



In the club

Learn all about Art Club, a group that brings communities together. See Arts+Leisure.



MAV debuts

The Commodore girls showed grit in giving a top D-II team a tussle on Tuesday. See Sports, Page 1B.



Spring sports

Previews, rosters, schedules and more on local high school teams are in our special section inside.

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

Feds target college on immigration

Records of foreign student and alumni terminated

By MARIN HOWELL & JOHN S. McCRIGHT

MIDDLEBURY — The Trump administration’s battle against higher education and non-citizens came to Addison County this week.

Federal immigration officials have taken action that could lead to visas being revoked for at least one foreign student at Middlebury College and three recent graduates from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in California.

“In recent days, four members of the Middlebury community ... had their Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) records terminated by the U.S. government,” said

a Wednesday morning email to college faculty, staff and students from top administrators.

Interim College President Steve Snyder, General Counsel and Chief Risk Officer Hannah Ross and Provost Michelle McCauley said in the email that the institution had to follow federal law related to foreign students and non-citizen faculty. But said they would pursue whatever legal means they could to protect them.

About 15% of Middlebury students come from overseas, with the largest contingent coming from China.

The college did not name the student in this SEVIS case to protect their privacy. But the

email did explain that SEVIS is the government database used to issue visa-eligibility documents and fulfill compliance requirements so foreign students can keep their F-1 (regular full-time student) or J-1 (exchange student) visas.

Erin Ruble, an Addison County immigration lawyer, told the *Independent* that the U.S. State Department has full discretion to revoke a visa at any time, though until now this was very rarely done once students were here.

“This is a new tactic that the government has recently begun employing,” Ruble said. “Termination of a student’s SEVIS record is not the same as visa revocation, but it could be a sign that a visa has been revoked.”

(See Foreign student, Page 10A)

Four-story apartment building eyed for Rt. 7

Middlebury project includes eatery

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A Pennsylvania attorney and developer is proposing a 32-unit, four-story apartment building — that would also host a restaurant — on a 0.71-acre lot near the intersection of Middle Road and Route 7, at Middlebury’s southern gateway.

The proposed “Middle Road Housing” project is the brainchild of Phil Rosenzweig, under the corporate name of Middlebury Investors LLC. A real estate attorney by trade, Rosenzweig has also launched several housing projects of his own — including the Valley

(See Middle Road, Page 9A)

Police say teenager killed father in Bridport

Nuciolo Jr. remains held on \$100K bail

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A Bridport youth and Middlebury Union High School student pleaded not guilty on Wednesday in Addison Superior Court, criminal division, to second-degree murder, in connection with the shooting death of his father at their home at 748 Swinton Road, Bridport on Jan. 24, 2024.

The accused — 18-year-old Stephen Nuciolo Jr. — was ordered held on \$100,000 bail and returned to the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield, where he can continue to receive special services. Nuciolo Jr. has been diagnosed with autism and has been functioning at the equivalent to a 6-7-year-old child, according to court records.

The \$100,000 bail could be rescinded if Nuciolo Jr. can be released into the custody of a responsible adult, at a residence

(See Bridport, Page 11A)



The Vermont Historical recently announced the winners of the 2025 Vermont History Day competition, and several Vergennes-area students were among the honorees. More than 350 students statewide entered the competition — the most ever. Vermont History Day is an annual educational competition for middle- and high school-aged students from around the state, who research, write, design and build a project about a historical topic, and gather to present their work for the chance to

(See By the way, Page 9A)

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CONSERVATION DETECTION DOG Chili Bean trains with her handler, Lindsay Ware, at the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area this past weekend. Similar to how a K-9 uses scent to search for explosives or a missing person, dogs like Chili Bean aid in conservation work by sniffing for biological targets like invasive species and endangered animals.

Photo courtesy of Amy Alfieri

Dogs help sniff out rare plants, wildlife

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON — This past Saturday about a dozen dogs and their handlers gathered for a rainy day of training at the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison. While their owners were officially off-duty, the canines were hard at work, sniffing out wildlife samples throughout Dead Creek’s different habitats.

The dogs’ unusual job title is “conservation detection dog.”

Like a police dog uses scent to search for explosives or a missing person, conservation detection dogs are trained to sniff for invasive species, endangered animals, and other biological targets related to

(See Conservation, Page 16A)

Firm set to operate city juvenile center faces allegations

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Vergennes officials and residents are concerned about last week’s report in *Seven Days* of legal issues experienced by the Sentinel Group — including charges of sexual abuse of teenage program residents by employees.

It’s important because it’s the company that the state of Vermont has hired to help design and possibly operate a proposed locked juvenile facility in the city.

The report could jeopardize plans to build in Vergennes a facility called the “Green Mountain Youth Campus,” which is a joint project of the Departments of Children and Families (DCF) and Buildings and Grounds & General Services (BGS). The two agencies

(See Juvenile Center, Page 1A)

Longtime teacher part of Ripton’s graduating class

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — It will be a bittersweet graduation this June for the handful of Ripton Elementary School 5th-graders who’ll have the poignant distinction of being perhaps the last class to move on from RES to Middlebury Union Middle School.

And among the class of 2025 will be a dedicated and highly respected educator who’s been teaching Ripton students since before the RES building was erected and opened in 1989.

Susan Ogilvie had mapped out her departure well before the Addison Central School District board’s decision two weeks ago to close RES at the end of this academic year, due to declining enrollment.

“I’m not thinking of this transition as retirement; I’m graduating,” Ogilvie said during a Tuesday interview at the school. “And I’m so lucky to have had a phenomenal group of kids to graduate with.”

(See Ripton, Page 10A)



Next chapter

WORKERS WERE BUSY this week with deconstruction of the Ilsley Public Library’s 1977 and 1988 additions, to make way for a modern renovation and expansion of the library at 75 Main St. in Middlebury. Here you can see where the elevator used to be.

Independent photo/Steve James

Slate Valley schools earn voters’ OK for budget

By JOHN FLOWERS

ORWELL — Orwell voters on Tuesday joined other Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD) residents in approving a revised fiscal year 2026 public education budget of \$31,623,010.

Residents of the SVUUSD member towns of Orwell, Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton and West Haven endorsed the PreK-grade 12 spending plan — which was \$463,256 less than the one voters rejected on March 4 — by an 824-631 margin.

The approved FY’26 spending plan reflects a 3.69% increase

(See Orwell, Page 16A)

Powersport dealer grows its offerings

By MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — Cyclewise Inc. has grown quite a bit since Joe and Tamara Boise founded the New Haven powersport dealership in 1997.

Over the years, they’ve moved the operation from Bridport to its current home at 130 Ethan Allen Highway in New Haven and added new brands and vehicles to its offerings. Earlier this year, Cyclewise expanded

(See Cyclewise, Page 15A)

Chan hired as MUMS assistant principal

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Fieh Chan, one of four siblings, was born soon after his parents emigrated from Hong Kong to the U.S. during the 1970s.

“One of the main reasons my parents left everything behind was so my brothers and I could attend American schools,” Chan recounted during a recent email exchange. “I understood from an early age how powerful education can be in shaping lives and expanding opportunities. That belief, along with my own positive school experiences, inspired me to become a teacher and eventually led me into educational leadership.”

Now Middlebury Union Middle School students and faculty will benefit from Chan’s inspiring backstory and the skills he’s learned along his life’s journey. Chan on July 1 will officially succeed Zach Jerome as MUMS assistant principal. Since 2019 he has served in that same role at Milton Elementary School.

Prior to that, he was assistant principal at Edmunds Middle School in Burlington (2017-2019); interim assistant principal of Rutland Middle School (2016-2017); assistant training coordinator for the Vermont Agency of Education (2015-2016); Summer & After School Programs Coordinator for the Stafford Technical Center in Rutland, where he also served as STEM Academy and Outreach coordinator (2014-2016); and a math teacher at Rutland High School.

Chan got his professional start as a math teacher at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, Md., not far from Washington D.C., where he was born and raised.

What was it about the MUMS job that prompted him to apply?



FIGH CHAN WILL soon begin his new job as assistant principal of Middlebury Union Middle School.

“I lived in Forestdale for over a decade and have always loved the Middlebury community,” he said. “As I learned more about MUMS, the school’s vision deeply resonated with me, especially its focus on belonging, empowerment and empathy. As a

The attraction was mutual. Addison Central School District officials said they were impressed with Chan’s extensive resume, including his experience with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics), school administration and as a classroom educator.

“In addition to all the other things he brings, (Chan’s experience teaching secondary-school math) is really something that made his candidacy perfect for this moment in time for MUMS’s trajectory,” ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker said.

Michaela Wisell, principal of MUMS, also detailed Chan’s many qualities.

“Fieh comes to us with years of experience as an assistant principal and experience in middle school, which is valuable to us as we continue to design the middle

school experience that we hope to provide all ACSD students,” she said in an email. “Fieh is a good listener, strong communicator and willing collaborator, all of which are important characteristics of an assistant principal. I look forward to getting to know him better and working beside him in the coming years to continue to strengthen our community of learners here at MUMS.”

MUMS serves Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge students in grades 6-8. It’s a school in which students plunge more deeply into the International Baccalaureate program while getting prepared for high school.

It’s clear Chan has a lot of energy, both for work and his family/personal time.

“Outside of work, I find joy in spending time with my wife and two sons, whether it’s exploring the outdoors, cooking together, or supporting my children at sports events. Maintaining a healthy work-life balance is important to me, and I prioritize self-care and exercise to recharge and rejuvenate in order to bring my best self to my school community each day,” he said.

Chan is ready to hit the ground running.

“My diverse background and experiences have equipped me with a deep understanding of the complexities of education and a passion for fostering positive change within schools and communities.” — Fieh Chan

states in his bio. “Additionally, my work experience across K-12 settings has shaped my understanding of the transitions students face as they journey through their education. This has reinforced my belief in the importance of the middle school years in shaping student outcomes.

“My leadership philosophy reflects a commitment to equity and high-quality instruction, and my experience across grade levels ensures I can support teachers in preparing students with the skills they need to succeed now, and in the future,” he added.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



MATT BONOMA

VT Cookie Love eyes Middlebury location

Ferrisburgh sweets shop could add downtown branch

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — If you’re tuned into an oldies station, you’re bound to eventually hear Jackie DeShannon or Dionne Warwick soothingly intone the verse, “What the world needs now, is love, sweet love.”

While songwriters Burt Bacharach and Hal David had something deeper in mind with their tune, a well-established local entrepreneur plans on bringing some sweet love to downtown Middlebury — “Vermont Cookie Love,” to be specific.

Vermont Cookie Love — known for cookies, ice cream, creemees and other sweet treats — has built a loyal clientele since opening in its “Love Shack” headquarters at 6915 Route 7 in North Ferrisburgh, back in 2009.

And here’s the latest scoop: Vermont Cookie Love owner Matt Bonoma has purchased the 40 Main St. building in Middlebury that most recently housed Chim Chimney Bakery. That’s where he’s laying the groundwork for a second Cookie Love location.

“We’re still in the very early stages,” Bonoma cautioned during a phone interview on Monday. “The building needs some work to make it ready for what we want to do with it. There’s all sorts of equipment we’ve got to get in and electrical rewiring, and (contractors) are busy. We’ve just started down (the expansion) road.”

He stressed the North Ferrisburgh Cookie Love will continue operations. The new Middlebury store will provide the

same goods and services, but could eventually add some additional, as-yet-undefined sweet flourishes over time, according to Bonoma.

And Vermont Cookie Love leaders are committed to taking all the time needed to ensure the Middlebury store has a proper foundation and launch.

“My hope is that we’re going to be in a position to open sometime later this year, but it could be a year-plus,” he said. “We’re trying to do this well, rather than go too fast and stub our toe.”

Vermont Cookie Love calls itself an “artisan bakery and legendary ice cream stand.”

“We started as a vendor at the Shelburne Farmers’ Market and quickly grew to a hopping ice cream stand and gourmet cookie bakery,” reads the business’s origin story on its website. “Through all our years in business, we continue to use the highest quality ingredients and work with Vermont-based farms and suppliers whenever possible.”

The new Middlebury Cookie Love, like its North Ferrisburgh sibling, will be open year-round, when customers will have access to the store’s baked goods, frozen cookie dough and hard ice cream. Creemees will be available for around nine months out of the year. Bonoma explained that Cookie Love sources the best creemee mix available and must achieve a certain sales threshold to make that investment financially viable. As one can imagine, the demand for creemees wanes during the of winter.

Vermont Cookie Love describes its mission as:

- Producing the “best all-natural frozen cookie dough available on the market, with an emphasis on using the highest quality Vermont-based ingredients possible.”
- Serving “the most delicious, all-natural ice cream sourced at local dairy farms, with an emphasis on homemade sauces and toppings.”
- Building a “conscious, values-based company committed to minimizing our environmental footprint and being a positive force in the community and the world.”

The business primarily uses locally sourced, non-GMO and organic ingredients, according to its website. Vermont Cookie Love takes gift package orders for its cookies, which are sent

far and wide in packaging that’s 95% compostable. The business’s bowls, spoons, cups and napkins are 100% compostable, according to company literature.

Folks who haven’t yet visited Cookie Love might still have tasted their cookies. The business partners with several area schools on fundraisers, through which students gather funds through the sale of Cookie Love cookie dough — provided by the store at a substantially discounted rate.

Speaking of dough, that was the staple product of 40 Main St.’s previous occupant. Chim Chimney closed recently after a brief run. Chelsea Griggs and Travis Armistice launched Chim Chimney last year after having acquired 40 Main St. during the spring of 2023 from Main Street Stationery owners Greg and Barbara Tomb. That business specialized in a Hungarian confection known as Kürtőskalács, or “chimney cakes,” into which sweet or savory items — like ice cream, fruit or cheese — can be added.

Bonoma said the Cookie Love team had spent the past three years searching for a good expansion spot.

“(48 Main St.) checks more boxes than anywhere else so far,” he said.


Bonoma believes Cookie Love and Middlebury will be a tasty match. He hopes to share more details in the near future.

“We’re working as hard and as fast as a very small team can, while running a business full-time already,” Bonoma said. “We are thrilled to have this opportunity in Middlebury. What a neat town. My sense is that Cookie Love will be a good fit and a good member of the community.”

Kathryn Torres, co-director of the Better Middlebury Partnership, said she’s thrilled Cookie Love has picked the shire town for a new store.

“We think it will really add to the mix of what’s available in downtown Middlebury,” said Torres, who envisions Cookie Love customers enjoying their cookies and creemees in nearby Triangle Park, then checking out other stores. “We think they’ll be bringing in people who might not otherwise come to Middlebury.”

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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Apr 16 - Apr 22

Panton eyes recall measure

By ANDY KIRKALDY

PANTON — As well as choosing among three candidates for two seats to fill out a newly expanded selectboard (see related story), Panton residents on May 15 will also decide whether to approve a charter change that would allow them to petition for a vote that would give the town electorate the chance to remove an elected town official from office.

Such a recall vote petition was originally proposed this past fall by a resident, but it was amended by the town's three-member selectboard after it was learned the petition was not taken to town hall in a timely manner.

Board members said they did not oppose the concept of removing an elected official who had lost the confidence of a majority of voters. But they also maintained there should be minimum thresholds to be cleared before an elected official would lose his position, and board members added those provisions into the proposed charter change that will be before voters on May 15.

Specifically, if officials are to be removed from office, he or she would have to have as at least as many residents vote for removal as initially voted to put them in office, or at least one-third of the town's checklist, whichever number is lower.

In addition, the petition for the charter change would require signatures from at least 15% of the town's check list to trigger a recall vote, and only one removal petition could be filed against an elected official in any 12-month period.

If residents vote to change the town's charter to create the recall process, like any Vermont community's charter change it would have to pass muster with the Secretary of State's office and then the Vermont Legislature, most likely no sooner than the next winter's session, before taking effect.

The charter change as put forth by the selectboard is not the same one as petitioned this past fall by resident Sharon Ashcraft. On Wednesday, April 9, at the first of

two recent informational meetings on the charter change proposal hosted by the selectboard, Ashcraft said she wanted to make that point clear to fellow residents, especially those who signed her petition.

She noted her original petition simply called for a majority vote in favor of removal, without the additional provisions requiring thresholds for a successful recall vote.

"What they're voting on is not the same question," Ashcraft said. "There's been a couple things added to it."

The selectboard agreed to publicize that fact on Front Porch Forum.

Ashcraft went on to disagree with the changes, saying they made it too hard to remove an elected official from office.

"If you're really serious about adding this to the charter, why are you shooting yourselves in the foot by making it so difficult?" she said.

Residents Kathy Kennett and Debbie Brace (the latter is a selectboard candidate on May 15) had similar thoughts.

"It should be by Australian ballot," Brace said. "Majority rules, and keep it simple."

Kennett said she preferred a return to the original petition, where "the majority wins."

Selectboard members said they were wary of a small minority of voters in a special election ousting an elected official.

"You could have 12 people come in to have someone removed, and that doesn't sound fair, either," said board member Teresa Boucher.

Board member Zach Weaver suggested that if enough residents did not approve of what board members suggested was a compromise proposal, they could vote against the board version and refile the original.

"You can vote no on this, and resubmit the petition," he said.

Another informational meeting on the recall charter change was scheduled for Wednesday evening, April 16, after the deadline for this edition of the *Independent*.

Voters will have one last chance to ask questions and make their opinions known on the evening of May 14, when there will be a special town meeting at Panton Town Hall devoted to the charter change that the three candidates for the two open board seats are also likely to attend. (See related story on the selectboard race.)

CHARTER CHANGE

The full proposed recall charter wording is as follows:

"Any elected town officer may be removed from office subject to the following conditions and procedures;

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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.

(d) 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.

(e) A vacancy resulting from the recall of an officer shall be filled in the manner prescribed by law.

(f) A recall petition shall not be brought against an individual more than once within 12 months."

Three vie for Panton selectboard

By ANDY KIRKALDY

PANTON — Panton residents on Town Meeting Day approved expanding their selectboard from three members to five. Now three candidates have filed for election to those fill two openings.

A May 15 election — technically a special town meeting — will determine who'll fill those two seats.

Probably, that is.

One candidate, Debbie Brace, filed for both the open two-year and one-year seats.

Brace will face Kirsten De La Cruz for the two-year term, and voters will choose between Brace and Robert DeGraaf for the one-year term. All three candidates handed in petitions before the April 7 deadline.

Brace is, according to her Facebook page, the president of the Vergennes Lions Club, a lifetime member of the Vergennes

Area Rescue Squad, and an employee of McGee Chevrolet in Middlebury and the Ferrisburgh Bake Shop & Deli.

De La Cruz operates a family farm and a custom meat processing business, also per Facebook.

DeGraaf co-owns BJ's Farm Supply in Panton, which is more than its name implies — rather, it's a general country/convenience store that also sells locally produced foods.

The wrinkle in the race comes from Brace's double participation, which led Town Clerk Kyle Rowe to research the question of what happens if she wins both races.

Rowe said officials at the Vermont League of Cities & Towns advised Panton that if Brace wins both, she'll be required to resign one of the seats.

At that point, it'd be up to what would be a four-member selectboard to appoint a fifth

member, with no legal obligation for the board to appoint the next highest vote-getter.

The candidates will have chances to make their cases to town voters. All are invited to the April 23 selectboard meeting, which is routinely available on Zoom at pantonvt.us; follow the selectboard links on the left side of the home page.

The *Independent* plans to publish answers to emailed questions to the candidates before the election, and there'll also be an informational meeting on May 14 at Panton Town Hall that candidates are likely to attend.

That informational meeting will also address a proposed charter change that would allow town residents to petition for recall elections for elected town officials. Hearings were held on that issue on April 9 and 16. See related story.



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Sumner to lead Beeman Elementary

NEW HAVEN — A new principal will take the helm of Beeman Elementary School in July.

The Mount Abraham Unified School District has hired Stephanie Sumner to succeed Travis Park as the New Haven school's top administrator.

District officials announced Sumner's hiring in an April 3 social media post.

"Our search yielded several qualified candidates and after a finalist process, Stephanie emerged as our candidate with overwhelming support," reads the post.

The announcement noted that Sumner is a native Vermonter who grew up on a dairy farm in West Haven and studied in "a two (sometimes three)-room, multi-age school."

"This unique setting provided her with early opportunities to be both a teacher and a learner, fueling her passion for education," district officials wrote.

Sumner, a Williston resident,

began her teaching career in 1996. She taught pupils in grades four-six for over 16 years, largely in southern Vermont. Sumner has also served as a math coach and coordinator and an instructional leader at Charlotte Central School, according to the announcement.

She later served as principal of the preK-grade 4 school, as well as an assistant principal at Rick Marcotte Central School in South Burlington.

Sumner has spent the past two years leading professional learning for educators, as a certified facilitator for Illustrative Mathematics and as a seminar instructor for individuals pursuing their special educator licensure through the Vermont Higher Education Collaborative.

"Although she enjoys working directly with teachers, she is eager to return to an elementary school setting to engage in active learning alongside teachers and students," reads the announcement. "Stephanie finds inspiration in connecting with learners of all ages as they tackle

challenges, make new connections, and share their talents with classmates, teachers, caregivers and the wider community."

The district is planning to hold meetings or events where community members can meet and welcome Sumner.




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Editorial

Gov. Scott finally objects to Trump’s illegal tactics

Vermont’s governor finally broke his silence on just one of the many unlawful actions undertaken by President Donald Trump since returning to power on January 20, 2025. During the past three months, Trump has assaulted the nation’s constitution by superseding the powers of Congress, sending the country into a constitutional crisis by ignoring court orders, jailing people who have a legal right to be in the country without due process, shutting down agencies and firing hundreds of thousands of staff illegally, disrupting and withholding billions of dollars on a wide variety of national priorities that were already approved by the former Congress (including FEMA aid for states recovering from devastating wind storms and floods), just to name a few of the wrong-headed directives this president has unleashed — often with glee — on the nation.

While demonstrations have been gathering steam around the country, and dozens of governors have assailed Trump’s illegal moves, Vermont’s Gov. Phil Scott has been mostly mum. Even when thousands of Vermonters gathered in Montpelier for the Hands-Off event last week, Scott was a no-show. (See Rep. Larry Satcowitz’s op-ed this week on Page 5A, asking where the state’s governor has been.)

But this week, Scott finally sided with a majority of Americans when he expressed caution (not outrage, but at least caution) that the president was in dangerous waters by denying individual rights without due process.

The incident that triggered the governor’s response was the arrest of Moshen Mahdawi. Mahdawi was detained by Homeland Security agents when he went to an immigration services center in Colchester to take what he thought was the final step to become a naturalized citizen. Mahdawi moved to Vermont from the West Bank in 2014 and has been a legal permanent resident, or green card holder, since 2015. That’s not what happened. Rather, the officers arresting him were not in uniform and wore masks.

Many Vermonters witnessed the arrest in shock and with disgust at what America has become under Trump.

“Yesterday, Vermonters witnessed the arrest of Mohsen Mahdawi, a foreign national with legal status to be in the United States of America,” wrote Gov. Scott. “That legal status, the Bill of Rights, and Constitution of the United States all grant him, and all people, fundamental rights – including due process.

“Facts matter. If there is evidence that Mahdawi is a threat to the security of our nation, or Vermont, the federal government should make this information known, immediately. Probable cause based on real evidence is the only justification to deny someone their liberty, so if the federal government cannot produce that evidence, Mr. Mahdawi should be released,” said the governor’s statement.

“What cannot be justified,” Scott added, “is how this action was undertaken. Law enforcement officers in this country should not operate in the shadows or hide behind masks. The power of the executive branch of the federal government is immense, but it is not infinite, and it is not absolute.”

Vermont’s congressional delegation was more forceful in their statements. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vermont, demanded the release of Mr. Mahdawi, a Palestinian student from Columbia University, saying: “This is immoral, inhumane, and illegal. Mr. Mahdawi, a legal resident of the United States, must be afforded due process under the law and immediately released from detention.”

Congressmember Becca Balint released a statement that put Trump’s action on par with Hitler’s infamous arrests by his Brownshirts, or Storm Troopers, who were a paramilitary organization that played a crucial role in Hitler’s rise to power. The Brownshirts engaged in violence and intimidation to suppress political opponents and build Nazi support among their followers who worshipped Hitler like many MAGA followers worship Trump.

“This should terrify every single person living in this country, regardless of your citizenship status,” said Balint. “This is Trump creating his own army of brownshirts right here in our country.”

Balint’s comment is doubly important because of Trump’s increasing use of suspect police tactics that reflect those of dictatorships — not a nation based on the rule of law.

In another case connected to the state, Tufts University student Rûmeysa Oztürk was snatched off the street by plain-clothes officers near her home in Summerville, Mass., just two weeks ago. She was abruptly cuffed, put in a police car, and transferred briefly to Vermont before being flown to Louisiana where she has been imprisoned in an ICE facility. No charges have been filed against her, yet the government seeks to revoke her student visa and deport her. Her alleged crime? She co-authored an op-ed piece in the campus newspaper criticizing the university for not doing more to speak out against Israel’s invasion of Gaza. For that act of free speech, she was kidnapped by law enforcement officers and imprisoned.

In another less abusive example (so far), Trump’s immigration officials have taken preliminary action against four students connected with Middlebury College that may result in their deportation. (See our lead story on Page 1A.) It’s a new tactic the administration has been deploying, in that the State Department has the legal right to revoke a student visa at any time, even though such rights have rarely been used. That’s because both Republican and Democrat parties have long believed the nation was stronger when the best and brightest foreign students chose to come to America to study.

Such personal assaults by this administration must be a line too far for all who uphold the Constitution. It’s one thing to have a brutal policy to round up and deport immigrants who are in this country illegally. It’s another to act as if all immigrants, most of whom are here legally, are a threat to the country and should be rounded up without due process and deported.

In these ways and others, Trump has become a modern-day Benedict Arnold — doing more to undermine the nation’s laws, foreign policy, and global economic supremacy in three months than our most ardent opponents have been able to do in two centuries.

Even conservatives are taken aback. “You’ve got to be scared that people who are not criminals are getting lassoed up and deported and sent to El Salvador prisons,” said Joe Rogan on his popular podcast, adding the case of the Maryland man mistakenly sent to El Salvador by the Trump administration was “horrific.” Added rightwing commentator Ann Coulter: “There’s almost no one I don’t want to deport, but unless they’ve committed a crime, isn’t this a violation of the First Amendment?”

Does she really have to ask, or did she couch that question so meekly because she too is afraid of Trump’s retribution?

Angelo Lynn



Fur better or worse

BARROW, A GERMAN short-haired pointer, who just went to the vet for a surgical snip, looks pensively out of Chris Reinfurt’s car.

Independent photo / Steve James

‘Around the Bend’ and into the sunset

Lately, I’ve been asking myself a question: When is it time for a small-town humor columnist to call it quits?

I’ve landed on the answer: It’s now. I’ve been writing this column for 22 years, which is a long time (too long, some might say). In some ways, a lot has changed; in the beginning, for instance, I wrote about how fun air travel with a three-year-old was. Yesterday, that same child asked me a question about her 401(k).

But most things have stayed about the same. One of my earliest pieces was about how Mark and I had bought a fixer-upper, but he was spending his weekends working on other people’s houses instead.

We own a different fixer-upper now, but the rest is evergreen.

I’ve never had (or wanted) an exciting life, which is why I’m baffled that I am still allowed to write a column, and that people still read it. Editor John McCright often assures me that a “slice-of-life” column doesn’t have to be thrilling; it just has to be relatable.

Last year, I had a chicken that came in the house once a day to lay an egg under my desk. Is that relatable? I can always default to self-deprecating humor or — even better — Mark-deprecating humor, but I’m finding it harder to come up with new topics. I’d like to think people turn to page 4A every other week happy to see my deceptively outdated photo smiling back at them. I don’t want them thinking, “Her again, already?” or “Jessie’s annoyed with the weather this week. Shocker.”

Most of all, I don’t want to write with the misguided confidence of one whose appeal has faded. Better that I step back now than wait for John to pull me aside and say, “We think it’s hysterical that you lose your phone a lot. But maybe you don’t need to write about it again so soon.”

On paper, I’m not too busy for the column. But somehow, despite only working part-time, I’m busier than anyone I know; I have a lot of hobbies. And while those could be good fodder for the column, I wouldn’t call them all “relatable.”

For example, my latest passion is teaching myself data analysis so I can study changes in the household possessions of Vermonters from the late 1700s to the late 1800s.

It’s a bit niche. Don’t worry; I’m not done writing. And I’m sure my byline will be popping up in the *Addy Indy* now and then. But for a while, at least, I’m eager to have more time for all those hobbies. I’ve already been having a blast poring over 19th-century probate inventories for hours, pausing only to enlighten Mark now and then.

Me: “Wow. In 1810, this person’s spinning wheel was only worth a dollar, but they had a clock that was worth \$20. That’s almost as much as their cow cost!”

Mark, in awe: “Um ... OK.”

While I am looking forward to escaping the biweekly pressure of writing the column, I’ll miss the deadline; I’ve used it to get out of obligations for decades. And

(See Jessie, Page 5A)



Around the bend

By Jessie Raymond

Being OK, even if confronting ‘All This’

My friend Jane (not her real name) and I met for a walk on a recent Sunday morning. It was sunny and warm and I was feeling particularly, if misguidedly, hopeful about the arrival of Spring. As we turned out of my driveway and my dog Ernie (his real name) started rooting around in the leaf litter for signs of our resident fox, Jane asked in a tone of concern, “How are you holding up with all this?” For a second I thought, “what is she talking about?” But I quickly remembered: Right, All This.

I took a deep breath and told her that I’m ok. I knew she had been distraught over All This, as it is a recurring theme in our text messages. Having recently started a new job, Jane was uncertain if her colleagues would be sympathetic to her occasional outbursts of news-induced rage, so I suggested she direct them my way. Though I want to run screaming from the room when my husband goes on a rant about whatever idiotic thing that has just come out of Washington, when Jane texts (and to be fair, it’s not frequent), I admit to feeling a tiny bit flattered. Mind you, I am not impervious to the never-ending and increasingly alarming news cycle. I might just as honestly have told Jane that I’m freaking out, preparing for a revolution, and having vengeful fantasies of the sort I really ought not to share. But, in that moment, walking into a mild southern breeze with

my dear friend and my joyful dog, I really was ok.

My equanimity is a choice. In the days after the 2024 election, as I reckoned with the outcome and what it might mean for the future, I reflected on the rage that consumed me back in 2016. Like a lot of women, I was furious. And afraid. Then the pandemic came. People were dying, my business was in peril, and Americans were in each other’s faces and at each other’s throats. It was an upsetting time. With my

twenty-something kids at home, grappling with their own fear and disappointment and in need of a target; my employees manifesting stress and anxiety I was unequipped to quell; and family and friends all having disparate responses to the pandemic and social upheaval, it seemed that every relationship I had was fraying under the strain of it all.

Fast-forward five years, and to my surprise, it’s mostly a blur. Personally, I experienced grief and conflict, but they have dispelled. More broadly, America will always have its original sin and new pathogens will continue to pop up. In the really big picture, like the 100-or-so billion humans who came before us, we 8 billion alive today have and will continue to experience a dizzying array of hardships that make the challenges of the last decade seem unexceptional. Our resilience is astounding.

(See Dayton, Page 5A)



Ways of Seeing

By Becky Dayton

Letters to the Editor

Legal rights protect us all

With respect to the Vermont detentions of legal U.S. residents Mohsen Mahdawi and Rûmeysa Öztürk — without criminal charges or opportunity for due process: You don’t have to agree with their politics at all to be dismayed at how our federal government is treating them. Although for some this is primarily an issue of supporting Palestine or not, it is also very much an issue of constitutional behavior by our government, of respecting free speech and access to due process.

Please make your voice heard on this matter, to our representatives in Congress and to any other elected officials who will listen. If these legal residents can be abducted because of what they say and believe, then so can you and I.

Richard Hopkins
Middlebury

Scott’s veto isn’t public’s will

Governor Phil Scott is no stranger to the powers of the governor. He has vetoed 57 bills since taking office in 2017.

His most recent veto is of the midyear spending bill, which passed with bipartisan support. He appears to be specifically targeting the extension of the motel voucher program’s winter rules. A policy he called controversial.

The only controversy I see here is Gov. Scott’s continued reliance on executive power to prevent the will of the legislature and the will of the people of Vermont.

In the past he has blamed partisanship, but there is no longer a Democratic supermajority. A lot has changed since Gov. Scott took office, including how we all view executive power — and the abuse of executive power to subvert political process sounds all too familiar today.

Al Harder-Hyde
Vergennes

Immigration facts speak volumes

The amount of intentional disinformation and unintentional misinformation about immigration is making it almost impossible to achieve a rational immigration system that truly serves our nation’s needs. Nine months ago, I didn’t know much about immigration, but given its importance in the election, I figured I should learn more. Here are a few of the surprising things I have learned:

- Our immigration situation now is truly an American tragedy. Our system needs fixing, but we have become so polarized and so poisoned with misinformation that a rational solution will be very difficult. Even so, I think we must try, for the sake of our economy at the very least.

- Regardless of one’s philosophy or emotions about it, the stark reality is that immigration is not some awful thing inflicted on us from outside. It is a good thing that the U.S. needs to secure the labor force to power our economy.

- Immigrants are not taking the jobs of native-born Americans on any appreciable scale as confirmed by many studies and common sense. All we have to do is notice all the help wanted signs or talk to business owners to understand we do not have enough workers to fill the jobs that employers need filled today.

- There is almost no growth in our native-born workforce age 18-65, so any real growth in the labor force needed to grow our economy must come from immigration in some form. There is no other source of the workers we need. Drastic restrictions on immigration would be a drag on our economy.

- Mass deportation of migrant workers would be a serious inflationary problem. Migrant workers and immigrants make up 25-50% of our farming and food

(See Jennings, Page 5A)

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Letters to the Editor

Humans should treat beavers more humanely

Moving beavers from their established homes is wrong. These intelligent animals that work hard to maintain their home environments and produce family after family over the years in their chosen and established locations should not be moved. We have learned to cohabit with bears and other wildlife allowing their habits. Beavers give us little or no difficulty. They can earn

our respect be quietly doing their work to stabilize the environment and improve out landscape. Exceptionally intelligent and skilled, peaceful and harmless, the beavers have earned every right to remain in their established homes. To cause them difficulties and possible harm they may encounter in an unfamiliar area is to act without sufficient thought, and may be unnecessary.

Fish and wildlife and state officials and engineers should be able to create practical and humane solutions that will allow the beavers to remain in the chosen home areas they have found ideal for their survival for many years, as well as any needed improvements to the dam situation.

Edith Bunningh
Vergennes

Let’s collectively say ‘no’ to the current Emperor

On the Christian calendar this week is Holy Week and on Friday, Good Friday, we remember the crucifixion of Jesus. On that Friday in 33 CE, the Governor Pilate offered to release Jesus. Instead, the religious leaders pledged their allegiance to the Emperor Caesar, and the crowds shouted for Jesus, “Crucify him!” This year on Good Friday, Venezuelan migrant workers, the vast majority having no criminal record, are being deported to and imprisoned in El Salvador. If we stay silent, we pledge our allegiance to the Emperor and allow the migrant workers to be

crucified. Local small business will be forced to close because they cannot afford to pay the 125% on what goods they import from China. If we stay silent, we pledge our allegiance to the Emperor and someone we know will be crucified. Families who depend on mostly lower prices at Walmart, which imports a vast amount of its goods from China, will struggle even more because they can no longer afford Walmart. If we stay silent, we pledge our allegiance to the Emperor and families we know will be crucified. When there is any act of violence against

a Jew for being Jewish, a Muslim for being Muslim, a Black person for being Black, a foreigner for being foreign, if we stay silent, we pledge our allegiance to the Emperor and our neighbors are crucified. I pray that this Good Friday *I will not be* among the crowd shouting “Crucify Him!” As a Christian *I must stand* and say “*No!*” to the Emperor, “*No!*” to crucifixion, and say “*Yes!*” to a living that leads to *life* for Every Person; for *Every Person!* I pray that you will stand up with me.

Patti Welch
Bristol

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A) as a procrastination tool? The house is never cleaner than in the 12 hours before the column is due. My biggest fear is for Mark and me. What will happen to our marriage when I can no longer publicly make fun of him? It’s so satisfying when he can’t defend himself. Maybe someone more interesting will step up to fill these column inches, and *Addy Indy* readers will discover that humor columns don’t have to revolve around aging or social

awkwardness. Or maybe I will conclude that Addison County hasn’t, in fact, heard enough about how I struggle to operate paper towel dispensers in public restrooms. For now, I want to say that I am deeply grateful to the *Independent* for giving me this space for so long. I am even more grateful to all the people who have read and (I hope) enjoyed the column over the years — whether because they found it truly funny or because they found it less stressful than the news.

Just be warned that without this outlet, I may soon be bursting with a backlog of unsolicited thoughts. So if I see you in public and start prattling on about the terrible weather and my failing memory and 19th-century wills, please don’t look at me in confusion and say, “Um ... OK.” I get enough of that at home.

Jessie’s past columns are available at the Addison Independent website and at www.jessieraymond.com.

Dayton

(Continued from Page 4A) With the threat of authoritarianism on the rise and daily news stories of one or another government agency being gutted by an unelected plutocrat, I am disturbed, but also aware that I can choose my emotional response. I will use my voice to express disapproval and to encourage my representatives to oppose the President, but I will not despair. Boston College historian Heather Cox Richardson, author of numerous books, including *Democracy Awakening*, a superb

explanation of precisely how we arrived at this point, tells us that, “authoritarians cannot rise if there are strong communities and people are acting with joy.” I admit that this sounded Pollyana-ish to me at first, but she goes on to say that an aspiring authoritarian feeds on the despair and anger of the people. “Don’t stop doing the things that you love because you’re scared, because that actually is a form of resistance.” Since not one thing changed between 2016 and 2024 as a result of my personal anguish, I’m going to embrace Richardson’s advice and commit

to living joyfully. So, if you see me walking my dog on a sunny day, smiling like an idiot at the daffodils my neighbor plants in the scrub along our road, or yapping with a customer about a book we both loved, that’s just me being ok. I hope you will be, too. Together we will endure. *Becky Dayton lives in Cornwall and owns Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury. In addition to being a voracious reader, she is an enthusiastic runner, cyclist, sculler — and joyful dog-walker.*

Jennings

(Continued from Page 4A) production sectors, depending on where you are (plus significant numbers in construction, hospitality and elder care). Deporting millions of migrants would severely restrict our food production and boost inflation. • Migrant crime is an emotional myth. Study after study shows that per capita crime rates for the immigrant population are lower than for native-born Americans, and migrant crime is lower still. People are not pouring across our borders to steal, rape and murder. They are coming to make a living to support their families, often escaping dangerous situations. They have a built-in incentive

not to commit crimes and risk deportation. Certainly, immigrants commit some crimes, but much less than the inflammatory myths being spread. • Undocumented immigrants paid an estimated \$96.7 billion in federal, state and local taxes, or \$8,889 per capita (2022 study by ITEP). This included \$33.9 billion in payroll taxes for Social Security, Medicare and unemployment insurance even though they are not eligible for these benefits and thus are subsidizing these programs. My takeaway is only when

we come to an understanding of the reality of the immigration situation, can we set about to improve the system. If our leaders across the country are too politically divided to seek rational solutions, then we citizens must push them. Once again, we the people need to rise to the moment to better our country. Regardless of our political ideology, it would benefit us all to push for doing the right thing.

Howard Jennings
Bristol

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Gov. Scott needs to stand up to Trump

I was at the Hands-Off rally in Montpelier on Saturday. It was an amazing display of solidarity and showed the determination we need to oppose what’s going on in our nation’s capital. The size of the crowd gave me hope that we are at the start of a true resistance movement that will thwart the billionaires and fascists that are currently in control of our federal government. I heard many wonderful speeches; inspiring and necessary. There was one topic, though, that I hoped would be addressed by at least one of the speakers, but I didn’t hear it: Where’s Phil Scott? I couldn’t stop thinking about it. So, when I got home, I wrote the speech that I would have given if I had been on the podium this past Saturday: “The Democratic Party is united in its opposition to Donald Trump, but every time a Democrat, like me, stands up, exactly no one is surprised. But opposition to Trump should not be a partisan issue. He is destroying our democracy. He is destroying our economy. And he is actively undermining our national security. These should not be partisan issues. There is currently no Republican Governor, Senator, or Representative who has the courage and integrity to loudly, boldly, and vigorously stand up to our Mad King. It is long past time for our Governor, Phil Scott, to forcefully resist this administration. Any Republicans

who speak out against this travesty do so with a special kind of authority as they are not Trump’s political opposition. I would remind you that Trump and Scott are on the same team. “Vice President J. D. Vance recently visited Vermont for a ski weekend. That was a wonderful opportunity to send a strong message to the administration in Washington. Instead, our governor welcomed him to our state while hundreds of Vermonters lined the streets to protest his arrival. Why? Is Phil Scott afraid of the President’s ire? Should we be afraid? That is exactly what the President wants. He wants us to be afraid. He revels in our acquiescence. The longer we take to speak up, the more powerful he becomes, and the harder it will be for us to resist. We need to be strong now. We need to be defiant now. We need to be really, really loud now. “In recent weeks we have seen the capitulation of major universities, of top law firms, and, with his deafening silence, our governor, Phil Scott. This is how fascism gets its way. Yes,

bravery is hard, but weakness will be our undoing. Phil Scott can choose his own words, but we demand he oppose the cruelty of the administration in Washington in the strongest possible terms. We demand he oppose its recklessness in the strongest possible terms. We demand he oppose its outrageous corruption in the strongest possible terms, and we demand he oppose the systematic undermining of our rule of law in the strongest possible terms. We are in the middle of a national emergency. “Phil Scott frequently reminds us about how he is the Governor of all Vermonters. All of us. Well, Phil, we need you now. We’ve never needed you more. Where are you? Why aren’t you here, with us, right now? Please join me: Where’s Phil Scott? Louder, please: Where’s Phil Scott? Louder again, so he can really hear us: Where’s Phil Scott?” I dearly hope I never need to give this speech, but unless we hear from our Governor soon, I’m ready.

Community Forum

This week’s writer is Larry Satcowitz, State Representative for Orange-Washington-Addison District (Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Randolph, Roxbury), Ranking Member of the House Environment Committee and a member of the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules

Most 2025 bills fail to satisfy

So far this year, the Vermont House has passed 65 bills. Some, including money bills, supported the necessary functions to keep our state running. A few nibbled at the edges of real problems that we struggle with. The rest are like a lukewarm cup of decaf coffee — not really satisfying our needs. This week, we began to turn the corner with H.454, a bill that addresses one of Vermont’s biggest challenges — our Education System. Originally constructed by the governor, this bill proposed a comprehensive structure that boldly achieved the necessary transformation. Unfortunately, the version that came to the House floor for a vote was another lukewarm cup of coffee — severely watered

down and missing many of the average key features that made the original proposal attractive. As passed by the House, H.454 falls short in several key areas. According to the Joint Fiscal Office, the funding proposals actually increase, rather than decrease, spending. Many success criteria for evaluating new district maps are poorly defined or completely missing. The governance structure of “local advisory boards” to ensure some local control was removed. The proposed minimum

class size metric could potentially be used to close small rural schools that are otherwise cost efficient, yet all metrics for administrative efficiency are removed. Finally, the proposed timeline pushes out the earliest possible date of transformation to 2030. Students and taxpayers cannot wait that long for the equity and affordability we so desperately need. There are parts of H.454 that I support, such as re-establishing State Aid for School Construction, (See North, Page 6A)



Legislative Review
by Rep. Rob North
R-Ferrisburgh

Elderly Services, Inc.

Spring 2025 Community Education Series

May 6:
Combating 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, UVMHN/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



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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Alroy Alfred Aunchman, 76, formerly of Addison

MESA, Ariz. — Alroy Alfred Aunchman, 76, passed away peacefully on April 3, 2025, in Mesa, Ariz. Born in Middlebury, Vt., he was the beloved son of Alfred Aunchman and Priscilla (Lowell) Aunchman. Alroy grew up on his family’s farm in Addison, Vt., a place that shaped his love of hard work and his appreciation for life’s simple pleasures. It was there he met and later married his high school sweetheart, Marilyn (Patten) Aunchman. Together, they built a beautiful life rooted in love, laughter, and adventure.

After leaving the farm, Alroy worked for the Vergennes Water District before spending many dedicated years at Blodgett Ovens in Burlington, where he remained until his retirement. Retirement, however, didn’t slow Alroy down — it allowed him to pursue his true passion of working with his hands, opening a small auto repair shop out of his garage, where he was happiest fixing cars and helping neighbors.

Throughout their life together, Alroy and Marilyn traveled, lived in



ALROY ALFRED
AUNCHMAN

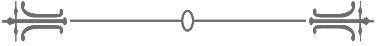
various places, and formed lifelong friendships wherever they went. Their love for family, friends, and animals — especially Marilyn’s horses — warrants special thanks to the Jackson family, dear friends whose kindness, laughter, and love meant the world to Alroy and Marilyn over the years.

Alroy was a proud member of the

American Legion Post 14 and the Eagles Club of Vergennes, where he created lasting memories and friendships that he treasured deeply.

He is survived by his loving siblings, Sis (Michael) Babcock, Leisa Deyette, Cheryl (George) Cox, Pam (Richard) Maynard, Elroy (Melissa Sullivan) Aunchman, and Marilyn’s brother, William (Cheryle) Patten. He also leaves behind many cherished nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was predeceased by his parents; his beloved wife, Marilyn (Patten) Aunchman; his sisters-in-law Carol Patten and Verna (Patten) Duprey; his brothers-in-law Glen Deyette, Robert Duprey Sr. and David Little; his niece Candace Little; and his nephew Merrill Patten.

In honor of Alroy’s love for animals, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to Homeward Bound, Addison County’s Humane Society in Middlebury, Vt. Per Alroy’s wishes, there will be no calling hours, and a private burial will take place at a later date. ◊



Glenellen Hawthorne Stefaniak, 87, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Glenellen Hawthorne Stefaniak died in Middlebury on April 8, 2025.

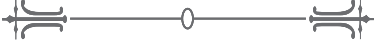
She was born in Boston, Mass., on Feb. 9, 1938, to Samuel Richards Gaines and Ellen Keiser Gaines. Samuel was a well-known composer and organist, and worked with other music industry leaders such as Percy Grainger. She and her brother, Roger Gaines moved to live with their aunt and uncle, John R. Groh and Karline Keiser Groh in Pennsylvania at a young age. Glenellen attended school at Linden Hall, college at Elizabethtown, and graduated from Wichita State University.

She was committed to the Vermont way of life, was an early member of the Middlebury Food



GLENELLEN HAWTHORNE
STEFANIAK

Coop, and was passionate about classical music, nature, gardening,



Judy Gail Lubinski, 78, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Judy Gail Lubinski, age 78, passed peacefully, in the care of her daughter, on April 8, 2025.

Judy was born in Smithfield, N.C., on Jan. 6, 1947. She was the daughter of Henry and Louise (Parrish) Peedin. She received her education in Smithfield and graduated class of 1965. Following graduation, she joined the United States Air Force and served four years. On Nov. 20, 1969, she married Michael Lubinski in Smithfield, N.C. They made their home in Leicester. Judy worked more than 34 years at Vermont Tubbs as a woodworker, assembly and finishing work. She was an avid league bowler in Middlebury and Rutland. She enjoyed yardwork and



JUDY GAIL LUBINSKI

her flower gardens. She filled her home with over a hundred wooden

ballet and figure skating. Glenellen worked as a teacher, tutor, and did in-home and hospital health care, always nurturing others.

She is survived by her children, Dean Hawthorne of Shoreham, Vt., and Jennifer Hawthorne of Stamford Conn.; grandchildren, Jeffrey and Julian Peck; her cousins, Dianne Thiel, Vicki Freeland, and Kathy Cox and their spouses; and was predeceased by her husband, Ed.

She had a big heart for everyone and had many dear friends in the community. As she often said, “my arms around you.”

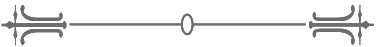
Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com. ◊

puzzles of dragonflies and other various animals.

She is survived by her daughter, Michelle Lubinski of Leicester; a grandson, Jayme Kenyon of Cape Coral, Fla.; a granddaughter, Danielle Kenyon of New York; and two sisters, Lorna Blalock of Clayton, N.C., and Mardie Batten of Spring Hope, N.C. She was predeceased by her husband, Michael Lubinski, two brothers, Joseph and Julian Peedin; and two sisters, Betty Carter and Jackie Ralston.

Respecting her wishes all funeral services will be private. Burial will be in Brookside Cemetery in Leicester. Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊



John J. Jewell celebration of life

ADDISON — A graveside service for John J. Jewell, who died on Jan. 7, 2025, will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 3,

at Lakeview Cemetery in West Addison. A celebration of life will follow at 1 p.m. at the Middlebury VFW, 530 Exchange St.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — The Ladies Aid Industria spring rummage sale will be held at Burnham Hall the first weekend in May. The sale hours will be Thursday, May 1, from 1 to 7 p.m., Friday, May 2, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, May 3, from 8 to 10:30 a.m.

Donations will be accepted on Wednesday, April 30, from 1 to 7 p.m., downstairs at Burnham Hall. Donations should be spring and summer items in clean, undamaged condition. Electronics, helmets and car seats will not be accepted.

The steering committee of Lincoln One Small Step invites you into a community conversation on Tuesday, May 6, at 5:30 p.m. at Burnham Hall. This gathering is being designed with these goals in mind: providing an opportunity for community members of all persuasions to come together with an attitude of openness and curiosity about their neighbors, to have a conversation about our shared values and where we are on common ground, and to discuss the diverse factors that contribute to a person’s perspective.

The initial community conversation is based on a variation of Vermont Public’s StoryCorps’

One Small Step, a program that brings people with different views together to have a conversation — not to debate politics — but simply to get to know each other. The initiative helps combat the polarizing effects of news and social media by talking to each other one-on-one again, approaching each other with curiosity, allowing us to remember that we all have more in common than we think.

Pizza, beverages and sweets will be provided. Please RSVP to Deborah Lubar at deborahlubar@icloud.com if you would like to attend.

Burnham Presents Bruce Molsky and Ale Möller for a special season finale concert featuring dynamic harmony from Nordic and Appalachian cultures on Saturday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Burnham Hall.

Grammy-nominated Molsky wows audiences with his authentic and personal interpretations of rarities from the Southern Appalachian songbook and other musical traditions from around the globe. Swedish musician and multiple Grammy Award winner Möller creates his own musical universe and has earned legendary status for how he expanded the concept

of folk and traditional music for decades.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$25 generous admission and \$10 for children 12 and under. Youth on laps are free. Homemade refreshments will be available.

FROM THE TOWN

The development review board is the quasi-judicial entity responsible for hearing all applications for development review, including applications for subdivisions, variances and waivers, conditional use, administrative officer appeals, and any other reviews authorized by the bylaws.

If you are an analytical, open-minded and investigative person who is good at decision making based on the established bylaws, rules, and regulations, this board is for you. We are seeking to fill a member and an alternate position. If you are interested in this position, please send a letter of interest to selectboard chair Tim McGowan at tmcgowan@lincolnvermont.org, drop it off at the town office or mail it to the town office at 62 Quaker St. There’s also a drop box by the door if it is after hours.

Until next time ... Happy Easter!

Juvenile cited for driving under the influence

VERGENNES — Vergennes police on April 9 cited a 16-year-old for driving under the influence, first offense. Police issued the citation after responding to a report at about 9:30 p.m. of a vehicle heading the wrong way along the one-way East Street and then parking at the skate park in the recreation area near Vergennes Union Elementary School.

The juvenile was also cited for providing false information to a police officer and then taken to the Vermont State Police Barracks in New Haven for processing. In other actions between April 7 and 13, Vergennes police also conducted 20 traffic stops, seven directed patrols and a VIN inspection; responded to two false alarms; processed nine fingerprint requests; and:

On April 7:
• Planned to send an officer to Vergennes Union High School on April 8 as a precaution after Vermont State Police received an anonymous tip that someone had called a Department of Defense self-help hotline and claimed that multiple state high schools were going to be targeted by active shooters that day,

• Heard from one parent of concern for a child’s welfare when at another parent’s home. Police said an investigation is ongoing.

• Explained to a woman how to go about retrieving belongings from an ex-boyfriend’s vehicle.

go about retrieving belongings from an ex-boyfriend’s vehicle.

On April 8:
• Served an abuse-prevention order on a city resident.

• Helped a motorist whose vehicle had broken down on Green Street.

• Checked the welfare of a child staying with one parent at the other parent’s request; police said the child was in good health.

On April 9:
• Went to a city home to check on the welfare of a dog and worked with its owner on a plan to ensure its safety,

• Began investigating an alleged violation of an abuse prevention order.

• Were told of threats made to a city resident and began an investigation of a potential violation of an abuse prevention order.

• Conducted a high-visibility patrol at Vergennes Union High School due to recent swatting incidents.

• Spoke to a city dog owner about its safety and care.

On April 10:
• Began investigating an alleged violation of an abuse prevention order.

• On South Maple Street were told a child had pushed another child, who was trying to break up a fight, in front of a car. Police reported there were no significant injuries,

North

(Continued from Page 5A)

creating statewide consistency for high school graduation requirements, and establishing a foundation formula for funding to ensure student equity and taxpayer predictability. I remain optimistic that by working together with the Senate, we can craft an Education Reform Bill that we and the

governor will all support.

On a final note, I am increasingly frustrated that the House majority party leadership has refused to allow high impact bills to be addressed, including the governor’s. I encourage everyone to contact the house speaker and committee chairpersons to let them know what bills you want to see acted on

that will directly help Vermonters, such as: H.43-Exempts military retirement from Vermont state tax; H.65-Repeals the electric vehicle mandate and phase-out of gas/diesel cars; and H.74-Phases out state taxation on Social Security benefits.

I remain honored to be your Representative.

Letters to the Editor

Our county is blessed by its early childhood educators

Thank you to all our early childhood educators, and their vast network of support for creating a comprehensive, interesting, informative and enjoyable Early Childhood Guide for this community. This

is a perfect way to highlight The Month of the Young Child.

I am constantly in awe of the highly proficient, dedicated, well-educated, thoughtfully trained and experienced early childhood educators with which Addison

County is blessed.

Having these resources available to children and families is crucial for our future. Understanding early childhood development and using infinite kinds of play helps ensure that we will have a constant source of new leaders, workforce, teachers, skilled trades people, caregivers of all kinds et cetera. We will have individuals who have skills to remain calm and think, can negotiate diplomatically and respectfully, will learn from experiences past and present, who are kind, compassionate, and who possess a sense of humor, curiosity and wonder.

Thanks to our early childhood community our hopes and prospects are strong and bright. I feel so very grateful.

**Johana “Jody” Brakeley,
M.D. retired
Early Care and Learning
Partnership
Middlebury**

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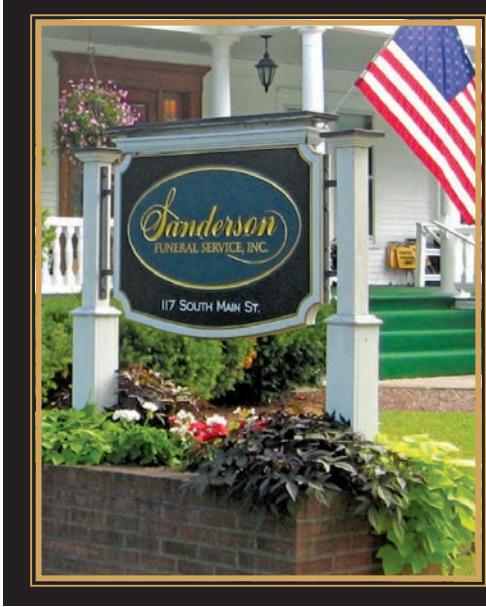


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Many sweet haikus the judges deliberate honor worthy works

WEYBRIDGE — Weybridge’s Seventh Annual Haiku Contest asked Vermonters to reflect on the world around them in our challenging times. Reflect they did, with 108 writers — ages 7 to 90, first-time writers and accomplished poets, parents and their children — submitting 420 haikus. As in past contests, the themes ranged widely — despair over fickle weather, challenges in growing old, perils of climate change, the beauty of Vermont in all seasons.

Novelist and poet Julia Alvarez, Weybridge’s co-poet laureate and contest founder, best expresses the contest’s goal: “Haikus help us see, hear, touch, smell, and taste things that we might have missed before in our hurry and busyness.”

In the first year, limited to Weybridge residents, nine contributors submitted 70 haikus. The contest, now open to Vermonters, has grown six-fold since then.

“Winning” is secondary say the contest’s three Weybridge judges — Gwen Nagy-Benson, Barbara Brosnan, and Susie Davis — all past contest winners. The contest’s purpose is to celebrate the joys of poetry for everyone, especially during April, National Poetry Month.

As in the past, judges found the diverse themes of the haikus compelling and heartfelt.

“These haikus are still singing in my head and heart as I go through my day. The voices were honest and open sharings of appreciation for our beautiful planet, concerns about our times, songs of hope

and songs of laughter. Five 7 5 is a magic frame on which we can all hang our thoughts. Keep on writing everyone!” Brosnan said.

“I love haiku for illuminating fleeting moments of joy, wonder, and humor; I often found myself chuckling or sighing in agreement. This year, I was struck by the number of people who used haiku to express fear, sadness, and pain about their own relationships, the political climate, and climate change (particularly among the young writers).

The power of haiku is distilling emotion into 17 tight syllables; I hope the exercise offered some relief. As always, they were a joy to read,” Nagy-Benson said.

“Having reviewed the entries, all the writers’ efforts, regardless of age or level of lifetime experiences, demonstrate a strength and hope for our humanity. This is very encouraging and much appreciated,” Davis said.

Like previous contests, there were three winners in each of the three divisions: Weybridge adults; Vermont adults; and Weybridge and Vermont Youth. Reflecting the quality of the submissions, the judges also selected six writers for Honorable Mention and created four categories—Best Haikus About Haikus, Best Haikus about Getting Older, Best Haikus for Our Times, and Best Hopeful Haikus.

Thirteen Weybridge residents submitted 101 haikus. Ninety-five Vermont residents submitted 319 haikus.

The winners and their haikus follow:

WEYBRIDGE AND VERMONT YOUTH

First: Rosie Barry, Weybridge, 7th grade, Middlebury Union Middle School

*Oral stories form
into myths, legends, and lore
the words transform worlds*

Second: Asa McCallum, Weybridge, 3rd Grade, Weybridge Elementary School

*Juicy as can be
Tasty squishy delicious
Those are berries*

Third: Bryson Leonard-Otis, Northfield, 3rd Grade, Northfield Elementary School.

*Reading is so tough
I like reading but it’s hard
I believe in me.*

Honorable Mention: Charlie Kelly, Burlington: Age 7, youngest contributor. 2nd Grade, Champlain Elementary School

*The leaves are falling
The leaves are brown and orange
It’s time to let go.*

Honorable Mention: Shamus Phelan, Williston, Grade 11, Champlain Valley Union High School

*Sweaty, sweaty gear
Hockey, hockey, hockey life
Tired, tired bed.*

Honorable Mention: Emrys Metcalf, Middlebury, Age 8

*The whoosh of the wind
The crackle of the campfire
Ah! Look out! A bat!*

WEYBRIDGE –ADULTS

First: M.T. Baird

*Outpourings of books
into little libraries
sing out resistance.*

Second: Spence Putnam

*Low temperatures
Skating for twenty-eight days
Old fashioned winter*

Third: Doug Wilhelm

*In a swirling snow
cardinal lands on a branch
Life’s bright red surprise*

Honorable Mention: Martha Winant

*Enough of Winter!
Bring on the red winged
blackbirds
Alert the Peepers!*

Honorable Mention: Beth Whitaker

*Air slowly softens
Days lengthen, sap is rising
Catch it in buckets!*

BEST HAIKUS ABOUT GETTING OLDER

Karen Hein: Jacksonville

Turning 80

*Ninth decade begins
Curious, open...aware
Living fully now.*

Tricia Knoll: Williston

*spreading forget-me-not seeds
on land I’ll leave behind
aging*

VERMONT - ADULTS

First: William Graham: Stowe

*I grabbed a big load
Of sunrise and carried it
With me all day long.*

Second: Jay Karl Stevens: Weathersfield

*Before one: nothing
After one: the infinite
This is basic math*

Third: David Weaver: Underhill

*The Winter Reveal

Lights in the distance.
Fallen leaves bring the
neighbors
from behind the trees.*

Honorable Mention: Meira Droznah

*Unraveled
Mending things takes time
Wholes shatter without logic.
Patience is my glue.*

Honorable Mention: Michaela Stickney, Huntington

*An outcrop of half
written thank you notes grows
glacially on my desk.*

BEST HAIKUS ABOUT HAIKUS

Mason Singer: Calais

*five seven five five
seven five five seven five
five seven five done*

Martha Anderson Sanborn: Vergennes

*One perfect morning
writing haiku in the sun
Thanks Weybridge, Vermont!*

Carol Calhoun: Weybridge

*Massage and torment
box, wrestle to 5/7s
some words won’t submit*

George Bellerose: Weybridge

*Haikus are chicken
soup for the soul. Write one. The
world will seem brighter.*



*Files with the 420 haikus
are available from George
Bellerose, contest administrator
at georgebellerose@gmail.net or
802-545-2035.*

HAIKUS FOR OUR TIMES

Peter Langella: Moretown

*Executive pens
can’t touch Orion — unbound,
knowing, gleaming, free*

*Social justice is
a bit like a kite; hold strong,
the winds are vicious.*

Pam Quinn: Middlebury

*Fear is unveiling
Democracy is failing
Justice is ailing*

Stephen Peck: Wells River

*Be it flood or fire
With such political ire,
So many expire.*

John Burbank: Bristol, Oldest Contributor, 90

*Drifts when I was young
Were great for making
tunnels;
Now there is not enough
snow.*

Barbi McDonald: Ferrisburgh

*Weird weather patterns
Our globe is getting warmer
We must save the earth*

BEST HOPEFUL HAIKUS

Kim Deslaurier: Bolton

*When life gives you snow
Go out and make snow angels
Find peace in the play*

Chuck Howe: Tunbridge

*Seek out those hurting
Those with desperation
Lift them with kindness*

Patricia Nolin: Jericho

Flower and Rock

*I saw a flower
growing out of a hard stone
soft pink against grey.*

Maria Genovese: Burlington

*Humanity is
not everything that exists.
Nature is magic.*

*All gardeners know
that what you focus on grows.
Cultivate some calm.*

Elizabeth Frank: Orwell

*Planting seeds and trees
Brings joy, puts my mind at ease
Hope for the future!*



Children on parade

PRE-SCHOOLERS FROM MARY Johnson Children’s Center march across the Cross Street Bridge into downtown Middlebury this past Friday dressed as their favorite book characters. It was part of the center’s celebration of the Week of the Young Child.

Independent photo / Christy Lynn

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Lincoln eyes options for York Hill Bridge

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Lincoln residents and state transportation officials are discussing options for the future of Bridge 46, often called York Hill Bridge, which needs rehabilitation or replacement in the coming years.

The project could run up to \$4 million, but officials said the town would only be responsible for a small percentage of that total.

The 85-foot-long, 106-year-old bridge spans the New Haven River at the intersection of York Hill Road with West River Road. The York Hill Bridge project is in the VTrans Town Highway Bridge Program, which provides funding for municipalities to rehabilitate, reconstruct, replace or eliminate bridges.

A Local Concerns Meeting for the project was held during the Lincoln selectboard’s April 1 meeting. It provided information on the project to townspeople and heard residents’ feedback.

“Why we’re here today is we want to gather input from the town of how you guys want to proceed with this project,” explained Laura Stone, VTrans scoping engineer. “Sometimes we go to towns and we have a recommended alternative, but this one we just want to gather some more input from the town before making a final recommendation and finalizing our scoping process.”

Stone noted that the project is in a preliminary point in its development. The undertaking has been funded and is now in the project definition stage, which includes identifying resources and

constraints, assessing alternatives and building consensus toward a scoping report.

After that the project will move into the project defined stage, then onto project design, contract award and construction. According to the presentation, the project is expected to start construction in 2030 and cost an estimated \$3 million to \$4 million.

However, the town would cover just a portion of that cost. Stone explained that the town share of the project would range from 2.5% to 10% based on the scope of the project.

That’s because of Act 153, which was established in 2012 and “reduces the town share by 50% on town highway projects if the town elects to close the road rather than install a temporary bridge,” or pursue rehabilitation versus replacement.

For example, if the town decided to rehabilitate the bridge and close the road during construction, the local share would be 2.5%. If it decided to do a full replacement of the bridge and keep the road open during construction, the local share would be 10%.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

VTrans officials highlighted the existing conditions of York Hill Bridge, stating that Parker-pony-truss-bridge-style was constructed in 1919 and rebuilt in 1970. The bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Stone noted the bridge has been getting spot repairs for a decade and the existing steel is showing deterioration. Additionally, the

bridge’s guardrail is damaged and substandard, and its deck needs a new layer of asphalt.

VTrans officials added that the shoulder width on the bridge is substandard and that it has substandard freeboard.

“That means that it doesn’t meet the minimum hydraulic standard, and as I understand it (the bridge) was partially submerged in 1976, (1998), 2011, and the 2023 flood events,” Stone said.

The presentation also included pictures of the bridge’s abutments. Stone pointed to cracking in the southern abutment, and the start of scouring underneath the northern one.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

VTrans officials also outlined a few alternatives to consider for rehabilitating or replacing the bridge. Those options were:

- No action. This option isn’t recommended, as additional maintenance is required.
- Truss rehabilitation, which would address structural deficiencies, match the existing section of two, nine-foot travel lanes with one-foot shoulders, and have a 40-year design life.
- Full bridge replacement with a new pony truss. This option has a 75-year design life and could widen the structure to meet the minimum standard (two, nine-foot travel lanes with two-foot shoulders).
- Full bridge replacement with steel beam bridge, which has a 75-year design life and could be widened to meet the minimum standard. Stone noted this is the

most cost effective replacement option and could lengthen the bridge to meet the minimum hydraulic standards.

Lincoln residents and town officials discussed each of the alternatives, as well as options for traffic control during construction.

The presentation included cost estimates for each alternative. For example, the town share for the truss rehabilitation option ranged from an estimated \$79,923 to \$170,894. The local share for the full bridge replacement with steel beam bridge option ranged from \$152,298 to \$330,892.

VTrans officials offered a couple recommended alternatives: either a truss rehabilitation with new abutments or a full bridge replacement.

“Before we make that final recommendation in our scoping report, we did want to get buy-in from you guys,” Stone said.

Selectboard Chair Tim McGowan asked when VTrans would need a decision on the town’s preference. Stone said a decision wasn’t needed at that moment and could be made in the coming months.

Next steps for the project include finalizing the scoping report recommendation based on input from the Local Concerns Meeting, waiting for the town’s response to recommendation on proposed project, and developing conceptual plans and distributing those for comment.

“Thank you for giving us some options to look at and some dollars to ponder,” McGowan told VTrans officials.

The real enemy isn’t fear — it’s how we let it divide us

Fear defines us. Not by its presence, but by how we respond to it.

There are two kinds of fear. The first is primal. It grips us when lightning strikes too close or when the crack of a bullet signals imminent danger. In those moments, our bodies freeze, and our focus narrows. But with time, experience and discipline, we recover. We learn to navigate perilous situations, even to function in the face of fear.

The second kind of fear is more insidious. It seeps into our daily lives, lingers in the background and dictates our choices without us realizing it. America has always known fear — war, economic pain, uncertainty.

But today’s fear is different. It has been cultivated.

We live in a world of instability — jobs vanish, institutions falter, narratives shift by the hour. Every word we say, every action we take, is scrutinized, recorded and judged. The threat of digital mobs and public shaming doesn’t protect us; it paralyzes us. It breeds hesitation, then withdrawal, then division.

Fear isolates. It pushes us into ideological bunkers, surrounding us only with those who think like us. And when fear festers, it mutates. What begins as anxiety turns into resentment. Resentment hardens into hatred. Hatred strips away our ability to see others as people. The result is a society riven by suspicion and hostility.

There is no magic cure for fear. But there is an antidote: rules.

Rules are not shackles. They are the foundation of order. They define the boundaries that allow us to function, ensuring fairness and predictability.

For over two centuries, the U.S. Constitution has been our guiding framework, enduring war, crisis and division. It has been tested, yet it holds.

But the rules that matter most — the ones that govern character — are also in peril. The loss of external structure is one thing. The loss of internal discipline is another. Too many have abandoned the basic principles of integrity, decency and respect. Without these, society does not simply fray; it collapses.

In war, there was once an unspoken rule: Officers were

not to be deliberately targeted. Armies understood that without disciplined leadership, chaos would follow. Leadership, at its best, provides stability, guiding people through uncertainty with resolve and principle.

Today, our leaders — whether in politics, business or culture — are no longer simply attacked; they are torn down with glee. Worse, some have become the very architects of disorder, stoking division and resentment for personal gain.

They do not lead; they inflame. They do not steady the ship; they rock it for effect. And in doing so, they set a precedent that character no longer matters, that outrage is a currency and that the path to power is not through integrity but through spectacle.

When our leaders abandon character, it does more than set a poor example. It accelerates decay. It tells people that principles are optional, that decency is weakness, that rules are for fools. It fosters a culture of fear, where hesitation replaces confidence, cynicism replaces trust and self-preservation replaces the courage to stand for what is right. When those at the top abandon the standards that hold society together, the rest of us, knowingly or not, follow suit. And when enough people do, the foundation doesn’t just erode. It crumbles. We cannot afford to let this stand.

The strength of our character is not defined by the absence of fear but by our ability to face it, to rise above it and to live, and lead, with integrity. It is in these moments that we show the true measure of our resolve.

Fear is not a force to be defeated by force alone, but by the steady adherence to rules that govern both our actions and our hearts. In this, we will find not just a defense against fear, but also the foundation of our strength.

Editor’s Note: Stanley McChrystal, who is retired from the Army, is the former commander of U.S. and International Security Assistance Forces in Afghanistan and the former commander of Joint Special Operations Command. He is the author of the forthcoming book “On Character: Choices That Define a Life.”

Community Forum

This week’s writer is Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who is retired from the U.S. Army.

Vergennes students honored for culinary skills & teamwork

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ESSEX — A team of Vergennes Union Middle School students was honored for its culinary skills and teamwork at the 15th Annual Junior Iron Chef Vermont Competition, held on March 29 at the Champlain Valley Expo Center.

Competing against about 50 teams from around the state, the Vergennes middle school aquad — calling themselves “The Jalapeño Hotties” — was comprised of Ella Apuzzo-Kidder, Ally Letendre, Silas Audy and Nick Fuller. They impressed judges with their original dish, “Blackened Tofu with Sautéed Veggies over Grits.”

Their efforts earned them the competition’s “Mise En Place” award, recognizing the team that best demonstrated outstanding organization and professionalism throughout the event.

“Mise en place” is a French kitchen phrase that means “putting

in place” or “gathering.” It refers to the discipline and organization a good chef exhibits in the kitchen.

Teams were given 90 minutes to prepare and plate their dish for a panel of judges. The Jalapeño Hotties stood out not only for their flavor and presentation but for their collaboration and professionalism under pressure, according to the judges.

The team was coached by Asia Kruse, the Addison Northwest School District’s director of Afterschool and Summer Programs. Vergennes Union High/Middle School Fusion Afterschool Program Site Coordinator Sara Driscoll praised the work of the four-member team.

“This award is a testament to the hard work, creativity and composure of our students,” Driscoll said. “They represented VUMHS and the Fusion Afterschool Program with pride, and we couldn’t be more thrilled with their success.”



THE VERGENNES UNION Middle School team of, from left holding their award, Alyssa Letendre, Ella Bee Apuzzo-Kidder, Silas Audy and Nick Fuller, won an award for their organization and teamwork at the annual Junior Iron Chef Vermont Competition. On the far left is Head Judge Jim Birmingham, the Roxbury Public Schools food service director.

Photo courtesy of Asia Kruse



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Middle Road

(Continued from Page 1A)

Forge Terrace luxury apartments in Pennsylvania.

The Middlebury Development Review Board on Monday got its first look at conceptual plans for “Middle Road Housing.” At this early stage, plans call for 32 apartments, including one one-bedroom unit; five two-bedroom units; and 26 four-bedroom units. Ten of those four-bedroom units would be contained on a single story; the remaining 16 would be so-called “up-down” units spanning the third and fourth floors of the apartment building. The building would be 46 feet, 10 inches tall from ground to parapet, according to plans prepared by Vermont Integrated Architecture.

Rosenzweig has yet to assign rents to the apartments but offered some general insights.

He won’t be tapping any state or federal affordable housing programs to help subsidize the project. But Rosenzweig noted Middle Road Housing is to be built in one of Middlebury’s few Neighborhood Development Areas (NDA), a designation that allows developers tax and permitting incentives — including the ability to circumvent Act 250 review — in exchange for building housing in a spot favored by the community. Rosenzweig said his project’s Act 250 exemption comes with a responsibility to make 20% of Middle Road housing’s units “affordable,” based on Addison County’s median income.

Included within that 20%, according to Rosenzweig, will be the one one-bedroom apartment, the five two-bedroom units, and one of the four-bedroom units.

“We are honoring that and have built that in programmatically,” he

said. “But that doesn’t entail any affordable housing money from the public; it’s just my obligation to check the box regarding an Act 250 exemption.”

Addison Housing Works (AHW) is the county’s largest affordable housing nonprofit, and Elise Shanbacker is its executive director. The AHW isn’t a partner in the Middle Road Housing project. But she said that based on the county’s latest median-income profile, a single person would need to pay around \$1,600 per month for a one-bedroom unit, and a household would need to pay around \$2,100 per month for a two-bedroom unit.

As for the four-bedroom units, Rosenzweig envisions them as being particularly suited to multi-generational family households, groups of cohabitating young professionals and perhaps multiple Middlebury College students who have permission to live off-campus. In essence, households of related or unrelated tenants able to pool their resources to make the monthly rent a lighter lift for all.

“More and more younger people, in their 20s and 30s, are living for long periods of time with a roommate or roommates,” he said, casting his plan as a throwback to “the early immigration days to this country,” when housing was reimagined for multiple related or unrelated people.

“My thought is I would try to create bigger units with more bedrooms for multiple roommates,” he said, adding Middle Road Housing’s four-bedroom apartments would be 1,200 square feet or larger.

He acknowledged one of the four-bedroom units would be an “expensive rent” for a family of



THIS CONCEPTUAL RENDERING of the proposed Middle Road Housing development shows a 32-unit, four-story apartment building — with restaurant — that would be built near the intersection of Middle Road and Court Street.

Graphics courtesy of Vermont Integrated Architecture

two parents with three children.

“They would be better served buying a house,” he said.

Rosenzweig said he did his homework on Middlebury prior to assembling his application. He had originally sought to build something with smaller units. But that was before construction prices spiked — again.

“I read, word for word, the town’s master plan. I understood that housing is valued, a need, and welcomed conceptually,” he said. “But the more I worked through

my own project, the more I realized I couldn’t make a conventional, one- and two-bedroom market-rate project work. I couldn’t charge enough rent to make it... a viable financial exercise.”

It’s no coincidence that “middle” is a key descriptor for the project, according to Rosenzweig.

“I refer to the project as ‘the middle.’ It’s in Middlebury, on Middle Road, but also is targeted to the ‘missing middle,’” he said.

The “missing middle” term has come to symbolize the dearth of middle-income housing — folks earning too much to qualify for subsidized housing, but not enough for a conventional home-start.

Folks living at Middle Road Housing would have convenient access to Middlebury schools, The Centre (Hannaford’s) shopping plaza, Route 7, and state offices located in South Village Green, according to Rosenzweig.

The parcel, currently owned by local businessman Tony Neri, is a close neighbor to Good Point Recycling at 55 Middle Rd., and the One Dollar Market at 198 Court St. The land is in the town’s Mixed-Use District, deemed appropriate for housing, among other things.

Rosenzweig is still finalizing an agreement with a restaurateur to operate the Middle Road Housing eatery. The party — which he will

identify after a deal is reached — is an experienced entrepreneur with eight restaurants in his portfolio. He said the Middlebury restaurant would likely offer Mediterranean fare, “with a touch of Italian,” with dine-in and takeout options.

“We believe it will supply a missing piece of the culinary puzzle in Middlebury,” Rosenzweig said.

If all goes smoothly with permitting and financing, Rosenzweig would like to break ground on Middle Road Housing this fall. It would become the second major housing start-up in Middlebury, along with Stonecrop Meadows off Seminary Street Extension, in the past several years.

Middlebury Town Planner Jen

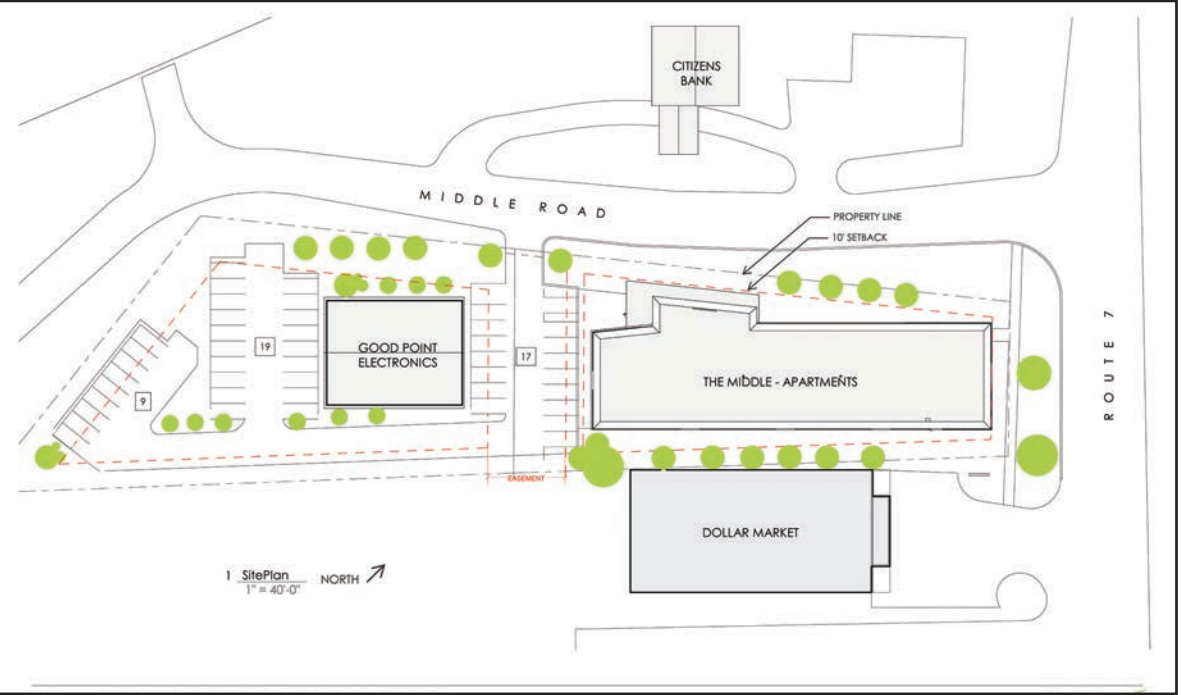
Murray gave a positive review of Middle Road Housing’s preliminary application.

“This developer has been great to work with. I like that he has a background in planning and has been an ally in trying to situate (the project) on the parcel in a way that’s recognized as good urban design and form,” she said.

Murray cited the placement of the apartment building close to the road, with the requisite 45 parking spots located in back, as an example of good urban planning.

“I think it’s a building design that would stand up well through the years,” she said. “It’s good infill development.”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



By the Way

(Continued from Page 1A)

win prizes and compete at the National History Day contest. This year’s winners included Addison Northwest School District students Eli Morrill, Keegan Lisko, Jing Williams, Quincy Sabick, Georgia Kunkel, Charlotte Coffey and Sophia Johnson. The top two winners in each category of the competition qualify to participate in the National History Day competition, which will be held June 8-12 at University of Maryland College Park. More details on the contest winners can be found at tinyurl.com/mrdbnrdj.

The annual Middlebury Bike Swap will be on Green Up Day — Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. to noon, in Cannon Park off Main Street. Find the perfect new-to-you bike, sell that old bike that’s been taking up space in your garage all these years, or better yet, do both. You can just sell or buy a bike at the swap, hosted by Frog Hollow Bikes and Middlebury Safe Routes, with support from the Town of Middlebury. The event will add extra spice to Green Up Day and a concurrent Spring Market the Better Middlebury Partnership will hold in Triangle Park. Frog Hollow Bikes staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and guide you to the bike best suited for you. Drop off bikes, bike trainers and bike cases for the swap at Frog Hollow Bikes before noon on May 2, and indicate if you want sale proceeds to go to you or be donated to Middlebury Safe Routes. Items will not be accepted on the day of the sale. Upon dropping off items, organizers will record your name,

contact info, item info and price you are looking to get. Items must be in decent working order. You’ll be contacted by May 10 if your item sold and need to claim your payment or unsold item by May 10. Contact Frog Hollow Bikes at froghollowbikes@gmail.com, or calling 802-388-6666, with any questions about the swap.

With another boating season just around the corner, there are some changes that Vermonters should know about boater safety education. Lake Champlain includes waters in both Vermont and New York, and a recent change in New York’s boater education law applies to Vermonters if they venture onto New York’s waterways. New York’s “Brianna’s Law” requires all operators of motorized vessels, including personal watercraft, to obtain and carry a boating safety certificate. This was requirement took effect on Jan. 1. Operators of non-motorized boats like canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards aren’t required to have a certificate, but are encouraged to take a boating safety course. Meanwhile, Vermont requires certificates for boaters born after January 1, 1974, and recommends them for everyone. Go to vtfishandwildlife.com to get more detailed information on Vermont boater safety certifications.

Beware of criminal scammers trying to steal EBT cardholders’ information. According to Vermont SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) officials, the scammers are calling and telling customers their EBT benefits will

be suspended unless an address is verified. This is not true. Remember, never share your EBT card number or personal info unless you are the person reaching out directly to a representative of the Vermont Department for Children & Families’ Economic Services Division (ESD). The ESD will never call or send text messages to SNAP recipients asking for card or benefit information. If you suspect you’re a victim of a scam and have had benefits stolen, call 1-800-479-6151 and speak to a customer service representative.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont have fallen 4.4 cents per gallon during the past week to \$3.05 per gallon, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 626 stations. Prices are 5.4 cents lower than a month ago and 36.3 cents lower than a year ago. The cheapest price was \$2.61 early this week, while the most expensive was \$3.29. Meanwhile, the national average price of gasoline has fallen 8.2 cents during the past week to \$3.13. That average is up 7.8 cents from a month ago, but 46.9 cents lower than a year ago.



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Ripton

(Continued from Page 1A)
She’s certainly earned her commencement certificate after 36 years in the classroom teaching multiple generations of some Ripton families.
Born in Connecticut and transplanted to Vermont at age 6, Ogilvie weighed several career options while growing up. Teaching rose to the top.
“While in school, I discovered what I didn’t want to do,” she said. “I reflected on that, and thought, ‘I’ve always loved babysitting and kids.’ So, I decided to become a teacher.”
She earned her bachelor’s degree in education from

Rutland’s College of St. Joseph, then her master’s in the same discipline at the University of Vermont. Her entry into the teaching field, during the fall of 1988, was as a sub at Ripton’s former Hollow School — a one-room schoolhouse off Route 125 that now serves as the town clerk’s office. In those days, the Hollow School catered to local children in grades K-3; Ripton tuitioned its grades 4-6 students to Middlebury’s Mary Hogan Elementary.
A swell of children both in Middlebury and Ripton during the late 1980s early ‘90s prompted Riptonites to invest in a new local K-6 school at 753 Lincoln Rd. Sadly, the curve has now bent in the opposite direction, forcing the district to at least temporarily shutter RES this summer. The ACSD board is exploring potential educational uses for the building, which could lead to a reboot of the school should more young families with children move into town.
Ogilvie took a little time during Tuesday’s interview to reminisce about what was a sparkling new Ripton Elementary building during its heyday. Around 60 Ripton children flooded its halls that first year — more than double the 2024-2025 enrollment. Ogilvie was among the many teachers and community members

who helped move in furnishings, equipment and supplies to fill the blank canvas inside.
“We take pride that we built this million-dollar school in this tiny town,” Ogilvie said, using “million” as a metaphor, rather than a price tag.
It was a frontier-style, all-hands-on-deck spirit that prevails in Ripton to this day. Ogilvie — who lives less than a mile from the school — still marvels at the local buy-in.
“We have amazing parents and an amazing (sense of) community,” she said, struggling to hold back a wave of emotion as the impending finality of her magical RES odyssey briefly enveloped her. “They truly are our superpower; I feel they move mountains for our kids.”
MULTI-AGE CLASSES
She currently teaches a grades 4-5 class, though Ogilvie has spent most of her career teaching a grades 3-4 class. It’s an age range in which students tend to be information sponges.
Ogilvie has found that multi-age classrooms build confidence in children — particularly the older ones.
“There are always challenges, but we’ve continued with the culture of ... children learning from each other, helping each other,” she said. “There’s an expectation that when you’re an



SUSAN OGILVIE BEGAN teaching Ripton students 36 years ago. Except for two one-year sabbaticals teaching abroad, Ogilvie has made the education of Ripton children her life’s work. Her career as a fulltime teacher will end this June, ironically at the same time Ripton Elementary School will close — perhaps forever.

Independent photo/John Flowers

older student, you’re a leader of your peers. With that comes a great responsibility and ownership.”
Ogilvie has taught to multi-grade classes throughout her RES career, largely a product of Ripton’s small population (739, according to the 2020 census). Teaching to multiple age groups can be tricky, and Ogilvie has learned to adapt. She said it’s akin to assembling a jigsaw puzzle, making sure each child’s educational needs are met to complete the educational requirements at the end of the year.
“It’s part of what makes this profession so exciting,” she said. “I’ve been able to reflect on my (teaching strategies) and make the adjustments kids need to learn. And I love to figure out how to teach each student — the part of the concept they don’t understand, what skill they might be missing.”
While she’s dispensed knowledge for three and a half

decades, Ogilvie has also been an avid learner inside and outside the classroom.
“Each year, students bring new challenges, new things to figure out,” Ogilvie said. “They teach me what I need to know. I try to be very open to that, and not have a fixed mindset. I love evolving my (teaching) practice.”
Ogilvie has always loved to travel, immersing herself in other cultures and learning techniques. She took two separate, one-year sabbaticals to teach in schools in Dakar, Senegal (2004) and at the Shanghai American School in China (2009).
“I’ve always had a desire to see the world,” she said of her experiences, which have paid educational dividends for her Ripton students. Having been exposed to international teaching methods also made it easier for Ogilvie and her young charges to adapt to the ACSD’s transition to an International Baccalaureate curriculum back in 2017.
“It’s an extension of what we’ve always taught,” she said of IB, which she believes took learning “to the next level.”
Ripton’s estimated 2025-2026 K-5 student population of 15-20 will travel down Route 125 to the Salisbury Community School beginning this fall. It will be strange and heartbreaking for Ogilvie and many other Ripton residents to travel past the RES building, knowing that its hallways and classrooms are empty. Fond memories and the echoes of children gleefully learning and


playing will have to suffice, for now, for RES stakeholders.
Former Ripton School Board member Molly Witters’s daughter was in Ogilvie’s class for two years. Witters said Ogilvie’s “focus on good books and nature will be a lifelong gift to our daughter.”
She also credited her daughter’s former teacher with being immensely invested in the subject matter she’s taught.
“(Ogilvie) is keenly aware of the wonder of the world and takes great joy in sharing her knowledge and excitement for it with children,” Witters said. “She has carried that energy through generations of learners.”
What will Susan Ogilvie do during the next chapter of her life?
Her plans include tutoring children in math; traveling; continuing to enjoy sports, including hiking, swimming, cycling and skiing; catching up with friends; and seeing more of her daughter, Cameron Wright, a fire service smokejumper in Alaska.
Ogilvie will also remain active in the equestrian sport of dressage. Her horse, Jax, is the other half of her team.
She’ll never forget the lifetime of memories accumulated during her career at what some refer to as the “small school on the mountain.”
“Teaching kids and having them learn is the most exciting thing in the world,” she said.
John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Foreign student

(Continued from Page 1A)
Ruble noted there is also “termination” of a student visa, “which can be done, ‘pursuant to notification in the Federal Register, on the basis of national security, diplomatic, or public safety reasons.’”
“However, across the country, a lot of students’ SEVIS records are being terminated without going through either process,” she said. “Termination of a SEVIS record, even without revocation, can have serious consequences: loss of employment authorization, loss of the ability to reenter the country, loss of dependents’ status, and potential visits from (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).”
The college officials said they are working with the student to determine what steps to take next.
“We are doing everything we can to guide and support the student and their family during this difficult time,” they wrote.
In some sense, Middlebury College was preparing for

more pressure from the Trump Administration. Middlebury is one of at least 60 colleges and universities that have received letters warning them about vague claims of antisemitism on campus. The feds also have started cutting off funding to science research that will affect Middlebury.
Earlier this month, the administration issued guidance to faculty to keep their classrooms doors closed during class. That makes them private spaces, which federal agents can’t enter without permission if they are trying to arrest foreign students on immigration grounds. They were also told who to call if an agent does try to deliver a warrant to a classroom.
On Monday, the college invited students to a Zoom teleconference with immigration attorney Dan Berger, who talked about recent immigration policies, traveling abroad, enforcement, and what to expect in 2025 and beyond.
Berger, who did several calls (See Visas, Page 11A)

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Voting will take place on the **Addison Independent Facebook page** from **Monday, May 5th to Sunday, May 11th.** And yes, you can vote for more than one pet!

The winners will be announced on May 15th in our special Animal Issue of Arts + Leisure. Each top winner in their respective category will receive a prize from Middlebury Agway.

Questions?
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Bridport

(Continued from Page 1A)
pre-approved by the court.

Presiding Addison County Superior Court Judge Robert Katims at Wednesday’s hearing also endorsed an effort by the youth’s counsel — Addison County Public Defender James Gratton — to have Nuciolo Jr. adjudicated as youthful offender. This could result in the case being transferred to family court. Nuciolo was 17 when he is alleged to have shot and killed his father, 44-year-old Stephen Nuciolo Sr., by shooting him in the head with a shotgun. Police say that the 17-year-old told authorities that his dad had committed suicide.

Courthouse law enforcement escorted a handcuffed Nuciolo Jr. into the main courtroom of Middlebury’s Frank Mahady Courthouse. He stared straight ahead, expressionless, rocking back and forth while Gratton spoke on his behalf.

Representing the state of Vermont at the proceedings were attorneys Michael Novelli and Franklin Paulino of the Vermont Attorney General’s office.

Addison County State’s Attorney Eva Vekos is unable to represent the state in the Nuciolo case because she’s alleged to have been under the influence of alcohol while surveying the crime scene on Jan. 25, 2024. Vekos has pleaded not guilty to the DUI charge. Her case is slated to be heard in Chittenden County later this spring.

Vekos watched Wednesday’s hearing as part of the small courtroom audience.

Nuciolo Jr. faces a minimum jail sentence of 20 years if convicted of second-degree murder.

Detective Sgt. Steven Gelder of the Vermont State Police Major Crime Unit has taken the lead in the Nuciolo Sr. death



STEPHEN NUCIOLO JR. on Wednesday pleaded not guilty in Addison Superior Court, criminal division, to second-degree murder, in connection with the shooting death of his father at their Bridport home back on Jan. 24, 2024.

investigation, which authorities had originally labeled a “suspicious death.”

THE AFFIDAVIT

Gelder and his colleagues continued to probe the case, however, even as multiple DNA tests on the Mossberg 590 shotgun — the instrument used in Nuciolo Sr.’s death — failed to yield conclusive results, according to court records.

The break in the case came more than 14 months later — this past Sunday, April 13 — when Nuciolo Jr.’s then-foster parents reported the youth had confessed to killing his father in their Bridport

home, according to Det. Sgt. Gelder’s affidavit summarizing his investigation.

Nuciolo Jr., according to the affidavit, allegedly confessed to one of his foster parents.

“The big reveal was that it was him, that he (Nuciolo Jr.) pulled the trigger.”

— Det. Sgt. Steven Gelder

that his father “was looking in the mirror when he (Nuciolo Jr.) came up behind him,” according to court records.

Nuciolo Jr. is also alleged to have described undisclosed details of the evidence, including that there was one slug in the chamber of the shotgun used in the alleged murder, according to court records.

Investigators allege Nuciolo Jr. initially told them he’d been in his bedroom when he’d heard a “loud bang” from his dad’s bedroom at around 12:10 a.m., the night of the incident.

“Nuciolo Jr. said he rushed to Nuciolo Sr.’s bedroom and found him bleeding on the floor. Nuciolo Jr. told us he immediately left the room, then locked the door so nobody else would see the scene. Nuciolo Jr. said he went back to his bedroom and tried to reach his friends online, however, he did not receive a response. Nuciolo Jr. explained that he fell asleep around 2:45 a.m. and awoke at 6 a.m., due to his alarm clock,” reads Gelder’s affidavit.

The youth told police he’d taken the school bus to MUHS that morning, allegedly telling the bus driver and school staff about the suicide upon his arrival.

That suicide account began to

unravel as authorities scrutinized the evidence, according to Gelder’s affidavit.

On May 21, 2024, Chief Medical Examiner Elizabeth Bundock filed an autopsy report on Nuciolo Sr. indicating “immediate cause of death was a gunshot wound of the head, (but) the manner of death was listed as undetermined,” according to Gelder’s affidavit.

Bundock confirmed the fatal gunshot had entered the left side of Nuciolo Sr.’s head, with the exit wound on the right side of his head.

Nuciolo Sr. was right-handed.

Authorities interviewed several people during their investigation, including MUHS officials, Nuciolo Jr.’s foster parents, and former partners of Nuciolo Sr.

One of those partners, who asked that her name be withheld, was at Wednesday’s court hearing.

“He’s a 7-year-old in a grownup’s body,” she said of Nuciolo Jr. “With a schedule and great environment (at MUHS), he’s a happy, well-adjusted individual. It’s unfortunate that his home life was not in line with that.”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Visas

(Continued from Page 10A)
with the college, like others is concerned about the possibility that some in the Trump Administration are scanning social media in search of foreign students who may have supported Palestinians. He urged people in the Middlebury Community to think carefully before undertaking any but the most essential travel outside the U.S.

That is already happening. One foreign student at Middlebury College said they had the opportunity to travel to an extracurricular activity outside the United States, but they declined to go because they were not assured that their visa would be respected and they might not be able to return to campus.

This all comes in the context of immigration officials actually putting college students in jail for pro-Palestinian activity. Late last month, masked agents stopped Tufts University student Rûmeysa Öztürk on the street in a neighborhood outside Boston alleging that a year-old opinion column she co-wrote invalidated her visa. She’s been in jail since then.

This week, Vermont resident Mohsen Mahdawi was detained and jailed at an immigration office in Colchester, apparently for pro-Palestinian activity when he was at Columbia University last year.

Ruble said it’s not clear if the SEVIS record termination will require the Middlebury student to leave immediately.

“In a case going on right now in D.C., the government has admitted that SEVIS termination is not the same as visa revocation and that a student whose SEVIS record was terminated isn’t here unlawfully and can still study under the terms of his status. It’s not clear whether the government will stand by that statement, as its legal positions tend to be moving targets lately. Department of Homeland Security also states on its website that, after SEVIS termination, a student is

expected to leave,” she explained.

“BUT, a student still keeps their F-1 status after termination, and even if the student visa is revoked. If the government wants them out of the country, it must put them into immigration proceedings, where there are due process protections,” Ruble continued. “All this being said, it is undeniable that a student whose SEVIS record has been terminated is in an extremely vulnerable position, and losing the ability to work may itself endanger their F-1 status. The student doesn’t appear to have many options in this circumstance, apart from applying for reinstatement or challenging any visa revocation in removal proceedings.”

Ruble added that “apart from any questions as to the wisdom or justice of this as an immigration enforcement tool, it has been plagued by all kinds of errors.”

“There are reports (in other parts of the country) that people are having their records terminated because their name is similar to someone else’s, or because they were involved in a criminal case, even though the charges have been dismissed,” she said. “There is a process under immigration law to remove someone for criminal infractions, but some of these SEVIS records are being terminated for much more minor offenses that would not support removal.”

Middlebury College officials noted that among the legal avenues they have taken is joining an amicus brief filed by the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration in a lawsuit that challenges the detentions and deportations that have been occurring to members of higher education communities.

“We want to state again, unequivocally, that we are committed to our international community and to preserving the safety and security of all at Middlebury,” Snyder and the other Middlebury officials wrote on Wednesday.

Year-Round Hazardous Waste Collection

The HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open without appointment to residents from member towns.

Most items are accepted from residents free of charge.

Businesses must pay for disposal and must call 388-2333 for an appointment.

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Aerosols	Dry cleaning sol-	Mercury thermometers	cides
Antifreeze	vents	Mercury thermostats	Photographic chem-
Ant killer	Flea & tick killer	Mineral spirits	icals
Ammonia	Fluorescent bulbs*	Mothballs	Pool chemicals
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Chlorine bleach	Fuel additives	Nail polish	teries
Brake fluid	Fungicides	Nail polish remover	Roach traps/poison
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ADDISON COUNTY

Agriculture News

Lawmakers wrestle with how to regulate runoff from Vermont’s dairy farms

By EMMA COTTON
VTDigger.org

In late February, and again in late March, Gerard Vorsteveld sat in front of a room of state lawmakers. After remaining mostly quiet during years of legal battles and media scrutiny centered on pollution coming from his family’s Addison County farm, he had the floor.

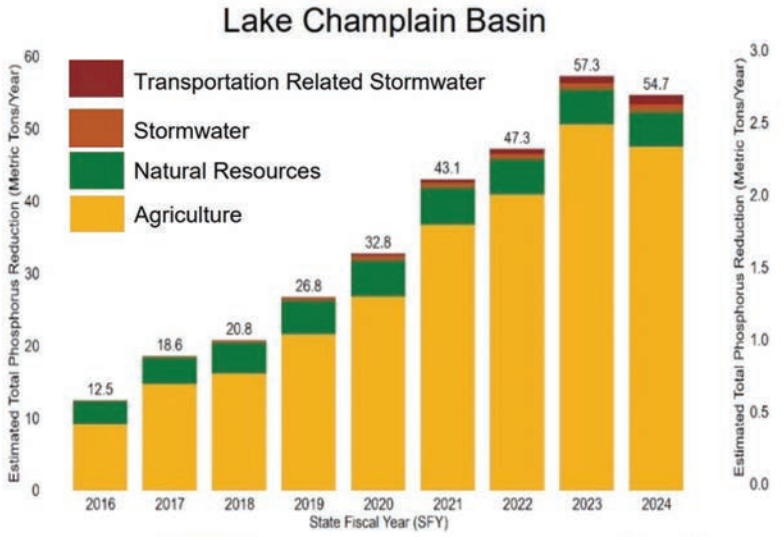
“We’ve spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on this, and there’s no end in sight,” he told lawmakers in the House Judiciary Committee on March 26, his voice breaking.

In 2020, Dennis and Vicki Hopper, the Pantton farm’s neighbors who spend summers in Vermont, sued Vorsteveld and his brothers, Hans and Rudolph, over runoff that ran from the 1,400-cow dairy farm, through their land, and into Lake Champlain.

Though the lawsuit focused on damage to the Hoppers’ land, during a six-day trial that wrapped up in January 2022, the Hoppers’ attorneys showed striking photos of the runoff flowing into the lake, splaying out into vast brown plumes. The lawyers would ask various witnesses, including Vorsteveld, some version of the question: Do you think this is OK?

In March 2022, Judge Mary Miles Teachout issued a sweeping, 32-page order that required the farmers to stop the runoff. And in September 2024, the judge found them to be in contempt of court: The Vorstevelds hadn’t done enough to mitigate the problem, she decided. The three brothers insisted that complying with the order would be a significant financial strain.

Amid a statewide effort to improve water quality in Lake Champlain, and while farmers are facing unprecedented hardships from climate change and worsening economic conditions, the lawsuit has come to stand for broader issues. The Vorsteveld case often



Annual estimated total phosphorus load reduction (metric tons per year) associated with clean water projects by land sector. Image courtesy of the State of Vermont

behaves like a prism — people see different things, depending on their vantage point.

For many in the agricultural community, it is an example of how well-resourced outsiders pose a threat to farmers and the broader culture of farming in the state. To others, it represents the environmental risks of Vermont’s larger dairy farms, and a deficient regulatory system that has yet to solve the problem.

This winter, the case has been relitigated in the Senate and House Judiciary Committees, which heard from attorneys representing both sides, along with Vorsteveld himself. Committee members have been wrestling with the case’s implications as they decide whether to update Vermont’s so-called right-to-farm law to give farmers more protections against lawsuits like the one that has embroiled the Vorsteveld farm.

Meanwhile, prompted by a forceful nudge from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, lawmakers in the House Environment Committee and Senate Natural Resources

Committee are mulling bills that would address longstanding problems with farming-related water quality regulation in Vermont.

A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

When Sen. Samuel Douglass, R-Orleans, introduced his proposed update to Vermont’s right-to-farm law before members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he said the bill was a response to people moving to the state who “then will complain about the smell of the farm that’s next door, that they moved in next to.”

“A lot of those farmers are worried about getting sued,” Douglass told the committee. Vermont’s landscape and culture is measurably shifting away from farming. In 1970, Vermont’s population was around 420,000 people, and now stands at roughly 647,000, Steve Collier, an attorney for Vermont’s Agency of Agriculture, told lawmakers.

“Our population has gone up since then by about 50%, but we’ve lost 56% of our harvested crop land, so while our population is expanding, our capacity and our

ability to grow food is declining,” he said.

Between 2017 and 2022, the state lost 32% of its dairy farms, according to Collier, and nearly 20,000 acres of farmland, according to the USDA’s 2022 Census of Agriculture — some of which was likely developed. Faced with increasingly dire economic conditions, many of the surviving farms have had to decide whether to “get big or get out.” While the total number of farms and total farm acreage declined in those five years, the average farm acreage increased.

While a “large” farm in Vermont is still small by many other states’ standards, these conditions have left Vermonters reckoning with an agriculture industry operating at an increasingly industrial scale.

At the same time, Vermonters have become increasingly concerned about the quality of the water in some of the state’s most beloved lakes, ponds and rivers. Farmers have both contributed more to the water quality problem and have engaged in more work to remediate it than any other group.

The state invested an unprecedented amount of funding into water quality projects in recent years, but much of that funding came from federal sources and is teetering due to federal funding cutbacks and freezes under the Trump Administration. Flooding and climate change further threaten water quality.

After all its efforts, Vermont still has a long way to go to meet its federally-required water quality goals. And algae blooms have become a more frequent problem and summertime norm on Lake Champlain and elsewhere, posing both environmental and health risks.

Meanwhile, in 2020, employment across the country (See Runoff, Page 13A)



MORE EXPERIENCED POULTRY 4-H'ers matched wits in the Hens Division at the 2025 Vermont 4-H Poultry Day, March 22 in Burlington. Competing in this division were (left to right): Erin Whipple, Bristol; Bristol Card, Williston; Alexis Whipple, Bristol; and Remington Card, Williston.

Photo by Sarah Birch

Egg-cellent poultry!

Local 4-H'ers fare well at annual UVM Extension fowl competition

BURLINGTON — Nineteen 4-H'ers had an “eggs-tra” special time at the 2025 Vermont 4-H Poultry Day, where they participated in competitions and workshops, presented posters and photos and worked on crafts.

The annual event, sponsored by UVM Extension 4-H, took place on March 22 on the University of Vermont (UVM) campus in Burlington. Participants, ages 8 to 18, heard from Dr. Kaitlynn Levine, Vermont assistant state veterinarian, about avian influenza and other poultry diseases while the 4-H Cloverbuds, ages 5 to 7, enjoyed story time with UVM 4-H Educator Lindy Birch who read books with a poultry theme.

All of the 4-H'ers took part in a hands-on workshop where they tested their knowledge of chicken and egg anatomy by placing parts on an outline of a hen. They also crafted whimsical 3-D chickens out of paper and other materials in a fun arts project.

In addition, many of the participants created a poultry-themed educational poster and/or took a photo of their project bird or a favorite bird from their flock to share with the audience as they

talked about their experiences in the poultry project.

For the Question Quest (a Jeopardy-like contest) and poultry knowledge boards, the 4-H'ers were divided into groups, based on each individual’s level of poultry expertise. The scores of these two contests were combined for overall placements.

The divisions were Hens (advanced poultry knowledge), Pullets (intermediate poultry knowledge) and Peeps (beginner poultry knowledge). Ducklings (4-H Cloverbuds) also took part in the contests and received participation ribbons but were not scored.

Results for local competitors competitions were:

Hens: 1. Erin Whipple, Bristol; 3. Alexis Whipple, Bristol.

Pullets: 2. Clair Lucas, Orwell. Ducklings: Ellen Hodgdon, Bridport; Casey Lucas, Orwell; and Jacob Wimet, Orwell.

Each participant received a T-shirt, poultry-themed book and choice of other prizes.

To learn more about Vermont 4-H or the 4-H poultry project, call the UVM Extension 4-H state office at (800) 571-0668 (toll-free).



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Nominations still sought for Dairy Farm of the Year

BURLINGTON — Nominations are still being accepted for the 2025 Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year award, which recognizes an exemplary dairy operation with a strong commitment to dairying.

Nominations will close on May 1 with the winner announced this summer. Anyone may nominate a farm. Previous nominees that did not win may be nominated again. Farmers also may self-nominate.

For the nomination form and information on past winners, go to

go.uvm.edu/vdfy.

This prestigious award is presented annually by University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Dairy Industry Association in cooperation with the New England Green Pastures Program. Nominees are evaluated by a judging committee, comprised of past VDFY winners, on their overall farm management, innovative practices, milk quality, crops, pasture quality, conservation practices and promotion of the dairy

industry, among other criteria.

The winning farm will receive a commemorative sign to display and will be featured on “Across the Fence,” UVM Extension’s daily farm, home and community show on WCAX-TV. The Vermont winner and family members also will be the invited guests at a special awards banquet at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass., in September.

The New England Green Pastures Program began in 1947

as a way to publicly acknowledge farms with the “greenest pastures” in the region. A Connecticut farm, one of 3,000 farms nominated, was the winner that year. In 1961, selection of a regional winner was eliminated and instead, each state now recognizes its own outstanding dairy operation.

To request a paper copy of the nomination form or for questions, contact Peggy Manahan at (800) 639-2130 or peggy.manahan@uvm.edu.

Dairy marketing grant being offered

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) is offering a Dairy Marketing & Branding Services Grant. It would provide funding to hire professional marketing and branding experts for existing value-added dairy processors, producer associations, and dairy brands using co-packing services.

These professionals will develop strategies to increase consumer awareness, improve product positioning, and expand market reach for regional value-added dairy businesses.

At least 75% of grant

funds must be used for these professional services, ensuring that the expert drives the project’s direction. Up to 25% of the grant funds may be used to implement the professional’s recommendations, such as printing marketing materials, launching advertising campaigns, or updating branding and packaging.

Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 with a cash and/or in-kind match requirement of 25%.

More information is online at tinyurl.com/10Kdairygrant. Grant applications are due May 8 at 2 p.m.

Runoff

(Continued from Page 12A)

made a substantial online shift, enabling people with big-city incomes to move to rural areas. Though the effects may not have endured, the trend has made farmers nervous.

All 50 states have right-to-farm laws, giving farmers special protection from nuisance lawsuits as long as they meet criteria, like they’re complying with state and local laws, for example.

But some witnesses have stressed to lawmakers that, despite the concerns, nuisance lawsuits don’t seem to be a widespread problem for farmers in Vermont. In fact, the Vorsteveld case is the only such case in recent decades that any of the Statehouse committees’ witnesses have been able to reference, and it’s without a doubt the only one in that time frame that has prevailed in court.

It would also change the burden for the person bringing the lawsuit. Instead of requiring them to show how their property has been affected by the alleged farming practices, they would also have to prove that the farm is not complying with farming rules.

RIGHT TO TRESPASS?

Of the proposals in the bill, the largest change might be adding new protections from so-called trespass lawsuits. In legal terms, “trespass” means a physical invasion of property — a stream of water running through someone’s backyard that comes from a farm, for example, according to Cornell University’s Legal Information Institute.

In the Vorsteveld case, trespass came into play because of the farm’s tile drains, which are underground pipes designed to carry water away from farm fields. The farmers have 113 miles of tile drains installed, according to the 2022 court decision, and while the water formerly ran off the surface of the fields, the drains changed the flow and volume of the water, channeling it toward the Hoppers’ property.

Much of the discussion at the trial focused on whether climate

change was to blame for the increasing amounts of water that flowed from the fields. Tile drains are permitted by the state’s Agency of Agriculture, and the Vorstevelds worked with researchers at UVM who studied the technology’s effects on the farm.

“Nobody ever said it wasn’t a good idea,” Vorsteveld said in an interview.

One Vorsteveld lawyer argues for increased protections against trespass lawsuits. But others think the potential new protections from trespass lawsuits could limit the way private citizens are able to protect themselves from pollution that could be harmful to their health, wellbeing or the environment.

This concern has popped up during the right-to-farm discussions, in part, because of another conversation playing out in different committee rooms in the Statehouse.

There, lawmakers are trying to reform Vermont’s farming regulations more broadly in response to the federal EPA’s determination that the current system does not comply with the Clean Water Act.

The federal law requires farms that are considered Confined Animal Feeding Operations to obtain permits if they are discharging effluent into state waterways.

But, in September, the EPA

wrote in a letter to Vermont that “no individual CAFO permit has been issued to a facility even though there are 37 large CAFOs within the state, 104 medium, and 1,000 small size farms that are potential CAFOs.”

The problem with the state’s regulatory structure came down to the split responsibilities between the Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, according to the EPA.

To Jon Groveman, policy and water program director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council — one of the organizations that complained to the EPA about Vermont’s regulatory structure in the first place — the lack of regulation makes citizens’ ability to file trespass lawsuits more valuable.

“I do think that that civil backstop is important, given that we’ve seen real problems — and EPA has validated these problems — with our water quality regulatory system,” he told lawmakers.



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However, Collier, the Ag Agency lawyer, said that general conflicts between farms and neighbors that happen all the time. “Any one of those can quickly evolve into a nuisance or trespass lawsuit,” he said.

Compared to other states, Vermont’s right-to-farm law is less protective for farmers. The update, as outlined in the bill, S.45, would strengthen it by nixing criteria in the current law that farmers would need to meet and giving farmers protection from lawsuits as long as they are “in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices.”

to Cornell University’s Legal Information Institute.

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But, in September, the EPA



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Horseshoe season returning for summer

BRISTOL — The horseshoe pitching season is approaching us very fast. The Sodbusters Horseshoe Pitching Club in Bristol will be starting up their Tuesday Night Handicap Singles Summer League on Tuesday, May 13, starting at 6:30 p.m. The league will run through September. The pits are located behind the Bristol American Legion (56 Airport Drive).

There are several options for league membership:

- Full-time regular member of the summer league/club is \$50. Games will count towards the standings/awards, plus you can use the courts anytime you want to.
- Substitute for any regular member who can't play that evening is \$25. As above, games will count

towards the regular member standings and your pitching will count towards your awards.

- Non-league membership is \$15 and is for anyone who just wants to pitch anytime without being involved with the summer league. Non-league members can still sign up for the tournaments (which is separate from the League sign up), the year-end picnic, and monthly meetings.

You must purchase a NHPA Sanction Card at \$30 since this is a Sanction League with the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association. We have 32 spots to fill for regulars and subs to fill in.

For more info and to sign up contact Debra Brown at 802-349-3976 or mbrownie56@comcast.net.

DCF chief offers perspective

Last week *Seven Days* published an article detailing a significant series of alleged, and in one case proven, abuse of juveniles at residential treatment facilities operated and/or overseen by the Sentinel Group. That company has a contract to help design, and quite possibly operate if built, the Green Mountain Youth Campus.

The Departments for Children & Families (DCF) and Buildings & Grounds and General Services (BGS) have picked Vergennes as the top candidate for the Green Mountain Youth Campus, a 14-bed locked facility to offer short-term detention, care and counseling of youths involved in the state's justice system.



CHRIS WINTERS

DCF Commissioner Chris Winters this week replied via email to questions put by the *Independent's* Andy Kirkaldy:

“Will DCF re-evaluate Sentinel’s role in possibly operating the Green Mountain Youth Campus, and would you like to say anything to the city and residents of Vergennes at this point?”

Winters’s reply:

“First, I want to say how tragic and unacceptable it is for any youth in our care to suffer harm at the hands of a caregiver. Anyone who is found to have misused a position of trust to victimize a youth already in crisis must be held accountable.

Administering programs for vulnerable youth who have experienced extensive trauma in their lives is one of the most complex, demanding, and high-stakes jobs there is. There is increased scrutiny and pressure to make sure we do right by these kids at a time of incredible instability in

their lives.

That is why, at the Department for Children & Families, we have a licensing process with strict standards for how these residential treatment centers operate, and reporting requirements around incidents involving the safety of children in their care. We have a dedicated investigative unit so that when allegations of staff misconduct, abuse or neglect, or other regulatory concerns are reported, they are investigated. The investigation will determine if abuse or neglect occurred, if licensing rules have been violated, if licensing action is necessary, or if corrective action can resolve the concerns. If law enforcement involvement becomes necessary, the licensing unit cooperates with those investigations.

When child and youth safety is impacted, there is an understandable and appropriate drive to question an organization’s culpability for an individual’s actions. While allegations of this nature require a review of policies related to hiring, staffing and operational practices, it’s important to avoid assumptions of widespread mismanagement and abuse.

DCF maintains an active presence with all residential programs. All youth in care are required to receive monthly face to face contacts with a worker. Further, we have a unit in the Family Services Division that conducts monthly utilization review meetings and at least biennial in-person program tours where they visit with all DCF residents in the program.

The Residential Licensing Unit also conducts program reviews every two years during license

renewal, as well as interviews with residents during onsite incident investigations. Residential programs submit incident reports to DCF regarding youth injuries, behavioral interventions, or concerning youth behaviors. Those reports go to the assigned worker, as well as the Specialized Services Manager or Residential Licensing Unit as are appropriate to the nature of the incident. These incidents often prompt responses which may include consultation with the program or supportive intervention with youth.

A related entity called Sentinel serves as the provider for Red Clover Treatment Center and is contracted as the provider for the to-be-developed Green Mountain Youth Campus in Vergennes. The provider also has some historical ties to Vermont in that we have contracted for Support and Stabilization at home services for foster caregivers to keep kids out of institutional settings, with great success. At Red Clover, a temporary secure facility for justice involved youth in Middlesex, we visit the building every other week. To date, we have been pleased with the services and outcomes at Red Clover, which has now been open for six months. That is all background to say that before opening Red Clover and inviting the provider to consult on the Vergennes project, we had some level of knowledge, comfort and proven success to work with.

We were aware of the beneficial services they have provided to Vermont and its youth, as well as Mr. Caron’s personal struggles in the past, and his rehabilitative journey which has been demonstrated by the services he and his companies have provided Vermont youth over the last several years.

We remain deeply concerned about the allegation against the staff member at VPI and are awaiting the outcome of the investigation. We will be watching carefully for patterns of harmful institutional behavior and avoidable mistakes as the mass lawsuits against over 30 providers in NH make their way through the courts. We will continue to investigate this, and every incident reported to us, and are always evaluating the competency and effectiveness of all of our providers in trying to do what is best for the kids in our – and their – care. If we were to find there was wrongdoing by the employer, we would determine how best to address it, up to and including, terminating the contract and seeking a different provider.

Our mission is to protect Vermont youth from harm and provide safe settings where they can receive the care and treatment they need and deserve. It is our hope that the treatment campus in Vergennes can be a part of the healing process that is closer to their families and homes with the ultimate goal of reunification with family.”

Juvenile Center

(Continued from Page 1A)

are hoping to build that facility for troubled teens in late 2026 on Comfort Hill in northern Vergennes, and negotiations are ongoing on how the state should compensate Vergennes for hosting the facility.

Proposed is a 14-bed locked facility for the short-term care, counseling and detention of youths who are involved in the Vermont justice system. That multi-building campus is planned for a state-owned 8-acre site.

But Alison Novak’s *Seven Days*, article published April 9, points out that the Sentinel Group, a company with a contract to design and possibly operate the city facility, has a track record of legal problems that stem from proven or alleged abuse of youths in programs it operates.

Those include one proven case and one alleged case of staff members’ sexual abuse of juveniles in Bennington. Sentinel also faces more than 100 lawsuits alleging a variety of abuses in a New Hampshire facility.

The article directly raises questions about DCF’s ability to oversee and vet the companies it entrusts with the care of vulnerable youths.

DCF Commissioner Chris Winters on Tuesday emailed the *Independent* a lengthy statement in response to the article (read the full statement with this story on addisonindependent.com).

In his statement, Winters describes the process for handling the situation:

“(We) have a licensing process with strict standards for how these residential treatment centers operate, and reporting requirements around incidents involving the safety of children in their care. We have a dedicated investigative unit so that when allegations of staff misconduct, abuse or neglect, or other regulatory concerns are reported they are investigated. The investigation will determine if abuse or neglect occurred, if licensing rules have been violated, if licensing action is necessary, or if corrective action can resolve the concerns. If law enforcement involvement becomes necessary, the licensing unit cooperates.”

MAYOR SPEAKS OUT

On Monday, Vergennes Mayor Chris Bearor said he and others in the city are not pleased with the revelations, and added the Ad Hoc Committee charged with negotiating compensation from the state will have “some questions that are going to have to be answered about this company.”

Two members of the committee met last week with DCF’s Winters and BGS Commissioner Wanda Minoli. A full committee meeting has been scheduled for this Friday “to bring the committee up to speed” City Manager Ron Redmond said.

Bearor was asked if he believed the city should request DCF not allow Sentinel to be involved if the facility is sited in Vergennes.

“I’m going to defer to the ad hoc committee on that, but it definitely doesn’t leave a very good feeling that this company might run it, and it’s had all these problems. That’s what a lot of people in this city have said. They bring up a lot of feelings about other things the state has done and done badly,” Bearor said. “And I feel we’re in the same boat right now with this company.”

Bearor refers to an unfortunate history of mistreatment of

incarcerated youth in Vermont and Vergennes. In 2019 the state paid \$4.3 million to settle a lawsuit alleging abuses that was filed by former residents of the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, which closed in October 2020. And the former Weeks School in Vergennes shut down in 1979 following years of documented abuse of youths in its care.

Northlands Job Corps took over the Weeks School campus at that point. The latest private operator of the federal job-training program has earned high marks, but not all previous center operators have excelled at student treatment and discipline. Some in Vergennes questioned state officials in forums a year ago whether the city is an appropriate place for another youth facility given the Weeks School and Northlands history.

Bearor said he would like to see the state improve its treatment of youth in crisis, and added Vergennes does not want to see problems return to their city with the Sentinel Group.

“From what they’ve been accused of, I don’t want that happening in the city of Vergennes,” Bearor said. “Wherever they put this, I want the kids that need the help get they help they need and nothing like this ever happen to them, period.”

In Winters’ statement, he cited good work that Sentinel has been doing at temporary program, Red Clover Treatment Center, set up as a stopgap while the Green Mountain Youth Campus is in the planning stages.

“A related entity called Sentinel serves as the provider for Red Clover Treatment Center and is contracted as the provider for the to-be-developed Green Mountain Youth Campus in Vergennes. The provider also has some historical ties to Vermont in that we have contracted for Support and Stabilization at home services for foster caregivers to keep kids out of institutional settings, with great success.

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SEVEN DAYS DETAILS

According to *Seven Days* the state contract with Sentinel to help design and possibly operate the Vergennes facility “raise(s) questions about what steps Vermont officials took” to vet company owner Jeff “Caron and his programs and whether the state is capable of providing adequate oversight for vulnerable youths in its care.”

Key takeaways from *Seven Days* include:

- Sentinel signed a two-year contract for up to \$10.7 million to operate a four-bed, short-term juvenile detention center in Middlesex, and to help DCF and BGS design its proposed facility in Vergennes. That contract was awarded to Sentinel “without a competitive bidding process,” per the article, and stated Sentinel could be hired to provide “administration and staffing needs of that Facility (in Vergennes).”
- In March a staff member at the Vermont School for Girls in

Bennington “was charged with sexually assaulting a 16-year-old student.” Eight years ago, another teacher at the school “was convicted of similar crimes and sentenced to at least 12 years in prison.”

- Mount Prospect Academy, a New Hampshire nonprofit overseen by Sentinel that operates a residential treatment programs for youths, has been hit with “approximately 125 lawsuits from current and former students who allege they experienced physical, sexual and psychological abuse there.”
- Caron pleaded guilty to reckless driving and transporting drugs in a motor vehicle that were carried by a co-worker stemming from a 2016 accident. He was reinstated by the boards of Sentinel-operated schools eight months later.

Read the full *Seven Days* story at tinyurl.com/2wurane4.

FACILITY & VOTE

State officials are proposing a 20,000-square-foot operation, including a gym. Arrivals and departures of detainees would be handled by law enforcement, and youths would be released into other programs or foster care, not into the community.

State officials have said the program is needed to provide short-term stabilization and counseling for traumatized youths with law enforcement involvement to allow them to move onto other programs. Currently, the juveniles to be served often must travel out of state to get help.

The city council has said it will hold a city-wide vote to allow residents to say if they approve of the city hosting the facility. Bearor speculated such a vote could be held in March 2026 because turnout is strong on Town Meeting Days.

In voting, residents will be considering not only any potential impacts on the city’s reputation, services and real estate values, but also the benefits the city would be granted by the state for hosting the facility.

City officials say that DCF and BGS leaders have made it clear they are willing to compensate Vergennes for hosting the Green Mountain Youth Campus.

The city’s initial ask included the following:

- Transfer of about 180 acres of state land to the city. The state owns most of the city’s northwest quadrant, including the Northlands campus.
- A right of first refusal for the city to buy the roughly 60-acre parcel now housing Northlands Job Corps and/or buildings on the land when the federal government’s lease for the property expires in 2033.
- Inclusion in the facility infrastructure of improvements to the road, water/sewer lines and sidewalks that would serve potential future housing development on nearby land. City planners are also eyeing zoning changes that could allow for more housing if the state cedes land in the area to the city.
- That for the purpose of assessing property taxes or Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) the initial assessment of the property be set at \$20 million with an automatic Consumer Price Index adjustment, and that future PILOT payments would be guaranteed.
- That the state make a \$750,000 investment into city police, fire and rescue services; an infrastructure investment of \$500,000, to be guided by the city council, and a Bixby Library energy efficiency projects investment of \$200,000.



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FREE SITE EVALUATIONS



Cyclewise

(Continued from Page 1A)
further — unveiling a new, 8,500-square-foot facility that’s allowed the business to add the well-known Indian Motorcycle brand to its inventory.

Cyclewise’s evolution has often been shaped by the team’s desire keep up with customers’ changing needs and interests. Tamara Boise said the business aims to be “customer-centric.”

“When we open the doors and we have a new customer coming in, we’re welcoming them into our family, offering not just a unit sale or an apparel sale, but offering them camaraderie, events that help connect other riders,” she said during a recent interview.

Cyclewise sells and services motorcycles, ATVs, electric bikes by Oset, and other vehicles from brands like Ducati, Triumph, and Suzuki. Other offerings include electric Zero Motorcycles, as well as parts and apparel.

Tamara noted the business has looked for ways to help educate customers on proper gear.

“We have an opportunity to have our apparel specialist kind of talk through what gear is the safest as an added service, working with what clothing will best pair with their riding style and their needs,” she explained.

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

Cyclewise also tries to offer opportunities for riders to gain on-road skills. The business has been involved in track days — opportunities for riders of various experience levels to ride on a track — for more than 20 years and has organized its own track day for about a decade.

“That gives the customer an opportunity to come to a safe environment to learn different skills, become more comfortable with their own bike, and be able to bring those skills back to the street,” Tamara explained. “That’s something we’ve been passionate about, and we put a lot of energy behind that.”

The dealership has also looked to support off-road riding, inviting specialists in to talk about riding opportunities in the area and around the country. Tamara noted Cyclewise has been working with another company to train for off-road skills.

“There’s a little more opportunity in the area that many people don’t know about, so we’re trying to widen that knowledge



TAMARA BOISE FOUNDED Cyclewise, a New Haven powersport dealership, with her husband, Joe, in 1997. The business has grown since then, steadily adding new brands to its offerings and unveiling an 8,500-square-foot expansion to its operation earlier this year.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

base and allow more people to get interested and excited about it,” she said. “Vermont has a lot of off-road, adventure riding opportunities.”

Tamara said Cyclewise is passionate about finding ways to connect with the community, such as by working with local schools to offer apprenticeships, largely in the service department, but also explore different career paths with the dealership.

“We’ve joined ventures that way, so students can come in and work with us and get an understanding of business in general, as well as learning some working skills,” she said.

Other efforts to engage with the community include hosting personalized events catered to different riders and offering the Cyclewise location as a spot for riders to meet up before going on rides together.

“Just staying in contact (with customers), offering some events that invite people back in to meet up,” Tamara explained, adding that Cyclewise is looking to offer more of the group rides it hosted prior to the pandemic.

They’ve also sought to evolve their offerings in line with changes in customers’ needs and other shifts over the years.

“There’s a lot of change; the economy changes, the confidence of buying changes, so we’re always conscious of that,” Tamara said.

She added the dealership tries to have product lines that cater to all needs.

“I think we’re mindful of affordability and the latest trends,” she said. “I really do believe we have something for everyone here, from dirt to sport to adventure to cruisers.”

Cyclewise serves riders throughout Vermont, and sees customers traveling in from surrounding states like New Hampshire and New York.

“Customers will travel to the dealerships they feel connected to, and that’s really what we do pretty well,” she said. “We make the journey worth it.”

NEW EXPANSION

Customers now have another reason to make the trip, as Cyclewise earlier this year became the only Indian Motorcycle dealer in Vermont.

“They came to us a couple of years ago as they were looking for a dealer in Vermont, and that’s when we decided to jump aboard and make the expansion big enough to house the amount of square footage they need,” Tamara recalled. “It was very exciting.”

Cyclewise in February cut the ribbon

on the expansion and had a soft launch for the addition of Indian Motorcycle to its offerings. Tamara said the dealership has focused more on premium brands, a category Indian Motorcycle fits into. The American motorcycle brand opened its first factory in 1901 and is now owned by Polaris Industries.

“It definitely has its iconic following,” Tamara said.

The new expansion includes 3,000 square feet dedicated to Indian Motorcycle inventory, an expanded apparel and gear section, space for the service department, as well as offices and a meeting room. Tamara said Cyclewise’s former service department space will become a drive-thru service and a pre-owned bike showroom.

“We’re trying to utilize every nook and cranny,” she said.

The project has also given Cyclewise the opportunity to put a “grand front” on the dealership’s space. Tamara noted they erected the original building on the property in 2007, right before the economy crashed.

“We were kind of left with not giving it a grand front. For a lot of years, it just looked like a metal box, and when people came inside, they were like, ‘Wow,’” she recalled. “So, now I’m really proud of the grand front that it has. I think it’s a welcoming, unique space with a lot of Vermont inspiration.”

For example, the expansion includes a lot of barn board that Tamara’s collected over the past two years.

“I think it speaks loudly of passion for our industry, our state, and just makes you feel like you’re walking into something unique,” she said of the new facility.

Tamara acknowledged the community support that made the expansion possible, including from the town of New Haven and lenders at the National Bank of Middlebury, Vermont Economic Development Authority and the Addison County Economic Development Corporation.

She also noted the Cyclewise staff has been a crucial part of the dealership’s growth over the years.

“We’ve built ourselves up to where we are because of the fabulous staff we have. They’re a really big part of it,” she said. “Without them, there’d be no growth and no support for the customers.”

Cyclewise will host a grand opening celebration for the new space on May 24 and 25, which will give customers a chance to test ride vehicles and enjoy other activities.

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Conservation

(Continued from Page 1A)
conservation.

“That could range from more of an agricultural context, like finding invasive pests that are detrimental to the agricultural fields, or that could be related to wildlife management, so finding scat of rare or elusive species that biologists are trying to study via their scat,” explained Arden Blumenthal, a founding member of the Conservation Dog Alliance. “Anything that you can think up at this point, a dog could find.”

Like Blumenthal, many of those gathered at the training were members of the Conservation Dog Alliance, an international, professional organization for current and prospective conservation dog handlers that promote the use of conservation detection dogs by providing education, networking opportunities, a knowledge base and other resources.

Blumenthal, a New York resident, is the Conservation Dogs Program Coordinator for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. The nonprofit uses trained detection dogs to identify invasive species and find rare and endangered species as a way to protect native ecosystems.

Blumenthal was among several founding members who helped get the Conservation Dog Alliance up and running this past July after years of working on the idea.

“Several years ago, a small group of detection dog handlers were talking about how we wanted more community, more knowledge sharing; we were looking for resources to help with our careers and create more of a sense of community,” she recalled.

Blumenthal noted that she and some of the other dog handlers were in the earlier stages of their career and looking for a way to connect with peers spread around the globe.

“The field is very disparate; we are scattered all across the country, sometimes that can be very isolating

and some people take projects all around the world and people very rarely get together to train with each other,” she explained. “We were trying to create solutions to help with that group of issues, and so we decided to create the solution ourselves with the creation of this professional society.”

Thus, the Conservation Dog Alliance was born. The group’s members are mostly from North America, but it includes handlers in South America, Australia and Africa.

‘A GROWING FIELD’

The types of projects members are working on with their dogs is just as diverse as the places they hail from.

“It’s definitely a growing field,” Blumenthal said, noting the various kinds of work conservation detection dogs can aid in. “There are folks that are working in different contexts; I work for a nonprofit, but there are folks that are connected to the state agencies ... or just a private LLC being contracted to do work for ecological monitoring.”

This weekend’s training was the first regional gathering that Conservation Dog Alliance members have organized since the group formed. In attendance were handlers from states including Maine, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, as well as Vermont.

One Vermonter taking part in the training was Amy Alfieri, a wildlife biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and manager of the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area. She’s been training her dog, Tundra, in conservation detection work for about three years.

“I am a wildlife biologist with the state and my love of conservation and my love of dogs led to my desire to combine these two passions,” she told the *Independent*. “I saw that other people were using dogs to detect turtles and had learned that some of my coworkers were thinking about dogs as a possible way to detect



NEW YORK RESIDENT Arden Blumenthal, pictured here with dogs Lety and Peat, is a founding member of the Conservation Dog Alliance. Members of the international group hosted a training weekend this past Saturday and Sunday at the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

different species. So here I am, training my dog on my own time with help from other members of the Conservation Dog Alliance, in hopes he can be deployed to help us with conservation efforts in Vermont.”

Alfieri said she’s not aware of any actively deployed conservation detection dogs in the state, though she and a handful of other Vermont handlers are informally training with their dogs on their own time.

“Handlers are learning from other handlers, training with support from more experienced handlers around the world, and developing their proof-of-concept projects and research,” she said. “I believe there are a few people who have dogs that help find turtles around the state, largely on a volunteer basis, but I am not sure if this is done in a systematic way or more of a ‘by chance my dog found this turtle’ kind of way. This is still an emerging field as more research is being dedicated to

(determine) how dogs can be used in conservation detection.”

This weekend offered an opportunity for dog handlers across the region to learn from one another, as well as from Vermont game wardens and their K-9s. Alfieri noted the training weekend was held by the Conservation Dog Alliance members in collaboration with the warden service K-9 units since there’s interest and overlap in the work between the two groups. Plus, the entities like to share information and provide feedback to assist one another.

Specialist Dustin Snyder was among the Vermont game wardens at Dead Creek this weekend. He’s been K-9 handling for seven years and was hoping to help conservation detection dog handlers work with their animals and offer advice.

Snyder acknowledged the differences in his K-9 unit’s work and that of conservation detection dogs.

“I’m probably going to learn

some things here myself from conservation dog work,” he said. “The odors are completely different from (gunshot residue), but we can definitely help in some skillsets.”

As the training weekend kicked off, others in attendance were hoping to improve their handling skills and learn more about things

like how to prevent their dogs from disturbing the targets they find.

Like Blumenthal, several handlers who took part in this weekend’s training are working alongside conservation detection dogs each day. Those handlers included Lindsay Ware, another founding member of the Conservation Dog Alliance and founder of Science Dogs of New England. The organization “provides scent detection canines and handlers for conservation and wildlife research” in the region.

While Vermont isn’t yet at the point of deploying dogs for conservation work, Alfieri is hoping someday the state might be.

“My professional dream is to have one or two conservation detection dogs on staff with the state, similar to the K-9 warden program, before I retire,” she said. “I don’t yet know if that is a reality, as it requires the right funding mechanism, the right project, and the right dog. These are highly trained working dogs that require skilled handlers.”

She noted there are members of the Conservation Dog Alliance around the Northeast who could support conservation efforts in Vermont now.

“I would love to see these dog and handler teams be paid for their conservation work because it is a lot of time, money and skill to train these dogs,” Alfieri said. “I don’t know when or if having dogs deployed around Vermont will happen. It is so dependent on the right project and funding. Stay tuned!”

Orwell

(Continued from Page 1A)
compared to this year and a 3.61% increase in per-pupil costs. But it also means an education property tax decrease in all six SVUUSD communities.

For Orwell, it will result in an estimated homestead education property tax rate of 93.6 cents per \$100 in property value — a 4.17% drop from this year, according to SVUUSD Superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell.

Olsen-Farrell expressed her gratitude to SVUUSD voters through a message posted on the district’s website Tuesday evening, after the votes had been tallied.

“Your engagement, advocacy, and belief in the importance of public education make a profound difference in the lives of our students, staff, and families,” she stated. “We recognize that arriving at a successful outcome required thoughtful dialogue and collaboration, and we deeply

appreciate the time and effort so many of you contributed throughout this process. Your vote allows us to move forward with the resources necessary to provide a high-quality, student-centered education while remaining committed to continuous improvement and fiscal responsibility.”

At the same time, Olsen-Farrell noted that public education will be heading into choppy waters during the next few years.

“As we continue to navigate a time of significant uncertainty in public education — both at the state and federal levels — your partnership remains more important than ever. We are committed to maintaining transparency, fostering open communication, and working together to ensure Slate Valley remains a place where all students can thrive,” she said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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WHEN: Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 5:30pm
WHERE: Town Hall Theater, Middlebury, VT

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MAV SENIOR ATTACKER Esme Visco-Lyons ducks under a Hartford defender's check as she lines up her fourth-quarter goal during Tuesday's girls' lacrosse game at Mount Abe.

Independent photo/Steve James



MAV SOPHOMORE MIDFIELDER Meredith Dufault snags a ground ball amidst a group of Hartford players during Tuesday's lacrosse game at Mount Abe.

Independent photo/Steve James

MAV girls' lacrosse opens with new coach and competitive effort

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham-Vergennes cooperative girls' lacrosse team opened their season on Tuesday with a new coach and a competitive effort in a 14-10 setback against Hartford, Division II's top tournament seed

in 2024.

The Hurricanes, a team that includes athletes who won D-II field hockey and ice hockey championships this school year, kept threatening to break the game open. But Coach Emiko Chrusciel's Commodores

consistently answered to remain in striking distance. Hartford finally went into stall mode with eight minutes left in the fourth quarter to nail down the victory.

Chrusciel was pleased with the grit displayed by her young team, which has only four seniors on its

roster of 18. One of the seniors is goalie Kendra Jackson, who volunteered to play that position with no prior experience. The others are midfielder Safoura Camara and attackers Esme Visco-Lyons and Ruby Hellier.

"I was super-impressed with

how they came back," Chrusciel said. "In every quarter we stopped and talked about you're going to fight for every ground ball, and you just have to keep working together. And they want to work for each other. And so that just helped them continue to

push themselves and work hard and keep going to the very end, all four quarters."

The game got off to a promising start for the Commodores, who scored two unanswered goals in the first 4:08. The first when (See MAV girls, Page 4B)

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Baseball

4/10 OV vs Fair Haven.....3-1
4/14 OV at Windsor.....Postponed
4/15 Mt Abe vs CVU.....8-7

Softball

4/10 OV vs Fair Haven.....10-8
4/15 Mt Abe vs CVU.....26-13
4/15 Mt Anthony vs OV.....14-2

Girls' Lacrosse

4/10 MAV at Stowe.....Postponed
4/12 MUHS at St. Albans.....Postponed
4/17 MAV at Essex.....Postponed
4/14 MUHS at Stowe.....22-12
4/15 Hartford vs MAV.....14-10
4/16 MUHS at CVU.....Late

Boys' Lacrosse

4/11 OV at Fairfax.....Postponed
4/11 Stowe vs MAV.....8-7
4/12 St. Albans at MUHS.....Postponed
4/15 MUHS vs Woodstock.....7-3
4/15 Hartford vs MAV.....12-0

Boys' Tennis

4/10 CVU vs MUHS.....5-2
4/14 Stowe vs MUHS.....5-2
4/16 Colchester at MUHS.....Postponed

Girls' Tennis

4/9 MUHS at U32.....Postponed
4/12 Harwood at MUHS.....Postponed

Girls' Ultimate

4/14 Burr & Burton vs MUHS.....12-2

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse

4/9 Midd vs St. Lawrence.....18-2
4/12 Midd vs Tufts.....16-15

Men's Lacrosse

4/12 Tufts vs Midd.....16-11

Baseball

4/11 Hamilton vs Midd.....3-2
4/11 Midd vs Hamilton.....8-7
4/12 Midd vs Hamilton.....3-2

Softball

4/9 St. Lawrence vs Midd.....7-6
4/9 St. Lawrence vs Midd.....7-2
4/11 Tufts vs Midd.....3-1
4/11 Midd vs Tufts.....3-1
4/13 Midd vs Trinity.....11-4
4/13 Trinity vs Midd.....4-1

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Baseball

4/19 Thetford at VUHS.....11 AM
4/22 Richford at VUHS.....4:30 PM
4/22 MUHS at Mt. Mansfield.....4:30 PM
4/24 VUHS at Burlington.....4:30 PM
4/24 OV at Mt Anthony.....4:30 PM
4/26 Colchester at MUHS.....11 AM

Softball

4/17 Missisquoi at Mt Abe.....4:30 PM
4/17 OV at Burr & Burton.....4:30 PM
4/17 U-32 at MUHS.....4:30 PM
4/19 Thetford at VUHS.....11 AM
4/22 Springfield at OV.....4:30 PM
4/22 Richford at VUHS.....4:30 PM

(See Schedule, Page 4B)



MIDDLEBURY SENIOR KUNAL Handa delivers a pitch in his two-inning relief stint during the Panthers' 8-7 win in the second game of this past Friday's doubleheader against visiting Hamilton.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panther baseball takes two out of three from Hamilton

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College baseball team took two out of three tightly contested games from visiting Hamilton this past weekend to improve to 15-10, 6-2 in NESCAC West play.

On Friday, the teams split two

games, Hamilton winning the first, 3-2, and the Panthers rallying from an early deficit to take the second, 8-7. In the second game, Panther senior outfielder Kyle McCausland singled and became the program's all-time hit leader with 179, breaking an 18-year-old record. On Saturday, the Panthers snapped

a 2-2 tie with a run in the seventh and hung on for a 3-2 victory.

The Panthers are dueling Williams (11-8, 4-2 NESCAC West) for first place and seeding position in the upcoming NESCAC playoffs. Middlebury this coming weekend is scheduled to play a three-game set at Williams.

Those games could decide the top NESCAC West seed in the NESCAC playoffs. The games in Williamstown, Mass., will conclude Middlebury's league play, while Williams has NESCAC games that could still swing the standings depending on this (See Baseball, Page 3B)

#1 women's lax nips second-ranked Tufts

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — Saturday's showdown in Middlebury between the nation's two best NCAA Division III women's lacrosse teams was as tense, well-played and close as might be expected.

The game between the two undefeated teams was up for grabs until the final 20 seconds, when Middlebury senior Hope Shue won the game's last draw to halt No. 2 Tufts's furious rally and seal a 16-15 victory for the top-ranked Panthers. The win was Middlebury's 64th straight.

Shue's critical play as time wound down capped a game in which the All-American attacker sparked her team with four goals, assisted four goals, and controlled a career-high 10 draws.

The 13-0 Panthers needed every bit of Shue's and her teammates'

heroics to hold off the 12-1 Jumbos, who trailed by 15-10 with 11:58 to go in the fourth quarter and then scored five out of the game's remaining six goals, two by Madeline Delaney.

A strike by Panther junior midfielder Caroline Adams ultimately proved to be decisive. With 2:56 to go, Adams, bolted in from the left side and tossed the ball into the net as she fell down in front of the goal to set the score at 16-14.

Barring a stunning series of upsets in the next week, Middlebury will now host throughout the upcoming NESCAC tournament, thus having the home field advantage against Tufts for a likely rematch in the NESCAC final. And that game could determine NCAA D-III tournament seeding.

To top it all off, the game was (See Women's lax, Page 2B)



MIDDLEBURY SENIOR GOALIE Gina Driscoll makes a first-half save for the top-ranked Panthers against the No. 2 Tufts Jumbos in the Middlebury women's lacrosse team's home win on Saturday. Driscoll shared time with sophomore Elizabeth Savage.

Independent photo/Steve James

Eagle nine stuns CVU

HINESBURG — The Mount Abraham baseball team opened its season on Tuesday with a dramatic victory over Division I host Champlain Valley, 8-7.

The Eagles trailed, 7-0, after four innings before rallying to prevail. Abe Ready scored the winning run in the top of the seventh. He doubled to lead off and scored on an error and a passed ball.

Ready also played a big role earlier as the Eagles rallied with another double and three RBI. Irie Mazur had a single and two RBI, and Connor Peck also had a hit and an RBI as the Eagles worked their (See Eagles, Page 2B)

Tiger boys win debut

WOODSTOCK — The Middlebury Union High School boys' lacrosse team had a successful season debut on Tuesday, when the Tigers prevailed over host Woodstock in a defensive battle, 7-3.

Goalie Levi Nuceder had a big game for the Tigers, making 11 saves. Angus Blackwell and Rowdy Malcolm scored two goals apiece, and Luke Nuceder chipped in with four assists for MUHS. Asher Emery led Woodstock with two goals.

The Tigers have two home games scheduled this week before (See Boys' lax, Page 2B)

Tiger girls' lax trounces Stowe

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**
STOWE — The Middlebury Union High School girls' lacrosse team opened its spring season on Monday with a 22-12 victory over host Stowe.

The Tigers were scheduled to visit Champlain Valley on Wednesday after the deadline for this issue. Their April 12 game at St. Albans was postponed; no makeup date has been announced. The team's next scheduled game per its online schedule is at Rice on April 28.

Against the Raiders on Monday, 11 Tigers scored at least one

goal, led by senior Ada Weaver and junior Kenyon Connors with four goals and an assist apiece. Sophomore Isabel Quinn tossed in three goals and assisted three, and senior Sara Kent scored once and set up four goals.

Also contributing to the offense were freshman Ellie Conklin (two goals); three players with a goal and an assist, junior Quinn Doria, sophomore Alice Livesay and freshman Louisa Orten; and three with a goal apiece, senior Aven Frankovic, junior Lia Calzini and sophomore Sedona Carrara.

Eagle softball wins first game

HINESBURG — The Mount Abraham Union High School softball team opened its season on Tuesday by doubling up host Champlain Valley, 26-13.

The Eagles had many offensive contributors, including Nora Hurlburt (four hits, five RBI), Gretchen Toy (homer, single, three

RBI), Elise Parker (three hits, three RBIs), Abba Parker (two RBI) and Brooklyn Ryersbach (two hits, RBI).

The Division II Eagles' next game is this Thursday, when they host perennial D-I contender Missisquoi at 4:30 p.m.

MUHS boys' tennis drops two

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' tennis team dropped its first two matches, both on the road, to Champlain Valley on April 10, 5-2, and to Stowe on Monday, also by 5-2.

The Tigers were scheduled to host Colchester on Wednesday after deadline for this issue, and next up is a home date with South Burlington on Friday at 4 p.m.

At No. 1 doubles, Ethan Croke & Sawyer Lake (CVU) defeated Kirin Biancosino & Paras Biancosino (MUHS), 6-0, 6-0. (Note: Croke is a Vergennes student playing for the Redhawks.)

At No. 2 doubles, Ben Fina & River Enser (CVU) defeated Jackson Lind & Jonathan Carpenter (MUHS), 6-0, 6-0.

Against Stowe on Monday, Murray and Young again picked up the points for what was a shorthanded MUHS team.

The individual results vs. Stowe were:

At No. 1 singles, Murray (MUHS) defeated Max Biedermann (Stowe), 6-1, 6-3.

At No. 2 singles, Young (MUHS) defeated Parker Guffy (Stowe), 6-4, 3-6, 1-0 (10-3).

At No. 3 singles, Carter MacDonald (Stowe) defeated Cook-Yoder (MUHS), 6-1, 7-5.

At No. 4 singles, Liam Pastella (Stowe) defeated Hammond (MUHS), 6-0, 6-1.

At No. 5 singles, Declan Coggins (Stowe) defeated Kirin Biancosino (MUHS), 6-4, 6-0.

At No. 1 doubles, Xavi Violette and Drew Zimmerman (Stowe) defeated Paras Biancosino and Jackson Lind (MUHS), 6-0, 6-0.

At No. 2 doubles, MUHS forfeited.

Boys' lax

(Continued from Page 1B)
next week's spring break: They are set to host Champlain Valley on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. in a rematch of the 2024 Division I championship game, and Rice is on tap to visit on Saturday at 11 a.m.

Eagles

(Continued from Page 1B)
way back into the game.

The rally made a winner of pitcher Evan Corrigan who tossed three innings of scoreless relief, allowing three hits and one walk and fanning four batters.

The Eagles have no more games scheduled until the end of the month after next week's spring vacation.

Women's lax

(Continued from Page 1B)
Senior Day for 14 members of the team, something Middlebury Coach Kate Livesay talked about after the game.

"It's exciting to celebrate our seniors and just bring that energy. The team just adores this group. There's 14 amazing leaders," Livesay said.

But she added the Panthers also couldn't be distracted by the pregame hoopla.

"It's a huge game, and you want to make sure the focus is where it needs to be, on execution. I thought our team from the first whistle and goal was just really dialed in, really making the most out of every possession. You really can't waste opportunities against a good team like this, so I really think we set the tone from the very beginning," Livesay said. "And I think we got a lot from a lot of people, which we needed."

Shue agreed it was a team effort. "We know how good Tufts is. We have so much respect for their team," Shue said. "And so we really had to lean into the sixth gear and dig deep. I think there was a little inspiration coming from the sideline, a lot of good energy. And it also comes down to such trust among all of us, that we're going to do our job."

The teams traded punches in the first quarter. Middlebury took a 2-0 lead when Shue converted a free position shot, and then soon afterward a nifty feed across the goalmouth from classmate Maggie Coughlin at the five-minute mark. Tufts then scored twice in the next two minutes, with Ella Lesperance and Allie Zorn doing the damage.

The Panthers again pushed the lead to two on a Kate Motley free position and a Skylar Lach finish on a feed from Britt Nawrocki. Tufts answered with the first of Margie Carden's five goals, a free position score, and the first of Delaney's three, and it was 4-4 after the first period.

Tufts took a 7-5 lead midway through the second period on three free position goals, two by Carden and one by Zorn, with only Lach, from Shue, answering for Middlebury. In that stretch Tufts dominated the draw control, earning a 7-5 edge in the period.

Livesay switched the taller Lucy Bishop into the center to take the draws, and the Panthers finished with an overall 20-15 advantage in that category. Adams, who normally takes the draw, went out on the circle with Shue to scoop groundballs, and combined effectively there, controlling four.

"We really felt like Lucy was going to be an important part of this, and she was. She really changed the dynamic of the draw controls. I was really proud of our effort and our battle in that phase of the game," Livesay said. "For us to have success there was a huge factor."

The Panthers responded with a four-goal run to take the lead at the break, 9-7. Motley started the surge by tossing in a free position at 5:05. Two minutes later, freshman Sophia Lee did the same, and the game was

tied. Kelcey Dion's free position at 2:09 gave Middlebury the lead, and Anna Spehr found Coughlin open at the left post at 1:24 to create the halftime score.

The teams traded goals early in the third period, but the Panthers outscored Tufts by 3-1 over the final eight minutes to stretch their lead to 13-9 entering the final quarter. Shue nailed a free position, Lach converted a Dion feed, and Shue circled counterclockwise through the fan and found the lower left corner at 1:41 to cap the quarter's offense.

Things looked even rosier for the Panthers when they scored two of the first three goals of the fourth quarter.

After Jumbo Kate Mastrobuono whipped a shot home to cut the lead to three, Spehr and Dion both finished off Shue feeds, and the Panther lead was a game-high five at 15-10 with 12 minutes to go.

Tufts wasn't ready to surrender, even after Panther goalie Elizabeth Savage made a big save on Delaney a minute later. The Jumbos forced a turnover, and at 9:48 Delaney set up Esperance to make it 15-11.

Shue controlled the draw, but a minute later turned the ball over. A minute after that, Mastrobuono made it 15-12. Shue controlled the draw again, but with seven minutes

to go, Lee hit the post. The ball went the other way, and at 5:42 Carden made it 15-13.

Shue once again controlled the draw, but again Lee hit the post. At the other end, Delaney scooped a loose ball and scored at 3:54, and it was a one-goal game.

This time Adams won the draw, and a minute later scored the key goal, tumbling backwards to the turf as she finished out front, to make it 16-14.

Middlebury won the draw, and both teams committed two turnovers before finally Tufts cleared successfully and worked the ball to Carden, who whipped it in to set the score at 16-15 with 25 seconds to go.

Shue won the draw to deny Tufts a chance to tie.

"I just said get off my line quick and get my stick in there and hope for the best. And that last draw was really great to get," Shue said.

Livesay also addressed Tufts's determined rally.

"That was a tough little stretch for us. We hit the post a couple times. And then they were able to put in a loose ball off just a dropped ball ... So there were some tough circumstances that we had to battle through," Livesay said. "But I think we did a great job of giving ourselves opportunities on the draw.

I think that was the biggest part of that stretch. We were at least able to get the ball back and take some time off the clock and put them under some pressure. Granted, we didn't always capitalize on those opportunities, but we got the one more (goal) that we needed."

For Tufts, goalie Pascale de Buren made 11 saves. Senior Gina Driscoll started in goal for Middlebury and made four saves while allowing seven goals. Savage, a sophomore, allowed eight goals and made three saves.

Senior Panther defenders Grace Mumford and Maddie Paylor each caused two turnovers. Their classmate in the back, Kylie Wilson, caused one, moving her into second place in the program's career list in that category with 104.

Shue had the final word, saying the result was also due to executing the game plan prepared for them by the team's coaches.

"We knew this would be a big challenge today. So it feels great to see everything we've been working on this week in practice really materialize today, and just lean into that trust (of each other)," she said. "And I'm so proud of our coaches, who prepared us so well. It's an unbelievable coaching staff we have, so we're so grateful and lucky to have them."



PANTHER SOPHOMORE KATE Motley whips home a first-quarter goal between defenders during the top-ranked Middlebury women's lacrosse team's win over No. 2 Tufts.

Independent photo/Steve James



MIDDLEBURY JUNIOR HALEY Hamilton defends against Jumbo attacker Kate Mastrobuono during the top-ranked Middlebury women's lacrosse team's win over No. 2 Tufts. Panther junior Caroline Adams (#6) is also in on the play.

Independent photo/Steve James

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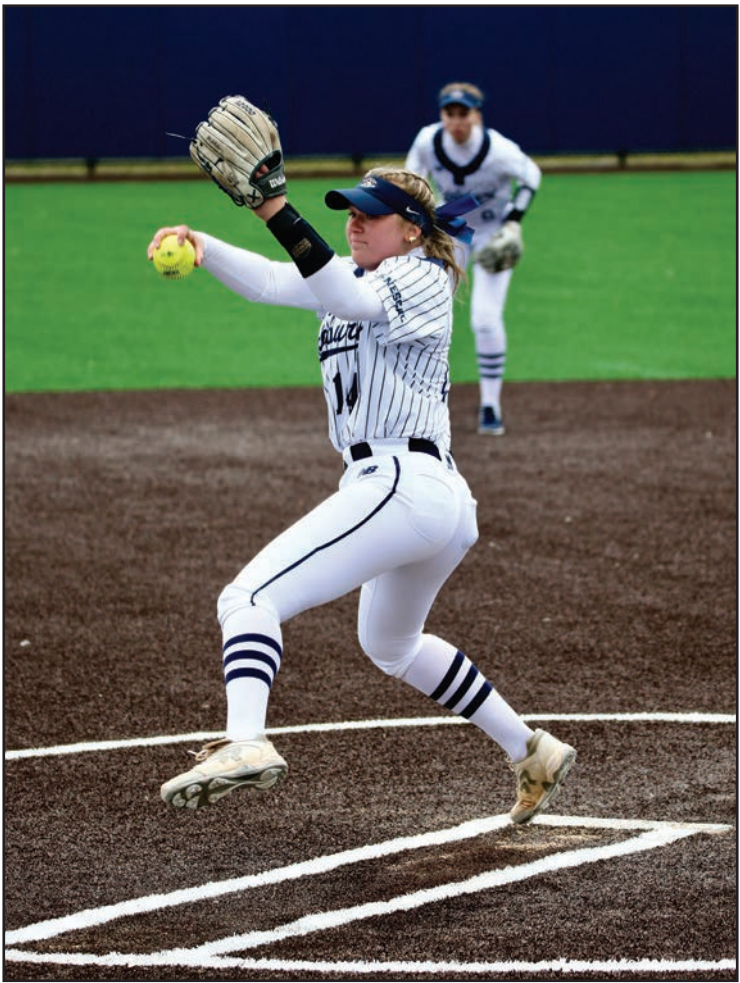
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Split decision

THE PANTHER SOFTBALL TEAM is enjoying a solid season, with a 19-9 record after splitting two NESCAC doubleheaders this weekend, including at home vs. Tufts on Friday, April 11. Above, Middlebury pitcher Abigail Jankowski delivers a pitch against Tufts. Below, first baseman Uma Corcoran stretches for an errant throw as a Jumbo runner reaches safely.

Independent photos/Steve James



Moose permits designated

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board voted on April 9 to have 80 either-sex moose hunting permits and 100 antlerless moose hunting permits available this year for a hunt limited to Vermont’s Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) E in the northeastern corner of the state. The science-based hunt is expected to result in a harvest of about 86 moose, or about 10 percent of the current moose population in WMU E.

Permit applications are now available on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department’s website.

The goal of the department’s 2025 moose harvest recommendation is to improve the health of moose in WMU-E by reducing the number of moose and thereby reducing the abundance and impact of winter ticks.

Ongoing monitoring of moose health in WMU-E shows the population continues to be negatively impacted by winter ticks. Birth rates are low, and many calves do not survive their first winter.

Lottery applications for moose permits are \$10 for residents and

\$25 for nonresidents. The deadline to apply is June 18. Lottery winners need to purchase resident moose permits for \$100 and nonresident moose permits for \$350. Lottery winners are also required to hold a current year Vermont hunting or combination hunting and fishing license.

Hunters who held a permit within the past five years are not eligible to apply for a permit or to buy a bonus point. Applicants must continue to annually submit a moose permit application if they wish to retain their past bonus permits and accumulate subsequent bonus points.

Five permits will be available to Vermont military veterans, three permits will be available for “Special Opportunity” recipients with life-threatening illnesses, and three permits will be auctioned in accordance with regulations.

The 2025 Moose Harvest Recommendation and related information about moose research and management are available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website.

Baseball

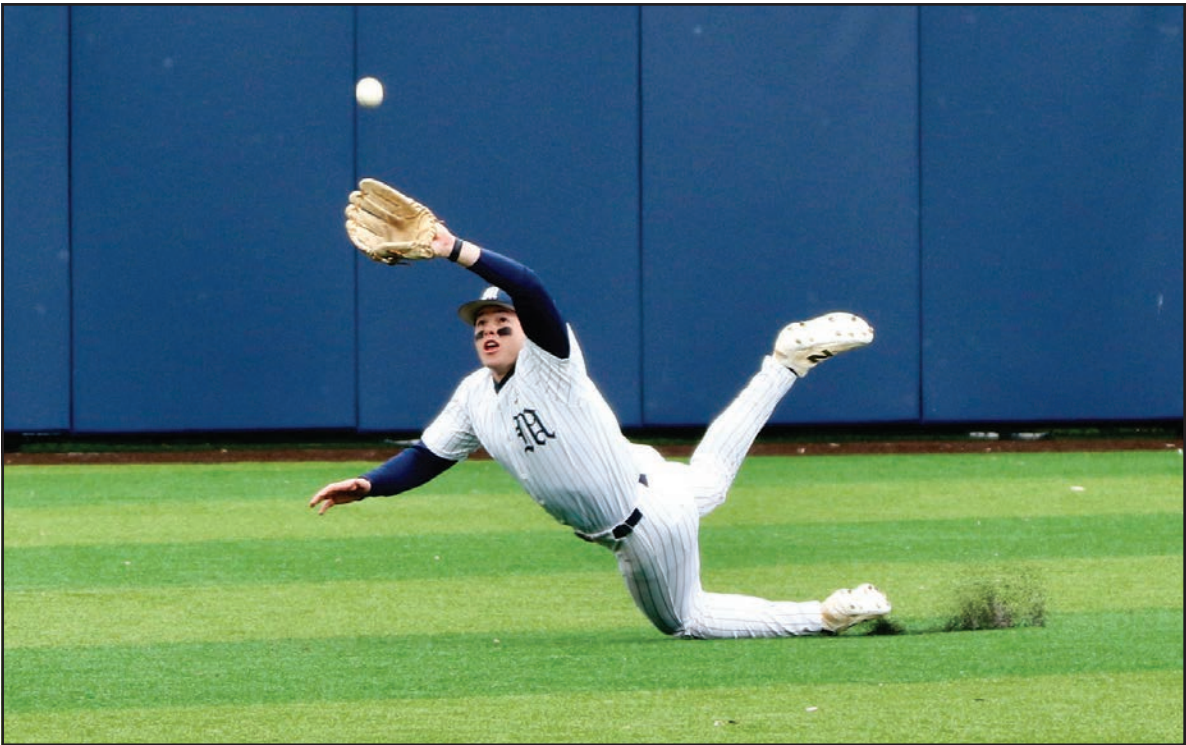
(Continued from Page 1B)

coming weekend’s results. The top four teams from the NESCAC East and West will square off at Bowdoin between May 9 and 11 with the league’s automatic berth in the NCAA Division III tournament at stake. Middlebury is the defending champion, also won the title in 2022, and also earned an NCAA at-large bid in 2023.

FRIDAY TWIN BILL

In the first game on Friday, which was scheduled for seven innings, the Continentals scored twice in the third and once in the fourth to take a 3-0 lead off losing pitcher Christian Zebroski. Dylan Knightly came in and tossed 3.1 innings of scoreless relief.

Middlebury scored both of its runs in the bottom of the fourth. McCausland and Aiden Han both walked, and after a two-out error prolonged the inning, Gus Parker doubled home both runners. But that was all the offense Middlebury could muster, as two Continental pitchers limited the Panthers to three hits, two from Parker. Aden Soroca earned the pitching win,



PANTHER SENIOR LEFT Fielder Owen Fox leaves his feet as he stretches to make the grab during the Panthers' 8-7 win in the second game of this past Friday's doubleheader against Hamilton.

Independent photo/Steve James

and Eddie Taylor tossed two perfect relief innings for the save.

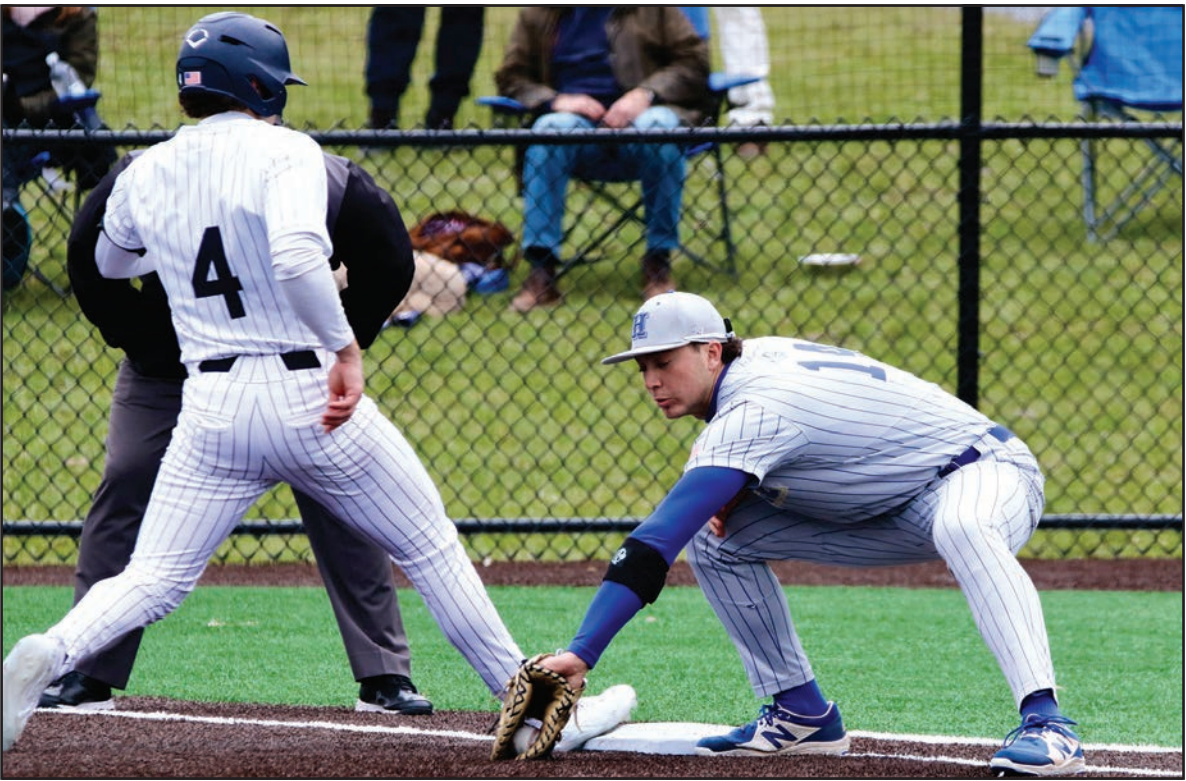
In the second game Hamilton scored a run in the first on a walk, groundout and an RBI single, and then added four runs in the second

to take a 5-0 lead. The runs in that inning scored after three walks, a passed ball that scored one run, a wild pitch, a hit batter, two singles that combined with errors plated three runs, and an RBI infield hit.



PANTHER AIDEN HAN appears to be swinging for the fences as he takes a cut during the Panthers' 8-7 win in the second game of this past Friday's doubleheader against visiting Hamilton.

Independent photo/Steve James



PANTHER SENIOR NATHAN Samii scampers back to first base to beat a pickoff throw during the Panthers' 8-7 win in the second game of this past Friday's doubleheader against visiting Hamilton.

Independent photo/Steve James

Middlebury got one run back in the bottom of the second on a Will Ashley double and Carter Chi RBI hit, but Hamilton made it 6-1 with a run on two hits in the fourth. Middlebury got that run back in the bottom of the inning on an Anthony Pellagrini single, a walk to Chi, a double steal, and a Nathan Samii sacrifice fly.

Hamilton scratched out a run to make it 7-2 in the sixth. Walks to Chi and Samii and a McCausland single cut the lead to 7-3 in the sixth, and then the Panthers erupted for five runs in the seventh.

Joe Basso walked and scored on a Ben Slaughter triple, and then both Ashley and Pellagrini were hit by pitches to load the bases. Chi walked and Pellagrini singled to bring in three more runs, and then Chi scored on a throwing error on a failed pickoff attempt.

Charlie Kutz came on to earn a two-inning save, inducing a double play to end the eighth and then working out of a major jam in the ninth. Kutz walked the first two batters and tossed a wild pitch to put runners on first and third. Kutz then threw out a runner at home trying to score on a squeeze bunt for the first out and then struck out the next two batters to end the game. Nico Tambascia, the fourth of five Panther pitchers, tossed a scoreless seventh inning and earned the pitching win, his first of the season.

SATURDAY GAME

On Saturday the Panthers took a 2-0 lead in the first inning, saw Hamilton tie the game with runs in the third and fifth, and then pushed the winning run across in the seventh. Pellagrini went 4.2 innings as the starting pitcher, allowing both Continental runs. Knightly, Skyler Platt and Stefano Yozzo combined to toss 4.1 innings of scoreless relief, with Yozzo finishing with 2.1 innings and earning the win.

In the first, Samii and McCausland both walked. Samii scored on a Basso sacrifice fly, and McCausland came home on a Parker single.

Samii scored the winning run in the seventh. He was hit by a pitch, moved to third when McCausland doubled, and raced home on a Slaughter groundout.

Saturday was Senior Day for the Panthers, who honored seniors Owen Fox, Zander Gilmartin, Kunal Handa, Charlie Kutz, Justin Lessing, McCausland, Issac Rosario, Samii, Jacob Sherf and Slaughter.

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MAV girls

(Continued from Page 1B)
sophomore middle/attacker Thompson Davis, cutting to goal, buried a Camara feed. Sophomore Meredith Dufault converted a free position after a Hartford foul with 7:52 on the clock to make it 2-0.

Hartford found its groove, however, and closed the period on a 4-0 run to take the lead for good. Defender Paige Trombly started the surge by picking up an MAV turnover at midfield and bolting in and scoring. Then the big guns took over. Audrey Rupp,

who finished with three goals and three assists, scored twice, and Madison Barwood tossed in the first of her five goals, and it was 4-2 after one period.

Jackson made two saves to open the second period and momentarily take the wind out of the Hurricanes' sails. But soon Barwood struck again, and Nella Bowen added the first of her three goals to make it 6-2 at 7:02 of the second period.

Dufault answered for MAV 26 seconds later with a solo run from

the left side. Jackson kicked away a Barwood breakaway with about four minutes to go, but could not stop a Rupp free position shot 3:04, and Hartford led at the half, 7-3.

Freshman midfielder Callie Rule earned a free position early in the third quarter that was saved, but Dufault scooped the rebound and tucked it home to make it 7-4. Barwood answered quickly for Hartford, but with 5:17 gone sophomore MAV attacker Aubrey Coffey curled around the goal from the left and found the goal's bottom left corner to make it 8-5.

Hartford then threatened to break the game open with a three-goal run in a span of 43 seconds in which Rupp set up two goals, one by Barwood and one by Bowen, and scored once. That surge made it 11-5 at 3:00.

The Commodores responded. At 2:05 Coffey earned a free position and from the edge of the fan fired a bullet into the upper far corner. At 1:32 Davis cut to goal and took a feed from Visco-Lyons on the left and found the net's near side to make it 11-7.

In the period's final minute, junior middle June Yates-Rusch had a chance to make it 11-8, but the Hurricane goalie (unidentified by Hartford) made a kick save, the last of her three.

Hailey Vanasse and Barwood pushed the Hartford lead to 13-7 early in the fourth, but MAV kept after it. Freshman Ada Hellier scooped a loose ball out front and spun to score, and another long-range Coffey free-position conversion at 8:57 made it 13-9 and gave MAV hope.

But Hartford won the draw, and Barwood, Rupp and Vanasse then stalled effectively at the edge of the Hartford offensive zone. After killing off about five minutes, the ball went out of a double-team to Trombly. She bolted to goal, drew a foul, and converted a free position at 3:41 and ice the win.

Visco-Lyons added one more goal for the Commodores, taking



MAV SOPHOMORE AUBREY Coffey goes on the attack during Tuesday's girls' lacrosse game at Mount Abe. Coffey scored three goals for the Commodores.

Independent photo/Steve James



HARTFORD'S HAILEY VANASSE has the reach, but Commodore Meredith Dufault has the inside position to win this draw during the lacrosse game at Mount Abe on Tuesday.

Independent photo/Steve James



MAV SENIOR GOALIE Kendra James kicks away a bid by Hartford's Madison Barwood for a breakaway goal during the lacrosse game at Mount Abe on Tuesday.

Independent photo/Steve James

a pass out front from freshman Callie Rule and tucking the ball inside the left post.

Chrusciel, who coached many

of the team's players during their middle school years, said MAV will only improve as the season progresses. She sees strengths the team can build on, including athleticism.

"I think our speed is one of our biggest strengths, and our ability to work hard in the midfield to slow (the other team's transition) down, especially against a good team like Hartford, who can run the midfield really well," she

said.

And she was pleased the Commodores held their own on Tuesday.

"It just shows what we are capable of for the future as they continue to get to know me as a coach, even though I coached a lot of them in middle school, what it's like to work for me as varsity coach now," Chrusciel said. "And to hang with a good team like this is really encouraging for them."

Schedule

(Continued from Page 1B)

4/24 VUHS at Oxbow4:30 PM
4/24 OV at Rutland5 PM
4/26 MUHS at Colchester11 AM

Girls' Lacrosse

4/17 MAV at Essex11 AM
4/19 St. J at MAV11 AM
4/26 St. Albans at MAV11 AM

Boys' Lacrosse

4/17 CVU at MUHS4:30 PM
4/18 MAV at St. J4:30 PM
4/18 OV at Randolph6 PM
4/19 Rice at MUHS11 AM
4/21 Woodstock at MUHS4:30 PM
4/22 Rutland at OV6 PM
4/25 OV at Hartford6:30 PM

Boys' Tennis

4/18 S. Burlington at MUHS4 PM

Girls' Tennis

4/18 MUHS at St. Albans3:30 PM

Track & Field

4/17 Mt Abe at Burlington3:15 PM
4/23 Mt Abe at Essex Vocational3 PM

Girls' Ultimate

4/17 Mt Mansfield at MUHS4 PM

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse

4/19 Midd at TrinityNoon
4/23 Williams at Midd6 PM
4/26NESCAC Playoffs Open

Men's Lacrosse

4/19 Trinity at Midd1 PM
4/23 Midd at Williams5 PM
4/26NESCAC Playoffs Open

Baseball

4/18 Midd at Williams4 PM
4/19 Midd at Williams (2)Noon
4/22 Midd at Plattsburgh3 PM
4/25 Midd at Skidmore4 PM
4/26 Midd at Skidmore (2)Noon

Softball

4/19 Midd at Hamilton (2)Noon
4/20 Williams at Midd (2)1 PM
4/26 Colby at Midd (2)1 PM

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MAV PLAYERS SURROUND sophomore Meredith Dufault (No. 12) after she scores an early goal against Hartford during Tuesday's lacrosse game at Mount Abe.

Independent photo/Steve James

Turkey hunt begins April 26

MONTPELIER — It's almost time for spring turkey hunting in Vermont with youth and novice weekend on April 26 and 27 and the regular season from May 1 to May 31.

To hunt turkeys on April 26 and 27, a youth must be 15 or younger and must have completed a hunter education course and possess a hunting license, a turkey hunting license and a free youth turkey hunting tag.

A person who has purchased their first hunting license in the past 12 months and is 16 or older may hunt turkeys as a novice on April 26 and 27. They must have a hunting license, turkey hunting license and a free novice tag.

The youth or novice must be accompanied by an unarmed licensed adult over 18 years of age. Shooting hours for the weekend are one half hour before sunrise to 5 p.m. Landowner permission is required to hunt on

private land during youth-novice turkey hunting weekend.

The youth or novice may take one bearded turkey on the weekend and two bearded turkeys in the regular May hunting season.

Shooting hours during the May 1-31 turkey season are one half hour before sunrise to noon, and two bearded turkeys may be taken.

A shotgun or archery equipment may be used to hunt turkeys. Shot size must be no larger than #2.

A successful hunter in Vermont's spring turkey seasons must report their turkey within 48 hours to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. This can be done at a local big game reporting station or online at Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife's 2025 Turkey Hunting Guide is available on their website.

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VTF&W offers fishing clinics

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is holding a series of free introductory fishing clinics this spring open to people of all ages and levels of experience, including those who are completely new to fishing. Equipment will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own rods and to dress for the weather. The Free How-To Fishing Clinics are listed from a link on Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website home page and on the events calendar. Subjects covered in Addison County include:

- Bullhead Fishing, April 24, Stonebridge Dam, Panton.
- Fly Fishing, April 26, Sycamore Park, Bristol.
- Fly Fishing, May 17, Sycamore Park, Bristol.

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited to the first 30 registrants. More info at [vtfishandwildlife.com](#).



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Proceeds benefit the American Legion Post #27 Veteran's and Children Programs

community
calendar

**april
17**

THURSDAY

“Anunnaki Tales: The Gods, Goddesses, and Kings of Ancient Sumer” in Vergennes. Thursday, April 17, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Step into the ancient world of Sumer with Josh Brooks, who will read from his new, self-published book. Brooks 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 will join the conversation to discuss his artistic process. More info at [www.bixbylibrary.org](#).

Middlebury Union Middle School talent show in Middlebury. Thursday, April 17, 6-8 p.m., Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 42-46 Merchants Row. This May Middlebury Union Middle School 8th Graders will travel to Boston for a day packed full of fun and educational opportunities. Help MUMS 8th graders reach their fundraising goal while enjoying a night of entertainment Tickets \$5-\$25. Thanks to fundraisers such as this, the annual trip is available to all 8th grade MUMS students at no charge to caregivers. To contribute without purchasing a ticket go to [gofund.me/848af78b](#).

**april
19**

SATURDAY

Spring Cleaning Saturday on the TAM in Middlebury. Saturday, April 19, 8:30 a.m., location TBD. MALT's Trails & Volunteer Manager, Liam, will be awaiting volunteers at the trailhead in the mornings with donuts, coffee, and tea for about an hour or so. Enjoy a warm drink and chat, then head out to work, either hiking the section of trail yourself as a group with Liam. Work includes clearing dead branches and small fallen trees, pruning new growth, and picking up trash. More info and registration at [www.maltvt.org/events](#).

River Watch field training in Bristol. Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.-noon., Town Green gazebo. If you have an interest in the health and wellbeing of our local streams and rivers, and would like to assist in collecting water quality samples, please join us for this training session in which we review monitoring protocols and tips for successful field work. Please bring tick protection as we will be visiting the river. More info contact acrcwvt@gmail.com, 802-434-3236, or visit [www.acrcwv.org](#).

Community Forum on Federal actions in Middlebury. Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 42-26 Merchants Row. Join State Sen. Ruth Hardy, Vermont Attorney General Charity Clark and Treasurer Mike Picciak to discuss the federal situation and its impact on Vermont. Panelists will provide information about the potential impact of federal actions and what Vermont officials are doing to prepare and fight back.

River Watch field training in Middlebury. Saturday, April 19, 1-3 p.m., Rec Park picnic pavilion, Mary Hogan Dr. If you have an interest in the health and wellbeing of our local streams and rivers, and would like to assist in collecting water quality samples, please join us for this training session in which we review monitoring protocols and tips for successful field work. Please bring tick protection as we will be visiting the river. More info contact acrcwvt@gmail.com, 802-434-3236, or visit [www.acrcwv.org](#).

**april
20**

SUNDAY

Free community Easter dinner in Middlebury. Sunday, April 20, noon-2 p.m., VFW 530 Exchange St. 802 Cares will be treating the Middlebury Community to a free Easter dinner. Menu includes ham, mashed potatoes, vegetables, drinks and dessert. Donations welcome. Please message Casandra Hayes to make a reservation for sit-down or take-out meals. 802-345-1451 or 802cares@gmail.com.

**april
21**

MONDAY

Vermont Health Care Crisis and Proposed Healthcare Reform in Middlebury. Monday, April 21, 5:30 p.m., Founder Room, Residence at Otter Creek 350 Lodge Rd. Diane Lanpher, the director of Legislative Affairs/Green Mountain Care Board, will speak to the monthly meeting of Addison County Democrats.

**april
22**

TUESDAY

“Love Notes to Earth” in Middlebury. Tuesday, April 22, noon-6 p.m., Triangle Park (weather permitting). The public is invited to stop by Triangle Park in Middlebury on Earth Day, to write a love note to Earth. Materials supplied.

**april
23**

WEDNESDAY

Learn about insurance in Middlebury. Wednesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m., 30 Main St., downstairs. National Bank of Middlebury will host Gretchen Kellogg from The Richards Group in the second of a three-part series to better understand your insurance coverage. Today Kellogg will talk about auto insurance. Nothing for sale, just a free educational opportunity.

**april
25**

FRIDAY

Vermont Freedom to Marry silver anniversary at Middlebury College. Friday, April 25, 2-5 p.m., Davis Family Library, 110 Storrs Ave. Celebrate 25 years of marriage equality with the folks who made it happen. Join Middlebury Special Collections for a panel discussion with speakers involved in the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force and the landmark Baker v. Vermont case, one of the first judicial affirmations of the right of same-sex couples. Also hear remarks from Processing

Archivist Anna Hurd on their experience arranging, describing and creating the finding aid for the Vermont Freedom to Marry records, with an open house in Special Collections featuring highlights from the collection before and after the presentation.

**april
26**

SATURDAY

Spring crafters market in Middlebury. Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Local artisans will sell their wares. With live music by Michael Stridsbery.

Ag Appreciation dinner and dance in Middlebury. Saturday, April 26, 5-10 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. in Middlebury. Program includes a panel on Vermont and national important legislation, an Italian dinner prepared by the Addison County Farm Bureau board, and dancing to music by the Hitmen. A family event and a fun evening open to farmers, ag businesses, and anyone with an interest in agriculture. More info and registration at wjscottjr@comcast.net or 802-881-8836. Bring a dessert to share and some non-perishable food items for the food shelf.

Stargazing: Lyrids Meteor Shower with Middlebury Astronomy Club in Middlebury. Saturday, April 26, 8:30-10:30 p.m., location TBD. Join MALT and Catherine Miller, the observatory specialist at Middlebury College, to view one of the oldest known meteor showers in a watch party to observe the Lyrids Meteor Shower. Materials, such as telescopes, will be provided. Bring snacks and water and weather-appropriate clothing. Free. More info and registration at [www.maltvt.org/events](#).

**april
27**

SUNDAY

Bingo in Vergennes. Sunday, April 27, 1:30-4 p.m., American Legion, Armory Ln. Game packets \$15 for one sheet of three cards for each regular game. No limit to the number of packets purchased. Special “Winner Take All” games are extra and will be sold on the floor for \$1 per sheet. Bring your own daubers or borrow one of ours. Payouts depend on attendance. Food available. More info contact Michelle Eastman at 802-349-6370 or at auxiliaryunit14@gmail.com.

**april
28**

MONDAY

Cribbage night in Bristol. Monday, April 28, 7-8:15 p.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North and Elm St.

**may
1**

THURSDAY

Ladies Aid Industria spring rummage sale in Lincoln. Thursday, May 1, 1-7 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Seasonally appropriate items may be dropped off on Wednesday, April 30, from 1-7 p.m. We do not accept donations of helmets, children's car seats, baby equipment or electronics.

“Other Side” screening and panel discussion in Middlebury. Thursday, May 1, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 42-46 Main St. Join Diana Barnard, M.D. for the Vermont premiere of the film “Other Side,” with a Q&A to follow discussing Death With Dignity. The film, part of the Death Differently documentary series, features Connecticut-based activist Lynda Bluestein, who, after three separate cancer diagnoses, and undergoing nauseating and difficult treatment for each one, set her sights on medical aid in dying. This film contains sensitive content related to end-of-life care, terminal illness, and medical aid in dying.

Vermont's Historic Theater Curtains presentation in Starksboro. Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m., Starksboro Public Library, 2827 Route 116. Christine Hadsel, director of Curtains Without Borders, provides a glimpse into the world of talented and often sophisticated theater curtain artists who were part of the rural cultural scene, illustrating the rich cultural history of small-town Vermont before World War I. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments provided.

**may
2**

FRIDAY

Ladies Aid Industria spring

rummage sale in Lincoln. Friday, May 2, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd.

**may
3**

SATURDAY

Green Up Day — in all towns and cities across Vermont. Saturday, May 3. More information online at [greenupvermont.org/towndetails](#).

Ladies Aid Industria spring rummage sale in Lincoln. Saturday, May 3, 8-10:30 a.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd.

Spring Cleaning Saturday on the TAM in Middlebury. Saturday, May 3, 8:30 a.m., location TBD. MALT's Trails & Volunteer Manager, Liam, will be awaiting volunteers at the trailhead in the mornings with donuts, coffee, and tea for about an hour or so. Enjoy a warm drink and chat, then head out to work, either hiking the section of trail yourself as a group with Liam. Work includes clearing dead branches and small fallen trees, pruning new growth, and picking up trash. More info and registration at [www.maltvt.org/events](#).

Bike Swap in Middlebury. Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m.-noon, Cannon Park. Make the annual Middlebury Bike Swap part of your Green Up Day. Find the perfect new-to-you bike, sell that old bike that's been taking up space in your garage all these years, or better yet, do both. More info contact Frog Hollow Bikes at froghollowbikes@gmail.com or call 802-388-6666. Rain or shine.

**may
4**

SUNDAY

Pancake Breakfast in Salisbury. Sunday, May 4, 7:30-10:30 a.m., Salisbury Community School, 286 Kelly Cross Rd. This annual breakfast buffet will raise funds for the Salisbury Fire Department. Cost \$15.

Turkeys: Brooms and Biology in Addison. Sunday, May 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dead Creek Visitor Center, 966 Route 17. Join Vermont Fish & Wildlife and local artisan Nora Woolf of the Woolf Den Homestead to learn all about turkeys and develop a new skill: broom making. Come by during open hours to learn and engage with materials all about turkeys. From 10 a.m.-1 p.m. sign up for Nora's broom workshop. Cost \$55, which goes directly to the instructor. Sign up at [woolfdenhomestead.com/workshops-gatherings](#).

**may
6**

TUESDAY

“Protecting Yourself — Combatting Fraud in the Digital Age” in Middlebury. Tuesday, May 6, 4:30 p.m., National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St. Brought to you by Elderly Services, this seminar will focus on protecting yourself or your elderly loved one from the growing threats of fraud including computer, telephone and mail scams. The program will provide tips on protecting yourself and your personal information and how to avoid falling victim to fraudsters. Free and open to the public

**may
7**

WEDNESDAY

Historical Society meeting in Shoreham. Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 p.m., Stone Schoolhouse, Route 22A. Rachel Sherman, coauthor of the Green Mountain Boys Project, will talk about Shoreham's Green Mountain Boys.

**may
10**

SATURDAY

Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, May 10, 5 p.m., St Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. A family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Historic Preservation Committee to benefit the ongoing restoration efforts for the bell tower and the church.

More listings in Arts & Leisure and

CALENDARONLINE****

[addisonindependent.com](#)



Send the Earth a love note

CELEBRATE MOTHER EARTH this year by writing a love note to her and depositing it in the large papier maché globe constructed by Fran Putnam, Lily Snow and David Sandler. The globe will be in Middlebury's Triangle Park on Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, from noon- 6 p.m., weather permitting.

Photo by Susan Humphrey



Annual Middlebury bike swap slated for May 3

MIDDLEBURY — The annual Middlebury Bike Swap will be on Green Up Day Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at Middlebury’s Cannon Park near Frog Hollow Bikes. The event will happen rain or shine.

Find the perfect new-to-you bike, sell that old bike that’s been taking up space in your garage all these years, or better yet, do both. It’s called a “bike swap” in the sense that people turn in bikes they no longer want and “swap” and buy a different used or new bike, but you can just sell or just buy a bike at the swap.

The swap is hosted by Frog Hollow Bikes and the organization Middlebury Safe Routes with support from the town of Middlebury. It will run concurrent with a Middlebury Spring Market hosted by Better Middlebury Partnership for a vibrant kick off to Green Up Day.

From kids bikes to road bikes, full suspension bikes, maybe even fat tire or e-bikes (UL-certified ones), it’s all there waiting for you. Frog Hollow Bikes staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and guide you to the bike best suited for you.

Drop off bikes, bike trainers and bike cases for the swap at Frog Hollow Bikes before noon May 2 and indicate if you want sale proceeds to go to you or be donated to Middlebury Safe Routes. Items will not be accepted on the day of the sale. Upon dropping off items, your name, contact info, item info and price you are looking to

get will be taken. Items must be in decent working order. You’ll be contacted by May 10 if your item sold and need to claim your payment or unsold item. Any item that is \$100 and under will have a \$10 fee and items over \$100 will have a 10-15% fee that goes to Frog Hollow Bikes and Middlebury Safe Routes for running the swap and the free e-bike loan program. You can choose to take payment as Frog Hollow Bikes store credit for a better deal or as cash/check.

Frog Hollow Bikes is open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., all year for you to drop off used bikes for consignment sale, to buy new or used bikes and to service and assemble bikes, but will have a larger selection of used bikes at the swap due to unclaimed missing and stolen bikes released to them by the Middlebury Police Department. which the public is reminded to check by April 28.

Middlebury Safe Routes monitors traffic patterns and student travel behavior, plans activities to teach bike skills and rules of the road, and recommends improvements to roads, parking lots, drop offs, sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic lights, signage, bus routes, bike routes, bike racks and more. Remember to record your newly acquired bike’s make, color and any other identifying features in case it is missing to report to police and secure it with a good lock.

Learn about upcoming events in May, which is bike month, including rides on the new Triangle Bike Loop of Addison County and



FROG HOLLOW BIKES in downtown Middlebury is gearing up for the annual bike swap that it hosts with Middlebury Safe Routes and the town. Everyone is invited to bring a used bike to sell, or buy a used bike in Cannon Park on May 3. Frog Hollow staff will provide advice and facilitate sales.

Independent photo/Steve James

the free e-bike loan program, which starts each May and runs through October. The three e-bikes that you can reserve through Ilsley Library and pick up from Frog Hollow Bikes will be on display at the swap.

Enjoy browsing related sales and activities happening downtown this Green Up Day weekend,

including the Middlebury Spring Market at Cannon Park and the Sheldon Museum lawn along Park Street, which will be closed to traffic that Saturday morning. Contact Frog Hollow Bikes with any questions about the swap at froghollowbikes@gmail.com or calling 802-388-6666.

League of Women Voters offering three scholarships

MONTPELIER, — The deadline for applications to the League of Women Voters of Vermont Education Fund Winona Smith Scholarship is quickly approaching.

Applications, due on April 30 by midnight, can be completed online at bit.ly/LWVScholarshipDetails. Students need to submit two essays (500 words), one on issues concerning voting rights, and the other on the impact of a recent civic, national or world event. A letter of recommendation from a teacher, found at bit.ly/LWVTeacherRec, is also required.

Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to three students

who demonstrate financial need, scholastic achievement, and come highly recommended by their teacher. The scholarship can be applied towards continuation of education in an accredited vocational-technical or trade school and two- or four-year college or university. Scholarship recipients will be announced on June 1.

Created in 1998 to honor the legacy of League leader Winona Smith, the scholarship is awarded annually to local high school seniors who embody the characteristics and qualities Smith displayed of civic participation and community service.

Town library sets Stitch & Spin, poetry events

MONKTON — Stitch and Spin will still happen at the Russell Memorial Library on Easter Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can bring your favorite project to work on with friends and neighbors. Spend this time sharing your work, ask questions, give or get advice, or just enjoy a hot beverage and socializing with other crafters. Bring your knitting, mending, stitching, weaving, crochet, spinning, felting or any other project you choose. Stitch and Spin is on the third Sunday of every month at the same time. Assistant Librarian Kat will be there to greet you. All are welcome!

Also at the library on Saturday, April 26, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., the Poetry Club will meet. Join poetry lovers in reading a poem that you may have written or maybe one or two from another author. This is an enthusiastic and welcoming group of poetry lovers so come in for the fun! Refreshments will be served. These meetings will continue on the last Saturday of the month through June. Contact Melanie Cote via the library if you have

Monkton

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

NEWS

questions. Continuing activities at the library include:

- Toddler Tuesdays, every Tuesday from 3 to 6 p.m.
 - Community Yoga on Saturday mornings every week from 8 to 9 a.m.
 - Nerd Night (this month on April 29) from 6 to 8 p.m. for teens to adults to play tabletop games and hang out, happening through May.
 - The Book Club with Janet, meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. You can email the library to find out what books are being read and to get on an email list.
- Check in at the library for more information or to see if there are any other activities going on. Call 802-453-4471 or email russellmemlibrary@gmail.com.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Elizabeth Mikkelsen

Mt. Abraham Union High School introduces Elizabeth Mikkelsen as our student of the week. Lizzie lives in Lincoln with her parents and two siblings. She has three dogs, a cat and three lizards.

Throughout high school, Lizzie has enjoyed the challenge of her courses and has earned either high or highest honors each year. Her favorite courses have been within the English department; Science Fiction and Turn the Page. Among her favorite teachers, Mr. Eberhardy stands out. She appreciates his sarcasm and has found his feedback on important assignments to be very helpful, especially for her Dual Enrollment classes.

Outside of school, Lizzie spends a significant amount of time working. She currently holds three different jobs and is employed at Walgreens, Hogback Mountain Brewery and Dunkin’ Donuts. In her free time, Lizzie likes to go shopping with friends, travel with family, read and hike.

When asked about an important lesson she has learned, Lizzie said it is important “to find the balance between school, having a job and managing your social life.”

After high school, Lizzie plans to attend Hudson Valley Community College for mortuary science and eventually own her own funeral home. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!



Elizabeth Mikkelsen MAUHS

Otter Valley Union High School

Oliver Lavelle

Oliver Lavelle is Otter Valley Union High School’s Student of the week. Oliver lives in Brandon with his parents, his younger brother, and a handful of animals.

His favorite class at Otter Valley has been AP Biology. The class has encouraged him to take a deeper look at the natural world. He also really enjoyed Physics and a big part of that was Ms. Valcour. Participating in the yearly raft race she helps organize as well as the trip to Mt. Philo to watch the eclipse last year are highlights of his time at Otter Valley. Oliver is a member of the National Honor Society and has regularly been on the honor roll.

Outside of academics, Oliver has taken part in Walking Stick Theater since 7th grade. He is excited to be participating in the Vermont State Drama Festival. He’s hoping the troupe does well enough to qualify to take the show to the New England Drama Festival. He is also involved in Student Government, and has helped reinstate the Debate Club at Otter Valley. The club had its first season this year.

Oliver says he grew up spending his summers at Camp Sangamon in Pittsford, and his experiences there have shaped his love of nature and being outdoors. He will join the camp staff this coming summer.

When not at school, Oliver likes to watch movies, read and spend time with his friends and family. Travel is also something that is important to him. He had the opportunity to spend a few weeks in Southeast Asia two years ago and looks forward to traveling with the Otter Valley language program to France and Spain in June.

Oliver says the most important lesson he has learned during his time at Otter Valley is to ask questions. “Asking questions is a powerful tool to improve your learning, so be brave and ask all the questions you can,” he says.

In the fall Oliver will be attending Chapman University in Los Angeles, Calif., where he intends to study screenwriting. All of us at Otter Valley wish him well.



Oliver Lavelle 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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Notices

LEICESTER CLEAN UP
On April 27th at noon there will be an effort to pick up litter along Route 7, meeting at the pull off. Gloves and bags provided.

Public Meetings

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

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

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-freethinkers@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 Fified 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.refreshyour-roof.com

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!

Help Wanted

BLACK DIAMOND BUILDER'S Looking for a few new members to join our team. Carpenter/Laborer. Qualifications: Have some knowledge in carpentry and general labor duties, familiar with carpentry tools and equipment, ability to work as part of a team, strong attention to detail and safety protocols, willing to learn new things/will train the right person. Benefits: Full time employment, paid holidays and vacation, pay is dependent on experience, 401k. If interested contact 802-345-2760

Help Wanted

BRANDON MOTOR LODGE is seeking a dedicated housekeeper to join our small team. The right candidate will be self-motivated, have an eye for cleanliness, and enjoy being active and on the move! We are a small, family-run motel with a fun and relaxed work atmosphere. This part-time position (20 -30 hours/week) will begin in May. If you are interested, please call 802-247-9594 or email us at brandonlodge@hotmail.com.

K. POPE & SONS is seeking an individual with a clean CDL Class A license and a tanker endorsement to collect milk from local farms and deliver it to the Agri-Mark plant in Middlebury. Must be able to pass federally mandated drug screening. Will help obtain a VT Milk Sampling License. Paid training, competitive wage, paid vacation time, health, vision, dental, 401K match. Contact 802-897-5700 or kpopesons@gmail.com

Part-time Personal Care

PART-TIME PERSONAL CARE assistant wanted to help 76 year old man in Addison for 3-4 hours a day for 4 days a week. Help with housekeeping, cooking, and chores. \$25 an hour. Reply to eresnik@rcn.com.

RESPIRE CARE BRANDON Currently seeking respite caregiver to provide care for an elderly developmentally disabled individual in your home. Currently daytime hours available and some overnight shifts. This position is per diem with excellent pay. For more information please email me at respit2022@yahoo.com text/call 802-398-5657.

Help Wanted

BLACK DIAMOND BUILDER'S Looking for a few new members to join our team. Carpenter/Laborer. Qualifications: Have some knowledge in carpentry and general labor duties, familiar with carpentry tools and equipment, ability to work as part of a team, strong attention to detail and safety protocols, willing to learn new things/will train the right person. Benefits: Full time employment, paid holidays and vacation, pay is dependent on experience, 401k. If interested contact 802-345-2760

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Elderly Services Office Administrator


**Do you have great organizing skills?
Enjoy working with numbers?
Comfortable with technology?
Work well with others in a team setting?
Join our administrative support team!**

Elderly Services is looking for a half-time office administrator, with opportunities to make a full-time position if desired. Enjoy rewarding work, great coworkers, delicious meals, and an uplifting environment in a beautiful setting.



Applicants should be patient, flexible, cheerful, tolerant, fun-loving, and thrive in a team setting. They should enjoy supporting a large part-time staff, following through on projects, tracking many details to completion, and helping the organization continue to improve administrative systems in our growing agency. A bachelor's degree is required; experience in office administration and skills in Microsoft Office and Google Suites strongly desired; experience with databases, Quick Books and social media/web pages a plus.

For more information or to apply, go to
<https://elderlyservices.org/job-opportunities/>



Addison County Parent/Child Center

**Join the Parent/Child Center Team
EARLY INTERVENTIONIST**

We are seeking an **Early Interventionist** to work with young families as an outreach worker on our highly skilled, creative and energetic team.


You will work in coordination with parents in the home, community, and in our program in Middlebury in order to ensure that children are growing healthy and strong.

Candidates must have a solid understanding of child development, early intervention Part C , family systems, communication skills and flexibility. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a related field is required.

Please contact **Donna Bailey** dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



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.



Come Join Our Team!

Are you a bold, visionary, and strategic leader?

We're seeking an Executive Director to lead our next chapter of growth and impact!

Our ideal candidate is someone who brings a collaborative spirit, strong communication skills, and a deep commitment to connecting our community with the lands we protect through conservation, recreation, and education.

READY TO LEAD WITH PURPOSE?
Send your cover letter and resume to Sarah Audet at sarah@hedgehogfox.co by April 25, or visit us on the web to learn more. maltvt.org/staff-and-careers

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities


Opportunities

Open Door Clinic Volunteers



Open Door Clinic is looking for volunteers! Our clinic is able to run efficiently and effectively because of our remarkable and talented 120+ volunteers. Only through their kindness and generosity can we provide our services. Office support, medical translators or general support is always welcome.

To learn more, reach out to odc@opendoormidd.org.



United Way of Addison County



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

RATES

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

For Sale

For Rent

For Rent

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. cabesette@juno. com or 802-598-2476

2011 38' CAMPER needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

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

FOR SALE!

Caterpillar D4C Dozer



Great shape!
\$32,000

Call Steve Messenger at
802-238-8934



Lawn and Garden

CUB CADET GT 2544 lawn tractor with mower deck, tire chains, wheel weights, and small cart. \$975. cabesette@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.

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

MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com.

Help Wanted



Experienced Project Foreman/Lead Carpenter Wanted!

Are you an experienced Project Foreman/Lead Carpenter in the Addison-Chittenden County (VT) area and looking for a new opportunity to showcase your skills?

Our leading construction company is seeking a talented foreman to join our dynamic team.

With a reputation for excellence and a commitment to quality, we offer a rewarding work environment where your expertise will be valued.

We offer competitive pay and a comprehensive benefits package.

Please send a resume and brief cover letter outlining your experience to admin@smithmclain.com.

Come build with us!





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

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

FERRISBURGH : Friendly senior woman seeks homeshare guest for her cozy home close to Basin Harbor. Enjoys watching TV, knitting. \$200/month in exchange for companionship, assistance with household maintenance, light cleaning. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

GOSHEN: Housesitting opportunity, periodically shared with the home owners, in a scenic rural spot, 14 miles to Middlebury. \$650/month plus utilities, light snow removal. Large space for gardening! AWD or winter tires needed. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

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

UPSTAIRS 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT Kitchen, living room combo with office. Pets negotiable. \$1800 /month, all utilities included. Call 802-349-8344

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.

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



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89863620576>
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 898 6362 0576

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 April 8, 2025 Regular Selectboard Meeting 3b. *Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes 3c. *Approval of Applications - Renewal of State Licenses/Permits (if any) 3d. Consent Agenda Placeholder 3e. Consent Agenda Placeholder 3f. **Town Manager's Report
7:10	4. **Citizen Comments (Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda)
7:15	5. *Fire District #1 of Middlebury Prudential Committee - Appointment to Vacant Committee Seat
7:20	6. Infrastructure Committee - 4.10.2025 - Updates & Recommendations 6a. *Biosolids Disposal - Resource Management - Proposed Contract 6b. *Urban Forestry Management Plan - Proposed Contract 6c. **Other Project Updates
7:35	7. *Annual Approval of Certification of Compliance for Town Road & Bridge Standards & Network Inventory
7:40	8. **ACEDC Presentation - Industrial Park Parcels
7:50	9. **Better Middlebury Partnership - Mural Discussion
8:00	10. *Appointments to Boards, Committees, Commission & Other Official Town Positions 10a. Selectboard Members & Committee Assignments
8:20	11. **Town Delinquent Tax Collection Activities - Manager's Office Update 12. Agenda Placeholder
8:30	13. *Approval of Check Warrants
8:35	14. **Board Member Concerns 15. Executive Session - Not Anticipated 16. Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
8:40	17. *Adjourn
*Possible Decision **Discussion	

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

PUBLIC NOTICE THE SPORTS CAR CLUB OF VERMONT PRESENTS THE HISTORIC MT. PHILO HILLCLIMB May 03-04, 2025 AT MT. PHILO, IN CHARLOTTE, VT

The Mt. Philo mountain road and hiking trails will be closed to the public from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. Since 1975, the historic Mt. Philo hillclimb is a speed event up the mountain road with drivers racing against the clock. We thank the residents of Charlotte and the State Parks for being a wonderful host for this historic event. Thank you! www.SCCV.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING MONKTON PLANNING COMMISSION MONKTON TOWN PLAN UPDATE

The Monkton Planning Commission will hold an in-person public hearing on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Monkton Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge, Monkton, Vermont, with a virtual option. This hearing is held pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4441. This notice is issued pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4444(b). At this meeting, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) will also conduct a consultation with the municipality regarding its planning efforts. ACRPC's Local Government Committee shall review Monkton's Town Plan to determine whether the Plan:

- (1) is consistent with the goals established in 24 V.S.A. §4302;
- (2) is compatible with its regional plan;
- (3) is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region;
- (4) contains all the elements included in 24 V.S.A. §4382;

Statement of Purpose
The purpose of a town plan is to provide a vision for orderly development within the town. It is essentially a "picture in time" that uses existing conditions to guide zoning and development decisions for the eight-year period covered by the next Town Plan. The new town plan is a partial revision of the plan adopted in 2020. The proposed Town Plan affects all the land within the Town of Monkton. It updates sections that use US Census data to current 2020 data and adds information from the natural resources inventory conducted for the town in 2022-2023.

The Monkton Planning Commission believes the following are the significant changes offered by the plan:

- (1) The following sections have had data updated: Population, Housing, Education and Childcare, and Economic Development.
- (2) The Utilities and Facilities section had information updated to be current on the New Town Hall, Library, and the Recreation and Cultural Resources sections.
- (3) The Natural Resource sections on Forests and Water Resources have had information added from the natural resources inventory, including new maps. The Forests section has a new subsection on Forest Integrity that identifies core forest blocks and habitat connectors, which allows the town to meet Act 171 State Law requirements. Water Resources section had buffers better defined.
- (4) The Plan Implementation section was reorganized and updated.

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Copies of the Monkton Town Plan can be viewed at the Monkton Town Hall, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Office located at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury, or on Monkton's website: <https://www.monktonvt.com>.

Zoom Meeting Information:
Link to join a Zoom meeting by computer video: <https://zoom.us/join>
Monkton's Zoom meeting ID: 802-453-3800
Monkton's Zoom Password: 1762
Telephone Number to attend meeting by phone: 646-558-8656

For more information, please contact:
Danelle Birong, Community Planner, Addison County Regional Planning Commission
(802) 388-3141
dbirong@acrpc.org or
Marilyn Cargill or Wendy Sue Harper, Co-Chairs of the Planning Commission (802) 453-3800
planningcommission@monktonvt.com.

TOWN OF STARKSBORO WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Starksboro, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Starksboro Town Offices at 2849 VT Route 116, in the Town of Starksboro on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, between the hours of seven o'clock (7:00) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Article of business:

ARTICLE
Shall general obligation bonds or notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the Town of Starksboro in an amount not to exceed One Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,100,000.00), subject to reduction by available grants-in-aid or other funding sources, be issued to finance the cost of removing and rebuilding Fire Station #2 and renovating and improving the School House (the "Jerusalem Community Center Project"), the estimated cost of such improvements being One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000.00)?

The legal voters of the Town of Starksboro are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said special meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

The legal voters of the Town of Starksboro are further notified that an informational meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2025, at the Robinson Elementary School, 41 Parsonage Rd., in the Town of Starksboro at half past six o'clock (6:30 p.m.) in the evening, for the purpose of explaining the proposed improvements and the financing thereof.

Adopted and approved at a regular meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Starksboro duly called, noticed and held on April 4, 2025. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Starksboro on April 7, 2025.

ATTEST:
Amy McCormick
Town Clerk
Selectboard

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARING

The Ferrisburgh Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold the following public hearing(s) on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall at 3279 US Route 7, beginning at 7PM. The hearing(s) will also be available to participants remotely via Zoom; the link will be included in the agenda posted on the Town's website (ferrisburghvt.org) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Application Number 25-041: Add open shed/carport to existing house; Applicant(s): William Robin; 188 Sleepy Hollow Lane; Parcel ID number 14/02/48; Conservation District (CON-25); Conditional Use Review.

Application Number 25-042: Enlarge existing residential parking lot; Applicant: Chris Melendy; 1971 US Route 7; Parcel ID number 15/01/04; Industrial District (IND-2); Conditional Use Review & Waiver.

The files for the above applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall or by email to zoning@ferrisburghvt.org.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Motorist stopped for speeding on Route 22A

ADDISON COUNTY — Deputies in the Addison County Sheriff’s Department made three arrests between April 6 and 12. Prominently, they stopped Wenke Young, 28, of Fremont, Calif., for speeding on Route 22A in Pantan on April 10. Sheriff Michael Elmore reports that Young was traveling at 81 mph in a 50 mph zone.

During that period, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns each day, and report stopping 90 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations.

They also performed V I N verifications for two residents, fingerprinted 17 people for background checks and completed car seat inspections for two families. Twice deputies participated in high visibility enforcement for drivers using cell phones. On April 10 in Ferrisburgh they issued two tickets for cell phone use and two tickets for other violations, and made one arrest. Then in April 11 in Middlebury, deputies issue 14 tickets for cell phone use.

- In other activity, deputies
- On April 7 and 9 assigned several more deputies than usual to courthouse services due to the number of hearings scheduled.
 - On April 7 assisted a motorist in a vehicle that had broken down in Starksboro.
 - On April 8 served a no trespass order on a Leicester resident at the request of Middlebury police .
 - On April assisted the Hinesburg police with a crash on Silver Street in Monkton, where the road had to be shut down briefly.
 - On April 8 took a complaint of construction material being dumped on a property. An officer

spoke with the person suspected of dumping it.

- On April 8 arrested Jill Booska, 53, of Leicester on a warrant for failing to appear at a court hearing.
- On April 9 assisted DMV with a tractor-trailer that had gone off Route 22A in Bridport and was stuck in soft ground on the shoulder.

• On April 9 participated in a safety briefing at Middlebury College.

• On April 9 checked on a person looking into vehicles in the parking

Addison County Sherriif Police Log

lot of the courthouse. Deputies talked with the person and they left the area.

- On April 9 completed a background check.

• On April 10 assisted state police with a call on States Prison Hollow Road in Starksboro.

• On April 10 arrested Ryan Kilburn, 41, of Berlin for driving with a criminally suspended license in Ferrisburgh.

• On April 10 assisted the Chittenden County Sheriff’s Department with prisoner transports.

• On April 10 escorted an oversize load from the state line in Fair Haven to Middlebury.

• On April 10 assisted the state police with a call on Hand Road in Ferrisburgh.

• On April 11 received complaint of trash being dumped over embankment on Loven Lane in Ferrisburgh.

• On April 11 assisted a person who had a flat tire on Route 22A in Bridport.

• On April 11 assisted the Middlebury police with a transport for a person that was arrested on a warrant.



Pansy party

THE MIDDLEBURY AGWAY on Exchange Street boasts a sea of flowers for local gardeners who are looking beyond Wednesday’s snow showers to warmer days ahead.

Independent photo/Steve James

TOWN OF MONKTON INVITATION FOR BIDS LANDSCAPING SERVICES

Sealed Bids for providing Landscaping Services at the Town Office, Town Green and Town Cemeteries will be received by the Monkton Selectboard by mail at PO Box 12, Monkton, VT 05469 or in person at the Town Office, 92 Monkton Ridge, Monkton, VT until 7: 00 pm April 22, 2025. At which time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Mailed bids shall allow for delivery time.

Services to be provided include:

1. Labor to clean out, weed, edge and mulch spring initial bed preparation and a mid-summer refreshing and up to 15 yards of mulch delivered and spread at the Town Office.
2. Mowing and trimming as needed for the 2025 season for lawns at the Town Office, Town Green, Boro Cemetery, Layn Cemetery, Barnum Cemetery and Grange Cemetery.

Request for detailed Invitation for Bids and questions may be directed to Stan Wilbur, Town Administrator, at 802-453-3828, townadministrator@monktonvt.com, or the Monkton Town Office 92 Monkton Ridge.

LEMON FAIR INSECT CONTROL DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES

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, 2025.

Further information or comments about the larviciding activities or application exclusion requests can be obtained from:

Lemon Fair Insect Control District
Email: 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, see the following websites:

- <http://www.lficd.org/>
- <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/public-health-agricultural-resource-management-division/plant-health-and-pest-management/mosquitoes>

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT 2025 MUNICIPAL PAVING CONTRACT ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the 2025 Municipal Paving Contract will be received by the Town of Middlebury, Vermont, at the Public Works Building on 1020 Route 7 South Middlebury, VT 05753, until 11:00 a.m. local time on May 7, 2025, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project consists of shim and overlay sections of the following roads: Otterside Court, Chipman Heights, Short Shannon Street, Warming Hut Road, Rec Park Sidewalk near the Memorial Sports Arena, Boardman Street, School House Road from Munson to Burnham Drive, Pond Lane and Upper Plains Road. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis, as indicated in the Bid Schedule.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Otter Creek Engineering, Inc. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office, 404 East Main St., Middlebury, VT 05753, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office, during the hours indicated above, upon payment of \$50.00 for each set. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to “Otter Creek Engineering, Inc.” mailing address: P.O. Box 712, East Middlebury, VT 05740. Upon request and receipt of the document payment indicated above, the Issuing Office will transmit the Bidding Documents. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder’s date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for issuing Addenda, if any, to parties obtaining Bidding Documents from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Electronic copies of Bidding Drawings and Documents will be provided to all parties recorded as having officially received the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office, as portable document format (PDF) files, on a flash drive.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 11:00 a.m. local time on April 25, 2025 at the Town of Middlebury Department of Public Works, 1020 Route 7 South, Middlebury VT 05753. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Owner: Town of Middlebury, Vermont
By: Mr. Mark Pruhenski
Title: Town Manager
Date: April 14, 2025

VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC NOTICE HERBICIDE SPRAYING

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has requested from the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, a permit to apply the following herbicides: Garlon 4 ULTRA, Garlon 3A, Oust Extra, Escort, Krenite S, Polaris, and Roundup Custom to control unwanted vegetation along all State highways. Operations are authorized to start approximately May 15th, 2025, but will not begin until the appropriate notification requirements are completed. The application will be made by certified pesticide applicators using mechanically controlled equipment and hand-controlled methods. The methods employed are intended to avoid or eliminate drift. Residents along the rights-of-way (ROW) are encouraged to protect sensitive environments or water supplies within 100 feet of the ROW limits, and to avoid entering the ROW as spray trucks pass and until products dry. Residents should notify VTrans of the existence of any water supplies within 100 feet of the State’s ROW. Citizens wishing to inform VTrans are urged to contact the nearest District Transportation Administrator as follows: District 1 - Bennington - (802) 447-2790, District 2 - Dummerston - (802) 254-5011, District 3 - Mendon - (802) 786-5826, District 4 - White River Junction - (802) 295-8888, District 5 - Colchester - (802) 655-1580, District 6 – Berlin – (802)-917-2879, District 7 - St. Johnsbury - (802) 748-6670, District 8 - St. Albans – (802) 524-5926, District 9 – Derby – (802) 334-7934. The contact person at the State Highway Department Headquarters is Brandon Garretto, Vegetation Management Admin, 2178 Airport Rd, Dill Bldg Unit A, Barre, VT 05641 or brandon.garretto@vermont.gov. Contact can also be made using the VTrans Internet Web page at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/operations>.

The appropriate place to contact with comments other than VTrans is the Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division at 116 State Street Montpelier, VT 05620, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602, (802) 828-1732. The link to their web page that would describe the VTrans herbicide application permit request can be found at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/>



For breaking news & updates wherever you are!

@addisonindependent

Auctions



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 4/10/25 & 4/14/25

		COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Blue Spruce	1250	1.70	\$2125.00
Wilcon	1865	1.63	\$3039.95
Gosliga	1720	1.60	\$2752.00
Nop Bros	1390	1.51	\$2098.90
Vorsteveld	1820	1.50	\$2730.00
Danyow	1835	1.48	\$2715.80

		COST	
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Forbes	102	13.00	\$1326.00
M+L Quesnel	85	12.50	\$1062.50
Barnes Bros	93	12.00	\$1116.00
Savello	78	12.00	\$936.00
Vorsteveld	98	11.00	\$1078.00

Total Beef - 155 Total Calves - 161

We value our faithful customers.

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

ATTENTION FARMERS!!!



ANNUAL SPRING MACHINERY/ FARM AND GARDEN CONSIGNMENT AUCTION SATURDAY MAY 10TH - 10 AM

HELD AT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES BARN
RT 125 EAST MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

All Good Consignments Welcome!

Please No Household Items / No Tires

WE ARE ACCEPTING QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS NOW!

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

THIS ANNUAL SALE ATTRACTS MANY – DON’T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CASH IN!!

LARGE SELECTION OF TRACTORS,
FARM EQUIPMENT, LAWN AND GARDEN,

A MUST SALE TO ATTEND!

ACCS 802-388-2661 OR 802-989-1507

T.G. WISNOWSKI & SONS AUCTIONEER-JOHN NOP
www.accscattle.com



Auction

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:00 AM

Paul & Rhoda McLure Farm plus others
1461 River Rd East, Johnson, Vt 05656

V2009 John Deere 7430 Premium 4x4-duals-weights-4450 hrs-ser#R-W7430H012821 (very nice), Cat 242D3 skid steer-2 speeds-heat-AC-2660 hrs, Cat 920 loader, New Holland 8360 2wd with 12000 hrs, Int 786 tractor, JD 4000 tractor, NH FP230 chopper with 2 row corn & 7’ grass heads-metal alert, Richardton 700 high dump, Krone Swadro 710/26T double rake, Houle 32’ manure pump, H&S Top Shot 1520 side discharge spreader, Brillion 9 shank transport chisel plow, Brillion 14’ transport spring tooth harrow, Cat rock bucket, JD quick hitch, 16’ truck body dump cart, JD 7’ grass head, 3pth York scraper blade, 3pth York rake, Featherlite 16’ alum bumper hitch stock trailer (rough), Zimmerman catch chute, 3pth rubber tire scraper, Woodchuck 3pth sawdust shooter, some small tools.

Repairable and parts machines: JD 2950 4x4 with 260 loader, JD 2950 2wd, Bob Cat S175 skid steer, Case 60XT skid steer, Case 70XT skid steer, 2 INT 10 wheel dumps, Ford single dump, NH FP230 chopper.

DeLaVal 2100 gal bulk tank ser#D070809, 7.5 hp variable vac pump, double 6 parlor, Flotec Jet pressure pump new in the box, 12 ton grain bin, stall dividers (many fairly new and many taken out), fans, 10’ extendable gates, plus more items.

Terms: Cash or Good Check
6% Sales Tax without exempt number Lunch

Auctioneers: Lussier Auction Service Lyndonville, Vt
www.lussierauction.com for pictures
Reg 802-535-9567, Jon 802-371-7403,
Toby 802-535-9567, Roland Ayer 802-343-3750

DIRECTIONS: Watch for auction signs in the middle of Johnson Village, cross bridge first left to farm. We are taking selected consigned items- call auctioneers.

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION ADDISON, SS DOCKET NO.: 21-CV-03168

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR LB-DWELLING SERIES V TRUST

vs.

CAROLINE EARLE AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF BEULAH V. COGLEY, GREEN MOUNTAIN BUREAU, OCCUPANTS OF: 203 TUNNEL BROOK ROAD, HANCOCK, VT 05748

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

In accordance with the Amended Judgment Order and Decree of Foreclosure entered February 21, 2025, in the above captioned action to foreclosure a mortgage given by Beulah V. Cogley, to CitiFinancial, Inc., dated July 28, 2005, and recorded with the Land Records in the Town of Hancock in Book 27, Page 201, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment from CFNA Receivables (MD), Inc. f/k/a CitiFinancial, Inc., to CitiFinancial Servicing LLC, dated February 27, 2017 and recorded with the Land Records in the Town of Hancock in Book 35, Page 346; by an assignment from CitiFinancial Servicing LLC, to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, dated February 27, 2017 and recorded with the Land Records in the Town of Hancock in Book 35, Page 347; by an assignment from Community Loan Servicing LLC f/k/a Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for LB-Tiki Series V Trust, dated September 15, 2022 and recorded with the Land Records in the Town of Hancock in Book 39, Page 20; and by an assignment from U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for LB-Tiki Series V Trust to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for LB-Dwelling Series V Trust dated January 25, 2023 and recorded with the Land Records in the Town of Hancock in Book 39, Page 22, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 P.M. on the 19th day of May 2025, at 203 Tunnel Brook Road, in Hancock, Addison County, VT 05748, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND IN TOWN OF HANCOCK, ADDISON County, STATE OF VT, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN BOOK 27 PAGE 42 ID# 01-1175, BEING THE SAME LANDS AND PREMISES AS ARE DESCRIBED IN A VERMONT QUIT CLAIM DEED (CORRECTIVE DEED) DATED FEBRUARY 5, 1999, FEBRUARY 8, 1999, AND FEBRUARY 17, 1999, AND RECORDED IN THE TOWN OF HANCOCK LAND RECORDS ON FEBRUARY 23, 1999, IN BOOK 23 AT PAGES 132-144, TO WHICH DEED AND THE RECORD REFERENCED THEREIN, REFERENCE MAY BE HAD FOR FURTHER AND MORE PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION. BEING THE HOME PLACE OF BEULAH V. COGLEY.

BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED BY FEE SIMPLE DEED FROM BEULAH V COGLEY and LANA C TROW and ROBERT R BAGLEY TO BEULAH V COGLEY, DATED 07/28/2004 RECORDED ON 02/15/2005 IN BOOK 27, PAGE 42 IN ADDISON County RECORDS, STATE OF VT.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to Demerle & Associates P.C., 10 City Square, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02129 within sixty (60) days after the date the Confirmation Order is entered by the Court. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

The mortgagor and all junior lienholders are entitled to redeem the mortgaged property at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for LB-Dwelling Series V Trust,
Present holder of said mortgage,
By its Attorneys,
Lauren Bucci, Esq.
Demerle & Associates P.C.
10 City Square, 4th Floor
BOSTON, MA 02129
(617) 337-4444

Police, MREMS respond to student’s fall that caused ‘life-changing’ injury

MIDDLEBURY — Early on the morning of April 11, Middlebury police and Middlebury Regional EMS ambulance staff responded to a report that a 23-year-old Middlebury College student had sustained “suspected internal injuries” after falling 45 feet from the roof of a building at 28 Weybridge St.

Police said the call came in around 1:10 a.m.

The name of the student wasn’t identified through town or college channels. But his family, through a GoFundMe campaign established on his behalf, identifies him as Chet Johnston.

Chet’s uncle Bill Johnston offers some details about Chet’s condition in the GoFundMe preamble. Among other things, he states that Chet “suffered a traumatic and life-changing spinal cord injury” because of the fall.

“Chet has made it through surgery at University of Vermont Medical Center and will soon be transferred to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston,” Bill Johnston continues. “Chet is going to face significant rehabilitation and additional clinical care. The family will need to make adaptive renovations to their home,

Middlebury Police Log

purchase an adaptive vehicle, and significantly reduce their work schedules to focus on Chet.”

The GoFundMe had raised \$218,264 as of Tuesday afternoon toward a \$250,000 goal.

Middlebury College, at the *Independent’s* request, issued a statement on Tuesday about the tragic accident.

“Middlebury’s Student Affairs team has been in contact with the student and the student’s family and is offering ongoing support. Staff are working closely with the student’s friends and will continue to provide support as needed, the statement reads in part.

Johnston is a 6-foot-3, 215-pound linebacker on the Panther football team. The Scituate, Mass., native is a senior.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Assisted a woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the Jayne Court area on April 7.

- Worked with Addison Central School District officials during a “swatting” (a threat of violence) involving several schools in Vermont on April 7. Police increased their presence at targeted schools in wake of the threat, which turned out to be a hoax.

- Assisted a woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the Washington Street area on April 7.

- Responded to a report of a man littering near the Middlebury Dog Park on April 7.

- Cited Tanya M. Brace, 35, of Leicester for driving with a criminally suspended license on Court Street on April 7.

- Responded to a report of people arguing behind the Dunkin Donuts convenience store on Court Street on April 7.

- Were informed that someone had vandalized a vehicle while it was parked at the South Village Green apartments on April 7.

- Provided traffic control in Court Square during the early morning of April 7 after a trailer unit had become disconnected from its truck.

- Responded to a report of a possible overdose victim in the South Village Green development

on April 8.

- Assisted a woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis on a Court Street business on April 8.

- Responded, with MREMS, to the North Pleasant Street area to help a person who had overdosed on medications. Police said the person was taken to Porter Hospital.

- Served a no-trespass order on April 8 on a person who wasn’t welcome at Shaw’s supermarket.

- Assisted a local resident who on April 9 reported receiving harassing phone calls.

- On April 9, helped a local resident who had been targeted by an online scam.

- Helped a woman in the North Pleasant Street area who was experiencing a mental health crisis on April 9.

- Responded to a trespassing complaint at a Washington Street store on April 9.

- Cited Nathaniel A. Belman, 22, of Washington D.C., for driving under the influence, following a traffic stop at the intersection of College Street and Old Chapel Road on April 10 at around 10 minutes before midnight. Police said they measured Belman’s blood-alcohol

content at 0.10%; the legal limit for driving is 0.08%.

- Responded to a property dispute between a separated couple in the South Pleasant Street area on April 10.

- On April 10, checked on the welfare of several people in the Elm Street area and found them to be OK.

- Referred, to the Addison County Unit for Special Investigations on April 10, an alleged sexual offense that occurred in the South Main Street area.

- Responded, with Middlebury firefighters, to a single-vehicle crash on Route 125 East on April 11. Police reported no injuries in the crash.

- Arrested Antonio E. Johnson, 29, of Middlebury on an active warrant on April 11.

- Responded, with MREMS, to a report of a possible overdose patient in the North Pleasant Street neighborhood on April 11. Police said MREMS took the patient to Porter Hospital.

- On April 11, checked on the welfare of a local youth whom police said had missed a “considerable amount” of school.

- Served a temporary restraining

order on a local resident in the Seminary Street area on April 11.

- Referred, to the Addison County Unit for Special Investigations on April 11, cases involving an alleged sexual offense occurring in the Court Street area and an alleged offense involving a local vulnerable adult.

- Responded to an untimely death report off Meadow Glen Drive on April. 11. Police suspect no foul play in the death of 39-year-old Adam C. Racine.

- Cited Lynn M. Bascom, 68, of Middlebury for suspicion of driving under the influence, following a stop on Case Street on April 12.

- Provided traffic control while a wrecker removed a vehicle that had gotten stuck on a large rock off Seymour Street on April 12 at a quarter to 11 p.m.

- Assisted a person who had locked himself out of his Otterside Court residence on April 12.

- Responded to a domestic dispute at a South Village Green residence on April 12.

- Cited Timothy A. Nunes, 36, of Shoreham for driving with a criminally suspended license, following a stop on Main Street on April 13.

State police cite South Burlington man for DUI

ADDISON COUNTY — In the only recent activity reported by Vermont State Police in the past week, troopers cited Riley D. Emmons, 23, of South Burlington for driving under the influence in Addison County.

On April 12 at around a quarter to midnight, state police observed a motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Greenbush Road in Ferrisburgh and stopped the vehicle. Police identified Emmons as the driver and while speaking with him noted indicators of impairment.

Vt. State Police Log

State police arrested Emmons and took him to the New Haven state police barracks for processing. They released Emmons to a sober adult. In addition to the drunken driving citation, police issued Emmons a ticket for driving outside his lane, which could result in a \$220 fine and two points on his license.

Police cite driver for attempting to elude

Bristol

Police Log

BRISTOL — Following a traffic stop, Bristol police on April 2 arrested Nicholas Trudeau, 44, of New Haven for grossly negligent driving, eluding a police officer and excessive speed.

Police also cited the passenger of the vehicle, Joshua Simon, 39, of Middlebury, for failure to appear. Bristol police were assisted by the Addison County Sheriff’s Department.

Between March 16 and April 5 Bristol police completed 56 foot patrols and six car patrols, conducted 63 traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 20 times, at Bristol Elementary School 21 times and at local businesses 18 times.

Police also completed 31 fingerprint requests, conducted one welfare check and helped one person gain access to their locked vehicle.

In other recent activity, Bristol

police:

- On March 16 received a report of property stolen on Mountain Street. An investigation is ongoing.

- On March 18 heard from someone about an unknown person striking their parked vehicle. Police reported that they were unsure of the location and a report would be completed.

- On March 18 helped Beeman Elementary with a truancy concern.

- On March 19 responded to West Street for the report of a juvenile problem.

- On March 20 helped a West Street business with serving a notice against trespass.

- On March 20 responded to an

altercation involving juveniles at Mount Abe.

- On March 20 received a bicycle found on West Street.

- On March 21 started an investigation on a bad check being passed.

- On March 21 helped someone on West Street with getting resources.

- On March 25 received a dog that was running around on Route 116 South. The dog was retrieved by its owner, and police issued a warning.

- On March 25 received a report of a vehicle being operated without the owner’s consent. An investigation is ongoing.

- On March 26 helped the Vergennes Police Department with notifying next of kin on Liberty Street.

- On March 28 monitored traffic on West Street during an evacuation drill at Mount Abe.

- On March 28 helped a resident get resources for a juvenile.

- On March 28 checked on a vehicle parked on Basin Street.

- On March 28 responded to Taylor Avenue for a motor vehicle complaint. The vehicle was gone before police arrived.

- On March 29 received a report of a large amount of fuel on the ground in a Prince Lane parking lot. Police reported that no source of the fuel was found.

- On March 29 responded to a parking problem on Church Street.

- On March 31 received a property watch request from a resident.

- On April 1 dealt with a parking problem on Airport Drive.

- On April 1 began investigating a reported violation of a stalking order.

- On April 2 responded to a crash on School Street.

- On April 2 helped a motorist with a disabled vehicle on Route 7.

- On April 3 assisted Bristol Elementary with a truancy concern.

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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GET UP TO AN \$80 REBATE*

Purchase a set of 4 qualifying General Tires and get up to an \$80 Visa® Prepaid Card

* General Tires rebate offer ends 4/30/25



At Pete’s Tire Barn in Middlebury

every set of 4 tires purchased includes:

- *Free Rotation
- *Free Flat Repair
- *Seasonal Tire Storage

Valid for the lifetime of the tires!



GENERAL TIRE

Enter to win a set of (4) General Tires (with installation) a value of up to \$1,200.

No purchase necessary to enter. No cash value substitute. Offer ends 6/15/25

\$30 off

a 4 tire changeover service (\$80)

Valid at Pete’s Middlebury location only
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED
Expires 6/15/25



10% off

any 4 tire purchase

Valid at Pete’s Middlebury location only
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED
*excludes General Tires
Expires 6/15/25



Free seasonal tire storage

with tire changeover service

Valid at Pete’s Middlebury location only
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED
Expires 6/15/25



\$89.95 Alignment

applies to most vehicles

Valid at Pete’s Middlebury location only
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED
Expires 6/15/25



ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

April 17, 2025



Don Burns guides a discussion about Rania Matar's exhibit "SHE," now on view at the Middlebury College Museum of Art. This "Art Club" meets on the second Sunday of the month — it's free and open to all.

PHOTO / CALEB KENNA PHOTOGRAPHY

Art and Community come together monthly in a club

The best clubs often fly under the radar. Today, let's expose one. This gem is celebrating two years of meeting on the second Sunday of the month to talk about — what else? — art.

Hello, Art Club.

BY **ELSIE
LYNN PARINI**

The group is an initiative of the Friends of the Museum board — Middlebury College Museum of Art that is. When member Don Burns joined the board five years ago he brought the idea. Then Covid got in the way, and the launch was delayed.

"The mission is simple," explained Burns, a retired geologist who has lived in Addison County over the past 45 years. "To provide engagement for the Friends of the Art Museum and outreach opportunities for the community."

Burns is, yes, the founder and organizer, but walking around with the group last

**"I HOPE TO PROVIDE
A COMFORTABLE
ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE
TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS."**

— Don Burns

Sunday, it's immediately obvious that Burns is exceptionally skilled at making space for others.

"I hope to provide a comfortable environment for people to share their thoughts," Burns said gently.

The gatherings have ranged from about seven to 17 people; Sunday's event weighed-in at about 16.

"It's a very engaged group of people," noted Burns, who sends out background information on the artist ahead of each Art Club session.

The exhibit Art Club viewed on Sunday (for the second time) is the work of Rania Matar, in her most recent show, called "SHE."

"The photographs of Lebanese Palestinian American artist Rania Matar tell the stories of young women through portraits taken throughout Lebanon, France, Egypt and the United States," reads the exhibit statement.

The group gathered in the lobby and then ascended to the gallery together. Entering the gallery space, members of the group quickly dispersed. Individuals were drawn here and there — pulled to different photographs — where they engaged in quiet discussion with a fellow Art Clubbers.

"Oh my gosh, she's such an amazing

SEE ART ON PAGE 3

SIT! STAY!

Get ready to howl!

JOHNNY PEERS & THE MUTTVILLE COMIX RETURN TO THE TOWN HALL THEATER STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY

Johnny Peers and his personality-plus canines are coming to tickle your funny bone on Sunday, April 27, at 4 p.m., at Town Hall Theater. Johnny Peers and the Muttville Comix is a slapstick comedy act like no other. Johnny leads over a dozen dogs through challenging and hilarious tricks as Johnny plays the straight man role in this wonderful show.

A Ringling Brothers Clown College graduate, Johnny Peers has been working with dogs since he got his first puppy, Freckles, a Beagle mix, from the Humane Society. Since their 1980 debut, the Muttville Comix have appeared on David Letterman, Primetime Live and Circus of the Stars, and at Disneyland, Busch Gardens, the Big Apple Circus, the Royal Hanneford Circus, even The White House.

A show for the whole family and the dog lover in all of us, the show stars mostly dogs rescued from shelters or pounds, like Daphne, the world's only skateboarding Basset Hound; Squeaky, the ladder climbing Fox Terrier; Mr. Pepe, who only responds to commands in Spanish; and Sir Winston, the Pointer mix who only answers to "Sir."

"The number of rave reviews I've heard about this show are off the charts," said Lisa Mitchell, THT Executive and Artistic Director. "For years, people have been begging me to bring back Johnny Peers & the Muttville Comix. It's among the most beloved performances that have ever played Town Hall Theater, by many accounts. Don't miss your chance to see this heart-warming spectacle!"

Johnny Peers & the Muttville Comix runs from



Johnny Peers & The Muttville Comix will perform in Middlebury at Town Hall Theater, on Sunday, April 27, at 4 p.m.

PHOTO / JOHN F. TREMBLAY

4-5 p.m., plus photo ops and meet and greet with the star canines after the show. Tickets are \$20/adults and \$10/children 12 and under.

Tickets are available at townhalltheater.org, the THT box office Monday-Friday, 12-5 p.m., or by calling 802-382-9222.



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ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

photographer," said Andrea Landsberg, who's been attending these Art Clubs since the beginning. She stood back, looking at an image of a woman standing in a snow-capped field, wearing a white cottony dress, with pom pom tassels that mirror the puffs of snow. "Look at that stalk of grass," Landsberg pointed out, drawing a line with her finger through the air. "She must have been kneeling in the snow to get this angle."

Annette Seidenglanz was drawn to "Rayven," a large image with the subject posed statically in front of a motion-filled seascape in Miami Beach, Fla.

"The color is just amazing," Seidenglanz said.

"It's meditative, yet turbulent," added Eloise McFarlane, who graduated in February with an art history degree, and now is working as a fellow with the Middlebury Museum of Art.

"All her works have very deep connections to the environment." Galina Mencil of Middlebury said looking at a photo of a woman lying peacefully in the shallow water of a cave; bathed in the dappled highlights of a reflecting pool.

"Her work is equally haunting and peaceful," McFarlane added, while walking through the gallery with Mencil. "Her work with color and texture is so vivid... the presentations are visceral."

"The opportunity to see this kind of work here

MEET THE ARTIST

Artist Talk / Q&A: Rania Matar

Thursday, April 17, 4:30 p.m.

Mahaney Arts Center, Room 125

Lebanese Palestinian American artist Rania Matar, whose photographs are currently on view in the museum, will discuss the images and origins of her series "SHE." Following her lecture, there will be light refreshments and a chance to mingle with the artist in the lower lobby of the Mahaney Arts Center. "SHE" will be on view through April 20.

is an absolute treasure," shared Don Perdue of New Haven, who has taught art in the greater New York area for more than 50 years. "She [Rania] has an uncanny ability to use light and modulation... we are in the moment; it is not at all contrived."

On and on... these conversations were everywhere throughout the gallery. Browsing through the exhibition I felt like I was falling into a dozen different pockets of insight.

"It's fascinating to see these works through others' perspectives," shared Ann Demong, a

1966 Middlebury College grad and Friends of the Arts Museum board member (who many know from her 42 years teaching art in local schools). "And Katy helps stretch us to look at these images with an art history lens."

Art Museum Interim Director Katy Smith Abbott joined the Art Club's discussions, adding references to other notable artists who may have influenced Matar's work.

About half an hour in, the group coalesced together around several pieces. Burns led a discussion.

"Considering the theme we see in this exhibit of people and nature, this one just nailed it," exclaimed Wright Hartman, while looking at "Ciearra (in the Coneflowers)" — an image of a woman with echinacea-pink hair walking away (back turned) through a garden of grasses and cone flowers.

"It reminded me of a kindergarten teacher with all her kids," Demong shared.

"When the back of a subject is turned," Smith Abbott said, "it has a disposition to bring the viewers in... We have the sense that we can

SEE CLUB ON PAGE 15

"HER WORK IS
EQUALLY HAUNTING
AND PEACEFUL."

— Eloise McFarlane



Art Club meets on the second Sunday of the month to discuss current exhibits at Middlebury College Museum of Art.

PHOTO / CALEB KENNA PHOTOGRAPHY



MIDDLEBURY
PERFORMING
ARTS SERIES



Alina Ibragimova, Violin
Cédric Tiberghien, Piano

Sunday, April 27 • 3:00 PM
Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall
Tickets: \$25/20/10/5



go.middlebury.edu/pas

"Winter's Bone" will screen at Town Hall Theater on April 27, at 3 p.m. This is the final film in the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Selects Series: Lost Chances: Neo-Noir Here And Now.

COURTESY PHOTO

FILM SCREENING

Teen faces dangerous family secrets in 'Winter's Bone' screening

The MNFF Selects Series concludes with a screening of "Winter's Bone, a 2010 narrative film directed by Debra Granik, on Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m., at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

The film follows Ozark teenager Ree Dolly, played by Jennifer Lawrence, as she struggles to keep her household afloat in the face of family turmoil. With an unresponsive mother and a criminal father who disappears after

putting their home up for bond, Ree is forced to take matters into her own hands.

Informed by the sheriff, played by Garret Dillahunt, that her family's home is at risk, Ree embarks on a perilous journey to find her father. As she confronts her extended family and their code of silence, Ree risks everything to uncover the truth.

"Winter's Bone" runs 1 hour and 40 minutes. Tickets for the screening are \$17 and available at middfilmfest.org.



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ART ON EXHIBIT

ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

For more information visit artonmainvt.com, call 802-453-4032, or email aom@gmavt.net

"Spring Is Hope" featuring the delicate beauty of the season in photographs by Anne Majusiak and botanical prints by Karla Van Vliet both of Bristol and stained glass by Terry Zigmund of Burlington. Enjoy the newly painted and refreshed gallery. On view through April.

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center St, Brandon

For more info visit brandonartistsguild.org or call 802-247-4956.

"All Things Great and Small." Our artists play with the concept of large and small in dimension and beyond.

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.

"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

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Spending time with new friends and those you've known for years can be a satisfying way to pass the week, Aries. Try to plan some activities that you can enjoy together.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, this week you may choose to tackle some necessary, albeit time-consuming, chores. They may take a few hours, but then you'll have time to unwind.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, certain information that you have been looking for may finally come to the surface. Once you have your answers, you might be able to move on to other tasks.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, emotional matters that emerged over the previous few days might soon be settled with all parties feeling satisfied with the results.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, confusion with loved ones can be easily cleared up with a little, honest communication between you and the other people involved. Embrace this chance to be open and honest.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, you may be especially motivated this week and feel a need to get as much done as possible. Try not to race through tasks without focusing on doing things right.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, you are operating at peak efficiency and ready to handle many of the less exciting tasks on your to-do list. Tackle the grunt work and the fun will follow.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. You have the stamina and energy to get a lot of chores taken care of this week, Scorpio. But you may be short on time. Enlist other people to help if an opportunity presents itself.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Don't be surprised if you spend a lot of your time on the phone this week, Sagittarius. There are many things on your to-do list and tackling them one by one is essential.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Financial paperwork and money matters fill the docket for you the next few days, Capricorn. Paying bills, balancing a checkbook and building your nest egg are your top priorities.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. This week you could be feeling industrious and on the lookout for a new project, Aquarius. You will be an asset to anyone who needs extra assistance.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Particularly vivid dreams could have you wondering what your mind is trying to tell you, Pisces. You might come up with some interesting interpretations, but the answers remain unknown.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 18 — Easter Afua Ocloo, founder of Women's World Banking (d)
APRIL 19 — Ali Wong, actor, comedian, (43)

APRIL 20 — Tito Puente, musician (d)
APRIL 21 — John Muir, naturalist (d)
APRIL 22 — John Waters, filmmaker (79)
APRIL 23 — Lee Miller, photographer (d)
APRIL 24 — Barbara Streisand, singer (83)

CALENDAR

APRIL 17-MAY 1
2025



THURSDAY, APRIL 17

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB OVERNIGHT BACKPACK IN FROM BRANDON GAP.

Thursday-Friday, April 17-18. Backpack to the recently constructed and beautiful Sunrise Shelter on the Long Trail south of Brandon Gap. The hike will be at an easy to moderate pace of 6 miles round trip and a few hundred feet of elevation change. Group limit is 6. Contact Helena Nicolay at sqrlma@gmail.com or (802) 236-3541 for details and to sign up.

"ANUNNAKI TALES: THE GODS, GODDESSES, AND KINGS OF ANCIENT SUMER" IN VERGENNES.

Thursday, April 17, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Step into the ancient world of Sumer with Josh Brooks, who will read from his new, self-published book. Brooks 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 will join the conversation to discuss his artistic process. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

MIDDLEBURY UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL TALENT SHOW IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, April 17, 6-8 p.m., Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 42-46 Merchants Row. This May Middlebury Union Middle School 8th Graders will travel to Boston for a day packed full of fun and educational opportunities. Help MUMS 8th graders reach their fundraising goal while enjoying a night of entertainment

Tickets \$5-\$25. Thanks to fundraisers such as this, the annual trip is available to all 8th grade MUMS students at no charge to caregivers. To contribute without purchasing a ticket go to gofund.me/848af78b.

NER ULYSSES READING SERIES - NATIONAL POETRY MONTH EDITION IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m., 115 Franklin St. Come to the second installment of New England Review's Ulysses Reading Series with acclaimed poets Noah Warren, Rage Hezekiah, Trish Dougherty and Middlebury student writer Regan Olusegan in celebration of National Poetry Month. Light fare and specialty mocktails served. Free and open to the public.

TED WESLEY IN BRISTOL. Thursday, April 17, 7:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Ted Wesley has been singing and playing folk music, ragtime and country blues in the Champlain Valley for over 40 years. Lately, he has been adding to his repertoire by setting some favorite poems from the Classic Victorian Nonsense era to tunes of his own devising. Admission is free with donations welcome. Part of the 5 Town Winter Into Spring Musical Library Tour.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

MILI ENSEMBLE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 18, 7 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center. Musicians from the Music Institute of Long Island will perform an evening of chamber music

including Bach, Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Turina, Mendelssohn and more. Established in 1990, MILI is a classical music school staffed by exceptional instructors from many of the most prestigious conservatories and graduate music schools in the United States and Europe. Free, no tickets required.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

SPRING CLEANING SATURDAY ON THE TAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 19, 8:30 a.m., location TBD. MALT's Trails & Volunteer Manager, Liam, will be awaiting volunteers at the trailhead in the mornings with donuts, coffee, and tea for about an hour or so. Enjoy a warm drink and chat, then head out to work, either hiking the section of trail yourself as a group with Liam. Work includes clearing dead branches and small fallen trees, pruning new growth, and picking up trash. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

ATLANTIC CROSSING IN VERGENNES. Saturday, April 19, 12:30-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. For over two decades, Atlantic Crossing has been stirring up the dance floors of New England with their Celtic-infused compositions. From foot-stomping reels to soulful ballads, Atlantic Crossing brings Vermont's rich musical traditions to life. Free.

LITTLE LIES: A FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 19, 7:30-10 p.m., Town Hall Theater Main Stage, 42-26 Merchants Row. Join THT for a night of romance, drama

and, of course, Rumours! Performing will be Little Lies, an 8-piece tribute band featuring two female vocalists, two male vocalists, and an ensemble of professional musicians. The Boston-based band captures the essence of one of the world's most successful bands. Town Hall Theater dance floor and seating available. Cash bar. Tickets \$25 advance/\$30 at the door, available at addisonarts.org/event/little-lies-a-fleetwood-mac-tribute.

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

"WINTER'S BONE" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 20, 3 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Faced with an unresponsive mother and a criminal father, Ozark teenager Ree Dolly (Jennifer Lawrence) does what she can to manage the household and take care of her two younger siblings. Informed by the sheriff (Garret Dillahunt) that their father put their home up for bond and then disappeared, Ree sets out on a dangerous quest to find him. Her entire family's fate now in her hands. Part MNFF Selects' neo-noir series. Tickets \$17 individual film or \$60 series pass, available at townhalltheater.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

BOOK READING IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, April 23, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. "Do you have to wear a black dress to go to a funeral?" Kena Wangera, eight

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: Public Affairs Friday, April 18 5 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Press Conf. 2 p.m. Under the Dome 3 p.m. Vote For Vermont 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week Saturday, April 19 5:30 a.m. Vote For Vermont 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 10 p.m. Under the Dome 11 p.m. Energy Week Sunday, April 20 5 a.m. Selectboard 7 a.m. Energy Week 8 a.m. Vote for Vermont. 9 a.m. Catholic Mass		11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Common Good Vermont Monday, April 21 4:30 a.m. Energy Week 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conferences 10 a.m. Selectboard 12 p.m. Public Affairs 4:30 p.m. Common Good Vermont 5 p.m. Press Conferences 8 p.m. Vote For Vermont Tuesday, April 22 5 a.m. Press Conferences 9 a.m. Common Good Vermont 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard LIVE Wednesday, April 23 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 Thursday, April 24 5 a.m. Press Conferences 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 & Preservation Friday, April 18 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Yestermorrow 8:16 a.m. All Brains Belong 9:05 a.m. Sharpe Takes 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 5:30 p.m. FMP Night Owl Club 9:35 p.m. Yestermorrow		Saturday, April 19 5 a.m. Yestermorrow 6:30 a.m. School Board Meetings 11 a.m. All Star Hockey Game Boys 1 p.m. All Star Hockey Game Girls 3 p.m. Sharpe Takes 3:40 p.m. Yestermorrow 5 p.m. Foltz Studio 6 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 p.m. FMP Night Owl Club 9 p.m. Authors and Poets Sunday, April 20 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. FMP Night Owl Club 8 a.m. State Board of Education 6 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7 p.m. School Board Meeting 10 p.m. All Things LGBTQ Monday, April 21 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:45 a.m. Tai Chi 7:10 a.m. Chair Yoga 10 a.m. School Board Meetings		4 p.m. Foltz Studio 6:30 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting Tuesday, April 22 5:37 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7 a.m. State Board of Education 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 5 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7:30 p.m. Yestermorrow Wednesday, April 23 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. State Board of Education 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. School Board Meetings 10 p.m. Sharpe Takes Thursday, April 24 5:30 a.m. Foltz Studio 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meetings 12 p.m. Sharpe Takes 1:30 p.m. State Board of Education	

years old, asks the question with an innocence as deep as the heartache that drives her. Her best friend has died in a car accident. The person responsible: her own mother. Hear local author Bobbi Loney read from her second novel, "Homefree."

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN WARREN. Thursday, April 24, Lincoln Peak. Celebrate Earth Week by enjoying wildflowers and birds and how they change with altitude ascending trail leading up to Lincoln Peak. Moderate pace with 2,400 feet elevation change, and 5 miles round trip. Spectacular views throughout. Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or kencorey53@gmail.com with questions or to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

SENIOR THESIS DANCE CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. In "Rituals of Return" senior dance students share an evening of their culminating senior work, exploring and sharing themes of home, history, rituals, culture and identity. Tickets \$15/\$10/\$5, available at boxoffice@middlebury.edu.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 26, Means Woods. Will the Dutchman's breeches be hanging out to dry? Join this easy paced walk and find out. About 2 miles with little elevation gain. Contact David Andrews at 802-388-4894 or vtrevda@yahoo.com for details. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL. Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m., Bristol Trail Network. This is a great mud season hike because the gravel soils in Bristol drain well so the trail is always open. The 3-mile loop around the village offers a scenic mix of history and geography and takes 2.5-3 hours. The elevation gain is under 100 feet, but there are some steep sections and uneven terrain. Sturdy shoes and poles recommended. Excellent options for snacks/lunch in Bristol before or afterward. Contact Porter Knight at knight@gmavt.net or 802-343-3920 for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

MT. PHILO HISTORY HIKE IN CHARLOTTE. Saturday, April 26. Join Ferrisburgh's Judy Chaves for this history-focused guided hike up Mount Philo. Come learn the mountain's fascinating history and discover evidence of that history hiding in plain sight. Limit 15. More info and registration at chaves@gmavt.net.

WORLD TAI CHI AND QIGONG DAY IN BRISTOL. Saturday, April 26. 10

TOP PICK

MILI Musicians in Middlebury

Faculty musicians from the Music Institute of Long Island (MILI) will perform an evening of chamber music including Bach, Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Turina, Mendelssohn, and more. The concert will take place on **Friday, April 18, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Mahaney Arts Center, Olin C. Robison Concert Hall**, 72 Porter Field Road, in Middlebury.

Free and open to all, no tickets required.

Established in 1990, MILI is a classical music school staffed by exceptional instructors from many of the most prestigious conservatories and graduate music schools in the United States and Europe. This performance is the culminating event of their current Rothrock Residency working with Middlebury students.

Learn more about the artists at milimusic.com.

a.m.-noon, Holley Hall, 1 South St. Celebrate our local Tai Chi Forms, Instructors and Tai Chi Friends. Come follow along Qigong and Fall Prevention Tai Chi. Join in your Practice Style Watch and Enjoy. Further information and inquiries contact Jerry@skyrivertai chi.com or 802-598-1830. Celebrating all around the world at 10 a.m. local times.

KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, April 26, 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.

STARGAZING: LYRIDS METEOR SHOWER WITH MIDDLEBURY ASTRONOMY CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 26, 8:30-10:30 p.m., location TBD. Join MALT and Catherine Miller, the observatory specialist at Middlebury College, to view one of the oldest known meteor showers in a watch party to observe the Lyrids Meteor Shower. Materials, such as telescopes, will be provided. Bring snacks and water and weather-appropriate clothing. Free. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Wright Park, Seymour St Ext. Celebrate Arbor Day by helping MALT revegetate the River Trail in Wright Park. Meet MALT's Trails and Volunteer Manager, Liam, at the Seymour St Ext entrance of Wright Park. he will provide tools and instructions for volunteer groups. Bring work gloves, water and snacks. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

FIDDLERS JAM IN BRANDON. Sunday April 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., American Legion, Franklin St. Brandon. \$3 cover, 50/50 raffle. Door prize, refreshments available. Join the Champlain Valley

Fiddlers. Bring a friend.

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK IN ORWELL. Sunday, April 27, noon-2 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd. Amy Olmsted horticulturist with Rocky Dale Gardens in Bristol, will show you early wildflowers, how to identify them, and discuss their habitat. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, dress for the weather, be prepared for walking the trails (some of which may be wet), and bring water if you like. Open to the public. Tickets \$5 adults/\$1 ages 6 to 14/free children under 5. More info call 802-759-2412.

ALINA IBRAGIMOVA, VIOLIN, AND CÉDRIC TIBERGHIE, PIANO, IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 27, 3 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. The closing event of the Performing Arts Series' 105th season pairs violinist Alina Ibragimova and pianist Cédric Tiberghien. The two developed a tremendous rapport during their term as individual BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists. Ibragimova and Tiberghien will play Janáček, Enescu, Gerald Barry's vivacious Triorchic Blues, and Beethoven's iconic "Kreutzer" sonata. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5, available at go.middlebury.edu/box-office.

JOHNNY PEERS AND THE MUTTVILLE COMIX — COMEDY DOG SHOW IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 27, 4-5 p.m. Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 42-46 Merchants Row. 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. Tickets: \$10 children 12 & under/\$20 adult, available at addisonarts.org.

MONDAY, APRIL 28

CRIBBAGE NIGHT IN BRISTOL. Monday,

April 28, 7 p.m., Libanus Lodge corner of North and Elm Sts. Come see what all the fun is about.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 1, Wright Park, Seymour St. Extension. Enjoy chartreuse-colored early leaf growth, wildflowers, and birds on this hike from Wright Park to Belden Falls looping around back to Wright Park. About 5.5 miles with small sections of a little elevation gain. Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or kencorey53@gmail.com with questions or to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

TRUE CRIME PODCAST CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 1, 6 p.m., NBM meeting room – back of building, Mini-Ilisley Public Library, 30 Main St. Charles Manson is a name synonymous with terror. But after decades of coverage, is there still something we're missing about one of the most notorious figures in American crime? What forces shape the narratives we think we know? Continuing on the theme of cults, examine these deranged crimes with fellow amateur sleuths for a discussion of this month's true crime podcast. Listen to the podcast on your own before the discussion. Renee will facilitate the discussion with prompts and visuals. For participants 18+.

VERMONT'S HISTORIC THEATER CURTAINS PRESENTATION IN STARKSBORO. Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m., Starksboro Public Library, 2827 Route 116. Christine Hadsel, director of Curtains Without Borders, provides a glimpse into the world of talented and often sophisticated theater curtain artists who were part of the rural cultural scene, illustrating the rich cultural history of small-town Vermont before World War I. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments provided.

BOOK READING: "THE SWEET PAIN OF BEING ALIVE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 1, 7:15 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Ann Anderson Evans will read from the second book of her memoir trilogy, in which she has beautifully, painfully dissected her relationship, her husband's life and his enduring struggles with depression and transgenderism.

"THE WALLS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theatre, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Are we willing to stand up to authority when it is the right thing to do? A suspenseful dark comedy that will put you on the edge of your seat, "The Walls" deftly asks the audience a simple question: What would you do in these circumstances? Tickets \$15/\$10/\$8/\$5 available at middlebury.edu/college/box-office.

Bristol author Christopher Shaw's new spy novel's got bad decisions and fun

Christopher Shaw, Bristol author and former writing educator at Middlebury College, has done it again — his latest novel "The Manager" is out. Think summer reading folks...

THE PLOT

Lake Placid, 1982: *Backcountry* editor Walter Loving picks up a top-coated stranger hitchhiking in the snow outside the Casa del Sol restaurant. It is two years after the Soviet Union's loss to the U.S. in the "Miracle On Ice" Winter Olympic hockey game. The hitchhiker lights a French cigarette and tells Walter he is the "manager" of a visiting Red Army B-team, whose players have kicked him out of the van in the snow.

But the manager is really a spy obsessed with restoring Soviet dominance in ice sports. His lover is a spectacular Olympic figure skater fond of quoting the poet Anna Akhmatova. Together they invade and complicate Walt's life in ways that test his reserves of courage and resourcefulness, with far reaching effects.

THE BOOK

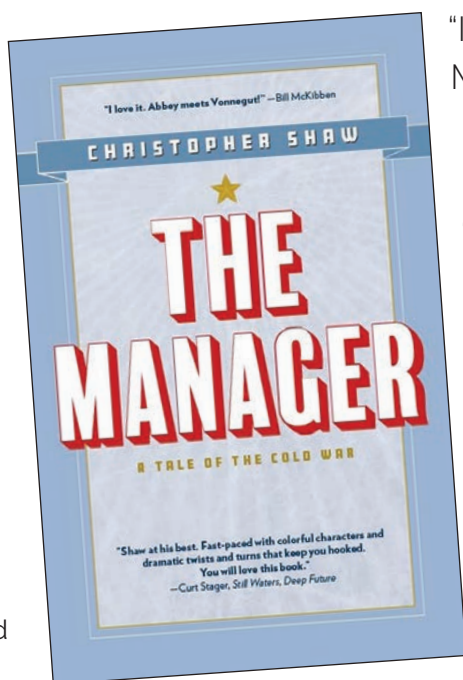
"The Manager" isn't a typical spy novel, though lines are crossed at great risk and stakes are high. It is above all a novel of the Adirondacks, a novel of relationships, and of love and its varieties.

It is also a novel of the environment. Aging radicals and Indigenous activists fight massive hydro development and a pipeline, with scenes in Siberia, Montreal, northern Quebec, Sarajevo.

"The Manager" is funny, irreverent, satirical,

earthy, with bad behaviors and common profanities, persistent terrible decision making, unethical journalism, the common sadnesses of illness, death, failure, loss, and change.

"The Manager" is Shaw's third Adirondacks book since 2021. He is a former editor of *Adirondack Life*, whose books include *Sacred Monkey River: A Canoe Trip With the Gods* (W.W. Norton, 2000), *The Power Line*, and *The Crazy Wisdom*. He taught writing at Middlebury College for 20 years.



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— Bill McKibben

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— Dr. Curt Stager, *Still Waters, Your Atomic Self*

"WOW, AND I THOUGHT CHRIS SHAW'S 'THE POWER LINE' WAS NERVY!"

— Amy Godine, *The Black Woods*

"A THOROUGHLY ENGAGING ROMP. I LOVED IT."

— John Ernst, co-owner Elk Lake Lodge

"The Manager" is available locally at The Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury.



CHRISTOPHER SHAW

THE AUTHOR

Christopher Shaw grew up in Schenectady, N.Y., and attended Bard College for two years. In the '70s, he lived in the woods, guided, and worked odd jobs. Later he edited *Adirondack Life* magazine, and, while there, wrote numerous reviews in the *New York Times Book Review* and the *Washington Post Book World*. In the '90s, he freelanced and wrote fiction, publishing widely in such places as the *New York Times*, *Capital Region*, *Outside*, *New England Review*, and through radio commentaries and the show *Northern Voices* on North Country Public Radio. Later he took his experience of living and working as a guide in the Adirondacks to Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico, as the binational watershed of the free-flowing Usumacinta River underwent dam threats and political and environmental upheaval. The result was *Sacred Monkey River: A Canoe Trip with the Gods* (W.W. Norton, 2000).

In 2018, Shaw retired from teaching writing at Middlebury College after 20 years, during which time he also co-directed with Bill McKibben the Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism. He lives in Bristol with his wife Susan Kavanagh and spends much of the year at his remote cabin on the Saranac chain of lakes near Saranac Lake, N.Y.

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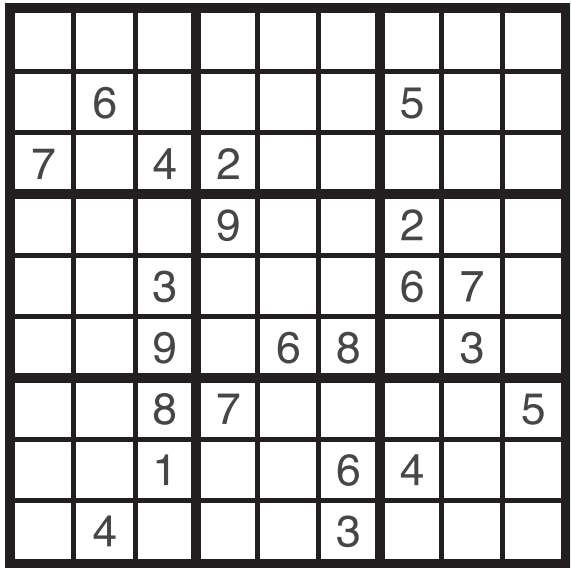
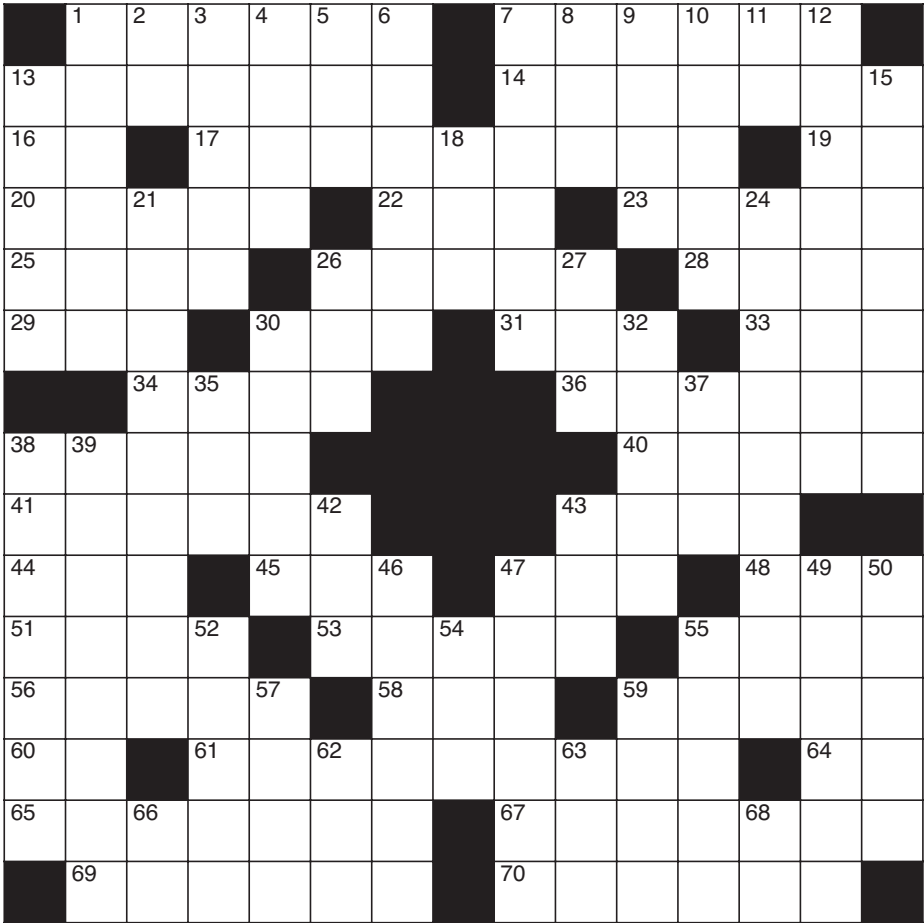
- 1. Dark blacks
- 7. Construct a wall to confine
- 13. Most inappropriate
- 14. A type of board
- 16. Sacred Hindu syllable
- 17. Flatterer
- 19. The Granite State
- 20. Tears down
- 22. China's Chairman
- 23. Former Houston footballer
- 25. Periods of time
- 26. Expressed pleasure
- 28. World alliance
- 29. A Brit's mother
- 30. Television network
- 31. Brother or sister
- 33. Type of spirit

- 34. __ Ladd, actor
- 36. A medium oversees it
- 38. One time province of British India
- 40. Wrong
- 41. The highest parts of something
- 43. Insect
- 44. Baseball stat
- 45. A way to use up
- 47. Where wrestlers compete
- 48. It helps elect politicians
- 51. As fast as can be done
- 53. Genus of legumes
- 55. Samoa's capital
- 56. Monument in Jakarta
- 58. Former French coin

- 59. Exploiters
- 60. College sports official
- 61. Uninterrupted in time
- 64. Stephen King story
- 65. Marked by no sound
- 67. Weathers
- 69. Denouncements
- 70. More beloved

DOWN

- 1. Winged nut
- 2. It cools a home
- 3. Kisses (French)
- 4. Oxford political economist
- 5. Keyboard key
- 6. Leaf pores
- 7. Agrees with publicly
- 8. Not around
- 9. Czech city



Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

- 10. Muscle cell protein
- 11. Greek letter
- 12. Movements
- 13. Ned __, composer
- 15. Popular series Game of __
- 18. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 21. Helper
- 24. Gift
- 26. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 27. Treat without respect
- 30. Trims
- 32. Slang for lovely
- 35. City of Angels
- 37. Guitarists' tool
- 38. Island nation
- 39. Delivered in installments
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Cooking vessel
- 46. Gets in front of
- 47. Wounded by scratching
- 49. More breathable
- 50. Medical dressings
- 52. Indiana hoopster
- 54. Married Marilyn
- 55. An ancient Assyrian city
- 57. Congressmen (abbr.)
- 59. Approves food
- 62. Ventura's first name
- 63. Between northeast and east
- 66. Atomic #71
- 68. Email designation

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



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Pictured artwork by Catherine Raishart



ASK A MASTER GARDENER

A ROSE ISN'T JUST A ROSE

We're all familiar with roses (*Rosa*) — their fragrance, their flowers, their thorns. If you're thinking about adding a rose (or roses) to your garden this year, it might surprise you to discover that there's more to your choice than color. Roses come in a seeming multitude of sizes, growth habits and flower types — not to mention hardiness, color and other considerations.

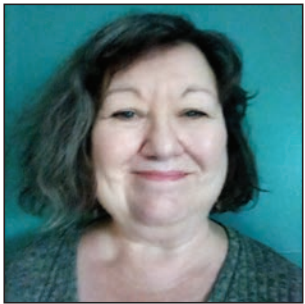
BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

First, you'll need to know your United States Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zone so you can choose a rose variety

suitable for the winter temperatures at your location. Roses (and other perennial plants) are labeled with their hardiness zones to help you make your selection. In general, roses are hardy in Zones 3-11, depending on the specific variety. You can determine your hardiness zone at planthardiness.ars.usda.gov.

Hybrid and old-fashioned tea roses represent the classic cutting rose with their bushy, upright growth and long stems, each bearing a single flower with a sweet fragrance. You can expect them to grow 4-6 feet high and 2-3 feet wide.

Floribunda roses have a more compact, bushier growth and are about 2-4 feet



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

high and wide. They offer an abundance of continuously blooming clusters of smaller flowers.

Grandiflora roses offer large, showy flowers on tall, upright canes reaching 6-7 feet in height.

True to their name, **climbing roses** will need support. They can be trained to climb over an arbor, up a trellis or along a fence. They offer plenty of flowers along their 10- to 20-foot-long canes.

Shrub roses are a low-maintenance option. They grow upright, bushy and spread with some varieties growing up to 9 feet high and wide. Flowers are 2-3 inches wide.

Groundcover roses grow low and spread. With their continuous bloom period of small- to medium-sized flowers, they are a colorful option to cover bare ground or to use for erosion control on banks. They grow only 1-2 feet high.

Rambler (also known as rambling) roses are vigorous growers with long, flexible canes up to 20 feet in length. Flowers are small but plentiful, but unlike other roses, they may bloom only once during the season. Ramblers

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 12



Roses are hardy in USDA Zones 3 to 11, depending on the specific variety, and come in a range of colors, flower types and growth habits.

PHOTO / JAMES DEMERS/PIXABAY



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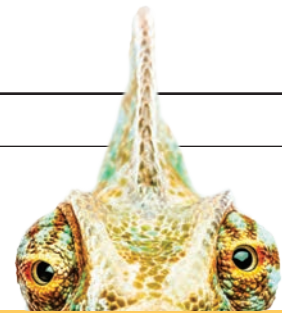
Pet of the Week



Meet Kitten!

"Kitten" is actually 14. She is great! She will sometimes play at the top of our stairs and bat her paws at — and gently bite — anyone who tries to come up. It is really cute to watch. Sometimes she will knead blankets. She is a little pudgy here and there, but she's still awesome!

Jake Murphy, age 8
Weybridge



Pet of the WEEK

Send us a picture
of your pet!

news@addisonindependent.com

Paws To Consider

with Dr. Bri Letaw, Medical Director,
Bristol Animal Hospital



Q: What are some common older dog issues?



A: Depending on the breed of dog, there are many ailments that affect older dogs. Some of these include endocrine diseases, kidney disease, liver disease, arthritis, heart disease and cancer. We recommend at least yearly if not every 6-month exams on our older dogs to try to medically manage some of these issues earlier for a better long-term quality of life.

Bristol Animal Hospital, 167 Monkton Rd., Bristol
(802) 588-7387 • <https://bristolvtvet.com>

Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Buddy

Buddy is a short-haired, chunky young boy full of love! He is used to being an indoor/outdoor cat and may like to continue the same life-style. Buddy may be bashful, but he is super friendly when he warms up. He gets along with other cats but has no experience with dogs.



Eugene



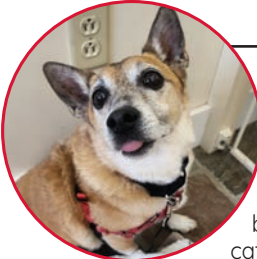
Eugene came to Homeward Bound as a stray and is now available for adoption! He can be friendly but also appreciates his space and can get overstimulated. Eugene loves all food and enjoys playing with wand toys. He is nervous but curious about the enclosed cat porch, and he may be interested in an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. Eugene gets along with other cats but is a little socially awkward when making his introduction.

Maximus

Maximus is a 10-month-old boy who is looking for a committed and understanding home. He has been rehomed multiple times in his short life and needs stability. Maximus is young, energetic, and is still learning to be a well-behaved cat. He is extremely treat-motivated and very smart! With the right training, he will flourish. Maximus loves to play, but he can play a bit too rough with people and other cats.



Jiggy



Hi! My name is **Jiggy**. I'm a 24-pound, 12-year-old mixed breed. Don't be fooled by my age! I have a ton of energy and I'm looking for an active home - a family that can provide me with long walks and playtime (preferably in a big, fenced-in yard). I get along fine with cats and children, although too many at once can overwhelm me a little. I find large dogs intimidating. Small ones, like yours truly, would be fine! I'm housebroken and crate trained, but I love my spot on the living room couch... and Milk Bones! I love Milk Bones!

James Bond

James Bond is a super sweet lap cat! He has lived with both cats and dogs. James loves to eat and get pets. He has a healed ear injury which gives him a "fat" looking ear, but he still wants to hear you call him super cute!



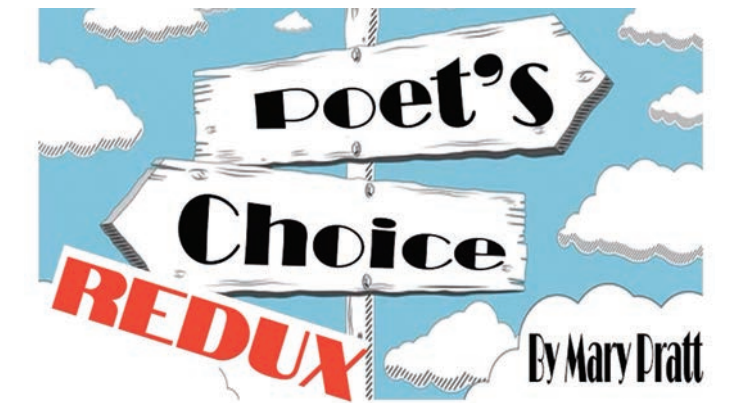
Homeward Bound

Addison County's Humane Society



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236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT



Staged reading in Waitsfield asks artists the eternal question

What if an angel gave you a choice between a life of happiness, or fame and fortune, as a result of expressing your art?

That is the question that Margaret, a poet, writer, and English professor, must face in "Poet's Choice" by Mary Pratt, which will take the Valley Player's stage in Waitsfield on April 18. Pem — a fallen angel chosen by God and Satan themselves to settle this wager — comes to earth to pose this question to an artist. Admittance to heaven and wings, or hell and a flamethrower, are on the line for Pem.

This fully-staged reading of "Poet's Choice" will show for one night only on Friday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m., at the Valley Players Theater, 4254 Main Street (Rt. 100) in Waitsfield. With some tightening up of some scenes and rewriting of others, this 2023 Vermont Playwright Award winner has a new lease on life and the audience will get a chance to breathe it in.

The cast includes Cynthia Seckler as God, Gabby Tamasi as Satan, Susan Loynd as Pem, a fallen angel sent on a task by God and Satan, Sarah Storjohann as Margaret, an English professor who is struggling professionally, Sarah DeBouter as Anna, a philosophy professor who is quite confident in herself, Wes Olds as Felix, a professor of music, Carrie Phillips as Barrie, an art professor who is a conceptual artist. Admission will be by donation at the door. Visit valleyplayers.com for more info.

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

make a good choice if you're looking for a wild or natural look for your garden.

If you're short on space, consider a **polyantha rose bush**. They offer compact growth (2-4 feet high) with abundant sprays of small flowers. They bloom throughout the season and offer a subtle fragrance.

Miniature roses are yet another option. They have a compact, bushy growth habit and average between 12-24 inches tall, with some growing as tall at 3 feet. True to their name, flowers are small, less than 2 inches wide, but they make up for what they lack in size with their strong, sweet fragrance.

For a well-tended, manicured look,

consider a **rose standard**, also called a tree rose. As the name implies, these have a long, leafless cane with a rose on top, giving the appearance of a shaggy lollypop. Tree roses are formed by grafting a rose atop the 2- to 3-foot tall "trunk." While a tree rose might require more care than other roses, its charm and added drama may make it a desirable choice.

There is one rose you'll want to avoid: **multiflora rose** (*Rosa multiflora*). This invasive rose is classified as a noxious weed in Vermont. Brought to the United States first for use as root stock for grafted roses, then later for use in erosion control and as living fences, its invasive growth habits have made it unwelcome in many states.

For information on planning a rose garden, see go.uvm.edu/rose. For help with pest and disease problems, go to go.uvm.edu/rose-problems.



Rose bushes with an abundance of lush, vibrantly colored blooms add a dramatic and elegant touch to any landscape.

PHOTO / SCORPDEX/PIXABAY

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*This week's property is managed by IPJ Real Estate.
More info at middvermontrealestate.com.*





CORNWALL NEW LISTING!
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MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
91 OLD PASTURE LANE

MLS #5035239 | \$1,355,000
6 BD | 5 BA | 4503 SF | 10.73 ACRES

Expansive home with second floor apartment that includes kitchen, bedroom, office, living room, and walk-up attic storage. Primary living space offers eat-in kitchen, wood-stove and hearth. Great storage barn!



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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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.

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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. There will be an artist talk on Thursday, April 17, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 125 at the Mahaney Arts Center. 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

"Collective Perspectives." This member show brings together 11 diverse voices from our collective, showcasing a wide range of mediums including cyanotype on textile, photography, acrylic paintings on skate decks and more. Exhibiting artists include Elise Bouffard, Andrew Clingenpeel, Caitlin Gildrien, Charon Henning, Michael Hollis, Jaqueline Lore, Catherine Raishart, Bart Robbett, Elizabeth Sylvia, Courtney Vengrin, and Heather Rusch Zelonis. On view April 18-June 15.

CLUB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

see what the subject is seeing — we have the same view."

The group collectively examined four pieces before dispersing again, quite organically, into small groups and then heading home. It was an enchanting way to spend an hour or two on a Sunday afternoon.

"I think Art Club is just a delightful success," Smith Abbott said. "It's such a great opportunity for discussion and a crucial bridge between the community and the Art Museum."

Interested in joining in? It's free and open to all. Simply email Don Burns (ddbtx1@gmail.com) and he'll put you on the contact list.

"The more the better," Burns welcomed.

Editor's Note: The next meeting should be in May, but that falls on Mother's Day this year, so Art Club will not meet again until the second Sunday in June. In the meantime, stop by the Middlebury Museum of Art to see "SHE" before the exhibit closes this Sunday, April 20.

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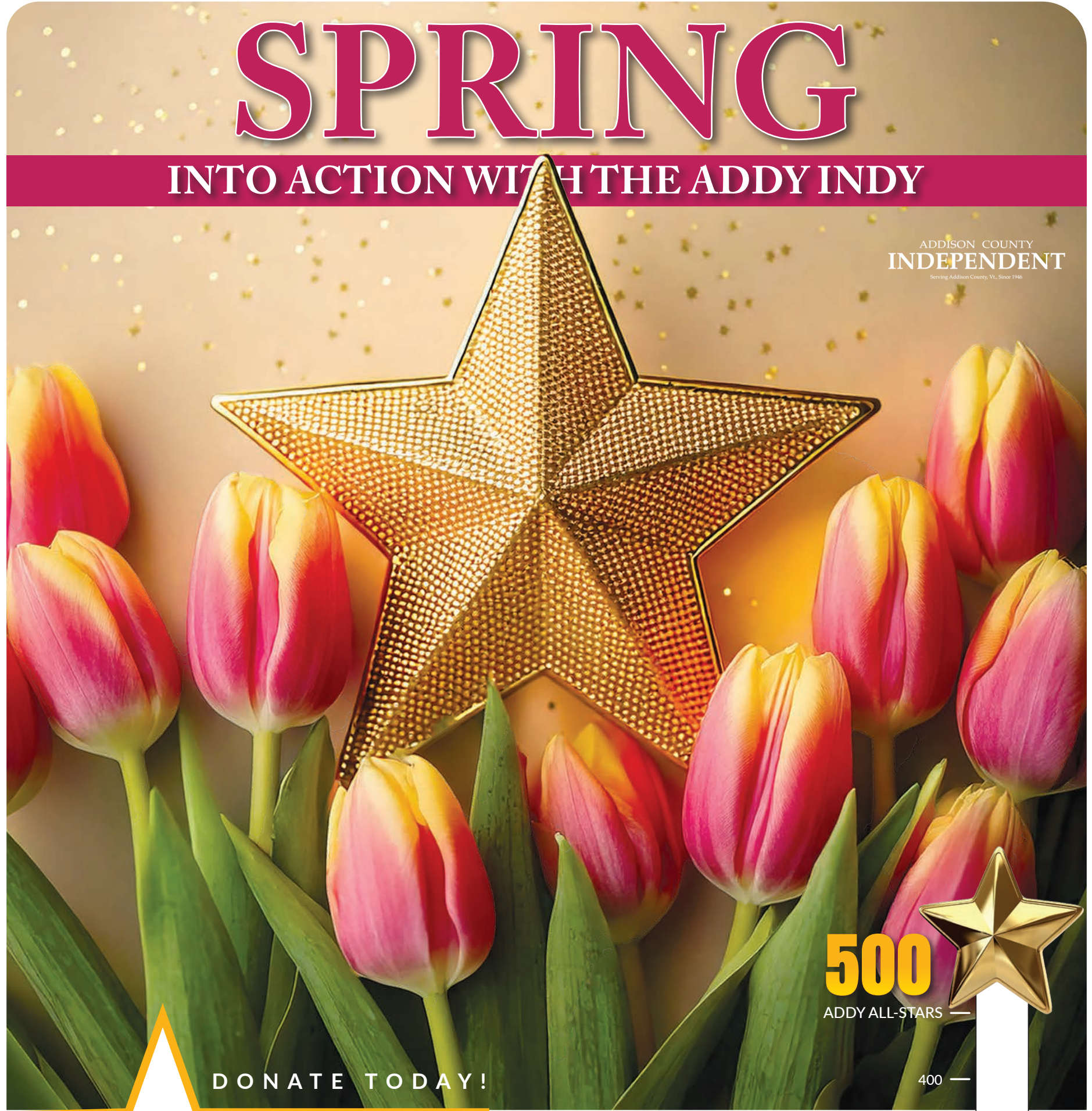
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THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW



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NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY: A CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF BRUCE NASON

By Eleanor Hurlburt '28

On January 9, National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, Chief Bruce Nason of the Bristol Police Department sat down to discuss the important role of law enforcement in the community and its connection to the students' education.

"First of all, thank you for the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day," Chief Nason began. "At the Bristol Police Department, our focus is community policing. Community policing is about engaging with the community, building relationships, and getting involved beyond just criminal action."

When asked about his relationship with Mt. Abe, Nason emphasized the importance of positive interactions with younger community members. "It's important to build connections with everybody in the community, especially students or younger adults," he said. "A

lot of times, we have more positive interactions from that."

In terms of the relevance of Mt. Abe's "transferable skills," which focus on community connections, effective communication, innovative thinking, and personal development, and how these skills apply to law enforcement, Nason responded, "Effective communication is very important and then innovative thinking. In community policing, we think outside the box. It's not just about reacting to a situation and arresting somebody. I'm more about being involved in the community and helping people make better decisions."

Nason assured that communication to him is always open when asked about students reaching out to him with concerns or questions, "They can call, stop by the station, or leave a message. My cell phone is never turned off. If someone is in need, they can call me anytime at 802-349-

5027," he said.

The conversation also touched on the rewards of a career in law enforcement. "It is a rewarding career—not monetarily for small agencies, unfortunately—but the satisfaction of helping someone or guiding them to make better choices is more important than anything else," Nason explained.

Finally, when asked about which subjects students should focus on to prepare for a career in law enforcement, Nason recommended areas outside of typical law enforcement training. "Anything related to sociology, psychology, or even economics would be beneficial. These subjects provide a better background for understanding people in the field. We can teach law enforcement skills at the academy, but these subjects will give you a



Nason with Class of 2028 President Nora Hurlburt

better start," he advised.

Chief Nason's insights not only highlight the significance of community policing but also stress the value of education in building well-rounded, effective officers. His commitment to the community and his open-door approach to communication reflect the spirit of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day!

STUDENTS PAVE THE WAY FOR A NEW GENERATION OF FIREFIGHTERS

By Carter J. Antos-Ketcham

The state of Vermont has 206 fire departments, and 87.3% of those firefighters are volunteers. Many of these volunteers are high school students.

Senior Tucker Porter of Starksboro followed his father's footsteps, joining his town's local department as a Cadet



Porter, Norris, and Audy at HCC

three years ago. "My first memory was when I was four, but I know I was at the station in a baby carriage," he said. With three years of experience, he is no longer a cadet. When it comes to being on the job, he added, "You never know what you're getting into. There are unknown hazards, especially the people, passerbys get in the way, and the homeowners are always freaking out, rightfully so." When asked what advice he had for students who are interested in the job, he said, "It's not for everyone. It's a challenge, and you'll see some stuff, but there are outreach groups for that. If you can handle all that, then you'll do just fine if you're interested. "And we're not just putting out house fires," he added, "We help the community out however we can. That's why I do it, to help people." When asked about the

qualifications that a student would need to volunteer with their local fire department he explained, "You've gotta be a hard working person; you've gotta be dedicated to it. I mean, you're not expected to show up to everything, but if you're around and available, you should take the call. People look up to you... younger students will look up to you and the job."

Junior Evan Audy is a cadet with the New Haven Volunteer Fire Department. He joined with one of his friends a few months ago because, "I like helping people, and the community at the station is great." He added, "The signing up process was surprisingly easy. Training is hard, but we're told it gets much easier. It's been a steep learning curve to get all our gear on quickly and get in the truck. As a cadet, what we are able to do is limited. We can't

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go into structures, but we can help the rest of the guys and they count on us for that." He explained why he stuck with it, adding, "It's rewarding to be helping people, and it's good for your mental state." On the topic of qualifications, he said, "You need to be willing, hard working, and fit. Wearing that gear will make you fit if you're not

(See **FIREFIIGHTERS**, Page 6)

FINDING YOUR LIGHT: MT. ABE THESPIANS PROVIDE PERFORMING INSIGHT

By Trinity Croft

Mt. Abe's theater program is a key-stone of the community, and the spring production of *Beetlejuice Jr.* was no exception.

Senior Alina Donaldson shone brightly with a starring role as Lydia Deetz in *Beetlejuice Jr.* With her career as a performer spanning all the way back to third grade, she's appeared in numerous musicals with the Mt. Abe theater program. She's also taught theater at the Middlebury Community Music Center. Donaldson commented, "Getting to work with a new generation was really rewarding, and it was very eye-opening. After so long performing, you don't realize how much you've learned. When I started working with

them, I realized I could teach them to be expressive with their faces and show them how they can take up space on stage. It's been very special to me to be given that through this program and getting to pay it forward."

Sophomore Henry Allred crushed it this year as the mysterious guru Otho in *Beetlejuice Jr.*, marking his ninth musical at Mt. Abe. This feat does not include his time spent at summer workshops, districts, and all-state music festivals, and recently, a tri-school opera performance of *Dido and Aeneas*. "There are many different aspects to

putting together a show," Allred explained. "It takes a lot of communication and planning on the adults' behalf to set up the schedules, emails, the cost of getting all the



Allred (center) as Otho PC: Buzz Kuhns

right materials, and the auditions, which is a big puzzle in itself." To those looking to perform, Allred said, "Go for it! If you ever feel too nervous or scared to try it out, put the butterflies in your stomach in formation and do it because you're interested and passionate about it, not because you feel like you have to. There's something so fulfilling when you make it to bows for the final show, and having that satisfying, complete feeling that we did it and pulled through. Performing as a whole has made me feel more confident and passionate about what I'm doing."

Junior Lila Brightman blew us all away in *Beetlejuice Jr.* as Barbra Maitland. She has a history with music stretching to her youth as a violin player, and performing with the MAUSD theater program

(See **BEETLEJUICE**, Page 6)

VOICES

PATRIOTS LOOKING LIKE NEW TEAM

By Ethan Chasse

The NFL is in for a treat this season with changes in the Patriots leadership. In January 2024, the Patriots fired Bill Belichick after bad draft picks and poor trades, because the team needed a big change.

At first, the Patriots hired Jerod Mayo, their defensive coach, but after another bad season with their new coach, they fired him after one season. In 2025, they hired veteran coach Mike Vrabel, who coached the Titans for a while and did pretty well. When Vrabel got to New England, he did something that hasn't been seen in years; he brought in ten players from free agency.

The Patriots made their team so much better in the offseason and are hoping to get above .500 in the 2025-26 season and maybe make the playoffs for the first time in three years. The Patriots last playoff appearance was in 2021 and it was a blowout game against the Bills, losing by 30. In the past two seasons, the Patriots have been well under .500 and have placed last in their division the past couple of years. The Patriots have a really good quarterback "in Drake Maye" and they just picked up an excellent wide receiver, Stefon Diggs, on a three year deal. The Patriots defense last year was one of the worst that Pats' fans have seen in a long time, but they picked up several players that should make their defense a lot better.

The Patriots offensive line was the worst in the league last year, giving up a lot of sacks, but they picked up three O-line players that will help protect their quarterback. In a September 2024 postgame (See *PATRIOTS*, Page 6)

MI NIÑEZ

By Rhiannon Andrews '27

Durante mi niñez, yo era una niña muy tonta, creativa, y entretenida. Me gustaba jugar con las muñecas, y tenía una especial de mi abuela. Esta muñeca usaba un vestido rojo y amarillo hecho de hilo. Su cuerpo también estaba hecho de hilo. También me gustaba jugar con mis bloques de madera. Ellos eran de muchos colores diferentes, y yo construía muchas cosas interesantes. También, me gustaba mucho dibujar, y hacía muchos dibujos para la nevera. De niña, yo era bien educada y también un poco traviesa a veces. Porque tenía otros hermanos en casa, tenía que ser asertiva, y por eso gritaba mucho. Dependiendo de la situación y la gente allí, era o sociable o tímida. Me gustaba coleccionar piedras de todos los colores y formas. Hoy, no tengo todos las piedras de mi niñez, pero tengo muchas más. En la escuela primaria, me gustaba mucho jugar en el patio de recreo. Todos los días corría fuera de la puerta de la escuela cuando el recreo empezaba. Durante mis años en la escuela primaria, me gustaba la clase de arte porque hacíamos muchos tipos de arte. Me gustaba pintar, dibujar, y usar arcilla.



MY CHILDHOOD

During my childhood, I was a very silly, creative, and entertaining girl. I liked to play with dolls, and I had a special one from my grandmother. This doll wore a red and yellow dress made of yarn. Her body was also made of yarn. I also liked to play with wooden blocks. They were many different colors and I built lots of interesting things. Also, I really liked to draw, and made lots of pictures for the fridge. As a young girl, I was well behaved, but also a little bit mischievous. Because I had three other siblings in the house, I had to be assertive, which is why I screamed a lot. Depending on the situation and the people there, I was sociable or timid. I liked to collect stones of all colors and shapes. Today, I don't have all the stones from my childhood, but I have many more. In elementary school, I really liked to play on the playground, and always ran out the door of the school when recess began. During my years in elementary school, I liked art class because we made many types of art. I liked to paint, draw, and use clay.



Dear Unfailingly Unphotogenic,

I had a friend named Kevin from New Jersey who had this same issue, so I'll tell you what I told him. Your problem is that you're aiming for candid photos with good lighting and nice angles. This is 2025! Candid photos are out! What you need are cryptid photos! Photos that are always very high contrast or upped exposure. Photos that are always blurry, hard to distinguish, and mildly uncanny. Photos that show you doing things that aren't humanly possible! There are a few ways to become a cryptid. You could have an accident with radioactive elements, though I wouldn't recommend this. You could disrupt a ritual and accidentally gain a cult following. You could also grow four arms, become very strong, and disappear into a wooded area. That would also be pretty cool. Before you know it, you'll be a legend. It's the same advice I gave to Kevin, and now he's better known as Mothman.

Sincerely, Finch

Dear Finch,

I love Vermont, but if I have to hear "Stick Season" by Noah Kahan one more time, I'll go nuts. As we approach the muddy spring season, it seems to haunt me. Everywhere I go, this song is around the corner: convenience stores, gas stations, on the radio, at sporting events. I'm actually losing it. What solutions are there to this very clear overabundance of Noah Kahan?

Sincerely, a Devout Kahan Hater

LOGISTICAL FALLACIES: AN ADVICE COLUMN

Ladies, gents, neithers, boths, and in-betweeners, welcome back to another edition! Your all-knowing host, Finch, is back, giving the people what they need: free advice! Seriously, I'm only paid in English credits.

Dear Finch,

Like you, I am a writer. But lately I've been going through some serious writer's block. Where should I look for inspiration? How do you get through writer's block? I'm desperate. Sincerely, Can't even think of a pen name

Dear Can't even think of a pen name,

I understand your pain. Writer's block is the worst, like an infinite and all-consuming abyss of total conceptual nothingness, nulling every good idea instantly and leaving words to die on pages. My advice would be to spend time outside when you can. Sometimes, it takes several days of rotting in the sunlight before you may be blessed by the writing gods with the divine intervention of inspiration. Alternately, try doing something mind-numbing. Data entry, washing dishes, ten hours of Mario Kart music, the usual methods could all prove helpful. Maybe if you're brain is empty enough, it'll reboot like an old Windows computer on its last life. There's a possibility that you'll need to do something else altogether, like sacrificing your firstborn or chanting around the ruins of an abandoned building. The writing gods are very demanding, as you know. Good luck, and stay strong.

Sincerely, Finch

Dear Finch,

I've found myself in a bit of a conundrum. Every candid picture taken of me somehow ends in disaster. Photos always end in catastrophe, whether it's a bad angle, poor lighting, the picture being taken at the wrong moment, or something else entirely. How do I finally overcome my horrible luck and take a good photo?

Desperately, Unfailingly Unphotogenic



Photograph by Carter Antos-Ketcham '26

Dear Devout Kahan Hater,

Where's your state spirit? Where is your pride? Every state has an overplayed song that they listen to over and over like a badge of honor. You might as well have said you drink fake syrup. However, you asked a question, and as the kindly host of this column, it's my job to answer. You have three options: First, you could write a better song about Vermont that will become overplayed everywhere you turn. Good luck with that. Second, you could kidnap Noah Kahan, steal his identity, and ruin his image on every public platform by preaching lies of fake maple syrup. This is fraud, a crime, and counsel tends to advise against it. Third, you can create a mind-altering chemical and contaminate the water sources so everyone forgets "Stick Season" ever existed. Or you could just get over yourself and admit that while it's overplayed, it's a catchy song.

Sincerely, Finch

With that, we've reached our word count goal! I've been your host, Finch. Wherever you are, have a good morning, good afternoon, good evening, and good night.

Need advice? Looking to buy glowing worms that only whisper in Latin? Do you wish to become bioluminescent? Email me at advicefromfinch@gmail.com

Charlie and Juno

By Penny Verner '28



POETRY ESSAYS, A POEM & SOME ARTWORK...

By Del Guilmette '29

The poem "He Taught Me to Drive," by Marge Saiser reminds me of my trips to Georgia, for the bittersweet words the author expresses. It is a slow, imperfect poem with a sense of despair written in between the lines. Yet this poem also shows the value of getting through hard times.

"He Taught Me to Drive" is a dry poem. Literally. It talks about learning how to drive in a dry creek bed with sand up to the hubcaps. There are constant failures; she doesn't gun the ignition at the right time and gets stuck in the creek bed. She then gets left alone by her father, being told to figure it out. Subsequently, she starts crying, and her tears dry up in the parched air.

The author ends this poem by talking about mourning doves cooing in the soft sand. They dig in the worn creek bed and lay their eggs, then their child's wet feathers dry in the warm wind. Her father comes back with a shovel and digs the sand away from the tires.

In "He Taught Me to Drive," Saiser goes through her emotions freely and swiftly, leaving the last emotion behind. Whenever there is a feeling of sadness, there is a quiver of hope hidden in the text. These last paragraphs show how emotions can change, spirits can lift, and hope can happen even in times of despair. This is similar to when I go to the South, as through family crises and the world changing not to other's liking, there is always the scent of hope in the air.



By Bryn White '29

By Aurelia Urban '30

"There is no time like spring, when life comes alive in everything." This is a quote from a poem I really enjoyed reading. Christina Rossetti's poem, Spring, brought me back to my 10th birthday. As I was reading, I realized that the author and I felt similarly about spring.

The way she presents spring emphasizes how she feels the coming season begin to bloom, and flower. She feels hope, new life, and blooming all around. She describes the different features of spring, like feeling the warmth after a long, cold, winter. All the color, and the light. You can tell she is happy.

Similarly to me, when I read her poem, I felt the presence of my 10th birthday. Just like everything around me, I was growing. It felt colorful, warm and bright. Although there was still some snow on the ground, the buds poked through the ground, giving a sense of hope, just like the author describes. **



By Abi Sykes '29

By Isolde Tierney '30

Fog has always felt calming to me. When it washes the world in a soft, foamy soap, it brings peace everywhere.

In fall, when the fresh green leaves have fallen off the trees and turned to dry, crumpled leaves, the fog comes. I like to watch it slowly covering the mountains with a thick blanket. I enjoy walking through the woods, hearing the leaves crunching under my boots, surrounded by tall leafless trees with their heads in the clouds. At home, I like to sit on the porch, feeling the temperature drop as I watch the fog surround me. I feel relaxed.

The poem "Fog," by Carl Sandburg, reminds me of my own experiences. The metaphor between a creeping cat and drifting fog reminds me of the time I went to Portugal with my family. Walking through the old stone villages, and weaving through fruit trees was different than being home, meandering through forests and fields, but the fog was the same. Wrapping me up in a big, cozy quilt, I felt warmer inside. When I read this poem, I think of fog creeping through a village, with its stone buildings and beautiful landscape. I feel calm.

Wherever I am, fog brings me home and makes me feel at ease.

By Noella Harris '29

In the poem "Soil," written by Irene Mathieu, the main theme is stated as the connection between life and nature. The title hints at the deep bond with earth. When Mathieu chooses her words, she thinks carefully and makes it so you have a clear understanding and vision of what she's writing. Her writing allows you to think about your relationship with nature. By doing so, the earth and elements are the main focus and it helps us appreciate our place within it. This is not just a physical connection, but a spiritual one, and it shows how our lives are more intertwined with nature than we could've guessed.

Strong visual imagery is used throughout this poem, especially when describing the plants and soil. It helps us visualize the plants color, shape, and movement, and enhances the reader's experience. A vivid picture of the earth is created due to her good use of sensory details. While highlighting nature's beauty and its importance by employing soil as a symbol of life, the imagery sets a respectful tone. Through the description of the texture of the soil and the life it supports, the often overlooked details are brought to life. **

WINDSOR KNOTS

By London Farr '30

I don't know how to write poems. My poems are a bloody flow of words and thoughts rapidly draining from my misshapen brain; there's no way to make blood gush where you want it.

Poems I hear elsewhere are pretty like windsor knots, formatted and patterned to draw attention and liking albeit drowning out other, lesser poets with less to say.

My head is directed by the sound of the dribbling verses spoken by people who represent insanity by betrayal, and encourage children to give up on their dreams early.

So I gather every bit of advice that the internet disperses, and pack it all into a piece of paper written between classes then give it to publishers to watch them reduce it to pieces of labeled failure.



By Flint Crary '29

By Gabriella Szczecinski '29

"Those Winter Sundays" by Robert Hayden is a poem that stands out to me because of the way it conveys deep emotions through the father's actions, rather than words of affection. In the poem, the speaker looks back on how his Father would wake up early in the cold to warm the house, even though no one ever thanked him. It makes me think about my own Dad, who used to do the same thing when we would have early mornings, years ago. The overall feeling of nostalgia that this poem gives me makes me like it more than others now that two of my four siblings have moved out.

One of the main reasons I like this poem is because it shows how parents make sacrifices for their children. In the poem, the father wakes up early just to make sure his family is warm, even though his hands are cracked and aching. This makes me think of how my Dad would always wake us up for church, even when we were tired and didn't want to get out of bed. It also reminds me when he would bring my siblings and I to the park in Richmond every Sunday. **



By Aurelia Urban '30

MIDDLE SCHOOL



By Thatcher Leggett '29

By Lucille Eberhardy '29

The poem "Oranges" by Gary Soto reminds me of my brother, Bennett. I remember going cross country skiing with Bennett and my papa when I was ten. We always went to this one place that was full of hills and trees. We would ski for a while and once we reached the bottom of Dead River Run, we would eat oranges. An orange is 6000 times better when you are hot, tired and happy. Once we finished our oranges, we would head back to the car, sleepy and full of happiness.

Bennett is like me in all the ways that count and different in the ways that make us better. He is a quiet, introspective person while I am expressive and I feel all my emotions and think about them later. He's calm in the situations where I am anxious and I can hold down the fort at times when he's grumpy. He can sit and listen to Rush or a podcast for hours while I get bored after five minutes. I also can be friends with a lot of very different people while he has been sticking to the same people since kindergarten or first grade...

Whether Bennett is being calm, squishing me into a big brother hug or blasting my least favorite band in his room, he is my rock, my favorite person, my orange in winter. **

By Elena Placencia '29

Every year in school, I've had to study poetry. It starts out easier in the younger grades as you learn the basics of poetry. You read silly poems that are very easy to decipher. Eventually, the poems you are told to interpret become more and more frustrating and confusing.

If you are unable to understand a poem that is meant to be beautiful, it takes all the beauty of it away... To make things worse, we are given units about poetry in English class, and for some reason, these units always seem to make my English teacher very happy. We're told to find poems, select our favorites, and write about them...

In the poem "Introduction to Poetry," Billy Collins talks about how he wants people to find the beauty of poems, but all they want to do is "torture a confession out of it." Poets try to make poems too intricate, causing someone like me to walk away from a poem when it takes too much energy to figure out what it means. Instead of writing poetry, you could write a very interesting book or song. **

ART & POETRY



Digital Photo by Ryan Cross '25

SURROUNDED

By Bradley LeVangie '28

I: ALONE

As I drive
The road looks empty
Lifeless as I think

Twenty minutes ago, there was nobody
In twenty minutes, there will be nobody

I drive past the tree
Never for my eyes to see
The only thing moving is me

UNCERTAIN AND FREE

A villanelle by Maggie Collins '28

I watch as my life passes by me,
Leaving me seemingly more alone than I hope I will ever feel,
I taste the end of each breath as my lungs contract,
so uncertain and free.

As free as the life I wish I had, turning like a fresh key,
In a lock that has seen no skeleton, no rust or tarnish,
the gears strong as steel,
I watch as my life passes by me.

I have tried to take chase, to run after my childhood
clinging to something as thin as tea,
Not strong and bright like water and fire, as unfilling
as an inmate's last meal,
I feel the end of each breath as my lungs contract,
so uncertain and free.

So uncertain, a single moment, an everlasting fee,
The tax for living dangerously, my final ideal,
I watch as my life passes by me.

The lightbulb in my mind goes off, a buzzing bee,
The realm of ideas opens in my mind, I start to heal,
I feel the end of each breath as my lungs contract,
so uncertain and free.

I love life, but I can't help but wonder if hard work
is not enough. What is glee?
I see that now, my work is only the whitened imprint
of a scar once raw with zeal,
The cuts to my ego are nothing to the ones that cover my heart
leaving me with nothing to see,
Life is only what you make it and I chose to make it my sea of possibility.

WINTER

By Adrianna Earle '28

Part I

Beautiful bright snowflakes
Smoke covered trees
Ice covered ponds perfect for ice fishing
Wonderful days spent out in the snow
Christmas time spent with family
Blasting holiday music
everywhere you go
Fantastic views of snow-covered trees
and mountains, frozen ponds

Part II

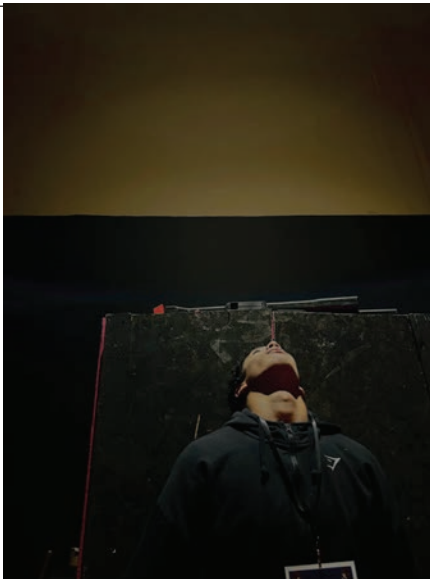
Cold treacherous mornings
Dangerous icy roads
Single digit temps
Being inside for months
No beautiful days spent by the water
No pretty flowers in your front yard
Illnesses that come around every year

II: SURROUNDED

As I try to squeeze past
The people all around look

Every shoulder I bump
Every arm I hit

Everybody has the same look
They're angry because I bumped into them
But they forget when they were me



*Digital Photo
by Greyson Desilets '27*

TERRACE OVER THE RIVER

By Elsa Masefield '28

Two kids on the terrace
looking out on the river
Hats resting in head as red as an apple
The spring air slowly turning to summer
How long will they stay
The river rushes bending and turning
The boy and the girl are still, unmoving
Wind brushes their face,
still they don't move
Called down to the terrace hours before
Borden burns in their bones
Muscles aching to move
Two kids on the terrace,
standing over the river



Digital Photo by Maddie Diop '27

IN SEARCH OF LIFE

By Mike de la Cruz '28

Among the calm waters, a serene fish,
The boat rocks, on its journey of sorrow.
The nets extend, like arms to the sea,
As the sun awakens, it begins to shine.

The water whispers secrets,
and the fisherman waits,
with patience and harm.
The hook is thrown, into the deep mystery,
in search of life, in this vast world.

LOVE SONG

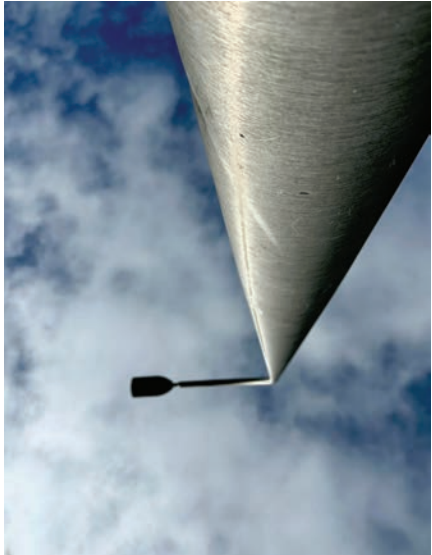
By Cameron Vose '28

Falling in love is like choosing your favorite song.
You listen to the song every day
But one day, it just hits different.

After you hear it once, you want to hear it again
So you put the song on repeat
And soon enough, you fall in love with it.

You fall in love with the beat
You fall in love with the lyrics
You fall in love with everything about it.

Eventually, all you can think about is that song.
It's stuck in your head
And the only thing that will help is listening
to it one more time.
Falling in love is like finding your favorite song.



*Digital Photo
by Oliver Cogswell '26*

WISHFUL WHISPERS

By Chase Wright '28

It cries
It bleeds
A beautiful blood red
Hummingbird sound
Sounds,
It cedes with a side of greed
It pleads with a wishful whisper.
It screams with a wonderful whimper.

Special thanks to Leah Hammond for encouraging Digital Photo students to share their work here, and to Vicki Bronson's English 9 students for sharing their poetry. "Surrounded" and "Winter" were written in the style of "Alone" by Tomas Tranströmer.



Digital Photo by Callie Jennings '27

DESPITE CONCERNS, STUDENTS CONTENT WITH PHONE POLICIES

By Natalie Smith

A recent survey, taken by 35 students at Mt. Abe Middle and High School, showed overall contentment with current cell phone policies. While some people believe policies should be more strict for the younger grades, a majority are happy with the rules in place.

When asked how often they use their phones during school hours, 56% said less than one hour, 18% said less than two hours, 18% said less than three hours, and only 6% said over three hours. Around 20 of those students don't feel that phone usage affects their focus on schoolwork, and 13 feel as though it does. Junior Wyatt Moyer wrote, "Sometimes I catch myself looking at [my phone] and distracting me from [work] but most of the time I am able to regulate myself and avoid allowing it to take all of my focus."

When asked how often they observed students being asked to put their phones away during the average class period, 24 students recall students being asked 1-2 times per class, 6 said never, 2 people said 3-6 times per class, and one said students were asked over 6 times per class. Of all respondents, 87% feel that the amount of times asked depends on the class or teacher, while 9% think another factor plays a larger role, and 3% said there is no correspondence between the teacher and the amount students are asked to put away phones. Ninth grader Trinity Croft had her own thoughts, adding, "Some classes have different energies or focus levels based on the coursework, teaching

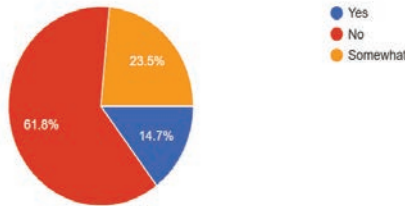
style, or even the time of day. Everything is based on factors."

When asked if the students believed phone usage should be more strictly regulated in school, 70% said no, 15% said yes, and 15% said "other." One sophomore health class doesn't believe phones should be regulated more strictly, adding, "I see no harm in it if students are able to get their work done in class. Phones are important for keeping in touch with parents in case they're having something going on with their health or someone else's health. Phones can also help students in art by looking up reference photos for drawings or projects." According to the next question, 51% of people said they use their phones for educational purposes during class time, while one quarter of respondents had short answers with varying reasons for phone usage, such as referencing photos, importing information, or music, and 21% said they didn't use their phone during class time. Sophomore Ali Brown said, "It's a lot more convenient to do Kahoots, check emails, jumprope, google classroom on your phone."

In the survey, 24 people said they feel the current phone usage expectations are clear, while only 9 said they are not. Eighth grader Braedon Delsile said, "I think there should be blanket rules across the whole school rather than having it vary by teacher. I think throughout the whole school you should be able to have it, just not use it in class." When asked if teachers should be allowed to confiscate

Do you feel that phone usage affects your focus on schoolwork?

34 responses



phones if students break the rules, 62% believed they should, while 38% disagreed. Junior Carter Antos-Ketcham doesn't think it should be allowed, and added, "Just put the phone away; there's no need to confiscate a student's personal property."

A majority of students noticed others

and 21% believe they should be the same for everyone. Freshman Luke Goodfellow said, "When you grow older, your brain matures, and if at this point you still choose to be on your phone when you're not supposed to, it is on you, not the teacher."

RESPONDENTS AGREE, AI IS USEFUL IN MODERATION

By Damian Newell

On a recent survey, seventeen students and staff members at weighed in on the use of Artificial Intelligence or AI in school.

In the first section, when asked about the reliability of the AI assistant known as ChatGPT, on a scale of one to five, 53% of respondents said 3, while 29% said 2 and 18% gave it a 4, which is pretty reliable. "I feel that ChatGPT does a good job

gathering information and compiling it, but if you are not familiar with specific terms or the mechanics of writing you may accept what ChatGPT produces as the whole truth and it may be inaccurate and misleading," said History teacher Scott Beckwith.

An anonymous student who chose 2 said, "AI is nothing but an amalgamation of what's on the internet. Do I consider the internet reliable? No, no I do not."

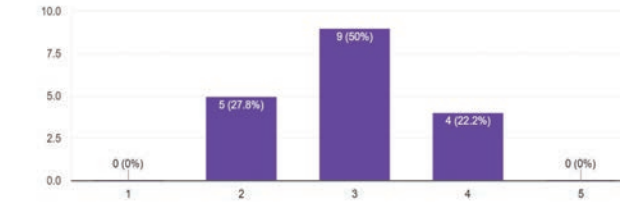
A large majority did not consider ChatGPT original work, with 83% saying no and only 17% saying yes. "Anytime something or someone else is doing the thinking for you, it ceases to become original work. Also, ChatGPT by definition gathers information from a variety of places in order to form its own response and does not cite its own sources, so it lacks originality on a fundamental level," said English teacher Katie Burdett. An anonymous person who answered yes on the question said, "It pulls from multiple sources, yes, but also mostly just takes phrases from the writing directly and doesn't account for anything such as fact over fiction like Wikipedia."

In terms of general thoughts on ChatGPT, it was split whether people thought

it was good or bad. Science teacher Michael Williams said, "AI assistants are excellent tools for completing calculations, generating ideas and information searches, and producing simple documents. However, they do not replace knowledge and human thought. Users need to understand that there are limitations with generative AI. For example, sometimes they 'make stuff up' and make mistakes, and they

On a scale from 1-5, how reliable do you think ChatGPT is?

18 responses



may rely on poor sources. It is important to understand that generative AI is a tool that needs to be checked by humans; simply copying something produced from an AI assistant is likely to produce a poor result." One student said, "It's a crutch that prevents people from having their own thoughts. Even basic tasks such as summarizing data should be done in order to create understanding. If you relinquish thinking...you're relinquishing your chance to have insight and grow as a human."

The second portion of this survey focused on the concept of AI Art. When asked if AI Art should be considered original work, 75% of the people surveyed said no. Sophomore Henry Allred said, "Absolutely not. True originality comes from the organic brain with actual human emotion." Burdett said, "My answer is 'yes' with reservations. All art is rooted in something else. Nothing is truly 'new,' it is

(See A.I., Page 8)

MIXED DATA ON CONSUMING CAFFEINE

By Henry Allred

A recent survey showed how students and adults interpret and use caffeinated products, 34 responded to the questions were asked about the utilization of it.

According to this survey, 45% of respondents said that they drink caffeine only in the morning and the most common type of caffeine that is consumed is coffee with 20 responses. Products such as Boba Tea, Celsius, Monster energy, and Dr. Pepper were in this group. English teacher Vicki Bronson said, "I cannot resist a fountain Dr. Pepper, especially with pizza or McDonald's chicken sandwiches! I love its sugary, carbonated deliciousness, and the caffeine is just a bonus."

When asked how beneficial caffeine is for people, 65% of people said that it is totally helpful, while the other 35% had mixed opinions. Most of the responses suggested that people, mostly teenagers, should drink in moderation and not consume so much of it unless it actually helps them. "I don't think people whose pre-frontal cortex isn't developed yet should drink a lot of caffeine," said Colleen Kiley,

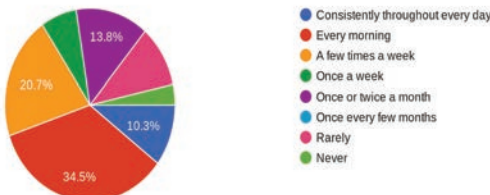
Middle School English teacher. Other respondents said that it helps them to stay alert and they get a "boost" or "oomph" in the morning or throughout the day.

Senior Damian Newell described how energy drinks and caffeine supplements affect him, saying, "If I'm not taking my caffeine supplement, then I usually drink energy drinks, which can spike your blood sugar and make you feel more tired after a while." According to the responses, caffeine is understandably complex in its effects on people. Some people said that caffeinated drinks are yummy and get them through the day, while others say that it has a reverse effect, making them feel tired and fuzzy instead. "Sometimes I wonder if it's the caffeine that benefits me, or if it's the routine that sets me up for a good day. I'd be curious if a decaf or half-caf coffee would do the same trick," said Emily Verner, ASL Interpreter.

Out of the 34 responses, the most common range for the amount of milligrams for caffeine taken per week was around 1mg to 50mg per day with only 10% claiming over 300mg. An anonymous ninth grader said, "You can't really see the strain it puts on your body, the neurological negatives, or the dependency you have to something like caffeine until you're already in too deep."

How often do you drink caffeinated drinks?

29 responses



YEARNING FOR CHANGE IN LUNCHROOMS

By Clemon Briggs

According to a recent survey that 30 students responded to, students at Mt. Abe miss last year's lunch schedule, and many respondents wonder why the small cafeteria doesn't serve something different from the large cafeteria anymore.

The survey revealed 32% of students hate the new lunch schedule, while 29% of students think that it's just okay, and 18% don't think it's the worst thing ever.

Students questioned "Meatless Mondays" and the everyday options for vegetarians. One respondent who claimed to hate the new menu, stated, "Recipes have changed, and lots of meals are not as good anymore. Also, a lot of the meals are just too complex to actually be good. Sometimes simplicity is better than complexity."

When asked about last year's lunch schedule, 10 out of 30 students said it

(See LUNCH, Page 8)

HOW TO LOVE A FOREST SHOWS BEAUTY OF STATE THROUGH EYES OF FORESTER

By Carter J. Antos-Ketcham

"Only those who love trees should cut them," says Ethan Tapper in *How to Love a Forest*, his new, intuitive book. The Vermont native is a nationally-recognized forester, bestselling author, and content creator on YouTube.

Tapper grew up in Saxtons River, in the Connecticut River Valley. After graduating high school, he accepted a scholarship to attend the University of Vermont. Still unsure about what he wanted to study, he left after two semesters to go on a six-month wilderness expedition in Vermont and New Hampshire. Following this experience, Tapper spent the next few



years living and working in the woods as a wilderness guide, living on a primitive homestead and apprenticing with a draft horse logger. Tapper eventually returned to UVM to study forestry, completing his degree in 2012.

In 2016, he started writing his own book after he realized that there were no written works that captured his understanding of what forests are, how they work, and what it means to take care of them. This book is powerful because Tapper gets straight to the point on topics he loves, as well as giving a plethora of information about our forests

in Vermont such as taking action to protect ecosystems, and his love for trees but the importance of felling them. He has so much knowledge crammed into this book that at times it feels overwhelming. However, he writes with such passion about his work and experiences in the forest that you can't help but be sucked into the book. At times, it may feel like what you are reading is a tangent and that he has gone completely off topic when there is a subject of great importance to him. However Tapper always brings it back and makes his point.

How to Love a Forest, is filled to the brim with knowledge about forestry and I would recommend it to any Vermonter interested in learning more about our unique natural land.

REVIEWS

PATRIOTS

(Continued from Page 2)

press conference on www.patriots.com, then head coach Jerod Mayo explained, "I think... schematically, we have to do a better job of getting the ball out of our hand right now. And then secondly, I would say the offensive line just has to do a better job holding up in protection. We're trying to find different ways to do it. It's easy on some of those sacks when you go back and watch the film, the ball should be out. It'd be easy for you guys and everyone else to say, well, the offensive line should have done that. So I wouldn't rush to that conclusion. But we have to coach better. We have to play better and execute."

The Patriots have the fourth overall pick in this year's draft, and they need another wide receiver and an offensive lineman. It looks like they have finally decided to make their offense a lot better; they added three better linemen and two good wide receivers. The Patriots are in a good position and have high expectations for the upcoming 2025 season. Coach Vrabel was a huge signing for the Patriots and he will do a lot for the team. He has already brought in some key players to help build this team up and make them a contender for the upcoming season.

Eliot Wolf is the Patriots' General manager, which is a big thing because a GM builds the team and drafts and trades the players. Wolf has become one of the best GMs in the sport, and he keeps making great trades and he has picked up great players. Robert Kraft has been the Patriots owner for thirty years, and he is responsible for the overall financial success and the strategic direction of the team. Kraft signs and fires coaches and GMs and makes sure the team is successful.

The New England Patriots won six Super Bowls with Tom Brady and Bill Belichick, and it was one of the best eras in NFL history. Sadly, the Patriots didn't want to pay Brady the money he wanted, so he went to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Brady was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2024, and although Belichick isn't in the Hall of Fame, he will be eligible in 2026. Gillette Stadium, where the Patriots play home games, is one of a kind and has hosted big events like the Super Bowl multiple times, and MLS cups and other significant events. The stadium is known for its iconic lighthouse and the fans.

The Patriots have already made some great signings in 2025, and hope to make more in the draft. With their brand new coaching staff this year, Patriots' fans are hoping for a successful season.

KICKTHEPJ's OSCAR'S HOTEL DISPLAYS GREAT FILM CREATIVITY

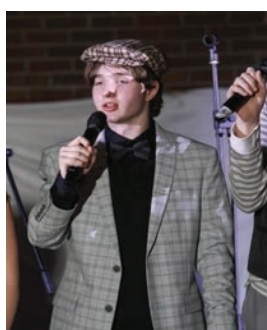
By Henry Allred

Oscar's Hotel for Fantastical Creatures is an underrated comedy TV series created by PJ Liguori in 2015.

The six episode series follows the story of a bizarre, whimsical hotel that is full of cute and creepy monsters and features astounding costume designs. When Oscar, the owner of the hotel, has to leave to run errands, he entrusts his nephew Oliver to operate the hotel's business, leading him to abnormal places during Oscar's absence. The events that play out at the hotel soon come to a turning point when two fish men in fancy suits named Albert and Norbert come to derail Oliver's actions in the final episode.

The one thing that *Oscar's Hotel* mainly lacks is a storyline. In each

episode, Oliver is taken to many new locations and is put in situations that you would expect to see out of a fever-dream cartoon episode. The series is only six episodes in length and the targeted idea seemed to really just be a fun inclusion for creative characters and glamorous imagery. From an artistic perspective, the show does an excellent job with its colors, zany visuals, crafty aesthetics, and having a good cast of actors to portray these bizarre characters. The fish men, for example, were built in partnership with the Jim Henson Creature Shop using hand-crafted materials and were puppeted by real actors in full body suits. The show really puts you in the head of a creative film-maker and is reminiscent of other shows like *The Grand Budapest Hotel*



PC: Buzz Kuhns

or *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.

For those who don't know the creator of the series, PJ Liguori is a British-Italian YouTuber and filmmaker from Brighton, England. Since 2007, Liguori has done many different creative projects in his career such as making DIY cat houses and making 3D art. He's also done big projects like *Oscar's Hotel* or his other short-story films, including *The Forever Train* and *Hair & Brimstone*.

In December of 2024, Liguori uploaded all six episodes of *Oscar's Hotel* on his alternate Youtube channel "PJTheKick" to revitalize its accessibility, as it was unavailable on most platforms for a while. The total runtime of all 6 episodes is 90 minutes, and I highly recommend giving it a go as it is simple but brilliant and could be watched in a sitting or two.

FIREFIIGHTERS

(Continued from Page 1)

already. You also need to be mentally ready to see stuff. Once you have all that, you're more than qualified."

Zach Norris has been with the Vergennes Volunteer Fire Department for a little over a year. He was inspired by his grandfather's 40 plus years of service to his community through the fire department. In Norris' words, "One day, I woke up and thought, what the hell? I'll do it," and he joined. "My parents were all for it," he added. He talked about the challenges of training. "Going on oxygen with masks, into places filled with smoke and not being able to see was tough," he said, "but the community is great. There are always guys willing to chat about nothing or everything." Norris also encouraged interested students to give it a try, explaining, "I'd recommend it, but you need to be tough and strong, too, not just physically. You're going to see some stuff no one should see and you need to be able to ignore those things and focus on the job. If you can do that, you'll be just fine."

Porter, Norris and Audy have had incredibly positive experiences with their town's fire department, and found that it is a great way to find community as well as to aid our communities. Many thanks to all the volunteer firefighters, EMS, and first responders for their service to our communities.

BEETLEJUICE

(Continued from Page 1)

since eighth grade in *Beauty and the Beast*. She grew up surrounded by music, so performing came to her naturally. Brightman's motivation and dedication to her craft were evident as she explained, "For me personally, performing, especially musical theater, brings me so much joy, and I love



David Charlebois, Donaldson and Brightman

PC: Buzz Kuhns

that I get this incredible program to share my passion. Mt. Abe's theater community is just absolutely amazing, from the cast to the production team. It's full of incredibly talented and dedicated people who make me want to stay around for as long as possible." Brightman's favorite part of *Beetlejuice Jr.* was the different character dynamics and cast interactions, as well as the community she got to work with. She shared, "There are so many life lessons that you learn from performing and being in the arts. From teamwork to public speaking to self-confidence, it's full of opportunities to grow and expand yourself. It makes for an amazing community, too, since everyone is learning these important things together."

Brightman ended with a call to action for aspiring performers: "Even though it's so difficult to get up on stage by yourself and sing, which is so vulnerable, the payoff is worth it. Even if you don't end up in the role you wanted, there is always opportunity for creativity and expansion in every single part. Your experience is what you make of it, and if you have the attitude of developing every part into the most amazing and full-out version of it, you'll find total satisfaction in every scenario."

Thanks (again) to Buzz Kuhns for sharing photos! See page 1 and visit buzzkuhnsphotography.smugmug.com/ for more amazing photos!



SENIOR BASKETBALL LEADERS SHARE THOUGHTS ON THEIR CAREERS

By Hayden Lutz

Seven seniors on this year's varsity boys basketball squad shared their stories, which ranged from uncertainty to security to pure fun. Most players had rocky journeys throughout their high school careers.

Some took an untraditional but impressive route, going straight from JV-B to varsity. Senior point guard JD JD Jacobs was one of the players that went from JV-B as a sophomore to varsity. He noted some distinct differences between the two, saying, "I think the biggest difference that I've experienced from going JV-B to varsity is the amount of work you have to put in and just the skill level overall." Kyle Johnston also shared his opinion on being on JV as a sophomore. "I don't really think it affected anything; it just made me hungry to get to the varsity level, because I knew there was no fallback option."

The seniors this year also shared their advice for the coming generations of players. Chiming in first was Connor Peck, who was injured for a year and couldn't play, but came back senior year to manage the team. He advised, "Don't let anything stand in the way of doing what you love. Staying with the game is super important,



Jacobs, Prouty, Atkins, Griffin, Johnston, Chasse, Lutz and Peck on Senior Night

PC: Mark Bouvier

even if you can't play. Sticking with the things that you love in life is very important."

Senior point guard JD Jacobs replied, "For basketball, don't give up, no matter what. I'd say just commit to things that you want to do regardless of what people think of it. People will forget about everyone and everything at some point so you might as well do what you want with YOUR life." Senior forward Jake Prouty said, "Learn how to dribble before you shoot. It could be a metaphor if you look at it that way. I would also say to be yourself, because it's important."

These seniors worked so hard their whole careers. They reflected on four years of high school basketball by talking about the emotions they were feeling at the end of their career. Forward Ethan Chasse

commented, "I'm a little bit sad that basketball's ending. I am also elated that I was able to experience all of this, just being around my teammates and playing at the varsity level. I am slightly irritated at how the season went, record wise and how we played down the stretch." Senior point guard Aricin Griffin said, "Relieved, excited, sad. I am relieved because basketball takes a lot of time, and the hours are better in baseball. I am excited because the end of the season is always exciting, with playoffs and senior year."

Guard Chase Atkins also added, "I felt excited for it to be over, just to move on to something new, but it was a little sad because it's my last time ever playing basketball. I was also very ready to play lacrosse because it's my favorite sport. I am also being recruited to play lacrosse in college, so it made it that much more exciting."

It was a sad ending to these seniors' season, but they battled valiantly throughout each game. Though they didn't have the season that they were hoping for, the amount of heart that these young men showed was amazing.

SPORTS

THRILL OF THE CHASE FOR YOUNG HUNTERS

By Jacob Lavigne

Hunting isn't just a hobby for Owen Jenkins, Marley Streeter, and John Stanley, it's a test of patience and preparation. From cold November mornings to warm spring days, they wait for the perfect shot, always chasing the thrill of the hunt.

May 1st marked the start of turkey season for Owen Jenkins and he was ready. At his grandfather's house, he grabbed his gear, a 12-gauge shotgun, a camouflage suit, extra ammunition, and enough food and water to last till noon. He headed out into the fields and climbed into his hunting stand, waiting and watching for movement. Hours passed before he finally spotted movement, a huge turkey standing at the edge of the tree line. Jenkins steadied his aim, took a deep breath, and squeezed the trigger. The shot echoed through the trees. Looking out, he saw the turkey on the ground, motionless. "That turkey was bigger than me," he joked. After tagging and dressing it, he headed back to his grandfather's house, where they weighed the bird in at 20 pounds.

In November, it was Marley Streeter's turn. Deer season was open, where he's headed to Pennsylvania for a week of hunting. Down at his grandfather's house, he geared up with a camouflage jacket, a rifle, ammunition, food and water before heading out into the cold woods. The crisp air stung his face as he left the house, hiking through the woods to his hunting stand and settling in. He waited, scanning the trees. Time dragged on until the silence was broken by the crunch of twigs in the distance. Then, he saw it, a huge deer with its back turned toward him. He steadied his rifle, took careful aim, and slowly pulled the trigger. The shot was a direct hit. Running down to where he shot it, he saw the beautiful deer, laid motionless. A rush of adrenaline filled his blood as he took in the size of his shot.

For John Stanley, turkey season runs from the start of May till the end, and he prefers to hunt close to home. Sticking to land around his property, he gears up in full camouflage, carrying a 12-gauge shotgun and a small backpack packed with food and water. Patience is key as he waits for the right moment. When he finally spots a tom, he takes careful aim and pulls the trigger. In the first few seconds, there's always that moment where doubt creeps in. "I always feel scared that I missed it at first," he said. But once he's sure of his shot, he runs down to check the tom, following the routine of tagging and dressing the bird, which weighs in at 19 pounds.

For Jenkins, Streeter, and Stanley, a successful hunt comes down to 2 simple rules: preparation and patience. Jenkins' 20-pound turkey, Streeter's beautiful deer, and Stanley's 19-pound turkey were all the result of following those rules. While Streeter hunts successfully in the cold winter, Stanley and Jenkins prefer the nice spring weather, but they still rely on the same rules. With the 2024 season behind them, they're looking forward to 2025.

SCHOOLS JOIN TOGETHER FOR GREATER ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES

By Natalie Smith

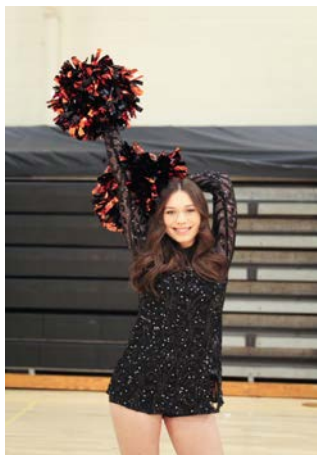
Students have the opportunity to join sports teams at neighboring schools if the sport isn't offered at Mt. Abe, allowing more opportunities for growth, friendships, and to expand their athletic abilities.

The interschool sports relationship began with Mt. Abe/Vergennes football around 2010. Mt. Abe athletic director Devin Wendel remembers, "Our program numbers were dropping at Mount Abe, so we needed additional players and there was a pretty big interest from student athletes at Vergennes." Mt. Abe built on this relationship with the two closest schools, Middlebury and Vergennes, adding a variety of different sports. One way they did this was through a cooperative agreement, which is usually a two-year term. This is when a large number of student athletes from both schools are interested in participating, so there's no limit on the number of kids that can participate. For Mt. Abe, both football and boys' lacrosse are offered to Vergennes students. Another opportunity is "member to member," which has a limit on the number of athletes you can send to another school. It also has a limit on how many student athletes the receiving school can take, and it's a one year agreement with the host school having full ownership. For students

at Mt. Abe, sports such as dance with Vergennes, and hockey with Middlebury is offered. Finally, Mt. Abe has independent programs such as indoor track and field, wrestling, nordic skiing, and cross country. Anything with individualized scoring, students can participate as an independent athlete. They're competing under the banner of Mount Abraham, but practicing with another school. They are Mt. Abe athletes, and can't

score for the team they're practicing with. "We've added programs that students have come to me and said, we want to start this. I don't really take it upon myself to push or encourage any particular thing, but if students want to start something new, then my door is open," said Wendel.

Even with the opportunities to join sports at surrounding schools, students are still facing inconveniences. Sophomore Isobela Osborne, a member of the Middlebury dance team, explained, "Make sure you're fully committed to your sport because if you're not fully committed, you're not going to put in your all. Make sure your family is also committed, because that's important if you don't have rides." Students who don't yet have their license need to catch rides with teammates, or they have to rely on their parents to bring them to and from practices. Students who participate in the interschool relationships may also have chal-



Osborne in Middlebury Dance costume

lenges with early dismissals. Sports that are offered at Mt. Abe have dismissals in the attendance system, but if your sport is through another school, you need to have a parent call you out. The list of difficulties faced by students doing sports at neighboring schools is short, but still significant, so students have had to adapt.

Students have many opportunities with the interschool sports relationships, and they are introduced to a new community of individuals, who they might not be friends with otherwise. Osborne feels like she is just as much a part of her team's community as she is at her own school, and explained, "I don't feel left out of my own school community, and because there are girls here who do it, the team feels the same."

Junior Joe Sullivan, who plays hockey with Middlebury, commented on how many more people can participate in supported teams at other school sporting events, and the team dynamic being drastically different. Athletes like Sullivan appreciate the opportunity they have to be able to join other teams. "I wish we had a hockey team, but I understand why they don't. We have three kids who play and have no ice rink," commented Sullivan.

This spring, both girls and boys lacrosse are cooperative teams with Vergennes, and Mt. Abe students can join the Middlebury tennis team. Interested students should reach out to Devin Wendel through the Mt. Abraham website.



Special thanks to Mark Bouvier for photos on this page...to see more, go to: markbouvierphotography.smugmug.com/

LUNCH

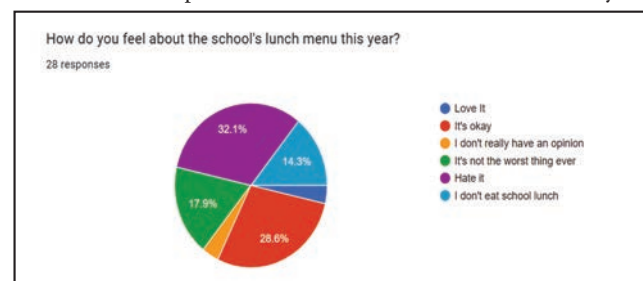
(Continued from Page 5)

was okay. Among those students, eighth grader Sydnie Cousino explained, "I liked last year's schedule because I knew Monday was burger day, Wednesday was pizza day, Thursday was chicken burger day, and every other Friday was stir fry day. This made it so I knew if I wanted to eat the food or not. Now the food schedule changes once we are at school, and now what I will eat is replaced with what I won't eat. This is a problem because there used to be options on both sides." Another student said, "I liked... being able to prepare for the days that we had lunch I didn't enjoy, since it was more scheduled." Some students thought last year's schedule was a bit repetitive, while others felt that there was always at least something they were willing to eat.

When asked what they did and didn't like when it came to meals this year, favorites from this year included the Monument Farms' milk, orange chicken, and the burritos. However, students are not fans of the fish, beef stroganoff, and the "always undercooked or overcooked chicken." Students also felt that the vegetarian burgers are dry and fall apart easily.

When asked what they missed from last year, students had much to say, and it seems there are things that they really want to see make a comeback in the schedule. Out of the 17 responses, four people wrote that they enjoyed the cheesy breadsticks, three people said they liked the chicken burgers a lot, and five of 17 want to see stir fry happen more often. Other items requested for more frequent return included nachos, breakfast for lunch, pasta, "the O.G. pizza," and dumplings.

Students were asked about the school's pizza toppings. Out of the 28 students that answered, 6 people said that pepperoni was their favorite, 5 liked cheese best, and 12 people said they don't like the school's pizza. One student said, "The pizza is greasy and gross." Another student said, "I'm not really that big a fan of the thin pizza. It's not awful, however, I do find myself



not finishing it whenever I eat it."

A majority of respondents had no opinion, but 12 of 28 like the Monument Farms milk machine, and only 3 liked the cartons better. One student who liked the machine said, "It's higher quality milk and you can get refills." Another student explained, "I like the milk machine because it's Monument Farms milk. However, the cups are almost never really clean."

The final question asked if there was anything else they would like to see in our cafeteria. Cousino said, "More fruit options. More strawberries and the grapes they had today, and add blueberries. Maybe some freeze dried fruit, too. Maybe freeze-dried strawberries?" Sophomore Asher Stevers suggested, "more little carrots." The main thing that several mentioned was the need for more gluten-free options, lactose-free choices, and more appetizing vegetarian selections.



Graphic by Bruce Babbitt

The Bird's Eye View

Contact:

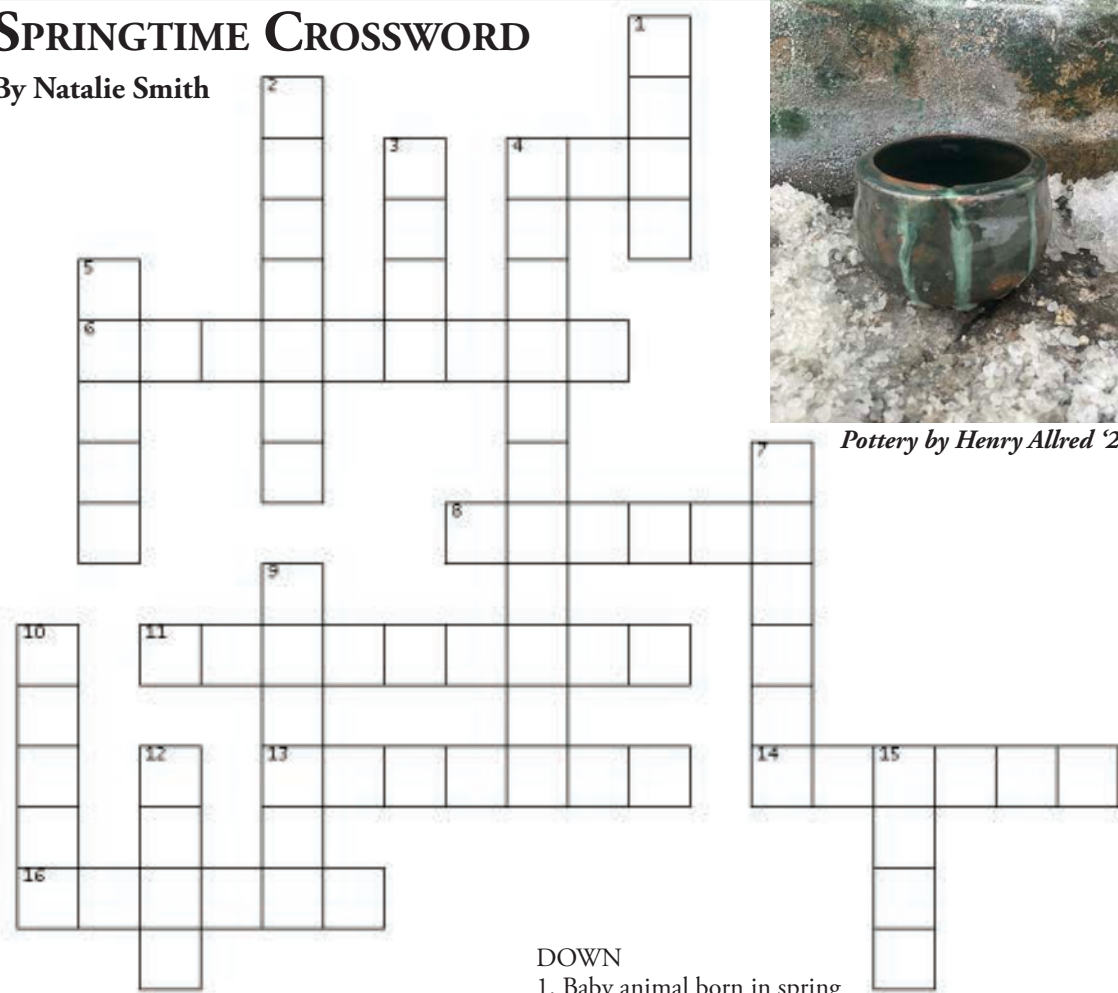
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Jacob Lavigne '25 Damian Newell '25 Natalie Smith '27
sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/

SPRINGTIME CROSSWORD

By Natalie Smith



ACROSS

4. Most common food eaten on Easter?
6. Something people often suffer from in spring
8. A common spring holiday
11. A popular outdoor activity once spring arrives
13. Time of year when day and night are equal
14. "_____ is in the air"
16. Yellow dust carried by bees and the wind

DOWN

1. Baby animal born in spring
2. "April showers bring May _____"
3. This amphibian becomes more active each spring
4. What do bears come out of each spring?
5. What month does spring start?
7. The first flower to bloom each spring
9. A light wind
10. Bloom that symbolizes perfect love
12. Ice and snow do this when spring arrives
15. A common feature of spring weather

For the solution go to: <https://sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/home/puzzles>



Pottery by Henry Allred '27

A.I.

(Continued from Page 5)

just a new interpretation of something. All artists are influenced by outside forces. So in this way, I'd say that AI art is original to the AI, but it is NOT original if a human being then takes that art and calls it their own."

When asked if they thought AI Art is useful, 73% of people said yes, and made the argument that AI Art is a tool used to get a quick design or concept to work off. "It is useful in very niche scenarios, or places where you need a quick image. It's my opinion that almost always real art and photography should be prioritized," said one anonymous responder. In terms of general thoughts on AI Art, another anonymous responder said, "It takes away people's ability to appreciate art and the artist's motivation."

The final section was about AI in general, and began with how often people use AI for school or work, and 53% of respondents said never. The other 47% had a wide range of answers, from "once in a blue moon" to "regularly." Beckwith added, "I used AI generated images in my Psychology class to allow students to see how information can be represented visually." English teacher Vicki Bronson responded, "I use it to check for violations of proper AI use, and I used it to help a friend write thank you notes."

When asked what they would consider appropriate uses of AI, Burdett elaborated, "MAYBE for generating some quick writing for something that does not require your own creativity and could save time. For example, I always start my letters of recommendation for students with the same opening paragraph... AI is fine for generating that one form paragraph... However, the usage becomes inappropriate if AI is used to write the whole letter, because it then ceases to be my own thoughts and is not my own work." Another respondent answered, "None. People should do their own work."

When asked about unacceptable uses of AI, Beckwith said, "Voice modification and image modification. We saw AI technology being used in the last election cycle to spread false information and produce videos using candidates' images."

An anonymous responder said, "Power use. For example, running the world or taking over jobs."

For final thoughts on AI in general, Allred added, "AI is like a game of 'whack-a-mole', it's unavoidable and cancerous in the age of the modern internet. I'd advise people to just keep your writings, art, music, and other creative projects real and organic to you, share your passion with other real people who can empathize and feel the same way you do."



"Life without Color"
By Damian Newell '25