDOZZI ON VEGETABLE GARDENING IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, April 8, 1 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. In this Middlebury Garden Club talk, Charlie Nardozzi,

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nationally known author, speaker and broadcast personality, will demystify small space vegetable gardening in garden spaces as well as in raised beds and containers. Additionally, he will speak on succession gardening as well as the best vegetable varieties for small spaces. Free and open to the public.

"LESS LAWN, MORE LIFE: REIMAGINING YARDS AS WILDLIFE HABITAT" IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, April 8, 7 p.m., Unity Hall, Congregational Church of Middlebury, N. Pleasant St. What if your yard could support more than just grass? Pollinator Pathway of Addison County invites you to this talk by pollinator conservation biologist Emily May, who will explore how to reimagine Addison County's acres of lawns as vibrant, sustainable habitats for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. \$5 suggested donation. More info at pollinatorpathway.addisoncty@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

ACOUSTIC OPEN JAM IN ORWELL. Wednesday, April 9, 7 p.m. Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Bring instruments and enjoy jamming with your neighbors. All levels and audience members welcome.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

"GREASE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m., Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 42-46 Merchants Row. Wholesome Sandy Dumbroski and rebel Danny Zuko have an unlikely summer romance, neither expecting to see each other again. Back from summer break, Danny (the coolest guy in the school) is shocked when he discovers Sandy has transferred to Rydell High. Set in 1959, with its muscle cars, greasers and poodle skirts, don't miss this lively, funny musical performed by Middlebury College Music Theatre, the college's entirely student-run musical theater group. Tickets student \$5/adult \$10, available at addisonarts.org/event/grease.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

VOLUNTEER DAY ON THE TAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 11, 10 a.m.-

1 p.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Celebrate National Volunteer Week with MALT. Meet MALT's Trails and Volunteer Manager, Liam, at the Seymour St Ext entrance of Wright Park. Liam will provide tools and instructions for volunteer groups. Bring work gloves, water and snacks. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

ART OPENING IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 11, 5-6:30 p.m., Edgewater on the Falls, Mill St. An opening reception for "Translations," works by Dale Jajarian and Dietlind Vander Schaaf.

"GREASE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 11, 7:30 p.m., Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 42-46 Merchants Row. See April 10 listing.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 12, 7-9 a.m., Otter View Park parking lot, corner of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. More information: 802-388-6019.

"GREASE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 12, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 42-46 Merchants Row. See April 10 listing.

KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, April 12, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, Route 7. The night begins with a sandwich supper, then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede is a game that involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts, Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking!

CONTRA DANCE IN CORNWALL. Saturday, April 12, 7-9:30 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, Route 30. Grace Henrickson-Jones will be calling with live music by Red Dog Riley. Beginners welcome. All dances will be taught. \$5 to \$10 or pay what you can.

YOUNG TRADITION TOURING GROUP CONCERT IN CORNWALL. Saturday, April 12, 6:30 p.m., Cornwall Congregational Church, Route 30. The Young Tradition Touring Group is an ensemble of talented teenage musicians and singers from Vermont and Maine. This year's Touring Group performances feature an exciting and diverse program showcasing the traditional musical influences of New England, including music rooted in Québec, Vermont and Maine as well as popular current influences from Scandinavia and Old Time playing. Enjoy energetic reels that will have folks dancing in their seats and many-layered arrangements of lovely fiddle harmonies. Pay what you can admission, a family friendly event! More information

at vtfolklife.org/touring-group.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 13, Chipman Hill. How many times can you climb Chipman Hill? Strenuous circuits of Chipman Hill along the Chipman Hill, TAM and other trails. Distance of 5-6 miles at a moderate to fast pace. Contact Ellen Cronan at 908-595-2926 to sign up and for further information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"DEAR DIARY — AN ORIGINAL OPERA" WITH MUSIC BY MOZART IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 13, 2 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. The Youth Opera Company of Opera Company of Middlebury will perform an original opera featuring scenes from five of Mozart's operas. Eight high school singers from five schools, including Mt. Abe and MUHS, will perform arias and duets to tell a story of typical high school seniors in 1950s America. Pay-what-you-wish admission.

"WALDEN" STAGED READING IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 13, 4 p.m., Anderson Studio, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Middlebury Acting Company's Cutting-Edge Staged Reading Series returns with "Walden," by Amy Berryman. Sometime in the near future NASA botanist Cassie returns from a Moon mission to a cabin in the woods with her estranged twin sister Stella, a former NASA architect, and Stella's fiancé Bryan, a climate activist. When the twins reunite, old conflicts reignite, forcing the sisters to choose between staying on Earth or pursuing a future in space, as humanity's fate hangs in the balance. A talk-back with light refreshments will follow. Tickets \$15, available at townhalltheater.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOYS AND THE CAPTURE OF FORT TICONDEROGA IN ORWELL. Tuesday, April 15, 7 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Join Fort Ticonderoga Vice President of Public History Stuart Lilie to examine the broader expedition to capture the fort on May 10, 1775. Discover the planning for the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and how Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys came to be at the center of this military triumph. Part of Orwell Shoreham Libraries Keynote Speakers Series.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

"VISUAL ACOUSTICS" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, April 16, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Narrated by Dustin Hoffman, this film celebrates the life and career of Julius Shulman, acclaimed by many as "the world's most influential architectural photographer." Tickets \$15, available at townhalltheater.org. Part of the Great Art Wednesdays series.

UPCOMING MUSIC

Musicians from Vermont Youth Orchestra and Youth Opera Company collaborate

For the first time, Vermont Youth Orchestra Musicians join forces with young opera singers from the Youth Opera Company of OCM to perform an original opera featuring music by Mozart. The opportunity to collaborate with other musicians from across the state is a rare and exciting opportunity.

"Dear Diary" is an original show, written by Sarah Cullins, Opera Company of Middlebury's former Director of Education and Outreach, now OCM's General Director. The show combines Mozart opera scenes from five different operas to tell the story of typical high school seniors in 1950s America. Borrowing themes from the 1972 film Grease, the show begins with a senior class divided between "greasers" and "ivies." Through the course of the story, friendships, romances, and the common experiences of setting off to begin their lives as adults unite the senior class. Opera buffs will recognize famous arias and duets from "Le nozze di Figaro," "Cosi fan tutte," "Don Giovanni," "Die Zauberflöte" (The Magic Flute) and "Clemenza di Tito."

The Spring Youth Opera Company of OCM cast includes eight high-school singers who represent Middlebury High School, Mount Abraham Union High School (Bristol), Harwood Union High School (Waitsfield), Montpelier High School and U32 High School

LOCAL SHOW

WHAT: "DEAR DIARY"

WHO: VERMONT YOUTH ORCHESTRA & YOUTH OPERA COMPANY OF OCM

WHEN: SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2 P.M.,

WHERE: CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY, MIDDLEBURY

(East Montpelier). They are joined by 18 young musicians from Vermont Youth Orchestra, an organization that represents over 60 schools across the state.

YOC Music Director Mary Jane Austin collaborates with Vermont Youth Orchestra Music Director, Mark Alpizar. Opera Company of Middlebury's Cullins, directs.

This program will be presented on Friday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m.; the public is invited to attend with free or pay-what-you-will tickets. RSVP in advance at vyo.org; tickets will also be available at the door. The program will be repeated by the Youth Opera Company accompanied by piano on Saturday, April 12, at 2 p.m., at the Waterbury Congregational Church, and on Sunday, April 13, at 2 p.m., at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Middlebury.

The Cutting Edge: Staged Reading Series returns

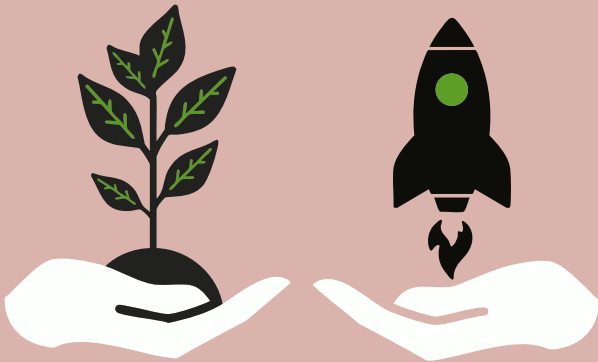
Middlebury Acting Company's Cutting-Edge Staged Reading Series returns with its eighth season of provocative, relevant, intelligent plays: all three were seen Off Broadway in 2024.

The first reading, "Walden," by Amy Berryman will be performed Sunday, April 13, at 4 p.m., at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater in the new Anderson Studio. A talk-back with light refreshments will follow. Tickets (\$15) are available at townhalltheater.org.

Amy Berryman explores our climate crisis in the play. Sometime in the near future NASA botanist Cassie returns from a moon mission to a cabin in the woods with her estranged twin sister Stella, a former NASA architect, and Stella's fiancé Bryan, a climate activist. When the twins reunite, old conflicts reignite, forcing the sisters to choose between staying on Earth or pursuing a future in space, as humanity's fate hangs in the balance.

Directed by Rebecca Strum, the cast includes Caitlin Sausville (Cassie), Laura Wolfson (Stella) and Jonathan Brathwaite (Bryan) with Frankie Dunleavy reading stage directions.

"Walden" will be followed by "Dirty Laundry" by Mathilde Dratwa on Sunday, June 22, and "Blood of the Lamb" by Arlene Hutton on Sunday, Oct. 5.



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PUZZLES

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ACROSS

- 1. Narrow piece of wood
- 5. African desert
- 11. Waxy covering on birds' beaks
- 12. Sour
- 16. Infrequent
- 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
- 18. Policemen wear one
- 19. Out of the question
- 24. Used to chop
- 25. Symptoms
- 26. Not moving
- 27. Folk singer DiFranco
- 28. Comedian Armisen
- 29. Quantitative fact
- 30. Incline from vertical

- 31. Scottish musician
- 33. Rooney and Kate are two
- 34. Positioned
- 38. A very short time
- 39. Tropical American shrubs
- 40. Yemen capital
- 43. Spanish municipality
- 44. Medical professionals
- 45. Fibrous material
- 49. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 50. Without covering
- 51. "Mad Men" honcho Don
- 53. Hockey position
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Fertile spots in a desert

- 58. They precede C
- 59. "Requiem for a Dream" actor Jared
- 60. Try a criminal case
- 63. Liberal rights organization
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Insect repellent

DOWN

- 1. Unshaven facial hair
- 2. More thin
- 3. Show up
- 4. Seethed
- 5. Ancient Greek city
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Hello
- 8. College sports official
- 9. Monetary unit of Russia
- 10. Wings

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- 13. Take too much of a substance
- 14. A citizen of Uganda
- 15. Most appealing
- 20. Atomic #18
- 21. Global investment bank (abbr.)
- 22. Jewish calendar month
- 23. Popular sandwich
- 27. Swiss river
- 29. Incorrect letters
- 30. Popular entree
- 31. Foot (Latin)
- 32. A driver's license is one form
- 33. Extinct flightless bird
- 34. Appetizer
- 35. After battles
- 36. It neutralizes alkalis
- 37. Beverage container
- 38. Partner to "Pa"
- 40. Gray American rail
- 41. Salt of acetic acid
- 42. Canadian province
- 44. Dish made with lentils
- 45. Narrative poem of popular origin
- 46. For each one
- 47. Come to terms
- 48. Test
- 50. More dishonorable
- 51. Unit of loudness
- 52. The Ocean State
- 54. Monetary unit in Mexico
- 55. Lying down
- 57. Thus
- 61. Where LA is located
- 62. Western State

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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

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



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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

CARL LINNAEUS: FATHER OF TAXONOMY

Rudbeckia hirta. Solanum lycopersicum. Acer saccharum. Have you ever seen these names on plant tags or seed packets and wondered where they came from? We can thank Carl Linnaeus for taxonomy, the study of categorizing and naming organisms, and binomial nomenclature, the precise, two-termed naming system we use today.

BY **ANDREA KNEPPER**

Linnaeus was a Swedish professor, scientist and doctor who was born in 1707. From a young age, Linnaeus was fascinated by the plants growing in his father's garden.

At the time, plants were scientifically named in Latin by describing their features. These names were often long and described multiple unique plant traits. Linnaeus was determined to learn as many as he could, sometimes neglecting his formal studies.

Linnaeus began studying medicine when he was 19 years old. Notable naturalists and botanists of the time noticed his interest and ability. They invited him to become a botany teaching assistant at Uppsala University. During his 20s, Linnaeus continued to study, travel and collect specimens.

While traveling and collecting detailed information on the natural world, Linnaeus completed his medical degree, practiced medicine and became a professor of botany.

Linnaeus proposed a system to classify and describe these specimens by sorting and relating them to other known organisms. He first described this system in his 1735 work, *Systema Naturae*.

According to this initial system, plants and animals were sorted into a kingdom, class, order, genus and species. These categories are ranked from most general to most specific. This is why we use the genus



Andrea Knepper is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Bolton.

and species names to precisely identify organisms.

Over time, scientific discoveries have expanded this system to include the ranks of kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus and species. Discoveries have required the addition of kingdoms to include non-plant and animal living things, like bacteria, fungi and single-celled organisms.

We call this system of giving scientific names binomial nomenclature. "Binomial" means two names and "nomenclature" means naming system.

Scientists italicize the two terms in a scientific name. The first is the genus and is always capitalized. The second is the species.

Plants that are a specific variety have an additional name after this. For example, *Rudbeckia hirta* var. *hirta* is the black-eyed

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 12



A statue of a youthful Carl Linnaeus by American sculptor Robert Berks graces the Heritage Garden in the Chicago Botanic Garden.

PHOTO / BRONISLAW DROZKA

Pet of the Week



Meet Memo!

Memo is the best! He knows me too well sometimes. He's loving, energetic and thoughtful, always making sure everyone is happy and safe before he goes and takes a nap. He loves carrots and is guilty of eating cucumbers from the garden when no one is looking.

Otniel Lazaro
Bristol



Pet of the WEEK

Send us a pic of
your pet!

news@addisonindependent.com

Paws To Consider

with Dr. Bri Letaw, Medical Director,
Bristol Animal Hospital



Q: My animal is squinting its eye.

Do I need to take them to the vet?



A: The answer is absolutely yes! Eyes can be fragile and develop scary complications quickly. I would make an appointment right away to ensure that testing is performed and treatment started before the potential for blindness or even surgical removal of the eye. Not all eye problems are an emergency, but better safe than sorry!

Bristol Animal Hospital, 167 Monkton Rd., Bristol
(802) 588-7387 • <https://bristolvtvet.com>

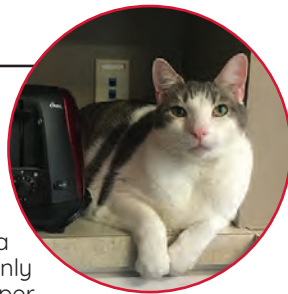
Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Casper

Casper is a chunky and friendly boy who came to us from New Jersey. His new family will need to help him on his weight loss journey! Casper loves to play, gallop around the room, and take naps in strange places. We suspect he has a poultry allergy and he is on a fish-only diet and an allergy medication. Casper does well with other cats but we are unsure about dogs.



Friar Luck



Friar Luck is an affectionate, chunky, and playful guy. He is around 3 years old and full of personality. He is confident, talkative, and a lovebug. Friar has peacefully coexisted with both cats and dogs. Friar Luck is FIV+ and would need to be an indoor-only cat. Positive cats typically have the same life expectancy as those who are negative.

Tidbit

Tidbit is an affectionate and playful girl. She is around 3 years old and was surrendered when her owner had to move. Tidbit has lived with another cat but has not gotten along with dogs.



Bella

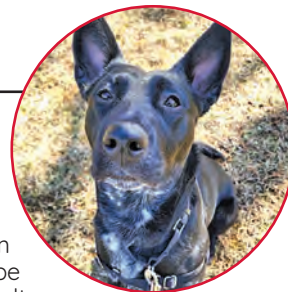


Hi! I'm **Bella**, a 7-pound Chihuahua mix. Life's been hard for me lately. My owner passed away and I've felt lost in the world. I'm scared of a lot of things and it's taking me a long time to warm up to new people. I prefer a same-sized dog friend who can boost my confidence. I absolutely love cats and would love a feline companion. I really

need an owner who won't push me past my threshold and will understand that it will take a lot of time and patience for me to open up.

Missy

Hi! I'm **Missy**, a 1-year-old heeler mix full of energy. I came to the shelter as a stray, so staff has no history of me. I'm a smart, athletic pup and I would love to have a job of some sort or learn to do agility. I'm a fast learner! I love people but can be stressed around other dogs in the shelter. With the proper introduction, I can warm up to other dogs. My history with cats and children is unknown. I need a home with a lot of patience and love!



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Addison County's Humane Society



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236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

Mad River storytellers ‘slam’ into relationships, April 5

On Saturday, April 5, the Valley Players Theater will present the 5th Annual Mad River Story Slam at the Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main Street (Rt. 100), Waitsfield. The show starts at 7:30 p.m., and will be hosted by Valley Players board members Doug Bergstein and Susan Loynd.

This year’s theme is “Relationships” — true stories about exploring the many facets of relationships — love, family, friendships,

and everything in between. Storytellers scheduled to appear are Charlotte Robinson (Warren), Wendy Freundlich (Montpelier), Shevonne Travers (Waitsfield), Danielle Dukette (Fayston), Larry Guild (Waitsfield), Dennis McSorely (Burlington), Carrie Youngblood (Montpelier), Marci Robinson (Warren), Sarah McDougal (Warren), and Sue Richardson (Beverly, Mass.)

Storytellers participated in two workshops in preparation for the show to learn tips from

Bergstein and experienced storyteller, Loynd. In these workshops, storytellers learned about the storytelling process and got feedback to refine their story for the Slam.

“The Valley Players are thrilled to continue this new tradition,” Bergstein commented. “There is no better way to understand someone than to hear one of their stories.”

For tickets and more information, visit valleyplayers.com or call 802-583-1674.

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Susan native to the eastern United States while *Rudbeckia hirta* var. *floridana* is a variety native to Florida.

Sometimes, the variety name will appear in quotations instead.

Home gardeners can use scientific names to confidently obtain the exact plants they need.

One year when I was selecting seeds for my garden, I was excited to see huckleberry seeds. Thinking about my travels on the west coast and experiences with huckleberry jam and pie, I ordered the seeds.

I planted the seeds and was truly disappointed by my results. I had to add a lot of sugar to make the jam palatable, and the flavor was quite different. When I looked more closely at the seed packet, I noticed that the botanical, or scientific, name was actually *Solanum scabrum*, not the *Vaccinium ovatum* I was hoping for.

Next time you spot an interesting plant, take a closer look at its scientific name. This detail can ensure you get exactly what you expect. Thanks to Linnaeus, we have a universal language to connect scientists and gardeners around the world.

MOTHER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

that she embody some idealized version of an enlightened being; rather,

we gave her this name because she deserves a world where her truest belonging is possible. We gave her this name because the responsibility of that belonging is ours. She is the tree we planted. Now we must tend to the world around her.

“Her name holds within it our embodied vision for this world. Not our hope for it, nor even our certain belief that such a world will come about, but the vision through which we do the work, now, to bring that world into being.”

Steinauer-Scudder will begin her first book tour with a stop at the Mini IIsley in Middlebury (located in the National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St., while the public library is under reconstruction) on April 8, from 5:30-7 p.m. Then she’ll continue on for a dozen events in New England, and a few more in her hometowns in Nebraska and Oklahoma.

“I’m excited to connect with people,” she said, admitting that as an introvert she’s been gearing herself up to talk a lot. “This book tour feels like a living inquiry for me and I’m excited to get feedback.”



Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder is the author of “Mother, Creature, Kin,” a book about spiritual ecology and motherhood. She will present her book and celebrate its publishing on Tuesday, April 8, in Middlebury.

PHOTO / IAN MACLELLAN

Editor’s Note: Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury will have copies of “Mother, Creature, Kin” available on April 8.

PUZZLE

SOLUTIONS APRIL 3, 2025

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MLS #5033518 | \$795,000
4 BD | 3 BA | 2154 SF | 0.33 AC

What a location! Walk to town, the College, schools, Trail Around Middlebury, and even the hospital. This classic Colonial has been tastefully updated by the current owners and is ready for you to enjoy. A new roof was put on two years ago, mini splits for A/C are throughout the home, and the kitchen has new appliances, and beautiful quartz countertops. A large mudroom will house all of your gear and is conveniently located between the garage and the kitchen. The living room is centered around the natural gas fireplace and the surrounding hearth. A four season porch is on the end of the home; all new sliding doors open to screens for the warmer months. This home has so much to offer: plenty of natural light, hardwood floors, built-ins, and mini-splits in each of the four bedrooms upstairs. A full basement offers space for a workshop and abundant storage and walks out onto the back yard (ready for a firepit and garden!). Enjoy shopping, dining, events, and the golf course, courts, and playing fields right next door!



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51 PEARL STREET**

MLS #5030608 | \$649,000
4 BD | 4 BA | 2388 SF | 0.36 ACRES

Century-old, fully renovated classic Vermont farmhouse. Nestled in picturesque Brandon, this beauty is move-in ready for year-round or seasonal living. Newer roof, windows, doors, floors, plumbing and wiring mean you can focus on enjoying the local amenities and outdoor activities of your new town and community. The list of special details, upgrades, and charming features is extensive from state-of-the-art appliances to the wood burning stove, reclaimed timber beams, polished hardwood and custom cabinetry. Bonus separate living area with its own bath and kitchenette. Close to Lake Dunmore and Killington ski area.



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ART ON EXHIBIT

Six artists celebrate birds, patterns and spring imagery in new exhibit

A new exhibit is coming to Edgewater Gallery on the Green in Middlebury on Merchants Row next week. "Flight Patterns," a group exhibition featuring Susan Raber Bray, Ellen Granter, Holly Harrison, Liz Hoag, Eric Tardif, and Molly Doe Wensberg will open April 11 and be on view through May 11.

The Vernal Equinox signals the change in season and an awakening of the sights and sounds of spring. Signals of rebirth, and renewal in the natural world emerge from the winter landscape and out of the skies where we see and hear the migration of birdlife back from their winter shelter. "Flight Patterns," a group exhibition, celebrates birds, their unique qualities and instincts, the natural patterns they create in our world, and the patterns that are mirrored in the long vistas of New England's layered fields, forests and farmland.

Six artists have contributed works in 2- and 3-D. Wensberg paints vast views of the landscape over which we witness bird migration. Hoag shows us the wooded areas that provide refuge for wildlife

SEE PATTERNS ON PAGE 15



"Chickadees Breeze" by Ellen Granter, 36" x 36", oil on canvas, is part of the exhibit "Flight Patterns," on view at Edgewater Gallery on the Green through May 11.

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St,
Vergennes
For more info visit
kgrantfineart.com.
"Mortal Coil,"
featuring works

by Misoo Bang, Austin Furtak-Cole, Suzy Spence, Kalin Thomas, Mollie Ward, and Corrine Yonce. This six-person show explores the human experience through the lens of self-possession, connection, and vulnerability, all rooted in the physicality of the body. On view through April 26.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury
For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

"Rania Matar: SHE." The photographs of Lebanese Palestinian American artist Rania Matar — captured through car windows, in abandoned buildings, snow-strewn fields, or floating in the Mediterranean Sea — tell the stories of young women through portraits taken throughout Lebanon, France, Egypt, and the United States. On view Feb. 14-April 20.

"MuseumLAB: Teaching with the Collection." Each year, professors in departments ranging from Classics to

Economics teach hundreds of students in the largest classroom on campus: the Middlebury College Museum of Art. Discussing art produced throughout history and around the globe offers students perspective on the topic at hand — and space to reflect on their own place in today's complex world. On view Jan. 17-April 20.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury
For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Botanical: The Art of Plants." Wild or cultivated, plants of all kinds define landscapes, provide a sense of place, and connect us to the natural world. This exhibit highlights images that reveal the spirit and character of plants as well as our intimate connection to them. Juror Wendi Schneider selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view April 4-25.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury
For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

"All That Glitters." Featuring nearly 40 local artists, this New Year showcase highlights eye-catching metallics, iridescence, and the play of light, with works that span subtle, soft glints to bold, radiant statements. On view through April 5.

PATTERNS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Granter captures the elegance and charm of shore birds. Harrison

studies the incredible flight patterns of starlings, their ability to fly en masse, fluidly, in quickly shifting directions. The sculptural part of the exhibition features the ceramic work of Raber Bray and wood sculptures by Tardif. Raber Bray's whimsical hand formed birds emerge from the clay in all shapes and sizes and with unique personalities. Tardif uses a non-traditional steam bending technique to form graceful figures that honor the natural beauty of the movement and linear shapes that birds create in our world.

"Flight Patterns" reminds us to look to the skies in appreciation of birdlife and nature. Experience a "lift off" and the sense of hope that the coming season brings.

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

Situated on 18.2 gently sloping acres, this well-maintained classic Gambrel-style home provides breathtaking views of the Green Mountains and the surrounding landscape. Cozy up with a book in the family room by the built-in fireplace or in the oversized living room with a picture window that floods the interior with natural light. The two car garage includes extra storage space above. Do you like to garden? This home also features a glass paneled greenhouse for gardening enthusiasts. New roof and new paint in the entire exterior in 2024.



1956 ROUTE 73 EAST, SUDBURY VT 05733
MLS #5030584 - \$649,000

Come see this affordable 3 bedroom home that is only minutes from downtown Vergennes and a short drive to Lake Champlain. It is about 15 minutes to Middlebury or Bristol and a half hour to Burlington. The kitchen is nice and bright and there is large living room. The shed has electricity. Water, sewer and trash are included in the lot rental fee.



20 FIRST ST., VERGENNES
MLS #5033372 - \$49,000

Unique and classic Vermont! Fairview Farm is a converted dairy barn that is a real treasure. This property is located on West street in beautiful Cornwall, just a few miles from Middlebury College. With westerly Adirondack views, the sunsets are spectacular. Currently two separate units with two bedrooms each, but can easily transition to a single unit with ample living space. Many bonus rooms and storage areas make the house 'live large.' The smaller barn has two garage bays and is partially insulated upstairs. You could finish the second floor for additional living space or continue to use as storage. There are many options - come and take a look!

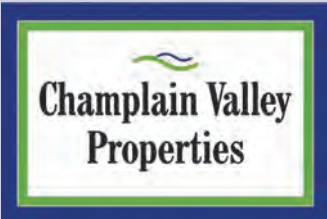


1465 WEST ST., CORNWALL
MLS #5032049 - \$635,000

Two separate living units! One is a 3-bedroom, two story home, and the second is a one bedroom home. This property is located on a very nice lot, close to schools, shopping, and walking paths. It has nice trees and a good amount of privacy, as is within walking distance to many of the wonderful things Middlebury has to offer. The auxiliary dwelling unit is perfect for a family member that you want close, but not right in your house. It is difficult to find 2 separate living units in Middlebury for this price and in such a great location!



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Don't Miss a Thing This Spring!



Amanda King Trio: Ella The Early Years Concert

Presented by THT's House of Jazz and Jazz Middlebury

Sat Apr 5th 7:30pm

Experience the magic of Ella Fitzgerald's music LIVE with acclaimed jazz vocalist Amanda King and her trio! This intimate cabaret-style concert celebrates Fitzgerald's early career through stunning live performances mixed with expert storytelling (King is a trained music historian). Enjoy table seating, cocktails, and an unforgettable evening of live jazz as King shares the fascinating story behind the First Lady of Song's remarkable journey. Generously sponsored by Vermont Public.

Little Lies: A Fleetwood Mac Tribute

Sat Apr 19th 7:30 -10pm

Join us for a night of romance, drama, and, of course, Rumours! Boston's Little Lies 8-piece tribute captures the essence of one of the world's most successful bands. Delivering iconic hits with precision, power, and heart, fans will be singing along well after the final chord fades. Town Hall Theater dance floor and seating available, as well as a cash bar throughout the event. Sponsored by WVTM – 92.1 Radio.



Johnny Peers and the Muttville Comix

Sun Apr 27th 4-5pm

Plus meet & greet and photo ops with the dogs after the show!

Johnny Peers and his personality-plus canines (mostly rescues) are coming to THT in a slapstick comedy act like no other. A show for the whole family and the dog-lover in all of us, Johnny leads over a dozen canines through challenging and hilarious tricks as he plays the straight man role in this wonderful performance. Johnny Peers and the Muttville Comix have appeared in Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus and on David Letterman. Don't miss this hilarious, one-of-a-kind event!

What's Coming Up

Middlebury College's
Dissipated Eight
Apr 3 @ 7:30pm

Middlebury College
Musical Theatre
"Grease"
Apr 10 & 11 7:30pm
Apr 12 2pm & 7:30pm

Jackson Gallery
Courtney Allenson
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Middlebury
Acting Company
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THT would like to thank The Vermont Arts Council and those who have donated to Membership. We couldn't do this without you!

Addison County

EARLY CHILDHOOD GUIDE



A Publication of the Addison Independent

Thursday, April 3, 2025



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ACT 76 • VERMONT'S CHILDCARE LAW

Growing our childcare options here in Addison County



By SEN. RUTH HARDY

Have you noticed new childcare programs springing up all over Addison County? To name a few, the Salisbury Children's Center opened last fall next to the town offices. Red Clover Children's Center opened last year at the Congregational Church in Middlebury. A new program is opening this year at the former Addison Central School. The Wren's Nest Forest Preschool opened last year in the woods of Bristol. The Otter Creek Child Center in Middlebury is undergoing a major expansion, re-opening next year with spots for over 130 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

This abundant crop of high-quality childcare programs is the direct result of Vermont's Historic Childcare Law Act 76, which became law in 2023. Statewide, more than 90 new childcare programs have opened and 1,000 spots for children have been created over the past two years. Plus, 1,600 additional families are receiving help paying for childcare. The success of Act 76 has been truly remarkable!

For working parents of young children, few things are as necessary as high-quality, affordable childcare. Without childcare, parents are less likely to get to work and make ends meet, employers are less likely to find reliable workers, and children are less likely to be ready for school. This was especially true following the pandemic, when many childcare providers closed up shop and parents, especially mothers, had to leave the workforce.

In 2023, the state Legislature passed Vermont's Historic Childcare Law Act 76, which invests significant funding to help parents pay for childcare, providers expand and improve their programs, and teachers get more education and higher salaries. Fueled by a modest payroll tax that is shared between employers and employees, Act 76 provides sliding-scale tuition assistance for parents making up to \$185,000 annually for a family of four. This means that nearly all of Vermont's working families are able to get help paying for childcare. Act 76 also increases payments to childcare programs so they can pay teachers more and provide them with more training, which leads to less turnover and higher-quality care.

Here in Addison County the benefits of Act 76 can be seen everywhere. Well-cared-for children, supported parents, valued educators, and successful employers all make for a healthy, vibrant community. It's so wonderful to see!

Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison County, is the mother of three young adults who all benefited from high-quality childcare. She is the lead sponsor and chief architect of 2023 Act 76, Vermont's Historic Childcare Law.



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ADDISON COUNTY: AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHILDCARE IN VERMONT

By **ASHLEY BESSETTE**
UNIVERSAL PREK COORDINATOR

Addison County has long been revered as a leader in early childhood education in Vermont for a number of reasons. It boasts high-quality, long-standing programs with clear philosophical beliefs that children come first in all we do. Programs that believe that inquiry and play is at the center of healthy early childhood development and experiences.

Addison County is home to some of the most active and supportive leaders amongst our early education centers and preschools. We have leaders that are ethical, motivated, intelligent and highly qualified to do this work. They mentor, advocate, coach, and bring people together. We have teachers that are passionate, creative, and push themselves on the ground and in higher education to achieve more and become better. We have early education classrooms that bring inquiry and warmth to all children who enter. We are a community that believes in the power of the early years.

After running my own preschool program for over a decade, I've learned a lot in my new role at Universal PreK Coordinator thus far. When I was a Director, I knew *MY* program and that was my day-to-day focus — where I put all my energy into staff, children and families. Throughout those years, I collaborated with my fellow early childhood colleagues in many ways, but I was highly focused on what I was doing in my own space. In the last nine months, I have been in over 40 classrooms serving the 410 children in Universal PreK in Addison County. I've watched dozens of teachers interact with children and implement curriculum. I have been nothing short of blown away!

This is what I've learned, early childhood education and preschool is not one size fits all. It doesn't have to be implemented in a universal way to be successful. It can look like so many things! It can look like the "Wish You Well" song at Otter Creek Child Center where children and teachers sing a sweet love song to their friends who aren't there. It can look like wool felting at Mary Johnson Children's Center. It can be

a day spent in the forest at Wren's Nest where hammocks are rest mats. It can be putting on a circus at Lincoln Cooperative Preschool or writing a children's book at Evergreen Preschool. It can be tending the chickens at Quarry Hill School or swinging inside at Play Lab. It looks like family suppers, smiles at the door, checking in on each other, sharing resources and so much more. What our early education programs are doing in the field is incredible and it's something we should all be proud of.

I've had the privilege of leading a Community of Practice with over 15 local preschool teachers this year. We meet monthly to share our classroom experiences and find extensions to our practice to build and grow. We discuss literacy and math, the classroom environment, books and songs, and how to extend children's interest and learning. These teachers come together each month in the most supportive way, immersing themselves in growth and discovery. They lean on one another, brainstorm together and actively build their practice as a cohort.

They have such powerful ideas, creative avenues to reach all children and a genuine thirst to be the best they can be. Every month, I leave inspired by their dedication, intellect and passion.

I've learned that nothing is impossible within these high-quality programs. Children are thriving in a variety of ways in our early education system in Addison County and that's predominantly because of the people who make up this system. It's the directors, the teachers, the assistants, the cooks, the special educators, the outreach support, and the parents and families. It certainly does take a village and my biggest take away is that our village is really extraordinary. Something we should be proud of and celebrate often. Thank you to all of you who make early childhood education thrive! In this Month of the Young Child- we all applaud you!



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Upcoming classes with CSAC

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The group will meet for 6 weeks, starting soon!
Open to parents of kids of any age who are interested in receiving services at CSAC.

For information or to sign up, call Paul
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Resource Parent Curriculum (RPC+) TIPS for Tuning In

A 10-week workshop for foster, adoptive and kin caregivers about the impact of trauma on the development, attachment, emotions, and behaviors of the children and youth in their care.

The workshop provides a safe space for caregivers to: access compassionate training; learn concrete strategies to manage daily and ongoing challenges; enhance relationships with their children; and build a network of support with fellow caregivers.

Facilitated by CSAC Youth and Family Outreach Clinicians. Coming this fall!

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Call Heather: (802) 388-6751 ext. 438 or Donna: (802) 989-2776

Breakthrough Parenting Curriculum (BPC)

A 10-week course for biological parents struggling to understand their child's behavior. Similar to the RPC+ class. Next class starts Fall 2025

Contact Sarah for details on upcoming offerings:

smuss@csac-vt.org or (802) 388-6751 ext. 274

FROM HANDS-ON LEARNING TO PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Needle felting’s impact on children and educators

By JACKIE PRIME

At Mary Johnson Children’s Center, we believe in the power of experiences that engage children deeply, sparking wonder and exploration. One such experience that has captivated both children and teachers is needle felting, an artistic and sensory-rich activity that nurtures development across multiple domains.

If you’ve ever watched a child press soft wool between their fingers, carefully poking it with a felting needle, you know the magic of this process. In our preschool classrooms, needle felting has become an unexpected yet profoundly meaningful practice. What may seem like a simple art activity is actually a powerful tool for fine motor development, focus, creativity, and emotional regulation.

At first, needle felting may seem too delicate or intricate for young children, but when introduced thoughtfully, it becomes an accessible and rewarding experience. Teachers guide children through the process — selecting wool, shaping it with their hands, and using special felting needles to bond the fibers together. The repetitive motion of poking the wool requires concentration and precision, strengthening small hand muscles that are essential for writing and other fine motor skills.

Beyond the physical skills, needle felting engages children emotionally and socially. The rhythmic movement of the needle can be soothing, offering children a way to find focus and calm. The process also encourages patience — there is no instant result in felting; the

wool transforms gradually, teaching children about perseverance and the beauty of slow, intentional work.

Collaboration often unfolds naturally in our classrooms as children share ideas, pass along colors of wool, or admire each other’s work. “Look at mine!” one child exclaims, holding up a felted Stegosaurus. Another carefully observes a friend’s process, inspired to try something new. These moments foster language development, social connections, and confidence in self-expression.

At MJCC, our commitment to elevating early education extends beyond the classroom. With 57% of our classroom teachers assigned to a room and 52% of educators across all sites actively pursuing higher education or professional credentials, we are thrilled to see so many of our team members deepening their knowledge and growing in their profession. Additionally, four teachers from our three sites will travel to Reggio Emilia, Italy, this May to study the Reggio approach firsthand — an opportunity that will bring fresh inspiration and innovative practices back to Vermont.

The impact of Act 76 has been transformative, providing critical support to children, families, and educators in our community. This investment in early childhood education ensures that more educators have access to the resources and opportunities needed to advance their skills, ultimately enriching the experiences of the young learners in

(See Felting, Page 8)





UNCERTAIN TIMES FOR CHILDCARE FUNDING

**Let's work together to preserve
quality childcare in Vermont**

**By DONNA BAILEY, DIRECTOR ADDISON COUNTY
PARENT/CHILD CENTER**

These are uncertain times. Not being sure if we have federal funding for human services is a scary and daunting way to work. In Vermont, Medicaid dollars are the underpinnings of all services for children and families and any work that is within the Agency of Human Services. At the Addison County Parent/Child Center, half of our budget is federally funded. This includes home visiting and services through Children's Integrated Services, mental health, housing, food, childcare, pregnancy prevention and academics. Vermont has made good use of federal dollars, and they are the base of support systems for Vermont families.

We have made great progress in childcare affordability in the state of Vermont, but we are far from where we need to be to ensure a vibrant care system for children and one for working families in our state. While we are less dependent on federal aid than we were, Childcare subsidies are supported by the childcare block grant and TANF block grant — federal dollars covering millions of dollars of tuition and supports for young children. More than 10% of the childcare subsidies are federal. We need these dollars, or we pay more locally.

Children are the poorest Vermonters, and women are second. Our combined resources that pay for education and care are crucial to preventing the pain and. Destruction of poverty and helping to move all Vermonters forward. Without these federal and state funds, Vermont families would suffer.

Paying for childcare is a matter of priorities in our budget. Financial support helps current families, and it helps the future children and parents stay in Vermont. Our children and young families need to be able to be supported in basic services. This is the purpose of federal funding — to guarantee a safety net of support for all Americans. We want our children to grow up to be healthy and productive members of society, with the hopes and dreams of being self-reliant a possibility. Without a safety net of support that we have had for generations, we cannot guarantee this for our children.

In a nation of plenty, we can work together to move us all forward. Childcare is a critical part of our infrastructure. High-quality childcare, while not inexpensive, is crucial to childhood wellbeing and the ability for parents to work without undue stress.



Felting

(Continued from Page 7)

our care. Just as children explore and transform wool into something new, we as educators continue to evolve, shaping the future of early childhood education with passion and purpose.

In the end, early education is about more than academic readiness — it is about nurturing a child's natural curiosity, creativity, and sense of wonder. As Loris Malaguzzi, founder of the Reggio Emilia approach, reminds us, "Our task, regarding creativity, is to help children climb their own mountains, as high as possible." Whether through the tactile exploration of needle felting or the dynamic exchange of ideas between educators, we are building something lasting: a strong, inspired foundation that honors the hundred languages of children and empowers them to construct knowledge through meaningful experiences.





INFANTS LEARN DURING EVERY PART OF THEIR DAY

By **COURTNEY OTIS, INFANT/TODDLER TEACHER**
MARY JOHNSON CHILDREN'S CENTER

Childcare is essential, it's been said and advocated for.

Childcare is essential for working parents and the economy. But most importantly high-quality childcare is essential for a child's development. So much brain development happens in those early years, yet it's often forgotten that even infants are learning in every part of their days.

There can be a stigma about childcare and babies, that there isn't much learning happening and they are just playing. Well, they are playing. They are playing, exploring, creating, and discovering. Through play, infants are learning about the world around them, how things work and about themselves and others.

To me, the most important thing about being an infant room teacher is the relationships that we build and the nurturing that we give.

I have worked in an infant room for almost 10 years here in Addison County and it is truly the most rewarding job. Meeting new parents for the first time, hearing about their baby and their family, being with them for that first year of life, to be frank, it's raw and special. That first year can be hard, being a mother myself, parenting can feel overwhelming sometimes. My co-teacher and I strive to create

a welcoming and calm environment where families feel comfortable. Comfortable enough to share about things in parenting that are feeling a lot to them or even just stories about themselves previous to having children, about their jobs, their childhood.

All those moments and conversations are what builds such a strong relationship and will 100% in turn benefit their child. I can't say enough how important creating relationships with the parents of the little ones you care for is. I still keep in touch and see my first ever group of families, who's babies are now in 5th grade! That itself is something that makes this job so incredible.

I get to watch the babies in my care make huge connections every day. Observing them explore their environment with all their senses and interact with materials is magical. Watching them figure out something after working so hard makes me so proud of them, and knowing I get to be a part of that is such an amazing feeling.

The connections whether that be with children and their families or the connection they are making with materials they explore are so important at this age. It's all about connection and it's something I truly enjoy about my position as an infant room teacher. Connecting and communicating with people is such an important part of life and learning, especially in those early years!





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THERAPEUTIC CARE:

By BECKY WATTERS, ADDISON COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER

Therapeutic childcare is a deep dive into social emotional development with a lens on building resiliency, strengthening and developing executive functioning skills, and on healthy attachments. Every aspect of the routine is met with dependability, warmth and curiosity here at the Addison County Parent Child Center childcare and Playlab preschool. The culture at the APCC is one that is unique. Many children have walked in announcing “I’m Home!”

Dependability that a child and their parents know who to expect when they arrive at the door daily is crucial to developing healthy attachments and trust. Staff come to work on a daily basis is one part; the other is when children know what to expect, the routine and rituals of the day are the same day after day. Facial expressions, tone of voice and words all match the adult’s faces throughout the day in order to foster security. Caregivers hold boundaries knowing that children thrive with the comfort of the physical and emotional fences provided. Children are seen as individuals that are treated with the idea that “fair

Creating an environment of safety, resiliency and warmth for children

isn’t always equal and equal isn’t always fair”; not everyone needs the same things throughout the day, teaching flexibility and empathy. Feelings are talked about and modeled all of the time; embarrassment and disappointment are given lots of attention to gain self-control skills. Supporting children in fixing their mistakes increases self-awareness, initiative and empathy.

Warmth grows relationships between the child and caregiver and slowly leaks between peers too. When behaviors are seen as a symptom there are more opportunities to play with a child and change the dance. Staying in very close proximity to anyone who becomes mad quickly and offering words to use and different choices to handle the anger supports peer relationships while building self-confidence, self-esteem and healthy attachments between both caregiver to child relationships and peer to peer relationships. All feelings are welcomed and encouraged to be used. When a child and their family enter the building daily they are approached with freshness of each day is a new day and new opportunities to learn.

Curiosity fosters all relationships, and supports the caregivers to see challenging behaviors as symptoms versus labeling a child. Transitions are seen as opportunities to practice skills such as self-control or healthy dependence or independence skill building. Another part of curiosity is self-reflection. Caregivers use a set of attributes, created and written by ACPCC staff, that is in the “I’m Home!!: A Manual for Providing Therapeutic Childcare.” There is space in the week to meet with other staff for peer supervision, offering another place for reflection. Clear and direct communication from caregivers to children and caregivers to parents builds trust, healthy attachments and co-regulation. Between staff it’s crucial to the work environment; there is an understanding that when the air is clean between adults then the atmosphere is clean and fun for children.

All children need space to work on social emotional skills in an environment with warmth, curiosity and dependability; who doesn’t need that as a strong foundation?



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MEET THE THIRD TEACHER IN THE CLASSROOM: The Environment

By KERRY MALLOY

LINCOLN COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

There is a small sign at our preschool, titled “Messages In The Environment,” for adults to read, detailing the kind of environment we want to be presenting to children.

It states, “This a cheerful and happy place, You belong here, This is a place you can trust, You can do things on your own and be independent, You can get away and be by yourself when you need to, This is a safe place to explore and try out ideas, This is a place where your work is valued and appreciated.”

The environment is often referred to as the Third Teacher, with parents being the first, and teachers as the second. As early childhood teachers, we are constantly thinking of how every aspect of our environment might be affecting a child’s behavior or needs, and how we can affect changes. Creating opportunities for hands-on learning means the early childhood environment is continuously being adapted to allow for new experiences.

Young children have an “extraordinary hardwiring to be curious, to explore, to connect, to feel, and to solve — all of which are skills that predict the academic outcomes most adults want for their children,” (Erika Christakis in “The Importance of Being Little”). Children will do this anywhere and everywhere. It is one of the joys of teaching young children that we get to create environments, and routines, where we can foster this incredible drive to learn through play, social interactions, and teacher relationships.

Some days children come to school and get deeply engaged with the materials of their choice, building huge block structures, having group imaginative play in the play kitchen, working on their own ideas next to a
(See Environment, Page 15)





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Environment

(Continued from Page 13)

fully stocked art cart. Other days there is overflowing high energy and we have choices to bring out materials, like bouncy ride on horses, spinning seats, or rocking boards, to happily meet children's need for more active play. We also have many choices to bring out calming materials to see what best meets individual needs.

An important aspect of the environment at our preschool is that children have open-ended time, and agency. Children arriving in the morning have almost an hour and a half to start their day freely choosing where and what they want to play with, can move freely within our classroom to any area, and can move materials anywhere to suit their play needs. This affords teachers many opportunities to observe and interact with children individually or with peers. Another highly valued part of our environment/routine is outdoor play. Most of the school year we are outdoors for 4 hours a day and have the physical set up to comfortably do that. As with so many of the high-quality Early Learning centers in Addison County, we have a large and stimulating outdoor play area with sleds, bikes, scooters, swings, mud kitchen, outdoor blocks, sand area, etc.

There is great diversity in Early Childhood Learning environments within Addison County and, indeed, in all of Vermont. The majority of these environments, for infants to preschoolers, are privately based and have been carefully developed, in many cases, for decades. There are children tucked in former elementary school classrooms, there are forest-based schools, there are schools that prefer less materials out at once, and schools with an abundance of materials out at once. The important factor in all the diverse environments is a dedicated, knowledgeable, and professional workforce who understand what is truly important for young children's growth and development. Young children need an environment filled with opportunities for exploration, loving relationships with teachers who are skilled at observing and scaffolding their development, humor, safety, and a social group of peers to learn with.

The spaces we have in Addison County are beautiful designs tailored to the unique developmental period of our youngest children. I am a strong advocate for maintaining the public/private early learning environment infrastructure we HAVE. I also advocate for letting 3- and 4-years-old children play together, they are a wonderful cohort in the

same developmental phase, and the impacts we've been able to have with children being with us for two years is huge.

As an adult, I treasure being able to work in a beautiful and stimulating space, having fun and joyful learning experiences with young children. It's the best.





Center/ Home	Name	Ages	Schedule	PreK Partner	Town	Notes/Contact Info
Center	Quarry Hill School	3-5	School Year/ school day	Yes	Middlebury	www.quarryhillschool.org office@quarryhillschool.org
Center	Otter Creek Child Center	6 wks-5	Year Round, M-F	Yes	Middlebury	www.ottercreekcc.org office@ottercreekcc.org
Center	College Street Children's Center	6 wks-5	Year Round, M-F	No	Middlebury	cscddirector228@gmail.com
Center	Evergreen Preschool	3-5	School Year/half day and full day	Yes	Vergennes	Evergreenpreschoolvt@gmail.com
Center	MAUSD Early Education Program	3-5	School Year, 10 hr/week pro- gram	Yes	Bristol	lindsay.hance@mausd.org
Center	MAUSD Early Education Program	3-5	School Year, M-F, 8-5	Yes	Bristol	heidi.bullock@mausd.org
Center	Wren's Nest Forest Preschool	3-5	School Year, M-F, 8-4:30	Yes	Bristol	info@willowell.org
Home	Carolyn Fogg	Birth-12	School Year, M-F, 7-4:30	No	Monkton	cfogg1979@gmail.com
Center	Starksboro Cooperative Preschool	3-5	School Year, M-F, + Summer Pro- gram, half day, 7:30-1, & full day, 7:30-4:30	Yes	Starksboro	starkscoop@gmail.com
Center	Aurora Preschool	3-5	Year Round, 7:30-5	No	Middlebury	auroralearningcentervt@gmail.com
Center	Bristol Family Center	6 wks-6 years	Year Round, M-F	Yes	Bristol	www.bristolfamilycenter.org awhitcomb@bristolfamilycenter.org
Center	Addison County Parent Child Center	0-5	School Year, 8-4 and M-F, 8-4 in summer	Yes	Serving Addison County in Middlebury, with transpor- tation	dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org
Home	Mountain Road Preschool	6 wks - 10 yrs	Full Year, M-F, 7:15-4:45	Yes	Addison	mountainroadpreschool@gmail.com
Home	Misty Scott	6 wks - 10 yrs	Full Year, M-F, 7-5	No	Vergennes	ckcc@comcast.net 802-877-6977 3 STAR Provider www.facebook.com/CuriousKidsChildCareMistyScott
Home	Evelyn Burlock	6 wks - 10 yrs	Full Year, M-F, 7-5	No	Vergennes	eburlock27@yahoo.com 802-788-2506
Center	Mary Johnson Children's Center (MJCC)	3 mos - 5 yrs	Full Year	Yes	Middlebury	office@mjcvt.org www.mjcvt.org
Center	Mary Johnson Children's Center (MJCC)	18 mos - 5 yrs	Full Year	Yes	East Middlebury	office@mjcvt.org www.mjcvt.org



Center/ Home	Name	Ages	Schedule	PreK Partner	Town	Notes/Contact Info
Center	Orwell Early Education Program (MJCC)	3 yrs-5 yrs	Full Year	Yes	Middlebury	office@mjcvt.org www.mjcvt.org
Center	Middlebury After School Program	K-5th grade	After School- School Year. Summer weeks are FT	No	Middlebury	school-age@mjcvt.org www.mjcvt.org
Home	Heather Armell	6 wks-5 yrs	Full Year, M-F, 7:15-4:30,	No	Monkton	littletykes2007@yahoo.com
Home	Bethany Hallock	Birth to 12	Full Year, M-F 7:30-4:30,	No	Ferrisburgh	gbthallock@juno.com
Home	Donna Meacham	Birth to 12	Full Year, M-F, 7:30-4:30	No	New Haven	dondarnea@gmavt.net 802-453-5383
Center	Lincoln Cooperative Preschool	3-5	7:30-3. Some after care available	Yes	Lincoln	preschool@gmavt.net
Home	Sunshine Childcare	Birth-5	Full Year, M-F, 7-4:30	No	Addison	sunshinecc21@gmail.com
Home	Jennifer Cyr Family Child Care	Birth-4	Year-Round, M-TH	No	Middlebury	jennifercyr2@gmail.com www.jennifercyrfamilychildcare.com
Center	Addison County Early Learning Center (Head Start)	16 mos-5	Preschool-School Year, Toddler classroom-Year Round, both, M-F, 8:30-2:30	Yes	New Haven	psutlive@cvoeo.org, Peg Sutlive
Public Pre-K (Center)	ANWSD Early Education Program	3-5	School Year only, 8:15 -1:15. Extended care, 1:15-4:30	Yes	Ferrisburgh	mtierney@anwsd.org, Marcie Tierney
Home	Laura Weber	Blrth-12	Year Round, M-F, 7-4:30	No	Hancock	lmw15vt@yahoo.com
Center	The Ark Preschool/Kindergarten	3 yrs-Kinder- garten , school year. 3-10 summer	School Year & Summer program, M-F, 7:30-5	No	Waltham	arkdirector@victoryvt.org Rachael Boyce, Director 802-877-3393
Center	Cornerstone Preschool	3-5	School Year, M-F, 7:30-5	No	Vergennes	office@cornerstone-prek.org
Center/ School	Bridport Central School Preschool	3-5	School Year, M-Th, 7:45-2:45	Yes	Bridport	Heather Adams, Preschool Director, 802-758-2331 hadams@acsdvt.org
Center/ School	Mary Hogan Preschool	3-5	School Year, M-Th 8:15-2:15	Yes	Middlebury	Kim Forbes, Preschool Director 802-382-1438 kforbes@acsdvt.org
Center	A.R.K. Child Care at Whiting	6 wks -5	Year Round, M-F, 7:30 -5	No	Whiting	Rebecca Kerr, Program Director 802-623-7991 arkchildcare2018@gmail.com



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Center/ Home	Name	Ages	Schedule	PreK Partner	Town	Notes/Contact Info
Home	Muffy's Family Child Care and Preschool Progam	Infant-School age	Year Round, M-F, 8-4:30	Yes	Orwell	muffykgart@gmail.com 802-948-2561 (Leave message)
Home	Discovery Hill Child Care and Preschool	Infant-School age	Year Round, M-F, 7-4:30	Yes	Bristol	kidsfirstdhfcc@yahoo.com 802-989-1225
Home	Stacey Rheume	6 wks - 12	Year-Round, M-F 7-4:30	No	Salisbury	rrheume5@yahoo.com 802-349-5082
Center	Bridge School Beginners Preschool	3-5	Year Round, M-F, 8-3:30 with AfterCare until 4:30 during the school year	Yes	Middlebury	Lindsay Hard Director/Lead Teacher 802-388-3498 lindsay@bridgeschoolvermont. org
Center	Salisbury Family Center	6 wks-5	Year Round, M-F, 7:30-4:30	No	Salisbury	Christian Bowdish, Director salisburyfamilycenter@gmail.com 802-352-9800
Licensed Home	Pea Ridge Farm School	2.5-5	Year Round, M-F, 8-4		Middlebury	
Home	Anne Audy: Superhero Academy	Infant-School age	School Year, M-F, 7-5. Summer part-time only	No	Ferrisburgh	Anne.Emmel.Dunham@gmail.com (802)355-0506
Center	Red Clover Children's Center	Birth-3	Year Round, M-F	No	Middlebury	admin@redcloverchildren.org Redcloverchildren.org





The Addison County participants in the Early Childhood Leadership Institute this year were, left to right, Christine Birong-Smith, Jen Olson, Jackie Prime and Colleen Niering. With them on the far right is ECLI Co-Director Su White, who teaches children in Middlebury.

LOCAL TEACHERS BECOME LOCAL LEADERS

The Class of 2025 of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute at the Snelling Center for Government included an Addison County cohort of four education professionals.

ECLI is a dynamic program designed to cultivate the next generation of leaders in Early Childhood Education. ECLI 2025 brought together a group of 24 educators, policymakers, and community leaders from all over Vermont to collaborate on advancing Early Childhood Education.

Through these collaborations, networking with peers and participating in expert-led sessions, each member of the cohort gains actionable insights to drive positive change in their communities.



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	<p>APRIL 20-27</p>	



WHAT CHILDREN NEED PHYSICALLY TO BE READY TO LEARN

Tasha Ball of the Willowell Foundation talks with Taryn Levy, who has been a physical therapist for 22 years, working in pediatrics for 20 years. She currently provides physical therapy services within the school system in and around Addison County.

Q: What brought you to this work?

A: I enjoy working with children because every day is different and they bring such joy into my life and the lives of those around them.

Q: Can you speak to the current trends in child development from your perspective as a physical therapist?

A: Times have changed. I believe that our children are missing essential parts of their development due to the excessive use of “containers” and screens for our babies. Many children are no longer following the typical sequence of sensory motor development. Kids are propped up in bouncy chairs, bumbo seats and Exersaucers and are visually overstimulated by colorful, loud and flashing toys and screens. Children no longer spend large amounts of time on the floor, learning how their bodies move without gadgets to “entertain” them. We are disembodimenting our infants and young children, teaching them that the external world deserves more attention than how their body moves and feels. I believe this leads to increased states of dysregulation.

Our kids haven’t integrated their primary reflexes well, haven’t developed good core strength and have a limited base for postural stability. A limited foundation all around, really! Top that with the fact that as they get older, kids no longer do chores/shovel snow/walk a long distance/climb a tree ... all before school.

Our children are now arriving to school in bodies that are not prepared for seated learning.

However, all hope is not lost! We

can create environments and opportunities both inside and out of school that can fill in their foundations, help them integrate these primary reflexes and develop core strength. Giving more opportunity for movement and more time outside in unstructured play naturally encourages the building of foundational sensory motor skills and regulation.

In the meantime, while we are helping our children to fill in missing parts of their foundation, some children may need additional support during seated activities in order to hold their bodies up against gravity, pay attention and learn all at the same time. Their postural control is not yet automatic. If they are required to hold their body up in space as well as perform or engage in a cognitive task, something has to give! This may manifest as “behavior,” moving around and frequently changing positions, distraction, falling out of the chair or inability to pay attention.

Q: Tell us the difference between gross motor, fine motor, and sensory awareness? In what ways can caregivers assist or become more attuned to these?

A: Gross motor skills are the big movements you make with your large muscles such as rolling, crawling, running, jumping, etc. Fine motor skills follow the development of large motor skills. They are more refined using smaller muscles, requiring core strength and control to make small movements with your hands like grasping, picking up objects, manipulating small toys, drawing and writing. Sensory regulation is taking information in through the senses, interpreting that information and responding without over or under reacting. Caregivers can support the sequence of sensory motor development by creating or providing environments that encourage movement, exploration and various ways to interact within the space. Natural, outdoor environments organically provide these opportunities; however, indoor environments with large motor spaces and open-ended play can also encourage this type of developmentally appropriate play.

Q: How can caregivers help shift how we view and respond to young children in terms of development and body awareness?

A: Children need to move to learn. Quiet, alert time without distractions facilitates physical embodiment. Babies and young children that spend time on their tummies benefit from not only building core strength but the pairing of tactile, visual and proprioceptive sensory information to develop where their body is in space. Building upon that foundation, young children further develop their body and spatial

(See Physicality, Page 22)



“Children no longer spend large amounts of time on the floor, learning how their bodies move without gadgets to “entertain” them.”

— Taryn Levy



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Physicality

(Continued from Page 21)

awareness by moving their bodies in a large variety of ways, on lots of different surfaces and obstacles; crawling or climbing up, down over, under, around and through. And falling.

Q: I know you're a big advocate of caregivers not using "tools" or props for young children? Can you speak to why this is and what you suggest instead?

A: Often the use of containers, gadgets, toys or "tools" to entertain your child and make your life easier impedes typical development and could be considered "non-developmental time." We all need a safe place for our children to be while we attend to other tasks. But balancing that with time on the floor, engaging in developmentally appropriate play and movement, is essential. A doctor once told me, your baby can't fall off the floor. Creating a safe place on the floor where your baby can discover their hands, roll, airplane, push up on their hands, belly crawl, get on their hands and knees and then learn to sit builds the foundation they will need to develop higher level gross and fine motor skills. When your child is older, curious kids will find myriad ways to move their bodies using couch cushions, pillows, blankets, beds, trees, logs, sticks, hills and more.

Q: How does this work "pay off" in the long term? Are there ways the body development connects to learning or the mind later in life?

A: Following the typical sequence of sensory motor development and focusing on inchstones (all the very important steps in between the milestones) not just milestones, builds a strong foundation for the attainment of higher level skills. Children that follow the typical sequence of development and engage in developmentally appropriate play will more likely have stronger core muscles and a stronger, more automatic postural control system that allows them to engage in higher level fine motor and cognitive tasks. Improved postural control is related to improved focus and attention during cognitive tasks.

Q: Can you explain "risky play" and elaborate on the benefits or risks associated?

A: Best said by Angela Hanscom, occupational therapist: "We need to allow children to move in ways that make adults gasp. They need to swing daringly high. They need to go upside down. They need to spin in circles and fall on the ground." Risky play builds the areas of the brain associated with decision making and impulse control and may enhance that area of the brain for better decision making in adolescence. Allowing risky play helps children to trust themselves. On the other hand, forbidding risky play (telling children, "That's not safe," when in fact it may be) undermines children's trust in themselves and negatively impacts their decision-making skills.

Q: What are some action steps parents and caregivers can take in their own homes and lives to support age-appropriate sensory motor development?

A: Don't push higher level skills (for example, if your baby is not yet sitting, rather than practicing sitting, allow your child to engage in all the lower-level skills that lead to independent sitting).

Q: Allow your child to move in ways that put you on the nervous list. You can support them by asking questions like, "Do you feel safe? What would happen if you fell? What's your plan for getting down?"

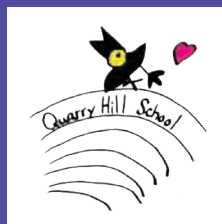
A: Get outside. Explore. Move. Play.



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RESOURCES FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

• **“The Anxious Generation”** by Jonathan Haidt. With so much technology now it’s a great read.

• **Addison County Parent/Child Center** is a resource for parenting and for young children and adolescents. Social emotional and physical development and basic needs supports. We are also able to support prenatally and postpartum.

• **Cosmic Kids Yoga App** (great indoor gross motor option!) for children over 5.

• **“The Most Magnificent Thing”** by Ashley Spires, **“Not a Bo”** by Antoinette Portis, **“The Stick”** by Clay Rice – Children’s Books for open-ended and imaginative exploration.

• **“Janet Lansbury Unruffled”**– This is a podcast series on respectful parenting. Find it at tinyurl.com/ChildrenUnruffled.

• **Seed & Sew** – seedandsew.org – Great podcasts that address how to approach challenging behaviors in toddlers.

• **“Find Your Unicorn Space”** by Eve Rodsky – Helpful self-care book.

• **“We’re Always Told to Give Kids Choices-but here’s where it can backfire”** – article online at tinyurl.com/KidsChoicesBackfire.

• **“How to Maintain a Strong Parent-Child Bond While Juggling Work Responsibilities”** – article online at tinyurl.com/ChildAndWork.

• **Jennifercyrfamilychildcare.com** – Topics include toilet learning and new sibling arrival.

• **“But Why - A podcast for Curious Kids”** – It’s great for kids starting at age three/four and then through adulthood. Find it online at tinyurl.com/ButWhyJane.

• **“A Guide to Serve & Return”** from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University – find it online at tinyurl.com/TalkWithAChild.

• **“There’s No Such Thing As Bad Weather: A Scandinavian Mom’s Secrets for Raising Healthy, Resilient, and Confident Kids”** by Linda Åkeson McGurk.

• **“Circle Round”** podcast by WBUR shares stories from around the world and is great for all ages! It is free and works wonders on car rides or during dinner instead of a screen. Find it online at tinyurl.com/CircleRoundWBUR.

• **“Measles Toolkit”** from the Vermont Department of Health. Find it online at tinyurl.com/MeaslesToolkit.

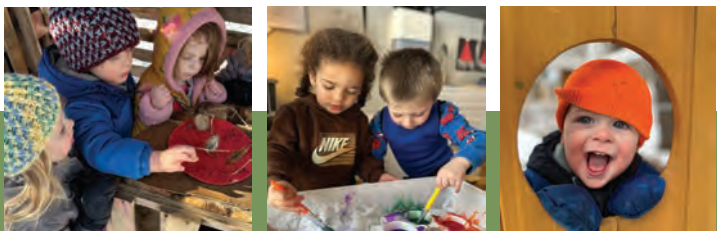
• **Minibury** is a website and newsletter that provides families with info about all things kid-related in Addison County. Discover local family-friendly activities, events, classes and educational experiences. Go online to minibury.com.



The Bristol Family Center is a nonprofit Early Care and Education program in Bristol, VT.

We serve 47 children ages 6 weeks to 6 years, and their families, throughout Addison County and beyond. The BFC operates as a full-time, year-round program.

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ALL ABOUT THE ADDISON EARLY CHILDHOOD REGIONAL COUNCIL

By DARLA SENECA

The Addison Early Childhood Regional Council is one of the 12 Early Childhood Regional Councils that make up the Building Bright Futures (BBF) Network, along with seven Vermont’s Early Childhood Action Plan Committees and Vermont’s Early Childhood State Advisory Council. Through this statewide network of over 500 early childhood partners, BBF works to improve the well-being of young children and families in Vermont.

The Addison Early Childhood Regional Council brings together community members who are committed to the young children and families of the Addison region. Guided by Vermont’s Early Childhood Action Plan, the Addison Regional Council identifies regional priorities based on community needs and gaps. The Council also advises the State Advisory Council on opportunities to strengthen local and statewide systems of care, health, and education.

The Addison Regional Council has identified the following two regional priorities to guide our work through 2026:

- Child and family mental health.
- Quality and capacity of early childhood education and services.

We envision an early childhood system where partners work together with a shared vision, shared action, and shared accountability; where regional tables are set for communities to problem-solve, coordinate, and take action; where data drives decision-making; and where sensible state policy is informed by the wisdom of communities. BBF operates using a collective impact framework, which allows us to tackle complex social and systemic problems facing Vermont’s children and families.

The needs are real and pressing, as demonstrated by the data on the Addison region that can be found in BBF’s recent publication “The State of Vermont’s Children: 2024 Year in Review.” This report includes a spotlight on the child welfare system, the 2025 Policy Recommendations of Vermont’s Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network, and a profile for each of Vermont’s 12 Building Bright Futures regions, which

align with the Agency of Human Services Districts. Below are some highlights from the section of the report focused on the Addison region. The full report can be found at bit.ly/StateofVermontsChildren2024.

- Our region includes 3,119 children under age 10.
- Thirty-four Addison-area children under age 13 are receiving supports for homelessness.
- The rate of full vaccination by age 2 for children in the Addison region is 82.5%.

• According to the Economic Policy Institute Family Budget Calculator, a family of four in Addison County needed to earn \$120,589 a year (or \$28.99 an hour) in 2023 “to attain a modest yet adequate standard of living.” Figures released after the publication of “The State of Vermont’s Children: 2024 Year in Review” show that the amount increased to \$131,368 per year for 2024.

The Addison Regional Council meets on the second Friday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, either via Zoom or (for some of our spring and fall meetings) in person. We invite all community members to join us and share their input.

The Addison Regional Council is open to new members who are invested in the well-being of children and families. We are actively seeking representation from the following sectors: health, mental health, early care and education, primary education, home visiting, parents/caregivers, direct service providers, businesses/employers, and all others who are committed to participating in respectful, safe, and non-judgmental relationships to work together in support of positive outcomes for young children and families in our community.

To learn more about Building Bright Futures, please visit buildingbrightfutures.org. Please feel free to contact me (Darla Senecal, Building Bright Futures Regional Manager for the Addison, Rutland, and Bennington regions) at dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org if you have any questions.



READING TO YOUR CHILD

It's never too early to start

By MARITA SCHINE

Imagine a young dad, newborn baby resting comfortably on his chest while reading aloud from a news article. This dad took to heart that beginning to read to a child immediately, as often as possible, helps lay the groundwork for effective language use and literacy learning.

From birth, babies are hardwired to develop language skills, and consistent exposure to a wide variety of language patterns is what helps them do exactly that. Snuggling up with a book, talking, and having fun with words and pictures also helps children develop emotional awareness and empathy, and learn how to handle challenging feelings.

In addition, the physical experience of exploring a book with another person nearby by touching, mouthing, and manipulating it supports babies' overall cognitive development. Infants learn to turn pages as early as six months. Often babies pay attention to the printed page by one year, can actively follow an adult's pointing finger and lift flaps, touch pages with intention, absorb vocabulary words, and anticipate the next page — all early literacy skills that are built upon during preschool years and later, when children learn to read at school.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was born from a dream that all children should have access to books in the home and build a strong foundation of early literacy skills. As Dolly Parton says, "The seeds of (these) dreams are often found in books and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world."

Since 2008, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has been delivering high-quality books to Addison County children from birth to age five. The books are free, sent to the child once a month by mail and theirs to keep. The program promotes equity — enabling all registered families to build home libraries for their children. Imagination Library books celebrate diversity and include some bilingual (Spanish/English) titles, title-specific reading tips to promote ownership and inclusion, and some Braille and audio books accessible on the Imagination Library website. It is sponsored locally by **Addison County Readers**, an all-volunteer organization focused on promoting early literacy in our county.

In addition to sponsoring the Imagination Library, Addison County Readers supports **Books at Birth** in partnership with Porter Birthing Center, providing newborns with a free rhyming book and the opportunity to sign up for the Imagination Library. Last year, approximately 130 newborns started life with the Imagination Library. Newborns enrolled will have received about 60 books for their home library by their fifth birthday. Local author and illustrator Ashley Wolff is an early literacy ambassador.

"I am in favor of all books, reading in all places, all the time," Wolff says. "The Imagination Library makes this possible."

This year, Addison County Readers started an early literacy grants initiative for county childcare and preschool programs, awarding over \$5,000 to a dozen applicants working in Addison County preschools, and early childhood education settings, to promote early literacy, support early childhood educators, and put a wealth of enriching and diverse books into the hands of kids.

We encourage parents with young children to connect with us on social media or via our website, at addisoncountyreaders.org. Please, sign up for the Imagination Library today to grow your child's home library, and tell your friends with young children!

As often as you can, snuggle up with a book, rhyme, sing, and have fun!



FAMILY HOME CHILDCARE: A wonderful fit for some families

By HEATHER ARMELL

There are many options for childcare and for each family it is a personal choice. I myself run a registered home childcare, which many refer to as a family home childcare. I have six wonderful children that come to my home to learn and have fun during the week so that their families may go to work in our community.

Each morning as the families bring their children, I greet them at the door. I enjoy observing how each individual child comes in since they are all unique. Some come in wanting to show me something, some just want to sit down to eat while another may need to snuggle for a bit for that transition time. Some families like to chat for a while, while others may be doing a fast drop off as they need to get to work.

By being a small home with six children, I get to know the families and these children on a personal level. We have a special bond that makes them feel like an extended family. A family I have in my care says, "Heather makes home childcare feel like I am leaving my daughter with her aunt and cousins every day. There is a lovely schedule but she makes the kids feel like they are home, small and personalized to each child's needs."

Another family says, "We enjoy your home daycare because the kids get to actually be kids. If they want snuggles, you give them, if they want to wear pj's you allow them to, if they want to roll in the mud and be wild outside you completely allow that. But you also keep family transitions alive, like doing presents under the tree, which was absolutely amazing to us and how you treat each child as your own kid."

As a family childcare owner, I have a mixed age group, which I

(See Family home childcare, Page 28)



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NEW CHILDCARE SPOTS OPENING IN COUNTY

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — Securing a childcare spot can still be a daunting proposition for new parents and recent transplants, as local centers are pretty much full and compiling waiting lists.

But that could soon change.

The recent launch of the Red Clover Children's Center, a major expansion of the Otter Creek Child Center (OCCC), and planned growth at the Mary Johnson Children's Center (MJCC) are justifying new hope and peace of mind for Addison County parents.

In addition, The Growing Tree is a new, center-based program that will soon provide full-day, full-year preschool at the former Addison Central School building, according to Building Bright Futures. Last fall, BBF provided The Growing Tree funding that will support startup costs, helping to create 20 spots for children from age 32 months to 5 years.

The portend of new slots is on vivid display at 150 Weybridge St. in Middlebury, where construction crews are working diligently on a project that will eventually allow OCCC to accommodate 77 additional children.

"Everything is on track to be completed in early October," OCCC Executive Director Linda January said of the project.

Subcontractors are getting ready to install plumbing, HVAC and electrical work inside the new, ADA-compliant addition, she added. In the meantime, OCCC will continue to serve 71 children off-site, at the

College Street Children's Center and the Inn on the Green, currently owned by Middlebury College — a major partner and financial sponsor of the Otter Creek center's expansion effort.

Meanwhile, growth plans are also on the drawing board at MJCC, one of the oldest (1970) continuously operating childcare centers in Vermont. MJCC now serves 105 children, ages three months to 5 years, at its main campus (81 Water St., Middlebury), Mary Hogan Elementary School, the cooperative nursery school in 391 East Main St. in East Middlebury, and at Orwell Village School.

Executive Director Kristen Dunne said MJCC last fall added a new toddler room at its East Middlebury location and is considering a new infant space that would be added onto the Barrera Building at the center's 81 Water St. campus.

Further fueling local childcare optimism was the opening in January of 2024 of the Red Clover Children's Center that's based in the Congregational Church of Middlebury. The center and its eight full-time educators serve 24 children ranging in age from six weeks through three years.

Red Clover Executive Director Tessa Dearborn said the center has no plans at this point to expand, but the demand is certainly there. She confirmed a waiting list of 163. Dearborn stressed admissions aren't necessarily predicated on first-come first-served, as children are divided into different age groups. For example, while the center at a given time might not have a vacancy for an infant, it might have capacity to serve a three-year-old for a short while until that child transitions to a preschool.

And clearly there is momentum to keep growing centers. Last week the organization First Children's Finance VT announced that another Addison County Early Child Education center would be getting a Make Way for Kids Infant/Toddler Capacity Building Grant. These grants support Vermont's early childhood entrepreneurs in addressing the state's critical need for high-quality, affordable childcare — last year supporting the creation of more than 750 childcare slots and 225 new jobs across Vermont.

In the latest round of grants, 22 projects in nine counties were awarded a total of \$543,000. Among them was the Starksboro Cooperative Preschool.



A MAJOR EXPANSION of Otter Creek Child Center in Middlebury is adding space for 77 new childcare spots at the Weybridge Street center. The 13,000-square-foot expansion, shown swathed in green, is due to be completed this fall.

Family home childcare

(Continued from page 26)

personally find incredible. The children have a chance to teach each other and be leaders as they grow older. They learn empathy and compassion while they are interacting every day.

Another family said “When my child is older, I want her to learn to be kind to her younger peers, and to be a role model to them as well.” This happens all the time. The two- and three-year-olds are so quick to offer a hug if someone gets hurt or is feeling sad. While they do this, the one-year-old is starting to do this as well. There is nothing better than children being role models for each other.

“I think that kids learn best from high-quality interactions with caregivers and other kids,” another family says. She also said, “If I were financially able, I’d be at home with her myself, so I wanted to mimic that experience as much as possible and have her in a safe, loving home with someone who cares for her the same way I would in my own home.” These families are all so amazing and we work together to help these children grow and learn in their early years, which are the most important years for growing and learning.

As a family home childcare, not only am I close with the families and children but they are able to build relationships with each other as well since we have a small group. They all know each other. We get together outside of childcare hours such as going out apple picking together every year or to a family farm then having a big lunch together.

This gives them all time to talk and get to know each other and the kids love having extra days to play. These families share secondhand items when they are able. And most recently I saw such kindness when

one of these families had a newborn arrive. One family made their baby a blanket and got them a stuffed animal while another made them a meal. This doesn’t just happen anywhere. It is because we are a small extended family. I am happy to be able to provide for these families and children, and I couldn’t see myself doing any other job.

For me, family childcare gives children the opportunity to bond with their teacher through the many years they have together. The teacher is also able to build close relationships with families since they see the families at drop off and pick up times. Something personal to my childcare is that I have a website where pictures are posted for families daily, which helps the families to know what goes on during the day.

So, if you are beginning your search for childcare, I highly recommend a family home childcare. Visit those providers and ask questions. See what they offer and, if you can, talk to some other families about their experiences. Family childcare is a wonderful beginning to your child’s early learning experiences. Happy Week of the Young Child! The children are the future.



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STABILIZING AND BUILDING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSION IN VERMONT

By JEN OLSON, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR
WREN’S NEST FOREST PRESCHOOL

I am proud to be a Vermonter. There are a host of reasons I feel that way as of late. One is rooted in the work of our early childhood educators, who have advocated for professional recognition here in Vermont because this is what’s best for children, families and educators.

In 2023, the legislature passed Act 76. Over the past year, as the elements of this new law have rolled out, we’ve already seen more than 1,000 new spaces open in childcare programs and we’ve seen the sticker cost of early childhood education become far more affordable for many families. As the sector has stabilized, we’ve seen programs expand and invest in wage increases and benefits for their teachers — a historically underpaid workforce.

The public investment of Act 76 paves the way for greater accountability from early childhood educators themselves. We are the ones who spend all day with our state’s youngest children as their brains are developing most rapidly. What we do to help them learn and grow sets the foundation for the rest of their lives. But as a workforce, we’ve never been individually regulated, we’ve never had clear career pathways, and families and hiring programs have never had a clear way to understand our qualifications. All that may change, and that’s so good for children.

In January 2025, Vermont’s Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) recommended to the Vermont legislature that our state create an Early Childhood Education profession with a license to practice.



OPR’s recommendations are rooted in those made by Vermont’s early childhood educators. Since 2019 I’ve been part of a task force convened by the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children’s to engage thousands of my fellow early childhood educators in a consensus process about professionalization.

OPR’s recommendation recognizes the knowledge and expertise that early childhood educators have about child development and best practices in their classrooms. Licensure creates career opportunities and security for educators while it also creates consistent qualifications and transparency for the public. This means more qualified teachers who will stay in their jobs!

I appreciate that OPR recommended plenty of transition time for our workforce to adapt. As written, the recommendations will retain current educators and prevent program closures.

I’ve observed firsthand the remarkable commitment and critical thinking that educators have brought forth to engage in a grassroots movement to professionalize, motivated by what’s best for young children. It’s a great privilege to participate in this workforce-led initiative; and the work of advocacy is never done! I am continually grateful and appreciative of the insight, inquiry and reflection that has been championed by early childhood educators across Vermont. As the legislative session moves forward, a bill has been introduced to create an ECE profession with a license to practice and I’m hopeful that Vermont’s legislators will support it.

GIVE WIC TO YOUR FAMILY

WIC stands for Women Infants and Children. It is a program that helps pregnant women, breastfeeding women, infants, and children younger than 5 years old enjoy healthier lives through nutrition, education, and support.

Families participating in WIC can buy healthy foods each month using a WIC EBT card at WIC-approved grocery stores. WIC foods include fruits and vegetables, cheese, milk, yogurt, eggs, breakfast cereal, whole grains, beans, peanut butter, and infant foods. These foods are expanding to offer more choice and flexibility.

WIC is for income-eligible Vermont residents who are pregnant or have just had a baby, and children up to age 5. Parents, grandparents, foster parents, and legal guardians can apply on behalf of their children. Individuals are automatically income-eligible if they participate in Medicaid/Dr. Dynasuar health insurance and/or 3SquaresVT.

In addition to monthly food benefits, WIC provides nutrition education, infant feeding support, helpful referrals, and more! For example, in the summer, WIC families can receive coupons for fresh, local fruits and vegetables from authorized farmers markets and farm stands.

Learn more about this program online at tinyurl.com/WICinVT.



TEACHER PROFILE:

Dani Forand

Bristol Family Center

I can still remember singing the song “You Are My Sunshine” while standing in front of the crowd with my best friend at our preschool graduation. I can remember the oval table that I sat at with my first friends at lunch. I can remember the way the paint smelled. I remember my symbol was the bunny that got drawn on each piece of art that I made. The art that got sent home and stored away for the last 23 years in my mom’s closet as some of her earliest memories of my childhood days.

Preschool days were some of my favorite days.

And now, being an early educator is one of the most rewarding things I have done in my life. Hearing the kids yell, “Dani!” as I walk into the classroom each morning makes me happy. Seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces after they finally accomplish something they’ve been working so hard to learn, makes me happy. Learning and teaching through play, side by side with the children, makes me happy.

As a first-generation college graduate, I know my early learning experiences mattered and are the foundation of both my educational and professional success. I see the children in my classroom learning,

growing, and creating memories; knowing that this serves as that same foundation that I had.

Each child in my preschool classroom has spent the last couple months deepening their understanding of themselves, their families, and the world around them. They’ve talked about who they love and what they love. They’ve drawn self and family portraits, noticing how many people were in each other’s families, their similarities, and their differences. They’ve learned how many letters are in their names and are working on being able to write it without any help.

As we continue, we’re going to learn more about our favorites. Each week the children bring in a show and tell, typically a favorite item that they have from home and share it with their peers. We’re beginning to make some of our favorite foods while taking advantage of the math opportunities that come with it like scooping, measuring and pouring ingredients. Every day is an opportunity to read favorite books, sing favorite songs, and dance along to our favorite music.

The learning that they are doing in my classroom is so critical to all their learning that will follow. As I watch them grow, I can only hope that they remember their preschool days the way I do. That these days truly serve as a foundation for a love of learning, of success, and of joy.



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U.S. MEASLES CASES ARE RISING: Make sure your family is protected

In the first few months of 2025, there have been multiple outbreaks of measles with deaths reported in other parts of North America. Notably, there is an ongoing outbreak of measles in Quebec. As of late March, the CDC has reported 378 cases nationwide, with one-third of those among children age 5 and younger. Most cases have been in children and teens who are unvaccinated against measles. In all of 2024, the U.S. saw 285 case of measles.

Measles is not just a little rash. Measles is a highly contagious respiratory virus that can be dangerous, especially for babies and young children. Some may suffer from severe complications, such as pneumonia (infection of the lungs) and encephalitis (swelling of the brain). Around 1 to 3 of every 1,000 children who become infected with measles will die from respiratory and neurologic complications.

Measles is almost entirely preventable with vaccines. While most people in the U.S. and Vermont are vaccinated against measles, communities with lower vaccine coverage are at higher risk for outbreaks. Vaccinating your family protects other children from measles who can't get vaccinated because they are too young or have medical conditions. Being vaccinated against measles is your best defense against measles.

Here's how you can help keep your family, school, and community healthy:

1. Make sure you and your family are vaccinated against measles — especially if you plan to travel outside of the U.S. Measles is still common in many parts of the world. Every year, measles is brought into the U.S. by unvaccinated travelers who get measles while they are in other countries.

- Children should get two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine—the first dose at 12-15 months and the second dose at 4-6 years.

- Babies 6-11 months old who are traveling internationally should get an early dose of the MMR vaccine at least two weeks before travel.

2. If your child is sick with measles symptoms, stay home and call your doctor.

- Symptoms usually start with a high fever, then a cough, runny nose, and red and watery eyes. A rash usually appears three to five days after the first symptoms.

- If you do not have a health care provider, call 2-1-1 to be connected to care.

- If you suspect measles, make sure to **call before** going to a doctor's office, the hospital, or a clinic to let them know about symptoms. Because the virus is so contagious, the office will need to take precautions before you arrive.

- While there is no treatment for measles, your doctor will have the best guidance on how to care for a child with measles.

For more information on measles and vaccines, visit HealthVermont.gov/measles.

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For more than a decade, MiniBury has been the go-to source of local information for folks raising children in Addison County. Parents and caregivers rely on MiniBury to give them the latest scoop on local family-friendly events, playgroups and storytimes, after-school programs and summer camps.

The most-visited page on MiniBury.com is the events calendar, which is updated regularly and includes recurring events such as playgroups, story times, after-school drop-in programs, open gyms, plus all the special family-friendly events that make our community such a great place to raise kids. Check it out!



Did you know MiniBury sends out a weekly email newsletter — and that it was named the No. 1 Outstanding Newsletter by the New England Newspaper and Press Association in 2021?

Each newsletter is packed with the latest news that local parents and caregivers can use, plus a little heartfelt, sometimes silly, intro from MiniBury's Megan James about life as a parent in our little corner of Vermont.

Sign up at minibury.com/sign-up-for-our-e-newsletter or scan the QR code!



Follow MiniBury on Instagram and Facebook to keep tabs on all things baby and kid-related in Addison County. We post alerts when summer camp and after-school program registrations open, when playgroups are canceled, or when Junebug is clearing out its winter gear. Our most popular posts are the events roundups we publish every Thursday morning so you can plan your weekend.

