



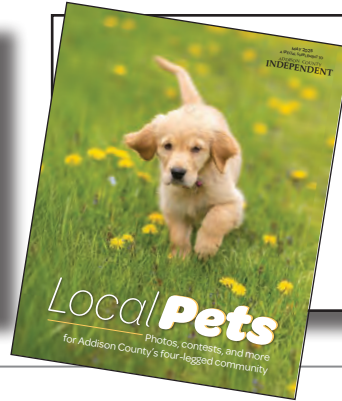
Art history

The Henry Sheldon Museum is back in business with an auction and new exhibits. Arts + Leisure



VUHS rallies

In a pitching duel, the Tigers led most of the way, but one inning made the difference. See Page 1B.



Perfect pet pix

Funny faces, couch potatoes and best pals are featured in our photo contest pages inside Arts + Leisure.

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Natural artists

BRIDPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL students Leone Plouffe, left, Emma Bordeleau and Nora Lilly are happy to share the nature drawings they produced during a plein air salon hosted by Middlebury artist Kate Gridley on the Tilley Trail in Weybridge this past week. See more photos on Page 10A.

Independent photo/Steve James

Transformation of Vt. schools nears

Lawmakers give primer on Ed. Bill

By JOHN FLOWERS

VERGENNES — Legislative chefs are closing in on a recipe to transform Vermont's public education system. House and Senate cooks differ on some of the ingredients for the final product, but most appear confident they'll be able to serve up a new education blueprint that Vermont taxpayers will find more affordable, efficient and effective than the current one.

Negotiations in Montpelier are nearing completion on changes that likely would set a statewide per-pupil spending limit, consolidate school districts and reduce the

"I think we all recognize we can probably achieve savings... by reducing the number of districts."

— Rep. Peter Conlon

number of schools.

The General Assembly is pinning its hopes on H.454, the so-called "act relating to transforming Vermont's education governance, quality and finance systems."

It's a 160-page behemoth of a (See Transformation, Page 12A)

New farmers market eyed for downtown Middlebury

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — A new organization will carry on the tradition of hosting a weekly summertime market in downtown Middlebury this year.

In recent years, the Better

Middlebury Partnership has put on a series of Midd Summer Markets at Triangle Park — adjacent to the town green and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. This year, BMP officials will pivot to hosting pop- (See Market, Page 17A)

At VUHS middle school, students learn by doing

All grades complete end-of-year projects

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The halls of Vergennes Union High/Middle School were humming on May 9, when the school's 8th-, 7th- and 6th-graders presented their finished year-end research or service projects to family and community members.

It was also a unique day at the school. For years, 8th-graders at VUHS have presented individual Capstone Projects, which require weeks of effort and culminate with presentations.

The Capstone's purpose is "to

give students a challenge where they can express themselves while strengthening important skills like research, communication and time management," according to school materials. Capstone topics 8th-graders researched this year ranged from "The American Food Industry" to "Co-occurring Mental Illness."

Seventh-graders had a new assignment. In 2024, they did "mini-capstones," according to Middle School Principal Colden Golann. This year, for the first time, they performed and presented the results of small-group community service projects. Each project was based on a United Nations Global (See Middle school, Page 17A)



FOR HIS EAGLE Scout community service project, Zachary Norris planned, worked on and oversaw installation of a Pantton stone raised flower bed at the flagpole at the Vergennes American Legion clubhouse.

Photo courtesy of Travis Scribner

City troop sees boom in Eagles

Half-dozen Scouts earn the highest honor possible

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Vergennes Boy and Cub Scout Troop 539 would be doing well if the troop just maintained its membership at the current level of 20, ranging from Tiger novices to Eagle Scouts. Those numbers are better than average for Vermont troops.

Troop 539 has historically done better than that, because it regularly sees Scouts from its troop achieve the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout. Usually one or two a year accomplish that feat, which takes years of effort, according to Troop 539 Scoutmaster Travis Scribner.

But the city-area troop — or rarely any troop, according to Scribner — hasn't seen anything like what has happened in the past six months.

In December, Pantton's Grey Fearon and Brody McGuire of Vergennes successfully completed the final step of the long process to become an Eagle Scout — passing muster before an Eagle Scout board of review.

And this spring, four more members of Troop (See Eagle Scouts, Page 11A)



By the way

Matthew Robinson of Middlebury's Swift House Inn and Jessica's Restaurant is the 2025 recipient of the Vermont Hospitality Excellence Award. Robinson received the award during the Vermont Tourism Summit held April 28-29 at the Hotel Champlain in Burlington. According to the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, the Vermont Hospitality Excellence Award "honors Vermonters who

(See By the way, Page 17A)

Harrington to helm Salisbury elementary

By JOHN FLOWERS

SALISBURY — Many of the roughly two-dozen Ripton children who'll be attending Salisbury Community School (SCS) this fall will see a familiar face in the principal's office.

Former Ripton Elementary School principal (and current Ripton resident) Tracey Harrington has been picked as Salisbury's new top administrator. She'll succeed current SCS (and Ripton Elementary School) Principal Bjarki Sears, who'll step down next month to resume his career as a Social Studies teacher, at Middlebury Union Middle School.

"Tracey brings over 24 years of service within the Addison Central School District as an educator, principal and administrator," ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker said in announcing Harrington's appointment. "She has shared with me that the work of a building leader is the role that (See Harrington, Page 16A)

College faculty push to close Monterey amid spending cuts

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College faculty are urging administrators to divest from the institution's graduate school in Monterey, Calif., in the wake of recently-announced compensation cuts and other steps aimed at filling a projected \$14.1 million deficit for this fiscal year.

Faculty, staff and students during the past month have pushed back against those steps, which were detailed in an April 2 letter to the college community and included new limits on retirement benefits and growing undergraduate enrollment. Over 200 people gathered on campus this past Thursday to protest the measures.

At a Tuesday meeting, faculty (See College faculty, Page 7A)



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE FILM & Media Culture Professor David Miranda Hardy speaks at a May 8 gathering on campus in which 200 people protested compensation cuts and other steps recently announced by administrators.

Independent photo/Steve James

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Salisbury runner sets \$50K goal for charity

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — Long-distance runner Clifford “Chip” Piper of Salisbury on May 25 will add another 88 miles to his personal odometer, as he takes on the Infinitus Ultra Trail Run 88K at the Silvers Towers Campground in Ripton — a gargantuan trek through which he hopes to raise \$50,000 for programs assisting folks battling substance use disorder.

It was in 2022 that the *Independent* first chronicled Piper’s effort to use his legs, heart and will to run long distances in service to organizations — like Middlebury’s Turning Point Center of Addison County — that provide recovery services. His driving force is his late son, Michael, who in 2020 lost his fight

with opioid addiction.

Since his first Ultra race in 2022, Pipe has come to know the Silver Towers Campground like the back of his hand, and he’s going to know it even better following his upcoming 88K in memory of both his son and Jenna Tatro, the daughter of Greg and Dawn Tatro, the founders of Jenna’s Promise, a recovery community in Johnson, Vt., that employs a “whole-life approach” to the treatment of substance use disorder.

The money Piper raises through his run sponsorships and contributions will benefit the Turning Point Center, Jenna’s Promise and Divided Sky, a residential recovery program in Ludlow. The latter program was co-founded by Phish musician Trey Anastasio and Melanie Gulde,

the drug court case manager who guided him through a 14-month court-ordered journey following his December 2006 arrest for DUI and drug possession.

There are a couple of options for contributing to Piper’s effort.

You can make a contribution toward his 88K by logging on to tinyurl.com/mwrrppyun.

You can participate in a raffle for a TrailStar 750W electric trail bike, by going to tinyurl.com/2a8ptvrr. Tickets cost \$25 each and will be capped at 250.

Go to trailrun4recovery.com for more info about Piper’s 2025 benefit run.

Email at Trailrun4recovery@outlook.com.

During the past four years, Piper and his team of volunteers have raised around \$83,000.



Rainbow awe

SPRING IN VERMONT often has plenty of crazy weather, but one atmospheric phenomenon is always welcome — a rainbow. Pedestrians stopped on the Battell Bridge in downtown Middlebury on the evening of May 7 to soak up the good vibes dispersed by this colorful arc.

Photo by Jonathan Blake

Addison woman named Miss Vermont

ESSEX JUNCTION — Addison resident Sophia Parker has been named Miss Vermont 2025.

The Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization last week announced that Parker earned the title Miss Vermont 2025 and Emma Danaher of Essex became Miss Vermont’s Teen 2025 in a competition held May 4 in Stowe at the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center.

Parker is the 80th Miss Vermont and Danaher is the 20th Miss Vermont’s Teen.

A 26-year-old native of Addison, Parker is a 2024 graduate of Castleton University. She holds a BSN in Nursing and works as a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Parker

is also a sergeant in the Vermont Army National Guard where she serves as a medic. She received a \$7,500 scholarship and a \$5,000 Ellis Strategies Public Speaking and Presentation Course.

Parker’s Community Service Initiative for the Miss Vermont organization would not be surprising to anyone who knows her; it is “Wildlife Rehabilitation and Stewardship of the National World.” Parker and her mother, Julianna, operate Otter Creek Wildlife Rescue, a 501C3 organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of injured Vermont birds and mammals.

“I am honored and overjoyed to be given this year of service and the opportunity to represent my beloved

state as Miss Vermont 2025,” Parker said. “I am excited to travel across the state meeting with my fellow Vermonters hearing their stories and sharing my passion for wildlife rehabilitation. Service is such a blessing both to those who receive it and those who give it. One of my goals is to inspire Vermonters of all ages to find their passion through service and causes near and dear to their own hearts.

“The phenomenal board of the Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization and my Miss Vermont sisters have empowered me and helped me grow since I was 15 years old and held the honor as serving as Miss Vermont’s Teen 2015. I am forever grateful to have this challenge of being their representative for the next year.”

Parker says she plans to work with legislators and other nonprofits to create more humane laws for wildlife in Vermont as well as encouraging the state’s Department of Fish & Wildlife to license more wildlife rehabilitators. She is the youngest licensed rehabilitator in the state.

Danaher is a 16-year-old native of Essex, Vermont and a sophomore in high school. In addition to receiving a \$3,000 scholarship, she is also the recipient of a full academic scholarship to the University of Alabama through the Miss America Opportunity valued at over \$100,000. This scholarship is awarded to every state teen titleholder across the country provided she is accepted to the school. Danaher plans to utilize this scholarship to study Health Sciences and eventually become an interventional cardiologist.



MISS VERMONT 2025 Sophia Parker of Addison, left, poses with Emma Danaher of Essex, Miss Vermont Teen 2025, after they earned their titles at a show in Stowe on May 4.



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HARE AND THE DOG

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Verner to bring magic, support to Ukraine

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Illusionist extraordinaire Tom Verner has traveled to Ukraine several times in recent years, performing magic shows in the war-torn country and neighboring Poland with the nonprofit Magicians Without Borders.

The Lincoln resident is now gearing up for the organization’s sixth trip to the eastern European country since Russian forces invaded the country in February 2022. This time around, the team is hoping to bring more than magic to the people of Ukraine.

The trip comes after a rocky stretch for U.S.-Ukraine relations, one marked by a heated Oval Office meeting in which President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance berated Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky after talks over a now-signed minerals deal went sour.

While in Ukraine, Verner said the Magicians Without Borders team is looking to serve as citizen diplomats — a phrase his wife, Janet Fredericks, has previously used to describe the organization’s work.

“That feels even more the case for this trip,” he told the *Independent*. “I think after the really embarrassing, terrible, kind of ambush of President Zelensky by Trump and Vance in the Oval Office and just all that’s happened in these 100 days in terms of our relationship with Ukraine, it feels more important than ever that we go and, in whatever way, just let them know we’re really supportive of them and stand with them for their fight for self-determination and freedom and their own country.”

For more than two decades, Verner and Fredericks have traveled with Magicians Without Borders to inspire and uplift audiences in hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps and other sites around the world.

The pair founded the nonprofit in 2002, and its mission is to “use the

art of magic to entertain, educate and empower forgotten children around the world, often refugee and orphan children.” They’ve visited 47 countries and performed for more than 1.5 million children, according to estimates from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Magicians Without Borders 15 years ago launched “Sorcerer Apprentice Educational Programs,” through which the organization offers magic training for nine groups of youth in several countries.

“We are teaching magic to marginalized, often very poor children. We are teaching them magic but what we are really teaching them is self-confidence, discipline, focus and self-esteem,” Verner said. “Often from learning, practicing and performing magic, dreams awaken of what once felt impossible. We often say that learning to do magic awakens the belief that ‘the impossible is possible.’ So, we have a scholarship to make these dreams come true. We send our magicians to culinary school, nursing school, college to become social workers, teachers, among other professions.”

The newest Sorcerer Apprentice Program was started in 2023 with 10 teenagers in Lviv, a city in western Ukraine.

“We go and we spend two days with them, six hours each day, and we do magic workshops with them, teaching them new magic,” Verner said. “Back in the fall of 2024, we met four times with them and two of those days we had to meet in a bomb shelter with the kids and do the lessons in the bomb shelter.”

UPCOMING TRIP

Magicians Without Borders will meet with the Lviv group during this trip. Verner heads out May 22, traveling first to Poland. He noted that Fredericks is unable to make the trip, and he’ll be joined by Carlos López, Magicians Without Borders Global Programs Director.

The team will start with three

days in Lublin, Poland.

“That is a very famous Jewish center of learning, it was considered the ‘Jewish Oxford’ in the 19th and early 20th century ... A concentration camp was set up by the Nazis right outside of Lublin, and the entire city and culture and schools and all of that were completely liquidated,” Verner said. “The Jewish community in Lublin is coming back, and they have been working with the UNHCR to work with Ukrainian refugees in Lublin.”

From there, the team will travel to Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, where Magicians Without Borders will spend over a week performing in and around the city.

“Both in schools and centers where refugee children are from both within Kyiv but more so from closer to the Russian border, like Kharkiv and Kherson and those towns that are really, right there on the front lines,” Verner said. “A lot of those people from those cities are the people we’ve been performing for both in western Ukraine and now in Kyiv.”

U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., in March visited a military hospital in Ukraine, and his team has been trying to help Magicians Without Borders set up a similar trip. Though, Verner said that appears unlikely.

“The security is getting harder and tighter around Kyiv these days,” he explained.

Magicians Without Borders will also stop in Lviv, before traveling back to Poland to spend a few days in Kraków.

The upcoming trip will in many ways resemble Magicians Without Borders’s previous visits to Ukraine. The team performed for Ukrainian refugee children and their mothers shortly after Russian forces invaded.

“We did not go to Ukraine that visit; we performed in Poland because it was still pretty chaotic and refugees were still really pouring out of Ukraine across the Polish border,” Verner recalled.

Magicians Without Borders has formed relationships over the course of four other trips to the area

(See Verner, Page 3A)



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LOCAL ARTISTS, INCLUDING some Middlebury Union High School students, will have a hand in making a piece of artwork that will direct folks to the Frog Hollow district in the downtown. Pictured here is the latest draft of the frog-on-branch design that could be tweaked before being affixed to the Mill Street façade of The Middlebury Shop building.

Graphic courtesy of Better Middlebury Partnership

Artwork to highlight Mill Street

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Downtown Middlebury’s Frog Hollow district has much to offer, with diverse shops offering crafts, bikes, artwork and much more, tucked away within a storybook landscape that includes the Otter Creek Falls, a rustic footbridge and the historic Stone Mill Public Market.

But if you’re just visiting, the Mill Street entrance (off Main Street) can be an easy miss.

Not for long.

Local economic development officials and artists are joining forces to fabricate a prominent, fanciful image — appropriately,

of a frog — to be placed on the Mill Street-facing exterior façade of the Middlebury Shop (formerly Fourth ‘N Goal Sports) at 68 Main St. While the artwork could still be tweaked, a draft version presented to the Middlebury selectboard on Tuesday by Better Middlebury Partnership Co-directors Kathryn Torres and Kelly Flynn, depicts a friendly green toad, clinging to a brown branch. Below the amiable amphibian is an arrow pointing down Mill Street, toward Frog Hollow.

“The idea is combining public art and wayfinding to highlight parts of town,” Flynn told selectboard

members.

“Kelly and I over the past year have really recognized how public art... can be a driver for economic wellbeing in a place,” Torres added. “We are super excited about it.”

It’s a collaboration that will include artists Matt Heywood (the image designer), Joe Schine and Michael Kin, with participation from Middlebury Union High School students. The image will be painted onto an aluminum composite that will be fabricated off-site.

“(It’s) a material that’s (See Artwork, Page 6A)



TOM VERNER ENTERTAINS a group of children during a Magicians Without Borders trip to Ukraine in 2023. The team is hoping to serve as citizen ambassadors on its next trip to the eastern European country, showing support for Ukrainians after what has been a rocky stretch for U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Photo courtesy of Tom Verner

Verner

(Continued from Page 2A) since then.

“It’s kind of hard for people, this weird magician from a place called Vermont that wants to come and do magic shows for your kids,” Verner said. “We often don’t get a response, but we get a response from one and they tell someone

else ... Oftentimes we’ll do a school at a show and there will be someone there whose sister works in another school with Ukrainian refugee kids and they tell us to call someone and then shows just start getting scheduled.”

The team is looking for support for its upcoming trip, and those interested in learning more about Magicians Without Borders or making a donation can visit www.magicianswithoutborders.com.

This trip will serve as an opportunity to show support for Ukrainians following recent actions taken by the Trump Administration.

“It certainly is in our head and hearts this time that we really want to let the Ukrainian people know that many, many, many Americans including us really support them,” Verner said.

Bristol library to celebrate all readers this summer

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Bristol’s Lawrence Memorial Library will offer a different take on the traditional summer reading challenge this year.

The library is readying for LML LEGENDS, a summer challenge that will encourage patrons of all ages to pursue literacy explorations that excite them. The challenge will coincide with a variety of events throughout the summer, starting with an upcoming kids’ comics workshop slated for May 24.

Through the effort, the library is hoping to celebrate all of its patrons and their reading journeys.

“(I) had a really mixed experience with Summer Reading Challenges both as a kid and as a parent,” Children’s Services Librarian Jen Lazar told the *Independent*. “I find the more traditional structure often rewards kiddos who read voraciously without actually challenging them, and doesn’t often celebrate or even recognize readers who move more slowly, or read in different ways.”

“We want to change that,” she continued. “The LML LEGENDS challenge is about celebrating all of us.”

Asked about the inspiration behind the effort, Lazar pointed to the people of Bristol and the diverse activities they’ve pursued this year.

“Throughout the school year, I’ve witnessed kids and

families, all-ages, invest deeply in so many literacy explorations ... tearing through fantasy series, toggling between the graphic and chapter book versions of beloved stories, learning to read and speak in new languages, playing narrative-based video games, writing their own fiction,” she recalled. “When we started thinking about Summer ‘Reading’ challenges in the traditional sense — kids tracking 15 minutes of reading each day of the summer — we realized that doesn’t necessarily equal an exciting challenge for everyone.”

Lazar said the library instead decided to ask kids what an exciting challenge would look like to them, whether that be listening to an audiobook of some of their favorite titles or reading their first book in a new language.

“By expanding the idea of literacy, we realized we were both seeing our patrons more fully as readers and expanding their understanding of what LML, what community libraries, are and can do,” she explained.

She noted research shows honoring multiple literacies — such as digital literacy or storytelling in addition to reading and writing — is a core strategy for empowering pupils and generating interest in literacy.

“Research also shows that when people of all ages feel ownership over their goals, their motivation multiplies,” she said. “Working together, rather than competing, is shown to build a sense of community pride and belonging. So, here’s what we’re going for: Empowerment x Literacy x Community = the LML LEGENDS Summer Challenge!”

KIDS COMICS WORKSHOP

Celebrations of literacy at LML will kick off on May 24 with “Strength in Learning Differences: Kids Comics Workshop” led by graphic novel writer Mat Heagerty. The Bridport resident has written several graphic novels, including “Lumberjackula” and “Indoor Kid.”

Throughout the year, Heagerty visits schools around the country.

“I’m dyslexic, and I talk a lot about the strengths of neurodiversity and also the powers of collaboration at tons of schools across America,” he said during a recent interview.

Heagerty noted his schooling experience was a challenging one.

“I was a very poor student in school and had really bad self-confidence from this kind of negative spotlight I had on me through my schooling,” he recalled. “But finding my thing, finding comics and that thing I excelled at, was really important, and it changed the trajectory of my life.”

Allowing youth to discover their own interests is a key part of helping them foster a lasting love of reading, Heagerty said.

“If we want to breed people who want to keep on reading and want to have a love of reading, we have to see where their interests are, catch them there, and then see if they can grow,” he said. “But they have to first fall in love with reading before anything else happens.”

At the May 24 workshop, Heagerty will talk with attendees about how collaboration plays a role in his work.

“What I’ll be showing is how I work with other folks to make things better than I can make on my own by being open

to other people’s suggestions and other people’s ideas, and really how collaboration, when done correctly, is the best,” he said.

Heagerty will start by demonstrating how he works with others to make comics, and then attendees will get a chance to collaborate on their own.

He’s hoping the event helps show youth that the first step of creating is getting your work out into the world.

“One of the things I talk about a lot in all of my workshops is not comparing your work to other people’s, just making the best thing you can, having fun with it, and then getting it out there,” he said. “That’s

how books get onto shelves, is by people finishing (them) and being OK with maybe not the completely polished, best thing ever and being OK with it having some flaws in it.”

To learn more about Heagerty head online to www.matheagerty.com. Lazar noted there are still a few spots open for the May 24 workshop.

SUMMERTIME EVENTS

There will be several other events for community members to take part in throughout the summer. Lazar noted LML has a series of core programs in the works for June through August, including a Monday afternoon Music, Movement & Art series at the Bristol Farmers Market.

The library is also organizing monthly community read-ins, events that will make reading a public and collective act through “takeovers” around town.

“We’ll kick those off with a Rainbow Read-In at LML in June and later in the summer be collaborating with The Hub for a teen-centered Read-In, and then an all-ages reading takeover of the Town Green,” Lazar said. “Participants are encouraged to bring books, audiobooks, journals, beach chairs and blankets, and will receive raffle tickets for every 15 minutes they attend — prizes are being donated by many local businesses: Cubbers, Minifactory, Simon Says, Cookie Love — it’s going to be so much fun!”

Lazar noted a summer kickoff party is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, and will feature Alyx the Magician. An “End of Summer Celebration” will include a Ben & Jerry’s ice cream bar and a space to celebrate community members’ literacy adventures from the summer.

Lazar said LML staff are hoping this summer is filled with community fun and encourages patrons to try something new.

“We can’t wait to see what challenges everyone undertakes and what we, as a library community, can do together,” she said. “We know it will be legendary.”

She noted activities this summer will also get the ball rolling on longer-term efforts to celebrate all forms of literacy at the library. Lazar said LML has in recent months hosted programs like a creative writing workshop and a young librarian program to test out different offerings and gauge how they land with patrons.

“I figured we’ll try out (this summer’s activities), and we’ll have a much better sense of meeting people where they’re at,” Lazar said. “I started in (this) position in October, and over getting to know the community, I’m more and more excited about what we can try to do and just trying new things out.”



MAT HEAGERTY

“When we started thinking about Summer ‘Reading’ challenges in the traditional sense — kids tracking 15 minutes of reading each day of the summer — we realized that doesn’t necessarily equal an exciting challenge for everyone.”
— Children’s Services Librarian Jen Lazar

“Just make the best thing you can, having fun with it, and then getting it out there. That’s how books get onto shelves, is by people finishing (them) and being OK with maybe not the completely polished, best thing ever and being OK with it having some flaws in it.”
— Mat Heagerty

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Editorial

Must H.454 be medicine that’s too awful to swallow?

This Thursday, May 15, the Senate Finance Committee is expected to give H.454, the legislature’s revised school funding bill, a final review, and send it to conference committee. House and Senate members will confer, finetune and are expected to reach enough of a consensus to send a bill to Gov. Scott.

That’s no small feat. The 160-page bill reworks how education is funded in Vermont. It also puts in place measures that will force school consolidations and, it is hoped, enough cost savings to make the pain worthwhile.

We phrase the argument like that because there will be much pain, and there’s little to suggest H.454 will make Vermont’s school system better for students, or for parents. Students will spend more times on buses, small communities will be weaker; tight-knit schools will be closed.

The legislation, however, will likely make school funding less expensive, and if that is the primary goal, this bill will likely be successful and applauded by a majority of the state’s taxpayers.

That’s a harsh reality (to parents of students) that reflects the times, though it doesn’t demonstrate much hope for the state’s future.

If the bill has flaws, and they all do, the biggest flaw in this legislation is the lack of faith in the state’s small, rural communities. That’s stated directly in measures that set (in the House version) class-size minimums for grades K-12, including 12 students for kindergarten, 15 for grades 1-4, and 18 for grades 5-12. Grades can be combined, but not more than two grades for any one class. Furthermore, schools operating grades 6-12, or any subset of those grades, would be required to have a minimum enrollment of 450 students. (In 2023, 180 schools in Vermont would not have met that minimum enrollment; and hundreds of elementary schools in the state would have to consolidate to meet the class-size minimums.)

Those proposed consolidations were mild compared to Gov. Phil Scott’s initial recommendation to consolidate the state’s 119 school districts to just five, including consolidating all schools in Addison, Chittenden and Franklin counties into one district with 34,000 students. The legislature’s proposal would ask experts to propose district lines that would seek to have 4,000 students each.

Any sentimentality to smallness and the power of community, however, is met with irrefutable facts.

As Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, who is chairman of the House Education Committee, says in an op-ed in today’s *Addison Independent* on page 5A, the state’s changing demographics tell the story. Vermont has 40,000 fewer students in our schools compared to the mid-1980s and the economics of scale does matter. Moreover, Vermont has put off this reckoning for the past two decades, partially in the hopes that Vermont’s quality of life would draw enough young parents to turn those demographics around.

That hasn’t happened for other stark reasons: our astronomical health care costs drive young families away, as does the lack of affordable and available housing. Nor does our job market always appeal to a younger generation at wages that are competitive throughout the region. If Vermont were just average on any of those three metrics, we would attract more young families, but we’re far from average — we’re at the high end on the expense side of things and on the low end with career opportunities. In short, until Vermont solves its health care and housing crises, our demographics aren’t likely to improve.

That said, the Senate version of the bill removes the class-size stipulations for good reason. As Sen. Steve Heffernan said at a Vergennes forum on May 10, the Senate’s thinking “is that we have to look after the small schools that are efficient and able to work within the budget they’re given.”

That’s an opening to suggest there’s more than one way to tackle the issue. Nor is H.454 the cat’s meow.

In a community forum (on our website) penned by 19 former Vermont legislators, many of whom worked on Act 60 they appealed to Vermont legislators to reject H.454 and instead work within the current system to make it better.

“Vermont’s (current) education funding system is committed both to fair taxation and local decision making, and we can strengthen both of those. Instead, [H.454](#)... weakens them... (and) would repeal the law’s current provision allowing residents to pay some or all of their school taxes based on their income, which 70% of Vermont homeowners do. Instead, H.454 recommits the state to regressive property taxes that hit low- and middle-income residents the hardest...

“None of the sweeping changes in H.454, the associated risks, nor the hassles to school districts are necessary... And while the governor likes to say the message from the election was that schools are spending too much, that’s not the case. School spending in Vermont as a percentage of the state’s economy has been a stable 5.5% to 6% for decades.

“... (H. 454) in reaching for elusive ‘efficiencies,’ with promises of better education, the bill doubles down on school consolidation, which many Vermonters have rejected; that will alienate more citizens by taking budgetary decision-making out of communities’ hands.

“There are immediate, affordable changes to the existing law that would make the system fairer for the Vermonters hurt last year. Instead of rushing to new and unproven... financing mechanisms and an unprecedented move away from local control, the Legislature should adopt those changes.”

It’s a legitimate point, though the authors didn’t suggest what changes they were talking about, nor did those alleged “changes” make it through the committee process, which was surely tried.

Still, a better bill would provide more options for communities with small schools but big hearts — and the wherewithal to make their school viable. We like the Senate’s version that omits class-size limits because it doesn’t hamstring schools that can think outside the box. It allows for creativity and innovation. That’s a start.

The challenge from there is to craft legislation that allows for such small-school/big-heart exceptions, while still meeting the constitutional mandate to provide education equanimity to all students. If done well, the bill would be that much better, even if the savings are a fraction less.

Angelo Lynn



East Coast fun
SOME OF THE signs seen on the Middlebury College campus at a May 8 “Walkout to Defend Middlebury,” such as the one pictured here, reflected calls for the institution to divest from its graduate school in seaside Monterey, Calif., as it works to balance its budget.
Independent photo/Steve James

Stand up to power, don’t kneel

It is the big Christmas concert at my junior high school. A young soloist with a piano accompaniment is just finishing the first verse of “O Holy Night,” her sweet voice soaring. Suddenly, massed choruses and the orchestra with deeply resonating tympanies burst forth with the chorus: “Fall on your knees!”

Of course, right now it is spring and sixty years later, but I am remembering that concert because a few days ago I did fall on my knees. I was not falling before God, but mis-stepping with a crash onto concrete. That brought the phrase to mind, and I contemplated the idea of going down on one’s knees and to whom, if anyone, we ought to kneel.

There may still be places in our world where that is the expectation, but not in our country. If you believe in God, you choose to kneel because of your belief, but there is no individual, no person before whom we might be obligated to kneel. Our country was clearly established to exclude kings. We may choose, on occasion, to honor various people, but we generally honor them because they have, themselves, been honorable. And no one should expect us to grovel. That is not how we honor others who are respected peers. Going down on your knees implies submission, perhaps in fear of some sort of retribution if we do not. Lately, there have been too many cases of people ceding their personal power, their personal rights, and sometimes that of others, in submission to someone who is no greater than they are. It may be out of fear, it may be out of greed or their own lust for power, but in doing so they give up something of

themselves.

I say, “Stand up!” Stand up to hatred and cruelty. Stand up to the gradual or rapid whittling away at our laws, our Constitution, our values and our ethics. Stand up if you are a college president or run a major law firm. Stand up if you are a bus driver or cover the front desk in a school or clinic. Stand up if you are a dairy farmer or a judge. Stand up if you are in Vermont’s legislature or are the Governor. There are laws to protect you, feeble as they may feel at the moment.

Could there be losses for you? Yes: Financial losses, loss of freedom if incarcerated, loss of some of the power you have accrued through your own positions. Maybe there’s a good enough reason for you or me to keep our heads down. Maybe I would acquiesce if I knew calling to fix problems with their benefits. But I had suddenly lost my

We cannot give in to bullying, to threats or humiliation. It is “We the People” who must hold firm — and hold tight to each other — when the ground is shifting beneath us. We need to stand up for each other.

I know full well that things are not always going to go as I would wish. I understand that you may agree with some things that are happening in our nation. That’s your choice. But when things are wrong, hateful, or unlawful, just sitting back and waiting is not a choice. This is something different. These times

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

Ways of Seeing

By Laurie Cox



Peace & happiness. For everyone

Fourth in a series.
Like too many disenfranchised Americans, Jerome Hazelwood is an unhoused neighbor of our community. BIPOC neighbors are five times more likely to experience homelessness in Vermont than their white neighbors. Since this interview, he was “exited” from Vermont’s Emergency Housing Program motel shelter. Through collaboration with local partners, he is now safely sheltered again.

Tom: How are you doing, Jerome?
Jerome: I’m doing fine today. On the whole, a lot’s going on. With the end of Vermont’s seasonal motel shelter program, I might lose my room. I am trying to get all the forms and records the state needs, and that’s not easy. People think everyone has a car and a computer and a cell phone. I have a cell phone and people that help. But it is challenging.

I’m not complaining. I have a roof over my head and a bed to sleep in. So, for now, I get to sleep and eat inside. Keeping food and cooking are interesting in the room, with just a microwave and a minifridge. Doing laundry is getting a little hard because I have to carry my laundry down the street to the laundry mat. When I’m having a bad health day, sometimes I just can’t do that, so I wash my clothes in the tub. My main problem right now is that the room door is easy to open, even when it’s locked. So I get a little anxious at night, and

when I’m out during the day, I worry someone’s going to steal my things. But most of the things around me are stuff people gave to me, so I’m not complaining. I’m luckier than others.

Tom: You mentioned that people are helping you; do you feel you’re getting the help you need?
Jerome: Well, you know, I had to leave Addison County and come to Barre because there were no open [General Assistance Emergency Housing Program] motel rooms available there. So I was not familiar with people here like I was there. But the service providers here are helpful, and I have a few other friends that help. I have some health challenges, and getting medical care isn’t easy. Most people don’t think twice about calling to fix problems with their benefits. But I had suddenly lost my

Social Security disability before just because I called to make a change to my Medicare, and the representative put something in the computer wrong that set off alarms that I was somehow doing something wrong. For most people, losing a benefit can be inconvenient; for me, it can be catastrophic.

I need some surgeries, but the system is so complicated, and I can’t afford to lose any benefits. But hey, I’m just biting the bullet. So I am probably saving the government some money, right?

(See *Freedom and Unity*, Page 8A)

Freedom and Unity



This week Jerome Hazelwood is in conversation with Tom Morgan.

Letters to the Editor

Sen. asked to explain vote

This letter is addressed to state Sen. Steven Heffernan regarding his “no” vote on the recently passed Senate Resolution 13. As two of your constituents, we would like you to explain why you think it is OK for masked, armed, unidentifiable men to sweep up legal residents and put them in jail? Our whole society is based on the Rule of Law, and the Constitution, to protect you and I, and all residents of this country. Please tell us why you don’t support the Rule of Law.

Deborah Young
and Gardner Merriam
New Haven

Why do decent folk back Trump?

Decent individuals with personal stories support an indecent, vulgar, vengeful, self-serving president. How that has happened is a challenge the pundits struggle to answer.

An inflated (egomaniacal) ego, motivated by personal gain, is not something to admire. Expecting an honest advocate from a deranged psychopath, the label applied by his psychologist niece, is wishful thinking at best. Aside from the loss of essential services and world stability, children will learn by example to disrespect the law, social norms, the public good and their parents.

Again, why would decent individuals support an autocrat with behavioral issues, and the inability to read or process information?

Alec Lyall
Middlebury

Kudos to early ed teachers, too

This is teacher appreciation week, and what about the teachers we had whom we cannot remember? Studies repeatedly show that the most critical years of education occur from 2-5. Few, if any of us, can remember what these teachers did for us. Although it is many years ago now, I’d like to commend Jane Reilly and Kathy Newton for the extraordinary work they did teaching my two children at the Middlebury Cooperative Nursery School. The care, love, and lessons they taught the children prepared them well for public school, college, and their lives in the world. Let’s take a moment to thank and recognize early education teachers who work with our youngest children to prepare them for their future lives.

Jerry McBride
San Mateo, Calif.

Homeless merit support, respect

As you may be aware, May 6 is National Homeless Awareness Day. This issue is important to me as a community member who believes that assisting those in need ultimately benefits society, and who believes those benefits work along both ethical and financial lines. It’s also an issue that I am keenly aware of via my work as a case manager at Charter House Coalition in Middlebury, and as part of the Addison County Homeless Outreach Team.

There aren’t many who’d argue that housing and homelessness aren’t an issue in Vermont, nationally, or worldwide. And yet, in America, there’s little being done at the highest levels to combat the issues. We spend our resources posturing and politicizing rather than identifying and committing ourselves to logical, compassionate, and financially advantageous solutions, many of which we already have at our disposal.

I’m speaking of things like Housing First, which has an excellent track record virtually everywhere it’s been prioritized, and has been proven vastly cheaper than motel vouchers, hospital stays, mental institutions, incarceration, rehab beds, and other options that amount to no

(See *Clouser letter*, Page 5A)

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Letters to the Editor

Let hope overtake terror in effort to preserve nation

A sign at the Bristol May Day protest rally read, “I’m Terrified!” echoing the feelings of most, if not all of us gathered along West Street and around the corner on North Street. I was heartened to see so many of us together and hope began to overcome my terror. In the evening, I participated in a Zoom conversation about “White Christian Nationalism” and “I’m terrified!” became all too real again.

Episcopal priest The Rev. Dr. Carter Hayward described the “Christian” in Christian Nationalism, or White Christian Nationalism, as incidental. In fact, she said that the movement is a political power grab by primarily white men who believe that only white men should

run the country. Many white men of great wealth, including Donald Trump and JD Vance, also adhere to the principles of Christian Nationalism. Rev. Dr. Hayward continued to describe what is happening in the current administration, because of these deep-seated principles, as “Ill-liberal Democracy.” This “Ill-liberal Democracy” destroys democracy without arousing resistance by citizens who are not aware of or cannot believe that this destruction is happening.

As a response to this movement in our nation, Dr. Hayward echoed the speech given by the Illinois governor in New Hampshire, saying: “We must fight like hell!” against it.

As a Christian I call on

individual churches and associations of churches to speak out now! As a citizen and community member I call on every person and organization to speak out now (!) against this deconstruction and destruction of our nation by wealthy white men in power who want to make us all terrified.

When the rallies grow larger, the voices louder, and the peaceful disruption of these destructive tactics are more visible, I hope those of us who were terrified, will be holding signs that read: “Together we are strong; Together we find courage; Together we have hope!”

And hope overcomes terror.

**Patti Welch
Bristol**

Gov. must act in face of crises

When it comes to two of the biggest issues facing Vermonters, Gov. Phil Scott has gone silent. I am sure he is out there, checking his enormous political capital, then deciding not to spend a penny of it leveling with Vermonters that making the changes our state needs in education and health care — to name the two I will focus on — is going to require a new reality.

Vermont’s decades-long demographic change — found in many other places in the U.S. and the world — has come home to roost.



Legislative Review
by Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall

Gov. Scott says nothing about Vermont’s health care system, which is on the brink of collapse, and very little about education since he floated the concept of sweeping changes, but has never been clear with Vermonters that we must have fewer schools, especially middle and high schools, to keep our system affordable.

Health care may be the most immediate and important crisis, and it doesn’t even make Gov. Scott’s list of top issues. The state’s main — really only — insurer, Blue Cross of Vermont, is on the verge of insolvency unless it gets a 20% rate increase or a helluva bailout. Most of our 14 hospitals are in a similar situation. Our insurance premiums are anywhere from twice to four times as expensive as our border states. A 20% increase will drive small business and individuals who buy on the exchange out of Vermont far faster than taxes.

Gov. Scott has a roadmap to bending the cost curve sitting on his desk gathering dust. It is a commissioned study of Vermont’s system with clear recommendations to stabilize it

and control costs. But it requires leveling with Vermonters, because we can no longer afford to maintain 14 hospitals all providing the same services. We can’t, and he needs to make that clear.

It is the same with public education. With 40,000 fewer students, we can no longer afford to maintain all of the schools we operate today. We can’t, and Gov. Scott needs to make that clear.

No one else in Vermont has his megaphone, no one else has his clout, no one else has his political capital. It is time for Gov. Scott to give the volunteers who govern our education and health systems an assist. He needs to speak honestly, clearly and directly with Vermonters that our state has changed, and we need to adjust to those changes now, or watch our state slowly decline.

Of course there are other big issues. Solving homelessness and our housing crisis is going to take more than his solution of just relaxing Act 250 regulations. It is going to take a sustained level of support from government. He would never say that.

We are ready to listen, governor. Are you ready to speak frankly about what we really need to do? We can handle it, and we will find the right solutions together.

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

are different. We need to call out thuggery for what it is, before we are all covering for fear of the thugs entering our homes. Benjamin Franklin told us, at the

birth of our nation, “We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.” We cannot tolerate a return to tyranny. Stand up!

Laurie Cox is a retired school

counselor and longtime Ripton Selectboard member. Besides occasional writing she pursues art, gardening, hiking with her dog, and is always striving to build stronger communities.

Clouser letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

more than overpriced Band-Aids. In my eyes, there’s never a good time to cut benefits and social services, yet I see us doing it more and more frequently — nationally and locally — often in the name of lowering taxes. There is far too little conversation about how our tax money can be used for positive investment in our communities and future, and we don’t talk enough about the hidden costs of saving on taxes, either.

For example, things like the extra burden we put on social workers, medical staff, first responders, schools, businesses, and public institutions, all of which we already know are frequently pressed well beyond their current capabilities.

And this is to say nothing about the human cost involved for those in need. Not only are unsheltered individuals dehumanized by our general lack of attention to their lives and burdens, but we also literally create more crime and suffering through enacting certain encampment policies and laws that do not also create positive solutions and opportunities for outreach and engagement.

Any policy which merely discourages the presence of the unhoused only serves to alienate them further, pushes them further into the shadows, and should be avoided. These problems will not disappear via migration; rather they will grow and manifest anew in places that may be less prepared and where it will be more difficult, and more expensive, to lend assistance.

Furthermore, if we want to lower crime, as we all say we do, it makes sense to be doing whatever we can to lower poverty rates in general, not to be exacerbating them by cutting social services — something that will only put more and more people in precarious positions

where committing crimes can become a necessary and reasonable option for survival. There are many overwhelming and factually inaccurate stigmas attached to the homeless, especially in the idea that they’re mentally ill, drug or alcohol addicted, or in some way dangerous or violent. While it may be true that some fall into those categories, it’s also true that none of these issues are limited to any class or population, and the statistics show that the unhoused are vastly more likely to be victims of crimes than perpetrators of them.

It’s too easy to make people into scapegoats and chalk their problems up to moral failures or personal insufficiencies. We have massive systemic problems, and this kind of victim blaming is merely a distraction that won’t help them get solved.

The people I serve are overwhelmingly good, solid, hardworking folks, each of whom has been dealt a bad hand of some kind. They’ve been allowed to fall through so many cracks and have been failed or blatantly ignored by so many people in so many positions over so many years that I’m frequently astounded they can continue to show up and fight for themselves. And yet they do show up for themselves, time and again. Even when not giving up means having to navigate a system so splintered and inefficient that it feels dismissive to the point of being draconian.

I say draconian, not to be dramatic, but because that’s what it feels like for me, simply in going through the process of being an advocate. I don’t have to deal with the added stress and trauma of being on the streets, and don’t realistically have to worry if I’ll be accosted at any moment, either by bad actors or by local officials seemingly more concerned about appearances

than by solutions. I urge everyone not to look the other way. Most of us are precariously close to becoming unhoused if things break the wrong way. Should that happen, we’d all wish we’d done more when we had the chance. Please ask your representatives, local and national, to make fixing the housing and homeless crisis a priority.

Please investigate models like Housing First for yourselves, as well. If you do, I think you’ll see the success Housing First has shown in other parts of the world and ask, Why can’t we do more of this here? Why *aren’t* we doing more of this here when it’s so much more effective, compassionate, and financially advantageous, particularly as we find ourselves so concerned with efficiency in the national discourse? The model is good for our hearts *and* for our wallets.

I also urge you to remember that the unsheltered people you may encounter are every bit as human and valid as you or anyone else. They are someone’s child, someone’s loved one, perhaps someone’s sibling or parent, and they have hopes and dreams, too.

They deserve to live in peace and in shelter, regardless of any challenges they may have. They deserve dignity and respect; a smile, a wave, a hello — at the very least. They are not the problem or the burden that so many would have you think they are, and a little kindness can go a long way.

If you take the time to get to know these individuals, you may even, like me, find yourself delighted and continually inspired by their courage, their perseverance, their resilience, and even, sometimes, their joy in the face of it all. May we all be so strong.

**Mat Clouser
Brandon**



YELLOW HOUSE COMMUNITY IS HIRING!

At YHC, we provide residential support to young adults (“Friends”) with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are looking to hire two team players who are patient, reliable, and love to have FUN for the following roles:

- * 1 DAYTIME SIDEKICK (7am - 3pm)
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Visit our website for JOB DESCRIPTIONS and APPLICATION: yellowhousecommunity.com

Elderly Services, Inc.

Spring 2025 Community Education Series

May 29:

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

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

June 5:

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

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

June 12:

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

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

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



ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Patsy Scarborough, 84, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Patsy Scarborough passed on May 5, 2025, with her family by her side.

She was known as “Aunt Pat,” “PatPat” and most importantly, Mom.

Patsy was born on Oct. 10, 1940, she was the daughter of Mason and Etta (Baker) Kemp. She grew up in Salisbury and graduated from Middlebury high school class of 1958.

Some of her joys in life included time at her family camp in Colchester, and trips to Maine. She loved knitting mittens that she always gave away. A visit from friends or family always brightened her day, especially if you brought along homemade soup.

Patsy’s final approach was blessed by her “girls,” her “earthly angels,” her caregivers. They provided unwavering compassion and care. They shared their families, their pets, and most of all the gift of

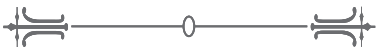


PATSY SCARBOROUGH

unconditional love.

Surviving is her daughter, Kristie and husband, Gunner; niece, Terry Ringey (Marc) and family; and Andrea Ringey, who she unequivocally considered to be her daughter.

She was predeceased by her



Nancy B. Munson, 88, of Panton

POWHATAN, Va. — Nancy B. Munson, 88, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children and other loved ones in Powhatan, Va., on April 28, 2025.

Nancy was born in Orwell, Vt., on March 7, 1937. She enjoyed her earlier years living on Lake Champlain in Panton with her late husband, William Munson, where she was surrounded by her family and friends, especially her beloved friend, Marlene Bedard-Findiesen. She spent several years as a snowbird

in Orange City, Fla., enjoying the warm weather and many Vermont friends. When her health declined, she moved to Powhatan, Va., to be near her daughter Rebecca, where she enjoyed spending her days reading and cuddling with her dog, Madison.

Nancy was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She is survived by her son, Bruce Many (Becky); her daughters, Rebecca Darragh (James), Brenda Cutich (Terry), and Belinda Curler

brother, Paul Kemp; sister-in-law, Nancy; nephew Larry, and her godson, Niles Devoid.

“It Takes a Village”

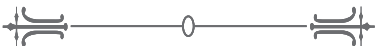
Kristie “Cricket” and Gunner wish to extend their heartfelt thank you to all of those who were a part of the vast halo of community care. The list is far too long to mention names at the risk of missing anyone. Perhaps you were her neighbor, one of her “kids,” or one of her many doctors. You stopped in to drop off eggs and milk or sat for coffee. Took her for a drive, attended all those haircuts, brought her flowers, stopped to give a hug, or called just to say hello. We know who you are and what you did for her. For this, we are grateful.

There will be no service. A headstone will be placed in the Salisbury Holman Cemetery. The best way to honor Patsy would be to spend time with loved ones while they are still on earth. ♡



(Shawn); her grandchildren, Danielle, Jennifer, James, Joshua, Cameron, Collin and Cailin; and eight great-grandchildren.

A private celebration of life will be held this summer in Addison. In lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be made in her memory to Powhatan County Public Library, 2270 Mann Road, Powhatan, VA, 23139 or Homeward Bound, Addison County’s Humane Society, 236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753. ♡



Sylvia K. Fisk graveside service

NORTH FERRISBURGH — Sylvia K. Fisk, 89, passed away on Oct. 2, 2024, at her home in Middlebury. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 24, at the North Ferrisburgh cemetery. Following the service, family and friends are welcome to share food, stories and memories downstairs at the Vergennes Methodist church. All are welcome to attend.



Ronald James Gordon, 88, formerly of Bristol

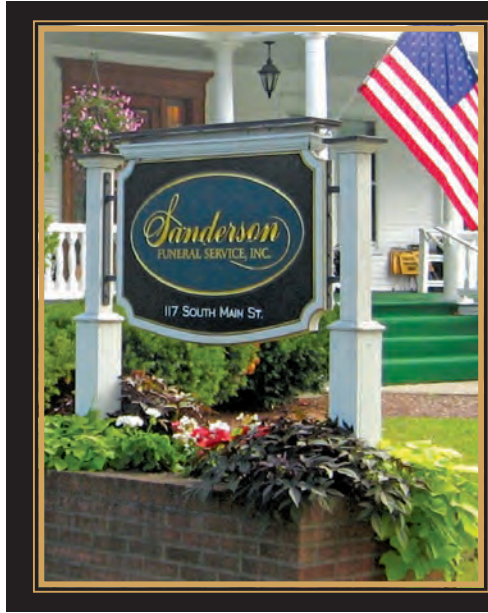
COLCHESTER — Ronald James Gordon of Colchester, Vt., died peacefully on May 12, 2025, at the age of 88. He grew up in Bristol, Vt., and loved to hunt and fish.

He is survived by two daughters, Andrea Gordon of Bristol and Julie Pelland of Monkton; two sons, John Gordon of Dallas, Texas, and Matt Gordon of New Haven; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife, Sandra Gordon.

There will be no services.

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Bonnie Lou Johnson, 84, of Brandon

SPRING HILL, Fla./BRANDON, Vt. — Bonnie Lou Johnson, age 84, passed peacefully on Nov. 4, 2024, with her son Tim by her side, in Oak Hill Hospital, in Spring Hill, Fla..

Bonnie was born in Middlebury on June 30, 1940. She was the daughter of the late Frank and Dorothy (King) Miller of Brandon, Vt. She grew up in Brandon and later spent most of her life at Lake Dunmore, East Middlebury, and Leicester areas. Additionally, she and her husband, Charles, enjoyed over 30 years at their winter home in Spring Hill, Fla. Many winter holidays were also spent with her son, Tim, in Las Vegas, Nev.

Bonnie completed her education in Brandon, attending Brandon Grade School and graduating from Brandon High School with the Class of 1958. She maintained contact with many of her friends and classmates over the years. Bonnie remained actively involved with her class, assisting with various projects and organizing class reunions. Before her retirement, Bonnie and Charlie owned and operated Johnson’s Furniture House and Johnson’s Mini Storage in East Middlebury. Prior to that, Bonnie worked for her father, Frank, at Miller & Ketcham Furniture Store in Brandon. Early in her career, Bonnie held several different jobs and was always busy doing whatever it took to help support her family.

Bonnie will be remembered for her positive attitude toward life, always striving to see the best in any situation. Her sharp wit and enthusiasm made her eager to step up and take the lead on any project presented to her. She consistently maintained her appearance and kept up with the latest trends in hair and clothing, as this was very important to her. An exceptional cook, Bonnie loved preparing a variety of dishes and was never afraid to try something new. She was always willing to share what she had with others, often surprising them with a special meal. Bonnie was typically one of the first to arrive with a meal for someone in need, regardless of the circumstances. Her famous homemade baked beans, apple pie, and holiday treats were always



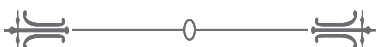
BONNIE LOU JOHNSON

highly sought after by her close friends.

Bonnie developed her passion for music early in life during her school years, where she learned to play several instruments, including the piano, trombone, and voice. She quickly excelled in both music and singing, advancing to play the organ and even larger church organs. Bonnie possessed a voice that stood out distinctly whenever she sang at events. Over the years, she was invited to perform at numerous local churches and was also chosen to sing and play at countless weddings and funerals, both locally and in neighboring towns and states.

Bonnie was always busy, and no grass ever grew under her feet. Her favorite place in her home, of course, was the kitchen. She took pride in the appearance of her residences and was constantly engaged in activities, both inside and out, to keep them in top-notch condition. Armed with her handy toolbox, she was unafraid to tackle any job, even if it meant calling her son Tim for advice. And yes, she genuinely enjoyed washing her windows. Her homes were always beautifully decorated for any upcoming holiday. She loved the outdoors, and fishing was a relaxing hobby that she truly enjoyed, particularly on Lake Dunmore. She caught several prize fish both during the summer and especially while ice fishing.

Throughout the years, she was a member of numerous organizations and groups. She chaired many fundraising events and dinners for local churches. She initiated



Dorothy ‘Dottie’ Gray Kline, 85, of Brandon

BRANDON — Dorothy ‘Dottie’ Gray Kline, 85, was born June 12, 1939, in Portsmouth, N.H., to parents Arthur N. Gray and Esther Christopher Gray. She passed away peacefully surrounded by family on May 9, 2025, in Middlebury, Vt. She was predeceased by her husband of 63 years, Terry Kline, in 2022.

Dottie’s parents worked in teaching (high school and college), special education, educational administration and farming. In 1945, Dottie moved with her family to Dansville, in western N.Y., when her parents decided to buy a potato farm, where Arthur was a pioneer in developing new and modern farming methods. In Dansville, she started her study of piano and developed her lifelong passion for music. Dottie furthered her music education at the Chautauqua Institute and at SUNY Fredonia.

In high school she met Terry, who was two years her senior. They wed on Valentine’s Day in 1959 and their son Mark (1960), daughter Molly (1961) and son Doug (1967) followed. Dottie, Terry and family lived in various small towns in western N.Y. until 1978 when they moved to Brandon, Vt. There, they bought and restored an 18th-century historic saltbox home on Park Street, where they lived until 2015.

In addition to teaching music in the public schools in western N.Y., Dottie shared her love of music as a



DOROTHY “DOTTIE” GRAY KLINE

piano teacher for over five decades with both adults and children. Former students maintained lifelong relationships with Dottie, which began with music instruction but often blossomed into much more.

Dottie loved to travel, and seeing Broadway shows was one of her favorite activities. She spent many long weekends traveling via Amtrak to NYC, usually with friends or family, for a weekend of shows, meals, movies, long walks and fun. She would love to hear the life stories of those she crossed paths with including cab drivers, waiters, bellmen and hotel managers.

In 2015 Dottie and Terry moved from Brandon to EastView in Middlebury. They both loved and were very active in the EastView

several Prayer Shawl groups at various churches, both locally and in Florida. She remained active with the Order of the Eastern Star No. 80 in Brandon and the Women’s American Legion Unit No. 27 in Middlebury. Bonnie was steadfast in her beliefs; she was opinionated and articulate, yet she was always upfront and honest about them. She did not shy away from engaging in a good debate on any topic.

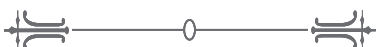
She would do anything for her family and friends, always prioritizing them in her life. It did not matter whether she agreed with someone or not; in times of need, Bonnie could always be counted on to help in any way she could. Bonnie was an incredible wife, mother, grandmother, and friend who will be deeply missed forever.

Surviving Bonnie are her son, Timothy F. Johnson of Las Vegas, Nev.; granddaughter, Jena McKinstry of Daytona Beach, Fla.; and grandson, Travis LaDuke of Shoreham, Vt. She was predeceased by her husband, Charles E. Johnson, sons Daniel C. Johnson and Jeffery C. Johnson; and grandson Daniel C. Johnson.

A memorial service in celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 11 a.m., at the Brandon Congregational Church. The Reverend Barry Tate, will officiate. Following the funeral, a service of farewell will be conducted by members of Marble Chapter Order of The Eastern Star No. 80. The graveside committal service and burial will follow in the family lot at Pine Hill Cemetery. After the ceremony, friends are invited to join in a time of fellowship and remembrance, at the Brandon American Legion. In accordance with Bonnie’s wishes, there will be no formal calling hours.

Bonnie requested that, instead of sending flowers, donations be made in her memory to the following organization that was near and dear to her heart; Shari’s Shepherd Rescue, which cares for and helps find loving homes for German Shepherds: Shari’s Shepherd Rescue, 6935 N. Aliante Parkway, Suite 104-170, N. Las Vegas, NV 89084

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ♡



community with Dottie serving as the pianist in the EastView community orchestra.

Dottie is survived by her children, Mark R. Kline of Rochester, N.H., Molly K. Merkert (Fred) of Brandon, Vt., and Doug Kline (Annette) of Darien, Conn.; grandchildren Douglas Merkert (Karen) of Sudbury, Emily Merkert of Leicester, Ben Merkert (Aimee) of Hinesburg, Gray Kline of New York City, Camilla Kline of Atlanta, Ga., Addison Kline and Thea Kline of Darien, Conn. She leaves one great-grandchild, Ronan Merkert of Hinesburg. She is also survived by her older sister, Johanne Gray Gillard (Dick) of Dansville, N.Y., two nieces and a nephew.

Plans for a celebration of life will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Dottie’s memory to either of the following organizations that were near and dear to her heart: EastView at Middlebury in honor of Dottie Kline to benefit the music program of this non-profit senior living and long-term care community. C/O Cari Burkard, Engagement + Communications Manager, Eastview at Middlebury, 100 Eastview Terrace, Middlebury VT 05753, (802) 989-7515, or cburkard@eastviewmiddlebury.com, eastviewmiddlebury.com/ honoring-gifting/ or Addison County Home Health and Hospice, which provided wonderful and compassionate care to Dottie and Terry (and so many others) at the end of their lives: www.achhh.org.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ♡

“It isn’t about how much money is in your pocket, but how many people walk through your door.”

Terry L. Quesnel
(fondly known as Uncle Buck)
7/31/1960- 5/17/2020

Our lives were forever changed the day you were taken from us. Days pass quickly and have turned to years, yet it still seems like yesterday. Through our heartache and many tears, we are holding tightly to our treasured memories of you. In life, you showed the world the true meaning of family, friendship, and living an honest, honorable lifestyle. In death, you taught us to value each and every day and appreciate all the many blessings we have in our lives. May we always honor you and make you proud by following your example and living by your words. You are loved and missed by so many and will always be in our hearts!

- Your loving family and friends

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Lawmakers near finish line

Some bills passed, others still being sparred over

Over the period of just a few miraculous days each spring, billions, if not trillions, of tiny leaves burst forth all around us, quickly becoming full-grown and clothing the naked winter trees in green splendor, all perfectly designed to drink in that necessary life-giving plant food called carbon dioxide. In Vermont, with nearly three-quarters of our state covered in forest, we are thankful to participate in that intricate balance of creation that brings such awe at each passing season.

With leaves springing, your state government is on the homestretch to close out the 2025 legislative season, hopefully by the end of May. We enjoyed a bit more balance in the Legislature this year than we've had in recent biennia, thus are able to accomplish some good, but there is still a lot more we need to do to achieve the affordability and public safety goals that the November voters clearly sent us to Montpelier to achieve. Here is a list of some of the highlights and remaining battles before we close out this session.

Of the 13 bills passed by both chambers of Legislature and signed by Gov. Phil Scott so far, a couple highlights include: H.2, which delayed implementation of the "raise the age law" by two years. Had this bill not passed, in April, Vermont would have become the only state in the nation to treat 19-year-olds as minors in criminal proceedings. Republicans pushed for a repeal of this law, but compromised on a two-year delay. Also passed are several small bills related to

reducing health insurance costs and improving healthcare access with such bills as H.35, which will reduce insurance premiums on small businesses, and H.80 which provides healthcare advocates to help folks through the labyrinthian healthcare processes. Twice, the governor has vetoed the Budget Adjustment Act because of hotel/motel policy changes the majority party was trying to push through. With his minority party having slightly more than one-third of House members to prevent a veto override, an override attempt has not been made. The complete list of all bills passed and vetoed can be found on Gov. Scott's website, governor.vermont.gov.

A broad battle that continues is the fight to repeal the Clean Heat Standard (CHS), electric cars and trucks mandates, and the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). All of these pose significant cost increases and sent Vermonters to the polls in droves in November. Several attempts to repeal or curtail these existing laws have been blocked by the majority party in both the House and the Senate. This past week, my attempt to repeal the Clean Heat Standard using an amendment to a Solar Power bill was declared "not germane" while the repeal bill itself, H.16, remains stuck to the wall in the House Energy Committee because the majority leadership won't entertain it. The next day, Rep. Jim Harrison attempted to amend the same Solar Power bill with the governor's proposal to change the Renewable Energy Standard into the Clean Energy

Standard, which allows more hydro and nuclear electric power to be considered, but that too was declared "not germane" by the speaker. Later the same week, Sen. Scott Beck attempted a similar tactic with a double amendment to the Budget Bill for both repealing the CHS and reducing the mandates to goals in the GWSA. This was brought to a roll call vote in the Senate and lost along party lines, 13-17. Read the complete saga online in commentary by Rob Roper and Guy Page.

Another more focused fight regards the taxation of military retirees. H.43, which eliminated Vermont state tax on all military retiree pensions, was originally proposed by Rep. William Canfield and co-sponsored by half the House, but has remained stuck to the wall in the Ways & Means Committee. There is hope that negotiations to include a slimmed-down version of this in a broader tax relief bill may be palatable to the majority leadership. This would be a big win for all involved! Stay tuned.

Lastly, the biggest remaining battle rages around the education and property tax system reform. The House took the governor's proposal, completely revamped it and passed that to the Senate. The Senate completely revamped what the House provided and on Friday passed that back to the House for review. The Senate version is closer to what the governor proposed. I need to review the new Senate proposal to determine its effects on the state and our Addison County schools. You can track the Education bill H.454 through all its gyrations on the legislature.vermont.gov website.

My colleagues and I continue to fight for you and the reasons you sent us to Montpelier.



Legislative Review
by Rep. Rob North,
R-Ferrisburgh



OVER 200 MEMBERS of the Middlebury College community turned out on Thursday for a "Walkout to Defend Middlebury." The protest comes a month after college officials announced compensation cuts and other steps the institution will take to balance its budget.

Independent photos/Steve James

College faculty

(Continued from Page 1A)
passed a Sense of the Faculty Motion asking college officials to begin a comprehensive restructuring of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS), and close the campus within three years.

"One of the really striking things to me about the faculty meeting was how many faculty, even in the midst of making retirement speeches, referred to Monterey," Economics Professor Peter Matthews told the *Independent*.

He noted faculty members were heartbroken and, in some cases, angry over what they see as college

officials' mismanagement at the expense of the college community in Middlebury.

"I think there's a really strong feeling that the college in Vermont — the liberal arts college in Middlebury — is the heart, is the essence of what we do, and that seems to be lost on the part of administration and the board of trustees," Matthews explained.

Multiple speakers at the May 8 "Walkout to Defend Middlebury" referenced the graduate school in their speeches, pointing to losses Middlebury College has experienced since it acquired MIIS more than a

decade ago. The college is projecting an MIIS deficit of \$8.7 million, but officials noted the college and the institution's other schools would still face a shortfall of between \$11-\$13 million next year without MIIS.

"As two students studying international politics and economics, we don't want to be pushed to a master's program at Monterey just to save an institution that has been failing from the start," said Freddi Mitchell, one of two college seniors who spoke at the event.

Others expressed feelings of betrayal and frustration over college *(See College, Page 12A)*

Letters to the Editor

Dems should rally against Trump's birthday parade

We have heard about the planned military parade through Washington, D.C., planned for June 14 this year. Apparently, it is Donald Trump's 79th birthday and the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army. The Army projects that it will spend between \$25 and \$45 million to carry out this spectacle.

This is an obvious and excellent opportunity for the Democrats in Congress to rally Americans against the idiocy of the current president and his grandiose, narcissistic greed for power. The

Democrats need to call out his event for what it really is: a self-aggrandizing military display in the style of a Russian oligarch, a Nazi Fuhrer, a swaggering fascist braggadocio. The Democrats should call on the Park Service to cancel the permit for this event based on the surety of disruptive protests, and that this is an attempt by the President to provoke a violent reaction on the streets of Washington, much as he provoked a violent attack on the Capitol by his followers on January 6, 2021.

The Democrats should insist that the Park Service refuse to allow the President's event to go forward in the interest of public safety.

Americans have been crying out for the Democrats in Congress to do something to block the outrageous actions of the Trump administration. Here is an excellent moment to do so.

Can the Democrats in the House and Senate be convinced to take this action?

**Millard Cox
Ripton**

Lawmakers owe explanations in Mahdawi case

In light of the amazing news of Mohsen Mahdawi's release I wanted to call on clarification from our representatives on how they voted on recent legislation calling for his release. I contacted Rob North and Matt Birong to clarify how they voted on H.R.8, which related to his case, and neither got back to me. Because it was conducted by voice there isn't

a record, but it is important to me to know how my representatives voted on this issue.

In the Senate, Steve Heffernan voted against S.R.13, which I emailed him about and he claimed to be doing a fact check because he was unsure about green card holders and federal law. I am not a legal expert, but habeas corpus applies to everyone regardless

of legal status and I am appalled that he is hiding behind "fact checking" for defending this constitutional crisis.

I know for me and others it's very important to know how my representatives stand in this urgent and important issue.

**Al Harder-Hyde
Vergennes**

Scott must stand up against 'anti-American' GOP

Governor Phil Scott is far too quiet when it comes to disavowing the values of his party. Unlike Republicans at the federal level, he says he believes in due process for all — something so obvious it should not even need to be said. He even says that we need to address climate change — even if he vetoes much of the legislation that would do just that. But for how long will he be able to be a member of that party without feeling the pressure of their corruption? What strings are attached to any Republican running for office who accepts their support, financial or otherwise? He says we must not give in to the fear and chaos being stoked at the federal level, but how can we feel safe when Republicans no longer even stand up for the

Constitution and the rule of law? When Republicans stand by while their party allows the executive branch to steal our data, deport our neighbors, and fire dedicated public servants for no cause? And that's just the beginning. If Governor Scott wants to continue to govern in this state, he needs to make

a clear break from the party of Trump. Every Republican in office should stand up loudly and firmly against the radically anti-American stance of their party, not stand by as they dismantle our most essential rights.

**Carolyn Kuebler
Middlebury**



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Ripton floodplain homeowner questions valuation

My wife and I have recently engaged the civic apparatus of Ripton, Vermont. Our concern is a townwide reappraisal of property values, including ours. The proposed reassessment of our property nearly doubles the previous assessment, which, if the new assessment stands, will raise our annual property tax substantially. Since our income in retirement is now rigidly fixed, it looks as though we are going to be financially straitened.

When, along with our fellow Riptonites, we were mailed the revised assessments, the cover letter indicated a process for claiming a "grievance" if we thought the proposed reassessment is unfair. I believe that nearly doubling the estimated value of our property, which has not been enlarged or structurally improved since the last assessment, is unfair — not because the assumed resale value of the property has not nearly doubled; it probably has, given the surging home prices in an around Middlebury since the pandemic. If our house and property were resting atop a rise of land, I believe it would sell for rather more than its appraised value. But because it sits low in the flood plain and just a few yards from the frequently surging Middlebury River — one of those surges in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene washed away a 10-by-90-foot strip of our lawn — we will have considerable difficulty selling our house to anyone at any price.

I composed and filed our "grievance" in preparation for a

hearing my wife and I attended with two Vermont property assessors in the Ripton Town Office. Prior to the hearing, I had spoken at some length with Alison, our town clerk. Alison is a hardworking, fair-minded near neighbor. We have spoken, corresponded, attended flood mitigation meetings together for uncountable hours since the climate change flooding began taking its toll on us. There is no air of tension or confrontation between us. She is well aware of our concern. We both understand that properties must be periodically reassessed as real estate values rise and fall. She also understands that we do not want to avoid paying a reasonable tax on our property, that we in fact love living in Ripton and are grateful for its services.

It is clearly our bad luck that we are now so vulnerable to the ravages of future flooding. But it is my feeling that our diminished circumstances should not be compounded by a finding that, for tax purposes, our property has become more valuable.

In the course of our hearing, one of the property assessors assigned to us, Louis, suggested that we get in touch with town offices elsewhere to see if properties similar to ours that have been threatened or damaged by floods have sold for less than their assessed value. Should we locate such properties, that would strengthen the case for lowering our proposed reassessment.

Perhaps there is a kind

of shrewd and determined person who could locate such comparable properties and calculate the difference between their assessed value and their sales prices, but I doubt it. For one thing, just locating a house like ours, situated as ours is on its property, and as flood-diminished as ours, would be next to impossible. Determining that this all but unfindable property has recently been sold for less than its appraised value more unlikely still.

My "grievance" rests on a principle: that any property vulnerably situated deep in a flood zone, a property already diminished by previous flooding, and understood by any objective observer to have lost resale value, cannot not fairly be appraised as having become more valuable.

I sensed a sympathetic hopelessness in the demeanor of the two men listening to my argument for the principle stated exactly as I have written it above. Their assignment has been to reassess the value of properties in proportion to their current market value, that value determined by recent sale prices. That the resale value of our house has been diminished, not increased, is obvious but not practically provable — until and unless we sell our house. The nearly doubled assessment of our property will stand.

As will our grievance, unto eternity.

**Rick Hawley
Ripton**



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Letters to the Editor

Middle Road housing project has some flaws

In the *Addison Independent* edition Thursday, April 17, 2025, a rendering of a proposed housing project near the intersection of Middle Road and Court Street was shown. The brainchild for this was Phil Rosenzweig under the corporate name of Middlebury Investors LLC. A 32-unit, 4-story complex with a restaurant is proposed.

Hello, does anyone see this .71-acre lot, which would tower over our beloved Dollar Market and the Good Point Electronics? I believe Tony Neri owns the property and can't believe he would sell. Why not just build it on Middle Road and shut that down. That makes as much sense. What about extra traffic on Middle Road, especially when school lets out? What about parking? What about anything?

There is a lot over by South Village between the apartment building complex and the state office building. That looks like a bigger lot and the at least it's off the road somewhat. If Rosenzweig wants to build, buy that property.

More people, more traffic, more congestion.

Does anybody see this? I am not saying don't build, but don't just fit a square peg in a round hole.

As far as a Mediterranean fare with a touch of Italian restaurant, how about a Wendy's, Burger King, Kentucky Fried or other fast food? There are empty buildings where Aubuchon was, near Kinney Drugs, and where Paris Farmer's Union and Taylor Rental were. Let's build up those spots. Route 7 already at times gets backed up, let's just add to that.

These people from other areas come in with their big ideas for our communities. Take your ideas back home with you.

**Norman Beerman
Salisbury**

Note to the President

Let me note this morning I came across a coin, I thought, crossing Tully Road. Once a path for local soldiers. Farmers mostly. And nut gatherers. Its face looked more like a quarter. Washington's. Until I looked more closely. Actually kneeled down. To see what I saw was the coin-sized back of a turtle. Newly hatched.

It was so tiny and innocent. Moving, at a pace, it seemed like it was walking. And didn't need my help. Except for the rumbling I heard. A truck I knew was sent to grade the muddy road. Each spring, spring comes again. Like now.

When the ditch becomes our Delaware. For future presidents and babies I want to hold in my hand. Carry them to safety.

Over there in the swampy woods. More likely they're meant to survive. My taking this one by surprise. Asking myself if I should leave it where I found it. Or knowing what I know about a tire's road repair. Pick it up and put it down, somewhere where it doesn't know it's going. I don't want to think of as my country. Shell of itself and snapping tail.

Even if it's so small you can hardly tell what it is. A penny or a dime. A nickel or a quarter. Any change asked for.

By any one of us. Homeless and out of work. Carrying roofs on our backs. Sticking our necks out for this democracy.

**Gary Margolis
Cornwall**

Power? — Control?

So you want power?
You want control?
And when you have it?
And when people all over are living in fear and hate?
What then will they think of you?
For their thoughts are not under your control.
Their hearts are not yours to control.
What have you gained?
What have you lost?
You may have the gold.
You may have the best weapons.
But you don't own their souls.
Indeed, you no longer have your own.
For you have sold it for 30 pieces of silver.
That's all you have.
It does nothing for your heart and soul.
It does nothing to satisfy your inner needs.

You have emptied your life for cash.
The most valuable things in life are gone from your own.
Empty is your heart.
Lonely is your existence.
You have found that which is devoid of love.
You have only your self interest and no other.
It has no meaning.
Empty is your heart.
You have found emptiness, desolation, you have found Hell.
There is your power.
There is your control.
There is your end which you found all by yourself.

**Michael Doran
Vergennes**



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And so it begins...

A WORKER GUIDES a lowering prefab home, right, on to its foundation this past Thursday in the new Stone Crop Meadows housing development that is going up off Seminary Street Extension in Middlebury. It was the first home to go up, and by Friday afternoon several stories were secured in place.

Independent photos/John S. McCright



Middlebury track deserves more ink, exposure

The Middlebury men's track team won the NESCAC Championship on April 26 and the Panther women placed fourth, but I have seen no mention of it in the *Addison Independent*, yet there has been extensive coverage of lacrosse and baseball.

With the Division III nationals coming up soon and a number of Middlebury athletes sure to qualify, it would be great to see coverage in the *Independent*. Track and field too often gets the short end of the stick, and the sport deserves better. As a former high school track coach and now a track official, I can attest to the hard work and diligence it takes to succeed at this sport. And Martin Beatty and his coaching staff at the college are great examples of coaching excellence.

Panther track, both men and women, deserve better coverage in our local newspaper.

**Ed Blechner
Addison**

Freedom and Unity

(Continued from Page 4A)

Tom: We've known each other for a couple years now. What have the last two years been like for you?

Jerome: Well, you helped me when I was sleeping outside in Middlebury. You and Charter House helped me connect with veterans services in Rutland, and they eventually helped me get an apartment. I probably shouldn't have taken that apartment. I know that sounds crazy to other people, a homeless guy refusing to take a place to live. But they probably don't know what it's like to be an African American man trying to live in an apartment in a drug-infested neighborhood in Vermont. Just walking back and forth to the store, people would look at me like I was a threat. At night, I'd go outside for a smoke and people would stare out their windows at me. I think some people just don't or won't understand. We live in different worlds.

Veteran services can be great. But here's how it can be different for Black people: A guy is trying to convince me to go back and live in a veterans homeless shelter. Now I've stayed in a veterans shelter before. Most of the people who live there are very right-wing. Not everyone, just the loudest ones. In the time I've lived in Barre, I've experienced more racism. There is real hostility out there. Do you think I, as an African American, am going to go live in a place full of residents bashing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion all the time? Shelters are a weird place to live as it is. I'm not going to subject myself to the torment of racism in the place I live. I'll sleep outside first — especially these days. Things are getting worse.

Tom: So when you hear the word "community," do you think of safe spaces and kind people?

Jerome: I mean I have a solid network of friends, especially outside Washington County, who I know are there for me. But the hostility toward people like me is real here. Maybe people just don't see me, an African American, as typical when I'm outside. I walk funny because I've had spinal surgery and I have cataracts and can't see very well. When I walk down the street, white people just glare at me here. Doesn't help me feel better about myself or my situation.

Tom: Jerome, what do you wish people knew about you?

Jerome: When a person meets me or walks by me, I want them to know that whatever I'm going through at that moment does not define me as a person. I am kind and a bit of a nerd. I'm just trying to deal with a lot.

Tom: What do you wish for?

Jerome: I'm in my 60s, and I am looking for some comfort and stability in my own life. But I really want to do things that help other people — practically speaking. I look in the mirror and I really don't want to live in just a self-serving way. I want to help people living in situations like myself. It makes me feel I am accomplishing something.

Tom: Like the advocacy you've been doing in Montpelier and this interview for the *Addison Independent*?

Jerome: Right. I want to speak up. I'm around people suffering homelessness all the time. I'm next to that all the time. Most people will see us as addicts or poor, and they'll say, "Why don't they get themselves together." Those people don't understand that person's life. The abuse people may have survived. Where were you people who judged us then? Nobody stepped in to help. No social service, no church, no neighbor. There's so much that people don't think about. People think, "I had problems and I pulled myself up." Those people who say that they live in a different world.

So what do I wish for? Right now, peace and happiness. For everybody.

Tom Morgan is the founder of Green Mountain Justice; find out more at greenmountainjustice.org.

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Climate matters

Perspectives on Change

Let's keep working to reduce greenhouse gasses

By **RICHARD HOPKINS**
& **DAN RAFFERTY**
For the Middlebury Town Energy Committee

The recently published Town Energy Committee's report for 2024 shows that town operations are heading in the wrong direction, with a 16% increase in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2023.

In January 2021, the Middlebury selectboard set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by town operations by 80% from its 2018 value, by fiscal year 2030. The Town Energy Committee produces an annual report.

The first few progress reports for 2020 and 2021 were quite positive, as the town made significant progress towards achieving this goal. This progress, however, was entirely the result of being a customer of Green Mountain Power, which during this period made a significant shift toward renewable hydro energy.

Some of this increased energy use was a result of climate change, as flooding required the town to rely on diesel-powered backup systems when responding to this "natural" disaster.

TOWN ENERGY USES

The wastewater treatment department is the biggest single user of energy in the town's operations, but is not the biggest producer of greenhouse gases. Mostly, the wastewater treatment plant uses electricity, which in our community is very low in CO₂e (carbon dioxide-equivalent) content.

Fossil fuel for vehicles and for heating buildings is the major source of CO₂e emissions. That includes gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, propane and fuel oil. The town operates numerous trucks, pickups and cars, for police work, fire response, road repair, snow removal and other tasks. It heats buildings, including the town offices, the Ilsley Library, two fire stations, a police station, the offices and workshops of the wastewater treatment plant, the public works department, the recreation center, the teen

center, and the pool house at the municipal pool.

LOOKING AHEAD

Three important developments are currently reducing our fossil fuel consumption, and their effects will be much more visible in the FY 2025 and later data: purchase of two small electric vehicles for use by the Public Works Department; installation of an electric heat pump heating system (with gas backup) in the Recreation Center; and replacement of the Ilsley library building with a new facility that will be entirely heated (and cooled) with ground-source electric heat pumps.

The FY 2025 data will also reflect increased vehicle and generator fuel use in the summer of 2024 in the course of repairs occasioned by floods and water main breaks.

The pace of reduction in fossil fuel use needs to increase if we are to reach our target of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas releases by 2030. Five years have gone by and we have only reduced our releases by one-third — with no beneficial change in the most recent three years.

There are four main strategies available to the town:

- Electrify as much building heating as possible (as with the Rec. Center)
- Electrify as many vehicle uses as possible (as with recent EV purchases for Department of Public Works)
- Decarbonize the electricity (as GMP is doing, aided by the town's investment in several solar arrays)
- Reduce energy use (as done by weatherizing the Teen Center).

Replacing fossil fuel burning equipment with electric equivalents when they wear out will significantly reduce the associated emissions. The technology to heat and cool our buildings with electricity (i.e., air- or ground-source heat pumps) exists now and has been widely adopted throughout Vermont. Electric cars and light trucks are

readily available. Electric versions of specialized transportation and heavy equipment vehicles are mostly not yet readily available or affordable. That situation is fluid.

Every time we buy new fossil-fuel-burning equipment, we make it harder to reach our 2029-2030 goal. Since electric equivalents do not yet exist for all our gas- and diesel-powered vehicles, we replace regular diesel with a biodiesel mix (B20, or 20% biodiesel) where possible until we can transition. Similarly, buildings can have electric heat pumps added to their heating systems even before their current fossil fuel boiler needs to be replaced.

Reducing fossil fuel use will reduce expense as well as greenhouse gas production. This can be done by a combination of weatherization and use of smart thermostats, to make sure buildings are kept warm only when we need to be in them, and by buying fuel-efficient vehicles. Conservation and efficiency by themselves will not be enough to get us to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Investing in conserving electricity does not reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by very much. But it does save money, and the savings could be reinvested in other GHG-reducing measures.

The major reductions in greenhouse gas production will come from replacing fossil fuel equipment with electric equipment.

As plans move forward to upgrade the existing wastewater treatment plant, there is an opportunity to become more energy-efficient overall and to rely on electricity rather than fossil fuels for energy-intensive plant operations.

The full report is available online at tinyurl.com/GHGreport2024.



RAFFERTY



HOPKINS

Driver and passenger cited after vehicle stop

VERGENNES — Following a Main Street traffic stop on the afternoon of May 10, Vergennes police cited both the driver and a passenger for violations related to substance use.

Police cited the driver, Vincent Poro, 62, for an ignition interlock device violation, and Rebecca Bussard, 36, who police described as homeless, for misdemeanor possession of cocaine. Police released both after they were cited into court to answer the charges.

In other activity between May 5 and 11, as well as continuing ongoing investigations, Vergennes police conducted five traffic stops and eight cruiser patrols, processed four fingerprint requests, and also:

- On May 5:
 - Took a report from the South Maple Street area that three juveniles had been missing for about 45 minutes. They were found while the caller was on the phone with the dispatcher.
 - Got a heads-up from the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG) that the department and city residents should be aware that VPIRG canvassers would be going door to door in the city over the next few weeks. Canvassers will be wearing VPIRG shirts or name tags and be carrying either a clipboard or an iPad.
 - Received an online report wanting to make police aware an individual in Vergennes is shouting random obscenities at others. Police said they are aware of the person in question, whom they said has a known mental health issue.

- On May 6:
 - Per a court order, served an Abuse Prevention Order to a local individual.
 - Assisted Hinesburg police with an ongoing investigation.
- On May 7 heard from a local bank that it had received strange phone calls from a city resident. Police said the individual has known mental health issues, and they advised the bank representative to block the caller's phone number.
- On May 8:
 - Heard from a man who placed \$10 into the machine at Maplefields to pre-pay for gas, but the machine did not immediately credit him for the deposit, and he walked away. But the next person to use the machine took the money. After viewing security video, police identified and spoke to the person who had taken advantage of the situation, who then paid back the money. Police said no charges are being filed.
 - Provided a courtesy ride to

Vergennes Police Log

a citizen who walked from the elementary school before realizing she left her belongings there. Police said she retrieved the items.

On May 9:

- Heard that on Walker Ave. an individual is holding someone's belongings and refusing to return them, and the complainant was looking for help from police. That case was unresolved as of Monday morning.

- Were asked to go to Vergennes Union High School to help with a juvenile who was out of control, but learned to the juvenile was calmed before they arrived.

- Dealt with two minor two-vehicle crashes.
- Helped a resident with a property dispute on New Haven Road.

On May 10:

- Responded to a report that a vehicle had gone off New Haven Road near Church Street. City police, along with Vermont State Police, found that a vehicle had left the road, traveled across a grassy area, and struck the speed limit sign near the "Welcome to Vergennes" sign. But because the vehicle had left the scene, and callers did not describe the vehicle or driver, police could take no further action.

- Were told of a road rage incident on Monkton Road, but were not able to find or identify the vehicle.

- Received multiple reports of an alarm sounding at the Green Mountain Power facility at the falls overnight and throughout the day. Police contacted GMP and were told it might have been a high water alarm and someone would check it out. But police were told later the alarm was still sounding. Police then contacted an on-call GMP employee to look into it, and the alarm was eventually turned off.

- Heard there was a woman in distress near the elementary school. Based on the description, police recognized the individual as someone the department had arrested earlier that day and went and spoke with her. Police said she was visibly upset, but she said she was OK and just waiting for a ride.

- Were told a man was attempting to gain entry to a vehicle and local business, but did not cause any damage and was unable to gain entry. The man has been identified, but the case lacks substance for charges to be filed, police said.

Dr. Andrew Haig named Top Scholar

MIDDLEBURY — The company Scholar GPS recently named Middlebury's Dr. Andrew Haig as a "Top Scholar," noting that his 197 scientific publications received a very high "H-rating" for their influence on other scientists and

University of Michigan with academic appointments at the University of Vermont, Dartmouth College and the Medical College of Wisconsin, Dr. Haig

also leads the not-for-profit International Rehabilitation Forum in its mission of building medical rehabilitation in low-resource countries around the world. That volunteer work has garnered the advocacy awards from the American and global societies in his field.

Professor emeritus at the

ADDISON COUNTY Business News

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The nature of sketching

BRIDPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL students immersing themselves in the natural world this spring are being tasked with drawing some of their favorite images — including flowers, birds and trees. The students are lucky to have renowned Middlebury artist Kate Gridley as their mentor and guide. Gridley took her budding artists to the Morgan Horse Farm property in Weybridge last week to draw from that stunning scenery. Clockwise, from top left: Gridley totes a bunch of sketchpads; Bridport teacher Breeya Walker tries her hand at sketching; student Hannah Lalumiere displays her work; the group gets busy on the Tilly Trail off Morgan Horse Farm Road; Wyatt Bordeleau shows off his leafy rendering; Chase Seiple studies his subject matter; cousins Wyatt and Emma Bordeleau smile and share; another group shot; Ron Payne of the Otter Creek Audubon Society points out ways to identify birds; and binoculars confirm that “yes, it’s a bird!”

Independent photos/Steve James



Eagle Scouts

(Continued from Page 1A)
539 completed the Eagle Scout journey: Vergennes residents Gabe Scribner and Spencer Gebro, Pantons Zachary Norris and Ferrisburgh's Spencer Adams.

To put the numbers in perspective, only somewhere between 4% and 7% of all Boy Scouts become Eagle Scouts. And in the Vergennes troop, six Scouts is basically an entire age cohort.

"It's a very unique thing," Scribner said. "Six is not a small feat. It's a testament to these guys."

To receive the Eagle Scout distinction, Scouts must earn at least 21 merit badges, demonstrate and document "Scout Spirit" and leadership within their troops, and then plan, develop, and organize a service project in which they further demonstrate leadership and commitment to community and duty.

After all those requirements are met, they still must make their case to an Eagle Scout board of review. For Troop 539, that's the Ethan Allen District Eagle Scout review board that handles candidates from Addison County and counties to the south. Bristol's Connie LaRose chairs that board, which is otherwise composed of several former Eagle Scouts.

As LaRose tells it, those half-dozen members of Troop 539 distinguished themselves presenting to the review board.

"Those Vergennes Eagle Scouts were very impressive," LaRose said.

Scoutmaster Scribner (yes, he's Gabe's dad) acknowledged his troop, however successful it has been in the past, has never seen a cohort come through quite like this one.

He pointed out most of this group started together as first-graders at the Tiger level, with Gebro coming aboard as a sixth-grader when his family moved to Vergennes. Their collective dedication pushed each other forward, Scribner said.

"One of the things that helped was having a solid group of peers that you shared the Scouting experience with," Scribner said. "You don't get there by yourself.



TRAVIS SCRIBNER

They really helped each other achieve this goal. It's that little bit of friendly competition to keep you going, holding each other accountable, and helping each other as needed to get to where they wanted to be."

Scribner also pointed to the diverse interests of the group, and the members of the troop as a whole.

"There are guys that are in theater. There are guys that are

in band," he said. "There's folks that don't do any sports. They're very into tech stuff. And then we have athletes. The one bond they all have is Scouting. And it's amazing. The best team is made of people with different skillsets that help the whole team become stronger."

He offered an example. The troop was in the Florida Keys for a Scouting trip and had to conquer a challenging obstacle course that required strategy and cooperation. It was a task that most crews took two or three days to complete. Troop 539 was faster.

"They recognized each other's strengths and utilized them, and they were able to do in one day all the obstacles," Scribner said. "It was fun to watch unfold."

PROJECTS

The Eagle Scout projects also involved cooperation and leadership, Scribner said, and the review board looks for that.

"They don't want the Eagle Scout candidate to say, 'I'm going to go and build a bench for the Boys & Girls Club,' and then that Scout simply go and buy the materials and build the bench and give it to the Boys & Girls Club," Scribner said.

Rather, he said, "They really

want the Eagle Scout candidate to be doing the planning, the fundraising, and managing other youth in our troop to get that done. It's as much a leadership project as it is a service project," he said.

For example, in the planning phase, Scribner said the candidate typically sends out an email to other troop members outlining his project and its timetable seeking help, and they "will kind of be the worker bees for that project."

The Eagle Scouts' projects were:

- Gabe Scribner: Partially renovated the soccer/lacrosse dugouts at Vergennes Union High School, including installing new flooring and rubber mats.
- Spencer Adams: Built a display shed for the Dead Creek Wildlife Refuge.
- Spencer Gebro: Refurbished the softball dugouts at VUHS, repainting them and installed shelving and new flooring.
- Zachary Norris: Built a Pantons Stone raised flower bed near the flagpole at the American Legion clubhouse on Armory Lane.
- Grey Fearon: Organized a 5-kilometer race in Vergennes to raise money to pay for the purchase and installation of an audio book collection in the Bixby Library in Vergennes. The event raised around \$2,000, according to Scribner.
- Brody McGuire: Built a shotput and discus training area for the VUHS track and field team not far from the school's eastern parking lot. The school previously lacked such a facility.

ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS

Scribner has been with Troop 539 for 13 years in all, helping out as an assistant for seven years before becoming a Scoutmaster. That means he's been with almost all of this group for their entire Scouting journey.

"I got into being a Scout leader because my son Gabe joined," Scribner said. "When you are involved with a group of people for 13 years and you see them go from little boys to amazing young men, it's hard to put a price tag on the experience."

He said the group exemplifies the four goals of Scouting, being good



NEWLY MINTED EAGLE Scout Gabe Scribner planned, oversaw and worked on upgrades to the VUHS soccer/lacrosse dugouts, including installation of new flooring and rubber mats, for his community service project.

Photos courtesy of Travis Scribner



EAGLE SCOUT BRODY McGuire planned, oversaw and helped create the first shotput and discus training area for the VUHS track & field team as his required community service project.

citizens, showing good leadership, showing good character, and taking care of your personal health.

"To know these guys are going out into the world and do amazing things, it's been a blessing to watch them as they've navigated their path to Eagle."

Scribner said they also could not have done it without the support to their families and "key adult leaders" working with the troop, including Brian Gebro, Jack McGuire and Paul Norris.

"They've also been with these guys every step of the way as adult mentors," Scribner said.

Given that these are from the first, and certainly not the last, of the Troop 539 Eagle Scouts,

Scribner was asked what is it that about the Vergennes-area troop that historically has allowed so many Boy Scouts to reach the peak of Scouting?

Critically, he said, the club leaders give the Scouts freedom — and responsibility — to make their own choices.

"We do what the boys want ... if they plan it and make it happen. If you're doing a youth group program such as Scouting, and the Scouts have a stake in the direction the program is going in, then they're going to be more invested," Scribner said. "Because it's really intended to be Scout-led, not adult-driven."



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College

(Continued from Page 7A)
employees taking the brunt of cuts aimed to fix a financial dilemma they didn’t cause.

“The solution is always the same: cut benefits, introduce salary caps, raise premiums, freeze positions, ask fewer people to do more work,” said Terry Simpkins, director of Discovery & Access Services for the college’s library. “Every time this college faces a financial crisis, whether it is due to external factors like the pandemic or the 2008 recession ... or to bad decisions by the board and senior leadership past and present, every problem is solved on the backs of staff.”

FACULTY PUSH BACK

The May 8 protest followed other efforts by Middlebury faculty over the past month to push back against budget cuts.

The college has offered a retirement incentive for staff in Vermont, and it seeks to reduce college-owned rental properties; grow undergraduate enrollment; evaluate health insurance options; and cap the college’s retirement match at 11%.

Like many employers, the college matches employee contributions into the retirement savings up to a certain level. Starting in January, the highest retirement contribution will be an 11% match, down from a top level of 15%.

Middlebury College is the largest employer in Addison County. The institution employs around 2,000, including faculty and staff, as well as another 5,000 part-time, short-term student employees and adjuncts, according to a spokesperson.

The college’s Faculty Council and Middlebury’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors last month cosponsored a Sense of the Faculty Motion demanding college officials reverse the compensation cuts and enrollment increase, *The Middlebury Campus* reported.

Twelve senior members of the Middlebury College Economics Department — known as the Econ 12 — have also started a petition to preserve faculty and staff benefits, which had garnered around 800 signatures from the college community as of May 8. In an April 17 opinion piece in *The Campus*, the group pledged not to participate in college-wide events (including commencement) “until the decision has been reversed or a plan to mitigate the damage has been implemented.”

STUDENTS, STAFF SPEAK OUT

At the walkout, several speakers criticized recent remarks made by incoming Middlebury College President Ian Baucom, who last month voiced his support for the new measures at a reception at MIIS and in a subsequent letter sent to the college community.

Others pointed to how compensation cuts will affect college employees.

“Any plumber, electrician or HVAC tech on campus took at least a 15-20% less in wage when they came here,” one staff member wrote in a statement read by Associate Professor of Economics Tanya Byker. “None of these men make wages that they could have made if they worked outside the college. They were definitely here for the



ECONOMICS PROFESSOR PETER MATTHEWS

benefits package. The lost 4% hurts, especially when we are anticipating a rise in insurance costs this coming November.”

College officials in the April 2 letter said they are evaluating health insurance plans and comparing them to benefits at peer institutions. Audiovisual Technical Director Ethan Murphy addressed the compensation cuts.

“I’m speaking for myself because this impacts me and my family directly and represents a significant loss of income,” he said. “I’m also speaking for all Middlebury College employees because this decision sets a precedent.”

Speakers also deplored administrators’ decision to increase undergraduate enrollment to between 2,600 and 2,650 in the coming years.

Jason Mittell is a professor of Film & Media Culture and serves on the Faculty Council at Middlebury College. He said college officials had as recently as February expressed an intention to bring enrollment back down to its previous target of 2,500 before changing course.

A couple of speakers acknowledged the budget cuts come at a challenging time for higher education in the country. Several actions taken by President Donald Trump in recent months have targeted colleges and universities, from the federal funding they receive to diversity initiatives on campuses.

“If the administration can unilaterally impose its will on the most senior members of its community, what does that say about its commitment to its most vulnerable?” asked Cynthia Gao, an instructor in the college’s Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies Department.

At the end of the protest, college employees symbolically delivered the April faculty motion and recent petition to Executive Vice President and Provost Michelle McCauley, who was at the event. She was one of three college officials who signed the April 2 letter.

College officials issued the following statement after Thursday’s protest:

“We value the perspectives of all of our faculty, staff, and students and are actively engaged in conversations with our constituents across Middlebury,” they wrote. “We first communicated with our community about our structural deficit and related cost-saving measures in early April and have continued the conversations and provided updates since that time.”

WHAT’S NEXT

Middlebury College Board of Trustees Chair Ted Truscott and the board’s three vice chairs on Monday sent a letter to college faculty and staff on behalf of the board. Trustees noted the institution’s current financial situation and the impact recent steps to tackle it have had on college employees — but they stood by the measures.

“Our current financial situation is sufficiently challenging that we recently needed to borrow \$45 million to finance our current operating deficits. We cannot do so again, and we must realize a structurally balanced budget,” they wrote. “As painful as the current budget measures are, we are convinced that they are necessary — both to address our own long-term finances and to safeguard Middlebury’s future given the external attacks on higher education.”

Matthews said he doesn’t know of a single colleague that was reassured by that May 12 letter.

“I think the natural offramp for this crisis would have been for administrators to say, ‘We’re going to revisit these decisions, take some time, through the summer, perhaps, to talk with constituents here to see if there are other ways to reach (financial viability) and to engage in genuine conversation,’” he said.

The recent email from trustees didn’t allow for or suggest that was a possibility, he said, but rather doubled down on the compensation cuts and other steps.

“I don’t think in almost 25 or 30 years here I’ve ever seen the faculty so demoralized and sound so demoralized,” Matthews said. “There’s a disappointment, and I think the question for faculty and staff is ‘What’s next for us?’”

Matthews noted that’s an ongoing conversation, though some plans for next steps are in the works. The Econ 12 will not take part in the traditional faculty procession at commencement on May 25, though he said they’ll still be there to support students.

“We remain as committed to students as we’ve ever been,” he said.

He noted college employees will continue with that effort after the school year wraps up next week.

“I know what faculty are saying is this isn’t just going to go away because summer comes and the campus quiets down and the Language Schools begin,” Matthews said. “It will persist throughout the summer and will be taken up in earnest in the fall.”

Transformation

(Continued from Page 1A)
bill that passed the House on April 11 and, as of this writing, reposes in the Senate Finance Committee. A trio of local lawmakers have — or will have — their fingerprints on H.454, and all three appeared at a May 10 public forum at Vergennes Union High School to update their constituents on major provisions of the proposed legislation.

Headlining the forum were Sens. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, and Steve Heffernan, R-Bristol; and Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall. Conlon chairs the House Education Committee. Heffernan serves on Senate Education, and Hardy — who organized the forum — serves on Senate

Finance, which is now scrutinizing the financial implications of H.454 with an eye toward passing out the bill on Thursday, May 15.

The Legislature’s effort to revamp public ed took on a new sense of urgency this year after 2024’s defeat of around 30% of Vermont school budgets. Rising property taxes — in part a biproduct of fewer Vermont school children to achieve economies of scale — had pushed taxpayers to a breaking point.

“We heard loud and clear that that was unsustainable for Vermonters,” Hardy told the roughly 60 forum attendees.

Conlon noted this isn’t the first time lawmakers have sought to reform the way public education is delivered and financed. The first substantive effort, Act 60, was driven by the Brigham Supreme Court decision of 1997, which required the Legislature to create a new system to ensure equitable funding for all school districts.

Acts 68 and 46 followed.

At the same time, Conlon noted, K-12 enrollment has shrunk by 40,000 students during the past 40 years to around 83,000 today. Part of the problem is a lack of affordable/workforce housing to accommodate young families who might otherwise settle in Vermont.

“That’s an incredible demographic change for Vermont,” Conlon said. “Our (current) school finance system ... is really based on per-pupil costs. And when you lose many, many pupils, that has an impact on what our costs are — especially if the state is not adjusting at the pace at which the demographics are changing.”

FOUNDATION FORMULA

The House-passed version of the bill proposes, among other things:

- Replacing Vermont’s statewide education finance system with a foundation formula and statewide property tax structure. In the new funding formula, school districts would receive an “Education Opportunity Payment,” calculated by multiplying the base statewide education amount by the number of students in a district (weighted for various factors), according to the an H.454 summary prepared by state’s Joint Fiscal Office (JFO).

The bill repeals current pupil weights assigned to grade levels,

sparse districts and small schools. The bill changes weights applied to English Learner pupils and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The bill adds weights for special education, identified for children with a disability, and distinguishes between categories of disabilities.

“A foundation formula, done correctly, can create a stable, predictable funding stream for schools,” Conlon said. “Right now, we live in a world where a school board and superintendent have to sort of predict what the voters will accept, which can vary widely across the state.”

Hardy explained the current system in Vermont sees communities develop and vote on their own K-12 budgets, then the state sets a statewide tax rate to cover the combined cost of that education spending, minus federal aid.

With a foundation formula, there would no longer be local school budget votes. Schools would get an amount per pupil, and then an amount above that for size categories of need — including those in living in poverty, use English as a second language, or are coping with learning disabilities.

“Our superintendents would be told, ‘This is what you get, and you have to work within this budget,’” Hardy said of the new formula.

Current legislation reflects a base amount of \$15,033 per pupil.

Hardy and Heffernan noted that based on current foundation formula mechanics, Addison County communities wouldn’t fare well.

“Addison County, based on our current spending, would lose quite a bit of funding per-pupil under a new formula. However, our tax rates would likely also go down,” Hardy said. “So depending on what your perspective is ... that could be good or bad news, or a mix. That’s a reality of this change for the Addison district, which makes it difficult for (the county’s delegation), as we’re looking at education policy statewide, but also and happens to schools and taxpayers in our district.”

Heffernan also lamented the potential financial hit for the county, then added: “What we’re trying to do is say, ‘Hey, towns and (school) districts, start making changes to make (education) affordable.’”

School districts would be allowed to spend above their education opportunity payment if endorsed by local voters. This local supplemental district spending tax rate would be calculated so that all districts could raise the same amount above the foundation formula at the same rate, regardless of their property wealth.

LIMITING CLASS SIZE

- Establishing class-size minimums for grades K-12, including 12 students for kindergarten, 15 for grades 1-4, and 18 for grades 5-12. Multi-age classrooms for grades K-8 would

be limited to two grades per classroom.

The Senate Education version of H.454 removes the class-size stipulations. But those — and indeed all variables of the bill — will remain in play in conference committee if the Senate passes H.454 before the end of this session, as expected.

“Our mindset with that is we have to look after the small schools that are efficient and able to work within the budget they’re given,” Heffernan said of Senate Education’s reason for eliminating the class-size minimums.

- Stipulating schools operating grades 6-12, or any subset of those grades, be required to have a minimum enrollment of 450 students. It should be noted that 2023 data from the Vermont Agency of Education shows Vermont has around 180 public schools that wouldn’t meet the minimum.

- Mandating that state tuition payments be confined to either a public school located in Vermont, an approved independent school located in state that has at least 51% of its student enrollment made up of students attending on a district-funded tuition basis during the 2024/2025 school year and complies with the minimum class size requirements; an independent school meeting education quality standards; a public school located in another state; or a therapeutic approved independent school.

Conlon said the House-passed bill shares some of the education reform priorities Gov. Phil Scott proposed this past winter. Among other things, Scott suggested paring the state’s current 199 school districts to five, which would have lobbied Addison, Franklin and Chittenden counties into a district extending from the Canadian border to Brandon. Conlon said H.454 will ask experts to draw a district map that would include roughly 4,000 students each.

He cautioned the exercise wouldn’t be as simple as dividing districts according to county boundaries.

“We recognized that we probably have too many central offices and superintendencies we don’t really need to have; there’s a lot of redundancy. In Addison County, we have three superintendents, three directors of special ed, three business managers,” Conlon said. “I think we all recognize we can probably achieve savings ... by reducing the number of districts.”

Hardy, Conlon and Heffernan acknowledged some related challenges to full implementation of H.454 — currently envisioned in 2028 or 2029. Closing, consolidating and/or regionalizing schools will cost a lot of money, and the state hasn’t offered school construction aid for around two decades. Then there’s the prospect of children spending more time on buses as they are ferried from rural towns to bigger schools.

Hardy noted H.454 speaks to potentially bringing back school construction aid.

“We have some of the oldest and most run-down schools in the country. In order to improve our education, we really have to improve our facilities,” Hardy said.

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Vehicle crash causes domino effect

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police responded to a single-vehicle crash that caused some mayhem in the Case Street area on May 6. Police at around 4:20 a.m. received a report of a man driving his vehicle off the road and hitting a utility pole, snapping it in half.

As a result, electrical and telephone wires were hanging in both the northbound and southbound lanes of Case Street.

Before officers arrived, a second vehicle — a tractor-trailer truck —also struck the pole and electrical wires, damaging and immobilizing the truck, according to police. Case Street was closed off for what police described as a short period of time, while Green Mountain Power and a towing service cleared the site.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Gave a courtesy ride to a stranded patient who'd been discharged from Porter Medical Center on May 5.
- Responded to a report of a man causing a disturbance at a Route 7 South restaurant on May 5.
- Responded to a trespassing complaint on South Pleasant Street on May 5.
- Arrested Ricardo Wright, 32, of Burlington for violating conditions of release in the Exchange Street area on May 5.
- Served a restraining order to a person in the Parkline Place neighborhood on May 6.
- Responded to a report of a possible domestic assault in the Charles Avenue area during the evening of May 6. Police said the commotion was being caused by a child playing with a baseball bat in the backyard of his home.
- Responded to a report of a person driving their vehicle off Three Mile Bridge Road on May 6.

Middlebury Police Log

- Responded to an alleged road rage incident on Court Street on May 6.
- Received a report of a theft from a Court Street business on May 6.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS on a medical call to a Case Street address on May 6.
- Responded to a pickup truck-deer collision near the intersection of Routes 7 and 125 on May 7. Police said the deer was killed.
- Checked on a man who was sleeping in his vehicle parked off Mary Hogan Drive at 3 p.m. on May 7.
- Received a report of a theft from a Court Street business on May 7.
- Responded to a report of a woman standing in the middle of Main Street and yelling at construction workers on May 8.
- Assisted state police at the scene of a DUI-related crash at the intersection of Lovers Lane and Cold Spring Road in Bristol on May 9.
- Helped a driver whose car battery had died on Main Street on May 9.
- Investigated a single-vehicle crash, in which the involved person was injured, on Route 125 in East Middlebury on May 9. Police said “criminal charges are likely to be brought” in the case.
- Were informed that a vehicle had been vandalized while parked on Freeman Way on May 9.
- Helped state police with a drunken driving related stop on Route 7 on May 10.
- Assigned a detail to the Middlebury Union High School

prom on May 10.

- Investigated a report of a man and woman allegedly “using illicit drugs” in the bathroom of a Court Street Extension business on May 10.
- Responded to a report of a drunken man on Main Street on May 10. Police said the man was taken to Rutland to receive detox services.
- Responded to a disorderly conduct complaint on Elm Street on May 10. Police said they separated parties involved in the dispute.
- Helped a tractor-trailer driver who got his vehicle stuck on Route 125 on May 10. Police said the driver was able to free his truck and continue his travels.
- Assisted a man who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the Washington Street area on May 11.
- Responded to a noise complaint in the Cross Street area on May 11.
- Escorted a local beaver through the downtown area on May 11.
- Assisted an East Middlebury juvenile who was experiencing a mental health crisis on May 11.
- Received a report that someone had intentionally damaged some trees on a Court Street resident’s property on May 11.
- Investigated a theft from a Jackson Lane residence on May 11.
- Loaned the department’s K-9 team to Vermont State Police in its investigation of a vehicle that troopers had stopped on Hardscrabble Road in Bristol on May 11. Police dog Guinness alerted on the vehicle, according to Middlebury police.
- Helped state police find a vehicle that had left the scene of a crash in Shoreham on May 11.
- Located a runaway juvenile on May 12 and created a safety plan for the youth and their family.

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — Come to the Monkton Town Hall Community Room on Monday, May 19, at 7 p.m., for the Monkton Museum and Historical Society’s annual business membership meeting. Members will also be able to join via Zoom. The MM&HS will review its by-laws and welcome anyone interested in becoming a member. Yearly membership remains \$10 per member, per year. You may pay for your membership on the 19th or e-mail membership@monktonhistory.org. Current MMHS members should have received their notice by mail along with a ballot for officers. You can find out more information on the MMHS website: monktonhistory.org.

Continuing activities at Russell Memorial Library include:
5 Towns Friends of the Arts Musical Library Tour from 7:30

to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15th. William Lee Ellis will be playing in the Community Room for your enjoyment. This is free and open to the public.

Monkton Community BBQ and Game Day on Saturday, May 17, from noon to 3:00 p.m. in the community room and patio space, rain or shine. There will be food, games and fun for Monkton residents. Free to attend with BBQ cost of \$10 per person. There will also be a bake sale and raffle. The aim is to raise funds for a full-size basketball court and two pickleball courts at Morse Park. Donations also appreciated! RSVP to Teri at tfg417@gmail.com or 802-989-2276 to give them an idea of how much food will be needed.

Community Yoga, every Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. Meditate and move to music. Open to all

ages, bodies and abilities. Stitch and Spin on the third Sunday of each month (May 18th) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your favorite project to work on while enjoying the comradeship of other crafters.

Toddler Tuesday, next on May 20, from 3 to 6 p.m. Let the kids enjoy exploring the library with other playmates enjoying toys and books.

For information on any of these activities at the library, call 802-453-4471 or email russellmlibrary@gmail.com.

Watch for details next week of the Monkton Friends Methodist Church annual plant, bake and craft sale on May 24th. If you have any plants that you would like to donate, or for more information on the bake and craft sale, contact Marilyn Cargill at 802-453-5192.

Excessive speed ends with citations

ADDISON COUNTY — Deputies in the Addison County Sheriff’s Department twice this past week stopped cars going over 80 miles per hour on Route 7 in the southern half of the county.

The first time was on May 7 when an officer clocked a car going 84 mph in Salisbury, pulled it over and cited Richard Delong, 50, of Derry, N.H., for excessive speed.

Then on May 9 a deputy saw a car in Leicester traveling on Route 7 at 87 mph in a 50 mph zone while passing other vehicles in rainy conditions with oncoming traffic. They stopped the car and cited the driver, 19-year-old Jeremiah Tellier of Brandon, for excessive speed and negligent driving.

In other recent activity, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns and stopped 61 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations,

Sheriff’s Log

fingerprinted 12 people for background checks, completed background checks in Middlebury on May 6 and May 9, and completed two VIN verifications — one for a New Haven resident and one for a Salisbury resident.

Sheriff Elmore last week participated in a monthly meeting with other sheriffs from around Vermont.

The sheriff and his deputies also:
• On May 4 collected bail for a person who was arrested by Middlebury police on a warrant. Later that day, deputies again collected bail for a person who was arrested by Middlebury police.

Vermont State Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Someone stole a car in Burlington on Saturday and the next morning crashed it into another car in Addison County, injuring a Monkton man. Vermont State Police are asking for help finding the thieves who ran from the crash.

On May 11 at 10:20 a.m. troopers responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Hardscrabble Road and Putty Bed Place in Monkton. Police report that Taylor Cole, 24, of Monkton was driving a 2024 Toyota RAV4 southbound on Hardscrabble Road at a reasonable speed when a 2023 Audi Q5 turned from Putty Bed Place onto Hardscrabble Road northbound a rapid speed and struck the RAV4 head-on.

The two occupants of the Audi fled the scene.

State police arrived, determined that the Audi had been stolen on Saturday and they pulled out a K-9 to search for the driver and passenger of the stolen car. The search was unsuccessful; witnesses told police that they thought the two were picked up by someone driving an older-model, white Chevy pickup truck.

Cole, meanwhile, was taken to Porter Medical Center, where he was treated for suspected moderate injuries.

State police are still trying to find out the identities of the Audi

occupants. Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to call the New Haven state police barracks at 802-388-4919 or leave an anonymous tip online at vsp.vermont.gov/prevention/tipsubmit.

Troopers were assisted on scene by Middlebury police, Bristol Rescue Squad and Monkton Fire Department.

In other activity, state police on Saturday dealt with two incidents possibly involving impaired driving.

In the first incident, at around a quarter after 1 a.m., troopers responded to a reported one-car crash in the intersection of Lovers Land and Cold Spring Road in Bristol. Troopers detected signs of impairment while speaking to the driver, identifies as 28-year-old Ryan Hallett of Starksboro. Police alleged that Hallett drove the car with an infant in the vehicle.

The took Hallett into custody, transported him to the New Haven barracks and cited him for driving under the influence, second offense and cruelty to a child.

Traffic tickets are pending.

The second incident came when troopers responded at around 11:30 p.m. to a one-car crash at the intersection of Route 17 East and Middle Road in Addison. Troopers said that while speaking with the driver, identified as 28-year-old Hunter Quesnel of West Addison,

they detected signs of impairment.

Police report that Quesnel’s vehicle went off the road on a curve and crashed. He fled the scene.

Troopers ultimately found him and took him to a hospital for treatment of injuries sustained in the crash. Police said that while talking with Quesnel, he tried to deflect the investigation by implicating another individual.

In the end, they cited Quesnel for refusing to give a drunk driving sample, leaving the scene of an accident, negligent driving and giving false information to a police officer. Traffic tickets are also pending.



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At CVOEO, we envision a community where everyone is valued, has access to opportunity, and can achieve their full potential.

Interested? If you reside in Addison County and want to learn more, please contact Paul Dragon at pdragon@cvoeo.org.

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Vt. milk tests free of bird flu

411 farms sampled across the state

MONTPELIER — The United States Department of Agriculture late last week declared Vermont's dairy cattle free of bird flu, according to a press release from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets. The agency's milk sampling program shows no affected dairy cattle as of this past Friday.

The Ag Agency ran tests at 411 dairy farms across the state, the costs of which were covered by the federal government.

This winter, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture began a new USDA mandated milk sampling program. The USDA goal was to proactively identify dairy cows infected by highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI. Vermont's additional goal was to test all Vermont Grade A milk directly from each supplying Vermont dairy farm. As of this week, the testing had great news for farmers and consumers. The testing has not revealed any HPAI infected dairy cattle.

These encouraging results have led to a declaration by the USDA that Vermont is "unaffected" by HPAI in dairy cattle. With this declaration comes confidence that Vermont's dairy cattle herds are healthy and producing HPAI free milk for the marketplace. Vermont is the first state in New England to achieve this status.

A USDA map of testing results across the country shows nine states unaffected by bird flu, and seven states affected by HIPA. The affected states are Michigan, Minnesota, California, Nevada, Idaho, Arizona and Texas.

"This is an important moment



JESSICA WATERMAN of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's Food Safety and Consumer Inspection Division demonstrates the milk sampling procedure from an on-farm bulk milk tank at the UVM Dairy during training. The USDA say that milk sampling has shown that Vermont is "unaffected" by bird flu.



"This is an important moment for Vermont and our dairy industry ... This achievement means that, as always, you can depend on Vermont milk to be nutritious and safe."

— Vermont Ag Secretary
Anson Tebbetts

for Vermont and our dairy industry," said Anson Tebbetts, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture. "Thank you to our dairy farmers for stepping up and participating. This achievement means that, as always, you can depend on Vermont milk to be nutritious and safe."

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture has worked closely with dairy farmers across the state to visit each farm in support of this program. Federal resources are covering the cost of the testing program. Farms did

not bear any costs of the sampling program.

The USDA milk testing program seeks to identify any currently unknown pockets of the dairy cattle HPAI strain to help eradicate it in the United States, protect animal and human health, and safeguard the food supply from disruptions. Importantly, eliminating this version of the HPAI virus would prevent it from mutating into a strain that could threaten human health.

Another Vermont innovation that has come out of the sampling program is a first-in-the-nation weekly sampling system for raw milk cheese makers. The program samples source farm milk to ensure the milk they use to make their award-winning cheeses is HPAI free. This program was created in collaboration with the Agency of Agriculture; 100% of Vermont's raw milk cheese makers voluntarily participating.

"This sampling program is a first of its kind system built by a team of Vermonters who

wanted to bring peace of mind and protection to our dairy farmers, food processors and cheese makers" said E.B. Flory, Agency of Agriculture Dairy Section Chief and Director of Food Safety. "Our dairy cattle are healthy and producing the highest quality milk for market. I want to thank our hardworking team for all the sacrifices they have made and thank our Vermont dairy farmers for working with our team to make this important declaration possible."

While last week's declaration of an "unaffected" dairy industry is welcome in Vermont, the state has experienced isolated incidents of the avian, or bird flu strain of HPAI, including as recently as December 2024. VAAFM wants to help Vermont dairy farms to remain HPAI free and the continued sampling and testing of milk for HPAI in our state will help ensure that any infections are known and properly addressed.

ADDISON COUNTY

Agriculture News

Grant will help goat farm purchase new equipment

VERMONT — The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the U.S. Department of Agriculture last week announced the winners of the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (Equipment-Only awards in Vermont. Fourteen Vermont food system organizations are receiving just under \$1 million in equipment-only grants solely for "special purpose" equipment that must be used for middle of the supply chain activities, such as processing, storage, transportation, aggregation, distribution or wholesaling of Vermont or regional food products.

The equipment must help the applicant meet one of the following goals: increase market access; diversify product offerings; or increase production quantities. These awards are part of the \$3.1 Million in RFSI subawards that Vermont announced in April 2024.

Two grant winners are in Addison County: 80 Goats Inc. in Leicester and Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN) in Middlebury

80 Goats Inc., which most people know as Blue Ledge Farm, was awarded \$57,197 to purchase specialty cheese packaging

equipment to increase production and expand markets. The business will establish an agreement with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to purchase modernized packaging equipment for its line of cheeses, which it processes from milk from a local farm.

The equipment will allow the business to heat seal and package pre-cut fresh cheese, which is a market demand that they currently cannot fill with current equipment. This innovative modified atmosphere packaging will both extend shelf life and meet consumer demand for more convenient, pre-cut cheese.

This equipment will support processing of 16 products and reach two new markets, state officials said.

In Middlebury ACORN received a grant of \$99,831. It will enable the ACORN Food Hub to purchase cold storage equipment and food delivery vehicle to increase capacity. This will increase the operational capacity and efficiency of the ACORN Food Hub and enhance the resiliency of the Champlain Valley region foodshed.

The Food Hub currently (See Goat grants, Page 15A)

Soil health lab is now open

The University of Vermont's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and UVM Extension, in partnership with the UVM Food Systems Research Center and ARS Food Systems Research Unit, has announced the launch of the Soil Health Research and Extension Center, or SHREC. The center is a new statewide hub for research, testing, and building healthy soils and resilient agricultural systems.

"SHREC is dedicated to providing soil health testing services that reflect the realities of Vermont's farming systems," the

Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team said in their most recent newsletter. "By testing local soils, we can create a database of how different management approaches such as tillage, grazing management, cover cropping, and crop rotation affect soil health in our area."

Located in Jeffords Building on the UVM campus, the SHREC Lab will offer soil health testing services in addition to the routine soil testing capabilities of UVM's current Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab.



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Locals do well at 4-H Hippology

RUTLAND — Saturday, April 12, was a marathon day for 4-H’ers enrolled in the horse project, as this year the state hippology and horse quiz bowl contests were held on the same day.

University of Vermont Extension 4-H sponsored the event at Rutland High School, and it attracted more than 50 horse-savvy participants from 10 counties.

The first contest in the 2025 combined event was hippology, which tested the participants’ equine knowledge through a written exam, slides, identification stations and two video classes for judging.

The top local placements per age group in State 4-H Hippology Contest were:

Seniors (14-18):4. Tessa Buskey, Ferrisburgh.

Juniors (12-13): 10. Iris Bassett, New Haven (tenth)

Juniors (10-11): 10. Normandy Cesario, Cornwall (tenth)

For quiz bowl, points were awarded for being the first to



Mother’s day

A CANADA GOOSE mom takes her goslings for a paddle on a beaver pond in Lincoln on Mother’s Day.

Photo by Dale Cockrell

buzz in with the correct answer to questions about horse colors, breeds, anatomy, tack and other equine-related topics.

The highest individual local

scorers in each age group in the State 4-H Quiz Bowl were:

Juniors (12-13): 9. Iris Bassett, New Haven.

Juniors (10-11): 10. Normandy

Cesario, Cornwall.

For more information about the 4-H horse program in Vermont, contact Wendy Sorrell at wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu.

Goat grants

(Continued from Page 14A)

aggregates, stores and transports raw and value-add products from local farms and food businesses, but requires increased capacity to expand product offerings and reach additional markets. This equipment will increase wholesale market access for small- and medium-sized local producers and diversify product offerings by doubling cold storage capacity and creating a second delivery route.

According to state officials, this project will support 50 regional producers and expand to 25 new markets.

“Farms and rural communities

are part of what makes Vermont so special,” Gov. Phil Scott said in a press release. “We’re grateful to have this funding from USDA, which will help us make important long-term investments, benefitting the future of Vermont.”

Vermont Agriculture Secretary Anson Tebbetts said that infrastructure is vital to the future of Vermont’s regional food system.

“The small organizations that are receiving these grants make the regional food system work for our producers and consumers and support the public’s access to local food,” Tebbetts said.

How farmers use a food digester

University of Vermont faculty members Eric Roy and Matt Scarborough later this month will give a presentation that summarizes an EPA funded project to assess co-digestion of food waste in agricultural digesters.

The Zoom presentation, titled “Anaerobic Digestion and Food Waste: Farmer Perspectives, Benefits, and Challenges,” will take place on Friday, May 23, at 9 a.m.

Results of a farmer survey, biomethane potential testing, nutrient testing, and microplastics analyses will be summarized, followed by a question and answer session, as well as discussion. Any farmers who currently operate or are interested in exploring anaerobic digestion are encouraged to attend.

To register head online to tinyurl.com/AnaerobicDigestionFoodWaste.

Regional 4-H Day held at UVM

BURLINGTON — Addison County had strong representation at the 2025 Northwest Regional 4-H Day, April 5, where 4-H’ers showcased their talents in a number of project areas from sewing to public speaking and photography.

The event was held on the University of Vermont campus in Burlington and featured the work of 45 4-H’ers from clubs in northwestern Vermont. The entries and presentations were evaluated with several chosen to continue on to 4-H State Day, May 17 in Barre, a capstone event featuring outstanding 4-H’ers from throughout the state.

The results from Northwest Regional 4-H Day are as follows. Although the 4-H’ers could submit more than one entry in the

photo and poster categories, not more than one per category could be selected for display at 4-H State Day.

Non-clothing items also were not eligible for display at 4-H State Day although Fallyn Newton, Bridport, was recognized at regional day for her outstanding entry in this category.

Addison County participants included:

Fashion revue: Billie Bowdish, Haylee Clark and Charleigh Wilson, all from Middlebury; and Sophia Welch, Bridport.

Illustrated talk: Sophia Welch, Bridport, “Horse Conformation.”

Photos: Torrey Hanna, Addison, “Beaver Pond Reflection.” Hanna also submitted other photos

(“Grazing in Golden,” “Peek-a-Moo,” “Suddenly Silly” and “Acadia Sunrise”)

Posters: McKenzie Ball, New Haven, “First vs. Second Cutting Hay”; Gracelynn Barber, Shoreham “Luna”; Molly LaFramboise, Weybridge “Jerseys”; and Blake Moulton, Middlebury “Maple Syrup.”

Other award-winning posters not selected for 4-H State Day were created by Lucas Gorton, New Haven, “Red Holsteins and Guernseys”; Kylee Shepard, “Natural Disasters,” and Sophee Shepard. “All About Deer” both from Pantton.

Tabletop exhibits: Delaney Blaisdell, Vergennes, “Grooming 101”; Normandie Cesario, Cornwall, “The Breyer Horse”; Alexis Freegard, Bristol “All

About Strangles”; Ansley Montgomery, Addison, “Saddle Fitting”; Chace Petrin, Addison “Lake Champlain”; and Summer Petrin, Addison “Homeward Bound.”

Several 4-H Cloverbuds, ages 5 to 7, also took part in the regional day but due to age, are not eligible to participate in 4-H State Day. Lucille Bowdish, Middlebury, modeled an outfit she made in the fashion show. Jade Gorton, “Jersey, Guernsey, Red Holstein,” and Wade Gorton “Cars”, both from New Haven; and Charley Moulton, Middlebury “Addison County Field Days”.

To learn more about 4-H in the Northwest region, contact Martha Seifert (Addison County) at martha.seifert@uvm.edu.

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Harrington

(Continued from Page 1A) brings her the most joy — it is also a role in which she brings joy to others.”

Harrington was one of two finalists who last week interviewed before SCS stakeholders and a six-

person ACSD Salisbury Principal Screening Committee. The other finalist was Mary Louise Richards, an Otter Valley Union High School educator who previously taught in the Anchorage (Alaska) School District.

Harrington joined ACSD in 2000 as a math teacher and field hockey coach at Middlebury Union High School. She and her husband, Jay, built their home in Ripton in 2003, where they raised their two children. She was named Ripton

Elementary’s principal in 2011 and served in that capacity until 2023. That’s when she stepped down and became director of special education services for ACSD’s elementary schools.

Her career was heading for a fork in the road this summer, however, as her special education post wasn’t included in the ACSD 2025-26 budget.

“I originally figured I would continue with special education in some capacity,” Harrington said through an email exchange. “When Bjarki announced his decision to return to the classroom, however, I started thinking about how much I missed being part of a single school community and working more directly with students and teachers. The combination of factors including Salisbury’s incredibly skilled staff, the size of the school, the supportive community, and, of course, the opportunity to help ensure the successful integration of Ripton students and families into Salisbury Community School, made it a perfect match for me.”

She stressed: “I was not looking to be principal just anywhere. It

was only Salisbury/Ripton for me.”

Baker called Harrington “the right leader for the right time in the right place.”

She’ll lead a school whose student count will swell to around 85 this fall, with the infusion of Ripton’s K-5 students. The ACSD board last month made the difficult decision to at least temporarily shutter Ripton Elementary beginning this fall due to declining enrollment.

Harrington witnessed firsthand the Ripton community’s effort to keep its local school as its student population shrank. Fearing RES might be on the ACSD’s chopping block, Riptonites voted overwhelmingly in 2020 to exit the district to try and form their own independent Prek-12 system. But the logistics and financial implications of making that transition proved untenable, to the extent residents voted to rejoin ACSD in 2022.

Ripton Elementary was slated to serve fewer than 30 K-5 children next year, a number that wouldn’t have conformed with the ACSD’s

minimum class-size policy.

Harrington is looking forward to making the Salisbury and Ripton children feel like a cohesive group at SCS.

“I have so much respect and admiration for the families of Ripton and know intimately how challenging these past six plus years have been,” Harrington said. “None of us knew what the future was for the Ripton Elementary School, but I was always confident ACSD would make sure all Ripton students received a quality education in a place where they knew they belonged and were valued. I can’t tell you how grateful I am to have the opportunity to live into that belief and be there as we create a combined school with two towns and a shared vision.

“Even if it’s not for the long term, since we still don’t know what the future looks like in ACSD (or statewide for that matter), we can make it a great year. I can’t wait to welcome familiar faces into the Salisbury building, and I’m pretty sure it will be a comfort when they see my face as well.”



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From left to right: Ben Fuller, Gretchen Kellogg, Wendy Hunt, Susan Hayes, Kelley Knight, Tammy Leno, Brooke Zeno, Missy Clifford, Heather Barnard, Catherine Bresette

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LONGTIME ADDISON CENTRAL School District educator Tracey Harrington, shown with Ripton Elementary students a few years back, has been named the new principal of Salisbury Community School. Independent file photo/Steve James



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Market

(Continued from Page 1A)
up markets on select Saturdays and Sundays in conjunction with other events in town.

Meanwhile, a new farmers market will help fill in the gaps and offer community members another weekly opportunity to purchase from local producers. Middlebury resident Ross Conrad is spearheading the event, which will set up shop at Triangle Park on Wednesdays beginning on June 4.

“I hope people come out and give local producers an opportunity to grow,” Conrad said during a recent interview. “Especially with everything that’s going on currently with the economy and nationally, I think anything we can do to grow and support our local food system is important.”

Conrad noted that BMP’s plans for this summer are part of what inspired the new farmers market, as he wanted to see something similar to the former Midd Summer Market series continue downtown.

BMP Executive Directors Kathryn Torres and Kelly Flynn said the nonprofit will focus on hosting a series of Midd Summer Market pop-ups in tandem with other events happening around town in the coming months, such as the Circus Smirkus in July and the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in August. They have 12 pop-ups confirmed — the first was May 3 in Cannon Park on Green Up Day, the next is June 1 in Triangle

Park to mark “the first Sunday of summer,” and the last is Oct. 19 in conjunction with the Middlebury Maple Run. A list of pop-up market dates and locations can be found at tinyurl.com/middmarkets.

“We are so pleased that another market is planning to fill the regular space at Triangle Park during the week,” they wrote in an email to the *Independent*. “We’ve heard a little from Ross about his ideas and we are looking forward to coming down in the summer to catch the energy!”

“It will also enhance the town’s social fabric, where friends and neighbors can get together and catch up with each other and visit, and it helps strengthen our local foods system.”

— Ross Conrad

FARMERS MARKETS

Conrad noted the upcoming farmers market is being run by a new organization known as the Farmers Market Association of Addison County. The market will take place from 1:30-6 p.m. each Wednesday from June 4 through Oct. 29.

Similar to the Midd Summer Market series, the new offering will take place near the fountain at Triangle Park.

“Having it downtown will just bring more vibrancy and economic activity to the downtown area, provide more economic opportunities for small producers and start-ups,” he said. “It will also enhance the town’s social fabric, where friends and neighbors can get together and catch up with each other and visit, and it helps strengthen our local foods system.”

The farmers market will have a focus on agriculture, but will also feature artisans, artists and other

producers from around Addison County and the broader state.

Ideally, Conrad said he’d like to see the offering expand into a year-round event, noting that the team is currently looking for a potential winter site for the market in Middlebury’s downtown.

He added that he’d also like the Farmers Market Association of Addison County to become a nonprofit that could support other farmers markets in the area.

Multiple Addison County towns host farmers markets during the growing season, and Middlebury will soon host two — the Middlebury Farmers Market operates year-round on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the VFW on Exchange Street.

“Some of (the local markets) have struggled at times, and I think they could use some extra support, just for the whole local foods system,” Conrad explained. “For example, if we become a nonprofit maybe we can get grants to help promote all the farmers markets in the county.”

He said another potential challenge can be finding a manager to organize the market, which is often a part-time position.

“It’s not always easy to find someone to do that, whereas, let’s say it was two or three different markets and we’re able to get a manager to work all three of them in the county,” he said. “That’s more likely to attract someone and maybe hold them so we don’t lose them the following year.”

Conrad has begun putting out a call for vendors interested in taking part in the new farmers market. Prospective vendors can contact him at dancingbhoney@gmail.com.



VERGENNES UNION MIDDLE School seventh-grader Luke explains his group’s end-of-year service project to a table of adults on May 9. Kidde’s team organized a basketball tournament and fund drive that raised about \$1,300.

Independent photo/Andy Kirkaldy

Middle school

(Continued from Page 1A)
Goal. Those projects ranged from fundraising for the proposed Vergennes recreation pavilion to hosting a community supper.

Also, 6th-graders — brand new to the VUHS middle school this year — presented the results of their self-chosen individual “Passion Projects.” Topics ranged from dressmaking to studying the biology of spring flowers and green algae.

Grade-level presentation styles and project demands differ, but Golann said there are common threads.

“They’re really choosing their own projects,” he said. “And then they have an authentic audience. We have parents, many, many parents, which is great.”

CAPSTONES

The 8th-graders do individual Capstone presentations. There are required project stages: Choosing a topic of personal interest, researching the topic, and presenting results to a group. Students may also choose to do extras, such as a video, model or essay.

Tucker Couture did his Capstone on the collapse of the Roman Empire. He wrote an essay and made a slide show.

“I’m just really interested in history, and I like Europe,” he said.

He admitted a time-traveling cartoon show once caught his eye.

“‘Mr. Peabody and Sherman’ taught about Rome. That was pretty cool,” he said.

A lot of work went into his project: “For the last month or so I’ve been gathering evidence and preparing an essay to present to parents today, and the slide show.”

So what did he learn about Rome’s fall?

“In a nutshell, it was tribes attacking them, instability in the government, and the split of the eastern and western empire,” Couture said.

Ayla Kittredge, an athlete from an athletic family, studied gender in sports for her Capstone. What did she focus on?

“I researched physical advantages, injury risk, and if it was more beneficial for sports to be separated by gender or be co-ed,” Kittredge said. “I thought it would

be better if it were separated by gender.”

In her online research she at times found it difficult to sort fact from noise. But said she learned to do so.

“It was hard to find information, because I think it was more opinion based than anything,” Kittredge said. “But I did find evidence.”

Kylee Shepard chose to research ALS, or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a progressive neurodegenerative disease.

“I’m really close with a family who has it. And I really wanted to learn more about it so I could support them better,” Shepard said. “I learned about the treatments they have now. And there’s no cure, so the treatments only slow the disease’s progress.”

Shepard said she researched mainly through ALS and newspaper websites. Sadly, when asked, she said she learned treatments haven’t improved since 2023.

Shepard described her Capstone project as a true educational experience.

“I learned a lot about writing (See Capstones, Page 18A)

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
exemplify exceptional service and excellence in hospitality and/or culinary arts in Vermont. The award celebrates innovation, quality and leadership, highlighting the recipient’s dedication to excellence in customer service, culinary innovation, sustainability and community involvement.” Nominees were encouraged to demonstrate achievements in such hospitality hallmarks as innovative service, culinary excellence, sustainability practices, and leadership and vision. You can check out a video of Robinson receiving the award from Vermont Chamber Senior Director of Programming Karen Duguay, who’s the former Better Middlebury Partnership executive director. Robinson and Serena Kim bought the Swift House Inn in 2020.

Are you 62 or older, or a veteran of any age? If so, stop by your town clerk’s office to pick up your \$2 “Ticket to Green Mountain Paradise.” For that one-time fee of \$2, Vermont’s Green Mountain Pass gives you free lifetime access to all Vermont’s state parks. Bring in your U.S. government-issued photo ID (driver’s license, passport, or military ID) and \$2, and you will get your pass.

The marquee subject at the Vermont Statehouse this session has been public education reform. But state officials aren’t ignoring healthcare — a major cost driver and perennial component in the Vermont’s “affordability” debate. The state Agency of Human Services (AHS) has been accepting public comments on a potential transformation of that agency. Vermont’s Act 119 “requires the AHS to assess and collect feedback to understand how well we are serving the public. And more importantly, to explore how we can do better to provide important services to Vermont communities,” reads a summary of ACT 119’s intent at humanservices.vermont.gov/act119. You can provide some input through an online survey at tinyurl.com/mra3p3px.

Spring is hiring season for the Addison Central School District, which will be welcoming many news faces to its staff spread through six elementary schools, Middlebury Union middle and high schools, and the central office. District officials note that housing can be hard to find for new — and

current — staff. If you have, or know of, any available housing, you’re invited to share that info on a new internal “ACSD Community Bulletin Board” that ACSD staff can see. Click here to post: tinyurl.com/yc395bju.

Each year, the University of Vermont Medical Center celebrates the life-changing impact nurses have on patients, families and colleagues, and a local RN has been singled out this year for a special citation. As part of the recent “Nurses Week” celebration, nurse leaders from UVM Medical Center and University of Vermont Health Network gathered to celebrate the hospital’s annual Nursing Awards and Scholarships ceremony. Among those lauded: Vergennes resident Jessica Sabick, BSN, RN, OCN, who won this year’s “UVM Medical Center Preceptor Excellence Award.” The award recognizes the key role of preceptors in onboarding and retaining new nursing staff. Preceptors support student learning and work with experienced nurses who are new to the hospital as they transition into practice. Multiple individuals nominated Sabick for the award, saying her commitment to professional development inspired them, and that her way of encouraging those she mentors and celebrating their achievements made a positive impact as they joined the hospital’s nursing team, according to UVMHN officials.

Looking for something interesting and enlightening to do this Saturday, May 17? It will be the first day of the 2025 season at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, with free admission (per usual) to all exhibits. Lake Champlain is known for its battles and mythical lake monsters, but what about the more unusual tales? From 11 a.m. to noon, join a free talk with Vermont authors Jason Barney and Christine Eldred as they share stories from their book, “Hidden History of Lake Champlain,” which will include tales of bootlegging, communes and the many interesting people who have called the region home. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., explore vintage postcards from the LCMM’s archives, read notes from the past, and see if you can identify popular travel destinations around the region. The museum — located off Basin Harbor Road in Ferrisburgh — will be open every day from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., from

May 17 until Oct. 19. With more than 12 exhibit buildings, there’s lots to explore.



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Capstones

(Continued from Page 17A)
analyses and finding evidence,” Shepard said. “I wasn’t as good at it last year, but this year it felt easier for me.”

SERVICE PROJECTS

Golann said 7th-grade minicapstones went well in 2024, but teachers suggested creating something new.

“I think it felt a little like it didn’t differentiate. It was just kind of like a research project,” he said. “So our teachers decided to focus the 7th grade around service this year so that it had something special.”

Teacher Nan Guillmette explained 7th-graders didn’t choose service projects at random. Rather, they had to relate to one of the 17 United Nations Global Goals (globalgoals.org/goals), which include eliminating poverty and hunger; creating a sustainable, environmentally friendly economy; enhancing public health and education; and supporting peace and justice.

Guillmette said students also had to meet with and interview local people who give back to their communities and include them in their projects, as well as research those Global Goals.

From that process they chose goals that interested them and groups of four that would work toward achieving that goal, and how to do so, she said.

The 17 teams’ projects included making murals, educating elementary school students about gender equality, cleaning up Otter Creek, and adding plantings around the city green bandstand.

While 8th-graders made individual presentations to up to 20 people, the 7th-graders presented at tables in the VUHS cafeteria and library to smaller groups.

Seventh-graders Luke Kidde and Ally Letendre welcomed a standing-room-only crowd into the cafeteria before some visitors headed off to the library, and they also spoke with the *Independent*. Both their projects conformed with

the “Good Health and Well Being” Global Goal.

Kidde’s group raised funds for the planned city rec pavilion with a basketball tournament and a GoFundMe page online.

“I love basketball,” Kidde said. “The court that’s next to where the pavilion will go, I go there all the time with my friends. So I knew about the pavilion project, that it was unfinished because people haven’t raised enough money. So I wanted to do a fundraiser for the community to help the pavilion get done.”

Kidde and his group thus mounted a tournament featuring eight middle school teams next to the pavilion site as well as a GoFundMe fundraiser.

The tournament, promoted via emails and banners around the school, was held May 5-7, with plenty in attendance donating to the cause as well as those online, he said. They also sought donations from other people they knew.

“We raised more than \$1,300,” Kidde said.

Letendre’s group planned a Cat Café with the Addison County Humane Society in Middlebury. It is scheduled for June 7.

“The goal of it is to get cats adopted out of the shelter into better homes and improve mental health and companionship in our community,” Letendre said, noting studies have shown cat ownership is good for cat owners’ mental and even physical health.

The group plans to publicize it through Front Porch Forum and flyers.

What has Letendre learned from the project?

“Communication. Scheduling. How to take care of pets better. What pets can do for mental health,” she said.

6TH-GRADERS

Meanwhile, 6th-graders had freedom to choose a subject, but had to sign contracts explaining their choices, name people who could help them, and identify the resources they need for a



8TH-GRADERS, FROM LEFT, Kylee Shepard, Tucker Couture and Ayla Kittredge, like all their classmates, researched end-of-year Capstone Projects and presented their findings to an audience on May 9. Shepard researched ALS, Couture the fall of the Roman Empire, and Kittredge gender in sports.

Independent photos/Andy Kirkaldy

successful project. They were also provided “Daily Journal” pages to help keep them on track. A page was also included that asked students how they researched and what they learned.

Three 6th-graders spoke to the *Independent* about their projects.

Katie Johnstone studied wildflowers and green algae in woods and wetlands near her home.

“I like being in nature, just exploring, and I like science,” Johnstone said.

What did she discover?

“I learned most of the flowers just bloom until the trees leaf out. And then they stop blooming because the trees shade them from the sun. And the green algae puts oxygen in the water, which is essential for underwater life in the spring,” she said.

Johnstone inventoried plants and listed ones she wanted to study.

“For each one I did the Latin one if they were native, or if not where they were native to, and then a fun fact about them. And then I went and started filming them, and I made a documentary about it,” she said.

Johnstone said she also learned about the research process itself.

“Time management was a really big thing for me, because it was really hard,” Johnstone said. “I think I could do a better job next time.”

For her presentation, Ansley Montgomery planned to wear the yellow and blue summer dress she learned to sew herself, with help from mentors.

“It was an ambitious project because we really started sewing last week. It was a lot, but it was fun,” she said.

Why sewing a dress?

“I think sewing is an important life skill, and I wanted to show something that was, like, created,” Montgomery said. “I wanted to be in it (at the presentation) to show the passion.”

She learned practical lessons.

“I learned a lot of tips about sewing, and using scissors that aren’t as straight so the fabric doesn’t fray,” she said. “On a sewing machine there are a lot of different ways to put the thread.”

And then there were the intangibles.

“I was so stressed I wasn’t going to get to finish it,” Montgomery said. “And think being able to



6TH-GRADERS ANSLEY MONTGOMERY, left, Katie Johnstone and Dorothy Coburn along with their classmates pursued end-of-year individual learning projects approved by their teachers. Montgomery made the dress she’s holding, Johnstone researched the biology of early spring flowers, and Coburn relied on family recipes to learn to bake British desserts.

complete (it) gives me satisfaction. And confidence, too.”

Dorothy Coburn was already a devoted cookie baker, but her British grandmother inspired her to broaden her horizons.

“I learned all about British desserts. And I made sticky toffee pudding. And I made sweet tarts to hand out. And I made recipe cards, too, so people could make those,” Coburn said.

For her project she baked two dozen tarts and two dozen sticky puddings.

“It was a lot, to say the least, but I did actually enjoy making them,

because for the mincemeat tarts I got to go over to my grandma’s house and make them with her, and she knows what she’s doing,” Coburn said. “And for the sticky pudding I did it in my own kitchen, but it was still really fun.”

Like her peers in all grades, researching completing a substantial project meant a lot to Coburn.

“You might think you know baking, but this is something you’re not exactly comfortable with,” she said. “And when you accomplish it, you feel a strong sense of, ‘I just did that.’”



7TH-GRADERS LUKE KIDDE, left, and Ally Letendre welcomed a big crowd of family and community members to the VUHS cafeteria on May 9 to hear their and their classmates present their end-of-year service projects.

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Tiger boys' lax stays at No. 1

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' lacrosse team held onto first place in Division I after splitting two recent road games, with the loss being their first of the spring.

At 9-1 the Tigers remain ahead, unofficially, of a one-loss South Burlington squad in the Vermont Principals Association's quality points standings heading into their next game, a Friday afternoon date (See Tiger lax, Page 2B)

Girls' tennis topples NCU

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — In the Middlebury Union High School girls' tennis team's only match played recently, the Tigers defeated host North Country on May 7, 5-2. The Tigers improved to 3-1 with that result.

The Tigers' May 9 match at Mount Mansfield was canceled. They were set to play Stowe on Wednesday after deadline for this issue. The Tigers are scheduled to play Harwood on Friday and have a Monday home match against St. Albans.

Vs. North Country on May 7 the individual match scores were:

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

At No. 2 singles, Piper Farnsworth, MUHS, defeated Lily Beauvais, NC, 6-3, 6-2.

At No. 3 singles, Anna Wolosinski, MUHS, defeated Natasha Godfrey, NC, 6-2, 6-4.

At No. 4 singles, Maryam Khan, MUHS, defeated Cassidie Burnett, NC, 6-4, 6-4.

At No. 5 singles, Marlene Chromy, NC, defeated Grace (See Tennis, Page 2B)



TIGER PITCHER TUCKER Wright delivers an offering during Tuesday's baseball game in Vergennes. He struck out seven in six innings of work, but was on the losing side of a 4-2 final score.

Independent photo/Steve James

VUHS baseball rallies late past Tigers

By ANDY KIRKALDY
VERGENNES — In a Tuesday baseball game at Vergennes Union High School that mixed in solid pitching and sparkling defense with a few critical miscues, the host Commodores rallied past Middlebury for a rare victory over their county rivals, 4-2.

The Commodores trailed throughout until rallying for three runs in the bottom of the sixth on two walks, a throwing error, and a wild pitch.

They stayed in the game with steady and at times spectacular defense behind junior pitcher Ryan Wright, who earned a complete-game win by keeping the Tigers off balance most of the game. He allowed six hits and two walks while striking out two and letting his fielders do the rest.

VUHS Coach Andy O'Brien, whose team improved to 5-3, praised his pitcher and senior catcher, Reese Paquette, and Tiger sophomore hurler Tucker Wright,

who struck out seven and allowed seven hits and three walks in six innings.

"Credit to the Middlebury pitcher. He was good today. But Ryan Wright really showed what he was made of today. That was an 80-pitch complete game," O'Brien said. "Our catcher and Ryan have a really good relationship. So Ryan really trusts what Reese is calling for pitches, and Reese really calls a good game."

Tiger Coach Tim Paquette is

fielding a different team than the senior laden outfit that won the Division II title a year ago. But his team has been playing better of late, even if a 1-5 record against a tough schedule does not reflect it.

But on Tuesday he felt the Tigers lacked discipline at the plate.

"Each game we're getting better. We're cutting down on our not-so-clean baseball," he said. "You've got to play fundamental baseball to win games. And hit the (See VUHS-MUHS, Page 3B)

Panther women's lacrosse breezes by Ithaca



MIDDLEBURY JUNIOR MIDDIE Caroline Adams carries the ball through a knot of Ithaca players during the Panther women's lacrosse team's big NCAA tournament win on Sunday.

Independent photo/Steve James

Will host NCAA 4-team regional this weekend

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College women's lacrosse team bolted to a 10-0 first-quarter lead on Sunday on the way to a 20-5 second-round NCAA Division III tournament victory over visiting Ithaca College. The Panthers improved to 17-1, and Ithaca, ranked No. 22 in the final coaches' poll, wrapped up its season at 14-7.

The Panthers will next host a four-team regional on Kohn Field this weekend. On Saturday, the Panthers will tackle No. 21 University of Chicago (13-4) at 11:30 a.m., and at 2:30 p.m. No. 8 York (17-3) will tangle with No.

13 William Smith (14-4). Sunday's final will be played at 1 p.m. The Panthers have not faced any of those three teams this spring.

Sunday's winner will advance to the NCAA final four in Salem, Va., with the semifinals on May 23 and the final on May 25. Panther women's lacrosse teams have won the past three NCAA D-III tournaments. Because of COVID-19 there was no tournament in 2020, and NESCAC teams did not compete in the 2021 event. But Middlebury won in 2019.

This weekend's other regional hosts are Tufts (17-1), Franklin & Marshall (17-2) and Colby (15-3), with Colby on Middlebury's side of the bracket.

Wesleyan (14-5) is in the same regional as Colby, and one of those two teams could meet the Panthers (See Panthers, Page 1B)



LEICESTER'S LAURA TURNER wins her age group in Sunday's 5K race at Branbury State Park.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

Half-marathon draws 200

Massachusetts man wins first VT Sun race of the season

SALISBURY — Vermont Sun's summer season of participatory sports kicked off on Sunday with nearly 200 competitors in the fitness center's namesake half marathon, 10K road race and 5K race. They were held at Branbury State Park with the start and finish next to Lake Dunmore.

At the 9 a.m. start it was cloudy and the temperature was 42 degrees, with a 15-mile-per-hour north wind coming off the lake. By 10 a.m., as most of the 5K and 10K runners had finished, the sun was out making the 50-degree temperature, when sheltered from the wind, feel pleasant.

Luke Smith from Charleston, Mass., ran a 5:52-per-mile pace to win the 13.1-mile half marathon. His winning time of 1:16:45 was more than eight (See Half-marathon, Page 3B)



MAGGIE COUGHLIN, A senior attacker for Middlebury College lacrosse, tosses in one of her three goals during the Panthers' big NCAA tournament win over Ithaca on Sunday. Coughlin also assisted four goals.

Independent photo/Steve James

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Baseball

5/7 Mt Abe vs Fairfax	7-6
5/8 Missisquoi vs Mt Abe	4-3
5/8 VUHS vs Milton	10-4
5/8 MUHS vs Enosburg	7-6
5/8 Hartford vs OV	5-1
5/10 Missisquoi at MUHS	Postponed
5/10 Mt Abe at Milton	Postponed
5/12 Missisquoi vs MUHS	11-3
5/12 Enosburg at VUHS	8-1
5/12 Leland & Gray vs OV	5-1
5/13 VUHS vs MUHS	4-2
5/13 Mt Abe vs Enosburg	17-0 (5)
5/14 Mt Abe at Rutland	Late

Softball

5/8 Milton vs VUHS	8-7
5/8 Mt Abe vs Rice	13-7
5/8 Enosburg vs MUHS	14-0
5/10 MUHS at Rice	Postponed
5/10 Mt Abe at Milton	Postponed
5/12 Enosburg vs VUHS	14-0
5/13 MUHS vs VUHS	26-9
5/13 OV vs White River (2)	10-2 & 17-0
5/13 Enosburg vs Mt Abe	5-1
5/14 Mt Abe at Rutland	Late

Girls' Lacrosse

5/7 Burlington vs MAV	20-13
5/8 MUHS vs Colchester	20-5
5/9 MUHS vs Rutland	14-10
5/10 MAV vs Milton	22-5
5/13 MAV vs Harwood	14-8
5/13 MUHS vs St. Albans	17-8

Boys' Lacrosse

5/8 Burlington vs MAV	9-8
5/9 Burr & Burton vs MUHS	9-8
5/10 Milton vs MAV	14-4
5/13 MUHS vs St. Albans	11-3
5/14 MAV at Harwood	Late

Boys' Tennis

5/7 CVU vs MUHS	5-2
5/9 MUHS vs Mt Mansfield	7-0
5/14 Stowe at MUHS	Late

Girls' Tennis

5/7 MUHS vs N Country	5-2
5/9 MUHS at Mt Mansfield	Canceled
5/14 MUHS at Stowe	Late

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse

NCAA D-III Games at Midd

5/10 Ithaca vs Oswego St.	17-13
5/11 Midd vs Ithaca	20-5

(See Scoreboard, Page 2B)



MUHS FIRST BASEMAN Skyler Choiniere makes a running catch of a foul ball in front of the Commodore dugout during Tuesday’s softball game in Vergennes.

Independent photo/Steve James

Softball: Tigers tip VUHS; Eagles split

By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON COUNTY — In recent county high school softball action, Middlebury split two games, including rallying from an early deficit for a big win at Vergennes; the Commodores dropped two other contests; and Mount Abraham split two outings, losing their first game of the spring in the process.

MUHS-VUHS
On Tuesday in Vergennes, the Commodores scored seven runs in the first inning to take a 7-3 lead. The Commodores still led, 9-8, until the Tigers scored three in the fourth inning to go on top, 11-9. Then MUHS erupted for 15 runs in the top of the fifth to put the game out of reach. The game ended early when VUHS failed to score in the

bottom of the inning off reliever **Lexi Whitney**, who entered in relief of the starter, **McKenna Whitney**. Doing damage for VUHS were **Ayla Kittredge**, with a double; **Katie Laberge**, with a double and a single; and **Rory Couture**, **Reese Muzzy** and **Rizz Mullin**, all with singles. LaBerge led with two runs scored. **Jordan Hutchins** took the pitching loss as the Commodores dropped to 1-5. “We are in a rebuilding year,” acknowledged Coach Peter Monty. The Tigers pounded out 23 hits, getting multiple hits from **Lily Dame**, **Lillian Paquette**, **Skyler Choiniere**, **Meredith Cameron**, **Lexi Whitney**, **McKenna Whitney** and **Brianna Foss**. Dame and Lexi Whitney knocked out extra-base

hits. Paquette scored six runs, and **Emma Morrissey** crossed the plate four times as the Tigers improved to 3-4. **TIGERS**
On May 8 host Enosburg blanked the Tigers, 14-0 in five innings. Winning pitcher Camryn Benoit tossed a one-hitter for the Division II title contending Hornets. The Tigers’ May 10 home gave vs. Rice was postponed; no makeup date has been announced.

EAGLES
On May 8 the Eagles topped host Rice, 13-7, breaking open a tight game with a five-run top of the seventh. **Gretchen Toy** earned the pitching win, allowing seven earned runs. She also singled, doubled, homered and knocked in five runs. Also contributing to the Eagle offense were **Gen Forand** (double, single, RBI), **Emmy Rougier** (two hits, RBI), and **Abba Parker** (three hits). The Eagles’ Saturday game at Milton was postponed until May 19.

On Tuesday visiting Enosburg dealt the Eagles their first loss, 5-1. Winning pitcher Natalie Lovelette tossed a complete game four-hitter, fanning seven. Gretchen Stiebris led the Hornets two doubles, a single and two RBI. Forand homered to account for the Eagle run, and **Morgan Larocque** had two hits. Toy tossed a complete game, allowing 12 hits and three earned runs, whiffing nine. The Eagles (5-1) were scheduled to visit Rutland on Wednesday after deadline for this issue. **COMMODORES**
On May 8 host Milton edged VUHS, 8-7, when Olivia Hayden stroked a walk-off single in the bottom of the seventh inning. **Jordan Hutchins** doubled and drove in two runs for the Commodores. On Monday, Enosburg topped the Commodores, 14-0, as Hornet pitcher Lisey Robtoy tossed a five-inning no-hitter, striking out four and walking none.



COMMODORE PITCHER JORDAN Hutchins winds up to deliver an offering during Tuesday’s softball game in Vergennes.

Independent photo/Steve James



MAV lacrosse

Girls win two, drop one

By ANDY KIRKALDY
BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham-Vergennes cooperative girls’ lacrosse team took two out of three recent outings to move back to .500 at 5-5.

The Commodores will face tests in their next two outings. They host Colchester on Friday at 4:30 p.m. and visit Division I Middlebury this coming Tuesday. On May 7 host Burlington outscored the Commodores, 20-13. Seahorses Livia Jatlow-Carter (eight goals) and Lily McArthur (seven goals) led Burlington, and Seahorse goalie Harper Roof made eight saves. Meredith Default (five goals) and Thompson Davis (four goals) paced the MAV attack. Safoura Camera scored twice, and June Yates-Rusch and Ada Hellier added

a goal apiece. MAV goalie Kendra Jackson stopped eight shots. On Saturday the Commodores rolled vs. host Milton, 22-5. Supplying most of the offense were Aubrey Coffey (four goals, two assists), Davis (three goals, four assists), Dufault (three goals, three assists), Callie Rule (three goals, assist), and Yates-Rusch (three goals), and Ila Crowley and Esme Visco-Lyons (two goals each). Kendra Jackson made four saves, and Milton goalie Emily Tatro made nine saves. On Tuesday the Commodores jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead and never trailed in a 14-8 victory over visiting Harwood. Davis and Dufault scored four goals apiece to spark MAV, and Callie Rule added two goals and two assists. Four Commodores added a goal apiece, and Jackson made eight saves. Lindsey Boyden scored four goals for the Highlanders, and Caitlin Geary made six saves.

MAV boys still seek a win

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham-Vergennes cooperative boys’ lacrosse team dropped a pair of games in recent action. The Eagles remained in search of their first victory of the spring on Wednesday, when they were scheduled to visit Harwood in a game played after deadline for this issue. Next up for MAV is a game at Colchester on Friday afternoon. On May 8 visiting Burlington outlasted the Eagles, 9-8. The Eagles tied the game with a minute to go and had another possession with a man up after a Seahorse foul, but a pass deflected out of bounds ended their comeback bid. Asa Pratt found the net three times to lead MAV in scoring. Also, Lincoln Painter scored twice and added two assists, Chase Atkins set up three goals,

and Addy Halby, Joe Sullivan and Spencer Gebo chipped in a goal apiece. Eagle goalie Connor Nason made 12 saves and also assisted a score. Eamon Brown tossed in four goals for BHS, and Jay Heiny-Robbie scored twice. Seahorse goalie Issac Rubman made six saves. In a Saturday game moved to Milton because of poor field conditions in both Vergennes and Bristol, the Yellowjackets topped the Eagles, 14-4. Noah Keeler (six goals) and Brock Bushey (four goals) did most of the damage for Milton, and goalie Leo Languaso made five saves. Pratt and Painter each scored twice for MAV, and Atkins added two assists. Nason (nine saves) and Mason Forand (two saves) split time in goal for MAV.

Tiger boys’ tennis splits two

Record stands at 5-3 in rain-plagued campaign

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys’ tennis team split two recent home matches and stand at 5-3 past the midpoint of its rain-plagued season. On May 7 visiting Champlain Valley defeated the Tigers on the town recreation courts, 5-2, and on May 9 the Tigers blanked visiting Mount Mansfield, 7-0, in a match moved to Middlebury Indoor Tennis due to wet weather. The Tigers were set to host Stowe on Wednesday after deadline. Next up is a home match vs. Brattleboro on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. that will be played at MIT if it rains. **CVU MATCH**
The individual match results vs. CVU were:
At No. 1 singles, Jackson

Murray, M, defeated Ziggy Babbott, CVU, 6-0, 6-0.
At No. 2 singles, Charles Young, M, defeated Jacob Graham, CVU, 6-0, 6-2.
At No. 3 singles, Kyle Krieger, CVU, defeated Nate Cook-Yoder, M, 6-0, 6-4.
At No. 4 singles, Dash Tota, CVU, defeated Baker Nelson, M, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5).
At No. 5 singles, Silas Cohen, CVU, defeated Kaden Hammond, M, 6-4, 5-7, 1-0 (10-7).
At No. 1 doubles, Nolan Sandage/Ethan Croke, CVU, defeated Adrien Malhotra/Spencer Copeland, M, 6-4, 6-0.
At No. 2 doubles, Ben Fina/Sawyer Lake, CVU, defeated Kirin Biancosino/Paras Biancosino, M, 6-0, 6-0. **MMU MATCH**
The individual match results vs. MMU were:
At No. 1 singles, Jackson

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS	
Baseball	
5/15 MUHS at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/15 OV at Green Mt.....	4:30 PM
5/15 MUHS at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/15 VUHS at Missisquoi	4:30 PM
5/17 VUHS at Mt Abe.....	10 AM
5/17 OV at Brattleboro	11 AM
5/17 MUHS at Milton	11 AM
5/19 Mt Abe at Milton	4:30 PM
Softball	
5/15 MUHS at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/15 OV at Springfield	4:30 PM
5/15 VUHS at Rice.....	4:30 PM
5/17 VUHS at Mt Abe.....	10 AM
5/17 Brattleboro at OV	11 AM
5/17 MUHS at Milton	11 AM
5/19 Mt Abe at Milton	4:30 PM
5/24 VUHS at MUHS.....	11 AM
Girls' Lacrosse	
5/16 CVU at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/16 Colchester at MAV	4:30 PM
5/20 MAV at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/23 S. Burlington at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/24 Rice at MAV	11 AM
Boys' Lacrosse	
5/16 MUHS at CVU.....	4:30 PM
5/16 MAV at Colchester	4:30 PM
5/20 Rice at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/20 OV at MAV	4:30 PM
5/23 MUHS at S. Burlington	7 PM
5/24 MAV at Fairfax.....	11 AM
Boys' Tennis	
5/16 Brattleboro at MUHS	4 PM
5/20 MUHS at Burlington	3 PM
5/23 MUHS at Brattleboro ...	4:30 PM
Tennis	
5/16 MUHS at Harwood.....	4 PM
5/19 St. Albans at MUHS	4 PM
5/21 Montpelier at MUHS	4 PM
5/23 U-32 at MUHS.....	4 PM
Girls' Ultimate	
5/15 MUHS at S Burlington	TBA
5/19 MUHS at Milton.....	4 PM
5/22 Burr & Burton at MUHS....	4 PM
Boys' Ultimate	
5/16 Colchester at MUHS	4 PM
5/21 Essex at MUHS.....	4 PM
Track & Field	
5/22 VUHS/Mt Abe at MUHS	3:30 PM
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Women's Lacrosse	
NCAA D-III Regional at Midd	
5/17 Midd vs UChicago	1 PM
5/17 York vs William Smith.....	3 PM
5/18 Final	1 PM
Baseball	
NCAA Regional at Union, N.J.	
Four-Team Double Elimination	
5/15 Midd vs Cortland St.....	2:30 PM
5/15 Kean vs Husson	TBA
5/16 & 17.....	Games TBD

Weather and other factors can change schedules, often at the last minute. Fans are advised to check school websites for scheduling information.

Tiger lax

(Continued from Page 1B)
with Champlain Valley hosted by the Redhawks. The Tigers’ setback came this past Friday at Burr & Burton, 9-8. The game was moved from the Tigers’ rain-soaked Fucile Field to the Bulldogs’ artificial surface due to field conditions. Results from that game were not reported. The Bulldogs improved to 5-5, with close losses previously to top D-I contenders. On Tuesday the Tigers prevailed at host St. Albans, 11-3. Details were not available before deadline.

Girls’ tennis

(Continued from Page 1B)
Ritter, MUHS, 7-6 (1), 6-1.
At No. 1 doubles, Subia Khan & Clara Chant, MUHS, defeated Katie Larsen & Katelin Booth, NC, 6-3, 6-4.
At No. 2 doubles, Sophia Nicolai & Addy Taylor, MUHS, defeated Ellah Dillon & Riley Frasier, NC, 6-4, 6-4.

Scoreboard

(Continued from Page 1B)	
Men's Lacrosse	
NCAA D-III Regional at Tufts	
5/10 St. Lawrence vs Midd	10-9
Baseball	
NESCAC Final Four at Bowdoin	
Double Elimination	
5/9 Midd vs Trinity	5-4
5/10 Midd vs Williams	7-1
5/11 Midd vs Williams	10-6
Softball	
NESCAC Tournament at Tufts	
Single Elimination	
5/10 #4 Colby vs #5 Midd.....	8-5



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CHARLES GUESS OF Middlebury nears the finish of Sunday's 5K race.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

Half Marathon

(Continued from Page 1B)
minutes ahead of second-place Diomedes Diepppa-Mayos (1:24:56) of Highland Park, N.J. Bristol's Isaac Prescott was the first Addison County finisher; he was fourth in 1:28.43. Alex Lyford of Middlebury was 7th in 1:31.23.

In the women's division, Allison Biester Of Highland Park, N.J., was the champion in 1:39:30, followed by runner-up Catherine O'Hallloran of Denver in 1:41:17.

Middlebury's Claudia Etrillard was the fourth woman across the line; she ran 1:43:14. Fellow Middlebury runner Annabella Lucente, with a time of 1:45:12.9, was the eighth female finisher.

The 10K champion, Robert Leonard of Brandon, finished the 6.2-mile race in 40:55. Courtney Bennett of Farmington, N.H., was the women's 10K winner in 45:24.

With a 5K time of 19:02, Roland Ekstrom of Essex Junction claimed the victory in

the day's shortest distance. Nelly Jennings of Charlotte was the women's champ in 22:58.

Complete results can be found online at vermontsuntriathlonseries.com.

The series continues with the Vermont Sun sprint distance triathlon. The event — consisting of a 600-yard swim, 14-mile bike and 3.1-mile run — will be held three times this summer: on Saturday, June 21; Saturday, July 19; and Sunday, Aug. 17.

The Lake Dunmore Olympic distant triathlon is a 1,500-yard swim, 28-mile bike and 6.2.-mile run competition. It will be held June 21 and Aug. 17.

The Branbury Classic Triathlon consists of a 1.5-mile paddle, 14-mile bike, and 3.1-mile run. It is Saturday, July 19.

The June Sprint and Olympic Races are the Vermont State triathlon championships. The races are open to individuals and teams of all abilities.

For more information visit vermontsun.com or call 802-388-



CHET ALDRICH OF Middlebury runs to 19th place in the Vt. Sun 10K on Sunday.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

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Panther nine nets league title; NCAAs next

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRUNSWICK, Maine — The Middlebury College baseball team won three straight games in the double-elimination NESCAC tournament held at Bowdoin College this past weekend to earn the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III tournament for the third time in the past four years.

The 27-11 Panthers, winners of 17 of their past 19 games, will head on Friday to a four-team NCAA double-elimination regional hosted by Kean College in Union, N.J. Middlebury will take on Cortland State (29-11) in the first round, while the other first-round games will pit Kean (35-8) against Husson College (24-14). Subsequent games will be determined by Friday's results. Middlebury has not faced any of those three teams this season.

Coach Mike Leonard's Panthers clinched the NESCAC title on this past Sunday by defeating Williams, 10-6, after rallying from

an early 6-2 deficit. The Ephs finished their season at 22-15. The Panthers outlasted Trinity, 5-4, on the previous Friday and topped Williams, 7-1, on Saturday to reach Sunday's championship game. Williams would have had to defeat them twice on Sunday to earn the title.

On Sunday, the Ephs took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second on a sacrifice fly. The Panthers answered with a pair in their half of the second, loading the bases and then plating the runs on Brayden Mathews walk and a Will Ashley groundout. But the Ephs struck for five runs in the third on a Ben Swank double, homers by Marcus Burrell II and Henry Juan, and a Ryan Nakajima triple and a passed ball.

The Panthers cut the deficit to 6-4 in the fifth. Ashley doubled home Nathan Samii, and Ben Slaughter scored on a Matthews sacrifice fly. Then in the decisive seventh inning Middlebury erupted for six

runs. Carter Chi slugged a grand slam, and Kyle McCausland later added a two-run homer for the 10-6 advantage. Dylan Knightly (5-0) earned the pitching win by closing the game with three scoreless innings.

Two days earlier the Panthers opened the tournament with a 5-4 walk-off win over Trinity (20-17). Trinity led, 4-3, entering the ninth, but Middlebury rallied with one out on a Gus Parker single, a Mathews double, a Bantam error that tied the score, and Aiden Han's game-ending RBI single.

Earlier, the Bantams struck for three runs in the top of the third inning to take the lead. Middlebury got one back in the home half of the inning — Mathews singled, moved to third on a Chi double, and scored on a Han groundout.

The Bantams added a run in the sixth to make it 4-1, but the Panthers cut the lead to 4-3 in the bottom of the inning with two unearned

runs. Cooper Bohlig scored on a Matthews grounder, and Chi hit an RBI single. Knightly pitched 2.1 hitless innings to earn the win.

On Saturday in their 7-1 win, Panthers' starting pitcher Emmet George struck out a career-best nine batters and allowed one unearned run in five innings. Relievers Jacob Sherf and Stefano Yozzo teamed up for five shutout innings and eight more strikeouts.

The Panthers opened the scoring in the third inning, when Mathews belted a two-run homer, and made it 3-0 in the third with an unearned run. The Ephs got their unearned run in the fifth.

In the eighth, the Panthers made it 6-1. Ashley reached on an error and Mathews walked. After a balk, both scored on a Han single. Walks and a hit batter brought in another run. To cap the scoring Parker scored in the eighth on a balk after singling, stealing second and advancing on a groundout.



TIGER TUCKER WRIGHT is out at first base on a bang-bang play as VUHS first baseman Izaak Wolniewicz takes the throw during Tuesday's baseball game in Vergennes.

Independent photo/Steve James

a play at the plate. Paquette, who had taken a huge lead off second base with the infield drawn in to cut down a runner at the plate on a grounder, never stopped running. The play looked close, but the ball came loose, and Paquette scored to make it 4-2. Wright retired the next three batters, but the damage was done.

Ryan Wright allowed one baserunner in the ninth, but induced yet one more ground-ball out to nail

down the win.

The Commodores were coming off a sub-par effort in a loss on Monday, and O'Brien was pleased with the response.

"After yesterday's performance the kids really came back and showed what they're made of, he said. "So credit to these guys. They really showed up."

He added the Commodores have been working on their defense, and it showed on Tuesday and overall in

the team's record.

"We haven't been 5-3 eight games into the season for as long as I can remember," O'Brien said. "The kids find a way to win."

The vibes have been improving for the Tigers despite their struggles, according to Coach Paquette. Only two seniors returned from the 2024 title team, and Paquette allowed them, rather than he and his assistant coaches, to talk to their teammates after Tuesday's game.

"They're coming around. They're finding out it's not like last year," Paquette said. "We had some big bats ... and a lot of senior leaders. So right now we've got two senior leaders, and they're going to take care of it, and we'll see what happens after today."



VUHS PITCHER RYAN Wright tossed a complete game in defeating visiting Middlebury, 4-2, in Tuesday's baseball game in Vergennes.

Independent photo/Steve James



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MOUNT ABE SOPHOMORE Hailey Isham subdues a competitor during a wrestling tournament in Pennsylvania this month. She won three of her eight matches at the multi-state meet.

Local girls wrestle in Harrisburg, Pa.

PENNSYLVANIA — Mount Abraham Union High School sophomore Hailey Isham and Otter Valley junior Maisa Allen wrestled in the 2025 Ultimate Club Duals held in Harrisburg, Pa., during the first weekend in May.

They were among four Vermonters and 214 girls from 16 high school girl teams that took part in the meet. The teams came from the New England states of Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts as well as New Jersey, Maryland, Michigan and Oklahoma, plus many others.

The four Vermont high school girls joined up with other traveling teams to participate in the dual tournament.

A regular at 132 pounds for the

Eagles this past winter, Isham wrestled with the Maine Trappers wrestling club at the event, filling their 63kg (138 pounds) weight class.

Individually, Isham won three matches against five losses in her 63kg weight class.

“Hailey wrestled tough this past high school season in the coed division, and just missed placing in the top six at the Girls New England Interscholastic Championships in Providence, R.I.,” said Coach DJ Rousseau, a VT USA Wrestling board member.

“Hailey is showing excellent growth and amazing potential in women’s freestyle wrestling. She hopes to compete in the U16 and Junior Nationals this

summer in Fargo, N.D., if she can raise enough money to cover her expenses.”

Allen took third place at 113 pounds in the Vermont state meet and fifth place at the Girls New England Interscholastic Championships in Providence, R.I. She wrestled in Pennsylvania with the Diehard wrestling club. At this event competed in the 54kg (119 pound) weight class. She claimed victory in five out of eight matches in this tournament.

“Maisa is using that momentum as she sets her sights on returning to the U16 and Junior Freestyle Nationals in Fargo, N.D., this summer. It’s great to see her growth in freestyle wrestling!” Coach Rousseau said.



OTTER VALLEY JUNIOR Maisa Allen, in gray, controls the action in her 54kg match at the Ultimate Club Duals wrestling tournament in Harrisburg, Pa., early this month.



She’s safe!

TIGER McKENNA WHITNEY beats a Commodore throw home to score a run during Tuesday’s softball game in Vergennes.

Independent photo/Steve James

MUHS girls’ lax rolls to three wins

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls’ lacrosse team rolled to three wins in the past week and made a move into fourth place, unofficially, in the Vermont Principals Association Division I quality points standings.

The 6-2 Tigers will look to extend their winning streak when they host third-place Champlain Valley on Friday afternoon.

On May 8 the Tigers rolled past visiting D-II Colchester, 20-

5. Ada Weaber led the attack with four goals and two assists, and other contributors included Alice Livesay (three goals, assist), Kenyon Connors (two goals, two assists), Julia Morrissey (goal, three assists) and Matty Austin and Ellie Conklin (two goals each). Ida Blackwell made five saves in goal for MUHS. Alice Dousevicz led the Lakers with three goals.

On this past Friday the Tigers spotted host Rutland a 5-3 lead as Piper Newman scored four of

her six goals for RHS in the first period. But the Tigers went on a 5-0 run in the second period to take the lead and held off RHS from there and won, 14-10.

Isabel Quinn led the Tiger attack with five goals, and three Tigers added two goals apiece: Weaber, Connors and Lia Calzini. Livesay, Sara Kent and Quinn Doria each scored once for MUHS.

On Tuesday the Tigers defeated visiting St. Albans, 17-8. Details were not immediately available.

Area baseball teams pick up victories

By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON COUNTY — Baseball teams from Mount Abraham, Vergennes and Middlebury union high schools all picked up victories in recent action. The Tigers’ triumph was their first of the season, while in taking two of three Mount Abe took its first setback of the spring.

The Commodores also hosted the Tigers on Tuesday; see story on Page 1B.

EAGLES
On May 7 the Eagles picked up their second walk-off win of the season, this time over visiting Fairfax, 7-6. **Aricin Griffin’s** two-run single in the bottom of the seventh plated the tying and winning runs. It was his second hit and second and third RBI of the game.

Abe Ready tossed a scoreless top of the seventh to earn the pitching win in relief, and also doubled, homered and drove in three runs. **Brody Barnard** started on the mound and went five innings, allowing two hits and three earned runs, striking out six. Barnard also doubled and singled, and **Cam Castillo** banged out three hits for Mount Abe.

On May 8 it was host Missisquoi’s turn for a walk-off win as the T-Birds

each).

On Monday visiting Enosburg rolled to an 8-1 win over VUHS. Starting Hornet hurler Luke Burns went five scoreless innings, allowing three hits and fanning nine. Scribner went 4.1 innings and allowed five earned runs and took the loss for VUHS. Wright poked two hits for the Commodores, who dropped to 4-3 heading into Tuesday’s showdown with the Tigers.

COMMODORES
On May 8 the Commodores posted a 10-4 win at Milton. **Ryan Wright** tossed the complete-game win, allowing two earned runs on four hits and three walks and striking out six.

Leading the VUHS attack were **Reese Paquette** (two hits, three runs), **Gabe Scribner** (hit, RBI, two runs) and **Isaak Wolniewicz** and **Aiden Fuller** (hit and RBI

TIGERS
On May 8 the Tigers outlasted visiting Enosburg, 7-6, to break into the win column. Leading the offense were **Alex Sperry** (two doubles, RBI) and **Tucker Morter** (single, double, RBI). **Ryan Brouillard** threw a complete game to earn the win, allowing one earned runs on four hits and three walks while fanning eight.

The Tigers’ Saturday home game vs. Missisquoi was postponed, and instead they traveled to MVU on Monday. In Swanton, the T-Birds cruised, 11-3, as Parker Hakey tossed the complete-game win, allowing six hits and striking out eight. Gavin Nichols doubled twice for MVU and drove in a pair of runs.

The Tigers fell to 1-5 heading into Tuesday’s game at VUHS.



MIDDLEBURY JUNIOR MIDDIE Caroline Adams fires home one of her two early goals in the Panther lacrosse team’s big NCAA tournament win on Sunday.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panthers

(Continued from Page 1B)
in the semifinal round on May 23. The Panthers split with Wesleyan this spring and eked out a one-goal win over Colby in Maine. Tufts and the Panthers theoretically could meet in the final on May 25. Middlebury edged Tufts by a goal at home, while Tufts, now ranked No. 1, won the NESCAC tournament in Middlebury after the Panthers were ousted in the semifinal.

This past Sunday vs. Ithaca there was little suspense. Panther Caroline Adams scored twice in the first four minutes, and Hope Shue made it 3-0 a minute later. Shue and Skylar Lach as well as Adams finished the first quarter with two goals, and Maggie Coughlin scored once and set up three goals as the rout was on. Lach’s goal with five seconds left in the period made it 10-0, and the rest of the game was played with the clock running due to the mercy rule.

Shue finished with four goals to lead Middlebury, followed by Coughlin (four assists) and Dion with three each, and Adams, Jamee Numan (two assists), and Lach with two apiece. Two goalies split time for Middlebury: Elizabeth Savage made two saves and allowed two goals in the first half, and Gina Driscoll made three saves and allowed three goals in the second half.

Kelly Augeri scored three times for Ithaca, and goalie Mikaela Dattilo made nine saves.



MIDDLEBURY SOPHOMORE DEFENDER Lucy Bishop leaves an Ithaca player behind as she carries the ball up the field during the Panther women’s lacrosse team’s big NCAA tournament win on Sunday.

Independent photo/Steve James

community calendar

may 15 THURSDAY

"You're not alone — Caring for your elderly loved one" in Middlebury.

Thursday, May 15, 4 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 3 Main St. Brought to you by Elderly Services, this seminar will be led by Joanne Corbett, a clinical social worker heading up the new ESI Center for Positive Aging. Free and open to entire community.

Estate Planning seminar in Bristol. Thursday, May 15, 6:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Join local attorney and Addison County native Sarah Bouvier Haselton and senior paralegal Katie Reen from Maple Haven Law PLLC for a free estate planning seminar where they will explain estate planning in a way that is simple, clear and maybe even fun.

Bristol Historical Society meeting in Bristol. Thursday, May 15, 7 p.m., Howden Hall, 19 West St. A video recorded in 2007 of the late Gert Bingham recalling "Boarding House living in the '30s and '40s" will be shown. Through the video we are still able to enjoy Gert's knowledge of Bristol and her always enjoyable speaking style. A short membership meeting follows after our speaker. Free, open to the public, and accessible. More info at 802-453-3526 or dear4@gmavt.net.



Open for the season

VERMONT STATE HISTORIC sites at Mount Independence in Orwell, Chimney Point in Addison, and Hubbardton Battlefield in Hubbardton will open for the 2025 season on Friday, May 23. Take a Memorial Day Weekend trip to learn about these important sites in Vermont history.

Photo courtesy of Mt. Independence Coalition

of the Abenaki First Peoples. Chief Don Stevens, Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation, will talk about the Abenaki culture and beliefs, what peoples were in our area, how the area was used, what settlements existed and what would they looked like.

A Conversation on Housing in Bristol. Sunday, May 18, 4 p.m., Community Room, Firehouse Apartments, 75 Firehouse Dr. Learn about three different initiatives to help with Addison County's housing shortage: HomeShare VT, Small/Tiny Homes, and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Meet individuals who are sharing their homes with others, building a tiny home and others who are making existing space into an ADU. All are welcome. Questions? Email Mike at mike802vt@comcast.net.

Plant, bake and candle sale in Brandon. Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. Perennial and annual plants, veggie starters and house plants will be offered for sale. Back by popular demand will be the free children's planting project. Baked goodies will include homemade pies, cakes, brownies, sweet breads and cookies. Beautiful handmade beeswax candles of unique designs, sizes and colors. Donations to the plant and bake sales are welcome. Questions? Please contact Phyllis Torrey at ptorrey@gmail.com or 802-247-3251, plants; Ellen Knapp, 802-247-3674, baked goods; Reverend Sara Rossig, general info, brandoncongregationalchurch@gmail.com or 802-247-6121. All proceeds will benefit the Steeple Repair Fund.

"Strength in Learning Differences" Kids Comics Workshop in Bristol. Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Ever wanted to try your hand at creating comics or talk with a real-life graphic novelist? Mat Heagerty, local creator of some amazing books including "Lumberjackula," offers a special Saturday workshop to share about his own journey with learning disabilities and invite young creatives to collaborate on some comics. Ages 8+. Pre-registration required at www.lawrencelibraryvt.org/kids-events.

Estate planning workshop in Middlebury. Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m., NBM Meeting Room, Mini Isley, 30 Main St. Join local Attorney and Addison County Native Sarah Bouvier Haselton and Senior Paralegal Katie Reen from Maple Haven Law PLLC for a free estate planning seminar where they will explain estate planning in a way that is simple, clear, and even fun. Medicaid Planning Strategies will be discussed.

"Soak It Up! A Workshop on Flood-Resilient Yards" in Middlebury. Saturday, May 24, 1 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Join Addison County River Watch, Pollinator Pathways, the Middlebury Conservation Commission, and other partners for a workshop on green stormwater practices, which reduce the impact of stormwater on our roads, homes and rivers. This workshop will help you decide on the best strategies or implementing stormwater-friendly practices that match your budget and the unique needs of your yard. More info at acrcwvt@gmail.com or www.acrcwvt.org.

may 19 MONDAY

Pizza Night fundraiser in Bristol.

Monday, May 19, beginning at 3 p.m., Cubbers Restaurant, 8 Main St. All the proceeds from the sales of 100 large pizzas to the Bristol 4th of July Committee. You can start calling in orders at 3 p.m. and start picking up your pizzas at 4 p.m. Help cover the costs of over \$20,000 that the Committee needs to put on Bristol's Fabulous 4th.

"Affordable Housing and Homelessness in Addison County" in Middlebury. Monday, May 19, 5:30 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. State Rep. Jubilee McGill, who represents Addison-5 and is a member of the House Human Services Committee, will join the next Addison County Democratic Monthly meeting to share insights on the state of affordable housing in Addison County. Zoom option at us06web.zoom.us/join/802476121. Fkm4NPXnSkI6K_I0DTrd7g.

may 23 FRIDAY

State Historic Site opening day in Addison, Hubbardton and Orwell.

Friday, May 23, Chimney Point State Historic Site, 31 Route 17 West; Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd, Hubbardton; and Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd.

Lincoln Cooperative Preschool spring auction in Lincoln. Friday, May 23, 6 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Live music from Sunday Morning, snacks, a cash bar, and a silent auction to benefit the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool. Suggested donation of \$10/person at the door, but all are welcome regardless of ability to contribute in this way. If you'd like to donate an item or service for the auction, please contact Elizabeth Keenan at ekenan00@gmail.com by May 1.

may 24 SATURDAY

Town-wide yard sale in Lincoln.

Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Weatheravane Senior Housing. If you are interested in having a sale, please sign up at the Lincoln General Store. A \$15 donation will get you listed on the map. Spaces are also available on the Weatheravane lawn if you would like to sell your items in town. The library will be holding their book and plant sale and the fire department will be cooking all the usual delicious goodies for lunch.

Plant sale in Lincoln. Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lincoln Library, River Rd. The Lincoln Library will be holding its plant and book extravaganza (part of town-wide yard sale). Come pick up plants for your garden. Perennials, annual flower and veggie starts, and houseplants. Garden-focused kid activities, live music, baked goods, and information hubs on native pollinators, the mental health benefits of gardening and preventing the spread of jumping worms.

Plant, book and bake sale in Orwell. Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Plants of all kinds — annuals, perennials, houseplants, herbs, vegetables, shrubs, container gardens, and hanging baskets as well as books, DVDs, home baked and canned goods, soups, and breads. All proceeds go directly to the Orwell Free Library for purchasing books, providing programming, updating technology and serving our community.

Plant sale in Monkton. Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friends Methodist Church, 78 Monkton Ridge. A variety of plants for your garden. You can also recycle your nursery plant pots. This will include the black plastic containers, which usually are not allowed to be recycled.

may 16 FRIDAY

Interlude open house in Middlebury.

Friday, May 16, 3 p.m., 99 Maple St. Suite 16. Come by, look around, and connect. We're opening our doors to the community to share what makes Interlude a different kind of crisis support space. Take part in creative activities, and learn about our vision for a more compassionate, human-centered approach to mental health care. Whether you're curious about peer support, passionate about crisis alternatives, or just want to stop by and say hello, we'd love to see you. Free and open to all. Refreshments and pizza included.

may 17 SATURDAY

Med47 Garden Shoppe in Bristol.

Begins Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m., 3319 Route 116 South. A wide variety of veggie plants, annuals, perennials, hanging baskets and plantings. You can also browse our shop for a unique selection of garden decor. And check out the white elephant tent. A fundraiser for the Brendon P Cousino Med47 Foundation. Runs daily through June 14.

Town-wide yard sale in Orwell. Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m., locations around town. Maps available at Orwell Town website, on Facebook or search events for "Orwell Town Wide Yardsale" and at various locations thru town including the Library and Red Sky Farm. Follow on Facebook for more info or email OrwellRec@gmail.com.

Eco-Fair in Weybridge. Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.-noon, Weybridge Elementary School, 2790 Quaker Village Rd. Explore a variety of EVs, PHEVs, e-bikes, and electric tools and equipment. Discuss the pros and cons of different EV makes and models with their drivers and tools with neighbors who actually use them and see demonstrations of new and not-so-new electric vehicles (EVs); electric bicycles; electric household, lawn, and garden equipment; plus information on weatherization, home energy efficiency, weatherization and composting. Pollinator Pathways Weybridge will be there with a seed giveaway, a table full of information on protecting our native pollinators, planting native plants and more. Free and open to all.

Spring quiche luncheon in Shoreham. Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 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. Please bring a non-perishable item for the food shelf. Raffle tickets will be sold for a hand-knitted blanket, \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be during AppleFest in September.

Community BBQ and game day in Monkton. Saturday, May 17, noon to 3 p.m., Monkton Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge. Fun games, contests, music, food, prizes, and more. Rain or shine. 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. Free to attend. BBQ available for \$10/per person; also, desserts at the bake sale, raffle; donations for the hardcourts accepted. RSVP to Teri at tf417@gmail.com or 802-989-2276.

Spring Fling in Rochester. Saturday, May 17, 4-6 p.m., Rochester Public Library, 22 S. Main St. Friends of the Rochester Public Library will host this new event. Keynote address by Vermont State Poet Laureate Bianca Stone, and a live painting happening by multi-media artist Char Gardner. Also featuring a Biblio and Art themed silent auction, Friends membership drive, and complementary refreshments provided. Free and open to all. More info at 802-767-3942.

may 18 SUNDAY

SpIN annual meeting and Eco Spirit award presentation in Ripton.

Sunday, May 18, 1:30-4 p.m., Ripton Community House and Spirit in Nature trails, Route 125 and Goshen Rd. Jim Andrews of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas will receive this year's EcoSpirit award and will give a short presentation at the award ceremony. Preceding the meeting, naturalist Craig Zondag will lead a guided walk on some of the SpIN paths beginning at 1:30 pm. All are welcome. Free.

Stand Up for Democracy event in Bristol. Sunday, May 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Join your fellow citizens for a family-friendly, intergenerational afternoon of community building and taking action in support of our democracy. We'll provide some sign-making supplies, information to support letter-writing and making phone calls, and activities for kids. If you can, please bring sign-making supplies, snacks and a donation for space rental and upcoming Indivisible events. More info at neaddisoncountytvindivisible@gmail.com.

Addison Town Historical Society meeting in Addison. Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m., Addison Fire Station, 44 Route 17 West. As we gear up for the events and celebrations of the 250th we thought it would be interesting and appropriate to look at Vermont's 250th anniversary from the perspective

Vt historic sites open to public next week

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation announces the opening of the State Historic Sites for the 2025 season which will include events for kids and families, patriots and loyalists, hiking enthusiasts, and more. The first to open is the Bennington Battle Monument on Friday, May 16. Then Chimney Point, Hubbardton Battlefield, Mount Independence, and President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site open on Friday, May 23. Lastly, the site of Vermont's first U.S. President, the President Chester A. Arthur State Historic Site, opens Saturday, May 24.

The Vermont State Historic Sites present history where it happened and provide exciting experiences for everyone," said Laura V. Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer. "This year we are honoring the Semiquincentennial with events, exhibits, and lectures that highlight the America Revolution, signing of the Declaration of Independence, and Vermonters' role in the fight for independence. We invite you to discover Vermont's rich heritage and how it impacted our national story."

The President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site has installed a new exhibit in the Museum and Education Center examining how Revolutionary-era ideals influenced President Calvin Coolidge's administration in the 1920s. The ornamental plaster frieze and mural studies depicting significant events in American history by Constantino Brumidi, artist for the U.S. Capitol, will be displayed at Mount Independence. In collaboration with the Mount Independence Coalition, noted historian Willard Sterne Randall will speak about his new historical biography, "John Hancock: First to Sign, First to Invest in America's Independence," at Mount Independence on June 14th.

Hubbardton will present a lecture entitled "The Strong Women of Western Vermont during the American Revolution" on June 29th. On July 4th, celebrate the founding of our nation with a reading of the Declaration of Independence at Bennington Battle Monument or walk in the parade to the Plymouth Cemetery to lay a commemorative wreath from the White House to honor Calvin Coolidge on his 153rd birthday. You can also join the living history reenactment of the 1777 Battle of Hubbardton, the only engagement of the American Revolution fought entirely in what would become Vermont soil, on the weekend of July 12-13 at Hubbardton Battlefield.

Senator Justin Morrill State Historic Site in Strafford and Old Constitution House in Windsor are closed this season for preservation. Bennington Battle Monument will be closed the week of June 9th for routine maintenance on the exterior of the structure. It will reopen to the public for Vermont Days June 14th.

For more information on the Vermont State Historic Sites including hours of operation and the 2025 events schedule visit our website.

"The Vermont State Historic Sites present history where it happened and provide exciting experiences for everyone."

— Laura V. Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer



Mondays are Back at OCB

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SUN 8AM-2PM**
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Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Vergennes writes:

"Great to keep us informed of local and really important goings on."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 6B and 10B.

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Addison Central School District seeks qualified contractors for the renovation of approximately 2100 sq. ft. at Middlebury Union High School. Project includes ADA bathroom conversions, kitchenette construction, and office space improvements.
RFP Due: June 6, 2025, 1:00 PM.
Details: bmacintire@acsdvt.org

STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, DANE COUNTY

Amended
PUBLICATION NOTICE
HARASSMENT
INJUNCTION HEARING

Case No. 25CV1449
Petitioner: James Donovan Egbert
-vs-
Respondent: Lia Purcell Smith

A hearing on the petition to grant a harassment injunction will be held on 5/23/2025 at 8:30am, at the Dane County Courthouse, Madison, Wisconsin, in room 5D, before Judge Rhonda Lanford, Court Official.

TO THE RESPONDENT:
If you fail to appear at the hearing, the relief requested will be granted.

BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT
Request for Proposals

The Brandon Fire District No. 1 is requesting proposals to implement energy efficiency improvements to the Fire District Office and the Fire Department Station. The tasks are based on an energy audit previously performed for the Fire District. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on 28 May 2025, at 1:00 PM at the Brandon Fire Department, located at 61 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT 05733. Sealed bids are due by 12:00 noon, 8 July 2025. This will be a fixed price bid. **A public opening of bids will be during a Prudential Committee meeting on 10 July 2025.**

The Tasks to be performed include:
1. Supplement the current heating system with heat pumps
2. Perform air sealing and add insulation as needed
3. Upgrade interior and exterior lighting to LED
4. Replace water heaters
5. Replace thermostats
6. Obtain all required permits

Copies of this RFP can be obtained from K. Pinkham at
kpinkham@brandonfiredistrict.org



Our community helped make Green Up Day a success

We wanted to reach out and offer a heartfelt thank you to our Middlebury Community for helping to Green Up and celebrate our garden and farm-to-school work. On May 3rd, over 100 people came to Mary Hogan to celebrate and work together to kick off our Farm-to-School work for this season. We mulched, picked up trash, removed invasive species, planted, weeded, and more! A very special thank you to some local organizations and businesses who contributed to this event as partners. Thank you to Will Gusakov of Goosewing Timberworks, the Forest to Frame Winter Term

Class, and the Middlebury College Art and Architecture Dept. for hand hewing and constructing the most beautiful timber frame garden shed in the state of Vermont. It is a piece of art that will serve a functional role as we grow and nourish students with food from our garden. Thank you to the Addison County Solid Waste District for supporting our Green Up efforts and helping us learn more about how to minimize waste. Thank you to the Middlebury Natural Foods Coop for getting us active on the smoothie bike and encouraging our gardening and Green Up work all morning long.

Thank you to the Middlebury College Knoll Organic Farm and college club Nutrition, Outreach, and Mentoring for providing a chance to learn about the Knoll and for bringing materials for the make and take seed starts and handmade granola balls. Thank you to Steve Marinelli and ACORN for nourishing our bodies while we did this hard physical labor. We look forward to next year, where we can again celebrate our community, the rich connections to food and our environment, and good food! **Jen Kravitz and the Mary Hogan Farm to School Committee. Middlebury**

Starksboro celebrates a successful mentor program

STARKSBORO — The Starksboro Mentoring Program will celebrate 20 years as one of the most successful mentoring

programs in the State of Vermont on Sunday, June 1. The celebratory event will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at Robinson

School and will include past and present mentors, mentees and their families. There will be games, photos, recognitions, and snacks. The Program, centered in Starksboro’s Robinson Elementary School, was the brainchild of Amy Johnston, the school’s Guidance Counselor. It began with a few mentor/mentee matches and has grown over the years. Mentors include both volunteers from the town and school staff members. Many stay with their mentees all the way through high school and beyond. They meet with their mentees both in the school and at their homes, events, and more. The program’s success has resulted in programs being started in all of the Mount Abraham Unified School District’s elementary schools and eventually in the middle and high schools as well.

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-02180
IN RE ESTATE OF: MIYO FRANCES SATO
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Miyo Frances Sato, late of Middlebury, VT.
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: 05/08/25

Executor/Administrator: J. Denry Sato
140 Cedar Ridge Drive, Cornwall, VT 05753
802-462-3760
denrysato@aol.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 05/15/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — The Lincoln Historical Society is participating in the Town Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, May 24, and will be accepting donations at the historical society on Wednesday, May 21, and Thursday, May 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. They would love to have any of those things you have around the house or in storage that you don’t need anymore. Make sure items are clean and in working order. Clothes, cosmetics, bedding, electronics, car seats, cribs, or bicycle helmets will not be accepted. If you have any questions, please email lincolnvthistory@gmail.com. All proceeds from the sale will benefit your local Lincoln Historical Society, preserving and bringing our unique history to future generations. **SAVE THE DATE** The wild chervil pull will be on Saturday, May 31, from 9 a.m. to noon. Join friends and community members to remove wild chervil, a highly invasive plant that has been spreading in Lincoln. After the pull, the Lincoln Conservation Commission will treat you to a yummy lunch. This year there will also be a homemade pie raffle. **REMINDER** Lincoln’s Annual town-wide yard sale to benefit Weathervane Senior Housing is Saturday, May 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To host your own sale, sign up at the Lincoln General Store for only \$15. The maps to all the yard sale locations will be available at the store. Lincoln Fire Department will be selling their famous sausage, hot dogs, fries and more. The Lincoln Library will have their plant and book sale. Until next time ... Real Change Happens One Step At A Time. Focus On The Good. If You Obey All The Rules, You Miss All The Fun.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Louisa Painter

Mt. Abraham Union High School is pleased to announce Louisa Painter as our student of the week. Louisa lives in Starksboro with her mom, dad and brother, Lincoln, along with three dogs, five cats and three horses. Louisa has earned highest academic and habits of work honors every year of high school. Among her favorite classes are AP English Literature & Composition and Art. Her favorite teacher is Ms. Grzyb because of her adamant love for her subject area. A dedicated athlete, Louisa has played varsity soccer for four years and received Second Team All-State honors. She has also played basketball for three years, receiving Second Team All State and played in the senior all-star game in Windsor. In addition, Louisa played both sports out of season through Addison United soccer club, Lone Wolf Athletics AAU Basketball, and RISE basketball. On top of her athletic commitments, Louisa has been a member of the Eagle Leadership Society for the last two years. She works at MAUSD’s Extended Learning Program, Camp Common Ground, and serves as a lifeguard year-round. She also volunteers as a coach for youth basketball at Robinson Elementary School. Through her sports teams, Louisa has participated in the Share the Warmth Winter Clothing Swap, raised funds for the American Cancer Society, ran a 5K for Cystic Fibrosis, and donated to the Chittenden County Humane Society. In her spare time, Louisa goes for runs, naps with her dog Ruby, spends time with friends, and travels. When asked about an important lesson she has learned at school, Louisa shared “that you should always be doing at least one thing that you love in order to maintain a balance between work and rest.” After high school, Louisa will attend Concordia University in Montreal at the John Molsen School of Business, where she will study business marketing. The Mt. Abraham community wishes her all the best in her future endeavors!



Louisa Painter
MAUHS

Otter Valley Union High School

Elyse Singh

Elyse Singh is Otter Valley Union High School’s Student of the Week. Elyse lives near the heart of Brandon with her three cats, her two sisters, and her mother. She is currently enrolled in the Early College program through Vermont State University at Castleton for her senior year. She says she loves teaching and helping others to understand something they cannot quite grasp yet. She values her education and the new things that she learns every day. She has received quite a few acting awards for roles she has played throughout her time in OVUHS’s Walking Stick Theater. Elyse says her favorite school activity is theater — it takes up most of her free time. “It has great opportunities to express yourself and connect yourself to the whole world,” she says. She also holds down several jobs, including working at Morningside Bakery in Brandon as a barista and cashier and as a dance teacher for Ms. Michela’s Dance Classes, run by Michaela Newell. She loves to help out with the local youth theater run by Lennon Philo. She also likes helping her friends, family and the town with whatever they need whenever she can. When Elyse doesn’t have school, work or theater, she loves to read books to help her relax from the craziness of life. She loves to hang out with her friends. She also helps out her church whenever she has the time. Of lessons learned at OVUHS, Elyse says, “Those who know me know that the beginning of my high school career was something that no one would want to imagine for themselves. No matter the hardships that life gives you, it is not the end, so persevere as best as you can.” She encourages underclassmen to make sure they have a good support system, whether it be friends, trusted adults, or something else that helps them. “This is an important part of perseverance for the hardships that life may throw at you,” she says. Elyse plans to continue her education at Vermont State University at Castleton and to become an elementary school teacher after college. All of us at Otter Valley wish her well as she works toward that goal.



Elyse Singh
OVUHS

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Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop.
The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year.
Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.
Best of luck to all Addison County students!

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

Vermont Book Shop

Every Student of the Week will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Gift Card

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students!

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Congratulations,
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Cheers to the
Students of the Week!

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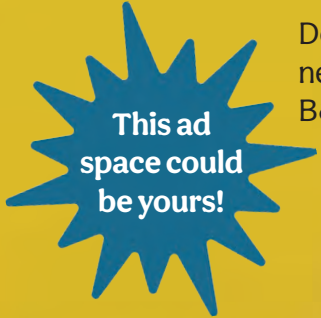
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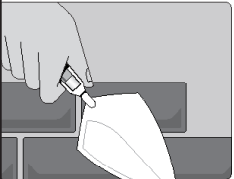
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CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalananonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

Help Wanted

Public Meetings

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

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

Help Wanted



Zoning Administrator

The Town of Starksboro seeks a part-time **Zoning Administrator** (16 hours/week) to enforce zoning bylaws, assist residents with permits, and support town boards. Strong communication, organizational, and computer skills required. Prior zoning or municipal experience preferred. Hourly pay based on experience.

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to Amanda Vincent at amanda@starksborovt.org. Applications accepted until filled. EOE.

Public Meetings

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to

Public Meetings

deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Help Wanted

Services

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

Help Wanted

Services

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

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Nursery/Greenhouse Assistant

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Any Cashier experience is a plus.

Qualified Candidate must have a dedicated work ethic and be able to perform physical lifting as required and work hard in the spring and summer seasons.

Excellent Perks including an Employee Discount and Flexible Schedule but ability to work weekends is also a must.

Please stop in to pick up an application or send Resume and References to:

Middlebury AGWAY Farm & Garden,
Attn: Jennifer Jacobs
338 Exchange St. Middlebury, VT 05753
or by email to info@middleburyagway.com

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. – Middlebury, VT.

Help Wanted

Finance Manager & Administrative Assistant/Office Manager

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) is hiring for two positions for our administrative team.

ACRPC seeks a highly skilled, self-motivated **Finance Manager** to join our team of dedicated professionals in a public service organization. This position works directly with the Executive Director with responsibilities to include management of ACRPC's financial accounts, organizational budget development and oversight, development of indirect cost rate proposals, financial reporting to the Executive Director and Board, grant budgets and contract management, financial aspects of grant reporting, management of payroll, annual audit preparation, and general oversight of financial operations. Position requires 3-5 years of Quickbooks accounting software experience and a track record of financial oversight. Knowledge of federal or state grants management is strongly preferred. Ability to work and communicate well with staff and the public is essential. Hours and benefits to be determined based on experience and availability.

ACRPC seeks an experienced **Administrative Assistant** to support our Finance Manager, to provide general administrative support for our planning team, and to provide office management. Duties and responsibilities will include bookkeeping assistance, scheduling and admin support across programs, and other jobs as determined by the Executive Director and Finance Manager. Excellent technical and problem-solving skills and understanding of computer systems and software is required. Hours and benefits to be determined based on experience and availability.

ACRPC is the regional planning commission for a 21-town area of west central Vermont in Addison County. Our mission is to provide ACRPC's region and municipal members with resources to address priorities in a variety of planning disciplines, including transportation, land use, housing, energy, disaster recovery, water quality and health. Our office is centrally located in downtown Middlebury. Our workplace is friendly and highly flexible. We offer competitive compensation and excellent benefits. (prorated for 20+ hrs/week)

Please email a letter of interest, resume with three references, and salary requirements in a single PDF to Adam Lougee, Executive Director at alougee@acrpc.org. Positions will remain open until filled.

ACRPC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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ACRPC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Join the Parent/Child Center Team
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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

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Must be able to work until 6pm.
Days and Weekends a MUST.
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Please no phone calls.

All of our positions offer generous, twice a year bonuses and employee discount on all products.

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Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

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Opportunities

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<input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found**	<input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles
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<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Wanted
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Garage Sales

HUGE MULT-FAMILY YARD SALE Furniture, camping items, 9 ton Blair trailer, '07 Chevy pickup box, tools, dishes, bottles, clothes, linens & much more. May 23, 24 & 25, 9am-4pm. 3153 Mountain Road, Addison.

HUGE PLANT SALE Perennials, vegetables, Native Pollinator plants, herbs, fruits, trees, bushes, house plants. Friday, May 16, 1-5 and Saturday, May 17, 9-3. 400 Jockey Lane, Monkton.

LAWN SALE SATURDAY, May 17, 9am-3pm. 35 Seymour Street, Middlebury. Next to the police station. Rain date May 24. Puzzles, furniture, bedding, small appliances, cookware and more.

Opportunities

HOME SHARE IN CORNWALL with 95 year old woman. \$0 rent. Looking for someone who can stay most nights, but we are flexible. Also opportunity to receive pay for additional work & care. To inquire, call/text/email Ian @ 802-349-7871, iandavidgill802@gmail.com

WOODWORKING CLASSES IN Waltham with furniture maker Timothy Clark. For more information email tim@timothyclark.com or go to <https://www.timothyclark.com/classeshome.html>

Help Wanted

For Sale

2011 38' CAMPER needs little work. \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

ENCORE WOOD STOVE porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

FIREWOOD STOVE in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

WINTER TIRES Nokian Nordman 7 SUV studded winter tires. 225/65 R17. 106T XL. Only used two seasons. \$200 for set. 303-718-4944

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ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, dock, rowboat and canoe included. \$999. weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

Help Wanted

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1000 SQUARE FEET OF RETAIL available with parking on Bakery Lane in downtown Middlebury. 802-349-8544.

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


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

MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking wait-list applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 [www. SummitPMG.com](http://www.SummitPMG.com).

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Help Wanted

For Rent


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

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](http://www.SummitPMG.com).

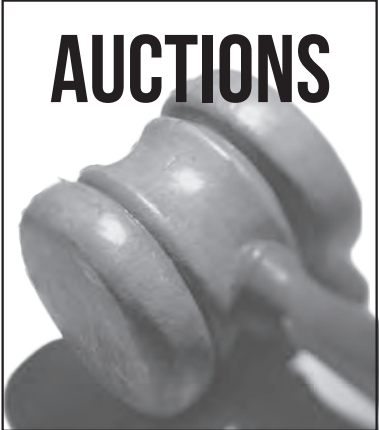
Wood Heat

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

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

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MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

Sales for 5/8/25 & 5/12/25				
	COST			
BEEF	LBS.	/LB		\$
Wilcon Farm	1180	1.70		\$2006.00
J. Fifield	1555	1.61		\$2503.55
Nop Bros	1755	1.55		\$2720.25
Goodrich	1575	1.50		\$2520.00
Correia	1635	1.45		\$2370.75
Monument	1170	1.42		\$1661.40
Blue Spruce	1580	1.40		\$2212.00

COST			
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
M-L Quesnel	75	15.00	\$1125.00
Barnes Bros	83	14.00	\$1162.00
A. Brisson	81	14.00	\$1134.00
Goodrich	94	13.00	\$1222.00
UVM	97	12.00	\$1164.00
Vorsteveld	84	12.00	\$1008.00

Total Beef - 135 Total Calves - 161
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

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Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 6B and 10B**

- Addison Central School District (1)
- Brandon Fire Department (1)
- Bristol Stor-Mor (1)
- Cornwall Evergreen Cemetery Association (1)
- Ferrisburgh (2)
- Mt. Abraham Unified School District (1)
- Stewart Construction (1)
- Vergennes (1)
- West Addison Lakeview Cemetery (1)

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Sale Date: Saturday, 05/17 at 9 am

**FERRISBURGH UNION
CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
NOTICE**
Ferrisburgh Union Cemetery Association will be holding its annual meeting at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall on May 27, 2025, at 6PM. New members are welcome and needed.

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: arakowski@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.



Marion's Place
*A Unique Resale Store Supporting
HOPE's Poverty Relief Programs*

HOPE is looking for a new team member to assist in the warehouse at Marion's Place.

Duties include assisting in moving furniture and other items, pickups and deliveries, and some general custodial tasks. The ideal candidate will have excellent communication skills, be able to work as part of a team, be able to stand for periods of time and lift heavy items. Forklift experience and experience driving a box truck would be a plus. 25 – 29 hours a week.

To apply, send a resume and letter of interest to receptionist@hope-vt.org, with the subject "warehouse associate."

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

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**ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT**

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 West Addison Community House.

EVERGREEN CEMETERY ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 17 at 7:00 PM
Cornwall Town Hall,
2629 Route 30, Cornwall, VT

MOUNT ABRAHAM UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT DESTRUCTION OF REGULAR EDUCATION RECORDS

Let this serve as notice that regular education school records of students who graduated from Mount Abraham Union High School in June 2012 through June 2018, or who were part of those classes will be destroyed on June 16, 2025. Anyone who would like their records should call Jada Roberge in the school counseling office at 802-453-7028 or email at jada.roberge@mausd.org prior to June 16, 2025 to make arrangements for pick-up.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Stewart Construction located in Essex Junction, Vermont is seeking bids from qualified subcontractors for a fast paced, multi-family construction project off Seminary Street Extension in the town of Middlebury, Vermont. The scopes of work available for bids include but are not limited to: Sitework, Concrete, Wood Framing, Mechanical/Plumbing, Electrical, Fire Suppression and Finishes – both interior and exterior. Minority, Women, Small Owned, & Section 3 Businesses are encouraged to respond. Interested subcontractors must not be debarred from receiving State or Federal funding and must be capable of processing certified payroll with Davis Bacon wages. Please reach out to info@stewart-construction.com for access to the Townhouse 3 (Lot 9) bid documents; bids will be accepted for the work until May 19th, 2025

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARINGS

The Ferrisburgh Planning Commission will hold the following public hearing(s) on **Wednesday, June 4, 2025** at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall at 3279 US Route 7, beginning at **7PM**. The hearing(s) will also be available to participants remotely via Zoom; the link will be included in the agenda posted on the Town's website (ferrisburghvt.org) at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Application Number 25-046: New outdoor basketball court; Applicant: Mary Lou H. Ivey / Long Point Corporation; Long Point Road at East Road (Laflam Park); Parcel ID number 04/01/10; Rural Agricultural District (RA-5); Conditional Use Review and Waiver.

Application Number 25-016: New grain center with Building 1 for distillery, retail, tasting room, cafe, and up to 4 grain silos, Building 2 for grain center storage and accessory apartment, and associated site work; Applicant: Todd Hardie / Champlain Valley Grain Center, LLC; 114 Park Lane; Parcel ID number 05/01/22.1; Industrial District (IND-2); Conditional Use Review.

Application Number 25-045: Two permanent shipping containers for grain center storage; Applicant(s): Todd Hardie / Champlain Valley Grain Center, LLC; 114 Park Lane; Parcel ID number 05/01/22.1; Industrial District (IND-2); Conditional Use Review.

The files for the above applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall or by email to zoning@ferrisburghvt.org.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

ARTS+LEISURE

The Addison Independent

May 15, 2025



BID LOCAL. BUY LOCAL.

HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM OPENS FOR THE SEASON WITH ART AUCTION AND NEW EXHIBITS

Michelle Leftheris carefully adjusts a photo by Caleb Kenna in this year's "Artists in the House" exhibit/auction. The downtown Middlebury museum opens for the season with a party to celebrate the new exhibits and auction on Wednesday, May 21, from 4-6 p.m.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES

May is most definitely marvelous... Everywhere you look there's a blossom smiling; everyone's out-and-about soaking up the sun; and no-doubt many of us change over our closets favoring light, breezy layers.

BY **ELSIE**
LYNN PARINI

Ahhh, it's a welcome change in seasons.

However, with this magnificent backdrop, also comes an eclectic mess of "want-to-dos." Anyone else with me?

Yes, I *want to* plant my garden. Yes, I *want to* exercise outside. Yes, I *want to* stroll in the woods admiring the ephemeral spring. Yes, I *want to* check out this event, that exhibit, and those yard sales!

But alas, time is limiting. So... we must choose.

One stop to make time for sure this season is at the Henry Sheldon Museum in downtown



"Mr. Sheldon's Keys" by Kate Gridley (left) and "Sheep Portrait with Snow" by Hannah Sessions (right) are up for bid beginning May 21.

Middlebury. The refreshed museum will open for the season next Wednesday, May 21, with four new exhibits, and a contemporary exhibit that twins as an auction-fundraiser. There will be an Opening Day Reception from 4-6 p.m., on Wednesday, with beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), good conversation and live music.

"Artists in the House" is this year's major fundraiser for the local museum. Thirty-two pieces will be on display from local artists, May 21-Sept. 6, and open for bids (via silent auction online). Participating artists include Judy Albright, Todd Anderson, Fran Bull, Jim Bruce, Judi Danforth, Bethany Farrell, Pamela Fogg, Paul Forlenza, Leigh Harder, Steve Hadeka, Pam Heywood, Elisa Jahrenfelt, Michael P. Kin, Rebecca Kinkead, Caleb Kenna, Kathleen Kolb, Fred Lower, Jill Madden, Michaela Granstrom, Jane Ploughman, Rose Robinson, Jennifer Roberts, Hannah Sessions, Pamela Smith, John Vincent, Kate Gridley, and others. You can see the works in person at the museum or online at sheldonmuseum.betterworld.org/auctions/artist-house.

The museum is splitting funds raised 50/50 with the artists. The works will be on display in the museum's historic kitchen.

"It's so generous of the artists to participate," said Sheldon Executive Director Coco Moseley.

SEE SHELDON ON PAGE 3

Music for the mind: Free concert in Middlebury, May 20

ME2/CLASSICAL MUSIC OFFERS PERFORMANCE TO CELEBRATE COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION

Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) presents Me2/ Classical Music for Mental Health: an evening of classical music and connection, on Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m., at Middlebury Union High School Auditorium.

Me2/ ("me, too") is the world's only classical music organization created for individuals with mental illnesses and the people who support them. This is a free, ticketed event. Get your free tickets at csac-vt.org.

Me2/ 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 celebrates the power of music to unite us and spark important conversations about mental health," said CSAC Executive Director Rachel Lee. "At CSAC, we serve around 2,000 people

SEE CLASSICAL ON PAGE 8



A free classical concert will be presented by CSAC at the Middlebury Union High School on May, 20, at 6:30 p.m.

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
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DEBORAH HOLMES
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SHELDON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"They want to share their work and support the museum — we couldn't do it without the artists by any means... I hope it will be compelling for people in the

community, too. By bidding and purchasing pieces here they can support the museum and support the artists at the same time."

Moseley said they're hoping to raise upwards of \$10,000 with this summer fundraiser, which will support operations and programming at the museum.

"SUPPORT THE MUSEUM AND SUPPORT THE ARTISTS AT THE SAME TIME."

— Coco Moseley

connections."

"We want the community to see the museum as *their* museum," added Kelly Hickey, a Weybridge artist who is on the Sheldon's events committee and helped curate this exhibit with Michelle Leftheris (Assistant Professor of Studio Art at Middlebury College). "We hope people will connect more deeply with the museum — using it as a resource for archival information; a great gift shop; or the new makerspace."

"In thinking about this season, I was really drawn to the color the rugs added to the historic rooms," said Moseley, as she remembered the exhibit and auction last year of the late Suzanne Douglas's hooked rugs. "I think the exhibits we have put together will really enliven our rooms, and support our local arts community."

The four other exhibits on view May 21 will be:
Finding Hope Within: Healing & Transformation Through the Making of Art Within the Carceral System

"The 'Artists in the House' exhibit is pretty far ranging," Moseley added. "We have a funky birdhouse alongside some really exquisite paintings and photography. There are a lot of different mediums in the exhibit, but they're all tied together because of their Addison County



The Henry Sheldon Museum team of staff and trustees pictured (from left to right): Eva Garcelon-Hart, Coco Moseley, Cara Mosier (back), Emily Bryant, Michelle Leftheris, Ellery Foutch, Deb Evans and Barbara Rathburn. Not pictured: Michole Biancosino and Kelly Hickey. The downtown Middlebury museum is preparing to open for the season on May 21 with new exhibits and an auction.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

EXHIBITS

Finding Hope Within: Healing & Transformation Through the Making of Art Within the Carceral System

May 21–Sept. 30

The summer community-curated exhibition "Finding Hope Within" features works of art that have emerged through the carceral system in Vermont alongside historical artifacts from the collection of the Henry Sheldon Museum. These original artworks were curated by A Revolutionary Press and Vermont Works for Women for their "Finding Hope Within" traveling exhibit. With thanks to John Vincent, Ellery Foutch, Ethan Mitchell and Cindy Hill for their work on this exhibit. Exhibits programs will be announced soon.

Material Narratives: Ornament & Identity

May 21–Oct. 31

Material objects are profound expressions of identity, memory and belief. Adornment, whether through intricate craftsmanship, symbolic decoration or functional design, elevates objects beyond utilitarian purposes and transforms them into reflections of personal stories and

societal values. Organized by students of Professor Erin Sassin's course at Middlebury College.

Slow Seeing: A Close Observation Room

May 21–Oct. 31

In this room, you're invited to sllllllloooooowwwww doooooowwwwwnnnnnnnn and really look. This is a space for immersive attention, close looking, and paying attention to the details — taking a moment to step aside from the quick pace of life and technology and demands on our time and attention. Put your phones away and see what you can see.

Stitching Memories: Daughters, Samplers, and Family Records

May 21–Jan. 3

The Vermont Sampler Initiative is producing a statewide driving tour to display schoolgirl needlework samplers from the post-Revolutionary War period. The six samplers on display in the Judd Harris House were all made by girls whose father or grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War. This local exhibit was curated by Middlebury College student Julia Breckenridge.

SEE MUSEUM ON PAGE 8



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ART ON EXHIBIT

Artists open doors for Open Studio Weekend, showcasing creativity across Addison County

Art enthusiasts and curious visitors are invited to explore the creative world during the much-anticipated Open Studio Weekend sponsored by the Vermont Crafts Council. Fifteen different artists across Addison County (Loop 4 on the map) will be opening their workspaces to the public. This special event offers a unique glimpse into the environments where art is born, highlighting the tools, equipment, and inspirations behind each masterpiece.

Taking place over the weekend of May 24 and 25, Open Studio Weekend unveils the beauty of artistic processes

in a variety of settings, from intimate small towns to the remote ends of back roads. Maps can be found at Sparrow Art Supply and in restaurants and shops throughout the county or online at vermontcrafts.com/visit-open-studio. Each studio on the tour reflects the dynamic process involved in transforming an idea into a completed work of art.

"Sponsored by the Vermont Crafts Council, Open Studio Weekend is a celebration of creativity and craftsmanship," said Judy Albright, *SEE STUDIO ON PAGE 20*

Take a hike to see 'Art on the Trails' in Middlebury

Get into the woods during Vermont Craft Council's Spring Open Studio Weekend, May 24-25 at the Wright Park TAM Trailhead in Middlebury. Join Mira Cabrera's Growing In Process, in collaboration with Middlebury Studio School & MALT — this unique art and nature event features a self-guided trail exhibition of new local pigment-based artwork and a local pigment watercolor demonstration. Take an exhibition walk with The Green Mountain Club on

Sunday, May 25, at 1:30 p.m. Or join a free outdoor art workshop on May 24 at noon, where participants will be working with natural pigments — which were foraged right here along the trails in Vermont — to create expressive artwork inspired by the landscape. All ages and levels welcome. Free.

For more info visit growinginprocess.com/post/art-on-the-trails-returns-a-day-of-art-community-nature.

Gallery hosts free events during Open Studio Weekend

Sparrow Art Supply invites the community to be part of the excitement of Open Studio Weekend on May 24-25, with two lively days of artist demos, group conversations, and a hands-on scavenger hunt for young art lovers. During this statewide celebration, the gallery will host artists from the "Collective Perspectives" exhibition, now on view, showcasing the unique voices and diverse mediums of Sparrow Artist Collective.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Saturday, May 25

- 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Artist Demo: Elise Bouffard (cyanotype)
- 1 p.m. — Group Q&A with Charon Henning, Caitlin Gildrien, Michael Hollis, and Elizabeth Sylvia
- 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. — Artist Demo: Charon Henning (graphite drawing)

Sunday, May 26

- 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Artist Demo: Heather Rusch Zelonis (block printing)
- 1 p.m. — Group Q&A with Heather Rusch Zelonis, Courtney Vengrin, Bart Robbett, and Catherine Raishart
- 2:30-4:30 p.m. — Artist Demo: Courtney Vengrin (watercolor and urban sketching)

Kids are invited to take part in the "Find the Sparrow" scavenger hunt. Search for hidden sparrows in the artwork, complete a worksheet, and win a small prize for participating.

"Open Studio Weekend is one of our favorite times of year because the entire state is alive with creativity," said Beth Bluestein, owner and gallery director of Sparrow Art Supply. "It welcomes people from all backgrounds to catch a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the artistic process. We're delighted to share what Sparrow Artist Collective members are up to."

All listed events are free and open to the public.



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AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

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Sundays – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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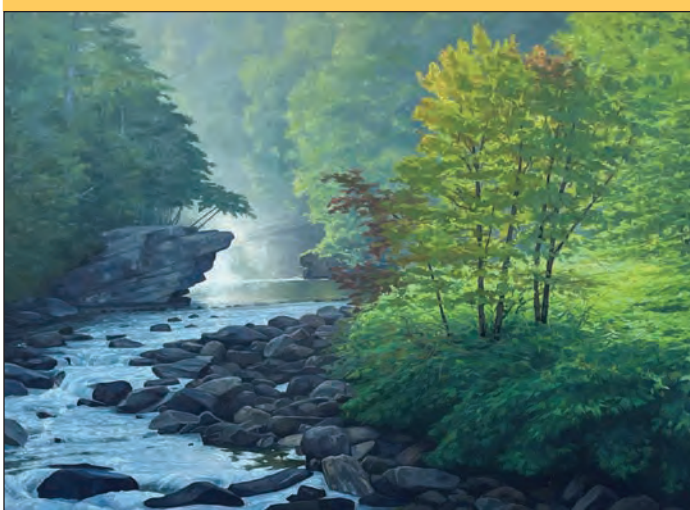
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edgewatergallery.com



ART ON EXHIBIT



"Bartlett's Misty Morning" by Rory Jackson, 40 x 56, oil on linen, \$12,800. On view at Edgewater Gallery on the Green.

ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

Call 802-453-4032, email aom@gmavt.net or visit artonmainvt.com for more info.

"Mount Abe Emerging Artists." The Annual Mount Abe Emerging Artists exhibit opens on May 16 with a reception from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Organized by art teacher Ryan Strobel and featuring work by high school aged students who show aptitude in the arts. Mixed/all media types. On view through May 30.

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.

"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,

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 23

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Telling the truth has always come naturally to you, Aries. But tact isn't always your specialty and sometimes your candor is not well-received. Keep that in mind this week.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. It is time to make peace with someone even if it is the last thing you want to do this week, Taurus. There is no better option than to talk it out, so schedule that chat as soon as possible.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Sometimes there is nothing you like more than being silly with other kindred spirits who get you, Gemini. But you're in a different mood this week and it might feel unfamiliar to you.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. It is fair to say this week that you desire some time alone and maybe need it as well, Cancer. Take some time for yourself and let others know you're going off the grid.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, although your first inclination might be to get into a war of words with someone with whom you disagree, this week you might want to try a different approach. Remain open to others' views.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. You might be tired of recent drama in your life, Virgo. But if you dig deeper, you might find that you have contributed to the noise. Make some meaningful changes this week.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Your negotiation skills are well-known, Libra, and you're usually the first person anyone thinks of when they need a third party to help them smooth over a situation. Enjoy the attention.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, even if someone is pushing your buttons this week, you won't let that get in the way of doing something for this person because they are dear to you.


SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. You are no stranger to good luck, Sagittarius. This week that luck will be shared with people who cross your path. They will appreciate the fortune.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Expect to experience a strong feeling of wanderlust this week, Capricorn. You may find it challenging to pass up a trip or a new experience of any kind.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, right now the old adage that if you ignore it, it will go away might not hold true. Failing to face something right now may not be the best approach.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. You are ready to share secrets with a soulmate, Pisces. The challenge lies in trying to find the time when you are alone to have this important conversation.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 16 — Liberace, entertainer (d)
MAY 17 — Erik Satie, composer (d)
MAY 18 — Tina Fey, actor (55)

MAY 19 — Malcolm X (d)
MAY 20 — Busta Rhymes, rapper (53)
MAY 21 — Plato, philosopher (d)
MAY 22 — Mary Cassatt, artist (d)

CALENDAR

MAY 15-31
2025



THURSDAY, MAY 15

WILLIAM LEE ELLIS IN MONKTON. Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Acclaimed Americana/Blues guitarist William Lee Ellis was raised in the deep roots of American music. Admission is free with donations welcome. A 5 Town Winter Into Spring Musical Library Tour performance.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

TED PERRY TRIO IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 16, 6-7 p.m., Anderson Studio, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. In Town Hall Theater's new Anderson Studio overlooking the river, enjoy early evening jazz with the Ted Perry Trio. At 5 p.m., the adjacent Jean's Place lounge will open, serving beer, wine, specialty cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages.

"NEVER BEFORE SCENE 2025" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 16, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. The Addison Repertory Theatre presents its annual "Never Before Scene," a collection of original 10-minute one-acts, with new works presented in random order and desserts at intermission provided by the Glass Onion Cafe. Tickets available online at addisonrep.ludus.com.

"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 16, 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 range from \$15 for students to \$39 for generous price, available at townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN HUBBARDTON. Saturday, May 17, Taconic Mountain Ramble. This hike will span the two sides of the park on Mt. Zion major and minor for a moderate 5.5-mile hike with a few steep sections and a couple hundred feet of elevation change. Nice views to the southeast and to the west. We will also visit a Japanese Zen garden in the park. To register contact Ryan Grace at rgracerox@gmail.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM OPENING DAY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, May 17, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Vermont authors Jason Barney and Christine Eldred will share stories from their book "Hidden History of Lake Champlain" at 11 a.m. Tours and other activities throughout the day. Free. More info at lcmm.org.

PIANO DEDICATORY CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 17, 4 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. A concert on the 1940 Steinway Parlor Grand with performers Diana and Emory Fanning, Rebecca Mitchell and Robert Ludwig. Music by Ravel, Franck, Medtner, Scriabin, Schubert and

Scarlatti. The public is cordially invited, no admission charge.

ART OPENING RECEPTION IN ORWELL. Saturday, May 17, 7 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. An opening for "It's All About Orwell." Come see artwork depicting Orwell and the surrounding communities. Painting, photography, drawings, pottery, fiber arts and more on display and for sale.

"NEVER BEFORE SCENE 2025" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 17, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. See May 16 listing.

"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 17, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. See May 16 listing.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL. Sunday, May 18, Bristol Ledges. Hike to Deer Leap and to the Bristol Ledges. Total distance is approximately 2.5 miles with an elevation gain of about 1,100 feet. Moderate pace. To register contact Jen Kluever via email at jennifer.kluever@yahoo.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB BACKPACK TRIP IN THE ADIRONDACKS. Sunday-Tuesday, May 18-20, Pharaoh Lake Wilderness, N.Y. Women's backpacking trip in the Adirondack Forest Preserve. This moderately challenging 20(ish)-mile loop will include stops at Oxshoe Pond, Pharaoh Lake, and the summit of Pharaoh Mountain. Limit 6 attendees.

Contact Beth Eliason for additional information at betheliason@gmail.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

FIDDLERS JAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Join Champlain Valley Fiddlers for an afternoon of music and fun. \$3 cover, raffle door prize, refreshments.

"WHARTON BETWEEN THE SHEETS" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 76 Merchants Row. See May 16 listing.

TUESDAY, MAY 20

ME2 — CLASSICAL MUSIC FOR MENTAL HEALTH IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m., Auditorium, Middlebury Union High School, 72 Charles Ave. Counseling Service of Addison County presents an evening of Classical music and connection. Me2/ is the world's only classical music organization created for individuals with mental illnesses and the people who support them. Free ticketed event. More info and tickets at btarallo@csac-vt.org or 802-388-6751 ext. 413.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN SALISBURY. Wednesday, May 21, Silver Lake. Hike to and around Silver Lake. Some rocky parts to navigate. Option for a short side trip to Lenny's Lookout with views west to the Adirondacks. Total distance is 4 to 5 miles with about 1,000 feet of elevation change. To

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, Protests Friday, May 1 5 a.m. Legislative Updates 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Press Conferences 2 p.m. Legislative Immigration Law Panel 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week Saturday, May 17 5 a.m. Under the Dome 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. Immigration Law Panel 11 p.m. Energy Week Sunday, May 18 6 a.m. Energy Week 7 a.m. Immigration Law Panel 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. Immigration Law Panel Monday, May 19 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. Vote For Vermont 5 p.m. Legislative Updates 8 p.m. Immigration Law Panel 10 p.m. Under the Dome Tuesday, May 20 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 10 p.m. Immigration Law Panel Wednesday, May 21 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		11 p.m. Immigration Law Panel Thursday, May 22 5 a.m. Press Conferences 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Racial Disparities Advisory Panel 8 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Immigration Law Panel Channel 1091 Through the Night: Nature, Science, Art Friday, May 16 4 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Gardens & Conservation 12 p.m. Schools Board Meetings, Events 8 p.m. Festival On the Green 10 p.m. Chat with an Artist - Matt Heywood 11 p.m. Sharpe Takes Saturday, May 17 4 a.m. Festival On the Green 5 a.m. Chair Yoga for Better Energy		6:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 7 a.m. Gardens & Conservation 12 p.m. School Board Meetings, Events 5 p.m. Matt Heywood 6 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 p.m. Sharpe Takes 9 p.m. La Bohème Sunday, May 18 5 a.m. Yoga 7 a.m. Tai Chi 8 a.m. Chair Yoga for Energy 10 a.m. Sharpe Takes 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. Local H.S. Sports 7 p.m. La Bohème 10 p.m. All Things LGBTQ Monday, May 19 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Chair Yoga for Energy 7:30 a.m. Doris Eddy (1985 by Deb Ellis) 8 a.m. Tai Chi 12 a.m. Matt Heywood 5 p.m. Sharpe Takes 6:30 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 11 p.m. Music from Around VT	
				Tuesday, May 20 5 a.m. Community Mindfulness 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga for Energy 8 a.m. Matt Heywood 12 p.m. School Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. Tai Chi, Yoga 6 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7 p.m. Music from Around VT 10 p.m. Student Voice In Education Wednesday, May 21 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga for Energy 9 a.m. School Board Meeting 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Authors and Poets 7 p.m. Music from Around VT 10 p.m. Sharpe Takes Thursday, May 22 5 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. School Board Meeting 2 p.m. Authors and Poets 4 p.m. Matt Heywood 5 p.m. La Bohème			

register, contact Dwight Griesman at dwight.griesman@gmail.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"MICHELANGELO: LOVE & DEATH" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, May 21, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Spanning his 88 years, this film takes a cinematic journey through the print and drawing rooms of Europe through the great chapels and museums of Florence, Rome and the Vatican to seek out a deeper understanding of this legendary figure's tempestuous life, his relationship with his contemporaries and his incredible legacy. Tickets \$15, available at townhalltheater.org.

SHELDON MUSEUM OPENING DAY RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, May 21, 4-6 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Join the Sheldon to celebrate Opening Day 2025. Beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), good conversation and live music. Toast to the great new exhibits and the community that came together to make them happen, including artists in the House.

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER STUDENT PERFORMANCE SALON IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, May 21, 6-7:30 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on the green. Come hear MCMC students. Part of MCMC's 10th anniversary program.

EILEEN BRUNETTO AND ALICE ECKLES POETRY READING IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, May 21, 6 p.m., Vermont Book Shop, 38 Main St. Join these local poets for a reading of their recent work. Brunetto has recently published a collection called "The Secret Side of Dorset Street" and Eckles will be reading work originally published in Zig Zag Lit Mag, which she has since collected in a handmade chapbook.

THURSDAY, MAY 22

"DRIVING MISS DAISY" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, May 22, 1 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Join Middlebury's Classic Film Club for a screening and discussion. A Southern matron forges a bond with her black chauffeur in the racially divided 1960s South. Only when he is retired and she is confined to a home for the elderly do the two fully realize that they've been friends and kindred spirits all along.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

STATE HISTORIC SITE OPENING DAY IN ADDISON, HUBBARDTON AND ORWELL. Friday, May 23, Chimney Point State Historic Site, 31 Route 17 West; Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd, Hubbardton; and Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd.

ARTIST'S RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, May 23, 5-6:30 p.m., Edgewater on the Green, Merchants Row. A reception for "Pools of Reverence," a solo exhibition featuring work by Rory Jackson. View the collection, meet the artist, enjoy live music and lite bites. Free and open to all. The exhibit on view through June 29.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

VERMONT CRAFTS COUNCIL OPEN STUDIO WEEKEND. Saturday, May 24, locations around Addison County. Take to the road and see what craftspeople in our part of Vermont are up to. For maps and more info go to vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE MT. HUNGER/WHITE ROCKS LOOP, MIDDLESEX. Saturday, May 24. Hike this 5.5-mile loop to Mt. Hunger and Mt. White Rock. Several beautiful viewpoints with about 2,100 ft. elevation gain. Moderately strenuous, fast-paced hike. Poles recommended. Limited to 6. Dog friendly. Contact Samara Anderson at Anderson_samara@yahoo.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

ART ON THE TRAILS WALK AND OUTDOOR OPEN HOUSE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Join Middlebury Studio School and MALT during Vermont Craft Council's Open Studio Weekend for a unique event designed to bring art to the outdoors. Participants are invited to hike a short self-guided gallery walk along a TAM trail, with Mira Cabrera's original paintings displayed along the way. One mile on uneven and sloping terrain. Rain or shine. Free. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

ARTISTS' RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Edgewater on the Falls, 1 Mill St. A relaxed, pop-in style event — free and open to the public, with live music by Deep Think.

"STRENGTH IN LEARNING DIFFERENCES" KIDS COMICS WORKSHOP IN BRISTOL. Saturday, May 24, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Ever wanted to try your hand at creating comics or talk with a real-life graphic novelist? Mat Heagerty, local creator of some amazing books including "Lumberjackula," offers a special Saturday workshop to share about his own journey with learning disabilities and invite young creatives to collaborate on some comics. Ages 8+. Pre-registration required at lawrencelibraryvt.org/kids-events.

"KING PEDE" CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, May 24 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7. The evening begins with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

VERMONT CRAFTS COUNCIL OPEN STUDIO WEEKEND. Sunday, May 25, locations around Addison County. See May 24 listing.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE AND ART ON THE TRAIL IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 25, Wright Park. Hike and connect with nature and art in a new way. This afternoon hike will begin on a 0.5-mile section of the main trail at Wright Park where hikers will view original abstract paintings by local artist Mira Cabrera. Paintings will be displayed in the environment that inspired them. The hike will continue on easy to moderate trails with 3-4 miles maximum and minimal elevation gain. Poles recommended. Plan to be out for about 2.5 hours. Contact leader Ruth Penfield at ruthpenfield@gmail.com or 802-458-1116 for details and to sign up. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

ART ON THE TRAILS, NATURAL PIGMENT PRESENTATION IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 25, noon-2 p.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Hike a short self-guided gallery walk along a TAM trail, with artist Mira Cabrera's original paintings displayed along the way. Then Cabrera will demonstrate. Watercolor supplies and natural earth pigments and guidance from instructors from Middlebury Studio School will be provided for those who wish to create their own masterpiece to take home. No prior experience is necessary. For all ages. Free. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

ART ON THE TRAILS WALK AND OUTDOOR OPEN HOUSE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, May 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. See May 24 listing.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN LAKE GEORGE, N.Y. Thursday, May 29. Leader's choice on one of several possible trails with beautiful views of the lake. The hike will be 30-40 minute drive from the bridge at Chimney Point. Length will be between 3 and 5 miles with up to 1,000 ft of elevation change. Choice will depend upon trail conditions. Contact Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

MUSIC WITH THE MUSEUM IN FERRISBURGH. Thursday, May 29, 6 p.m., Ferrisburgh Community Center, 3279 Route 7. Live music featuring Patti Casey with Colin McCaffrey, food and drink tastings, and silent auction to benefit Rokeby Museum. Admission \$30 Rokeby Members, \$45 Non-members. More info at 802-877-3406 or rokeby.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

SCULPTURE UNVEILING IN MONKTON. Friday, May 30, 5-7 p.m., Gordon

Sculpture Park, Stoney Meadow Ln. Join the Willowell Foundation for the unveiling of the latest work by Rosalie D. Gagné. This kinetic piece titled "Field Pendulum" invites viewers to look at the complex interplay between personal perception and the larger macrocosmic motions of the Earth. This new work and the supporting structure created with students and community members in Addison County is part of the site-specific installation.

"THE WIZARD OF OZ: YOUTH EDITION" IN BRISTOL. Friday, May 30, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Dr. The MAUSD Expanded Learning Program 6th, 7th and 8th graders will perform this 75-minute adaptation of the classic musical, complete with help from professional riggers, ZFX Flying Effects. Tickets \$5 each at cur8.com/22548/project/131616 or at the door. Assisted listening devices are available upon request.

HARVARD-RADCLIFFE COLLEGIUM MUSICUM IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 30, 7:30 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. A concert of choral music titled "Come to the Woods" will include compositions by J.S. Bach, Heinrich Schütz, Aaron Copland and new works by contemporary composers. Free. No tickets are required.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB TRAIL WORK IN RIPTON. Saturday, May 31, Bread Loaf Wilderness. The trail crew will be working on the Long Trail and connections. Contact Ellen Cronan at 908-595-2926 to sign up and for further information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

SPRING CLEANING SATURDAY ON THE TAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 31, 8:30 a.m., location TBD. MALT's Trails & Volunteer Manager, Liam, will be awaiting volunteers at the trailhead in the mornings with donuts, coffee, and tea for about an hour or so. Enjoy a warm drink and chat, then head out to work, either hiking the section of trail yourself as a group with Liam. Work includes clearing dead branches and small fallen trees, pruning new growth, and picking up trash. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

"THE WIZARD OF OZ: YOUTH EDITION" IN BRISTOL. Saturday, May 31, 2 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Dr. See May 30 listing.

CHAT WITH AN ARTIST IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, May 31, 5:30-6:30 p.m., 94 Court St. Join Middlebury Studio School for its Chat with an Artist series in the school's new space on Court Street. In this talk potters Bob Green and Kathy Clark will talk about Raku and alternative firing techniques. Free. More info at middleburystudioschool.org.

MUSEUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

**Material Narratives:
Ornament & Identity**

**Slow Seeing: A Close
Observation Room**

**Stitching Memories:
Daughters, Samplers, and Family Records**

The Henry Sheldon Museum on May 5 welcomed Emily Bryant as the new collections manager/curator for their exhibits, and Moseley said she's excited to "broaden the exhibits at the museum" in order to "engage with contemporary issues."

"We worked with community members, college students, contemporary artists and trustees to put together the 2025 season," Moseley said. "It's fairly eclectic... We certainly have the Vermont classic barns and bouquets, but I love the pieces that make you stop and say, 'Huh, I didn't expect to see that here.'"

Moseley pointed to the downstairs exhibit "Finding Hope Within," as an example of this contemporary expansion.

The community-curated exhibition features works of art that have emerged through Vermont's carceral system — prisons, jails and other institutions for dealing with people who are "problematic" — alongside historical artifacts from the collection of the Henry Sheldon Museum. The original artworks included in this exhibit were curated by John Vincent (A Revolutionary Press) and Vermont Works for Women

The exhibit will be punctuated by a film screening at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in August called "Paint Me a Road Out of Here" (details TBA).

"This is an example of how we are hoping to integrate the museum with other cultural events and happenings in town," Moseley said.

So, yeahhhh, here are some *more* "want-to-dos" for you to consider this May.



FLY ON THE WALL

The Addison Repertory Theatre will present the final show of its season on Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17, at 7 p.m. "Never Before Scene" is a collection of short plays created by the company members in conjunction with Vermont Young Playwrights. It's always a fun evening with audience participation, a little chaos, and desserts at intermission from PAHCC's own Glass Onion Cafe. Tickets are \$15 and are available at addisonrep.ludus.com.

COURTESY PHOTOS



This "Birdhouse" by Steve Hadeka is up for bid in Henry Sheldon Museum's summer exhibit auction, "Artists in the House."

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

CLASSICAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

"WE'RE DEDICATED TO FOSTERING A COMMUNITY IN ADDISON COUNTY WHERE **EVERYONE FEELS THEY BELONG.**"

— Rachel Lee

each year with a wide range of services for individuals, youth, and families — from mental health support, substance use recovery, to individualized services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. But our mission is bigger than services alone. We're dedicated to fostering a community in Addison County where everyone feels they belong. This performance beautifully illustrates our core belief: that a strong, healthy community is something we build together."

Learn more about CSAC at csac-vt.org and more Me2/Classical Music for Mental Health at me2music.org.

MAY 2025
A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT



Local *Pets*

Photos, contests, and more
for Addison County's four-legged community

MIDDLEBURY **AGWAY** presents

BEST *Pet* PHOTO

C O N T E S T

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S TOTALLY PAWESOME PET PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Over 100 entries celebrated the incredible bond between pets and their people. From playful pups and cuddly cats to hilarious horses and beyond, each photo told a heartwarming story.

Winners were chosen by popular vote—thank you to everyone who cast their votes and helped spotlight their favorite pet pals!

All entries can be viewed on the Addison Independent's [Facebook](#) page and online at [addisonindependent.com](#).

The top winner in each category will receive a prize from **Middlebury Agway** and will be contacted within the next week.

*Special thanks to **Middlebury Agway** for their support in making this contest possible!*

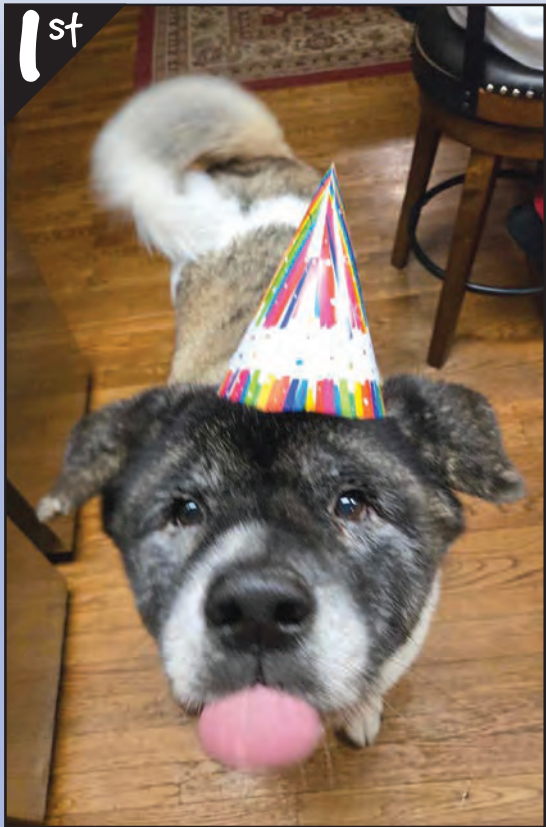


COVER ART:

Meet Gemma! This adorable Golden Retriever pup took a frolic in her new yard in Weybridge last week.

PHOTO / OLIVER PARINI

Funny Faces



Nanook

Age: 8 years
Paw-Parent: Stephanie Kellogg

Nanook is an American Akita, he has been with us since he was 8 weeks old. He is a fluffy, loving, and playful companion. His favorite thing to do in the winter is to play in the snow, and in summer, he loves a boat ride on Lake Dunmore.



Pickles

Age: 7 months
Paw-Parent: Meagan Oberly

Pickles may be only 11 pounds, but he truly believes he is one of the big dogs. He fetches like a champ and snuggles like a baby. Every day, he brings nothing but joy and laughter into our home. He gets to play with all of his friends at Woof Pack. They are the ones who took this amazing picture of him!



Oaklee

Age: 3 years
Paw-Parent: Julie Lonergan

Oaklee is saying, "Hello in there!" But her face tells you, "There is no way I am crawling through that culvert to get to mom! It is too dark, wet, & narrow for my little body!"

Winners

As chosen by the **Addison Independent** readers.



Best Pals



Humphrey & Watson

Age: 9 months
Paw-Parent: Amy Leno

"Get two," they said. "It'll be fun," they said. Even on their most naughty days, the love these two share for each other is all-consuming. Who couldn't love two yellow labs that bring so much joy and happiness wherever they go?



Pippin and Apollo

Age: 2 years
Paw-Parent: Phoebe Downs

Brothers Pippin and Apollo are super adorable, and like nothing better than snuggling with each other and their humans!



Oaklee & Molly

Age: 3 years and 3 weeks
Paw-Parent: Julie Lonergan

These two have bonded since the day Molly (British white/Angus calf) was born. Oaklee just figured Molly was a bigger dog. Molly lost her mom just a week after she was born, and we fed her for three months. Each day, Oaklee would be there when we did chores, and on this day, we let Molly out to be with the other cattle for a bit. Oaklee is telling her it's okay, gives her a kiss, and says, "Have fun! I will be here for you when you come back to the barn."



Oaklee & Muri

Age: 3 years and 15 years
Paw-Parent: Julie Lonergan

These two bonded from day one when we got Oaklee at ten weeks old. The togetherness they showed for one another, as both knew that life was getting shorter for the older dog, was beautiful. Inseparable until the end.



MIDDLEBURY  presents

BEST PHOTO

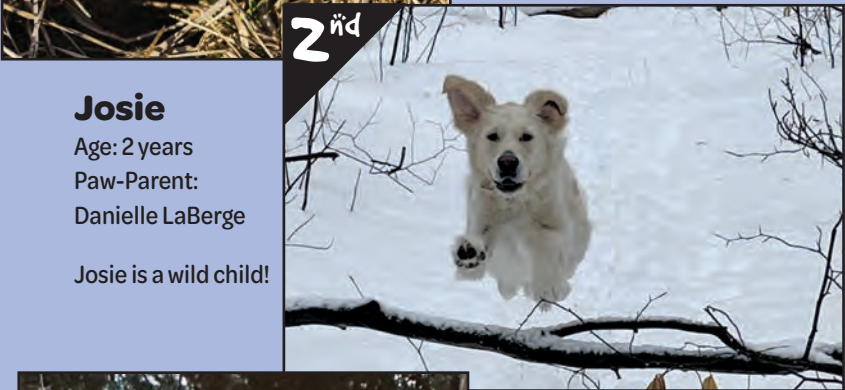
C O N T E S T

Action Shot



Winnie
Age: 4 years
Paw-Parent: Liz Marcotte

Winnie is always making us smile and laugh! She is a rescue dog from Texas and is so happy to be in Vermont playing in the snow, rolling in the green grass, or digging some Addison County mud!



Josie
Age: 2 years
Paw-Parent: Danielle LaBerge

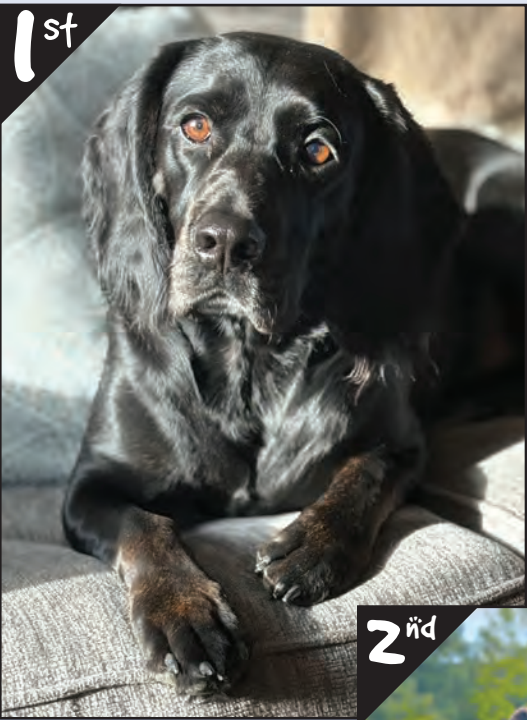
Josie is a wild child!



Oaklee
Pet Age: 3 years
Paw-Parent: Julie Lonergan

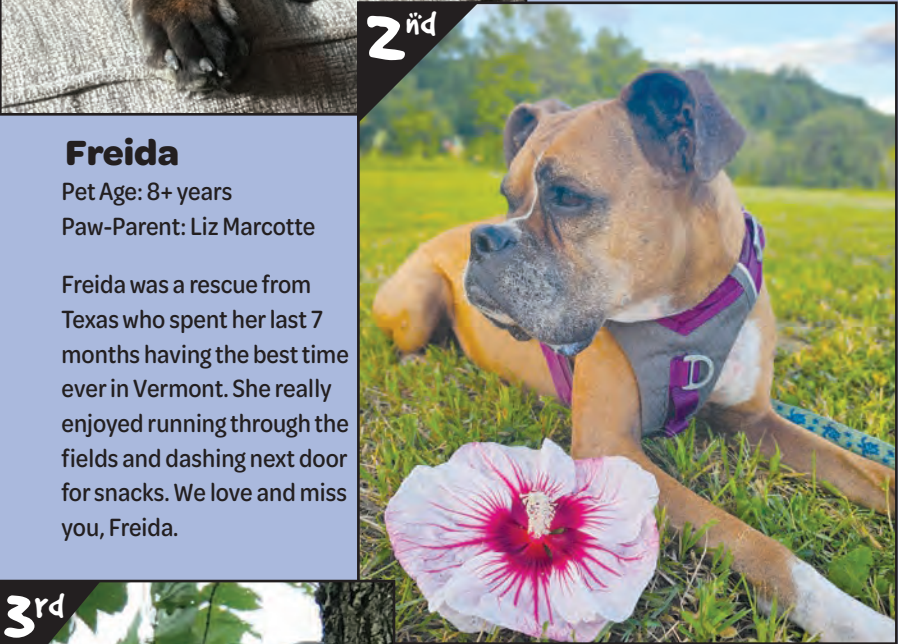
Couldn't resist! Oaklee was not happy with the groundhog's prediction this year. She has so many toys, but today she took her groundhog out for a walk (hike) with me. The snow was deep—too deep for her short little legs. Oaklee's reaction to the prediction: "Groundhog, you need to go back into the ground! Winter—go away!" Oaklee pounced on her groundhog. She always makes me laugh.

Model Shot



Otis
Pet Age: 5 years
Paw-Parent: Rachel Cornellier

Otis is a bubble-loving, hound-sniffing, farm animal-loving, snuggle bug! He's never met anyone or anything he doesn't instantly want to love on.



Freida
Pet Age: 8+ years
Paw-Parent: Liz Marcotte

Freida was a rescue from Texas who spent her last 7 months having the best time ever in Vermont. She really enjoyed running through the fields and dashing next door for snacks. We love and miss you, Freida.



Charlotte
Pet Age: 4 years
Paw-Parent: Tammy Nadeau

Charlotte is special because she chose us before we even chose her. She was our neighbor's cat, but started visiting and eventually chose to stay with us. I used to hate cats—until Charlotte. When she narrowly escaped a fox one night, we asked if she could become ours. That was three years ago. Charlotte now lives safely indoors and is a full-time house cat. Her sweet meows, snuggles, and playful nature have completely changed my heart.

Winners

As chosen by the **Addison Independent** readers.

Work Companions



Charlie Girl

Age: 5 years
Paw-Parent: Myriah Cogswell

Charlie Girl is a registered therapy dog and has been a classroom assistant in my Kindergarten class since she was a puppy. As you can see, she takes her job very seriously. Charlie participates in all aspects of our day, including circle time, reces,s and academic learning. The children love to read to her and partner with her for math games. Charlie Girl loves to snuggle with her students and comfort them when they need a little extra support. Over the years, each age group has gotten to know and love Charlie Girl. She even worked remotely during COVID, always present during online school. She's an important member of our school community and provides support to many children and adults.



Norman

Age: 5 years
Paw-Parent: Amanda Bodell

Norman joined our family after experiencing a difficult young life. It took some time, and he is now loving and trusting. Bred to protect, he is keenly aware of scents and sounds. Shown here, on high alert. Norman loves rides in the car, chewing (no longer our shoes or furniture!), walks in the woods, and his people.



Oakley

Age: 4 months (in photo)
Paw-Parent: Sarah Lathrop

Oakley loves to help with filing for his daddy's business!



BEST *Pet* PHOTO CONTEST *Winners*

Couch Potatoes



Maeve
Pet Age: 1 year
Paw-Parent: Beth Quenneville

Maeve is a silver Bengal who alternates between being super active and enjoying her naps. She has mastered playing fetch and catch, and enjoys a good game of hide and seek.



Millie
Pet Age: 8 years
Paw-Parent: Amanda Sargent

Millie has become one with the couch in her adult years. However, she comes to life in an instant if she hears the popcorn popper. Her favorite pastime is sharing a bowl of popcorn with her best Mimi, Tedi.



Gatsby
Pet Age: 9 years
Paw-Parent:
Mary Beth Novosel

Gatsby is delightfully loving, goofy, and fun! He is the cure for any bad day.



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Pet Spotlight



Hi! I'm Missy! A 1-year-old heeler mix full of energy. If you're looking for an athletic sidekick – I'm your girl! I can leap further than a frog and jump higher than a ninja. But not to worry, I'm so smart that I can learn to do it all on cue! Would you want to train me? I'm sure it's not a surprise that I'm a fast learner! I came to the shelter as a stray, so staff has no history of me. I love people but can be stressed around other dogs in the shelter. With proper introduction, I can warm up to other dogs. My history with cats and children is unknown. Even if I'm energetic, I do appreciate some nice down time and affection from people I love. I enjoy basking in the sun and to solve all the different puzzle toys I'm given. Can you be the one to give me a new chance of life? I'd love to be your forever friend!

If you would like to meet Missy, please call Homeward Bound, 802-388-1100, extension 110, or email canine@homewardboundanimals.org. Dog meet and greets are by appointment, Monday through Saturday.



Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Wilma & Pebbles

Wilma and Pebbles are a bonded pair of lovely ladies who arrived after being on their own for way too long. Originally very shy and scared, after a lot of love from staff and volunteers, they have made a lot of progress. Wilma is very affectionate and outgoing now; she is a source of confidence for Pebbles, who is still on the shy side. We are hoping to find them a low-energy home that will continue to shower them with love and patience.



Paul Bunyan & Jack Black



Paul Bunyan and Jack Black are two lively, lovable brothers with big personalities and even bigger hearts. Most buns like to hide when they first arrive somewhere new, but not us! The second we hopped into the shelter, we were on the move—checking out the digs, sampling the toys, hopping in and out of tunnels, and introducing ourselves like true gentlemen. No time to be shy when there's fun to be had! But don't get us wrong—when the festivities are over, we're expert loungers. Nothing beats stretching out after a good exploring session or flopping dramatically just to show how cozy we can get. We're all about balance: a little mischief, a little mellow. We're used to the free-room life and have been socialized with kids and all kinds of other animals, so we're pretty laid-back and confident in new situations. Nothing much rattles us as long as you're soft, gentle, and willing to be friends with us! Two bunnies mean double the love, double the entertainment, and double the nose boops.



Daisy



Hi! I'm **Daisy**! A super sweet, goofy mixed breed. I absolutely love people and will wiggle my body out of excitement to say hello. Toys are my favorite, and I will gladly play fetch and tug. I'm housebroken and walk well on a leash. In my previous home, I didn't get along with the other female dog. I'm fine with male dogs, but will need proper introduction. I've been around cats before and enjoy chasing them. I'm looking for an active family that can give me endless cuddles! Daisy is currently in a foster home. Please call or email to schedule a meet and greet.



Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society



Want to learn more?

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you!
802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
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Congratulations to all of this year's Pet Contest participants and winners! We love sharing in the beauty and notoriety of your cherished family members and hope that your family, friends and neighbors will play in future years.

With warm hugs and firm paw shakes from everyone at Middlebury Agway.

Small Animal Products

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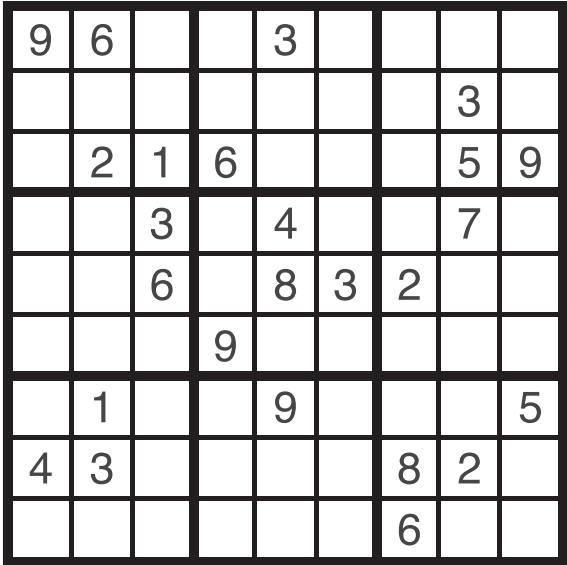
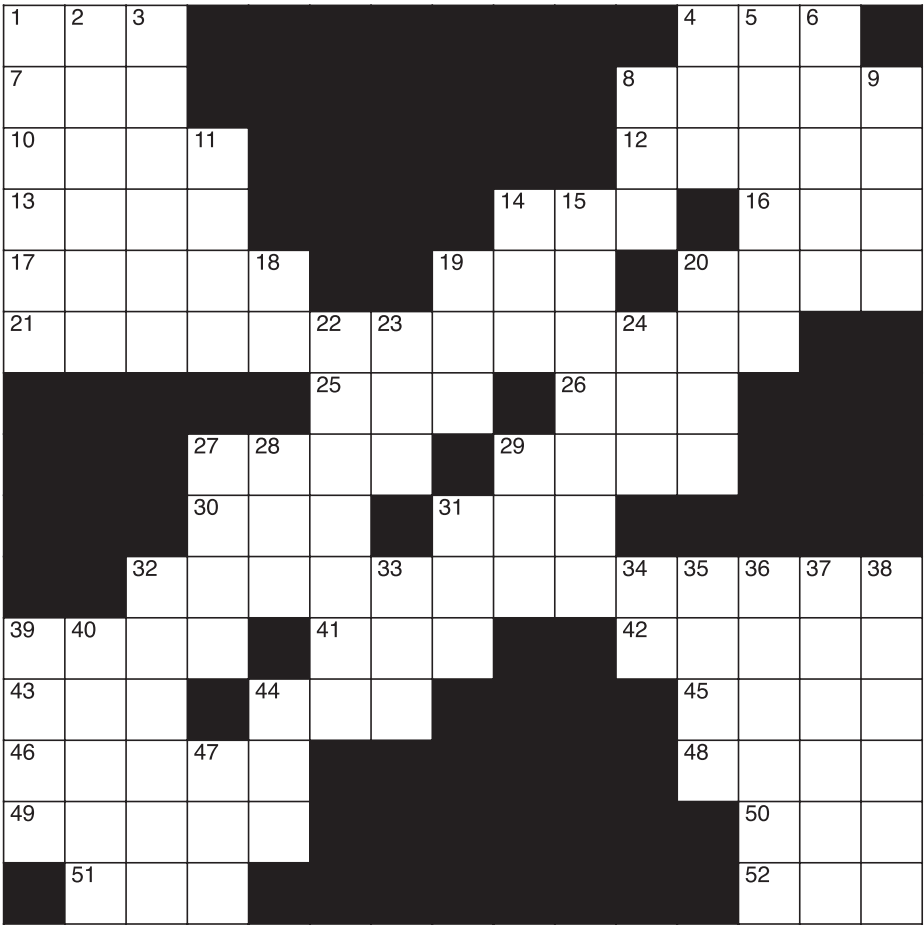
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ACROSS

- 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 4. British thermal unit
- 7. Afflict
- 8. Refrain from harming
- 10. Galls
- 12. Leg bone
- 13. Rhine distributary
- 14. Recipe measurement
- 16. Chap
- 17. Useful book
- 19. Mountain Time
- 20. Snakelike fishes
- 21. Places where people live
- 25. US, Latin America,

- Canada belong to
- 26. Periodical
- 27. A type of sense
- 29. A way to get possession of
- 30. Everyone has one
- 31. Body art
- 32. Mr. October
- 39. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 41. Head movement
- 42. Jeweled headdress
- 43. VCR button
- 44. A way to change color
- 45. Basketball move
- 46. Upright stone slab
- 48. Forest-dwelling

- monkey
 - 49. Pulsate steadily
 - 50. Negative
 - 51. Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.)
 - 52. Unit of work
- DOWN
- 1. Island
 - 2. Pittsburgh ballplayer
 - 3. Chemical compound
 - 4. Indicates density of data (abbr.)
 - 5. Mesas
 - 6. Wild, long-legged sheep
 - 8. Engine additive



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. "CSI" actor George
- 11. Stony waste matter
- 14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- 15. Pores in a leaf's epidermis
- 18. Digraph
- 19. Married woman
- 20. Peripheral
- 22. Northern Italy city
- 23. Klutz
- 24. Type of tree
- 27. Witnessed
- 28. Popular breakfast food
- 29. __ Mahal
- 31. BoSox legend Williams
- 32. Professional drivers
- 33. Atom or molecule type
- 34. The Constitution
- State
- 35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish)
- 36. Type of solution
- 37. Speaker
- 38. Specifying
- 39. Formerly (archaic)
- 40. Wiseman and Krom are two
- 44. The bill in a restaurant
- 47. Tennis shot

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 20.



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UPCOMING MUSIC

Monkton library welcomes Americana/roots musician William Lee Ellis, free concert May 22

Acclaimed Americana/Blues guitarist William Lee Ellis will round out the second annual Winter Into Spring Musical Library Tour presented in partnership with 5-Town Friends of the Arts on Thursday, May 22, 7:30 p.m., at the Russell Memorial Library in Monkton.

Named after his godfather, legendary bluegrass pioneer Bill Monroe, Ellis grew up in a musical family — his father, respected banjo composer Tony Ellis, was one of Monroe's Blue Grass Boys.

Growing up in the Kingsport-Bristol-Johnson City cradle of country music, Tennessee-native Ellis was immersed in roots music heaven at an early age — some of his earliest memories include trips with his father to visit old time music master Tommy Jarrell and being bounced on his godfather's knee. It was only natural to take up the guitar, and Ellis spent his adolescence backing his fiddle-and-banjo-playing dad at bluegrass festivals and contests across the country.

In college, Ellis took his musical studies in a new direction, spending the better part of a decade playing classical guitar and earning a master's degree in classical performance from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music. While there, Ellis chanced upon a musician who would change his life: Piedmont blues giant Reverend Gary Davis. Folk-blues revivalist Andy Cohen introduced Ellis to Davis' intricate fingerpicking style, which fascinated the classically trained guitarist.

"Davis was both a brilliant sacred musician and bluesman, and that's a mix I love dearly in pre-war traditional and folk music," Ellis said. "A combination of the heavenly and the hellish, full of tension, drama and gut-hitting emotion."

Along the way — including years living in Japan then Memphis — Ellis learned to combine Davis' fingerpicking technique with his classical performance background and the bluegrass-infused memories of his youth. Yet it's clear that he's no revivalist — Ellis writes his own unique music, using old blues forms and apocalyptic gospel themes as a vocabulary to express contemporary experiences. In his quest to capture the timeless appeal of pre-war traditions, and to make the music's message live for today, Ellis has created a brand of Americana/roots music that's all his own.

Ellis' recordings have been hailed by the international press from Billboard to the London Times: his six albums include four for noted roots label Yellow Dog Records: 2000's "The Full Catastrophe," 2003's "Conqueroo," picked as one of the year's best records by *Acoustic Guitar* magazine; 2006's "God's Tattoos," which won a Best International CD honor at Australia's BlueStar Awards; and 2023's "Ghost Hymns," nominated for Acoustic Blues Album of the Year at the prestigious Blues Music Awards.

The decade-long gap in Ellis's recording activity is simple: he stepped into academia,



William Lee Ellis will perform the final concert of the second annual Winter Into Spring Musical Library Tour at Monkton's Russell Memorial Library on Thursday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.

PHOTO / JERRY SWOPE

earning a PhD in ethnomusicology and moving to Addison, Vt., where he is Chair of Fine Arts and Professor of Music at Saint Michael's College. In Vermont, Ellis has not only taught on blues, jazz, and gospel music but has published on blues and folk art in equal measure, culminating in the spring 2023 show he curated at the Art Museum of the University of Memphis, "Build a Heaven of My Own: African American Vernacular Art and the Blues." He has also curated an ongoing series at Burlington's Flynn theater, "New Voices," that celebrate the diasporic music making of regional acts and communities, many with an immigrant or refugee backgrounds.

Don't miss this incredible show in Monkton next Thursday evening. Free and open to all.



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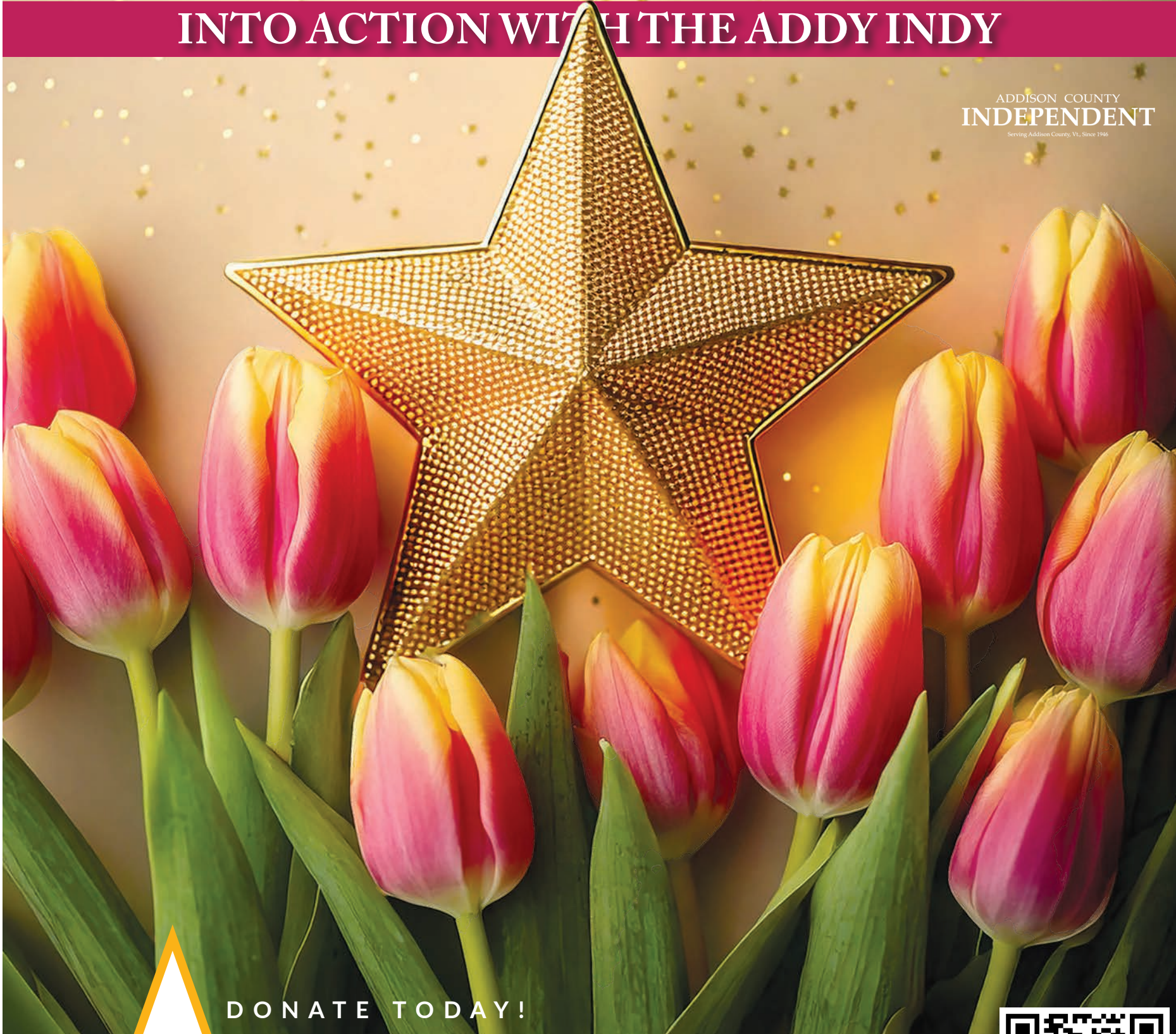
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STUDIO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

pastel painter and teacher with a studio in Middlebury. "It's an opportunity for the public to connect with the artists, witness the intricacies of their workspaces, and be inspired by their creative journeys."

In addition to studio tours, participating small galleries and art centers, such as Art on Main in Bristol, will also showcase unique collections of handmade and local artwork. Visitors can expect an array of special events and exhibits, offering an immersive experience of the region's vibrant art scene.

Whether you're a seasoned art lover or simply curious about the creative process, Open Studio Weekend promises to be an engaging experience. Attendees will have the chance to interact with artists, ask questions, watch them create, and gain insight into the passion and dedication that fuels their work.

"Open Studio Weekend has been an incredible way for me to connect with the people and organizations around our state with similar interests, and a fun excuse to put on a great event!" said Mira Cabrera, artist and founder of Growing in Process in Middlebury.

For more information on participating artists and venues, visit vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend.

LOCAL ARTISTS

ART ON MAIN. ARTIST cooperative gallery, works in many media. 25 Main St, Bristol.

ELLEN SPRING STUDIO. Dyed, painted, silk fiber wearables. 2476 Ireland Rd, Starksboro .

ROBERT COMPTON POTTERY. Handthrown functional and decorative pottery. 2662 N 116 Rd, Bristol.

CHRISTINE HOMER. Handwoven Scarves and Shawls. 2662 N 116 Rd, Bristol.

DEBORAH HOLMES ART. Watercolors, giclee prints and acryla-gouache paintings. 24 Garfield St, Bristol.

7TH CIRCLE GLASS WORKS:
KENDRA SCHPOK. Stained glass panels. 650 Quarry Rd, New Haven.

BRIDPORT HILL POTTERY:
CATHERINE S. MANEGOLD. Reduction fired porcelain ceramics. 1316 Forrest Rd, Bridport .

SNAKE MOUNTAIN TUNERY:
WARREN MCDERMOTT. Wood turning, sculpture. 1664 Forrest Rd, Bridport.

GROWING IN PROCESS:
MIRA CABRERA. Contemporary abstracts, natural pigments, in a nature trail setting. Wright Park Trailhead (South) Middlebury.

TRILLIUM ART & BEYOND:
YINGLEI ZHANG. Chinese painting and calligraphy, ceramic, stone and woodwork. 56 High St, Middlebury.

JUDY ALBRIGHT FINE ART. Pastel painter, originals & prints. 1 Chipman Heights, Middlebury.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY. Art supplies and rotating local exhibits. 44 Main St, Middlebury.

MIKE MAYONE FINE ART. Paintings, prints, note cards, realism, lessons. 8 Case St, Middlebury.

GEORGE MARCUS. Colored pencil drawings, landscapes, still lifes, portraits. 420 East Main St, East Middlebury.

TRUE WATER GALLERY:
MOLLY HAWLEY. Portraits, landscapes, abstracts, fabric art.

CQ GLASSWORKS: CAROLINE QUICK. Kiln formed fused glass. 840 Stoney Hill Rd, Bristol.



"Spirit in Nature" by Mira Cabrera.



"Sunflowers, White House" by Deb Holmes.

PUZZLE

SOLUTIONS MAY 15, 2025

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5	8	2	3	1	4	6	9	7



102 B COURT STREET, MIDDLEBURY
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THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Upstairs office space in Middlebury

Is it time? This second-floor office space condo offers a front and center entrance, four private upper-level offices, a shared half bath, and a kitchenette. If working from home isn't as easy as you hoped it would be, or maybe a professional office in an area zoned commercial is a more effective presence for your business, it may be time to consider 102 B Court Street. Why not build equity through your workspace? It streamlines tax prep and encourages a better work/life balance. If you rent out one or two of your spaces, you'll be able to offset the expense. Or, present the opportunity for strategic alliances with colleagues. This is a high-visibility location on a primary corridor into and out of Middlebury, complete with three designated parking spaces. There's even plenty of storage in the third-floor attic. Maybe an office suite condo is just the sort of smart move your business needs to thrive.



*This week's property is managed by IPJ Real Estate.
More info at middvermontrealestate.com.*





CORNWALL *NEW LISTING!*
394 CIDER MILL ROAD
MLS #5040200 | \$799,000
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This is the location you have been waiting for! Located on one of the most desirable streets in the area, this home sits on over 5 acres with beautiful green mountain views! Well maintained, there are hardwood floors throughout, and plenty of natural light. Many new windows installed and insulation added in 2018. Newly replaced deck on the east side where you can take in the gorgeous view! A two car garage needs some TLC, but is a good place to store your car or tractor. Just 3 miles to downtown Middlebury, you have the best of both worlds, privacy and views, but convenient to town for restaurants, shopping, theater and local events.



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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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.

"Beyond Walls" featuring works made by artist, image maker, and photographer Hannah Smith Allen, reimagining the U.S./Mexico border. This collection was created during Donald Trump's first presidency, including still photographs, unique screen prints, and Borderlands, an accordion book/sculptural object originally published by the VSW Press in 2021. Also included in this exhibition is "Target Practice," a series of military targets fabricated out of acrylic mirror. The work holds a mirror up to current politics and invites viewers to imagine new possibilities in interpreting, interrupting, and engaging with the American landscape and its political systems. Free and open to all during gallery hours: Sun. 1-7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Saturdays.

K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St, Vergennes

For more info visit kgrantfineart.com.

"Signals," a group exhibition featuring works by Steve Budington, Grace Hager, David Kearns, JoAnne Lobotsky, Jennifer

McCandless, and Aimée Papazian. 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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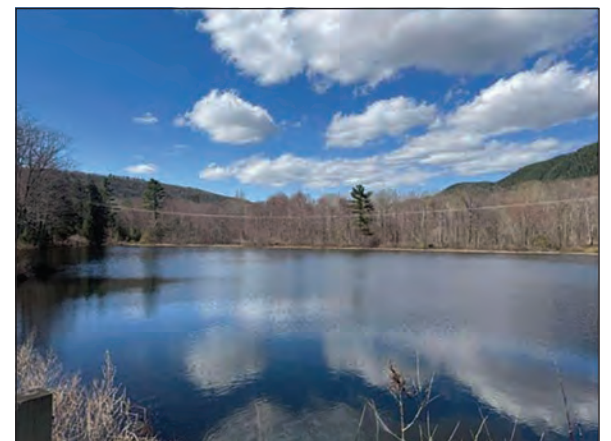


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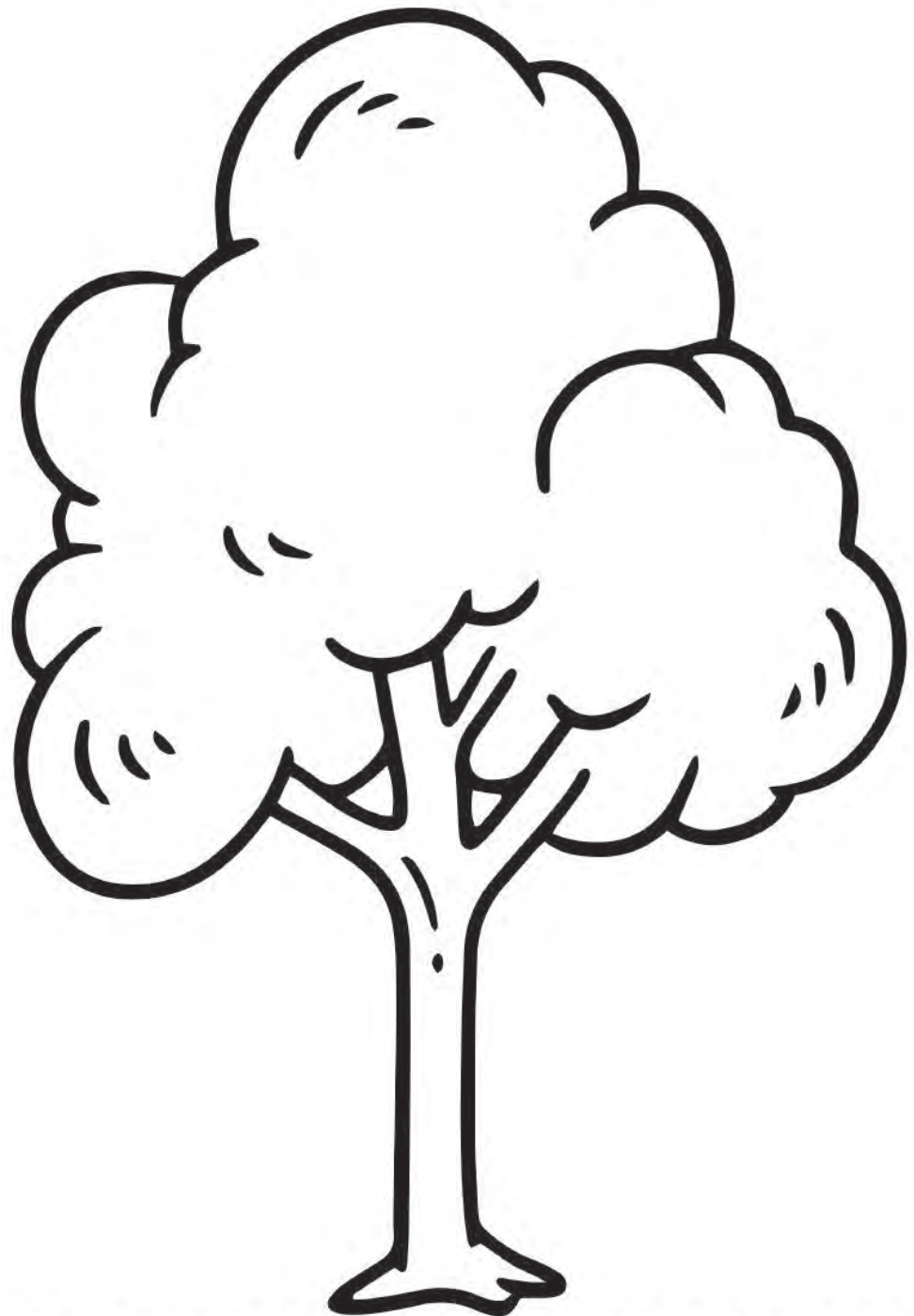
Submit your entries:

- ♦ 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.

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