



Original play

MACo continues to develop new work with an upcoming Edith Wharton show. See Arts + Leisure.



Local meet

Track & field athletes from Mt. Abe and VUHS dueled in Bristol on a warm Tuesday. See Page 1B.



Eat local

We teamed up with ACORN to catalog our local food and farm scene. See our 72-page pull-out.

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

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Spring springs ephemeral

THE APPEARANCE OF early woodland wildflowers is one of the most satisfying signs that spring is truly here. Take a walk in the woods and see if you can spot any (left to right) bloodroot, trout lilies, Dutchman's breeches or wake robin (trillium). These were seen in Weybridge.

Photos by Susan Humphrey

MAUSD exploring options for its future

By MARIN HOWELL
BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School Board has directed its committees to prepare options for the future of the school district amid evolving conversations at the state and federal level about potential changes to public education. MAUSD Board Chair Erin Jipner explained at a late April meeting that the direction, which passed unanimously, stemmed from developments coming out of the state and federal government regarding the future of schools. She added the instruction is aimed

at helping equip the school district for possibilities that are changing daily. The school board's directive comes at a time when Vermont lawmakers are contemplating major changes to how the state governs and funds public education. H. 454, an education reform bill currently making its way through the Legislature, proposes significant changes to the state's education governance, quality and finance systems. "I think it's really timely to do this, as Montpelier is making a (See MAUSD options, Page 14A)

Candidates for selectboard in Panton make their cases

By ANDY KIRKALDY
PANTON — At the ballot box on Thursday, May 15, Panton residents will decide a three-way race for two newly created seats on the town selectboard. Town residents in March approved an expansion of their selectboard from three to five members. Two candidates filed for one seat apiece. Family farm owner and former town planning commission and development review board member Kirsten De La Cruz filed for the available two-year term, and BJ's Farm Supply co-owner Robert DeGraaf is seeking the available one-year term.

Meanwhile, Debbie Brace, an employee of both McGee Chevrolet in Middlebury and the Ferrisburgh Bake Shop and Deli, is running for both seats, throwing a bit of a wrinkle into the election. According to Town Clerk Kyle Rowe's research, if Brace wins election to both seats, she will be required to resign one of them. It will then be up to the resulting four-member selectboard to appoint a fifth member, with no legal obligation for the board to appoint the next highest May 15 vote-getter. The candidates already had the chance to speak at the April 23 (See Panton, Page 10A)

Giver
ADDISON RESIDENT ELIZA Spencer seems to know that the blood she is donating on Tuesday will help ensure that hospitals are fully stocked with the lifesaving fluid. She donated her pint at the Red Cross blood drive at Victory Baptist Church in Waltham.

Independent photo/Steve James

The potential Bridport-Shoreham school collaboration off — for now

By JOHN FLOWERS
BRIDPORT/SHOREHAM — Bridport's and Shoreham's elementary schools will both remain open for the next school year serving their own local children with multi-age classrooms. But stakeholders this summer and fall will discuss future

collaborations — including potentially having the students from both towns attending Bridport Central School beginning the following academic year. Those were among the takeaways from a new report issued on Wednesday by Addison Central School District Superintendent

Wendy Baker following six weeks of study on potential collaborations between the Bridport and Shoreham schools, both of which are dealing with declining enrollment. As previously reported by the *Independent*, Baker, along with teachers, staff, parents and other (See Schools, Page 14A)

Industrial park land prepped for marketing

Pre-development to advance nine lots

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — The town of Middlebury, the Addison County Economic Development Corp. (ACEDC) and Middlebury College are joining forces to make 200 acres at the northern edge of the town's industrial park more attractive to entrepreneurs. At issue are nine college-owned lots north of the Patricia Hannaford Career Center's North Campus off Mainelli Road. Those lots, part of a planned-unit development within the industrial park, have stood idle for several years. The property is close to the municipal wastewater treatment plant, Exchange Street and Route 7. Those are already attractive inducements for prospective developers, but the ACEDC is proposing to make the lots even more interesting through a \$130,000 investment in pre-development services, which might include: • Base mapping, including wetlands delineation. • Conceptual site design work, showing road access to the lots; utility layout, a topographic survey, (See Industrial park, Page 9A)



By the way

Saturday is Green Up Day! People around Vermont will pitch in and pick up trash along roadsides and in other public spaces. Most towns have a place to leave garbage collected on (See By the way, Page 12A)

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Middlebury to launch infrastructure projects

Middle Road reconstruction, paving top list

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — A major rebuild of Middle Road North, draining and paving upgrades to Halladay Road and the installation of a new stormwater treatment system on Mary Hogan Elementary School grounds are among the top projects on the Middlebury Public Works Department's 2025 to-do list. **MIDDLE ROAD NORTH** Perhaps the most visible and potentially disruptive of this year's municipal construction work will be the stabilization and repaving of Middle Road North, from Court Street Extension to the athletic fields just beyond Middlebury Union Middle School. Middlebury Director of Engineering Emmalee Cherington noted that Middle Road is in rough shape and is asked to handle a lot of traffic, mainly associated with MUMS and the Residence at Otter Creek retirement community. Middle Road North will be widened as

part of the stabilization process, through which the former base of the road will be grounded up and blended into its new foundation. The wider road, Cherington said, will allow for some designated parallel parking spaces and conversion of the ground-level sidewalk near the school into a raised sidewalk. "We've seen during some sporting events (at adjacent playing fields) where the MUMS parking lot is at capacity, and there's haphazard on-road parking," she said. "The raised sidewalk will connect Deerfield Lane to the athletic fields, to make it safer for pedestrians." Repairs to two culverts will also be part of the project. One of the culverts — just south of the MUMS entrance — was damaged during recent flooding. The other culvert, located at the Lacrosse Drive intersection, has reached the end of its life expectancy, according to Cherington. It only makes sense to address other Middle Road North complaints while the

A MAJOR REBUILD of Middle Road North tops the 2025 Middlebury Department of Public Works to-do list. This project will include efforts to make a safer crossing area at Middle Road's intersection with Deerfield Lane.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

street is dug up, officials stressed. Parents and MUMS officials have been pushing for a safer crossing of the at-times busy road at its intersection with the Deerfield Lane. "We're looking at alternatives," she said. "Our first thought was to install a three-way

stop sign." Cherington conceded it can be challenging to get state permission for three-way stops intersections. If that's not a viable option, officials will consider a flashing beacon (See Middlebury, Page 13A)

She added in addition to evaluating loan options, the

Selectboard member Carin McCarthy previously told the *Independent* it will be a few months before the town hears about additional grants and approval for funding options, but if the vote passes, town officials hope to put the projects to bid in the fall.

Independent photo/Steve James




You can reach us at
news@addisonindependent.com


A vibrant poster for the Middlebury Spring Market. At the top, the word "Middlebury" is written in a blue, cursive script. Below it is a large, stylized sunburst graphic. The sunburst has a central white circle containing a bouquet of colorful flowers (purple, red, pink, yellow, and blue) and several small butterflies. The sunburst's rays are orange and yellow, radiating outwards. On the left and right sides of the sunburst, the words "FARMERS" and "ARTISANS" are written vertically in a blue, sans-serif font. Below the sunburst, the words "SPRING MARKET" are written in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font on a dark blue background. Underneath this, the text "SHELDON MUSEUM & CANNON PARK" is written in a red, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, the date "SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025" is written in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by the time "9 am - 12 noon" in a red, sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner, there is a small red and white illustration of a building. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "Experience MIDDLEBURY" with the text "discovering VERMONT connections" below it. At the very bottom, the text "POWERED BY THE BETTER MIDDLEBURY PARTNERSHIP & HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM" is written in a white, sans-serif font on a dark blue background.

Green Up Day is Saturday, May 3rd!

On Green Up Day, Vermonters of all ages are invited to help Green Up our beautiful state. What is Green Up? It's a 53-year tradition of communities working together, walking the roads to pick up litter, and increasing environmental awareness in our towns. You can help!



Addison County
Solid Waste Management District



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Goshen.....	Dave Sabatini.....	247-6350
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	Kira Sargent.....	431-8861
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		OR 315-882-2517
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CHRISTIAN BLOOM HAS opened an old-school video game arcade in the former Video King storefront off Washington Street in Middlebury.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Video arcade opens its doors

Retro Realm fills long-vacant Washington Street space

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The former Video King storefront at 10 Washington St. in Middlebury, quiet as a tomb for the past decade, is suddenly showing signs of life.

Some might say extraterrestrial life, by the sounds of it.

But there's a rational, nostalgic reason for the cacophony of bleeps, blorts, gunshots, thumps, chimes, bells and random yells emanating from the space neighboring Green Peppers Restaurant. It's the signature ambiance of The Retro Realm, an old-school video arcade that Christian Bloom opened in April. It hosts around 40 video and hands-on games, many of which will look like old friends to folks north of 40 who'd spend some of their idle time at their local arcade pumping quarters into Asteroids, Space Invaders, Donkey Kong, Pac-Man and assorted pinball machines.

Yes, there was actually a time when one met up with other like-minded friends to enjoy video games, as opposed to these days, when enthusiasts plop down on their couch with a game controller and battle virtually with another random dude or dudette, the anonymity sometimes leading to salty trash talk.

Bloom believes his business will again make video gaming interactive, with a capital "I," for multiple generations of Addison County residents.

"I've had a lot of families coming in here who tell me, 'This is great, because our teenagers sit in the basement, they're online, and they play games — but there's no social aspect to it; they never meet the people they talk to,'" Bloom said on Thursday as his army of machines maintained a

steady background chatter. "This is forcing them to congregate together. Here, you're screening next to each other. There's a social aspect to arcades, just like there's a social aspect to bowling, that has gotten lost."

And this isn't just a lark for Bloom, 47, who originally hails from New York and settled in Bridport with his family three years ago. He knows his way around games — especially the big, free-standing ones. He spent 25 years working for such entertainment-centric businesses as Chucky Cheese, Jillian's and Spare Time. He's united clients with diversions ranging from pinball machines to Space Invaders to air hockey tables.

Bloom explained his former jobs involved a lot of traveling, meaning long days in a vehicle and less time spent with his wife, Kayleigh, their daughter, Candace, and son, C.J. So earlier this year, he began looking for a way to become his own boss, closer to home.

He already had multiple contacts from which to source machines. He just needed a spot with decent foot traffic in a downtown area. Bloom saw Middlebury's former Video King spot and thought it'd fit the bill nicely.

"The school is near here, the (Addison Central Teens) center is nearby," he said. "And people can walk here from their homes.

Being next to a pizza place doesn't hurt, and they're very happy to have us here."

Bloom was able to negotiate an affordable rent for The Retro Realm, which he noted won't compete with any businesses in the area. He's stocked it with a good mix of games and will rotate in a handful of new ones every two or three weeks. He recently bought around 60 machines from a warehouse in Pennsylvania. He explained that many of them had been in movie theaters and eateries that closed during the COVID pandemic and never reopened.

On this day, The Retro Realm's offerings included multiple claw machines through which one can capture prizes, Miss Pac-Man, Big Buck Hunter, Over-Drive, Area 51, Midway (golf), Police Trainer, Star Wars Trilogy, ski ball, Mario Brothers, Fast & Furious Drift, Offroad Thunder and Tekkeh. There were also hands-on games, like a boxing challenge, foosball table and air hockey.

No pinball for now, but there will be soon.

"I was looking for variety," Bloom explained of his game selections. "I wanted racecars, I wanted (target shooting) games, a fighting game. I had a list of categories I wanted and picked games to fit those categories."

He said he feels lucky to have been able to buy his game inventory at a reasonable price. He anticipates the Trump-initiated tariffs — which have been a moving target — could add substantially to the cost of new games.

Unlike the old days, customers won't be feeding quarters into these arcade machines. The Retro Realm charges by the hour. You get one hour of play for \$10, or two hours for \$15. A family of four can play for an hour for \$30, or \$50 for two hours.

There's individual pricing for the claw games.

The Retro Realm's hours are

(See Retro, Page 7A)

"There's a social aspect to arcades, just like there's a social aspect to bowling, that has gotten lost."

— Christian Bloom

Davis chosen as Midd Commencement speaker

MIDDLEBURY — Chuck Davis, founder, chairman, and co-chief executive officer of Stone Point Capital, an investment firm based in Greenwich, Conn., will deliver the 2025 Commencement address at Middlebury College on May 25.

Davis and his wife, Marna Olsen Davis, are cofounders and co-chairs of the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation, an organization focused on a rare liver cancer that primarily occurs in adolescents and young adults. The foundation carries on the legacy of their son, Tucker, one of the foundation's cofounders, who died of fibrolamellar cancer at age 28.

The Davises are also cofounders of the Chuck and Marna Davis Foundation — a Vermont-focused foundation that supports numerous educational and other worthy causes. The two will receive

honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees at Commencement.

Before joining Stone Point in 1998, Chuck Davis worked for Goldman Sachs for 23 years, serving as head of investment banking services worldwide, cohead of the Americas Group, head of the Financial Services Industry Group, a member of the International Executive Committee, and a general partner.

A Burlington, Vt., native, Davis attended Middlebury College for two years before transferring to the University of Vermont, where he was a two-sport All-Conference athlete and an inductee into the UVM Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduating, Davis continued to support UVM, providing funding for the Dudley H. Davis Center and serving as a university trustee from 1996 to 2002.

Davis has backed many

Vermont businesses, including Beta Technologies, the South Burlington, Vermont-based electric aircraft company, where he serves as chairman.

He is a member of the board of directors of AXIS Capital Holdings Limited and the Progressive Corporation and a former chairman and former lead director of the Hershey Company Board of Directors. In 2018, Davis was selected as one of the Financial Times's "2018 Outstanding Directors."

Marna Davis is an active member of her local community, including at Common Cause, as an ESL teacher, as a docent at the Museum of the City of New York, and at her sons' schools. She was an active fundraiser for "Sail to Prevail," an adaptive sailing program for disabled adults and children in

(See Commencement, Page 7A)



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Editorial

Trump’s 100 days of decline

The headlines of the past week tell the story.

“100 Days. That’s All It Took to Sever America From the World.”

“A Road Map of Trump’s Lawless Presidency, according to 35 Legal Scholars.”

“American Values Are Threatened by the American President.”

“Why Trump’s Economic Disruption Will Be Hard to Reverse.”

“Bracing for a Slow-Moving, Self-Inflicted Economic Storm.”

“Trump Is Laying a Potentially Deadly Trap for the U.S. Auto Industry.”

“Deporting Americans?”

“Trump Refuses to Fold a Losing Hand... Doubling down with a pair of deuces is not a winning strategy.”

“The world — politely — tells Trump to take a hike.”

You get the idea.

He’s running the country just like he ran his casinos — into an economic nosedive. As Jennifer Rubin, of the Contrarian, says in a wrap of one of her recent columns, “it’s becoming increasingly easy to understand how he bankrupted all those casinos.” (In case you forgot, Trump’s history is laden with business failures — six bankruptcies. (It wasn’t until the unlikely success of the reality show “The Apprentice” that he found what he was good at... being a mean-spirited showman.)

More recently, Trump has been successful at scamming the Republican Party and his MAGA followers into believing he had a clue about anything other than selling a false narrative — and, to that end, he’s milked them out of tens of millions of campaign contributions, sold them commercial trinkets and near-worthless meme coins and will likely leave office with millions of ill-gotten gains by profiting off of the presidency. That such subterfuge has belittled the office of the presidency to a third-rate dictatorial government is of no concern to Trump or, it appears, any GOP leader. And that Trump has remade the Republican Party in his image may be a more ominous omen than many imagined just 100 days ago.

For another perspective on Trump’s first 100 days, dozens of recent charts shed more detail on the facts. Here’s a sampling:

- He’s issued more executive orders than any other modern president. About 150, so far, which more than tripled his first-term orders, and outdid FDR who had issued just over 60 in 1937 and a tad over 100 in 1941, but then FDR was hugely successful in getting the nation out of the Great Depression and passing lasting legislation that created the New Deal while also forging the greatest peacetime international alliances the world has seen. Arguably, Trump’s actions have done the opposite.
- Trump’s also been sued more than any other president. That’s because Trump’s most controversial executive orders have been an abuse of power and have sparked lawsuits working their way through the courts. So far, Trump has lost most of those weighed by judges. In the one case that made it to the Supreme Court, they ruled against him 9-0. Not wanting to accept defeat, he claimed a win anyway.
- Markets have plunged faster than ever. Trump took office with the headwinds of an economic juggernaut that led the world in growth and vibrancy. With inflation under control (just under 3%) by the time Trump took office, it was the envy of the world. No longer. Trump’s climate of uncertainty, acts of illegality, outrageous tariffs and a poorly conceive trade war sent the stock market down almost 20%, at one point and has settled around 8% down since Inauguration Day. It’s the worst stock market performance in this period of a presidency since Republican Gerald Ford in 1974 (and that’s unfair to Ford, only because he took over from the disgraced Republican President Richard Nixon who resigned, rather than be impeached, the year prior.)
- Trump’s popularity has fallen faster than any recent president as well. 100 days ago, he had the good will of 52% of the country; today, it’s 42% with a majority giving Trump a thumbs down on every issue except border security — and even there a majority of Americans don’t approve of how Trump is handling immigration.

There’s far more information to glean from the various charts in the news (almost all about the decline of America’s economy or world status), but let’s switch focus to the broader perspective. Just what does Trump’s first 100 days represent?

Columnist Jamelle Bouie said it well when he noted that most presidents cast their first 100 days around what they *can create*. For Biden it was his infrastructure plan, passed with bipartisan support, that set out to rekindle the nation’s manufacturing prowess in green energy, AI, high tech, chip manufacturing, as well as rebuild the nation’s roads, bridges and other state and local infrastructure — plus a lot more. Trump, on the other hand, has changed the country through *the destruction* of much of what has made America great. That destruction, Bouie writes, has cost him.

“Yes, Trump has wreaked havoc throughout the federal government and destroyed our relationships abroad, but his main goal — the total subordination of American democracy to his will — remains unfulfilled. You could even say it is slipping away, as he sabotages his administration with a ruinous trade war, deals with the stiff opposition of a large part of civil society and plummets in his standing with most Americans. If measured by his ultimate aims, Trump’s first 100 days are a failure.”

And here’s Maureen Dowd reflecting on what has surprised her about Trump’s start to his second term: “I think the irony of Trump’s first 100 days is that he’s always presented himself as this brand expert. He slapped his name on half of New York, but he has taken the greatest brand in the history of the world, which is the United States, and destroyed it in 100 days. And he’s well on his way to destroying the brand of our dollar.”

It’s going to get worse, Dowd says, for the country and Trump: “When people begin to realize that their Veterans Affairs office has been closed, or when DOGE is messing with Social Security and Medicare, when it filters down to them, which it’s going to do really fast — it’s cliché to say he’s like the Wizard of Oz, but the curtain is opening. Toto is opening the curtain and you’re just seeing that this is a con man with a lame con.”

All of which reflects back on an aspect of the American voter — the desire to believe the snake-oil salesman, the miracle weight-loss drug, the handy-dandy gadget that does everything for you for only \$49.95 (but hurry the deal ends at midnight), that wonderful old movie The Rainmaker, or the candidate who boasts he’ll solve the Ukraine-Russian war on Day 1, the economy is going to be SO GREAT when he’s elected, countries will be down on one knee to us, and every American is going to be SO RICH because, well, he’s the miracle-man.

It’s appalling so many Americans fell for the scam.

Angelo Lynn

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

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Putting down roots
MIDDLEBURY AREA LAND Trust Trails and Volunteers manager Liam Hickey and Mia Hickey prepare to plant some trees that will revegetate the River Trail in Middlebury’s Wright Park this past Sunday. It was part of MALT’s observance of Arbor Day.
Independent photo/Steve James

‘Active procrastination’ is good

I’m sitting in a hotel room in New York City at 9:30 p.m. the night this article is due, attempting to make the final edits on my phone. As is my habit, I have waited until the very last minute. I can try and justify this by saying I want to write about something relevant, but usually my articles have nothing to do with current events. My procrastination isn’t a new phenomenon. It has been my *modus operandi* since I can remember having due dates.

There were many long nights staying up late in high school to finish an assignment that was due the next day. Projects where I was cutting and hot glueing, papers where I was furiously finishing paragraphs, and posters onto which I was carefully coloring and glueing charts and photos. These were usually projects I’d had weeks to complete but inevitably waited for the last minute to finish.

In college I continued this pattern. Countless papers were written, not with an outline and countless revisions over time, but all in one go at the last minute. I came to the conclusion that this worked for me. Writing it all at once kept my papers more cohesive and made them flow. Trying to write bits and pieces of it over a long period of time always made my papers sound more disjointed and cobbled together. I don’t really know if this is true or if it is simply another justification for my procrastination.

While I was not writing this article that is due imminently, I carried out some research on

procrastination to delay actually writing it. Turns out people have studied this phenomenon, and the general idea is that there are two categories: passive procrastination (which is bad) and active procrastination (which is good).

Simply put, passive procrastination is simply not doing something until the last minute, usually because it’s something one doesn’t want to do.

Active procrastination is putting something off until the last minute on purpose. Apparently, some people prefer and need that stress to achieve better results. Or they are waiting for ideas to coalesce. Or they are strategizing the best way to accomplish the task. Whatever the reason, actively waiting until the last minute does not have the negative effects that passive procrastination does, according to the people who study this issue.

(Scientists, I assume, who are trying to justify why their papers are always done at the last minute.)

I must admit, active procrastination sounds an awful like what I did when I had school assignments, or now when I have projects with a deadline. However, all the little mundane things that I don’t like doing definitely fall into passive procrastination. Returning phone calls. Cleaning out the fridge. Backing up my photos on the computer.

Interestingly, while procrastination is generally seen as a form of laziness, active procrastination often means doing the work faster, as there is still

(See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Claire Corkins

Will the circle be unbroken?

This week’s writer is Joshin Byrnes, a Zen Buddhist priest and teacher, and the founder of Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community. At one time he was the president and CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation.

Third in a series.

On a Saturday morning, a group of people comes together at Gather, our community living room in Middlebury. We never know who will show up. We just open the door and welcome everyone — no matter where they come from, what condition they are in, what they’re dealing with, what they’ve done, or where they are going.

We mix it all up — a few musicians, a lot of singers, people shouting out songs they want to hear. Someone requests “Will the Circle Be Unbroken?” and a simple thing happens: liberals and conservatives, sober and stoned, rich and poor, housed and unhoused — singing together. Full-throated, open-hearted singing.

Food is shared. Coffee — lots of coffee — is poured. And for a few hours, we remember something basic and real: our freedom and unity.

This is healing social action — but we barely notice we’re doing it, because it comes out of relationship, and the quiet recognition that we already belong to each other.

At Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community, where Gather lives, we trust that being together naturally gives

Freedom and Unity

By Joshin Byrnes

rise to healing action. Letting the circle be whole, even when the world tells us to split apart.

Freedom and unity are big words. We try to make them practices.

Freedom, as we see it, is relational. It’s the freedom to show up and be included, just as you are — and the freedom to welcome others without fear. Freedom is something we give to one another — we give it, well... freely.

And unity?

Unity is a paradox. On the surface, it looks fragile. Every day, we’re pulled apart by differences — political, economic, cultural, personal. Unity can seem easily breakable.

But unity is indestructible. There is one world, one life. All the differences — left and right, victims and perpetrators, just and unjust — are held within the one living reality of this moment in time. Sure, all of us are works in progress, but the circle is unbroken.

At Gather, we practice blurring the lines the world draws so sharply: rich and poor, liberal and conservative, host and guest, me and you. We don’t ignore differences. We see that each life carries its own story, its own suffering, its own spark.

But alongside the real differences, we recognize a

(See *Freedom*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

‘Best of Jessie’ would be great

I sort of collect great humor writing. Over the years I’ve gathered a densely packed long shelf of it — Robert Benchley, James Thurber, P. G. Wodehouse, Nora Ephron, Calvin Trillin, Dave Barry — and I grew up turning first to Erma Bombeck in the daily paper.

Writing really good humor is incredibly hard! I know because I’ve tried and totally failed. So I was very, very sorry to read Jessie Raymond’s farewell “Around the Bend” column. She gave us hilariously relatable, deftly written takes on her daily life. Hers was the feature so many of us turned to in this paper first, and it will be very much missed.

Personally, I hope Jessie will consider collecting her favorite pieces into a book. They deserve that. And if “The Best of Jessie” were to come out, I’d wedge it right into my shelf — because her stuff is up there with the best.

Doug Wilhelm
Weybridge

Noise-free day was a treat

Out walking on Easter Sunday in Middlebury and it was so nice to have a day without anyone mowing their lawn, using a leaf blower or running a chain saw. I remember my father talking to me about how quiet his neighborhood was in a suburb of Chicago when he was a kid because pushmowers and hand tools were how people maintained their property.

Easter was an anomaly this year as nothing has grown enough to need cutting and we may still have a frost, so all the gardens have not been decluttered of leaves. Just saying that in a world where everything seems to get done with a noisy engine of some kind that it was nice to have a day of peace and quiet.

William Biederman
Middlebury

Let’s ask Jessie to reconsider

My husband and I are bereft at the news that the incomparable Jessie Raymond has decided to hang up her pen. What will console us now?

Rux Martin
Ferrisburgh

Childhood guide was a winner

I am writing to reiterate what Kathryn Torres, Kelly Flynn and Jody Brakeley all said over the last two weeks. They wrote about the Early Childhood Guide included in the April 3 edition of the *Addison Independent*. I truly read it cover to cover.

I have had the privilege of a history of four decades of connection with early childhood educators and centers in Addison County. I was particularly drawn to the title of Ashley Bessette’s article: “Addison County At the Forefront of Childcare in Vermont.” That title set the tone for the entire guide. The other articles followed that introduction and painted a picture of the complexity and excitement of our quality programs in Addison County.

My first associations were with Mary Johnson and the Parent Child Center, both as an educator and a parent. Then came the Bristol Family Center. In my career as an educator, mediator and parent coordinator I was introduced to home daycares, preschools and the growing programs that have simply exploded now in our county. Thank goodness!

First, as a parent I learned about that dedication and the deeply nurturing care my daughter received. Her whole being was nurtured. Then, as a professional, I had many interactions with early educators. Every single person I encountered was committed to best practices and to challenge their own learning edges to best address the needs

(See *Barash letter*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

The ‘Canada Caravan’ was a rewarding experience

The Canada Caravan was organized by Indivisible Middlebury, to express our appreciation, respect and long-standing friendship between Canada and Vermont.

On Saturday, April 26, many of us drove in the rain to the Williston Park ‘n Ride, where we reconnoitered and got directions from our fearless and dedicated leader, Heidi Willis. People had Canadian flags to pass out, Canada signs for the car windows, as well as many creative, funny handmade ones. Example: Get Your Tiny Hands off Canada, We Love Canada, We Hope You’ll Accept our Apologies, as well as two huge banners to hang from the overpass before the border crossing. The banners read “Vermont Stands with Canada,” one in French, the other in English.

We drove up 89 in a long caravan, led by Gardner Merriam, in a big, dark blue pick-up, with two big flags flying, one Canadian, one American. We had our flashers on and drove up to Exit 22. We were directed where to park, and then to the overpass — we stood in two lines on both sides and waved and smiled at the oncoming traffic from both directions, receiving honks and waves in reply, including long, loud honks from two semis from their air horns — very satisfying!

A reporter from Channel 5 met us in Williston, drove all the way up with us, then interviewed and took pix from below the overpass, looking up, from both sides. We expressed our outrage at Trump’s appalling behavior toward Canada, and his lack of respect and knowledge for their national sovereignty.

There were about 70 people who came in 35 vehicles from different parts of Vermont, and it was great to meet and connect with them, as we build a stronger, larger Vermont community. There were 10 different Indivisible groups, including Mad River, Champlain Islands, Middlebury, Northeast Addison County, Castleton, Burlington and Shelburne. It was both heartwarming, inspiring and fun to do this action together, and kudos to Heidi, Karen, Mary, Al, Gardner, Judy, Kevin, Jen, Carl and others from the Indivisible Middlebury Outreach group. We appreciate all who came to demonstrate your concern for what is happening in our country and to our national friendships and alliances. The Canada Caravan was an extraordinary gathering during this time of uncertainty, cruelty and greed, and reaffirmed our connections with each other and our community.

Indivisible continues to stand up for democracy, human decency, our Constitution, the environment and respect for people. Our next in-person meeting will be at CVUUS, in Middlebury, on May 6, from 4:30-6 pm. Park at MUHS and walk over. We’d love to have you join us! Contact us through indivisiblemiddlebury@gmail.com.

**Bethany Barry
Cornwall**

Freedom

(Continued from Page 4A)

deeper sameness: every one of us breathes, every one of us hopes, every one of us hurts.

When you sit next to someone, when you hear the emotion in their voice, when you know the songs they love to sing, it becomes harder to see them as “the addict,” “the rich guy,” “the homeless person,” “the privileged one,” “the mentally ill one.”

It’s humbling to realize how often we box people in — thinking we know who they are. But really, we have no idea. It’s freeing to let people out of the boxes we’ve put them in — freeing for everyone, not just them.

Letting go of the ideas that keep us apart, we discover a freedom that naturally draws us closer. We become invested in each other’s wellbeing and happiness, because we no longer see each other as separate.

Freedom and unity arise from the same source: the natural harmony where sameness and difference are not at odds, but part of one living whole — like roots and leaves of the same tree, distinct yet growing from the same life, where life is life, no matter what shape it takes.

Communities are stronger when we live from this perennial insight. We don’t deny there are wounds to mend or wrongs to right. But we start from the assumption that everyone already belongs — that unity is real, even when it’s hidden or forgotten. Justice, then, is the work of restoring the unity that was always there, beneath our forgetting.

In times like these — when anger and alienation are running high, when difference is treated like danger — it’s easy to believe that freedom and unity are naïve dreams.

But I think it’s the opposite. Freedom and unity are the ground

under our feet. It’s the forgetting of them that is the illusion. The work of community — and the work of justice — is to live as if we remember. To practice freedom not as independence from one another, but as relationship with one another. To practice unity not as sameness, but as the durable, miraculous holding together of all things. In a world that profits from our division, this small remembering is no small thing.

On Saturday mornings at Gather, nobody plans a revolution. They drink coffee. They share food. They sing, sometimes beautifully, sometimes terribly, but always with heart.

And for a few hours we remember: the circle is unbroken.

You can visit the Zen Community and Gather at 76 Court St. starting in June. Find out more online at blmzc.org.

Barash letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

and learning of the children in their care. Sometimes that was challenging. My experience and job as a professional was to try to understand some of the impacts of individual family systems and circumstances on children. The early educators approached every situation with compassion, concern, curiosity and collaboration.

Over those four decades the tone was set for what is happening now in our early childhood programs. I am forever grateful for the earliest of early educators in our county. Even though some of those teaching currently in early childhood in our county may not know any of those early people, they are reaping the benefits of the foundation they laid in our county. Now they get to grow and expand on that foundation to cultivate programs for children growing up in 2025 and forward.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a wide array of choice for early childhood programs in Addison County. Let’s not just celebrate this month, but every day. If your child attends an early childhood program or home childcare remember to say thank you. It means the world to those in which we entrust our care. They work hard to do the best for our children. Thank you to all who care for the youngest members of our communities.

**Phoebe Barash
Retired Educator, Mediator,
Parent Coordinator
Former Board Member
Mary Johnson and
Bristol Family Center**

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

a deadline, so the project will be carried out more efficiently. Can this really be considered laziness? Also to consider is, if I finish a project long before it is due, I will inevitably agonize over it, wondering about the choices I made or if there is something I can do better. I would probably spend a lot of time redoing and changing things. Who’s to say if this would actually make the end result better, or if it would just muddle my original intent?

So it seems that waiting until the due date to finish a project can also save some of us from overthinking our results and redoing our work unnecessarily. I prefer using the time to think my project over before starting it, and completing the task at the end, rather than completing the task immediately and then having time afterwards to second guess my work.

I cannot conclusively say that I actively chose to wait until the last minute to write this article. Sometimes I have ideas — even several at a time! — lined up just waiting to be written. But other times I have no idea what to write about and simply wait for inspiration. Or the deadline. I guess it’s up to you to decide if I’ve succeeded in pulling off this article at the last minute.

Claire Corkins grew up and lives in Bristol and studied Human Ecology at College of the Atlantic in Maine. After college she worked abroad teaching English as a second language. She currently works with her father in such various endeavors as painting houses, tiling bathrooms, building porches, and fixing old windows. She hikes, reads, plays ice hockey, travels, and wishes she could wear flip flops all year round.

Elderly Services, Inc.

Spring 2025 Community Education Series

May 6:

Combatting fraud in the digital age

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

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

May 15:

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

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

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

May 29:

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

This session will cover essential fall prevention strategies, ways to reduce the risk of wandering, and key considerations for kitchen safety, medication management, and personal emergency response systems like Lifeline. Whether you're living with dementia or caring for someone who is, this presentation will offer practical tools and strategies to enhance safety and support independence at home.

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

June 5:

Managing diabetes in older age

In the US, 14.7% of adults aged 18 years or older have type 2 diabetes. For those 65 years and older the percentage is 29.2%. More than 55,000 Vermonters have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and one out of four Vermonters do not yet know that they have diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes is not inevitable. You can manage the disease to prevent further health complications, and take steps to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. Learn about lifestyle changes proven to help improve the condition as well as delay or prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes.

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

June 12:

Driving and aging—challenges and strategies

Have you thought about what happens if you or a loved one can no longer drive? Join us for an informative session on the challenges older drivers face in Vermont. Learn about the Yellow Dot Program, a statewide initiative that gives first responders quick access to important medical information during a crash or emergency. Discover helpful tips on staying independent, safe, and mobile behind the wheel.

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

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

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

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Afton Faleisa Grace, 42, of Johnson

JOHNSON — After an extremely well fought battle with illness, Afton Faleisa Grace died Saturday April 19, 2025. Afton was born April 15, 1983 in Burlington to loving parents William and Alesia Grace (Wheeler).

Afton was a true light of this world, and it showed everywhere she went. Her good nature and insatiably happy spirit touched all that she came into contact with. She had a smile that brought the world to life around her. She was an extremely hard worker with a fierce attitude when it came to getting any type of work done. A business owner, so obsessed with her level of “clean” Afton paid attention to every detail. Her many clients and friends often marveled at her ability to make a space so clean it felt inviting.

Afton prided herself in every facet of life she pursued. From business to fashion, with brutal honesty and compassion Afton was always 100% herself. Full of life and laughter, Afton loved to make jokes with her close friends and family. A particular lover of the “Short” jokes, she so playfully aimed at her husband on a regular basis. Although she herself only stood a very fierce 5’7.” Brave as a warrior, Afton stood squarely for everything she believed in and protected, never taking anything short of what her good actions



AFTON FALEISA GRACE

both displayed and demanded. A powerful voice, when it came to the rights of her friends, children, and dogs, Afton was a protector with a truly mean right hand! (most likely muttered) by a few violators. A truly wonderful and providing mother, Afton loved her daughters Shyann and Launna Dimick; her beloved significant other (husband), Terry L. Melton; both of her parents, William and Alesia Grace; her loving brother, Adam Grace; her grandmother, Lois Grace; godparents Charlie and Dale Fleming; and countless aunts uncles and cousins, friends and relatives. Afton is predeceased by her grandmother, Gert Balwin, her grandfather, Donald Grace Sr. A visitation will be held to celebrate her life on Tuesday, April 29, from 5-7 p.m., at the Minor Funeral and Cremation Center in Milton, Vt.◊

named Xena and Missy, the latter so named to honor one of Afton’s beloved lost friends Melissa, her most trusted confidant. In terms of “dogs” you could be sure to trip over a dog toy in Afton’s presence. In terms of friends, she loved them and kept them for life. She was always around her close ones and loved their company.

Afton encompassed all the things that make a strong, fierce, loyal, protective, loving woman. She processed the love of God, the favor of her friends, and the undying loyalty of her family. The hearts she touched will ache with her loss all the days of their lives, yet her spirit, grace and love will radiate an endure.

Afton leaves behind her two beautiful daughters, Shyann and Launna Dimick; her beloved significant other (husband), Terry L. Melton; both of her parents, William and Alesia Grace; her loving brother, Adam Grace; her grandmother, Lois Grace; godparents Charlie and Dale Fleming; and countless aunts uncles and cousins, friends and relatives. Afton is predeceased by her grandmother, Gert Balwin, her grandfather, Donald Grace Sr.

A visitation will be held to celebrate her life on Tuesday, April 29, from 5-7 p.m., at the Minor Funeral and Cremation Center in Milton, Vt.◊

Jason Grey Lewis, 58, Middlebury native

DACANO, Colo. — It is with heavy hearts and deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Jason Grey Lewis, who left us far too soon at the age of 58. Jason died unexpectedly at home in the state where he spent the second half of his life — Colorado — a place he cherished deeply, leaving behind memories as enduring as the mountains he loved to climb and the rivers he loved to fish.

Born in Middlebury, Vt., in 1966, Jason was the youngest of four siblings and is survived by his beloved brother and sister trio: Laura Brockett, John Lewis, and Doug Lewis. He was raised with deep New England roots and spent the first half of his life in Vermont, where his love for nature, movement, and craftsmanship took shape. He graduated from Vermont Academy and later the University of Vermont, where he once dreamt of chasing soccer balls across grassy fields or spending nights behind a drum kit, laying down rhythm with friends.

Jason was never one to be boxed into a single title. He was an expert skier, an adventurous mountaineer, a talented drummer, a soulful fly fisherman, a gifted home cook, and a craftsman whose hands brought beauty and precision to everything he touched. He built a successful stucco and plaster business in Colorado through word of mouth alone — a testament to the trust, perfectionism, and pride he brought to every job. If Jason left a site, it was spotless, seamless, and undeniably “his.”

His weekends were rarely idle. Whether it was a tile project or fixing up another corner of the



JASON GREY LEWIS

home he poured his heart into in Boulder. Jason could always be found with a toolbelt slung low and a smile half-hidden behind a layer of plaster dust. He believed in improving what was around him — and did so with a mix of artistic instinct and tireless labor.

Summers in Jason’s youth were often spent deep in the La Vérendrye Wildlife Reserve of Quebec, paddling and portaging remote lakes with a close-knit group of childhood friends and their families. Days were filled with canoeing under wide skies, fishing for walleye and pike in quiet coves, and sleeping under the stars. These adventures were more than just tradition — they were formative experiences that cemented bonds, shaped his reverence for the outdoors, and offered early lessons in patience, camaraderie, and the joy of getting your hands dirty.

But more than anything else, Jason’s heartbeat loudest for his

son, Russell. Being a father was his greatest joy and proudest role. He poured his wisdom, humor, and adventurous spirit into raising Russell — teaching him not just how to cast a fly or swing a hammer, but how to find light and laughter in the curveballs that life throws.

Jason’s happy place was waist-deep in a cold river, eyes scanning the water for a flicker of movement, fly rod in hand. Whether it was the Battenkill in Vermont or the Cache la Poudre in Colorado, he could spend hours alone in the stillness, perfectly content, chasing the elusive Brown or Rainbow Trout. Those quiet, serene moments spoke to the thoughtful soul beneath his sarcastic humor and beautiful smile.

The holidays brought Jason home or to Maine with his extended family — gatherings full of warmth, laughter, and deep bonds. He was often the life of the party, never taking himself too seriously but always making others feel valued, heard, and entertained.

His sudden departure leaves an immeasurable void. Jason Grey Lewis was the kind of man who left handprints on the souls of those who truly knew him — through friendship, family, fatherhood, or just a shared hike or meal. His absence will echo in the mountains he climbed, the rivers he fished, and the hearts he touched.

Jason, we will carry you with us always.

You may have left us too soon, but you are forever in our hearts.

A celebration of life is planned on Saturday, May 3, in Boulder, Colo.◊

Obituary Guidelines

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

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



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HILDA PIPER BURNHAM

Hilda Piper Burnham celebration of life

SOUTH ROYALTON — A celebration of life for Hilda Piper Burnham, who passed away Sept. 9, 2024, will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 25, at “camp,” Hilda’s piece of heaven, 2640 Broad Brook Road in South Royalton, Vt. Please come and share your stories. ◊

To the family of Mike Connor,

Expressing our sympathy at the loss of Mike.

He was a great musician and a really nice guy.



- Eugene and Judy Charlebois & Don and Julie Gould

BRISTOL — Nana (Thompson) Washburn passed peacefully the morning of April 24, her beloved cat by her side. She joins her husband and their pets, her parents, dear friends and family on the other side. Born and raised in Starksboro, she enlisted in the Air Force after high school, returning home to Vermont in 1973, where she remained active in the Air National Guard until 1982.

She was the type of person that always wanted to help and cared for everyone. She was the person you could always count on to be there when you had a problem and share the joys when you didn’t. She enjoyed being the volunteer coordinator for rides to the VA Hospital in White River Junction for several years. But her favorite



NANA (THOMPSON) WASHBURN

thing in the world was being a grandmother to her grandkids. She is survived by her daughter

Suzanne Loker, 78, of Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Suzanne Loker of Weybridge passed away at her home on April 12, 2025, after a five-year struggle with cancer.

In her words, “Friend, sister, professor, runner, golfer, adventurer, skier, snowshoer, hiker, biker, Husky lover, and partner, at 78 Suz wandered into the forest and sunlight for the last time with memories of her life well lived, enjoying moments of delight.”



SUZANNE LOKER

Dr. Loker was Professor Emerita in the Human Centered Design department of the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University. Her scholarship focused on the sustainability and worker treatment of the world garment industry.

Suzanne Loker was born March 28, 1948, in Neenah, Wis., the middle of three children of Harley and Laura Jane (Birch) Loker. She will be missed. ◊

and grandsons, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and all the friends that became family. She will be sorely missed by all.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held at a later date. If you would like to reach out or share your stories of Nana, you can email ForNanaWashburn@gmail.com.

If you feel inclined to do so, please make donations to Bristol Rescue Squad as they and all Bristol Emergency Services are a group of wonderful people that were always there for her.

Always remember to hold your loved ones close, and make sure they know they are loved for you never know what tomorrow will bring. ◊

Thomas Allen Thiess, 74, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Thomas Allen Thiess, 74, passed away Friday, April 25, 2025, at Helen Porter Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury.

He was born Jan. 18, 1951, in Burlington, the son of Kenneth Carl Thiess and Vera Ackerman Thiess.

He had a deer Camp in Hancock and he enjoyed fishing and deer hunting.

He is survived by a brother, Kevin Thiess; a sister, Caroline Hollembaek; a niece, Kelly Briezemdine; and a nephew, Thomas Hollembaek. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother William Thiess.

There will be no funeral services. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Alcoholics Anonymous, PO Box 1212, Burlington, VT 05402. To send online condolences to his family please visit www.brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com. ◊

2025 Middlebury Lions Club Food Drive

Thank you to these local stores for generously providing a location for our 16th Annual Food from the Heart food drive. The continued support of these stores and our community members allows our Club to provide food and funds for local organizations that fight food insecurity in Addison County.

Greg’s Meat Market

Hannaford of Middlebury

Kinney Drugs

Middlebury Natural Foods Co-Op

Pratt’s Store

Shaw’s of Middlebury

3,017 lbs.

of food collected

\$1,700

cash donated

All food and money donated will be split between our two local food shelves: HOPE & CVOEO.

Cremation with a Service

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

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CORRECTION — In the April 24 edition of the *Addison Independent* we mistakenly gave the age in Beverly Ross’s obituary as 75. Her correct age was 84. We apologize for the error.

Chester Briggs, 85, formerly of New Haven

VALDESE, N.C. — Chester Briggs passed away April 14, 2025. He was born in his paternal grandparents' house in New Haven, Vt., on April 23, 1939, the son of Ralph and Kalma (Thompson) Briggs. He was named after his grandfathers, Chester Briggs and Howard Thompson.

Chester grew up on the family farm in New Haven. After graduating from Beeman Academy in 1957, he drove a truck for Jackman Fuels. In 1961, he joined the Army and after boot camp was stationed in Monterrey, Calif. After his honorable discharge, he went to work and retired from Houghton Mifflin in Massachusetts.

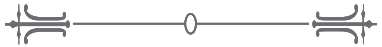
Chester loved to travel the country, going to music chows in Branson, Mo., John Deere Conventions and car shows. Mostly, he loved going to square dancing competitions with his long-time friend Jo-Ann Sullivan. In 2021, he moved from Massachusetts to Valdese, N.C., to be near his sister Sharon Mills and her family.

He was predeceased by his parents, brother Robert Briggs Sr., and brothers-in-law Kincaid Merrill, Harold Barrett, Robert Bradshaw and Richard Daniels.

Chester is survived by his sisters, Marguerite Bradshaw of Wilton, N.H., Janet Barrett of Bridport, Vt., Nancy Daniels of New Haven,

Vt., and Sharon (Timothy) Mills of Valdese, N.C. He also leaves his nephews and nieces Mark (Ramona) Barrett, Deborah (Gary) Brown, Harold Paul (Charlene) Barrett, Robert (Lisa) Briggs Jr., David Briggs, Christopher (Susan) Daniels, Susan (John) Barrett-Dykema, Jason (Dawn) Briggs, Brian (Brooke) Mills and Brandy Mills. He also leaves several cousins, great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews.

The burial ceremony will be held at the Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven, Vt., on June 21 at 11 a.m. Brown McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes is in charge of the arrangements. ♦



Elizabeth 'Liz' St. Amour Smith, 86, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Elizabeth "Liz" St. Amour Smith went to the Lord and her son Chas on Thursday, April 24, surrounded by the love of her family. She was born in Essex Center, Vt., on Feb. 26, 1939, to Arthur and Sarah (Hulburt) St. Amour. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Liz, or Betty, to some, was separated from her siblings and relocated to a foster home for young women in New Haven, Vt., as a teenager. She graduated from Beeman Academy and married Charles R. Smith of New Haven Mills in 1960.

She travelled to Chateauroux, France to join her husband in the Air Force. It was here that she became pregnant with her oldest child and returned to New Haven Mills when Raymond was six months old. Together, Charles and Elizabeth worked the family farm in New Haven Mills upon return from France, eventually having four children together. In order to make ends meet, they purchased a single school bus. Eventually, they sold the farm and created BET-CHA Transit, one of the largest bus businesses in Vermont, which safely delivered children throughout Addison and Rutland Counties for over 20 years. She also co-owned BET-CHA Service Center in Bristol.

Betty held a variety of jobs throughout her life, including waitressing, a discipline aid at Mt. Abraham High School, driving her own school bus, and volunteering at a variety of organizations.



ELIZABETH "LIZ" ST. AMOUR SMITH

A car accident killed her and Charlie's beloved son, Chas, in 1988 and she mourned him to her last breath. Also, along with their four children, in the early 1970s, Betty and Charlie adopted a child from Seoul, Korea and called her Sarah after Liz's mother. Unfortunately, they had become estranged and were no longer in contact with each other.

She and Charlie divorced in 1995, but she found love again in David Munger. He introduced her to the Fiddlers Club at the VFW and it became one of their favorite things to do on the weekends. David was devoted to her and took amazing care of her as her health deteriorated and until his own death in 2023. Due to failing health, Liz spent the last few years of her life at the Helen Porter

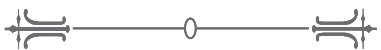
Nursing Home in Middlebury, Vt., where she continued to participate in her favorite hobbies; bingo, cards, crafts, socializing, reading and visiting the hair salon to always look her best. She made many friends during her time at Helen Porter and was always appreciative of the care she received.

She is survived by her children, Raymond "Buzz" Smith and wife Jenny Gibson of Larkspur, Colo., Christine Smith and husband Robert Menzel of Plymouth, Mass., her son Keith Smith of New Haven, Vt., and her adopted daughter Sarah Smith of Burlington; her grandchildren, Samantha, Allison, Andrea, Jesse, Mariah, Chase, Retta, Chelsea, Missa and Caleb; as well as 13 great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind many beloved nieces and nephews, too many to list here.

She is predeceased by her parents; her partner, David Munger; her siblings Robert St. Amour, Jean McAvoy, Connie St. Amour, and Shirly Canton; as well as her beloved son Chas.

The family wishes to thank the Helen Porter staff for all the care and attention our mother received while she was a resident.

There will be a graveside service on Saturday, May 17, at 2 p.m., at the Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven, Vt. In lieu of flowers, the family requests you send donations in her name to the Champlain Valley Fiddlers Club at the VFW in Middlebury. ♦

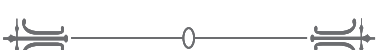


Phillip Millard Brace, 83, formerly of Ferrisburgh

ORANGE CITY, Fla. — Phillip Millard Brace, 83, passed away on April 24, 2025, in Orange City, Florida. Born on Feb. 15, 1942, in Burlington, Vt., he lived a life rich with family and friendships.

Phillip was a loving husband for 59 years to Jane Brace. He took great pride in his role as a father

to Stephanie Barkyoub (David), Rebecca Embry, and Alex Brace (Michelle). His legacy continues through his grandchildren and great grandchildren: Dustin Brace (Kate); Abigail Barber (Gunther); Eric Embry; Kyle Embry; Charlie Brace; and Sadie Brace. ♦



Roger Wales service of remembrance

WEYBRIDGE — There will be a service of remembrance for Roger Wales, who died on March 21, 2025, on Saturday, May 10, at 3 p.m., at the Weybridge Congregational Church.

Volunteer blood donors needed

VERMONT — During National Volunteer Month in April, the American Red Cross asks donors to help keep the blood supply stable by making an appointment to give blood or platelets now. Type O blood and platelets are especially needed to ensure hospitals are fully stocked with lifesaving blood products this spring.

The Red Cross depends on thousands of volunteer donors to collect more than 12,000 blood donations and about 3,000 platelet

donations every single day. Blood drives and donation centers also depend on the generosity and valuable time of those who make it possible for the Red Cross to help people in need.

As spring travel and activities fill calendars, volunteer blood donations remain essential to critical medical care. Book a time to give blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor

App.

In May, all who give blood between May 1 and 18 will get a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. Plus, throughout May, those who come to give will be automatically entered to win a U.S. trip of choice for two. Details are at RedCrossBlood.org/May.

The next blood donation site in Addison County is on May 3, noon-5 p.m., in New Haven at the town hall, 78 North St.

Commencement

(Continued from Page 3A)
Newport, R.I., and served on the board of the Greenwich Adult Day Care Center. She serves on the board of directors for the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vt.

Middlebury will also present honorary degrees to the following individuals at Commencement.

Heather McGhee, policy advocate and author of *The New York Times* best-selling book "The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can

Prosper Together." She is the chair of the board of Color of Change, the country's largest online racial justice organization, and volunteers for numerous other boards in the fields of philanthropy and social justice. McGhee graduated from Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. She will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at Commencement.

Dario Robleto is an American artist, researcher, writer, and

filmmaker based in Houston, Texas. Throughout his career, Robleto has sought to cultivate rigorous, mutually transformative interactions between the arts, humanities and sciences. His research-driven practice results in intricately handcrafted objects that reflect his exploration of music, popular culture, science, war and American history. Robleto will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at Commencement.

Retro

(Continued from Page 3A)
1-9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; noon to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. It's closed on Tuesdays.

Bloom will be working a lot of the hours, with help from his teenage children.

This reporter playfully asked him if his ears bleed at the end of the day following prolonged exposure to the digital din.

"It barely even bothers me," he said with a grin. "To me, the silence is what drives me crazy sometimes."

After all, an arcade without auditory pyrotechnics is like a cone without ice cream.

"People walk in here and say, 'Wow, it *does* sound like an arcade.' That's the best compliment you can give," a beaming Bloom said.

And people are the reason Bloom got into the business.

"What gives me the most pleasure is seeing multiple generations playing together, watching dad playing the Star Wars machine he played as a kid, next to his daughter. Or mom playing air hockey with her son," he said. "That's the greatest thing I can possibly see, and the smiles on their faces when they leave."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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AI and geopolitics: An early experiment gone awry?

By HÉCTOR VILA

The current lull following the application of world-wide, and world-changing, tariffs levied on “Liberation Day” gives us space to try to understand what happened, and maybe what is happening. Yet, other Trump-induced conflicts are in the way of clear thinking — attacks on universities and deportations, among many other things, have us all anxious.

But since I’ve discussed AI (artificial intelligence) in these pages, here’s warning about potential danger ahead: The “Liberation Day” tariff story, which has affected, well, everything, is not just about tariffs. Instead, Rohit Krishnan, writing on X (Twitter), author of “Building God: Demystifying AI for Decision Makers,” says he tested the Trump administration’s theory — the

idea of imposing higher tariffs on countries with which the U.S. has larger trade deficits, thus incentivizing more balanced trade — on LLMs (large language models). He found that flagship AIs produced similar answers, with Grok, Gemini and Claude all creating the same tariff policy from an initial prompt.

Krishnan said: “This might be the first large-scale application of AI technology to geopolitics. 4o, o3 high, Gemini 2.5 pro, Claude 3.7, Grok all give the same answer to the question on how to impose

tariffs easily.”

Wrap your head around that — “the first large-scale application of AI technology to geopolitics.”

Economist and political columnist Paul Krugman, speaking to Ezra Klein, said, “There’s certainly no paper I would imagine in any economics journal saying: Do this. Maybe some people out there are saying something like this. But it really is not something you would recommend, if you know anything about how trade works — which ChatGPT does not. So it really is weird that it

would come up with this.”

The Trump Administration used AI to influence “Liberation Day” tariffs in three ways: data analysis, predictive modeling and decision support.

Theo Burman, in *Newsweek*, says that AI may have influenced the data analysis aspect of the tariff policy by providing a simplistic mathematical approach to process trade deficit data, though there’s no official confirmation from the administration. A simplistic AI-generated formula fails to account for the multifaceted nature of international trade relationships — supply chains, comparative advantages and capital flows. The formula’s mechanical application defied logic and created unexpected outcomes, like imposing some of the highest tariffs on developing nations that can least afford them, such as Madagascar (47%), Lesotho (50%) and Cambodia (49%).

In “AI and the uncertain future” in the *Addison Independent* (Feb. 20), I said that “Trump sees AI as a competitive game, not a life-changing and life-threatening technology that will leave no one unaffected.”

AI is not a game, it’s serious. It has been used by the Israelis to set targets and execute bombing runs into Gaza. It’s being used for surveillance (very poorly) and reconnaissance, and cybersecurity. And it can be used for economic disruption and foster economic inequality and market volatility, which we can see, is our reality. AI can be used as a weapon of mass destruction, an understanding that must be taken to heart.

If successful (or perceived as successful), the administration’s AI approach could normalize the use of AI-generated simplistic formulas for complex policy decisions without adequate expert oversight, undermining policy shortcuts that could marginalize the role of subject matter experts whose nuanced understanding of trade economics might be replaced by algorithmically appealing but oversimplified approaches — AI as a marginalizing tool, and extractive.

The uncertainty about whether AI was used highlights the lack of disclosure requirements around AI’s role in governmental decision-making, which is something I highlighted as essential in these pages. So, we have a contradiction: The administration simultaneously champions AI development while potentially misusing AI in ways that harm the very AI industry through supply chain disruptions caused by the tariffs.

From the “Liberation Day” tariff episode, we can draw several important conclusions about AI’s role in policymaking as we move toward an increasingly

AI-ubiquitous future: AI systems tend to produce appealingly simple solutions to complex problems.

The tariff formula demonstrates how AI can reduce multidimensional economic relationships to a single mathematical equation, sacrificing nuance for computational elegance. Whether the administration directly used AI, the tariff formula reflects algorithmic thinking — a mindset that seeks reducible patterns and mathematical solutions to complex social and economic challenges. This pattern-matching mindset may increasingly influence human decision-makers even when AI isn’t directly consulted.

AI systems warned about the limitations of their own tariff recommendations, yet these warnings were apparently ignored if AI was involved. This suggests a critical vulnerability in human-AI interaction: We may selectively heed AI’s confident answers while discounting its expressed uncertainties.

The ease of obtaining seemingly authoritative answers from AI may tempt policymakers to engage in “vibe governing” — implementing AI suggestions with minimal expert validation, particularly when under time pressure or seeking simple narratives. If the administration was predisposed to view trade deficits as inherently problematic, AI systems would likely reinforce this view by suggesting formulas that take this premise as given, creating a feedback loop of confirmation bias.

The tariff case demonstrates why domain experts must mediate between AI suggestions and policy implementation. Without expert interpretation of AI outputs, policymakers risk implementing recommendations that AI systems themselves recognize as inadequate. AI-generated policies risk becoming simulacra — copies without originals — as AI systems trained on economic texts can generate plausible-sounding but fundamentally flawed policies disconnected from real economic understanding.

The tariff episode serves as an early warning of governance challenges in an AI-ubiquitous future. It suggests we need institutional guardrails around AI’s role in policymaking, including transparency requirements, expert review processes, and frameworks for weighing AI recommendations against domain expertise.

Without these safeguards, AI’s ability to provide seemingly authoritative but potentially flawed simple answers to complex questions could undermine, not enhance, effective governance.

Hector Vila is an associate professor of Writing & Rhetoric at Middlebury College.

Sheriff’s Log

ADDISON COUNTY —

Deputies in the Addison County Sheriff’s Department helped out at several traffic accidents on Route 22A this past week. First, a deputy came upon a box truck off the road in Shoreham and provided traffic control while it was pulled out of the ditch on April 21.

The next day, deputies assisted the DMV police with a vehicle that had gone off the road on Route 22A in Orwell. The operator had a warrant and was transported by the sheriff to court to appear before a judge.

Later in the week, on April 26, A deputy assisted with traffic control for a tractor trailer rollover on Route 22A in Orwell. State police said road was closed in the vicinity of Brown Road for an hour and a half ending at noon.

In other recent activity, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns and stopped 29 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations, fingerprinted 11 people for background checks, completed three VIN verifications for an Addison resident and assisted the Bennington County Sheriff’s Department with prisoner transports on April 21 and 24.

The sheriff and his deputies also:

- On April 21 and again on April 22 assigned several more deputies than usual assigned to courthouse duty due to the number of hearings scheduled.
- On April 21 assisted the Ferrisburgh Fire Department with traffic control while they investigated a gas leak on Mt. Philo Road.
- On April 21 responded to a motor vehicle crash in Cornwall. The department reports that Elizabeth Toder, 56, of Cornwall had fallen asleep while driving and had driven off the roadway. A juvenile passenger was transported to the hospital for minor injuries.
- On April 23 dealt with a dispute between Addison neighbors. The department advised the caller they could pursue the matter in civil court or set up security cameras to help deal with the issue.
- On April 24 participated in a monthly meeting with other Vermont sheriffs.
- On April 24 in Addison arrested Christopher Emilo, 55, of Middlebury for violating court ordered conditions of release. State Attorney Vekos told the department to issue a citation for the next day, and Emilo appeared before a judge on April 25, when he was ordered to be held in jail due to the violation of conditions.
- On April 25 assisted a Whiting landlord with an eviction.
- On April 25 transported someone to jail after a judge ordered them to be held.
- On April 25 assisted state police with a crash on Route 7 in Leicester.
- On April 26 participated in National Drug Takeback by collecting expired or unneeded prescriptions at our office.
- On April 26 assisted a motorist with a broken down vehicle on Route 30 in Cornwall.

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Leicester

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NEWS

LEICESTER — Green Up Day is Saturday, May 3. A free lunch for volunteers will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day, in front of the Meeting House. The trailer to collect Green Up bags will be at the Town Shed all day. Bags are available at the Town Office. Lunch tickets, that double as raffle tickets, will be available at

the trailer, or at the Meeting House. If you want to volunteer, contact Diane Benware at 802-458-7234.

The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., May 10, at the Senior Center, at 1:00 pm. Refreshments served and all are welcome. Monies raised help with maintenance expenses of buildings at the Four Corners.

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Industrial park

(Continued from Page 1A)

conceptual cost analysis, and preliminary meetings with regulators from the town and state and with transportation stakeholders.

- Final design phase, depicting the subdivision layout, construction specifications, and contract document preparation.
- Boundary survey.
- Cost analysis, ledge probes, application fee analysis and project cost summary.
- Preparation of permitting applications.

“By doing this work, we will be in a much better position to attract businesses to the region,” said David Provost, the college’s executive vice president of finance and administration. “Our desire is to foster economic development that aligns with academic programs at the college and attracts businesses to Addison County.”

Fred Kenney, who’s winding up his tenure as ACEDC executive director, and his heir apparent — Alexander Armani-Munn — made the pre-development pitch to the Middlebury selectboard on April 22. The board, after a short discussion, unanimously agreed to support the effort with \$50,000 from the town’s economic development fund.

“We’re asking to take those parcels from an idea on a map, to parcels that are ready for development, so we can all be prepared to help a local

business grow ... or to welcome a new business to town,” Kenney told the board.

That \$50,000 will be added to a \$25,000 grant from the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development. Matt Curran, the college’s director of business services, said the institution will be contributing to the pre-development costs for the land.

“The college was approached by the ACEDC in conjunction with the town of Middlebury to support the cost of a study related to the pre-development work on the parcels,” he said. “The cost has not yet been determined, as an RFP will be coming in the next few weeks.”

Armani-Munn is pleased the ACEDC, college and town have agreed to be players in getting the parcels ready for sale and development. If one or more of the entities had taken a pass, pre-development would likely have had to be done in a longer, piecemeal fashion.

“We know from experience that having nine shovel-ready parcels is much more marketable than having one, two or three,” he said.

Plans call for ACEDC officials to return to the selectboard with the recommendation of a company to coordinate the pre-development work, which Armani-Munn would like to see completed by January. The parties could then apply for more funds to further refine and market the lots.

Potential sources of funding for subsequent work, according

to Kenney, include the Northern Borders Regional Commission’s Catalyst Program and the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development’s Rural Industry Development Program.


With either grant, ACEDC would need to have a developer or business prepared to develop one or more parcels.

“We have an opportunity here

to not only create real tangible economic impacts for the community, but by having all three parties participating in this public-private partnership, we create precedent for a model for future public-private partnerships,” Armani-Munn said.

HAPPY PLANTING!

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Panton

(Continued from Page 1A)
selectboard meeting, which is available for viewing online at pantonvt.us; follow the Selectboard links on the left side of the home page.
There will 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. Public hearings were held on that issue on April 9 and 16. Ultimately the legislature will need to add its approval to the charter change if

Panton residents back it.
The *Independent* invited the three selectboard candidates to respond to five questions about themselves and town issues. Their answers are printed here.
Q&A
1. Tell us about your background and your qualifications to serve on the selectboard.

Brace: I have lived here in Panton for 49 years. I am a 20-year past member of Vergennes Rescue and I'm still a lifetime member. I am a 15-year member of the Vergennes Lions club, being president two different terms. I have held many offices in these organizations. When I commit to something I commit

100%. I also worked for the Town of Panton many years ago on the road crew.
De La Cruz: I have been a proud resident of Panton for 30 years, raising my six children and managing a small farm. With over 15 years of experience serving on the Panton Development Review Board and Planning Commission, as well as representing Panton on the ANWSD School Board, I have been actively involved in our community's growth and decision-making. Through these roles, I've gained a strong understanding of how our town operates and what it takes to serve our residents well.
DeGraaf: I was born and raised

in Panton. My family owned and operated our farm at the corner of Basin Harbor Road and Panton Road until we sold it in 2019. My father built BJ's Farm Supply store in 1988 and my wife and I, and our three kids, continue to operate it today as a general store. As a lifelong resident of Panton and current business owner, with a family, I am experienced with being financially responsible for running a home and business while the added cost of living keeps going up, for us, and our residents.

2. What motivated you to run?
De La Cruz: Several Panton residents asked me to run for the Selectboard. As we move from a three-person board to a five-person board, I know it may be a challenge to find people willing to step up. I believe our community knows and trusts me to bring level-headed judgment to town decisions. I want to help guide Panton with fairness and a steady hand.

DeGraaf: I wanted to run because I felt it was time for me to be involved in the town I grew up in, and help by filling the open positions available in the Selectboard.

Brace: I have been asked many times to run as a selectboard member and was asked at our Town Meeting. I feel (with) some of my knowledge in the town and of the town's history it was time for me to step up.

3. What are your thoughts on the proposed Viridis solar array off Route 22A, and what position do you think the selectboard should take?

Brace: As far as the solar Issue I feel that it is up to the townspeople to decide what they want. I don't feel that it's up to the selectboard to make this decision

De La Cruz: At this time, I don't feel I know enough about the Viridis solar project to give a full answer. I'm not opposed to renewable energy, but I recognize that this is a complex issue

that needs careful consideration. If elected, I would take the time to learn more, listen to residents, and work to make an informed decision that's best for Panton.

DeGraaf: I am happy to be involved in the progression of renewable energy but I believe it should stay local, with minimal environmental impact.

4. What other Panton issues do you feel strongly about?

De La Cruz: One issue I care a lot about is the way neighbors have become more disconnected. Years ago, if someone had a concern or question, they would go directly to their neighbor to talk about it. I feel like we've lost some of that personal connection and mutual respect. I want to help bring neighbors together again and build a stronger sense of community while also preserving the beautiful landscape that makes Panton so special.

DeGraaf: We, as a town, need to be mindful that the town's income is from our locals that are financially strained already and we need to be doing our best to keep costs and spending as low as we can, while maintaining the quality of life that we enjoy here.

Brace: I feel there is a lot of issues in the town that the people of Panton know nothing about. I would like to see the selectboard be more upfront with the residents of Panton before they vote on issues that will affect the town. We need to cut our spending on equipment.

5. Why should people vote for you?

Brace: "You cannot put a fire out from the top. You have to start at the bottom." I believe that my opponents would also do a good job. We just bring different things to the table.

De La Cruz: People should vote for me because I love our community and will do my best to listen to residents and make thoughtful decisions. I am committed to working for Panton's best interests and making sure every voice is heard.

DeGraaf: Panton is my home, and home is where the heart is. I love this town and the people in it. I love helping people and believe I would be beneficial in maintaining the sense of community we have all grown to love.

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Bristol

(Continued from Page 1A)

couple of months by an informal group called Concerned Residents of Bristol. Kristen Underwood said they came together in February out of a concern that policy and funding changes at the federal level would have significant impacts on the Bristol community.

“We’re a nonpartisan group representing a full spectrum of ideological perspectives, from conservative to libertarian to progressive,” Underwood said. “What brought us together, and our main motivation in hosting (the two forums), is to build community across differences and enhance our local capacity to be resilient to the impacts from federal policy and funding changes and to care for the most vulnerable in our community.”

Around 140 residents turned out for the first community forum on Feb. 25.

“What we learned from that first forum was that we were not alone in our concerns,” Underwood said. “People needed and wanted to gather in community to share their concerns, their reactions and some ideas.”

Similar to the first event, residents on Tuesday heard from a handful of speakers working in areas like healthcare, library services and politics.

MIGRANT WORKERS

Among the invited guests was Dan Baker of Starksboro, a research professor at the University of Vermont who works for UVM Extension’s Department of Community Development and Applied Economics. He’s been working with Vermont’s migrant farmworkers for over 20 years through various action research projects.

Trump campaigned on promises of carrying out mass deportations of immigrants living in the United States without legal permission, a category that includes some migrant farmworkers around the state.

“In Vermont, in New York and the whole United States, our dairy system depends on migrant farmworkers,” he said. “Right now, we have not seen widespread raids on dairy farms. We know that vulnerability exists ... we know that the workers are vulnerable, and we also know that the dairy farms are vulnerable, and so there’s this tension right now about whether or not the Trump Administration is going to do something that could conceivably collapse the U.S. dairy industry.”

Baker referenced the April 21 arrest of eight migrant workers at Pleasant Valley Farms in Franklin County.

“That has sent shockwaves and fear throughout the dairy industry,” he said.

He noted one thing Vermonters can do is be prepared to be a witness.

“We don’t know when an incident is going to be happening or where it’s going to be happening, but documenting what happened and everything that you can note about the incident is one of the things that we should all be prepared to do and can do going forward,” Baker said. “As we all know, agents are really doing everything not to let you know what happened, and so as citizens we want to be assisting by actually seeing what did happen.”

LIBRARIES, HEALTH

Attendees also heard from Katie Male-Riordan, director at Bristol’s Lawrence Memorial Library. She pointed to a March 14 executive order that called for significant reductions in the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which provides funding to the Vermont Department of Libraries that in turn that supports programs and services at libraries around the state.

“(On April 24), we did get notice that the Department of Libraries received a notification that they would be receiving partial funding of that state grant,” Male-Riordan said.

She expressed concern over Acting Director of IMLS Keith Sonderling asking state library departments to share whether and how federal taxpayer dollars “have been or are still being used to subsidize programs that conflict with a myriad of executive orders,” including orders on “Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing,” and “Ending

Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling.”

“Libraries are also places of freely accessible information and the request for state libraries to comply with executive orders that ask for the removal of free expression because it doesn’t align with the current political agenda is antithetical to the values of libraries and our democracy,” she said. “While it’s not yet directed at individual libraries, this request for assurances will play into the landscape of library services, and I fear for how it will negatively affect library staff’s ability to feel confident and safe in performing the duties entrusted to them.”

Other speakers expressed unease over how potential future federal funding cuts would hinder the services their organizations provide. Heidi Melbostad, CEO of Bristol’s Mountain Community Health, noted that about 60% of the Federally Qualified Health Center’s annual budget comes from federal sources in the form of grants and Medicaid reimbursement.

“If federal funding is cut for us and our reimbursement rate remains stagnant, our ability to serve this community is really in jeopardy,” she said. “Our current operating margins are very, very thin, and honestly, we are barely able to make ends meet right now, so cuts could mean fewer services for the community, it could mean fewer providers and it means that the unmet healthcare needs in this area are only going to increase.”

Nonetheless, Melbostad said the organization has decided to double down rather than retreat in the face of chaos spurred on by federal actions.

“We believe that our community, all of you, need us more than ever, and so we want to provide services,” she said. “What that means is we’re actually increasing some of our services. It means that we’re prioritizing care for some of our most vulnerable and marginalized patients. It means that we’re increasing and deepening our partnerships with community partners. It means that we’re doing more advocacy, we’re doing more grant writing, we’re doing more fundraising.”

COLLECTIVE ACTION

A good portion of the evening was spent in small groups. Three residents discussed things going well, the impacts of policies and federal actions, and collective action that could be taken in areas such as migrant communities/agriculture, education, and affordability/food insecurity.

Small group leaders shared some of the takeaways from those discussions, which included organizing a local group that could respond to future extreme

weather events in light of potential changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency and making farmers markets more accessible to low-income community members.

In a pre-recorded video created for the event, U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., encouraged residents to pick an issue they feel passionately about, take action and educate themselves.

“Knowledge is power; that’s why you’re all here. With education and knowledge, you can advocate for real solutions for your community,” Balint said. “We are the ones who will push the needle on issues like healthcare, racial justice, climate action and economic equity, and while it may seem like the forces against us are powerful, remember this: We are a movement, and movements can topple regimes.”

That idea of resilience was one repeated throughout the evening, particularly when acknowledging the current and potential obstacles that lay ahead.

“In 2025, we’re standing on the shoulders of people who dealt with some pretty hard things,” Bruce Duncan, one of the event’s facilitators, said. “Vermont is resilient. We have that in us, and we have to believe in each other and believe in ourselves.”

Town of Monkton gears up for Green Up

MONKTON — There may be snow in the forecast, but spring really is coming. Make plans to join neighbors, friends, and family to Green Up Monkton.

Monkton’s Green Up will be like previous years. Residents can Green Up when their schedule allows. The usual paper sign-up sheet and map will be available to allow volunteers to select road sections so everyone knows which roads are already “claimed” and which roads are still open and begging for a facelift.

Pick up Green Up bags and sign up for a route at Monkton Town Hall, available any time Town Hall is open through closing time on May 2. On Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. until noon, people can sign up and pick up bags and gloves at the Park and Ride on Monkton Road next to the school. Even with busy schedules participants can Green Up anytime, up to and including Green-Up Saturday.

Be sure to pick up special Green Up Day bags. Waste in other types of bags will not be accepted for free disposal at the Transfer Station, or counted in our town totals.

Additional Ways to Participate:

- Volunteer groups that want to participate on a Green Up project, can reach out to the Green Up organizers for help planning their efforts.
- Residents with trucks can help with final pickup of roadside

bags and bring them to the Town Garage Saturday afternoon through Sunday.

Those with any questions or would like to volunteer to help distribute bags at the Park and Ride on Saturday morning, or just need to get more information, can email Deb at dgaynor@monktonvt.com

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and **connection** during mental
health awareness month.



Tuesday, May 20, 6:30PM
Middlebury Union High School Auditorium

Me2/
Classical Music
for Mental Health



Me2/ (“me, too”), the world’s only classical music organization created for individuals with mental illnesses and the people who support them, was founded in 2011 in Burlington by **Music Director Ronald Braunstein and Executive Director Caroline Whiddon**. Me2/’s mission: to erase the stigma surrounding mental illness (including addiction) through supportive classical music rehearsals and inspiring performances. Me2/ serves as a model organization where **people with and without mental illnesses work together in an environment where acceptance is an expectation, patience is encouraged, and supporting each other is a priority**.

This event is about bringing people together to enjoy incredible music and raise awareness about mental health. CSAC provides developmental, youth and family, mental health, and substance use services to the community, serving about two-thousand individuals annually. Our work goes beyond providing care and services. **We are committed to creating spaces where everyone in Addison County feels welcome, supported, and connected**. This performance is a wonderful reflection of our deep belief that **building a healthy, vibrant community is a collaborative effort**. — *Rachel Lee, Executive Director, Counseling Service of Addison County*

Use the QR code or go to www.csac-vt.org to get your free tickets. For questions or to reserve accessible seating, contact btarallo@csac-vt.org

www.csac-vt.org 89 Main Street, Middlebury | 802-388-6751 **24/7 Emergency & Crisis Services | 802-388-7641**



Ripton, Salisbury school transition advances

By JOHN FLOWERS
RIPTON/SALISBURY

Addison Central School District officials continue to prepare the next school year that will see Ripton’s K-5 students attend classes at Salisbury Community School, which is currently recruiting a new principal.

As previously reported by the *Independent*, the ACSD board last month voted to at least temporarily shutter Ripton Elementary School due to declining enrollment. Ripton’s anticipated K-5 population of around 20 students will be bused down Route 125 and Route 7 to the Salisbury school, which has the capacity to accommodate them.

In a recent email to the Salisbury community, Salisbury Principal Bjarki Sears said the influx of Ripton kids would take the school’s total enrollment to the “low- to mid-80s.” Having a larger student body will

ensure all single-grade classrooms next year, he added.

“Over the next month and a half, we will be offering opportunities for Ripton families to come visit and connect — especially in May, when we’d like to host at least one ‘Community Potluck and Open House,’” Sears stated. “We hope Salisbury families will join us in welcoming the new members of our learning community.”

Sears has also served notice he won’t be leading Salisbury Community School after July 1. After three years helming the school — while simultaneously leading Ripton Elementary this year — Sears has

decided to return to the classroom. Next year he will resume teaching a social studies class called “Individuals and Societies,” this time at Middlebury Union Middle School. He previously taught that course for 16 years at Middlebury Union High School.

“I have deeply enjoyed being the principal of Salisbury, and I will always feel incredibly connected with, and grateful to, this community,” Sears said. “At the same time, I really enjoy teaching (it’s why I got into education in the first place), and it’s the job that really fits me. I am fortunate to be able to go back to it in our district — the place where I have been working for two decades.”

The search to find Sears’s successor is well underway. Candidates had until April 18 to apply. A Screening Committee was due to interview hopefuls this week.

Candidates who advance through the screening will be invited to return to Salisbury school in early May to tour the building, and meet staff and families. Superintendent Wendy Baker is expected to recommend a preferred candidate to the ACSD board in mid-May.

Meanwhile, the ACSD will hire an independent consultant to help the district weigh uses for the soon-to-bevacant Ripton Elementary building. Baker estimated it will cost around \$3,500 for the consultant’s work. According to draft minutes from the ACSD board’s April 14 meeting, Baker suggested the feasibility study would include an up-to-date population analysis, discussions with the Ripton selectboard and planning commission about plans for development that might impact future use, an investigation of potential reuse options, and community input.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
Green Up Day. Find out details online at greenup.powershift.info/you-can-make-a-difference or just go out and pick up along our roads.

State Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, has organized a Saturday, May 10, community forum that will focus on legislative efforts to transform Vermont’s public education system. The Democrat-controlled Legislature and Republican Gov. Phil Scott have released dueling proposals that seek to reduce the costs of public education while improving student performance. While the proposals differ in several ways, they both suggest a dramatic reduction in the number of school districts in the Green Mountain State and establishing minimum class sizes. The leading bill — H.454 — passed the House on April 11 and is being taken up in the Senate. The May 10 forum — set for 10 a.m. to noon at Vergennes Union High School — will feature Hardy, a member of the Senate Finance Committee; state Sen. Steve Heffernan, R-Bristol, a member of the Senate Education Committee; and Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, who chairs the House Education Committee.

At last week’s Boston Marathon, Burlington’s Edie Perkins — executive director of the Kelly Brush Foundation — took second in what is one of hand cycling’s most prestigious events. Perkins finished just three-tenths of a second behind the winner of the race, JoaAnn Outten-Kenton. The Kelly Brush Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to empowering those with spinal cord injury with ownership of adaptive sports equipment and by improving safety in the sport of ski racing. The foundation has raised millions to help people purchase adaptive sports equipment. Kelly Brush and her family launched the foundation in 2006 after Kelly sustained a spinal cord injury while racing as a member of the Middlebury College ski team.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) wants to put you in the right frame of mind. CSAC will present “Me2/Classical Music for Mental Health” — an evening of classical music and connection, on Tuesday May 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Middlebury Union High School Auditorium. Me2/ (“me, too”) is the world’s only classical music organization

will host a pop-up market and free training event on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will be held at MREMS headquarters at 55 Collins Drive. The pop-up market will feature local vendors offering a variety of items, including flowers and plants for Mother’s Day, hand-crafted gifts and artisanal food items. After shopping, join MREMS staff for free community focused First Aid training. MREMS will have one of its ambulances open for children and adults to tour in its “Touch a Truck” event. Want to reserve a table for your business or organization free of charge? Contact Kate Rothwell at krothwell@middleburyems.com. Learn more and RSVP at middlebury911.org/maymarket.

The Middlebury nonprofit Charter House Coalition, which serves people experiencing homelessness in Addison County, is seeking candidates for its board of directors. The organization’s signature charitable service is its Charter House Emergency Shelter at 27 N. Pleasant St. Charter House’s skilled staff provide emergency shelter, meals and social support services to help guests find stable housing, improved health and employment. It’s incredibly rewarding work, replete with celebrations, challenges, heartbreak and laughter along the way. The Charter House board is a collegial and collaborative group of professionals from diverse backgrounds who meet monthly in Middlebury. If you’d like to learn more, go to chevt.org.

The Salisbury Conservation Commission has established a conservation fund separate from the town’s annual budget. The fund was seeded with the winnings from a Lake Dunmore ice-out contest a few years back. It has since increased with contributions and a match from by Christine and Preston Turner, and now amounts to \$6,400. The commission would like to build up this fund so the town might be able in the future to acquire conservation easements or properties of special conservation interest. The conservation commission, for a limited time, has agreed to match contributions up to a total of \$5,000. If you’re interested in contributing to the fund in any amount, contact the Salisbury town offices at 802-352-4228.

Middlebury Tree Committee

ARBOR DAY 2025

Celebrate Trees

Saturday, May 3

10AM-1PM

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Questions: middleburytreecommittee@gmail.com

This year Arbor Day is Friday, May 2nd. Arbor Day is intended to help bring awareness about how to conserve and protect trees and forests.

Sunday, May 4

10AM-Noon

MIDDLEBURY STUDIO SCHOOL Marbleworks, 63 Maple St.

FREE drop-in art activity for all ages!

4PM

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Middlebury

(Continued from Page 1A)
and/or a speed table to calm traffic in that crossing area.

Also as part of this project is the reconstruction of the turning lane at the intersection of Middle Road and Court Street Extension. This will entail excavating the base of the turn lane, replacing it with more resilient material, and then repaving that portion of the lane.

Middlebury has earmarked \$455,779 of its federal American Rescue Plan Act funds toward the estimated \$800,000 cost of the Middle Road North project, according to Cherington.

“This project will serve a large population of the community, while also making great improvements to the town’s infrastructure,” she said, adding the goal is to get the work done during the MUMS summer break months.

HALLADAY ROAD
Also figuring prominently on this year’s public works to do-list is the reclamation of Halladay Road, from its northern intersection with Route 7 to just south of Middle Road South. “Reclamation,” according to Cherington, means the road will be rebuilt using materials from its existing pavement surface and base.

In advance of the project, the town will make drainage improvements to Halladay Road through the installation of ditches and culverts, where needed.

The portion of Halladay Road *not* involved in the reclamation process will receive a shim and overlay treatment, Cherington noted.

PAVING PROJECTS
And speaking on paving, the following roads are slated for 2.25 inches of pavement to increase their structural integrity: Otterside Court, Chipman Heights, Upper Plains Road, Schoolhouse Hill Road, the “Warming Hut Road” in

the town’s recreation park, Short Shannon Street, Boardman Street (east), and Pond Lane.

Cherington said she’s keeping a close eye on potential tariff-related jumps in paving costs. At this point, town officials are figuring a 20% increase compared to last year.

This summer will also see construction of new stormwater treatment system to treat impervious surfaces on the Mary Hogan Elementary School property. The project will use the Mary Hogan parking lot for a subsurface sand-chamber system, with construction of two bioretention areas (essentially rain gardens with extra drainage provisions) near the skating rink and municipal pool.

One of this summer’s chores will unfold in the water, in the Middlebury River. Flooding during the summer of 2023 ripped away some of the steel sheets fortifying the structure.

“Part of the project will get those sheets reattached to the floodwall, and we’re working to stabilize a highly erodible slope and just downstream of there,” Cherington said.

The project has been put out to bid and will be funded with a \$519,000 grant through U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Emergency Watershed Program.

Off the beaten path, workers this summer will begin site work in anticipation of the new, 1.3-million-gallon municipal water storage tank that will be installed on Chipman Hill. The new tank will be installed next to the current, 1.5-million-gallon tank that currently delivers water to Middlebury’s 6,000 year-round consumers.

It was on Town Meeting Day of 2023 that Middlebury residents voted 948-102 in favor of the new water tank. A state inspection in 2017 found the current Chipman Hill water storage facility lacking in its ability to meet average-day demands. At the same time, the state ordered the town to build additional capacity into its municipal water system.

The town received \$1 million from Northern Borders Regional Commission towards the anticipated \$3.7 million cost of the project.

Cherington anticipates construction on the new water town tank will begin next spring.

LOOKING AHEAD
Middlebury DPW officials are working on additional projects that will become shovel-ready next year. They include the final phase of the multi-year South Street stormwater/sewer line replacement project.

“We will be putting out the final phase of work this fall for Spring 2026 construction,” Cherington said. “The work will include replacing the storm and sewer systems from Chipman Park south, to South Main Street. Work will also include two traffic-calming bump-outs, one with stormwater treatment, (along with) curb replacement and final paving.”

The town will continue to work with Wright Pierce Engineering on the design of the \$49.5 million in Middlebury wastewater treatment plant upgrades and renovations that voters OK’d earlier this year.

“Over the next two years, the town will continue to work with the engineering team to develop the most cost-effective solutions to achieve our wastewater treatment needs,” said Cherington, who at this point estimates the wastewater treatment plant will be under construction in 2028.

This summer will also see construction of new stormwater treatment system to treat impervious surfaces on the Mary Hogan Elementary School property.

Andrews tapped for SpIN award

RIPTON — Jim Andrews of Salisbury has been communicating his love of the reptiles and amphibians of Vermont for much of his life. He has researched their distribution and abundance in Vermont and organized many activities and presentations in an effort to help protect herptiles and their habitat for decades.

The Board of Trustees of Spirit In Nature will honor Andrews as the recipient of this year’s SpIN Eco-Spirit Award at their Annual Meeting at the Ripton Community House on Sunday, May 18. Andrews is probably best known as the creator and driving force behind the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, which for over 30 years has involved the public in compiling and presenting information about the variety of species of reptiles and amphibians that share our Vermont lands with us.

Andrews grew up in Addison County, in a family engaged with natural history, with plenty of time spent outdoors hunting, fishing, and observing the abundant lives of different species. Though he was fascinated by all of them, he says, “I became aware that reptiles and amphibians weren’t getting the attention that birds and other wildlife were. We didn’t even have a list of all of the species of reptiles and



JIM ANDREWS

amphibians in Vermont. So I figured, that’s where I can make a useful contribution — nobody else has done it.”

But how exactly to investigate and document what species are in Vermont, and where they are living? Andrews organized citizen science programs for people to learn about these species so that they themselves can document what is in their own areas. By making connections — including holding the creatures in their hands — people learn to care about them and the habitats they need to survive and thrive. From that connection and knowledge comes the motivation to act to protect these turtles, snakes, lizards, frogs, and salamanders. For example,

Andrews organizes “educational crossing nights” for groups who want to learn about nighttime seasonal migrations to and from breeding areas such as vernal pools, swamps, and ponds. Andrews has also helped design wildlife tunnels under roads not only for reptiles and amphibians, but also for a wide variety of species to get safely across roads that cut through their migratory paths.

Andrews will receive his award at the SpIN annual meeting at the Ripton Community House from 3 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 18. In keeping with his life as a public educator and guide to knowledge about and protection of Vermont’s reptiles and amphibians, Andrews will give a short presentation at the award ceremony. He will share some of the experiences he has had introducing others to Vermont’s reptiles and amphibians. Preceding the meeting, naturalist Craig Zondag will lead a guided walk on some of the SpIN paths. The walk will start at 1:30 p.m. To join the walk, meet at the SpIN parking lot just off the Goshen Road in Ripton. Members of the public are invited to attend any or all of the events; SpIN events are always open to all, free of charge.

Midd, Vergennes to host job fairs

VERMONT — The Vermont Department of Labor will host several spring job fairs around Vermont this spring. Each job fair offers job seekers the opportunity to connect directly with local employers.

Locally, one job fair will take place in Middlebury, and another one will be in Vergennes.

These hiring events are free and open to the public. Employers interested in participating in a job fair should sign up at labor.

vermont.gov/event-types/job-fairs.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Vermont has approximately 17,000 available jobs. No matter your skill set, there are opportunities for everyone, and the Department of Labor is committed to linking job seekers with employers.

Individuals needing assistance with resume preparation, interview skills, or job search strategies are encouraged to visit their local Vermont Job Center ahead of time

for one-on-one assistance. To find a local job center, go to labor.vermont.gov/locations.

In Middlebury, the job center is at 156 South Village Green, Suite 101. Talk to a counselor as a walk-in, by appointment or in the DOL’s virtual service, on Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m.-noon, and 1-4 p.m. On Fridays appointments can be made from 9 a.m.-noon, and 1-4 p.m.

“Whether you’re entering (See Job fair, Page 14A)

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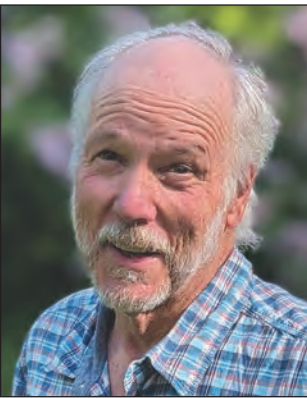
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MAUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)
whole bunch of decisions,” school board member and state Rep. Herb Olson said of the directive. “I think it’ll be important for each of the committees to try to figure out what’s going on over there; what’s going on at the state level, not to mention the federal level, and try to deal with it the best we can.”

Jipner offered examples of what that work could look like in each committee, such as having the Finance & Facilities Committee look through “anything that came up in the past in terms of what might be viable for options for how our district could look; what our facilities could be used for.”

The board’s Community Engagement Committee could take what the district has heard from local residents about their expectations of schools and pair that information with the district’s ongoing work with UP For Learning, Jipner said. UP for Learning is guiding the district through a multi-phase visioning process to help the learning community develop a “Portrait of a Learner” and new strategic plan.



“I think it’s really timely to do this, as Montpelier is making a whole bunch of decisions. I think it’ll be important for each of the committees to try to figure out what’s going on over there; what’s going on at the state level, not to mention the federal level, and try to deal with it the best we can.”

— Rep. Herb Olson

Jipner noted the board’s Policy and Governance Committee could dig into the district’s policies and Articles of Agreement, “being really prepared with those in terms of what the board has leeway to do and what we don’t and if there needs to be any flexibility baked into those.”

A couple board members noted some of that work is already underway in committees.

“I think the Finance and Facilities Committee has already taken that charge, and we’re running with it,” school board member Kathi Apgar said.

IN MONTPELIER
The school board also discussed ongoing policy discussions in Montpelier, particularly over H.454 and the future of Vermont’s education system.

Superintendent Patrick Reen noted that bill has passed through the House and moved on to the Senate.

“(There’s) a lot of wondering about what modifications, I guess I’ll say, to that bill will happen as it works through the Senate,” Reen said. “I think there’s

some speculation that there will be significant modification, which will likely then lead to a conference committee coming together ... to see if they can land on something that both sides agree to.”

Components of the bill include moving to a foundation formula to fund schools and establishing class-size minimums.

“We’ve been looking at, a little more closely, the impact locally of (H. 454), in particular the finance and the class size,” Reen said.

He said the MAUSD is fairly close to meeting the class size requirements outlined in the bill, though there are other areas where the district falls a student under the average.

Reen emphasized that, at this point in time, it’s really challenging to calculate the local impact of enacting a foundation formula. Though, applying that formula to the district’s current budget and pupil count indicated there’d be a “pretty significant impact, negatively, on MAUSD.”

Reen expressed support for the state moving to a foundation formula but acknowledged how doing so would affect MAUSD, which now spends above what a foundation formula would likely allow.

“I’m in favor of a foundation formula for what it will do to achieve equity around the state ... (which) I think is important, and that I think we don’t meet right now,” Reen said. “And it will have an impact here.”

Olson shared a similar sentiment and noted that now is the time for school officials to offer feedback on the bill if they choose to do so.

Schools

(Continued from Page 1A)
stakeholders have spent the early spring looking at two main options for the schools going forward:

- **Option A:** Beginning this fall, both Bridport Central School (BCS) and Shoreham Elementary School (SES) would each operate three classrooms for grades K/1, one for grades 2/3 and one for grades 4/5. It would be the first year ever that neither school would have at least one class with single-grade instruction.

- **Option B** called for a comingling of students from both communities that would allow each school to offer three classes of single-grade instruction.

BCS currently serves 47 students, a number set to slide to 42 children next year, according to district projections.

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

Realizing that a major organizational shakeup at both schools needed buy-in from constituents, Baker, BCS Principal Pricipal Jennifer Urban and Shoreham Principal Lashawn Whitmore-Sells put together three public forums and conducted surveys.

Forty-five Bridport families and 40 Shoreham families were asked to declare a preference for option A or B. Respondents from both communities (65% in Bridport, 67% in Shoreham) endorsed option A — maintaining local instruction with multi-age grouping.

Only 15% of Bridport respondents and 19% of Shoreham respondents picked option B — sharing students among both schools to ensure single-grade

instruction.

Parents of the youngest students overwhelming (at least 75%) picked option A, while a plurality of parents of the older students (grades 3-5) also favored that option (50%).

While ACSD officials said the district would sort out busing if option B was picked, some parents were concerned about transportation and a change to their children’s scholastic routine. The distance between the two schools is 6.8 miles via Route 22A.

“(Some respondents) cited a strong desire for stability, sibling continuity, and familiarity with their current school environment,” Baker wrote in her report. “Some raised questions about how teaching and learning could be supported in multi-grade settings within affordability constraints. A smaller number of families supported option B or suggested alternative considerations.”

Other Bridport/Shoreham families’ suggestions, according to Baker, included comments such as: “leave it alone,” “reassess after one year,” “consider closing one building,” “explore magnet or thematic programs,” and “send the students to (Middlebury’s) Mary Hogan Elementary School.”

A majority of a combined 25 staff members surveyed from both schools chose option B, saying that single grades would allow for better student rapport, align better with state and ACSD curriculum standards, allow for more focused instruction, minimize “curriculum blending” issues in classrooms, and provide more chances for students to “expand socially,” according to Baker’s report.

Incidentally, option B was more highly touted by Bridport staff/educators than their Shoreham counterparts.

LEARNING STANDARDS

Baker stressed that student performance should be the major driver in how both schools are organized. She pointed to the success target for student achievement established by the ACSD School Board in its Strategic Plan. That plan, approved in October 2023, prescribed a goal that 80% of students

will demonstrate success in meeting Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program standards as assessed by the end of 2029.

According to ACSD, 85% of Bridport’s grades 3-5 students weren’t meeting VTCAP math standards during the spring of 2024, while 77% of Shoreham students didn’t meet the standards. You can find more of this ACSD student-performance data at tinyurl.com/4r53mvwu.

“In addition to higher standards, both school instability and classroom assignment instability leading to curricular gaps have contributed to the student achievement challenges we are presently working to address,” Baker stated in her report. “Important steps schools can take to allow for students to achieve more than a year’s worth of growth is to provide teachers with stable teaching assignments and adequate training to incorporate new performance expectations. It is easiest for teachers to manage the implementation of new training and higher student performance expectations when teaching single-grade classrooms.”

What happens next for Bridport and Shoreham elementary students, educators and families?

Based on the feedback she received, Baker is recommending:

- Proceed with option A for the 2025-26 school year, while “providing short term support where possible to classrooms as they transition to higher academic expectations in a multi-grade configuration.”

- Use this latest report to continue to “review new understandings, key themes and new ideas raised through our process so far with the Shoreham and Bridport school communities.” Baker pointed to an upcoming May 8 public meeting at 6 p.m. at Shoreham Elementary at which the report will be discussed and future Shoreham/Bridport partnerships will be considered.

- This coming June: The ACSD will start working with Bridport and Shoreham parents to consider bigger changes starting in 2026-27. The possibilities include relocating BCS’s preK program to SES; expanding preK programming at SES to avoid the need for a waitlist; inviting an Early Head Start (birth to age 3) and Head Start partnership within SES; and co-locating Bridport and Shoreham students and staff at BCS.

Plans call for district officials in October to present the ACSD board with “detailed proposals” for BCS and SES operations going forward.

“Better community communication will help bring us together in support of students moving forward,” Baker concluded. “It will be important that we strengthen the connection between the district, parents, staff and communities as we make important decisions on behalf of our students.”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Job fair

(Continued from Page 14A)

the workforce for the first time, looking for a new opportunity, or exploring a career change, these events provide direct access to hiring managers and valuable job resources. We encourage all Vermonters to take advantage of these opportunities and take the next step in their career journey,” said Labor Commissioner Michael Harrington.

Job fairs in Addison County will be:

- Middlebury, Thursday, May 1, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Middlebury Rec. Center, 154 Creek Road.
- Vergennes, Thursday, June 5, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Northlands Job Corps, 100A MacDonough Drive.

A job fair will be held in Rutland on Thursday, May 8, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Depot Park, 49 Evelyn St.

For more information, visit labor.vermont.gov or contact the Department of Labor at 802-828-4000.

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Motorcyclists driving negligently draw police

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police tried to stop a group of motorcyclists who were riding in what police described as a “grossly negligent manner” near the intersection of Route 7 and Cady Road on April 22. Police said the motorcyclists sped away from the scene.

In other action last week, Middlebury police conducted downtown foot patrols on April 23 and 25, and also:

- Received a report that a mental health patient had left Porter Hospital without permission on April 21. Police said the patient eventually returned to the hospital.
- Responded to a dispute between two Case Street residents on April 21.
- Along with Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) and Vergennes police, helped a man who had fallen in John Graham Court on April 21.
- Helped first responders get inside a locked Seminary Street apartment to access a patient on April 21.
- Assisted a local resident on April 22 who had been targeted by a phone scam.
- Responded to a juvenile disturbance at Mary Hogan Elementary School on April 22.
- Investigated a report of a man yelling at a landscaper in a Court Street parking lot on April 23.
- Received a request on April 23 for increased police presence on Seminary Street Extension (near Foote Street), in connection with reports of speeding vehicles in that area.
- On April 23, helped an East Middlebury resident who had been receiving harassing phone calls.
- Cited Jean M. Clark, 74, of Bristol for driving with a criminally suspended license, following a traffic stop on Mead Lane on April 23.
- Assisted Vermont State Police in investigating a crash on Route

Middlebury Police Log

30 in Cornwall on April 24.

- Spoke on April 24 with some people who were congregating under the Cross Street Bridge and advised them of the town’s open container law.
- Responded to a reported dispute between some North Pleasant Street neighbors on April 24.
- Responded to a report of fishing gear falling out of a truck on North Pleasant Street on April 25. Officers found the equipment and took it to the police station.
- Got psychiatric help for a suicidal person on Commodore Way on April 26.
- Responded to a reported domestic dispute in the College Street area on April 27.
- Responded, with MREMS, to a medical emergency in the Munson Road area on April 27.
- Connected, to Counseling Service of Addison County officials, a local person who was considering self-harm on April 27.
- Investigated a report of a person driving erratically near the intersection of Route 7 and Lower Foot Street on April 27.
- Helped a motorist whose vehicle had broken down on Main Street on April 27.
- Investigated a report on April 27 that two portable toilets were on fire near the Frank Mahady Courthouse.
- Gave a courtesy ride to a discharged Porter Hospital patient who had no other ride home on April 27.
- Investigated a reported of a potential break-in at a Jayne Court apartment on April 27.
- Assisted state police in trying to locate a vehicle that had been involved in a crash in Cornwall on April 27.

Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — Vergennes police between April 21 and 27 dealt with issues related to homeless individuals, sparring former couples, and juveniles allegedly harassing neighbors.

Actions included conducting 18 traffic stops, eight cruiser patrols, responding to two false alarms and processing three fingerprint requests. Police also:

On April 21:

- Printed out a report on a 2022 theft case for a citizen.
- Took a complaint from a Main Street resident that a television station had filmed his truck outside his residence. Police said the complaint was unverifiable and unfounded.
- Issued restorative justice paperwork to Timothy Farr, 71, unhoused with a last known address of Middlebury, after determining he had in the previous two days allegedly slept without permission in a Monkton Road garage, unlawfully entered a car parked at Vergennes Union High School, and slept without permission on a

nearby porch. Police said none of the involved parties reported any damage or theft. Police said if Farr does not complete the restorative justice program, he will be cited to appear in Addison County District Court in August to answer to charges of unlawful trespass.

- At the city police station conducted a drug influence evaluation at the request of Vermont State Police following a motor vehicle crash. The evaluation concluded the driver was impaired by a substance other than alcohol.

On April 22 responded to a report of an argument between a man and a woman at New Haven Road Laundromat, but the couple left before police arrived.

On April 25:

- Went to New Haven Road to check out a report of vehicle parked in the greenspace blocking the view from the exit of a nearby driveway. The vehicle owner said he would move it shortly and not park there again.
- Checked a suspicious vehicle complaint on Main Street and found

a man pulled over to use Wi-Fi for a phone call.

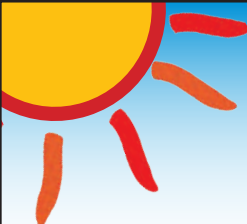
- Referred to the Addison County State’s Attorney’s Office for review an alleged violation of a relief-from-abuse order filed against the male half of a sparring couple. The case started with the man complaining his ex-wife did not show up for a custody exchange and that her new partner had made an obscene gesture at him. But police said they learned “it was not the reporting party’s scheduled weekend for parent-child contact,” and that the man’s ex-wife reported receiving text messages and an email she believed were violations of the order. Police determined the man’s son sent the email from a shared account without permission. Police said the content of the texts was allowable under the relief from abuse order, but the email was not, and contacted the state’s attorney’s office.
- Responded to a report of two juveniles engaging in disorderly conduct toward a neighbor in the city. The juveniles were accused of making obscene gestures, leaving

inappropriate notes, and during the week before pushing a neighbor’s child into the roadway. According to the police report, officers spoke with the juveniles and their guardian, advised them to avoid further contact, and counseled them on appropriate behavior. Police said both juveniles agreed to be respectful moving forward.

- Went to Basin Harbor Road in Ferrisburgh to help VSP with an argument at a home.
- Helped a motorist on Route 7 who ran out of gas by flashing cruiser lights because the vehicle was stopped partially in the roadway.

On April 27:



- Took a report from a MacDonough Drive resident of a lost driver’s license and Social Security and debit cards.
- Went to a South Maple Street home to mediate a dispute between a homeowner and a homeless person who had been allowed to stay temporarily, and then refused to leave. The person left before police arrival but was later found and told not to return to the house.



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Starksboro farmstand features diverse offerings

By MARIN HOWELL

STARKSBORO — With spring well underway, farmstands across Addison County are waking up for the season.

That’s certainly the case at Flatlander Farm in South Starksboro, which offers a year-round farmstand that features a wider variety of fresh foods during the warmer months. Goods stocked in the stand include the pasture-raised eggs from chicken and geese that Lisa Burritt Drinkwine and Keith Drinkwine tend to at their small poultry operation.

Keith said the pair opened the farmstand in 2019 to reduce the burden of needing to travel to farmers markets to sell goods, as well as to better serve the community and create a destination for products from Flatlander and neighboring farms.

“The farmstand has been amazing for us, getting folks to our property so that they can see what we do,” he told the *Independent*. “Being here in a bit of a remote spot, we’re very close to (the Jerusalem Country Store) but just having kind of a hub, a spot for people to come in as they are passing through, locals and visitors, has been really great for us as well as the people’s products

(featured in the farmstand).”

Flatlander’s farmstand is located on the farm at **2148 Route 17** and open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visitors can find all sorts of frozen and fresh options inside, including beef, falafel and bean burgers, maple products and Flatlander Farm’s Mountain Elderberry Syrup, which Lisa makes.

The farmstand is also filled with locally-grown produce and goods from other area producers that Flatlander sources through the ACORN Food Hub. The food hub, housed in a warehouse on Middlebury’s Exchange Street and used by some other farmstands as well, offers an online market that allows buyers to “source food products from diverse local producers using a one-stop shop all on one invoice.”

Keith said Flatlander Farm began purchasing from the food hub around two years ago. He noted that the food hub allows the farm to see and source more products than it’d be able to on its own.

“Addison County is kind of a big county geographically, so it’s nice to have that wide range of products, being introduced to new products too,” he explained. “There’s a lot of folks doing amazing things in the local food scene and even as



KEITH DRINKWINE STANDS with one of his sons outside the Flatlander Farm farmstand that his family operates in South Starksboro. Many farmstands around Addison County are opening up for the season.
Photo courtesy of Flatlander Farm

Purchasing goods through the food hub offers a simpler way to access various produce and products from local farms, Keith added.

“On the management side, it’s really convenient. There’s always the hesitation to bring on a new item, not because of the relationship but because of the management,” he said.

When placing orders for the upcoming season, Keith said the pair reflects on what went well in the prior year, what visitors were asking for, and then makes a roadmap for the season.

Some of the items Flatlander sources through the food hub for its farmstand include bagged greens, tofu from Vermont Soy in Hardwick, and dried herb mixes from Free Verse Farm and Apothecary in Chelsea.

More recently, Flatlander’s farmstand has also featured homemade bread and baked goods like honey lemon lavender cake. Lisa noted in a recent newsletter that the farm is hoping to offer bread and other treats in the stand on a regular basis.

For more on Flatlander Farm and the goods that await visitors in its farmstand, visit www.flatlanderfarm.com.

ingrained and in tune as we hope to be, we’re always surprised by new items and offerings that we’re not aware of.”

Local farms net business enhancement grants

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — Two Addison County farms were among 18 businesses around the state recently awarded a total of \$679,095 through the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative.

The initiative, created by the Legislature in 2012, invests around \$1 million into Vermont agricultural and forestry businesses each year. The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative and its governing board are intended to “stimulate economic development in the agricultural and forestry sectors.”

Part of that work includes providing access to capital, such as through Business Enhancement Grants that support projects in areas like workforce training or infrastructure development.

This year’s grantees included

Lower Notch Berry Farm in Bristol, which received \$31,763 to build a barn with wash and pack facility and cold storage. Also, Panton’s Agricola Farm received \$43,472 that will help support the growth of its operation.

Alessandra Rellini and her husband, Stefano Pinna, co-own Agricola Farm and its sister company, Monti Verdi. The pair raises pigs, sheep and other animals at their diversified farm in Panton and produces Italian-style cured meats through Monti Verdi in New Haven.

Rellini said the Business Enhancement Grant will help expand the company’s processing capacity.

“We have recently started selling in stores outside of New England. We are in Florida and we

are trying to get into the markets in Colorado and California,” she told the *Independent*. “The grant has helped us purchase equipment and expand our production. Also, we are expanding and remodeling some of the barn structures so we can host more pigs.”

Rellini said Agricola plans to overwinter 220 pigs, up from the around 160 the farm currently raises. She noted that to do so, it will we need to do some remodeling and will essentially turn a hoop house into a winter barn to host its sheep.

The farm’s new equipment is being built, and Rellini said Agricola hopes to have everything shipped in a few months. The team expects to reach its goal of producing more cured meats within the year and be able to house the additional pigs by this winter.

Over in Bristol, Lower Notch Farm will use the funding it received to construct a wash and pack facility. The farm grows blueberries on two acres off Lower Notch Road.

“It will be a two-bay garage structure that will have cold storage and industrial sinks and tables to process our produce and provide storage of equipment and tools and stuff like that,” co-owner Olivia Glascoe explained.

Glascoe noted the facility will provide ease of workflow and infrastructure for processing berries. The building is expected to be delivered in late June.

“We’re really grateful to receive a grant this year with all the change, and it’s definitely going to help our business move forward,” Glascoe said.

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SPORTS

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- School News
- Classifieds
- Legal Notices
- Police Logs



EAGLE JACKSON LEMARCHE focuses hard on the task as he takes to the air in the pole vault competition during Tuesday's track & field meet at Mount Abraham Union High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

Eagle track and field teams win at own meet
Mount Abe and Commodore athletes submit many strong performances

By ANDY KIRKALDY
BRISTOL — The host Mount Abraham Union High School earned solid victories on Tuesday in both the girls' and boys' sides in a three-team track and field meet attended by Vergennes and smaller Randolph contingent.

The Eagle boys prevailed with 185.9 points, followed by VUHS with 114 and Randolph with 83.5. The Eagle girls' team rolled with 182 points, followed by VUHS with 134 and Randolph with just four.

Middlebury had been scheduled to attend, but opted not to.

The Eagle boys won seven events, four of them by Truman Sawyer — one hurdling and all three jumping events.

The Commodores placed in a number of events, but won only two: Grey Fearon claimed the 400-meter race, and teammate Caleb Hatch prevailed at 1,500 meters.

For the small Randolph contingent, George Rosalbo won two boys' sprinting events, and Zane Cooper swept the boys' throws to account for most, if not all, the Ghosts' points.

On the girls' side overall the Eagles built their winning margin in the field events, winning eight of 11 events held off the track. Meanwhile the Commodores more than held their own in footraces, winning four of seven.

Nola Roberts and Hazel Stoddard paced the Eagle girls with two wins each. The Mount Abe girls were balanced, with six athletes winning at least one event.

Georgia Kunkel won three events to lead the Commodore girls, and three other VUHS female athletes picked up one victory apiece.

BOYS' RESULTS

The winners and top five Eagle and Commodore finishers in the boys' events on Tuesday were:

- 100M: Rosalbo, Rand, 13.23;
- 2. William McLeod, MAU, 13.77.
- 200M: 1. Rosalbo, Rand, 27.60;
- 2. Elliot Senecal, MAU, 28.43; 3. Joey Maneen, VUHS, 28.64; 4. Jaret Sturtevant, MAU, 28.71; 5. McLeod, MAU, 29.28.

- 400M: 1. Grey Fearon, VUHS, 2:05.85; 2. Brody McGuire, VUHS, 2:16.33; 3. Ryan Cross, MAU, 2:54.6.

- 1500M 1. Caleb Hatch, VUHS, 4:58.64.

- 110M Hurdles. 1. Senecal, MAU, 21.00.

- 300M Hurdles: 1. Sawyer, MAU, 21.00.

(See Track, Page 4B)



EAGLE WHITNEY DYKSTRA soars through the air on the way to her victory in the triple jump at Tuesday's track & field meet at Mount Abraham Union High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Baseball

4/23 Mt. Mansfield vs MUHS.....	10-0
4/24 Burlington vs VUHS	5-1
4/24 OV vs Mt. Anthony	2-1
4/25 Colchester vs MUHS	10-0
4/29 Mt. Abe vs Spaulding	7-3
4/29 OV vs Bellows Falls	15-7
4/29 CVU vs MUHS	11-1

Softball

4/24 OV vs Rutland	20-7
4/25 Colchester vs MUHS	12-0
4/29 MUHS vs CVU	20-5
4/29 Bellows Falls vs OV	5-4
4/29 Mt. Abe vs Spaulding	12-0

Girls' Lacrosse

4/26 MAV vs St. Albans	13-8
4/28 Rice vs MUHS	12-8
4/29 MAV at Lamolille	Postponed
4/30 MUHS at S Burlington	Late

Boys' Lacrosse

4/25 OV at Hartford	Canceled
4/28 MUHS vs. St. Albans	14-2
4/30 S. Burlington at MUHS	Late
4/30 MAV at OV	Canceled

Boys' Tennis

4/28 MUHS vs S. Burlington	6-1
4/30 Rice at MUHS	Late

Girls' Tennis

4/28 MUHS vs N Country	4-3
4/30 MUHS at Rice	Late

Boys' Ultimate

4/30 MUHS at CVU	Late
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COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse

4/23 Midd vs Williams	14-4
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NESCAC Playoffs

4/26 #1 Midd vs #8 Williams	16-2
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Men's Lacrosse

4/23 Williams vs Midd	12-11
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NESCAC Playoffs

4/26 #5 Midd at #4 Amherst	10-8
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Baseball

4/25 Midd vs Skidmore	13-3
4/27 Midd vs Skidmore	13-7
4/30 RPI at Midd	Late

Softball

4/26 Midd vs Colby	4-2
4/26 Colby vs Midd	6-4

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Baseball

5/1 St. Albans at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/1 OV at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM
5/1 Peoples at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/3 VUHS at Randolph	11 AM
5/5 Springfield at OV	4:30 PM
5/5 Fair Haven at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/6 Fairfax at Mt. Abe	4:30 PM
5/8 Mt. Abe at Missisquoi	4:30 PM
5/8 VUHS at Milton	4:30 PM
5/8 Enosburg at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/8 OV at Hartford	6 PM

(See Schedule, Page 3B)

Men's lax ousts Amherst in NESCAC quarterfinal

By ANDY KIRKALDY

AMHERST, Mass. — The No. 5 seeded Middlebury College men's lacrosse team outscored host No. 4 seed Amherst by 3-1 in the fourth quarter to defeat the Mammoths, 10-8, in a back-and-forth NESCAC quarterfinal on Saturday.

The 9-7 Panthers moved onto the league's final four this weekend hosted by Tufts. The Jumbos are the top-ranked team in NESCAC and in NCAA Division III, and are the defending NCAA champions. Amherst, which had been ranked No. 10 in the most recent NCAA poll, dropped to 10-5.

Middlebury will take on Tufts (16-0) at noon on Saturday, and No. 2 Bowdoin (14-2) will square

off against No. 3 Wesleyan (10-4) at 3 p.m. Saturday's winners will face off on Sunday at noon for the league playoff title and the NESCAC's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

Middlebury recently lost at Tufts, 16-11, despite a late rally. The Panthers defeated Wesleyan at home this season, 10-9, but lost to Bowdoin on the road, 13-7.

On this past Saturday, the Panthers closed the first half on a 3-1 run to take a 4-2 lead into halftime, with goals by Patrick Jamin, Finn McCarthy and James Farinacci.

The Mammoths came out hard in the third quarter, with goals by (See Men's lax, Page 2B)

Eagle baseball stems Tide

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BARRE — The Mount Abraham baseball team on Tuesday rallied for a 7-3 victory over host Spaulding, improving to 2-0 in the process.

The Eagles will next host another unbeaten team — 4-0 Otter Valley is scheduled to visit Bristol at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

On Tuesday, the Tide took a 3-0 lead into the top of the fifth inning, when the Eagles erupted for all

seven of their runs. Connor Peck keyed the uprising with a grand slam, and Evan Corrigan poked a two-run double. Aricin Griffin contributed to the Eagle offense with a double and a single.

Stefan Johnson earned the pitching win with 3.1 innings of scoreless relief work in a game that was called in the top of the sixth inning due to darkness.

Rice gets past MUHS girls' lax

By ANDY KIRKALDY

SOUTH BURLINGTON — Host Rice outlasted the Middlebury Union High School girls' lacrosse team, 12-8, on Tuesday. The Tigers' record in what has been a weather-plagued early season evened at 1-1.

The Tigers were set to visit South Burlington on Wednesday after deadline for this issue. Up next for the team are two home games, vs. Essex on Saturday at 3 p. m. and vs. Mount Mansfield on Tuesday at

4:30 p.m.

In defeating the Tigers on Tuesday, the Green Knights got six goals from Bayleigh Clark and four from Ava Toto. Rice goalie Tayton Barrett made 10 saves.

Ada Weaver led the Tigers with four goals, and Quinn Doria scored twice. Lia Calzini and Ellie Conklin added a goal apiece, and Sarah Kent chipped in two assists. Goalie Ida Blackwell made five saves.

MAV girls' lax nets first win

VERGENNES — The Mount Abraham Vergennes girls' lacrosse team broke into the win column with a home victory, 13-8 over St. Albans on Friday, April 25

Their Tuesday game at Lamolille was postponed due to unavailability of officials.

The Commodores will look to improve their record to 2-3 when they visit Lyndon on Friday.

In their 13-8 victory over the Comets last week, five Commodores scored, led by Thompson Davis

with five goals and an assist and Meredith Dufault with three goals and assists. Esme Visco-Lyons and June Yates-Rusch each scored twice, and Callie Rule added a goal and an assist. Annika Smits stepped into the goal and made six saves in what was new coach Emiko Chrusciel's first varsity victory.

Ella Kane led the Comets with three goals, and Brealyn Fitzgerald and Dahlia Steele each scored twice. Goalie Trinity Hemond made 11 saves.



PANTHER OUTFIELDER GUS Parker reached first base on an infield hit in the fifth inning of the Middlebury baseball team's Sunday win over visiting Skidmore, but he is erased from the basepaths when the Thoroughbreds turn a crisp double play.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panther nine ready for playoffs

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — In two of their final tune-ups for the upcoming NESCAC tournament, the Middlebury College baseball team took two games from Skidmore this past weekend, 13-3 at Skidmore on Friday, and 13-7 at home on Sunday.

The two wins kept a couple of streaks alive for Coach Mike Leonard's Panthers. The two victories gave the team its seventh and eighth straight wins and

pushed Middlebury's record to 21-10, while Skidmore dropped to 18-14-2.

The other streak: The slugging Panthers had scored 11 runs or more in six straight games heading into their final regular season outing, a home game scheduled on Wednesday against RPI after the deadline for this issue.

Four of those wins came the weekend before against NESCAC teams and had clinched the NESCAC West top seed for the

league's postseason. Middlebury will host NESCAC East No. 4 seed Tufts (14-19, 6-6 NESCAC) this weekend in a best-of-three series. Saturday's doubleheader will begin at noon, with the second game to follow tentatively scheduled at 2:30 p.m. A third game, if necessary, will be Sunday at 11 a.m. Middlebury did not face Tufts during the regular season.

If they get past the Jumbos, the Panthers, who have won two of (See Skidmore, Page 3B)



MIDDLEBURY SENIOR CATCHER Ben Slaughter helps begin the Panthers' successful Sunday comeback from an early 6-0 deficit to visiting Skidmore by launching a homer with this third-inning swing.

Independent photo/Steve James

Experiences on a field trip (and other ways to learn about rivers)

Last week I went on a field trip with a class on “Water Resources and Hydrogeology” in Middlebury College’s Earth and Climate Science Department, taught by Professor Peter Ryan. We visited a small stream in Ripton—a tributary of the Middlebury River — to do baseline surveys in preparation for the removal of a derelict dam. But I’m getting ahead of myself.

One aspect of outdoor writing I most appreciate is the opportunity to continue learning. Admittedly, one of my favorite ways to learn is just to spend time outdoors being attentive. And if I’m learning about rivers, then a good way to be attentive is to stand in a river with a fly rod in hand, attempting to get a close-up look at a fish while observing its feeding habits. Ideally, “close-up” means not only seeing what the fish is eating (or thinks it’s eating), but also eventually holding it in my hand and admiring its beauty. I apply this research approach frequently enough that my adult sons put the word “research” in air quotes when speaking about my excursions, as in: “Dad’s going off to do some ‘research’ again.” Sometimes an eye roll accompanies the air quotes.

But I also enjoy reading about ecology, especially related to forests and rivers, and I have been educated and inspired by numerous authors who have written about ecology in ways deeply informed, engaging and often beautiful in its prose. Three favorites have included Robin Wall Kimmerer’s “Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants,” Curt Fausch’s “For the Love of Rivers: A Scientist’s Journey,” and Peter Wohlleben’s “The Hidden Life of Trees: What they Feel, How they Communicate – Discoveries from a Secret World.”

Even better, though, are opportunities to spend time with scientists, especially when I can do so in the field watching how they work. Between writing several of my own books about rivers, native fish and fly fishing, along with more than a quarter century of outdoor columns for the *Addison Independent*, I’ve had opportunities to interview numerous fisheries biologists in states across the country including Alaska, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Tennessee and Maine, as well as here in Vermont. These have included state biologists and university biologists as well federally employed biologists with the USFS, USGS, NOAA, and the National Park Service. On a few occasions, I’ve been able to accompany them on day-long field trips. They have been a wealth of knowledge (even if I’ve only been able to soak in a tiny fraction of it) and also great examples of people who care passionately about their work and about their own continued opportunities to learn.

My good friend David O’Hara (who has co-authored three books with me, including one titled “Downstream” about rivers and native fish in Appalachia), is a great inspiration to me both in attentiveness to the world around me, and also in being a lifelong learner. O’Hara, who graduated from Middlebury College in 1991 and worked for several years in Vermont before returning to graduate school, is a professor at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, S.D., where he teaches environmental philosophy and helped found both their environmental studies major and

their sustainability program.

Perhaps one of the reasons he is the best teacher I have ever spent time with is that he continues to be a curious and attentive learner. His interest in learning about lepidoptera (an order of insects that includes butterflies and moths, which are ecologically vital creatures not only for pollination but also as food sources for many birds) has led him to be invited on the Board of Directors of the Butterfly House and Aquarium in Sioux Falls. It’s hard to be outdoors with him without him spotting a moth or butterfly and stopping to delight in it, while identifying it and telling me something about it. (I say that by way of appreciation, not complaint!) More recently, he has taken an intensive field class in native North American mussels, learning about their vital ecological importance to the health of fresh waters across the continent.

Dave was the inspiration for me to ask my colleague if I could sit in on his class, assuming there was a vacant seat in the room and I wasn’t taking a spot away from a student. A nice thing about auditing a class as a professor is that I don’t have to take any exams or submit any homework. (Although, truth be told, I’d rather take exams than grade them.) And for the most part, I’ve skipped the labs both for reasons of my own busy schedule and also to avoid drawing on resources intended for students. But when I heard about a field trip to the site of an upcoming dam removal on a river that has been dear to me for 35 years, I couldn’t resist.

The class has been fascinating as we have learned about how

waters move around the world, and especially how it gets into the aquifer and then travels through different types of materials such as clay, sand, fractured rock. And what happens as it does. The last couple weeks have focused on contaminants in the aquifer, many of which are human-introduced, such as fertilizers, manufacturing chemicals, and hydrocarbons used in fuels. We have studied both when and how they get into the water, how they move, how to track them to their sources, and how to mitigate them. The last part is the real sticky part, as mitigation often range from difficult to impossible, with techniques that handle one type of contaminant sometimes worsening others.

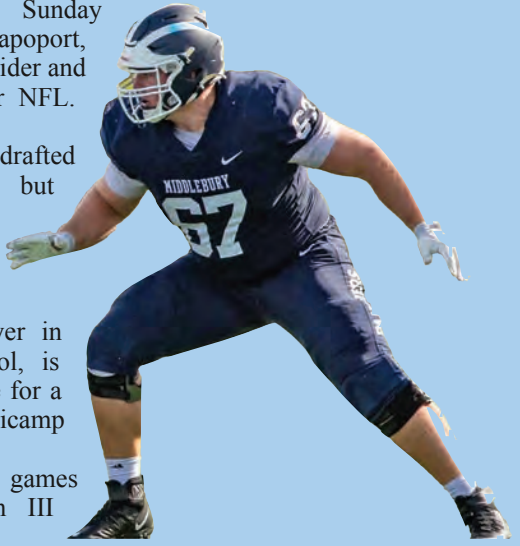
So it was good to be part of a project that could ultimately result in a healthier river: the removal of a century-old dam that has filled in with sediment and is no longer structurally safe. Not only does Prof. Ryan lead a very engaging and interactive lecture section, but the class is very much lab-based with active learning, as the students practice the same sort of work that professional hydrogeologists do. In addition to doing a chemical analysis of the water at many points downstream of the dam, the two-week-long lab is also taking careful measures of flows, sediment and water levels to see how thing change after the dam is removed. Not only is it a great learning experience for the students, but the data should prove useful in assessing future dam removal projects. And the students will have taken part in that.

As for my own learning about hydrogeology, I can let my sons know that (showing great restraint) I went on the field trip and did my “research” without my fly rod. And it only hurt a little.

Perry gets NFL tryout

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College senior football player Thomas Perry, an All-American offensive lineman, has been invited to a Baltimore Ravens rookie minicamp for a tryout, according to a report posted on X on Sunday morning by Ian Rapoport, an NFL Network Insider and National Insider for NFL.com. Perry went undrafted by NFL teams, but Rapoport reported, “Middlebury College OL Thomas Perry, a rare NESCAC player in the NFL Draft pool, is headed to Baltimore for a #Ravens rookie minicamp tryout, I’m told.” Perry started 30 games at NCAA Division III

Middlebury and was a first-team All-American as a guard last season. He earned an invitation to the East-West Shrine Bowl and finished college with a 3.92 GPA while studying molecular biology and biochemistry.



Boys’ tennis tops SBHS

By ANDY KIRKALDY
SOUTH BURLINGTON — The Middlebury Union High School boys’ tennis team defeated host South Burlington, 6-1, on Monday. The victory was the Tigers’ third straight and moved the defending Division I champions over .500 at 3-2. The Tigers were set to host Rice on Wednesday after deadline for this issue, and are scheduled next to visit Burlington at 3:30 p.m. on Friday. Monday’s scores in individual matches were: At No. 1 singles, Jackson Murray (MUHS) defeated Yuyang Zhang (SB), 6-3, 6-4. At No. 2 singles, Charles Young

(MUHS) defeated Peter Lyon (SB), 6-0, 6-0. At No. 3 singles, Nate Cook-Yoder (MUHS) defeated Spencer Higgins (SB), 6-0, 6-1. At No. 4 singles, Baker Nelson (MUHS) defeated Evan Xia (SB), 6-4, 6-0. At No. 5 singles, Kaden Hammond (MUHS) defeated Jimmy Jia (SB), 4-6, 6-2, 1-0 (10-2). At No. 1 doubles, Cody Eagle & Ayush Kayasa (SB) defeated Kirin Biancosino & Alex Andersson (MUHS), 6-1, 6-1. At No. 2 doubles, Paras Biancosino & Jackson Lind (MUHS) defeated Sten Woodward & Levi Duteau (SB), 6-2, 6-7, 1-0.

Men’s lax

(Continued from Page 1B)

Bob Gross, Bennett Chow and Alex Giacobbe to take the lead, 5-4. Over the rest of the third quarter, two goals from Panthers Billy Curtis and one from John McCarthy offset two goals from the Mammoths, and the teams entered the final 15 minutes tied at 7-7.

Middlebury took the lead for good two minutes into the final period after Curtis jumped high to knock down an Amherst clearing pass at midfield, and then scooped the ground ball, raced toward goal, and set up Russell Thorndike for a close range score in transition.

At 7:41 Logan White set up Thorndike out front, and he made it 9-7. With 5:18 to go, Cooper DeMallie netted another White feed, and the Panther lead was

three. Panther goalie Hayden Kern made a big save on Brendan Reilly with about three minutes to go, and time began to run out on the Mammoths. With 51 seconds to go Mammoth Alex Vlacich scored to make it a two-goal game, and the Mammoths controlled the faceoff. But an errant Amherst pass soon sailed out of bounds and the Mammoths’ last hopes went with it.

Chow scored three goals to lead Amherst, and Vlacich added two goals and an assist. Mammoth goalie Mitch Likens made 11 saves. Thorndike led the Panthers with three goals, Curtis scored twice and had an assist, and Jamin chipped in a goal and three assists. Kern had a big game in goal, with 18 saves.

Women’s lax to host final 4

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The No. 1 seed Middlebury College women’s lacrosse team dismissed visiting No. 8 Williams in a NESCAC tournament quarterfinal on Saturday, 16-2, and the Panthers will host the league’s final four this weekend. On Saturday Middlebury will take on No. 5 seed Wesleyan at noon. The Panthers defeated Wesleyan on the road this spring, 10-9. At 3 p.m., No. 2 seed Tufts (15-1) will face off against Colby (14-2). Middlebury defeated Tufts, 16-15, at home two weeks ago and won at Colby earlier this season, 12-11. Saturday’s winners will square off in the final on Sunday at 1 p.m. The winner of that NESCAC playoff championship game will earn the league’s automatic bid to the NCAA Division III tournament. However, Middlebury, Tufts, Colby

and Wesleyan are ranked nationally Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 7, respectively, in the most recent D-III coaches poll. It would be no surprise to see all four continue to play after this weekend. Nine Panthers scored vs. the Ephs on Saturday. Hope Shue (four goals), Caroline Adams and Skylar Lach (two goals each), and Maggie Coughlin (goal and four assists) paced the attack, while seven Panthers added a goal apiece. Gina Driscoll played the first half in goal and made two saves and allowed two goals, and Elizabeth Savage made five second-half saves. With her goal and four assists, Coughlin became the fourth player in program history to rack up 100 career goals and 100 assists. Adams controlled 10 draws, while defender Kylie Wilson caused four turnovers and scooped four groundballs.

Tiger boys’ lax tops Comets

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys’ lacrosse team Monday came out of its spring break without missing a beat, thumping visiting St. Albans, 14-2, to improve to 5-0. Their competition the rest of the week should be tougher: The Tigers were set to visit South Burlington on Wednesday after deadline for

this issue, and next up is a 3 p.m. Saturday visit to Essex. Against the Bobwhites, Logan McNulty (five goals, assist) and Angus Blackwell (four goals) led the Tiger attack. Ben DeBisschop added two goals, and Luke Nuceder chipped in a goal and two assists. Cal Boulanger won 12 out of 17 faceoffs.



Happy couple

AN OSPREY PAIR survey the scene from their perch over Dead Creek in Addison this past weekend. Soon, perhaps, they will be joined by new family members.

Photo by Dottie Nelson



Steve James



Andy Kirkaldy



Matthew Dickerson



Karl Lindholm

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MUHS girls’ tennis prevails

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury Union High School girls’ tennis edged visiting North Country on Monday, 4-3, improving the Tigers’ record in the early going to 2-0.

MUHS was set to visit Rice on Wednesday, and will next travel to take on U-32 on Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Individual match scores against North Country were:

At No. 1 singles, Cheska Adonis, NC, defeated Sophia Boise, MUHS, 6-0, 6-1.

At No. 2 singles, Anna Wolosinski, MUHS, defeated Lily Brauvais, NC, 6-3, 6-0.

At No. 3 singles, Piper Farnsworth, MUHS, defeated Natasha Godfrey, NC, 6-1, 6-0.

At No. 4 singles, Cassidie Burnett, NC, defeated Adelaide Taylor, MUHS, 6-4, 5-4, retired.

At No. 5 singles, Maryam Khan, MUHS, defeated Marlene Chromay 6-3, 6-1.

At No. 1 doubles, Subia Khan & Clara Chant, MUHS, defeated Katie Larsen & Katelin Booth, NC, 6-2, 6-3.

At No. 2 doubles, Ellah Dillon & Riley Frasier, NC, defeated Sophia Nicolai & Grace Ritter, MUHS, 6-1, 6-4.

Schedule

(Continued from Page 3B)

5/10 MUHS at Missisquoi..... 11 AM
5/10 Enosburg at VUHS..... 11 AM

Softball

5/1 OV at Mt. Abe 4:30 PM
5/1 St. Albans at MUHS 4:30 PM
5/2 OV at Burr & Burton..... 4:30 PM
5/3 VUHS at MUHS..... 3 PM
5/3 Mt. Abe at Rutland..... 3 PM
5/4 MUHS at Mt. Mansfield..... 4:30 PM
5/6 Twinfield at VUHS 4:30 PM
5/6 OV at White River 4:30 PM
5/8 VUHS at Milton..... 4:30 PM
5/8 Mt. Abe at Rice..... 4:30 PM
5/8 Enosburg at MUHS 4:30 PM
5/9 OV at Hartford..... 5 PM
5/10 MUHS at Rice 11 AM
5/10 Mt. Abe at Milton 11 AM
5/10 Enosburg at VUHS..... 11 AM

Girls' Lacrosse

5/2 Lyndon at MAV..... 4:30 PM
5/3 Essex at MUHS..... 3 PM
5/6 Mt. Mansfield at MUHS 4:30 PM
5/7 MAV at Burlington 4:30 PM
5/8 Colchester at MUHS 4:30 PM
5/9 MUHS at Rutland 4 PM
5/10 MAV at Milton 6 PM

Boys' Lacrosse

5/2 MAV at Lyndon..... 4:30 PM
5/2 OV at GMVS..... 4:30 PM
5/3 MUHS at Essex..... 3 PM
5/5 Brattleboro at OV 6 PM
5/6 MUHS at Mt. Mansfield 4:30 PM
5/7 OV at Randolph..... 5 PM
5/8 Burlington at MAV 4:30 PM
5/9 Burr & Burton at MUHS..... 4:30 PM
5/10 Milton at MAV 11 AM

Boys' Tennis

5/2 MUHS at Burlington 3:30 PM
5/5 Essex at MUHS..... 4 PM
5/7 CVU at MUHS 4 PM
5/9 Mt. Mansfield at MUHS 4 PM

Girls' Tennis

4/30 MUHS at Rice 3:30 PM
5/2 MUHS at U-32..... 3:30 PM
5/5 MUHS at Montpelier..... 3:30 PM
5/7 MUHS at N Country 3:30 PM
5/9 MUHS at Mt. Mansfield 3:30 PM

Track & Field

5/3 VUHS at South Burlington..... 1 PM
5/7 VUHS at Essex 3:30 PM
5/7 Mt. Abe at Milton 3:30 PM
5/10 Mt. Abe/VUHS at BHS Invitational

Girls' Ultimate

5/6 Burlington at MUHS 4 PM
5/8 CVU at MUHS 4 PM

Boys' Ultimate

5/2 MUHS at Burlington 4 PM
5/7 MUHS at S Burlington 4 PM

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse

NESCAC Playoffs

Final Four at Midd

5/3 #1 Midd vs #6 Wesleyan Noon
5/3 #2 Tufts vs # 3Colby..... 3 PM
5/4 Final 1 PM

Men's Lacrosse

NESCAC Playoffs

Final Four at Tufts

5/3 #1 Tufts vs #4 Midd Noon
5/3 # 2 Bowdoin vs # 3 Wesleyan... 3 PM
5/4 Final

Baseball

NESCAC Playoffs

Quarterfinal Best of Three

5/3 Tufts at Midd..... Noon
5/3 Tufts at Midd..... 2:30 PM
5/4 (If Nec) Tufts at Midd..... 11 AM
May 9-11 Final Four at Bowdoin

Softball

5/1 Keene at Midd. (2)..... 3:30 PM
5/3 Midd at Wesleyan (2)..... Noon

NESCAC Playoffs

5/9-11NESCAC Tourn. at No. 1 Seed
Weather and other factors can change schedules, often at the last minute. Fans are advised to check school websites for scheduling information.

Skidmore

(Continued from Page 1B)

of the past three NESCAC playoff titles, will head to the NESCAC final four double-elimination tournament hosted the following weekend by NESCAC East top seed Bowdoin

Middlebury finds itself streaking and in position to advance in the postseason again despite losing to injury its two top starting pitchers and carrying a team earned-run average of 5.75. Senior Justin Lessing, the 2024 NESCAC Pitcher of the Year, hasn’t thrown a pitch this season due to injury. The Panthers’ No. 2 starter, junior Owen Tross, made it through just five starts before he, too, was sidelined.

To make up for the loss, several relievers have had solid- to outstanding seasons, including seniors Jacob Sherf, Handa and Charlie Kutz, junior Dylan Knightly, sophomore Stefano Yozzo, and freshmen Nico Tambascia and Reed Hyde. Sophomores Emmet George and Anthony Pellagrini and freshman Christian Zebrowski (he leads the team with four wins) have stepped up to start games and eat innings to take pressure off the bullpen.

Coach Mike Leonard was asked about the relief work on Sunday, when Sherf, Kutz, Knightly and Yozzo teamed up for 6.1 innings of one-run pitching as the Panthers rallied from an early 6-0 hole after Skidmore got to Pellagrini, who started.

Leonard said it’s not unusual to see a variety of Panthers on the mound stepping up when it matters. “We’ve been using a lot of different pitchers all year. It’s just kind of been the way we’ve put together wins,” Leonard said. “Usually it’s the next guy coming in and picking up the guy before him. Anthony’s been good for us. He’s a competitor, and he’s one of our leaders, and he didn’t pitch the way he wanted to in the first three (innings), and the way the bullpen came in and picked him up was great.”

The flip side is the Panthers are now averaging 7.8 runs and one homer per game after scoring 13 runs and belting three longballs on Sunday. Senior Kyle McCausland leads with 10 homers, and classmates Nathan Samii and Ben Slaughter have belted four apiece. Leonard said a six-run deficit does not faze the Panthers.

“I think the trust in the bats was there for everybody. They just don’t panic and play all nine innings,” Leonard said.

McCausland and Samii have set the tone in the heart of the order, he said. McCausland is hitting .362 with 42 RBI and 32 runs scored, while Samii is batting .405 with 27 runs and 28 RBI. They are either first or second in each of those team categories.

“Having seniors like Nathan and Kyle is really nice. Those guys have been part of our offense for the past three years, when we’ve had a lot of seniors in the lineup,” Leonard said. “And now they’re the seniors carrying us, and they’re doing a great job.”

Looking ahead, Leonard said a team that lost many players to graduation has developed chemistry and is comfortable with what it needs to do to continue to succeed — an everybody-on-board approach.

“That’s how it has been, and that’s how it will be this weekend coming up,” Leonard said. “It took their identity took a little while to form. It’s really hard when you lose so many players over the last couple years, and then trying to reform with so many new players. But they’ve really gelled as a team. They’ve really started to come together. So I think that is all hands on deck on the mound, and then score a bunch of

runs, I think our guys will embrace that, and we’ll do our thing.”

PANTHERS, 13-7

On Sunday, the Thoroughbreds built their 6-0 lead with one run in the first, two in the second, and three in the third. In the opening inning, Pellagrini walked four batters to force in a run. In the second, Zachary Leiderman followed a Nate Vandersea single with a two-run homer to make it 3-0. In the third, Landon Schwartzman launched a two-out homer after a walk and a Mac Cady single, and it was 6-0. That was it for Pellagrini, and Sherf came on to get the inning’s final out.

The Panthers started rallying in the bottom of the third against Skidmore starter Quinn Hocum. Sophomore second baseman Aiden Han walked, and Samii hit a high fly ball to straightaway center field that kept going until it dropped just over the fence to make it 6-2. Senior catcher Ben Slaughter followed immediately with a booming blast over the left center fence, and the Skidmore lead was cut in half.

The Panthers added two more in the fourth. Senior DH Isaac Rosario singled, and sophomore first baseman Will Ashley followed with a fly ball into the right-center field gap that looked catchable, but the Skidmore outfielders watched it drop between them for a single. Rosario read the miscue and rumbled around to third base. Ashley then stole second, and both scored to make it 6-5 when Han laced an opposite-field single to left center.

Sherf left after 1.1 scoreless innings, and Kutz struck out the side in a 1-2-3 fifth. Skidmore nicked Knightly for a run in the sixth on a two-out Trey Bourque single followed by Leiderman’s RBI double. Middlebury got that run right back in its half of the inning on an Ashley double and an opposite-field single to right by sophomore outfielder Cooper Bohlig. Knightly then went a scoreless second inning.

The Panthers tied it with two out in the seventh, when Rosario



MIDDLEBURY SENIOR DH Isaac Rosario dives into first safely on a pickoff attempt during the Panthers’ 13-7 comeback victory over visiting Skidmore. Rosario homered, doubled, singled and drove in three runs in the game.

Independent photo/Steve James

cleared the center field fence with another towering solo homer, and Yozzo came on to strike out two in the top of the eighth.

Then the Panthers broke the game open in the bottom of the inning with six runs off two Skidmore relievers, including Jack Collins, who started the inning and took the loss.

Freshman shortstop Carter Chi started the uprising with a leadoff single, and Bohlig sacrificed him to second, bringing up the top of the order. Collins walked Han and McCausland, and Samii broke the tie by singling in Chi and Han. Collins hit Slaughter with a pitch to reload the bases, and Parker doubled to drive in McCausland and Samii to make it 11-7.

Charles Modlin was then waved to the mound to replace Collins, and Parker greeted him with another two-run double, and it was 13-7 before Modlin finally retired two batters to end the inning.

Skidmore made things mildly interesting by loading the bases in the top of the ninth, all with two out,

on a Chi error, a walk and a single. But Yozzo struck out the next batter to nail down the team victory and his second win of the season.

PANTHERS, 13-3

On Friday at Skidmore, the Panthers blew the game open with six runs in the third and three more in the fourth in their 13-3 win in a game shortened to seven innings by the mercy rule. The game was moved from Saturday and switched from a doubleheader in anticipation of Saturday’s poor weather.

The teams were tied at 1-1 after two innings. Middlebury scored a run in the top of the first when Han singled, McCausland doubled, and after a walk loaded the bases Han scored on a double play. Skidmore’s Eddie Galvao answered with a solo homer in the bottom of the second off Zebrowski, who started and got the win.

The Panthers’ big third inning started when again Han singled, McCausland doubled, and Nathan Samii walked to load the bases. Losing pitcher Chase Siegel hit

Pellagrini with a pitch to score Han, and Gus Parker singled McCausland and Samii home. Pellagrini scored on a passed ball, and Will Ashley capped the rally with a two-run homer to make it 7-1.

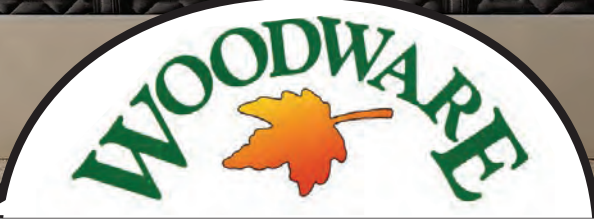
The same trio sparked the Panthers’ three-run fourth. Han and McCausland singled, and Samii doubled home Han. Pellagrini was again hit by a pitch to load the bases, and two more runs scored on a walk to Pablo Spielman-Rodriguez and an Ashley groundout.

Middlebury added a run in the fifth on three walks and an Owen Fox sacrifice fly, and two runs in the sixth on a two-run McCausland homer that scored Han, who had walked.

Zebrowski went five innings in earning the pitching win, allowing three earned runs on seven hits and two walks. Kunal Handa threw two scoreless relief innings, allowing one hit and one walk and striking out two. Five Thoroughbred pitchers combined to allow 11 hits, eight walks and 13 earned runs.



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Track

(Continued from Page 1B)

MAU, 50.95; 2. Jackson LaMarche, MAU, 53.14; 3. Chance Koenig, VUHS, 53.47.

- 4x800 Relay: 1. MAU, 11:37.78.
- Shot put: 1. Cooper, Rand, 41-04; 2. Lincoln Ward, MAU, 31-03; 3. McGuire, VUHS, 29-04.00; 4. James Mount, MAU, 27-00; 5. Connor Brogan, VUHS, 26-03.
- Discus 1. Cooper, Rand, 34.09M; 2. McGuire, VUHS, 32.84M; 3. Elias Bennett Eberhardy, MAU 21.02M; 4. Mount, MAU, 20.41M; 5. Ryan Cross, MAU, 17.94M.
- Javelin: 1. Cooper, Rand, 33.79M; 2. Mount, MAU, 30.51M; 3. Steen, VUHS, 28.64M; 4. Maneen, VUHS, 28.35M.
- High Jump: 1. Sawyer, MAU, 5-0.; 2. David Coburn, VUHS 4-02.
- Pole Vault: 1. Garrett Duell, MAU, 8-0; 2. LaMarche, MAU, 8-0; 3. Bowen Lutz, MAU, 5-06.
- Long Jump: 1. Sawyer, MAU,

5.89m; 2. Jaret Sturtevant, MAU, 5.14m; 3. Maneen, VUHS, 4.76m; 4. Senecal, MAU, 4.65m.

- Triple Jump: 1. Sawyer, MAU, 11.48m; 2. Koenig, VUHS, 10.19m (school record). 3. Maneen, VUHS, 9.74m; 4. LaMarche, MAU, 8.45m.

GIRLS' RESULTS

The winners and top five Eagle and Commodore finishers in the girls' events on Tuesday were:

100M: 1. Ruby Connell, MAU, 14.14; 2. Tie: Isabel Miguel, VUHS, and Isla Underwood, MAU, 15.00; 4. Isabelle Van Voorst, VUHS, 15.12.

200M 1. Eleanor Wilkinson-Sachs, VUHS, 30.45; 2. Van Voorst, VUHS, 30.54; 3. Lauren Hill, VUHS, 30.99; 4. Miguel, VUHS, 31.77; Faith McAllister, VUHS 32.67.

400M: 1. Hill, VUHS, 1:10.79; 2. Sophie Underwood, MAU, 1:13.53; 3. Wilkinson-Sachs, VUHS,1:13.98; 4. Jing Williams, VUHS, 1:14.94.

800M: 1. Vose, MAU, 2:51.08; 2. Torrey Hanna, VUHS, 2:51.92.

100m Hurdles: 1. Eliza Olenga, VUHS, 22.00; 2. Eloise Newman, MAU, 22.76.

300m Hurdles: 1. Georgia Kunkel, VUHS, 1:04.68; 2. Gina LeBeau, VUHS, 1:07.89.

4x100 Relay: 1. MAU A, 1:00.46; 2 MAU B, 1:05.8.

- Shot put: 1. Nola Roberts, MAU, 22-02; 2. Newman, MAU, 20-05; 3. Kassi Garrow, MAU, 18-06.5.
- Discus: 1. Kunkel, VUHS, 17.85M; 2. Sadie Nezin, MAU, 6.85M
- Javelin: 1. Hazel Stoddard, MAU, 21.65M; 2. Whitney Dykstra, 21.30M; 3. Rhiannon Andrews, MAU, 17.65M. 4. Kassi Garrow, MAU, 13.34M; 5. Nola Roberts, MAU, 12.58M,
- High Jump: 1. Stoddard, MAU, 4-06.
- Pole Vault: 1. Nola Roberts, MAU, 6-0.
- Long Jump: 1. Torrey Hanna, VUHS, 3.84M. 2. Kassi Garrow, MAU, 3.62M; 3. Eliza Olenga, VUHS, 3.60M; 4. Charlotte Desilets, MAU, 3.43M; 5. Eloise Newman, MAU, 3.32M
- Triple Jump: 1. Whitney Dykstra, MAU, 8.39M.



COMMODORE GREY FEARON has a slim lead over teammate Brody McGuire in the boys' 400 at Tuesday's track & field meet at Mount Abraham Union High School. Fearon eventually stretched his advantage for the victory.

Independent photo/Steve James



EAGLE ATHLETE HAZEL Stoddard lets fly one of her javelin tosses at the Tuesday track & field meet her school hosted. She won that event and the high jump.

Independent photo/Steve James



COMMODORES GEORGIA KUNKEL, foreground, and Gina LeBeau dueled in the girls' 300-meter hurdles at Tuesday's track & field meet at Mount Abraham Union High School. Kunkel eventually prevailed for one of her three event wins.

Independent photo/Steve James

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MUHS softball rips CVU

By ANDY KIRKALDY
HINESBURG — The Middlebury Union High School softball team broke into the win column in a big way on Tuesday by defeating host Champlain Valley, 20-5 in six innings, a result that followed a road loss to Colchester late last week.

The 1-2 Tigers will next have a challenging home game: Perennial Division-I contender St. Albans is scheduled to visit Middlebury at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. They then host a winless Vergennes team on Friday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

On April 25, host Colchester blanked the Tigers, 12-0 in a game halted by the mercy rule in the bottom of the sixth. Laker hurler Lila Robinson tossed a one-hitter,

walking two and striking out eight. Lakers Alaina Cheeseman (three hits RBI), and Taylor Davidson (two hits, two RBI) did the most damage at the plate.

Tiger pitcher Lexi Whitney gave up four earned runs on five hits and six walks in 5.2 innings. Lillian Paquette doubled for the only MUHS hit.

On Tuesday, the Tigers were on the other end of a mercy-rule game as they toppled the Redhawks in six. Leading the MUHS attack were Lily Dame (three hits, two RBIs). Paquette (two hits, three RBIs), and McKenna Whitney (three hits, two RBIs, and four runs). Whitney earned the pitching win, allowing four hits and three earned runs.

Redhawks claw MUHS nine

MIDDLEBURY — The tough start for the defending Division II champion MUHS baseball team continued this past week, as the Tigers dropped a pair of games on the road to D-I teams.

The 0-3 Tigers’ early D-I schedule continues this week, as they host St. Albans on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

On April 25, host Colchester defeated MUHS, 10-0 in five innings. Laker pitcher Josh Luter allowed just one hit, striking out 14 and walking two. Offensively

for the Lakers, Owen Fullerton homered, and Vinny Wagoner and Colton Lefebvre doubled.

Gabe Velez took the loss, striking out nine in five innings.

On Tuesday, host Champlain Valley bested the Tigers, 11-1, in another game shortened to five innings by the mercy rule. Leading the CVU attack against losing pitcher Tucker Morter were Quinn Vincent (double, two RBIs), Ryan Wood (two hits, two RBIs), Xavier Barnes (two hits, RBI) and Daniel Tuiqere (hit, two RBIs).

Eagle softball breezes by Spaulding

By ANDY KIRKALDY
BARRE — The Mount Abraham Union High School softball team breezed past host Spaulding on Tuesday afternoon, 12-0 in five innings, to remain unbeaten in the early going.

The 3-0 Eagles are scheduled to host a 3-2 Otter Valley team on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. and visit Rutland on Saturday afternoon.

In Barre on Tuesday, Eagle

pitcher Gretchen Toy earned the win by allowing four hits and a walk while striking out four in the shortened outing.

Leading the way on offense were Leah Tierney (two hits, three runs), Abba Parker (two hits, three RBI), Genevieve Forand, (hit, two runs, RBI), Emmali Rougier (hit, two RBI) and Mady King (two hits, two runs).

NESCAC OKs NCAA football

HADLEY, Mass. — The presidents of colleges belonging to the New England Small College Athletic Conference, including Middlebury, have approved a proposal from the conference athletic directors to allow NESCAC football teams to participate in the NCAA Division III championship tournament.

NESCAC teams will be eligible to compete in the national tournament for the first time in the fall of 2026. Football had been the only league sport that did not compete in season-ending NCAA D-III tournaments or meets.

“I am pleased to share this information with our football student-athletes, coaches, and administrators,” said NESCAC

Executive Director Andrea Savage. “The conference has had positive experiences participating in postseason play, and we are pleased that football teams will have the opportunity to participate in the NCAA championships and share in this experience as well.”

NESCAC football will retain a nine-game schedule solely against fellow conference schools. The team that finishes at the top of the standings (after any tiebreakers are applied, if necessary) will earn the NESCAC’s automatic berth to the NCAA D-III football championship.

The D-III football tournament consists of 40 teams. All rounds, except the championship game, are played at campus sites.

Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Green Up Day is nearly here! Ferrisburgh will participate in this statewide event on Saturday, May 3. For more information contact Lindsay Brown at lab@ibewlocal300.org or visit <https://greenupvermont.org/>. Green-Up bags will be available at the Town Clerk’s Office during regular business hours. Bags will also be available on Green-Up Day at the Ferrisburgh Central School from 9-10 a.m. Bags that are filled with trash can be dropped off from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. across from the Town Garage on Green Up day only.

During Green-up, the Ferrisburgh Recreation Committee will be collecting cans to raise funds for the ice rink, courts, and future improvements. They will be set up across from the Ferrisburgh Highway Department on Little Chicago Road — the same location as the dumpsters. Stop by between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to drop off your filled Green Up bags and bags of cans, grab a snack and a drink, and support community fun! And a reminder to be careful to wear gloves, avoid poison parsnip, and check for ticks when you get home.

Ferrisburgh Grange “King Pede” card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of May 10 and 24. These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening

of fun and games. King Pede is a game that involves “trick-taking” such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking!

The Ferrisburgh Historical Society will host Will Gusakov, a Vermonter with a very special French connection. He is a timber framer working out of Lincoln and has been instrumental in building and repairing timber frame homes and barns in our area for years. After the devastating fire in the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, he found himself called to work on helping to restore this iconic building that is known worldwide. Will and his family moved to France and helped recreate part of the roof structure of the cathedral in Normandy. It was then shipped to Paris for final installation. Will offers insight in using techniques dating to medieval times and in working with other tradespeople from many countries. This presentation will be on Sunday, May 1, at 2 p.m., at the Ferrisburgh Community Center.

Rokeby Museum will open for the 2025 season on Saturday, May 10. This year’s seasonal exhibit is entitled “Inspired by Nature: The Art of the Women of Rokeby.” The magnificent setting of Rokeby, the Robinson’s farm, inspired the art of Anna Stevens Robinson and her daughters Rachael Robinson Elmer and Mary Robinson Perkins. This exhibit focuses on the creativity

and talent of these artists who captured the beauty of Rokeby’s woodlands, ponds and the views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks in their art.

Rokeby Museum will host the third annual Music with the Museum, an evening of food and music featuring Patti Casey and Colin McCaffrey. This event is a fundraiser for the museum and will be held on Thursday, May 29 at 6 p.m., at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. During this event, a silent auction will raise funds for Rokeby’s educational programming and preservation of collections and buildings. This will be a great evening of enjoying the good music of these notable musicians and supporting Ferrisburgh’s Rokeby Museum. For more information, visit www.rokeby.org.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will open for the 2025 season on Saturday, May 17. The grounds, exhibits, and Museum Store will officially open for all to visit and explore. The museum’s website has information on the many special activities for opening day and throughout May such as Boat Launch Day (May 23) and the Spring Wave Race (May 31): www.lcmm.org. And a reminder that no tickets or advance reservations needed — admission to the Museum is free for all visitors.

Lake Champlain is well-known for its battles and mythical

lake monsters, but what about bootlegging, communes, or the lives of the people who have called the region home? On Saturday, May 17, at 11 a.m., the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will host a session with Vermont authors Jason Barney and Christine Eldred as they share stories from their book “Hidden History of Lake Champlain.” Barney and Eldred will discuss their latest work and share some highlights of their research into the lesser-known histories of Lake Champlain and its surrounding towns. This event is free to attend with registration (registration required if you wish to pre-order a copy of the book). For more information, visit www.lcmm.org.

The Friends of the Bixby Library will be accepting gently used book donations on Thursday, May 8, from 3-6 p.m., at the Bixby’s parking lot. Preferred donations include fiction published 2009 or after, classics, paperbacks published 2012 or later, nonfiction published 2010 or later, and children’s books and DVDs. The Bixby Book Sale will be held at the Library on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

Monkton

Have a news tip?
Call Liz Pecor at 453-2180

MONKTON — The Morse Park Hardcourt Committee is sponsoring a Monkton Community BBQ and Game Day on Saturday, May 17, from noon to 3 p.m. at Monkton Town Hall community room and patio space.

From the desk of Teri Fitzgerald

All ages of Monkton residents are invited to our “Kind Of A Big Dill” event. We will dill-ightfully offer fun games, contests, music, food, prizes, and more! Some of the planned activities include a no dill-y dally basketball free throw contest, intro to Pickleball, and Pickle Me Pink riddles. You can also relish in some lawn games, dill-me-in card games, dill-icous food, and more. The event will be held rain or shine, and its objective is to bring the community together and raise awareness of the hardcourt project.

Parking in the Town Hall lot and next door at the Monkton Friends

Methodist Church.

It’s free to attend. A BBQ meal is available for \$10/per person: a sweet dill! Also, dill-ectable desserts at the bake sale, raffle; donations for the hardcourts accepted. We are dill-igently working to raise the funds needed to finish the courts.

We’d like to have an idea of how much food to have available. RSVP to Teri at tfg417@gmail.com or 802-989-2276.

If you haven’t yet heard ... a full-size basketball court and two pickleball courts are under construction at Morse Park. We are asking for community support to complete this project. We are also planning a late summer or early fall event at Morse Park for the grand opening, so stay tuned.

EAST MONKTON CEMETERY Association

People interested in becoming a member of the East Monkton Cemetery Association are invited to join in on the annual meeting of the EMCA on May 4, at 2 p.m., at the Monkton Friends Methodist Church in the Ridge. The Election of officers will be voted on. The members welcome interested people to help with maintaining the East Monkton Cemetery, fundraising ideas and minor

cleanup in the spring. For more information contact David LaRose EMCA treasurer at 802-388-2038.

GREEN-UP DAY

Green-Up Day is May 3 in Monkton. You can get Green-Up bags anytime at the Town Hall when it is open on May 2 and sign up to clean a selected road so there isn’t confusion or overlap. On Saturday May 3, from 8 a.m. to noon you can sign up and get bags and gloves at the Park and Ride on Monkton Road next to the school.

Make sure to get your Green-up bags to participate as regular garbage bags will not be accepted for free pickup or disposal at the Transfer Station. Only the green bags will be counted for the town event.

Also, if you are a group that wants to help, reach out to help organize your efforts. And if you have a truck, your help would be greatly appreciated in the final pickup of the green up bags and delivery to the Town Garage on Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

Contact Deb at dgaynor@monktonvt.com for more information or to volunteer.

RUSSELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

On Thursday, May 1, There will be a presentation at Russell

Memorial Library featuring Lyme Disease in Vermont with Julie Mitchell. Learn what Lyme Disease is, how it’s transmitted and how to protect yourself and your family. This is a free event.

Activities at the Russell Memorial Library continue on Saturday, May 3, for Recycled Cities and Seed Starting from 10 a.m. to noon. Use those recyclable items such as toilet paper rolls, bottle caps, boxes and other items to start your seeds. WIC will be there to set up a Seed Starting and Sunscreen Safety demonstration. You will be able to start some tomato and marigold seeds. This event is Free for families.

The Book Club will be meeting at the library on Wednesday, May 7, at 7 p.m. This month they will be discussing “Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine” by Gail Honeyman. Email the library for more information or if you are interested in joining the book club.

Continuing events at the library include Toddler Tuesday from 3 to 6 p.m. and Community Yoga on Saturdays from 8 to 9 a.m.

For questions about all Russell Memorial Library events call 802-453-4471 or email russellmemlibrary@gmail.com.



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SATURDAY MAY 10TH 2025



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9:00 AM



1:00 PM

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Reader Comments

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A subscriber from Florence writes:

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Such a refreshing change."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

community calendar

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.

May Day Rally in Brandon. Thursday, May 1, 4-6 p.m., Central Park. Indivisible Brandon invites you to participate in a National Day of Action rally. May Day, also known as International Workers Day, is celebrated on May 1. It is a day dedicated to honoring the contributions and struggles of workers and labor movements. Bring your signs, your voices, nd food to share afterwards. Questions? Email: info@indivisiblebrandon.org.

Rally to support workers' rights in Bristol. Thursday, May 1, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Town Green. Join the Bristol Rally on International Workers Day in solidarity with 18 Vermont unions and Migrant Justice's events in Williston and Montpelier to protest the 100 days of disruption from D.C. Bring signs. Show your support for working families, livable wages, civil rights and an economy that benefits the many, rather than the few. Sponsored by Northeast Addison County Indivisible.

"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.

Lyme disease in Vermont presentation in Monkton. Thursday, May 1, 6:30 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Monktonite Julie Mitchell will offer a free program about Lyme disease in Vermont. Be proactive and inform yourself as to what Lyme disease is, how it's transmitted and how to protect yourself and your family. Email russellmemlibrary@gmail.com to sign up.

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.

Rummage sale in Salisbury. Friday, May 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. All proceeds will go to support area food shelves. Donations will be accepted at the church from 9 a.m.-noon, April 28-May 1. More info call Gloria at 802-989-2155 or Mary at 802-377-5215.

60+ Senior Services resource fair in Middlebury. Friday, May 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Come speak with representatives from Age Well, Addison County Home Health & Hospice, Tri-Valley Transit, SASH, Senior Medicare Patrol, Elderly Services, UVM Cancer Center, The Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Department of Health and more! Learn what services and opportunities are available for our 60+ population in Addison County. Free and open to all. Senior lunch served at noon; menu is cheesy au gratin potatoes with diced turkey, mixed vegetables, dinner roll, iced pumpkin bar and beverages, all for \$5 suggested donation. Call Michelle to reserve at 802-377-1419 by Tuesday, April 29.

Halfoween Witches Walk in Brandon. Friday, May 2, 5:45 p.m., 69 Park St. Halfway to Halloween is Halfoween celebrating everything you love about the spooky season. Grab a friend or two, come dressed as a witch, warlock, ghost, creepy ghoul, clown or any costume. It's time for a walk down historic Park Street. Walk, crawl, stagger, dance, roller skate, ride your bike... have fun hangin' out with other scary creatures while we walk down the street. At the end of the walk a flash mob may break out to the song "I Put a Spell on You." There will be music, dancing, Bounce Houses and lots of fun.

may
3

SATURDAY

Green Up Day — in all towns and cities across Vermont. Saturday, May 3. More information online at greenupvermont.org/towndetails.

Halfoween in Brandon. Saturday, May 3. Around town there will be several opportunities to enjoy Halfoween. Brandon's Historic Town Hall will be transformed into a terrifying Haunted House Friday and Saturday (admission \$10). Terror at the Barn Opera scary movies start at 6 p.m. Friday (\$10). Masquerade Ball at the Brandon Inn — get your costume ready as there is a competition! (\$25). Mystical Market open air market of the season Central Park Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.mystical items, baked goods, and traditional items from local handcrafters. Get out and enjoy our little town, shop, eat local and have a blast!

Ladies Aid Industria spring rummage sale in Lincoln. Saturday, May 3, 8-10:30 a.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd.

Tag sale fundraiser in Bristol. Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at Bristol Baptist Church, Park St. Furniture, books, household items, holiday decor, etc. Baked goods and hotdogs, too. Proceeds will go to Addison County Young Life Campership Fund. Questions? Call 802-349-7460.

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

A cathedral restored
TIMBERFRAMER WILL GUSAKOV will speak about his role in the restoration of Paris's Notre Dame cathedral at the Ferrisburgh Historical Society's May meeting, Sunday, May 11, at 2 p.m., at Ferrisburgh Town Hall.

Photo by Patrick Zachmann

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
8

THURSDAY

Book donation day in Vergennes. Thursday, May 8, 3-6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Read a good book lately? Consider donating it to the book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Bixby. Donations will be received in the back parking lot. Accepting books in good condition published after 2014. If in doubt, just bring it in and we will tell you if it is a good candidate for the sale.

may
10

SATURDAY

Monthly Wildlife Walk in Middlebury. Saturday, May 10, 7-9 a.m., Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife. Meet at the parking area of Otter View Park at the intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Road in Middlebury. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. More info call 802-388-6019.

Used book sale in Vergennes. Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Enter from the back parking lot. Choose from a large variety of fiction, non-fiction and children's books, some of them freshly donated at our May Donation Day. Proceeds from the sale go to library projects such as the recently purchased fireplace heaters, electronic resources (Hoopla), and the fireplace in the community room.

K-12 Education community forum in Vergennes. Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m., Vergennes Union High School, Monkton Rd. Sen. Ruth Hardy will be joined by Rep. Peter Conlon, who chairs the House Education Committee; Sen. Steve Heffernan, who is a member of the Senate Education Committee; and Addison Northwest Superintendent Sheila Soule to discuss the education transformation bill, H.454. More details to come.

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Arbor Day talk, walk set May 4

MIDDLEBURY — The adhoc Middlebury Tree Committee is sponsoring a talk/walking tour of trees for up-close learning about tree health on Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m. Led by Tim Parsons, Landscape Horticulturist at Middlebury college, the tour will begin in College Park at 94 S. Main Street, across from the ShireTown Marketplace. The short walking tour will include trees in College Park and nearby Twilight Green. The event is free and open to the public and will be held rain or shine.

For the second year in a row, Parsons will share his wealth of knowledge and experience and will teach participants how to assess

the health of particular trees, how to spot diseases and assess other risks. Explaining his goals for the talk Parsons said, “One thing I will talk about is tree risk, it’s a subject I’m fascinated by, and ties directly into health and structure. I’d like to show people how to identify risk in trees, and how to mitigate that risk, with removal being dead last on the list of options.”

The Middlebury Tree Committee is sponsoring the event in celebration of Arbor Day 2025, a day to celebrate and plant trees in Vermont, which is Friday, May 2. The MTC’s mission is to raise community awareness about the importance of caring for the trees in public spaces in Middlebury.

They have also led an education campaign about the potential threats of climate change and pests, such as the Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lantern Fly, to our local trees. Because of the work of the committee and with the support of the Town, Middlebury has been designated by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA municipality for the last 7 years. They also helped earn Middlebury a Tree City Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation this year.

For more information about the Middlebury Tree Committee and the Tree Talk & Walking Tour, email middleburytreecommittee@gmail.com.

Shoreham

Have a news tip?
Call Addison Independent
at 802-388-4944

NEWS

SHOREHAM — Come to a Spring Quiche Luncheon on Saturday, May 17, at the Shoreham Congregational Church. For only \$10 you can enjoy a slice of our famous meat, vegetable, or cheese quiche along with salad, beverage,

and dessert. It is a great opportunity to relax with friends and welcome the warm spring weather. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Shelf to help those in need.

This year we will be raffling off a beautiful hand-knitted blanket.

Be the first to buy your tickets at the quiche luncheon. Tickets are only \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be during AppleFest in September.

Notes of appreciation

Ferrisburgh Fire Dept. members thankful for support

The members of the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department want to express their appreciation to the Ferrisburgh community and town officials for supporting its purchase of a new pumper truck.

Because of the decision of the selectboard to devote a major amount of the town’s ARPA funding; donations of all sizes

from businesses, many community members and a local foundation; and many who backed the department’s own fundraising efforts, such as chicken barbecues and pancake breakfasts, the department was able to make a purchase totaling around \$350,000 without asking residents to pay for a bond to buy the truck.

The department is grateful to all, while offering special thanks to the selectboard, residents Chris McClain and Peter and Liz Markowski, businesses Dakin Farm and the Ferrisburgh Bake Shop, and the Hoehl Foundation.

Chief Bill Wager
Ferrisburgh



MEMBERS OF THE Middlebury Lions Club gathered more than 3,000 pounds of food and \$1,700 in monetary donations during its Food from the Heart drive on April 19. Lions Jen Devold and Steve Aruza set up outside the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op.

Middlebury Lions gather food

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Lions Club held their Food from the Heart food drive at local grocery stores on Saturday April 19. The Club has been running this event for the last 20 years. Lions Club members set up outside of the grocery stores and patrons of the grocery stores can support the food drive by simply picking up a nonperishable item while they are doing their shopping and drop it off with a Lion’s Club member at each stores collection point.

This year’s need was even greater, and many local shoppers helped the Lions collect over 104 boxes, totaling 3,000 pounds of food. That total amount of food was divided between Hope and CVOEO food shelves. Generous donations of just over \$1,700 were also collected from shoppers.

The Middlebury Lions added to that cash total to provide \$2,000 divided between the two food shelves. Rob Meehan from CVOEO said, “CVOEO’s Feeding Champlain Valley is so grateful to the Lions Club for their support of our hunger relief efforts at the Addison Food Hub. Food prices have skyrocketed and for many Vermonters this is simply a hard time to make ends meet. Donations of food and funds are a



MIDDLEBURY LIONS RON Counter and George Devold collected donations outside Hannaford’s in Middlebury as part of the Middlebury Lions’ Food from the Heart drive on April 19. The drive collected more than 3,000 pounds of food and \$1,700 in donations.

Photos by Erik Koskinen

very specific way to help increase food security in Addison County.”

The Middlebury Lions would like to thank the many generous

shoppers and all the participating stores for having a big impact on hunger relief efforts.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Rosemary Behounek

Mt. Abraham Union High School introduce Rosemary Behounek as our Student of the Week. Rosemary resides in Bristol with her parents, Jennifer Wisdom Behounek and Joshua Behounek, along with her younger brother, Sawyer Behounek. She also has an amazing Australian shepherd rescue dog, Ginsburg.

Rosemary appreciates the supportive community at Mt. Abe and shared that her teachers have been instrumental in her success. With a passion for math and science, they helped her access rigorous curricula, including online courses, as soon as possible during her high school career. They also worked with her on course planning each year to support her goal to attend Early College as a senior. Rosemary enjoys the sense of community found in Mt. Abe’s student clubs and sports, and identifies the soccer community as really helping her to find her place in our small town. In addition she has embraced leadership opportunities, serving as student treasurer, a member of community council, and the Eagle Leadership Society, as well as participating in the Hugh O’Brien Leadership Conference.

Outside of school, Rosemary has held multiple jobs throughout high school. Her journey began at the Simon Says toy store in Bristol, followed by a role at the natural foods co-op in Middlebury. Most recently, she has enjoyed working as a specialty barista at the Royal Oak Coffee Shop. In her spare time, Rosemary loves spending time outdoors, taking full advantage of Vermont’s natural beauty. Her fall activities include hiking, mountain biking, and playing soccer. In winter, she enjoys snowboarding and is learning to ski. Spring and summer find her swimming in local rivers and soaking up the sun.

When asked what she would say to students about her high school experience, Rosemary said, “The most important lesson I have learned is to grow from past relationships and to change your own future. I would say to underclassmen that so many opportunities are at your fingertips and it’s completely up to you whether you take them. Don’t be afraid to do something different from others and to become a part of communities that you truly value.” Looking ahead, Rosemary plans to attend a university in either Boston or Montreal to study mechanical engineering. Her goal is to use her degree to make a significant impact in natural disaster mitigation and relief efforts. We wish Rosemary all the best in her future endeavors.



Rosemary Behounek
MAUHS

Otter Valley Union High School

Rei Mallette

Otter Valley Union High School’s latest Student of the Week is Rei Mallette. Rei lives in Brandon with her parents and three cats. A talented and dedicated student at OVUHS, Rei has found her passion in the Music department. Her favorite classes are band and chorus, taught by Mr. Roberts and Mr. Wescott, who also happen to be her favorite teachers. She appreciates that they teach their classes incredibly well, and they also have profound compassion for their students. Rei also loves visual art. She says she has another rather unique academic interest that is not in relation to music — she likes to think about dimensions and how the human eye perceives them.

Rei is a member of the OVUHS Jazz band and hopes to be marching with the band in parades too. She keeps herself busy outside of school with three different jobs — working for Dunkin’ Donuts, the Middlebury Langrock Sperry & Wool offices, and cleaning houses/buildings when requested. During the summer, she hopes to continue volunteer work at the Humane Society.

In her spare time she likes to hike, but really only when the weather is perfect. She also creates illustrations with charcoal, paints with acrylics, crochets, and makes rings in her father’s shop. She spends any minutes she has to spare with her friends. As the weather gets warmer, she’s looking forward to spending that spare time dragging her friends on hikes and such with her.

The most important lesson Rei has learned at OVUHS is a personal and emotional one. She says some ending friendships throughout high school have taught her that life goes on. “It’s easy to throw that term around like it’s the simplest action. But the coming and going of friends has taught me that things continue on and don’t pause for anyone,” she says. “Though life has its ups and downs, it will never pause when something ends. Because every ending is the opening to a new beginning.”

After high school, Rei plans on enrolling at Castleton University to be a Music Education major whilst minoring in Studio Art. All of us at Otter Valley wish her well.



Rei Mallette
OVUHS

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Congratulations, Rosemary and Rei



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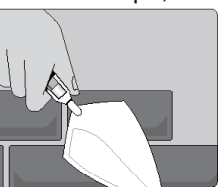
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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

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Public Meetings

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Public Meetings

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Help Wanted

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- Collaborate with other departments in the scheduling of patients.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:


- Graduate of an accredited school of nursing.
- Minimum 5 years experience in a primary care setting
- Current LPN or RN licensure in good standing in the state of Vermont
- Evidence of BLS and CPR.
- Strong clinical assessment and decision-making skills.

WORK SCHEDULE:

- Full-time position: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Great benefits and work/life balance:
- No evenings, weekends or holidays shifts

Help deliver quality healthcare to our community!

Visit our careers page at www.mchvt.org and complete an employment application and submit to: HR@mchvt.org



Addison County Parent/Child Center

Join the Parent/Child Center Team
CHILDCARE WORKER/PARENT EDUCATOR

Childcare Staff Position: We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their families.

Strong candidates must have knowledge of **child development, family systems**, excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a Bachelor's degree preferred.

Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to [Donna Bailey at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org](mailto:Donna.Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org)



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.

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Volunteer Receptionist

HOPE is looking for a volunteer receptionist to help out once a week on Friday afternoons.

To learn more please email receptionist@hope-vt.org.



Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- 50¢ internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

<input type="checkbox"/> Notices	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers
<input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks	<input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles
<input type="checkbox"/> Personals	<input type="checkbox"/> For Sale	<input type="checkbox"/> Cars
<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings**	<input type="checkbox"/> Trucks
<input type="checkbox"/> Free**	<input type="checkbox"/> For Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> SUVs
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found**	<input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat	<input type="checkbox"/> Boats
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption		<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals

** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$1

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____

Cost: _____

of runs: _____

Spotlight Charge: _____

Internet Listing: \$ _____

TOTAL: _____

The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Town of Shoreham Highway Maintenance Assistant

The Town of Shoreham is accepting applications for a full-time Highway Maintenance Assistant. Applicants should have: a CDL or the ability to obtain one; experience running equipment; mechanical ability. This job offers competitive wages and benefits, including health insurance, retirement plan, and paid time off.

Pick up an application at the Shoreham Town Office, on the town's website (www.shorehamvt.us), or by emailing shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us.

Completed applications
can be dropped off at or mailed to:
Town of Shoreham
297 Main Street
Shoreham, VT 05770



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.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Med Techs and RCAs 12-hour shift opportunities!

Ask about our:
PT and FT travel allowance
Free meals
Competitive Benefits

Calling all compassionate caregivers!
Are you or someone you know ready to make a meaningful impact in healthcare?

We have an exciting opportunity that will ignite your passion. Now offering 12-hour shift opportunities!

FT, PT and Per diem positions also available

Are you looking for work life balance? Need to be home during week and only available on the weekends?

We have fun!
Feel appreciated and valued!
Visit our website to apply.

The Residence at Otter Creek
350 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT 05753
www.residenceatottercreek.com

Help Wanted

Town of New Haven Road Crew

Full-time road crew position. Applicants must have a Class B CDL; and be willing to learn dump truck operation and maintenance, along with snowplowing, road building, and small equipment operation. Must be able to get along well with others and be willing to work outdoors in all types of weather. Must pass a drug test and medical exam for CDL drivers prior to employment.

Good benefits package: 12 paid holidays, medical insurance, and sick leave; pay based on experience.

Application and job description
available at Town Clerk's Office
and www.newhavenvt.com.

Submit applications to Town Office: Town of New Haven, 78 North St., New Haven, Vt. 05472, email newhavenclerk@gmavt.net, or call 802-453-3516

78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472
802-453-3516

For Rent

BRIDPORT: Charming and spacious home with Adirondack views! Active woman in her 60s who loves biking and camping, seeking housemates to share her comfortable home 8 miles from Middlebury. \$650/month, with no services needed. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

CO-WORKING OFFICES in Marbleworks professional office building. Handicapped accessible w/ elevator. 802-349-2008

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

COURT STREET OFFICE SPACE for rent - 173 Court Street, Middlebury, VT. Excellent location. One room with shared conference space. Rent includes heat, electricity, air-conditioning, internet, shared coffee station, rubbish, landscaping/snowplowing. On ground floor/handicapped accessible with plenty of parking space. Happy to answer any questions. Call or text 802-349-9837 or email emiliovtrealestate@gmail.com for more information.

For Rent

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

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE in historic downtown Middlebury property. Very reasonable rent with utilities included, except internet. Rental also includes off-street parking. To inquire, call Dick at (802)989-8822.

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.

VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS Is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No smoking/no pets. Income limits apply- Rent rate 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.

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

Help Wanted

MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 4/23/25 & 4/28/25

		COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Vorsteveld	1875	1.67	\$3131.25
Ethan Allen	1915	1.60	\$3064.00
M+L Quesnel	1830	1.60	\$2928.00
Goodrich	1785	1.60	\$2856.00
Nop Bros	1955	1.50	\$2932.50
Defreest	1800	1.50	\$2700.00
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Vorsteveld	80	15.00	\$1200.00
Iroquois Acres	91	14.40	\$1310.40
Goodrich	82	14.00	\$1148.00
M+L Quesnel	78	13.10	\$1021.80
Deer Valley	84	12.50	\$1050.00

Total Beef - 115 Total Calves - 170

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

STATE OF VERMONT

**SUPERIOR COURT
ADDISON, SS**

**CIVIL DIVISION
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 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 HAND 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 Dernerle & 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.
Dernerle & Associates P.C.
10 City Square, 4th Floor
BOSTON, MA 02129
(617) 337-4444

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on **Pages 10B and 11B.**

Addison (1)	Orwell (1)
Addison County Regional Planning Commission (1)	Panton (1)
Addison Northwest School District (1)	Prospect Cemetery Association (1)
Cornwall Central Cemetery Association (1)	Ripton (1)
Ethan Allen Highway Storage (1)	Starksboro (1)
Ferrisburgh (1)	Vergennes (1)
	Waltham (1)
	West Addison Lakeview Cemetery Association (1)

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.

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

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 11B and 12B.

TOWN OF WALTHAM
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING SERVICES

The Town of Waltham, in Addison County, Vermont, is seeking the services of a qualified consultant to create a new Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Waltham (446 pop). The plan will be submitted to FEMA for approval.

The selected consultant(s) will be expected to (1) demonstrate the ability to identify various hazard mitigation strategies that will eliminate or greatly reduce the impacts of hazards on Waltham and (2) have experience related to mitigation work. A detailed scope of work can be found on Waltham's website at www.walthamvt.org and found on the Development Review Board/ Planning Commission/ Zoning page.

Bids will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Tuesday, June 3, 2025 by email to waltham.vt@gmail.com with " Hazard Mitigation Plan Update" in the subject line or by mail to the Town of Waltham, P.O. Box 175, Waltham, Vermont 05491. Questions? Contact Asst. Town Clerk Cookie Steponaitis at (802) 877-3641.

The Town of Waltham is an equal opportunity provider and employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, gender or familial status.

STATE OF VERMONT, VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO. 25-PR-00992
IN RE THE ESTATE OF: DOLORES L. HAWKINS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Dated: 04/23/25

/s/ Theresa Berkeley, Fiduciary
c/o Monte & Monte
PO Box 686, Barre, VT 05641
802-476-6671
Office@MonteAndMonte.Net

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 05/01/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

VERGENNES TAP TA19
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids from pre-qualified contractors shall be accepted until 3:00pm, prevailing time on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 120 Main Street, P.O. Box 35 Vergennes, Vermont 05491 for construction of the project hereinafter described. Bid opening will occur immediately after the bid submittal deadline. The time of receiving and opening bids may be postponed due to emergencies or unforeseen conditions.

Sealed BIDS shall be marked in the lower left-hand corner: Bid Documents: Vergennes TAP TA19(9).

Each BID must be accompanied by a certified check payable to the City of Vergennes for five percent (5%) of the total amount of the BID. A BID bond may be used in lieu of a certified check.

PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS: All bidders on this project shall be on the Agency of Transportation's prequalified list under the category listed below or shall have submitted a complete prequalification application to the Agency of Transportation, Contract Administration, a minimum of 10 working days prior to the bid opening. For information contact Jon Winter at (802) 622-1267.

All bidders shall be on the current VTRANS Contract Administration pre-qualified list "Contractors List of Building Construction Category".

LOCATION: Beginning at a point approximately 0.1 Mile North of the intersection of Vermont Route 22A and Canal Street on Canal Street in the City of Vergennes.

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION: Work to be performed under this project includes: site preparation and construction of a 60' Wide x 84' Long (5,040 SQ. FT.) storage shed. The storage shed will consist of a fabric cover overlaying a steel framed structure set on precast concrete block walls atop a bituminous asphalt pad.

CONTRACT COMPLETION DATE: The Contract shall be substantially completed on or before October 24, 2025.

OBTAINING PLANS: Plans may be obtained from Otter Creek Engineering, Inc. P.O. Box 712, 404 East Main Street, East Middlebury, VT 05740. Phone: 802-382-8522 at a cost of \$100 per set made payable to "Otter Creek Engineering, Inc." Plans are not returnable.

ENGINEERS ESTIMATE: For this Proposal the Engineers Estimate falls between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000.

PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND PROPOSAL MAY BE SEEN AT THE OFFICE OF:

1. Otter Creek Engineering, Inc., 404 East Main Street, East Middlebury, VT 05740
2. Otter Creek Engineering, Inc., 110 Merchants Row, 4th Floor, Suite 15, Rutland, VT 05701

PREBID CONFERENCE: A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held for the project on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 9:00 am local time at the City of Vergennes, P.O. Box 35, 120 Main Street, Vergennes, VT 05491.

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS: This contract is governed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation ("VTrans") 2024 Standard Specifications for Construction.

QUESTIONS: During the advertisement phase of this project all questions shall be addressed solely to Brent F. Rakowski, P.E. at Otter Creek Engineering, Inc., P.O. Box 712, 404 East Main Street, East Middlebury, VT 05740. Phone 802-382-8522 ext 205 and Email: rakowski@ottercrk.com.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) CERTIFICATION: Certification is required by the Equal Employment Opportunity regulations of the Secretary of labor (41 CFR 60-1.7(b) (1)) and must be submitted by bidders and proposed subcontractors only in connection with contracts and subcontracts which are subject to the equal opportunity clause. Generally only contracts and subcontracts of \$10,000 or under are exempt as set forth in 41 CFR 60-1.5. See Appendix A for Contractors EEO Certification Form (CA-109). This certification form must be signed and submitted with the bid.

NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT: All bidders are required to execute a sworn statement, certifying that the bidder has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with such contract. See Appendix B for Debarment and Non-Collusion Affidavit (CA-91). This affidavit must be signed and submitted with the bid.

DEBARMENT AFFIDAVIT: All bidders are required to execute a sworn statement, certifying that the bidder has not within the last three (3) years been, suspended, debarred, voluntarily excluded or determined ineligible by any Federal or State Agency; does not have a proposed suspension, debarment, voluntary exclusion or ineligibility determination pending; and has not been indicted, convicted or had civil judgment rendered against (it, him, her, them) by a court having jurisdiction in any matter involving fraud or official misconduct within the past three (3) years. See Appendix B for Debarment and Non-Collusion Affidavit (CA-91). This affidavit must be signed and submitted with the bid.

WORKER CLASSIFICATION COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT FORM (Prime Contractor): All bidders are required to complete this self-reporting form in its entirety, sign and submit with the bid.

NON-DISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED CONTRACTS: The City of Vergennes hereby notifies all bidders that it will ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin for an award. This is consistent with the Town's requirement to comply with provisions of Title VI.

DAVIS BACON WAGE REQUIREMENTS: Bidders agree to abide by the Davis Bacon Wage Rate Schedule, which are appended to these Contract Documents.

BUILD AMERICA, BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS: Build America, Buy America requirements, as outlined in specification section 107.21 BUY AMERICA PROVISIONS, apply to this project.

CORNWALL CENTRAL
CEMETERY

Annual Meeting 7pm on Friday,
May 9th at the Town Hall.
For info call 802-324-9499.

LAKE VIEW CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION NOTICE

The Lakeview Cemetery Association will hold their annual cemetery meeting on Tuesday, May 20, at 7 p.m., at the WestAddison Community House.

TOWN OF RIPTON
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given in accordance with 32 VSA §4111 that on April 22, 2025, the Listers lodged the Abstract of the 2025 Grand List in the office of the Town Clerk. The Listers will meet at the Ripton Community House from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. May 8 and 9 to hear grievances. Grievances must be received in writing at the Town Office by 5:00 p.m., May 8, 2025. Contact the listers at listeners@riptonvt.org, 802-388-2266, or PO Box 10, Ripton, VT 05766 if you have questions or would like an appointment for a hearing.

Ripton Board of Listers: Alison Joseph Dickinson, Beth Eliason, Erik Eriksen

MEETING OF THE ADDISON COUNTY
REGIONAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14 May 2025 at 12pm

The quarterly meeting of the Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) will be held on 14 May at 12pm (in person at the ACRPC conference room at 14 Seminary St with Zoom option). Details can be found at: <https://acrpc.org/acrpc-remc/>

Meetings are held quarterly, with future meetings scheduled for the:

- Second Wednesday of August
- Second Wednesday of November
- Second Wednesday of February
- Second Wednesday of May

The REMC conducts All-Hazards preparedness planning and coordinates with Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the statewide Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

The REMC is made up of Local Emergency Management Directors and Emergency Services Representatives from each municipality in the region. Representatives from fire departments, emergency medical services, law enforcement, media, transportation, hospitals, the department of health district office, organizations serving vulnerable populations, and any other interested public or private individual or organization, are welcome to attend and participate!

For more information, contact ACRPC Emergency Management Planner Andrew L'Roe at alroe@acrpc.org or 802-388-3141 x3.

ANWSD BOARD
MEETING NOTICES FOR MAY 2025

Monday, May 5	3:30 PM	Negotiations Committee Meeting ANWSD Conference Room
Monday, May 12	3:50 PM	Policy Committee Meeting VUMHS Library
	4:50 PM	Facilities Committee Meeting VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Monday, May 19	4:50 PM	Finance Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Wednesday, May 21	5:30 PM	CEC Meeting Via Zoom only

HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF ORWELL
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Orwell Development Review Board will meet in person on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

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

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

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

Information pertaining to this matter may be viewed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00, Wednesday from 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:30, and Friday from 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-6:00 at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

Daniel Redondo, Vice Chair
Orwell Development Review Board

TOWN OF PANTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
WARNING
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH, 2025
VOTING THURSDAY, MAY 15TH, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Pantan are hereby notified and warned to meet on Wednesday, May 14th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss and transact business and to vote on Thursday, May 15th, 2025, at the Pantan Town Hall, second floor. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for voting by Australian ballot.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

ARTICLE 1: To Elect the following Officers by Australian Ballot
Selectboard Member (1 Year Term)
Selectboard Member (2 Year Term)

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the Town of Pantan adopt the following amendment to the Town Charter:

Subchapter 5. Recall of Elected Town Officers

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

- A written petition, signed by not less than 15 percent of the registered voters of the town, seeking the removal of such town officers, and requesting a vote of the town at a regular or special town meeting called for the purpose, shall be filed with the Selectboard and the Town Clerk.
- If the petition is filed no more than 60 days, and at least 47 days before the next regular Town Meeting, the Selectboard shall place the question of whether the elected officer shall be removed on the warning for the next regular Town Meeting. Otherwise, the Selectboard shall call a Special Town Meeting, to be held within 45 days of receiving the petition, to vote on whether the elected officer shall be removed. In either case, the recall vote shall be held by Australian ballot.
- When such a petition is approved by a majority of the ballots cast at said Regular or Special Town Meeting, the town officer named in the petition shall thereupon cease to hold their office.
- The officer shall be removed only if at least as many registered voters of the Town vote to approve the petition as voted to elect said officer in the most recent election wherein the officer was elected, or at least one-third of the registered voters of the Town vote, whichever is fewer.
- A vacancy resulting from the recall of an officer shall be filled in the manner prescribed by law.
- A recall petition shall not be brought against an individual more than once within 12 months.

Vt. State
Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — In separate cases, Vermont State Police this past week dealt with a number of traffic accidents in Addison County, two of which resulted in people being cited for impaired driving.

The first was on April 23, when, at a little after 6 p.m., a trooper observed multiple violations on Route 7 near Lime Kiln Road in New Haven and pulled over the driver. The identified the driver as Gerald S. Posner, 64, of South Burlington, observed signs of impairment, took him to the Middlebury Police Department and cited him for driving under the influence of drugs.

After also issuing him traffic tickets that carry total fines of \$487 and 4 points on his license (the tickets for driving outside his lane, driving an uninspected car and driving with an open container of pot), they released him to a sober adult.

The second DUI case arose at about a quarter after 4 p.m. on April 26, when troopers were on routine patrol in Bridport when they witnessed a motorist commit several motor vehicle infractions. Officers stopped the car near the intersection of Route 22A and Town Line Road, saw signs of impairment in driver Wyatt C. Laberge, 26, of Bridport, and cited him for driving under the influence.

State police also reported three traffic accidents that didn't result in drunken driving charges nor any reported injuries.

On April 24 just before 2 p.m. a trooper made a traffic stop at

the intersection of Route 7 and Exchange Street in Middlebury and cited Wayne N. Gorton, 72, of Bridport for driving in a careless and negligent manner on River Road in New Haven. They also issued tickets for failure to yield, following too closely and not keeping his vehicle inspection up to date.

Less than two days later at minutes before 5 a.m. on a rainy and wet April 26, police were summoned to a tractor-trailer crash on Route 22A south of Brown Road in Orwell. State police report that Ivan Hrishka, 37, of Denver, Penn., was driving a 2019 Freightliner Cascadia northbound on 22A when he fell asleep. The big rig left the northbound lane, rolled over and came to crashed onto on its passenger's side. Although Hrishka was not injured, he did get a ticket for driving outside his lane.

The third crash came on Sunday, April 27, at around a quarter to 5 p.m. State police rushed to the one-car crash on Route 17 in West Addison. Police were told that the driver reportedly went off the road, damaged some property and then left the area in his vehicle — a 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Through investigation, the identified and located the driver, who they said was David French Jr., 20, of West Addison. They cited French for leaving the scene of an accident.

In a non-vehicle related case, state police announced on April 28 that they had wrapped up a case that started back last fall. Troopers report that on Sept. 2, 2024, they began an investigation into Jonathan A. Wieman, 48, of Middlebury after receiving a report involving explicit images being posted online. They say that Wieman had posted the sexually explicit images online without the adult individual's consent. On April 28 Wieman turned himself in at state police at the New Haven barracks, where he was cited for disclosure of sexually explicit images without consent.

**ETHAN ALLEN
HIGHWAY STORAGE
NOTICE OF SALE**
Brenda Shores - Units 94 & 349
To be sold at public auction
on May 10th at 9:00 AM
to the highest bidder.
All sales are final.
Unit must be broom cleaned.

**PROSPECT CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING PUBLIC NOTICE**
The Officers and all Persons interested in the Prospect Cemetery Association are hereby warned to meet at the Sarah Partridge Community House in East Middlebury on Monday, 12th of May at 7:30 P.M. for the following purpose:

1. To hear the reports of the officers.
2. To hold election of officers for the following year.
3. To vote on fees for the maintenance of the cemetery grounds.
4. To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

Elaine Newton, Secretary

**TOWN OF ADDISON
PUBLIC NOTICE**
The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025 at the Addison Community Center at 6:30 PM. (regular monthly meeting)

1. Open the meeting.
2. Roll call given.
3. Plans are for Katie Raycroft-Meyer to work or meet with the Town Plan revisions for finalizing details & follow up with the next step for the Town Plan.
4. Approve the meeting minutes for April 21, 2025 & continue the business meeting.
* Discussion on the Town Survey results & address our next step for presenting to the Town.
5. Public Comment time allowed. (Beginning & end if deemed necessary.)
6. Review the progress with the Town Survey.
7. Follow up with progress of board members taking ethics training online.
8. If time, we may decide to work on projects.

If needed allow public comment time at the end.
*Deliberative Session, if needed, after the meeting.

Michael Hollis, Chair
Starr Phillips, Secretary
Addison Planning Commission

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
NOTICE OF HEARING**
The Ferrisburgh Planning Commission will hold the following public hearings on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall at 3279 US Route 7, beginning at 7PM. The hearings will also be available to participants remotely via Zoom; the link will be included in the agenda posted on the Town's website (ferrisburghvt.org) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Applications Number 25-032 & Number 25-037: Boundary line adjustment & waiver; Applicants: David Pierson & Jane Melrose; 888 and 986 Botsford Road; Parcel ID numbers 09/01/38 & 09/01/39; Rural Agricultural District (RA-5); Final Plat Review.

Application Number 25-040: Amendment to approved 7-lot subdivision; Applicants: Charles & Diana Shapiro; 628 Robinson Road; Parcel ID number 05/02/56; Rural Agricultural District (RA-5) & Conservation District (CON-25); Final Plat Review.

Application Number 25-043: 4-lot residential Planned Unit Development; Applicant: Anthony Handy / Iceberg, LLC; 192 Bird Haven Lane; Parcel ID number 05/01/42.1; Rural Residential District (RR-2), Rural Agricultural District (RA-5), & Conservation District (CON-25); Sketch Plan Review.

Application Number 25-044: Amendment to 2-lot mixed-use subdivision; Applicant: Mark Franceschetti / Barb, Jim, Mary & Reno LLC; 14 Old Hollow Road & 6866 US Route 7 (Peaceful Road Self Storage); Parcel ID number 18/20/71; Highway Mixed-Use District (HMU-2); Final Plat Review.

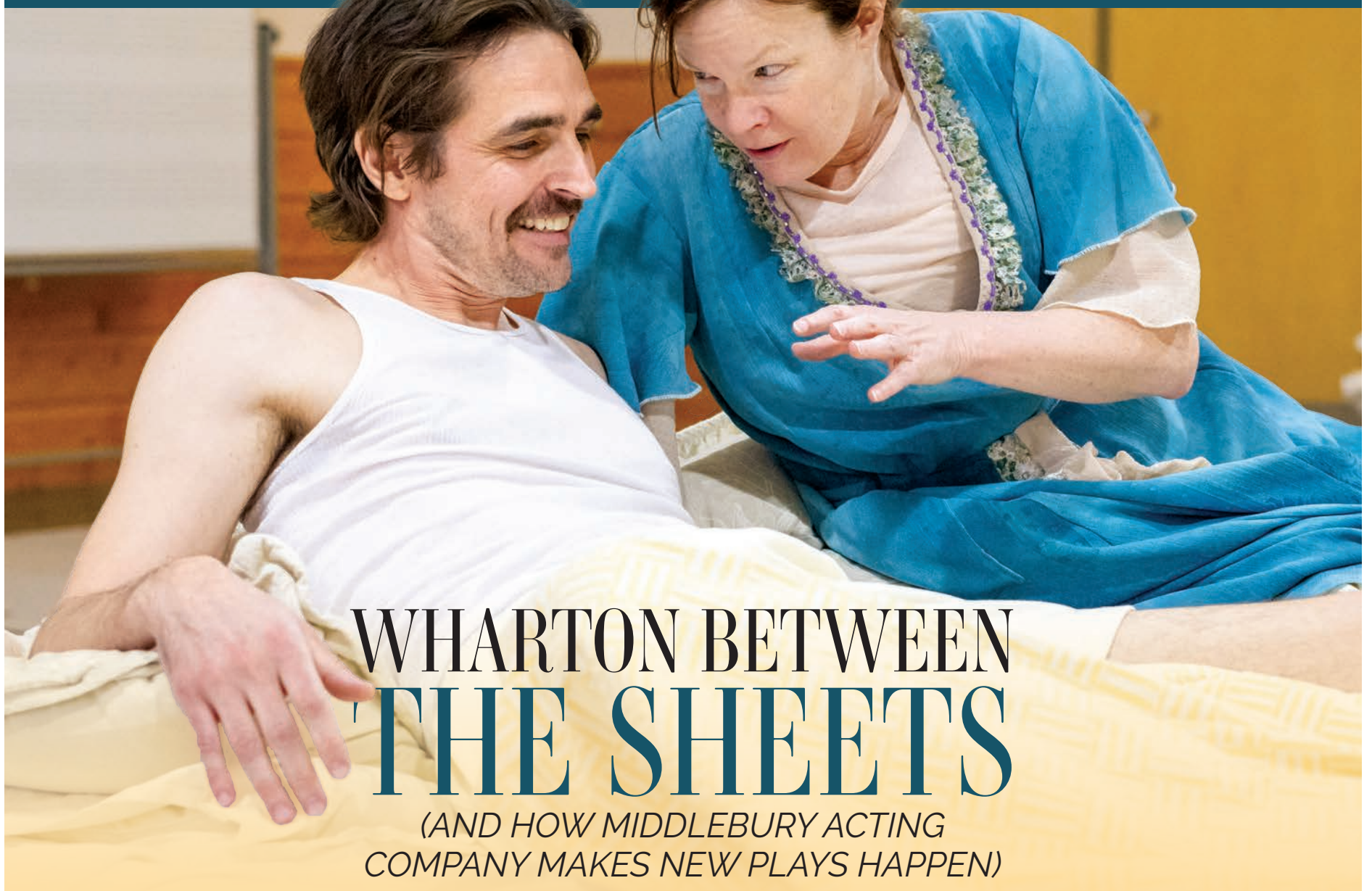
The files for the above applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall or by email to zoning@ferrisburghvt.org.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

ARTS+LEISURE

The Addison Independent

May 1, 2025



WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS

(AND HOW MIDDLEBURY ACTING COMPANY MAKES NEW PLAYS HAPPEN)

Jacob A. Ware, left, as Morton Fullerton, and Chris Caswell, right, as Edith Wharton, rehearse a scene from "Wharton Between the Sheets" at Weybridge Elementary School on Monday, April 28. The Middlebury Acting Company production will take the stage at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater beginning May 8.

PHOTO / OLIVER PARINI PHOTOGRAPHY

Every great play, each masterpiece that will someday draw us to the theater again and again, must start its journey unknown, unseen and untried. From Sophocles and Shakespeare to Lillian Hellman and Lin-Manuel Miranda, a new play can only succeed if it has the extraordinary luck to be discovered, nurtured, rehearsed, revised and perfected until it is fully ready for the world stage.

A key part of Middlebury Acting Company's mission, under Melissa Lourie's direction, has always been to find and perform new contemporary work. Their annual New Play



theater preview

BY DAVID
WEINSTOCK

Festival, and their series of staged readings, are a good start. But MACo also takes on the creative challenge of producing plays at their next stage of development. "Wharton Between the Sheets," opening at Town Hall Theater next week, is your chance to watch the magic happen.

And watching alongside you will be the playwright, Anne Undeland.

"This is the third time the play has been produced," Undeland said. "The first two times, I was at every rehearsal. But this is more like letting the baby go off to college, into the hands of others."

Undeland calls her play a work of historical fiction, not a biography or a documentary. It dramatizes the life of Edith Wharton, a groundbreaking American author who grew up in the Gilded Age of New York's high society and told its stories.

SEE SHEETS ON PAGE 3

Take a 'Trip to the Countryside' with comedians from the city

On Friday, May 2, five Burlington-based comics will be escaping the busy city and coming on over to Middlebury's Town Hall Theater to perform a night of standup comedy.

Hosted by Keziah Wilde, these comics will be bringing the house down in the newly opened Doug and Debby Anderson studio in the new wing of THT. The Hare and the Dog bar, stationed in Jean's Place Lounge (within the new wing) will open at 7 p.m., so come, get a drink, and hang out before the show starts at 8 p.m.

During this 'Trip to the Countryside,' you'll

get to see Donovan Andronico, Holly Bahnsen, Tal Friedman, Brian Thompson, and Nic Sisk, all of whom got their start at the Vermont Comedy Club and now perform all around the Northeast.

Many of these comics host shows of their own around the Burlington area and have been finalists in the Vermont's Funniest Comedian competitions. You won't want to miss this chance to see them in Middlebury.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for students, and are available via townhalltheater.org. Patrons may also buy tickets in person at the THT box office from Monday-Friday from 12-5 p.m., or by calling 802-382-9222.



British folk artists Martin and Eliza Carthy perform Saturday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. on the Rothrock Main Stage at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, featuring songs from their new album, "The Elephant." The duo will host a free meet and greet earlier on the 3rd at 2 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

Father-daughter folk duo to perform and share in Middlebury

British folk legends, Martin and Eliza Carthy, will grace the Town Hall Theater Rothrock Main Stage on Saturday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m. For those interested, there will be a special meet and greet with the artists earlier on May 3, at 2 p.m. The Carthys will perform songs from their first duo album ever — "The Elephant" — released on Topic Records.

Martin is a legendary ballad singer and guitarist who has influenced generations of artists, including Bob Dylan and Paul Simon. His daughter, Eliza, has been twice-nominated for the Mercury Music Prize and a multiple-award winner at the BBC Radio Two Folk awards.

Over a 20-year career, Eliza has performed and recorded with a diverse array of artists including, Paul Weller, Rufus and Martha Wainwright, Patrick Wolf and Bob Neuwirth. More than most, Eliza

SEE CARTHY ON PAGE 4

Wharton Between the Sheets


by Anne Undeland
Directed by Melissa Lourie

May 8 - May 18
May 8-10 & May 16-17 at 7:30pm
May 11, 18 at 2:30pm

Town Hall Theater
Tickets & Info 802.382.9222
www.townhalltheater.org

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in a small Vermont town

 **MIDDLEBURY
ACTING
COMPANY**

SHEETS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At age 46, after a long and loveless marriage, Wharton begins a passionate affair with journalist Morton Fullerton. The play begins in 1908. In her Paris

apartment, Wharton (played by Chris Caswell), is attended by her Irish maid Posy (Julia Jean). Her friend and literary colleague novelist Henry James (John Nagle) introduces her to Morton Fullerton (Jacob A. Ware).

Fullerton sees at once that Wharton, though celebrated for her mind and writings, has never considered herself physically attractive. But in their early moments together, Fullerton notices a facial feature of Wharton's that she (and her unsupportive family) had always regarded as a hideous flaw — and praises her for it. Their affair began instantly and lasted two years.

Despite the secrecy of the affair, a collection of letters between Wharton and Fullerton that became public decades later was part of Undeland's

inspiration in creating the play.

"I was so struck by these letters," she said. "They are beautifully written, of course. But they're so filled with longing and awkwardness and passion and craziness and need and vulnerability and all these fluttery, terrible, wonderful feelings that you have when you first fall in love."

— Anne Undeland

SHOWTIMES

"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS"
BY ANNE UNDELAND

Town Hall Theater, Middlebury

PREVIEW: Thursday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m.

EVENINGS: Fridays-Saturdays,
May 9-10 & 16-17, at 7:30 p.m.

MATINEES: Sundays, May 11 & 18, at 2 p.m.

TALKBACK: Sunday, May 11 post-show

Historical fiction starts with known facts and documents from the past, but often adds new characters and conversations that although imagined tell the larger truth of the story. Wharton, James and Fullerton were historic figures, but Posy is Undeland's invention. Posy knows all of Wharton's secrets, keeps track of her writing, knows her moods and needs, dresses her for the world, and explains her to the audience.

Jodi Daynard, historical fiction novelist and author of the best-selling "Midwife's Revolt" series, explains that invented characters are a necessary part of the game.

"I've invented a gazillion characters who interact with various real people — George Pullman, Abigail Adams, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson," Daynard said. "Basically you have to tell a compelling story. What story do you want to tell? Then you drill down — why do we care about that character? Why do we care about what happens to him or her?"

Important new plays start here. Don't miss "Wharton Between the Sheets" going up at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury beginning May 9 and running through May 18. For tickets and more details visit townhalltheater.org or call 802-382-9222.



Chris Caswell and John Nagle fold a sheet together during a rehearsal of "Wharton Between the Sheets" on Monday evening.

PHOTOS / OLIVER PARINI PHOTOGRAPHY



Julia Jean, left, as Posy, and Chris Caswell, left, as Edith Wharton, rehearse in the Community Room at Weybridge Elementary School.

VERMONT

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Middlebury, Vermont
802-458-0098 & 802-989-7419
edgewatergallery.com

CARTHY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

has revitalized folk music and captured the most hardened of dissenters with intelligent, charismatic and boundary-crossing performance.

Meet the Carthys and learn about their music-making influences and careers at 2 p.m. on Saturday. This intimate conversation in Town Hall Theater's new Anderson Studio, will include some moments of acoustic playing. Open and free to all with registration. The Carthys' full-length show in the evening is ticketed.

Tickets for Martin & Eliza Carthy's concert are \$15-\$35 and are available via townhalltheater.org. Patrons may also buy tickets in person at the THT box office from Monday-Friday from 12-5 p.m., or by calling 802-382-9222.



HOLLY HARRISON



ERIC TARDIF



WOODY JACKSON



RORY JACKSON

Two new exhibits for spring

Exhibits in the Middlebury Edgewater galleries show signs it's really spring. Edgewater Gallery on the Green will continue to show "Flight Patterns," a group exhibition featuring Susan Raber Bray, Ellen Granter, Holly Harrison, Liz Hoag, Eric Tardif, and Molly Doe Wensberg, through May 11.

Following this, on May 16, the gallery at 6 Merchants Row will open "Pools of Reverence," a solo exhibition featuring work by Rory Jackson.

"Pools of Reverence" traces the artist's journey back to the woods and waterways of his home in Lincoln, where he finds his roots, his inspiration, and his sense of awe for the landscape of this region. The time that Jackson spends in the woods is time spent in meditation. It is a time to pay homage to the natural world; its rhythms, rich palettes, and shifting light and shadow. The collection of paintings that have evolved from this place of sanctuary emanate with the emotion that the artist feels for the landscape. This is his home and his place of belonging.

"The river is sacred to me, a grounding force that I visit daily in the summer months," Jackson said. "The variation of light and color through the seasons is a true joy to observe. As in most translations with the brush, it's nearly

impossible to capture the magic of the natural world, yet it is worth the attempt to remind the viewer of what we have been given to hold in reverence."

An opening reception will be held Friday, May 23, from 5-6:30 p.m. View the collection, meet the artist, enjoy live music and lite bites. This event is free and open to all. The exhibit will be on view through June 29.

Down the hill at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, 1 Mill Street, a pop-up exhibition highlighting Middlebury College alumni, local artists, and other Middlebury scenes will open on May 3.

In celebration of our graduating 2025 Middlebury College students, Edgewater Gallery presents an exhibition of all things Middlebury. The work of alumni artists Woody Jackson, Daryl Storrs, and Timothy Clark will be paired with iconic scenes of this beautiful town from a variety of local artists. This colorful collection will highlight the creativity of this lively community.

The gallery will host a relaxed, pop-in style event — free and open to the public, with live music by Deep Think — on Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The exhibit "Edgewater Gallery Celebrates the 2025 Graduates" will be on view through June 1.



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ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ALL-STARs

ART ON EXHIBIT

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.

"Edgewater Gallery Celebrates the 2025 Graduates."

A pop-up exhibition highlighting Middlebury College alumni, local artists, and other Middlebury scenes. The gallery will host a relaxed, pop-in style event — free and open to the public, with live music by Deep Think — on Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. On view May 3-June 1.

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 through May 11.

"Pools of Reverence," a solo exhibition featuring work by Rory Jackson. An opening reception will be held Friday, May 23, from 5-6:30 p.m. View the collection, meet the artist, enjoy live music and lite bites. This event is free and open to all. On view May 16-June 29.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

"Courtney Allenson: Hand Carved Block Prints."

Courtney Allenson is a Vermont-based fish printmaker who specializes in creating hand carved and prints, particularly focusing on trout. Her love for fishing and the natural beauty of Vermont's waterways deeply influence her artwork. Through her block printing techniques, she captures the details and vibrant patterns of various fish species, celebrating their beauty and the joy of fishing. On view through May 24.

JOHNSON EXHIBITION GALLERY

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury

For hours and info visit middlebury.edu/events

"Middlebury College Studio Art Thesis Exhibition."

Opening Reception: May 9, 4:30-6:30 p.m. On view May 2-16.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, this week you may feel a desire to take charge of your professional life. Trust your instincts, but remember that you may have to go out of your comfort zone at some point.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, expect a week of self-reflection. Old emotions might resurface and offer you a chance to grow and heal. If you're feeling out of sorts, make a plan to hang out with close friends.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Make sure you are not spreading yourself too thin this week, Gemini. Even though you are eager to connect and socialize, you might want to limit the number of events you attend.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Home and family matters may occupy most of your time this week, Cancer. It's good to reconnect with loved ones and spend time with your immediate family.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, now could be an excellent opportunity to express your ideas and opinions to some of the higher-ups at your place of employment.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Exercise caution with your spending and investments right now, Virgo. Although you have some financial opportunities on the horizon, it's best to be careful going forward.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. A fresh burst of energy could be coming your way, Libra. This may provide the boost you need for self-improvement.

You may be inspired to make many changes in your life right now.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, you may find yourself reflecting on your mental and emotional well-being this week. Some introspection could lead to a breakthrough that helps you understand the past.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Expect your social life to pick up speed this week, Sagittarius. Invitations and opportunities to connect abound. Pay attention to your network as it may lead to connections.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Your hard work is paying off, Capricorn, but you also need to tend to your personal needs right now. This is the week to find better balance and take care of your health.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, you may be feeling more curious about the world around you and could find this is the week for some unexpected

travel. It's a great time to embrace new ideas.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Your intuition will guide you this week, especially when it comes to romance and other matters of the heart, Pisces. Expect relationships to grow for the better.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 2 — Dwayne Johnson, actor (53)
MAY 3 — James Brown, musician (d)
MAY 4 — Audrey Hepburn (d)

MAY 5 — Soren Kierkegaard, philosopher (d)
MAY 6 — George Clooney, actor (64)
MAY 7 — Angela Carter, author (d)
MAY 8 — Robert Johnson, Blues singer (d)

CALENDAR

MAY 1-8
2025



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-Ilseley 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 www.middlebury.edu/college/box-office.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

PHOTOGRAPHY OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 2, 4-7 p.m., Photoplace Gallery, 3 Park St. An opening for the exhibit "Ruins and Remnants," an evocative exhibit exploring photography of abandoned architecture and the traces left by humanity. This exhibition features powerful images that reveal the stories etched into decaying factories,

forgotten homes, discarded tools and personal belongings — each work a poignant reminder of our history, the passage of time, and the impermanence of human constructs.

HALFOWEEN WITCHES WALK IN BRANDON. Friday, May 2, 5:45 p.m., 69 Park St. Halfway to Halloween is Halfoween celebrating everything you love about the spooky season. Grab a friend or two, come dressed as a witch, warlock, ghost, creepy ghoul or clown, any costume. It is time for a walk down historic Park Street. Walk, crawl, stagger, dance, roller skate, ride your bike...have fun hangin' out with other scary creatures during the walk down the street. At the end a flash mob may break out to the song "I Put a Spell on You" — there will be music, dancing, Bounce Houses and lots of fun.

MOVIE NIGHT IN FERRISBURGH. Friday, May 2, 6 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, Route 7. See a film and help support the Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall renovations.

"THE WALLS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 2, 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theatre, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See May 1 listing. Please join a lively post-show talk back and discussion following the Friday show.

A TRIP TO THE COUNTRYSIDE: A STANDUP COMEDY SHOWCASE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 2, 8 p.m., Anderson Studio, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Five Burlington-based comics will be escaping the busy city and coming to Middlebury

to perform a night of standup comedy. Hosted by Keziah Wilde, this showcase features five standout performers who got their start at Vermont Comedy Club and now perform throughout the Northeast: Donovin Andronico, Holly Bahnsen, Tal Friedman, Brian Thompson, and Nic Sisk. Bar opens at 7 p.m. Tickets: adults \$15; students \$8.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, May 3, Kingsland Bay. Wildflower walk at Kingsland Bay with David Andrews. The walk will be at an easy pace with stops to look and take pictures. The walk is about 2 miles and has little elevation gain. Trillium should be out and more. Contact David for at 802-388-4894 or vtrevda@yahoo.com for details. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

HALFOWEEN IN BRANDON. Saturday, May 3. Around town there will be several opportunities to enjoy Halfoween. Brandon's Historic Town Hall will be transformed into a terrifying Haunted House Friday and Saturday (\$10 admission). Terror at the Barn Opera scary movies start at 6 p.m. Friday (\$10). Masquerade Ball at the Brandon Inn — get your costume ready as there is a competition! (\$25). Mystical Market open air market of the season Central Park Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., mystical items, baked goods, and traditional items from local handcrafters. Get out and enjoy our little town, shop, eat local and have a blast!

SPRING CLEANING SATURDAY ON
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.					
Channel 1071 Through the Night: State House Events, Protests Friday, May 2 5 a.m. Will Miller Social Justice Lecture 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Press Conferences 2 p.m. Will Miller Social Justice Lecture 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week Saturday, May 3 5:30 a.m. Vote For Vermont 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 8 p.m. Will Miller 11 p.m. Energy Week Sunday, May 4 6 a.m. Energy Week		7 a.m. Will Miller 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. Will Miller Monday, May 5 4:30 a.m. Energy Week 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conferences 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Will Miller 8:30 p.m. Legislative Updates Tuesday, May 6 7 a.m. Press Conferences 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard Wednesday, May 7 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, May 8 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 Programs Friday, May 2 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Parkinsons Pantomime Project 8:15 a.m. Meet the Author 9 a.m. Sharpe Takes 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5:30 p.m. VT House Education Committee 8 p.m. Poem City		Saturday, May 3 5 a.m. Poem City 6:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 7:45 a.m. Meet the Author 9 a.m. House Educ. Committee 12 p.m. Student Voice In Education 3 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting. 6 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 p.m. Parkinsons Pantomime 9:15 p.m. Meet the Author Sunday, May 4 5:00 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Student Voice In Education 9:30 a.m. Parkinsons Pantomime 10:45 a.m. Poem City 12 p.m. Meet the Author 1 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 7 p.m. Student Voice In Education 10 p.m. All Things LGBTQ Monday, May 5 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 10 a.m. Sharpe Takes		12 p.m. Yestermorrow 4 p.m. Authors and Poets 6:30 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting Tuesday, May 6 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. School Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi 5 p.m. Yoga 5:30 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7 p.m. State Board of Education Wednesday, May 7 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meeting 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Authors and Poets 10 p.m. Sharpe Takes Thursday, May 8 5 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meeting 12 p.m. Authors and Poets 11 p.m. State Board of Education	

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.

POTTING WORKSHOP AND PUPPET SHOW IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 3, 10-11:30 a.m., Megan's Meadow, behind Porter Medical Center, South St. Join Pollinator Pathway of Addison County for a fun and educational puppet show designed to teach children the importance of Vermont's pollinators and the benefit of growing native plants in our community. This will be followed by a drop-in potting workshop to plant native seeds for the children to take home and add to their home gardens. Snacks and potting materials will be provided. More info and registration at www.maltvt.org/events.

RECYCLED CITIES AND SEED STARTING IN MONKTON. Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m.-noon, Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Learn to use recyclable items such as toilet paper rolls, bottle caps, boxes and other items to start your seeds. WIC will be there to set up a Seed Starting and Sunscreen Safety demonstration. You will be able to start some tomato and marigold seeds. Free for families.

GUIDED HISTORY WALK IN ORWELL. Saturday, May 3, noon-4 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd. Learn about and see the traces of the Revolutionary War defenses. This is a great time of year to explore before all the leaves come out. Revolutionary War expert Mike Barbieri, Mount Independence Coalition President Stephen Zeoli, and site administrator Elsa Gilbertson are your guides. The focus is on areas and features normally not seen. Tickets \$5 adults/\$1 for ages 6 to 14/ free for children under 6 and Mount Independence Coalition members. Wear sturdy boots, be prepared for off-trail walking, and dress for the weather.

MARTIN AND ELIZA CATHY MEET AND GREET IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 3, 2 p.m., Anderson Studio, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Meet these British folk legends, and learn about their music-making influences and careers at this intimate conversation. Some moments of acoustic playing. Open and free to all with registration. A prelude to the Carthys' full-length ticketed show in the evening. Free. More info and registration at townhalltheater.org.

"THE WALLS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 3, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Seeler

Studio Theatre, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See May 1 listing.

AN EARLY EVENING OF SONG AND STORY IN VERGENNES. Saturday, May 3, 4 p.m., Vergennes Congregational Church, 30 S. Water St. Kevin Kareckas is a teacher and musician from Vergennes. Join him for an evening of original music and stories. All are welcome. Come as you are, bring a friend, and share in an evening of song and meaning. Doors open at 3:30. Free.

OPEN-MIC NIGHT IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 3, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Performers of all ages will provide short offerings of music and/or spoken word. All are welcome to attend and to submit a request to perform to music@cvuus.org.

MARTIN & ELIZA CATHY IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 3, 7:30 p.m., Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. British folk legends Martin and Eliza Carthy will perform songs from their first duo album ever, "The Elephant," released on Topic Records. Martin is a legendary ballad singer and guitarist who has influenced generations of artists, including Bob Dylan and Paul Simon. His daughter, Eliza, has been twice-nominated for the Mercury Music Prize and a multiple-award winner at the BBC Radio Two Folk awards. Tickets \$35/\$25/\$15, available at app.arts-people.com/index.php?actions=22&p=7.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

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.

ARBOR DAY TREE TALK AND WALKING TOUR IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 4, 4 p.m., College Park, 94 South Main St., across from Shiretown Market. Join Tim Parsons, Landscape Horticulturist at Middlebury College, on a walking tour of the trees of College Park and nearby Twilight Green. Learn about trees and how to assess their health, spot signs of disease and assess other risks. More info at middleburytreecommittee@gmail.com.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN EASTERTIDE MUSIC PERFORMANCE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 4, 4 p.m., St Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. The Choir of St. Stephen's will offer music of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, including a setting of the Evening Canticles composed by Joanna

Forbes L'Estrange for King's College, Cambridge University. Free and open to the public. More info at visit www.ststephensmidd.org or 802-388-7200.

MONDAY, MAY 5

CHORAL EVENSONG IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, May 5, 4 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Eastertide music of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Music by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, Philip Stopford, Philip Moore and Herbert Howells.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN GOSHEN. Wednesday, May 7, Mt. Moosalamoo. Hike Mt. Moosalamoo from Goshen Road. Wildflower hike of 5.8 miles round-trip, with 1,125 feet elevation change, starting from Moosalamoo Campground. Contact Ruth Penfield at ruthpenfield@gmail.com or 802-458-1116 for details and to sign up. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

BOOK CLUB IN MONKTON. Wednesday, May 7, 7 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. This month they will be discussing "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. Email the library for more information or if you are interested in joining the book club.

THURSDAY, MAY 8,

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL. Thursday, May 8, the Watershed, Plank Rd. Meet at Bristol Waterworks on Plank Road for an easy 3-mile loop in a prime area for viewing wildflowers and the spring bird migration. Binoculars helpful. Dogs not allowed. Contact Morris Earle to register and for more information at morrisearle@gmail.com or 802-734-0984. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"FRIED GREEN TOMATOES" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday,

May 8, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Join the Middlebury Classic Film Club for a screening and discussion of the 1991 film. A neglected housewife makes an unexpected friend at a nursing home, where she hears a true tale about an independent woman in 1920s Alabama who ran the town diner, served food to people of color and protected her sister-in-law from an abusive spouse. Popcorn is on us.

VERMONT BLUEGRASS PIONEERS BENEFIT CONCERT IN NORTH FERRISBURGH. Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m., North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church, 227 Old Hollow Rd. Come hear one of Vermont's top acoustic bands. The program will feature it's signature hard-driving style of bluegrass music, with a dynamic mix of old and new songs. Admission by donation. All proceeds will benefit Dismas House, an organization dedicated to aiding individuals transitioning from state custody back to the community. More info: contact North Ferrisburgh UMC at 802-425-2770 or nfumc@gmavt.net.

"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. This Middlebury Acting Company production takes us to Paris in 1908 and brings together literary legend Edith Wharton, her dear friend the novelist Henry James, her lover Morton Fullerton, and her Irish lady's maid in an eyebrow-raising retelling of Wharton's actual mid-life romance. Tickets \$20 for this preview performance, available at townhalltheater.org.

SPRING DANCE CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 8, 7:30 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. In "Another Word for Love," Middlebury College Dance Department showcases the work done by dance students during the spring semester. Tickets \$15/10/8/5. More info at middlebury.edu/events.

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ARTS

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Spring Coloring and Decorating Contest

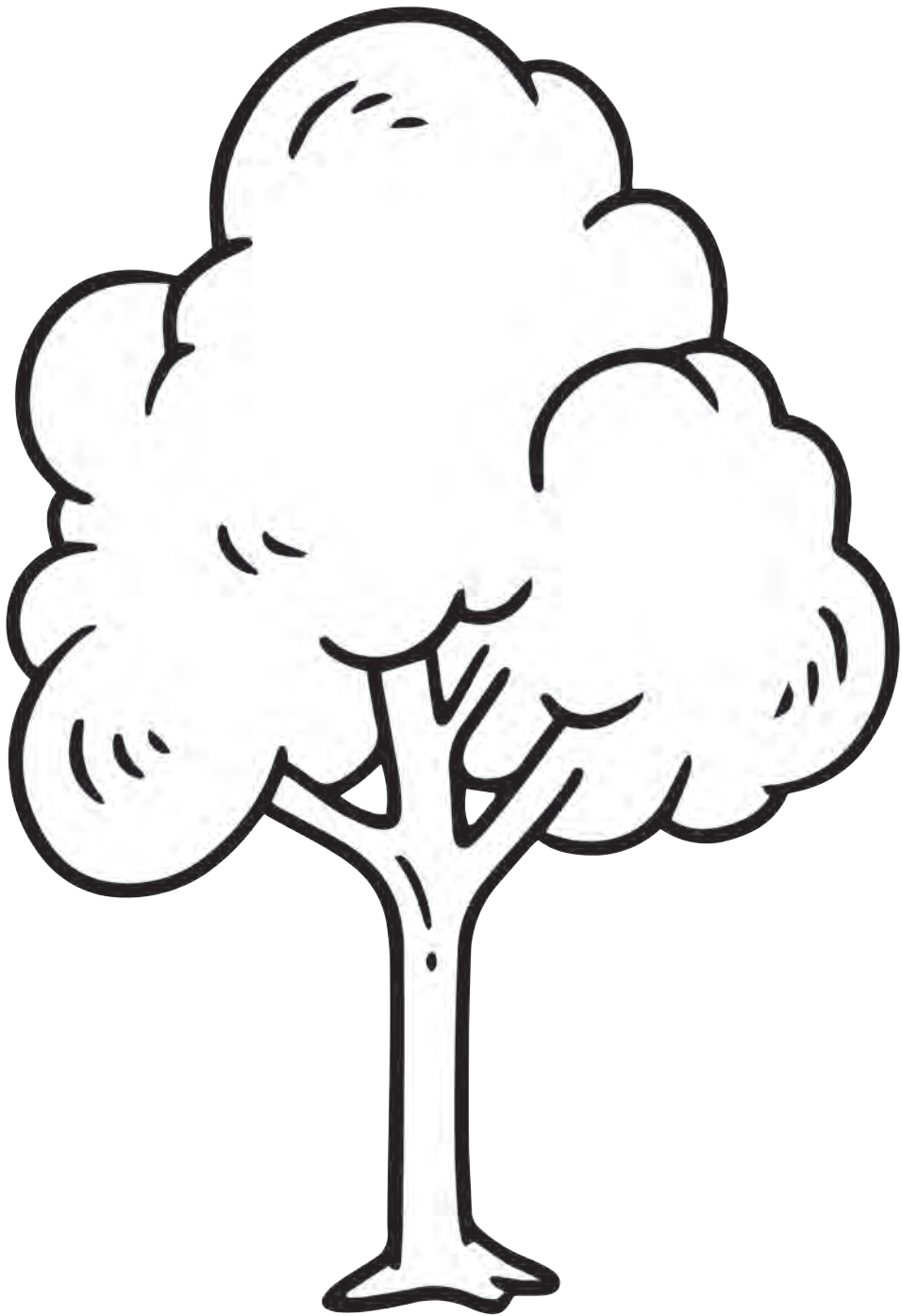
Spring is in the air! Grab your brightest colors and help bring this cheerful scene to life as we welcome warmer days, singing birds, and blooming flowers.

Submit your entries:

- ♦ Online at addisonindependent.com/contests
- ♦ By Mail to Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Feel free to tear out this coloring page or go to our website for a printable version. Submissions are due by Friday, May 16th. Winners will be announced in the May 22nd edition of the Addison Independent. Two winners from each age group will win a prize from one of our sponsors that can be picked up at the Addy Indy office through June 20th.

Thank you to our sponsors:



Name: _____

Age: _____

Parent/Guardian's name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Age Group: ☐ under 5 ☐ 5-6 ☐ 7-8 ☐ 9-11 ☐ 12-15 ☐ 16-Adult

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PUZZLES

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ACROSS

- 1. Herring-like fish
- 5. Perform on stage
- 8. Soda
- 11. Small growth
- 13. In support of
- 14. Step taken when walking
- 15. Hollyhocks
- 16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 17. Feel pain
- 18. San Diego ballplayer
- 20. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 21. Fat from a pig's abdomen
- 22. Create again
- 25. Honors once more

- 30. Thin coating of gold
- 31. Welsh river
- 32. Japanese novelist Mizumura
- 33. Husks of corn
- 38. Green vegetable
- 41. Showing guilt
- 43. Soldier
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Language spoken in Nigeria
- 49. Mimic
- 50. Expressed pleasure
- 55. Ancient Greek sophist
- 56. Beverage container
- 57. Night monkey genus

- 59. Lace bugs
- 60. Hogshead (abbr.)
- 61. Frameworks
- 62. Keyboard key
- 63. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 64. Influential Korean independence figure

DOWN

- 1. A place to unwind
- 2. Helped (archaic)
- 3. Razorbill genus
- 4. Bleached
- 5. Continent
- 6. Fruit preserved in syrup
- 7. Impediment to one's freedom
- 8. Nocturnal rodents

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12			13			14		
15							16			17		
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2								
					6			4
	7	5	9	2		8		3
8								

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

- 9. Earthy pigment
- 10. Relieved oneself
- 12. Golf score
- 14. Tech hub __ Alto
- 19. Sportscaster Andrews
- 23. Records electric currents
- 24. Popular Hitchcock film
- 25. Revolutions per minute
- 26. NY Giants legend
- 27. Sports radio host

- Patrick
- 28. When you hope to get somewhere
- 29. French seaport
- 34. Thai river
- 35. Rocker's accessory
- 36. Extra charge
- 37. Influential American president
- 39. Pain in the head
- 40. Great Plains people
- 41. Consumed
- 42. Soluble

- ribonucleic acid
- 44. Improves
- 45. Secret clique
- 46. Behind the stern of a ship
- 47. Dough made from corn flour
- 48. Fallow deer
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish white
- 53. Engrave
- 54. College's Blue Devils
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

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



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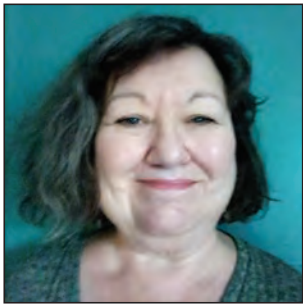
EARLY BIRD PRICING THROUGH MAY 15
ONE DAY PASS: \$25 TWO DAY PASS: \$40



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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

ALL ABOUT BLEEDING HEARTS



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

Have you ever heard of the lady in the bath flower? That's just one of the common names for bleeding hearts (*Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, formerly *Dicentra spectabilis*). If you're wondering where that name comes from, just look at the flower upside down and you'll see her.

BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

Other common names include heart flower, lyre flower or Asian bleeding

heart.
There is a bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) native to the eastern United States that's commonly referred to as the fringed bleeding heart. It has grayish-green colored foliage and pink to purple-red flowers and, at about 18 inches in height, is somewhat smaller than *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*.
Interestingly, while *Dicentra spectabilis* appears related to our native bleeding heart,

genetic testing revealed it is not. This led to it being reclassified as *Lamprocapnos spectabilis*, many cultivars of which are available to home gardeners.
Bleeding hearts are one of the fleeting pleasures of spring in the garden. Each year, this perennial emerges from the ground, its stems reaching upward and outward. Heart-shaped flowers in combinations of red, white or pink dangle beneath the arching stems.

Native to Asia, *Lamprocapnos spectabilis* was introduced to European gardens in the mid-1800s and has been a shade garden favorite since that time.

It is a charming, old-fashioned flower equally at home in a cottage garden with dappled sunlight or in a woodland shade garden. Bleeding hearts are hardy in United States Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zones 3 to 9.

They grow 2 to 3 feet tall and wide and bloom for 4 to 6 weeks each spring. The flowers attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds and offer a mild, sweet fragrance.

If you enjoy sharing plants or simply want more of a good thing for your own garden, mature plants can be dug up when dormant and the root clumps divided using a clean shovel or blade.

Plant in early spring as soon as you can work in the soil. You can also plant during the fall when temperatures are mild to give the roots a chance to establish before the ground freezes. Either way, you may want to mark
SEE HEARTS ON PAGE 11

FROM THE FURRY TO THE SCALY, WE WANT TO CELEBRATE THEM ALL!

Does your pup possess an abundance of paw-someness? Is your cat the epitome of purr-fection? Perhaps your ferret is your ultimate BFF (best ferret furever)? Or maybe you have a snake that's simply ssssssuper? Then it's time to showcase them in the annual Addison Independent Pet Photo Contest!

Pet PHOTO

C O N T E S T

We've got categories for every type of pet personality:

- Funny Faces
- Couch Potato
- Best Pals
- Model Shot
- Action Shot
- Work companions

Entering the contest is easy! Submit your entry online at addisonindependent.com/contests or drop off your entry in person or by mail at **58 Maple Street, Middlebury.**

Don't forget to include your pet's photo, name(s), approximate age(s), and a brief description of why they're the best at what they do. Entries are welcome until **Sunday, May 4th at 11:59 PM.** Late entries will not be accepted.

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?

Reach out to Jenna at contests@addisonindependent.com

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MIDDLEBURY FARM & GARDEN

Each category winner will receive a gift certificate from Agway



HEARTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

want to mark the planting location to avoid accidentally digging up the roots during its dormant period.

For best results, plant in partial shade or filtered sunlight in rich soil that drains well. Amend soil with compost if needed. Heavy soil that retains water may cause root rot.

Add a layer of mulch to help keep moisture levels consistent. Mulch will also help keep soil cooler during the heat of summer and protect the roots from freezing and thawing in winter.

Feed, if needed, in early spring — according to package directions — to encourage flower and root development.

After it's finished flowering, the foliage will yellow and die back. The plant will go dormant until the following spring.

Bleeding hearts spread by underground stems called rhizomes or through self-seeding. They're not considered aggressive in the garden.

They are a low-maintenance plant, but root rot may occur due to standing water or excessive moisture in heavy soil. They're also a good option if deer or rabbits tend to browse in your garden as both tend to avoid nibbling on them.

A word of caution: Although bleeding hearts appear delicate and harmless, all parts of the plant are toxic to pets and humans if eaten. Touching them may cause skin irritation, so wear gloves as a precaution.

If you have questions regarding bleeding hearts or other home-gardening questions, please contact the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Helpline at go.uvm.edu/gardenquestion.



A shade garden favorite, bleeding hearts come in a variety of colors, grow 2 to 3 feet tall and wide and bloom for 4 to 6 weeks each spring, attracting butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators.

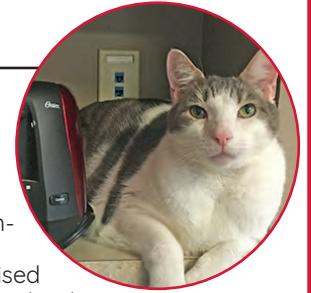
PHOTO / DEBORAH J. BENOIT

Pets In Need

HOMeward BOUND Addison County's Humane Society

Casper

Casper is a chunky and friendly boy who came to us from New Jersey! He loves to play, gallop around the room, and take naps in strange places. We suspect he has a poultry allergy and he is on a fish-only diet. He is considered special needs because he has a compromised immune system. Casper does well with other cats but we are unsure about dogs.



Jett

Jett is the best boy around! He is around 1-year-old and gets along with cats, dogs, and kids. Jett was also nicknamed Romeo for being super lovable with everybody. He loves to play-wrestle and would like another cat to play with that matches his energy and play style. Jett is an indoor-only cat.



Prue

Prue is a beautiful, long-haired girl who is super affectionate. Her favorite things include catnip, naps, and her other cat friends. Prue has no experience with dogs.



Jiggy

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 yard) is all I dream of. I get along fine with cats and children, although too many at once can overwhelm me a little. I find large dogs intimidating. I'm house-broken and crate trained, but I love my spot on the living room couch. I'd love to be your forever companion and live out my golden years with you! And Milk bones! I love Milk bones!



Missy

Hi! I'm **Missy**! A 1-year-old heeler mix full of energy. I came to the shelter as a stray. I'm a smart, athletic pup and would love to have a job or learn to do agility or other training form. I'm a fast learner! I love people but can be stressed around other dogs in the shelter. With the proper introduction, I can warm up to other dogs. My history with cats and children is unknown. I'm still young and need a family that is willing to help me work on my puppy manners. I need a home with a lot of patience and love!



Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



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MUSIC, DEBUTS & DANCE

EVENTS



SCAN FOR THE FULL SCHEDULE

Middlebury College presents medley of events open to all

Middlebury College's arts calendar is packed this weekend, offering audiences a rich mix of music, dance and original performances.

ORCHESTRA

The **Middlebury College Orchestra** will perform a spring concert Sunday, May 4, at 3 p.m., in the Mahaney Arts Center's Olin C. Robison Concert Hall. Conducted by Evan Bennett, the program features Sibelius's Symphony No. 1, the world premiere of Asher Holton's Overture in D, and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, with pianist Gregory Marciniuk. Livestream available on YouTube @robisonhall.

DANCE

In dance, **"Another Word for Love"** takes the stage Thursday, May 8, and Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m., at the Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre. Students will perform original solos crafted in collaboration with Visiting Assistant Professor Meshi Chavez, with lighting by Bert Crosby. Tickets range from \$5 to \$15 and are available at middlebury.edu/college/box-office.

SOLO INSTRUMENTALS

For something more intimate, alumnus **Mike Nunziante** ('19) presents *Paciencia Mía* on

Friday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m., at Hepburn Zoo Theater. His bilingual, multi-instrumental solo performance dives into themes of personal growth and distance.

Finally, **Chelsea Robinson** ('26) will offer a cello recital Saturday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m., at the Robison Concert Hall. The program includes works by Bach and Chopin, accompanied by Matthew Quayle. Robinson is an Addison Country resident and a graduate of Middlebury Union High School. Livestream available on YouTube @robisonhall.



PUZZLE

SOLUTIONS MAY 1, 2025

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P	O	L	Y	P			F	O	R			P	A	C	E	
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	P	A	D	R	E		I	P	M			L	A	R	D	
						R	E	C	O	M	P	O	S	E		
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D	A	B	A			A	P	E		A	A	H	E	D		
A	B	A	S			C	A	N			A	O	T	U	S	
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4	1	7	2	9	3	6	8	5
5	3	2	7	6	8	9	4	1
6	8	9	5	4	1	3	7	2
7	9	8	1	5	2	4	3	6
3	6	1	4	8	9	2	5	7
2	5	4	6	3	7	1	9	8
9	2	3	8	7	6	5	1	4
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8	4	6	3	1	5	7	2	9



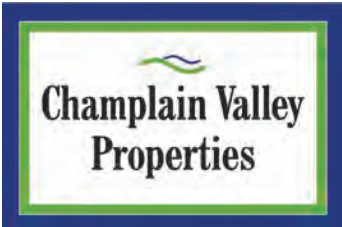
810 LOWER FOOTE ST., MIDDLEBURY
\$450,000

THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

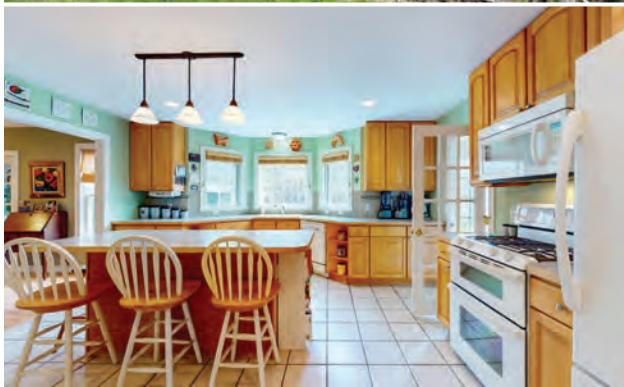
Spacious one-level, local living

Built in 2005, this meticulously maintained 2,800-square-foot ranch-style home was thoughtfully designed for easy, single-level living. Originally constructed as a retirement residence, it offers wide doorways and an open-concept floor plan that connects the living room, dining area and kitchen. The home's layout is ideal for those seeking comfort and convenience, with all essential spaces located on the main floor. A ramp in the attached garage ensures easy access, further enhancing the home's thoughtful design. Situated just minutes from downtown Middlebury, East Middlebury, and with quick access to Route 7, the location is perfect for local amenities and effortless commuting north or south. The expansive basement provides ample room for storage, a workshop, or a variety of hobbies, offering flexibility for all lifestyles. Recent improvements include a brand-new roof, ensuring added value and peace of mind for years to come.



*This week's property is managed by Champlain Valley Properties.
More info at champlainvalleyproperty.net.*





BRISTOL NEW LISTING!
602 S 116 ROAD

MLS #5037959 | \$449,000
3 BD | 2 BA | 1369 SF | 2.23 AC

One-level living in this open-concept home. Warm toned finishes, a light paint palette and loads of natural light provide an inviting atmosphere. Plenty of counter space and cabinetry in the eat-in-kitchen, along with a kitchen island offering additional seating. Two-car attached garage, with oversized overhead door in one bay. Over 1100 square feet of unfinished space in the basement ready for storage. Spacious, level yard, will invite you to garden, play games, and entertain this summer! 15 minutes to Middlebury and approximately 45 to Burlington.

FERRISBURGH NEW LISTING!
2700 FULLER MOUNTAIN ROAD

MLS #5037988 | \$849,000
4 BD | 4 BA | 3148 SF | 13.90 ACRES

Stunning home with a perfect blend of modern conveniences and rustic charm. Well-appointed kitchen. Attached garage that enters through the home through a generous mudroom. Your own private paradise awaits every time you step outside with your own pond, expansive yard, and plenty of acreage for that homestead you've always wanted to create. A charming barn will give you plenty of space for storage, hobbies, a workshop, or even livestock. You'll be surrounded by picturesque pastoral landscapes, a strong community life, and abundant outdoor recreation from this Champlain Valley property.

BRISTOL NEW LISTING!
721 HEWITT ROAD

MLS #5037213 | \$699,000
3 BD | 3 BA | 4868 SF | 5.10 ACRES

Beautiful flooring, updated kitchen, natural woodwork, and with plenty of space for everyone! Hobby shop, detached 3-car garage with 2nd flr storage, a sugar shack, and numerous additional outbuildings.

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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Smith Allen, reimagining the U.S./Mexico border. This collection was created during Donald Trump's first presidency, including still photographs, unique screen prints, and Borderlands, an accordion book/sculptural object originally published by the VSW Press in 2021. Also included in this exhibition is "Target Practice," a series of military targets fabricated out of acrylic mirror. The work holds a mirror up to current politics and invites viewers to imagine new possibilities in interpreting, interrupting, and engaging with the American landscape and its political systems. Free and open to all during gallery hours: Sun. 1-7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-7 p.m.;

"Beyond Walls" featuring works made by artist, image maker, and photographer Hannah

Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Saturdays.

K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St, Vergennes

For more info visit kgrantfineart.com.

"Signals," a group exhibition featuring works by Steve Budington, Grace Hager, David Kearns, JoAnne Lobotsky, Jennifer McCandless, and Aimée Papazian. An opening reception will be held Saturday, May 3, from 6-9 p.m. On view May 3-June 21.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Ruins and Remnants." This exhibit explores the evocative theme of abandoned architecture and the traces left by humanity. Showcased images reveal the stories etched into architectural spaces and the objects left behind — the marks, structures and artifacts that speak to our histories and inspire contemplation. Juror Aline Smithson selected

approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view May 2-30. PhotoPlace will donate a portion of submission fees for this exhibit to help those affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles.

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.

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MIDDLEBURY
\$499,000 MLS #5037886

Spacious L-Shaped Ranch offers single-floor open living filled with natural light. Mountain views, well maintained, newer siding, fenced yard, deck, attached garage, mudroom with laundry, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Just minutes to downtown with dining, shopping, recreation, culture & hospital. Listing Agent: Nancy Larrow (802)989-9653

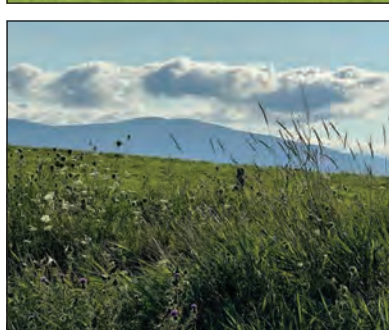


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May is blooming with events at Town Hall Theater



Ted Perry Trio

Friday May 16th Happy Hour 5-6pm, Concert 6-7pm

Jean's Place Lounge and Anderson Studio

Tickets: Budget \$15, Regular \$20, Generous \$25

Enjoy early evening jazz with the Ted Perry Trio in the new Anderson Studio overlooking Otter Creek. The adjacent Jean's Place lounge and Hare and the Dog Bar will be open at 5pm, serving beer, wine, specialty cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages.

Known for his warm, soulful touch and emphasis on lyrical melodies, grooves, and storytelling, Perry's unique voice blends various genres and includes elements of the blues, jazz, and folk, with a touch of his own personal perspective.

Come open your mind this May!

Get your feet wet with a new activity or adventure

Our four-week classes, geared toward both adults and youth, span the full gamut of physical and mental learning.

Practice self-defense with a Tae Kwon Do master, perform in front of the camera with "House of Cards" actor Jeremy Holm, learn swing dance, and enjoy the return of warm weather by learning about some of our most beloved spring animals: chicks and bees - and so much more!

It's that time of year to find a hobby to obsess over all summer, and here in the Seligmann Center for Learning and Engagement, we've got endless opportunities.



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Featuring stunning new rooms overlooking the Otter Creek.

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For inquiries, contact: events@townhalltheater.org

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