



Record breaker

A Lincoln native mixes grit and grief in her memoir on running and life. See Arts + Leisure.



On the ball

The Tiger tennis teams both have winning records and won recent home matches. See Page 1B.



Memorial Day

Students at county schools learn the lessons of honor and duty. Then parades. Read our pull-out.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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ACSD again eyes school repair plans

Board: Is now a good time to invest?

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Engineering a five-year capital improvement plan for nine school buildings that have collectively accrued millions in repair and upgrade needs would be difficult enough.

But Addison Central School District (ACSD) directors are

having to confront those delayed capital improvements at a time when taxpayers' patience is already being stretched thin, construction costs are high, and state lawmakers appear on the cusp of making major changes in the way public schools are operated and funded.

The ACSD board in March commissioned the firm Truex-Cullins Architects to develop a capital improvement plan for the district's three largest schools: Mary Hogan Elementary, and Middlebury Union middle and high schools.

Now the board must decide whether to pay the same company \$90,000 to also map

out upgrades to some or all of the ACSD's six rural elementary schools, in Bridport, Cornwall, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge. The panel is calling that "process B."

All this planning would lead to a district-wide bond vote on either Town Meeting Day of 2026, the November mid-term (See ACSD upgrades, Page 14A)

Crews repair landslide along busy Bristol artery

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Crews in Bristol on Wednesday were wrapping up repairs to a slope failure on West Street, west of the Village Creeme Stand.

Heavy rains over the weekend

had caused the slope buttressing West Street to slide away, causing delays and a detour on Monday as repair efforts proceeded on the road, which is also known as Routes 116 and 12. The landslide (See Landslide, Page 17A)

Former board chair to be clerk in Ferrisburgh

By ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — Former Ferrisburgh Selectboard Chair Jessica James will be the new town clerk, the selectboard confirmed on Tuesday.

Current Selectboard Chair Clark Hinsdale told the *Independent* that James, for the past 13 years an office manager and legal assistant for Vergennes law firm Ouimette and Runcie, was the candidate the hiring committee recommended to the selectboard at a May 6 executive session.

After coming out of that closed door meeting, Hinsdale said the board voted to offer James a contract. A deal was reached within a few days, he said, subject to the formality of making the official appointment at the next selectboard meeting — this past Tuesday's.

Hinsdale described James, 43, as a "home run" hire.

Asked why, he answered, "Her background on the selectboard, her growing up in the town and (See James, Page 11A)



By the way

Anyone who's regularly driven through downtown Middlebury during the past month has been able to see workers steadfastly chop down the 1977 and 1988 additions of the Ilsley Public Library at 75 Main St. Well, the tear-down is done and it's time to look forward to new construction at the Ilsley. Town officials have scheduled a groundbreaking ceremony for Wednesday. (See By the way, Page 14A)

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Best friends

JAKE WILEY LOVES his dogs! He must — the Middlebury resident takes these four pooches on daily walks, which turn into trots and sometimes full-out jogs that end up as long as five miles. They are shown here on Monday as they ramble through the Marble Works. Wiley said when he gets this quartet home he planned to take out his Bernese mountain dog for a warm-down.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Kids learning from adults in the community

By MARIN HOWELL

STARKSBORO — It was around two decades ago that former Robinson Elementary School counselor Amy Johnston planted the seeds for a program that would connect students at the school with adults in the Starksboro community.

"I noticed that there was a real need for one-to-one, adult-child time amongst our population,"

Johnston told the *Independent*. "The kids were really needing longer periods of time and extended periods of time with a consistent, caring adult."

The program kicked off with five adult volunteers interested in mentoring children. It's grown significantly since then, expanding into Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School and each of the elementary schools

in the Mount Abraham Unified School District. Today, there are 80 mentor/mentees matches across the district.

The mentoring program will mark its 20th anniversary with a June 1 celebration at Robinson Elementary. The event will invite past and present participants to reflect on a program that's changed hundreds of lives over the years.

"(My mentee) is just one of

my favorite people in my whole life," said Edorah Frazer, former principal of Robinson Elementary School and a current mentor. "I honestly think a fair number of mentors might say that, and certainly mentees would also say that."

THROUGH THE YEARS

Robinson's mentoring program was founded in 2005. At the (See Mentoring, Page 12A)

Collaboration is key for Bristol business

Hosts community events, classes

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Megan Walsh and Silas Clark share several interests, particularly when it comes to growing food and building community.

It makes sense then that the duo is building on those passions together through their work at the Bristol Collaborative Campus, or BCC, which they operate at 140 North St.

The property is home to the pair's greenhouse business, Bristol Botanicals, as well as the site during the summer of live concerts and various classes and workshops. And that's not all — Clark and Walsh have some other projects in the works that they're hoping will eventually create more opportunities for community

members to gather at BCC, such as through cooking classes and pop-up meals.

"A big part of what we wanted to do is make this for the people, for the community, and pull people together and make them feel comfortable coming here, making really awesome plants affordable as well, and just recognizing that it really takes a community to get by in the world these days," Walsh said during a recent interview.

Walsh and Clark opened BCC last year. The site was previously the longtime home of Pine Tree Gardens, run by the Heffernan family.

Clark, a Monkton native and experienced carpenter, was drawn to the property partially due to (See Bristol, Page 10A)

"It really takes a community to get by in the world these days."

— Megan Walsh



Lions and Tigers and Bears — Oh My!

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS rehearse in the MAUSD Expanded Learning Program's rendition of "The Wizard of Oz" in the Mount Abraham Union High School auditorium on Monday. From left are Sarah Zelonis (as Toto), Milo Stoddard (Tin Man), Delia Park (Dorothy) and Piper Donlon (Scarecrow). See more photos and a story on Page 13A.

Independent photo/Steve James

Free meals to be offered this summer

Children to be served at multiple local sites

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — More than 80,000 preK-12 Vermont children will leave school with an extra skip in their step next month when the spring semester gives way to summer vacation.

And while summer away from school can be a blast, hunger never takes a holiday. Many parents brace for the longest school vacation with a mixture of joy and trepidation. Joy, knowing there's an opportunity for more family time, but also anxiety about how to fill the breakfast and lunch void for their kids when school cafeterias close.

Well, summer food won't be a (See Summer meals, Page 17A)

MAUSD staff see raises in new contract

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District and its teachers' union have settled on a new contract for professional staff that includes salary increases of 9%, 6.25%, 5.50% over the next three years.

The MAUSD Board ratified the three-year agreement with the Mount Abraham Education Association (MAEA) at a special May 6 meeting. The contract will take effect July 1.

The MAEA represents preK-12 (See MAUSD, Page 11A)

Panton elects two new selectboard members

By ANDY KIRKALDY
PANTON — In what was essentially a three-way race, Panton residents on Thursday, May 15, strongly endorsed a family farm owner and a town business owner to fill the two newly created seats on the Panton selectboard.
With about 17% of residents voting, BJ’s Farm Supply co-owner Robert DeGraaf outpolled multiple job holder Debbie Brace, 81-13, for a one-year term on what will now be a five-member selectboard.
In the other contest, farm owner Kirsten De La Cruz similarly defeated Brace, 80-14. Brace had filed for both seats.
On Town Meeting Day, Panton residents had backed a proposal to expand what had been a three-person board to five members. That vote in favor was 101-60 amid 29% turnout.
De La Cruz and DeGraaf will join Chair Zachary Weaver, Vice Chair Teresa Boucher, and Reece Jaring, who was elected in March,

on the board.
Also in Thursday voting, Panton residents backed, 56-39, a proposed charter change that would allow town residents to petition for recall elections for elected town officials.
Such a recall vote petition was originally proposed this past fall by resident Sharon Ashcraft, but it was amended by what was then the town’s three-member selectboard after it was learned the petition didn’t arrive at town hall in a timely manner.
That original petition for the charter change simply stated a majority vote would be enough to oust an official. Some residents at public hearings on the charter change said they preferred the originally proposed amendment.
Selectboard members maintained there should be minimum thresholds to be cleared before an elected official would lose their position. Thus, the selectboard added provisions into the proposed charter change that was put before

voters on May 15.
Specifically, if an official is to be removed from office, the proposed charter change requires he or she must have at least as many residents “vote for removal as voted to elect said officer in the most recent election wherein the officer was elected, or at least one-third of the registered voters of the town vote, whichever is fewer.”
The board also added language that only one recall petition can be filed against an elected Panton officer in a 12-month span, and that at least 15% of the town’s checklist would have to sign a petition to trigger a recall vote.
Now that residents have voted to change the town’s charter to create the recall process, like any Vermont community’s charter change, it will have to pass legal muster with the Secretary of State’s office and then win approval from the Vermont Legislature, before taking effect. That is not likely to happen until 2026.



MIDDLEBURY OFFICIALS ARE reviewing a proposal to replace the Jolley (Mobil) convenience store/ gas station at 220 Court St. with a Stewart’s Shop.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Stewart’s Shop pitched in Middlebury

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Development Review Board (DRB) is considering an application to remove the 1,848-square-foot Jolley (Mobil) convenience store/gas station at 220 Court St. — sometimes referred to as the “Short Stop”— and replace it with a 4,500-square-foot Stewart’s Store.
The DRB got its first look at the application on May 12. The panel will resume its review on June 9, according to JR Christ, Middlebury’s interim zoning administrator.
Stewart’s is a chain of around 350 convenience stores that span upstate New York, Vermont

and New Hampshire. The first Stewart’s ice cream shop grew out of Percy and Charles V. Dake’s 1945 purchase of a small dairy and ice cream business in Ballston Spa, N.Y. Stewart’s also carries its branded potato chips, hard rolls, root beer, milk and coffee.
Around 75% of the Stewart’s shops also sell gas, as would the Middlebury location, if it wins town approval. Plans on file in the Middlebury planning office show the new Stewart’s Shop property would be endowed with four pumps (eight fueling stations), compared to the 10 fueling stations currently at the Short Stop.
Plans indicate the property would maintain access via Route

7 (Court Street), with a proposed additional entrance/exit to the site via a right-of-way to Middle Road, through the 198 Court St. (One Dollar Market) and 55 Middle Road parcels. At the same time, front access to the One Dollar Store (via Route 7) would be closed.
“The closing of direct front access to 198 Court St. creates improved safety conditions for traffic entering Route 7 from both parcels,” reads the application. “Access to Middle Road alleviates left-turn traffic on to Route 7 from both parcels.”
Middlebury Fire Chief David Shaw, in a May 8 message to the planning office, endorsed the (See Stewart’s, Page 3A)



YO-YO MASTER CALVIN ZUBOW shares some tricks to a packed house at the Bristol Elementary School Talent show in 2024. The talent show returns next Wednesday, May 28.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Bristol Elementary to host talent show

BRISTOL — Bristol Elementary School students next week will have an opportunity to take to the stage and showcase their skills.
The school will once again host its annual talent show, and

this year’s event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, at 1:30 p.m.
Bristol Elementary School principal Aaron Boynton noted the event is run by the school’s student council and usually sees

a lot of participation from older pupils at the elementary school.
Last year’s show featured a performance from the fourth-grade band, as well as a break-dancer, puppeteer and yo-yo master.

Woman with knife subdued by Midd police

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — A knife wielding woman experiencing a mental health crisis was taken into protective custody by Middlebury police during the afternoon of Thursday, May 15, following an encounter that saw authorities deploy taser and bean bag projectiles to eventually subdue her.
The incident unfolded at around 3:20 p.m. at 15 Court St., not far from Mary Hogan Elementary School, where students were being discharged following the school

day.
According to Middlebury Police Chief Jason Covey, a pedestrian flagged down an officer driving on Court Street and reported that a woman in a Court Street apartment building was yelling at people outside.
“When the officer approached, the woman in question waved a large knife at him from a distance, and the officer determined that (she) was experiencing a mental health crisis,” Covey stated through an email exchange with the *Independent*. “Officers quickly contained the scene and requested assistance from the Counseling Service of Addison

Impact Munition (commonly known as “bean bags”), and a Conducted Electrical Weapon, a.k.a. a taser, according to Covey.
The chief said the case is being treated as a mental health-related incident and the woman hasn’t been cited for any crime.

“When the officer approached, the woman in question waved a large knife at him from a distance, and the officer determined that (she) was experiencing a mental health crisis.”
— Jason Covey, Middlebury Police Chief

Mary Hogan Elementary Principal Jen Kravitz alluded to the incident in an email she sent to school families Friday morning, May 16.
“I am writing to let you know that Middlebury Police responded to a public safety incident near the Mary Hogan School property just after dismissal yesterday afternoon. There was no impact on Mary Hogan or the Mary Johnson Children’s Center after-school community, but some of our students and parents may have witnessed Middlebury Police’s response, so I want to assure you that we have been in contact with Middlebury police, and they shared that the incident has been resolved.”



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May 21 - May 27

Audio, video of state’s attorney’s arrest may answer some questions

By ALAN J. KEAYS
VTDigger.org

The state Department of Public Safety has released audio and video recording of the arrest of Addison County State’s Attorney Eva Vekos on a charge of drunken driving more than a year ago.

The recordings, which include videos from troopers’ body worn cameras and dash cam footage from a cruiser, show about two hours of interactions between police and Vekos, mostly after she was taken into custody.

The recordings, however, do not capture all the interactions that led up to the arrest, including some instances when troopers reported observing the prosecutor allegedly slurring her speech and smelling of alcohol, according to charging documents.

The recordings and the Vermont State Police troopers’ observations of Vekos may prove critical in her case since Vekos refused a breath test that could have shown a measure of any intoxication.

The release of the recordings follows a decision earlier this month by Judge Timothy Tomasi in Washington County Superior civil court ruling in favor of the Vermont Journalism Trust, the parent organization of VTDigger, which brought a lawsuit seeking the recordings.

Tomasi, in his decision ordering the release of the recordings to VTDigger, told the state Department of Public Safety to produce the previously withheld records to the news outlet within 10 days, making this past Monday the deadline.

The department provided the material Monday afternoon to VTDigger.

VTDigger filed the lawsuit after the Department of Public Safety refused to provide the recordings to the news organization.

Vekos has pleaded not guilty to the DUI charge and a trial date has not yet been set. A judge told attorneys in the case at a recent hearing that he expected it to take place sometime this fall.

Vekos has continued to serve as the Addison County state’s attorney while the criminal case against her

remains pending. The prosecutor’s post is an elected position.

The recordings released Monday begin shortly before a trooper placed Vekos in handcuffs, put her in a cruiser and drove her to the state police barracks in New Haven to be processed for drunken driving.

Vekos was arrested on the night of Jan. 25, 2024, after she allegedly drove impaired to the scene of a suspicious death investigation in Bridport, according to the charging documents.

Recordings show very little interaction between Vekos and Trooper Kelsey Dobson, who was driving the cruiser, during the roughly 25 minute trip to the barracks, according to the released video.

The videos do show that moments before Vekos was placed in the cruiser as she was handcuffed by a trooper. She then walked a short distance from her vehicle, which was parked at the scene, to a nearby cruiser. She appeared steady while walking and without any support before she took a seat in the back of the cruiser.

The recordings also don’t clearly show slurred speech, though the videos released do not show much of her interactions with police at the scene.

At the barracks, the videos and audio recordings show Vekos appearing uncooperative at times, though never raising her voice when Sgt. Eden Neary, who conducted the processing, read her rights and questioned her.

Vekos immediately told Neary when the processing began at the barracks she was not going to answer questions, take a breath test or have a mugshot taken.

“Do you know that discretion is allowed?” she said to Neary, adding: “No photographs. My face is not going to go out in the paper.”

“As far as discretion, we as a department don’t take any discretion with DUI,” Neary replied.

“There wasn’t any DUI,” Vekos said to him. “There was alcohol on the breath and alleged slurred speech.”

“Which are enough indicators to

request an evidentiary test, which you know as the state’s attorney,” Neary responded.

Vekos then spoke about the impact the incident would have on her office.

“We’ve been working really hard with law enforcement to build a good relationship and this is gonna knock that really down and my office is going to suffer now,” Vekos said.

“I’m not gonna argue with you about it,” Neary said to her. “That’s a discussion for another day, not right now.”

Vekos then talked about how much she had to drink.

“I came out to participate in a homicide scene investigation,” she told Neary.

“I understand that, and I guess that’s where maybe your discretion would have been better used,” Neary said.

“In what way?” Vekos asked him.

“Well, if you knew you had a drink or two,” Neary said.

“An hour ago — one — an hour ago with a meal,” she said. “It doesn’t make me inebriated.”

Vekos spoke in a normal tone during the roughly 45 minute interaction with Neary. At times, she appeared to be crying.

Charging documents in the case included an affidavit by Detective Trooper Mengbei Wang who wrote about being inside a residence in Bridport as part of the death scene investigation. Wang wrote in the filing that, while standing next to Vekos, she detected a “strong odor of intoxicants emanating” from Vekos and heard her slurring her speech.

There is no body camera footage of Wang’s interaction with Vekos.

Detective Trooper Ryan Normile, in a separate charging affidavit, wrote that he was present when Vekos arrived driving a Volkswagen Golf. Normile wrote that he walked beside Vekos at the scene and “recognized an odor of intoxicants emanating” from her.

Later, as Vekos was sitting in her vehicle, Normile wrote that he asked her how much she had to drink that night. Vekos replied that she had one gin and tonic with



EVA VEKOS SITS in a holding cell at the state police barracks in New Haven on Jan. 25, 2024, in this screenshot from video footage provided by the Vermont Department of Public Safety.

a burger for dinner about an hour ago, Normile wrote in his affidavit.

Normile wrote that Vekos’s speech appeared slurred and he asked her to undergo field sobriety tests, which she refused.

Vekos, according to Normile’s affidavit, then asked him: “Are you serious Ryan, can’t you just have a friend come and get me?”

Normile was not wearing a body camera, but footage from Dobson captured the interaction between Normile and Vekos as she sat in her vehicle before she was placed in custody. However, the exact words exchanged between the two at times aren’t entirely clear.

Vekos can be heard saying that it doesn’t matter if she performs the field sobriety tests because she would be arrested anyway.

“Eva, that is not true,” Normile replied.

Adam Silverman, a spokesperson for state police, stated in an email Tuesday that since Wang and Normile are both detectives, they typically dress in business attire and “generally” do not wear body-worn cameras.

“In addition,” Silverman wrote, “BWC policy requires activation of cameras during anticipated interactions with members of the public; in this case, the situation at hand was a controlled scene with access limited to law-enforcement personnel, including the state’s attorney. When the nature of this encounter changed, troopers activated their BWCs as required.”

David Sleigh, an attorney representing Vekos on the drunken driving charge, said Tuesday that he has reviewed the audio and video footage from state police in the case and didn’t believe it indicated his client was guilty of the charge.

“Other than showing that she was distraught and upset at being arrested, there doesn’t seem to be any clear indication of impairment or lack of control of her physical or mental faculties,” Sleigh said. “We think that largely the recorded evidence is consistent with innocence.”

He also disputed that comments Vekos made to police indicated any intent to seek favoritism to get out

of a DUI arrest, including when she asked them to use discretion, and when she requested to have a friend pick her up, rather than undergo sobriety tests.

He said police “make discretionary decisions” at many points when considering whether to arrest someone for drunken driving.

“I don’t take her requesting a ride home from somebody else as asking for a favor or admitting that she was impaired, but rather saying, ‘Look, if you guys have even the slightest concern about my ability to operate, I’ll have somebody else come get me,’” Sleigh added.

Near the end of the video recordings of Vekos’ processing at the state police barracks, she can be heard asking a trooper about the status of her vehicle that was left parked at the scene she had been seeking to keep from being towed.

A trooper replied that a tow truck had already been called to remove the vehicle.

“Thanks,” Vekos said to him in apparent sarcasm, adding, “just a little consideration.”

Stewart’s

(Continued from Page 2A)

Stewart’s plan from a public safety point of view.

“Based on the preliminary plans you have attached in this email, I see no problems with fire safety,” he stated. “Actually, I am totally supportive of the access to Middle Road off the back side of the property and the curb closure in front of the Dollar store. Both of these will be an asset to motor vehicle traffic flow in that area. The additional access to the Jolly location from the rear parking lot will also be very helpful for emergency services in the event of an emergency at that property.”

The proposed fueling stations, located in front of the Stewart’s building, would provide “an aesthetic change to the current site design,” according to the application. “Front fueling canopies are a consistent aesthetic throughout the town and have historic precedent on this site.”

Stewart’s officials said they’re

designing the fueling station canopy “as a gabled structure, in order to create a matching aesthetic with the convenience store and establishing it as the structure which demarcates the front yard.”

It appears the front canopy is within the setback and would require a waiver, according to town officials.

The DRB has given the Stewart’s applicants a to-do list to undertake before the panel next takes up the proposal on June 9. The list includes:

- Having plans reviewed by the town’s Design Advisory Committee. That ad hoc panel will review, among other things,

the proposed look of the Stewart’s store and canopy, as well as overall site circulation.

- Creating a draft agreement among parties involved in the easement for the Middle Road access.
- Reviewing the front and side landscaping elements of the project.
- Making a summary of other permits that Stewart’s might need to undertake the project.
- Seeing a Middlebury Department of Public Works opinion of the plan.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

“I am totally supportive of the access to Middle Road off the back side of the property and the curb closure in front of the Dollar store. Both of these will be an asset to motor vehicle traffic flow in that area.”

— Dave Shaw
Middlebury Fire Chief

The Addison Independent office will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Please note, the ad reservation deadline for the May 29th edition will be Friday, May 23rd.

www.addisonindependent.com — CHECK IT OUT.

Happy Retirement!

Happy retirement and best wishes to Yvette Fontaine who has been a part of our office staff for over 23 years! We appreciate her years of dedication and wish her all the best!

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Editorial

H.454 hits a roadblock; time to pause and rethink

Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Baruth’s decision Tuesday night to pull the school reform bill, H.454, from a scheduled Wednesday floor vote speaks volumes about a bill that is seen by many as a lose-lose proposition for schools, students and parents, while not doing enough to help taxpayers who need it most.

Left undecided by Senate leaders at what *Vermont Public* reporter Lola Duffort described as “a remarkably candid — and public — airing of ambivalence, anger, and anxiety” about their version of H.454 at Tuesday’s caucus, is whether to salvage reform talks through Senate amendments to the House bill or move on to other measures before adjournment.

Baruth said he made the decision to pull the bill because, as Duffort reported, “most Democrats in the Senate appeared to oppose the bill...”

While some amendments to the House bill were discussed, others were wary about proposing amendments without time for due diligence, particularly on issues this complex. While sympathizing with that concern, Baruth reminded senators that Gov. Scott had warned he would call the legislature back for a special session if they didn’t propose some reform to reduce school costs.

While the House version of H.454 garnered more support among Democrats and had the support of the associations representing the school boards and school administrators, it has also come under attack for spending more money in the initial years, creating higher taxes for the least privileged communities, while dumbing down offerings in higher-spending districts. The bill also cuts voters out of the equation. The foundation formula depends on top-down decision-making, with the state setting a per pupil spending cap from which it would set a base amount per district. Middlebury’s ACSD would see school spending cut by \$7.77 million, or 19.4%, with an expected modest cut in taxes. But managing to that spending amount would mean severe cuts to current programming.

Most schools in Addison County would see much the same impact, according to a May 2 analysis by the Joint Fiscal Office. Addison NWSD would get \$3.91 million less, or a cut of 16.8%; Mt. Abraham USD would lose \$2.04 million, or 7.2%; and Lincoln would lose \$666,677 or 15.1%. The Granville-Hancock Unified District would gain \$103,270 or 5.6%, but taxes are forecast to jump to pay for the increase in spending. The rule of thumb, statewide, is those school districts that have been spending more to maintain higher quality would lose funding (with modest tax decreases), while those towns spending less would see higher taxes mandated on them.

TAKING A STEP BACK

With so many negatives associated with H.454, it’s worthwhile to retrace the legislation’s brief history. The high school tax increases of 2024, which averaged about 13%, led to the defeat of about a third of the state’s school budgets and was the impetus for reform. A summer study committee was formed, and Gov. Scott and Sec. of Education Zoe Sanders led off this year’s session with a proposal to consolidate the state’s 119 school districts into five large districts and to adopt a revived form of school funding — the foundation formula. H.454 was hatched in the House Education Committee, which embraced the governor’s proposed change in funding, but rejected his five mega-districts and instead set up a reasonable process for the districts to be decided, along with much more in the 160-page bill.

When the bill passed out of the House, it did so with very little enthusiasm. Once in the Senate, numerous changes were made, for the worse many say, and most Democrats are now opposed to the Senate version, as is the school establishment. (Sen. Ruth Hardy’s legislative report in today’s issue on Page 16A addresses the issue.)

At this late date in the session, perhaps an abbreviated, less comprehensive proposal is needed.

What’s true at this point is that legislators and the governor agree on two significant points: that Vermont’s 119 current school districts could use some consolidation to reduce spending and create efficiencies; and that a change in the way schools are funded be adopted.

Burlington Superintendent Tom Flanagan picked up on that point and, in a May 16 letter he sent to the Senate and House leadership, made a suggestion. Noting that H.454 would mean the loss of “many millions of dollars” under the new foundation formula and would have a “devastating impact” on his school, he suggested the legislature focus on forming the new school districts first, then tackle the question of funding.

“Without stable governance structures in place and a clear picture of district boundaries,” he wrote in his letter, “it is simply not responsible for us to endorse locking in a funding system that could have long-term consequences we cannot yet fully evaluate.”

THE POLITICS

Democrats are right to be worried that Scott and fellow Republicans will use any lack of progress on school reform to challenge their majority in 2026, but Democrats also have a clear story to tell. They’ve spent the majority of the session on the legislation, have made progress and could pass some measures of reform. But it’s good government to avoid making mistakes caused by rushing half-baked, and unpopular, proposals that could make matters worse for taxpayers and schools.

Progress can still be made this session. The House version of H.454 calls for a reasonable process to consider consolidating school districts, while also addressing other core drivers of school costs. Those ideas, providing for ample public input, could be put in an abbreviated bill or launched as studies. Meanwhile, legislators could solicit innovative thinking that accommodates small schools into H.454, while also putting more of a focus on improving educational outcomes.

Here’s a striking comment *Mountain Times* reporter Polly Mikula got when she asked Windsor Central UUSD Superintendent Sherry Sousa, if there were any provisions in H.454 to improve educational quality: “No, none.” Sousa responded, then added: “We have 20 different towns sending their kids here (Woodstock) because of the high-quality experience. How will we maintain that when we have to cut those courses back? That’s what I’m most concerned about for our region... our community people are going to leave. They’re going to go to New Hampshire, they’re going to go to private schools... They will take their money and go. We’ve maintained our enrollment in the district because of the high-quality education our students receive, both in elementary, middle school, and high school. If we cut those programs — all of our AP classes, our electives, our after-school programming — we know what’s going to happen to our student enrollment, and when we cut down our enrollment numbers, we significantly impact our tax burden.”

Suffice it to say the issue is complicated enough to allow for two sessions to get it right — and a bigger part of getting it right should address how the legislation improves the outcomes for students, parents and our schools.

Angelo Lynn



Wicked Witch of the West
MOUNT ABE MIDDLE school thespian Emily Wells is stuck rehearsing on the Bristol school's stage on Monday. But by the time the opening night curtain rises on May 30, she and many of the other actors will be flying high on theatrical rigging. Learn more on Page 13A
Independent photo/Steve James

Familiar routines provide solace

On a cold, grisly Saturday, my husband and I had the joy of attending Grandparent’s Day at the Quarry Hill School. The warmth, light and laughter inside the building was a welcome contrast to the chaotic weather outside. The school is beautifully laid out with areas designated for specific activities: painting, reading, imaginative play, eating snack and lunch, quiet spaces and noisy spaces. Our granddaughter introduced us to Mr. T the turtle, the frogs who ate the little fish, the tank for the new fish, her friends, and her artwork.

I was especially taken by some of the posters showing examples of playing together well or making friends. One I particularly love is the way the day is structured: consistent, predictable, and easily understood, but with enough variety to always be interesting.

Notably, what in my childhood was known as “nap time” at Quarry Hill is called “growing time.” A time when body and mind can be calm and perhaps new ideas can grow.

As I struggle to make sense of what is happening to our country and our world right now, I wish my life were a bit more like Quarry Hill: warm, joyous, and well organized. I long for rituals and routines that we can understand and depend on: celebrating holidays and family events, a predictable democratic process, people respecting and caring for one another, private spaces and public spaces, ways to be alone and ways to be together.

Don and I had the amazing gift of spending two

weeks in Italy, starting the day after Easter. We enjoyed its beautiful architecture, delicious food and gorgeous scenery. Italy is a country that has been through many episodes of chaos, but it seems at this moment to be to be functioning so much better than our own. We were there for the April 25 celebration of the Resistance to Fascism. For the celebration of the Year of Jubilee when debts are forgiven. For public and private mourning for Pope Francis. For preparations for the Conclave. It has been amazing to watch a peaceful transition of power in the Papacy to an American who cares about the poor and dispossessed. Certainly, years of ritual and routine make some of that transition possible. I also had the sense that people deeply wanted something good to happen.

There have been times in my life when I was especially grateful for dependable daily routines. Living in Greece, we would watch the sun set every day. Raising sheep, we had a known round of chores that varied with the seasons. Raising children, family dinner was central to our lives as was the joy of explorations and adventures. Now that the sheep are gone and the kids are grown, it should be easier to find the solace of daily routines, but the chaotic political weather outside is challenging. Instead of having a nourishing routine that assures I will do what I need to do, I spend far too much time worrying about the future and gnawing on problems of the current day.

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

Ways of Seeing

By Cheryl Mitchell



We need each other more than ever

This week’s writer is Pete Antos-Ketcham. The Starksboro resident is the program coordinator for New Community Project, which was Middlebury College’s 2024 Tiffany Nourse Sargent Engaged Partnership Award honoree for educational partnerships.

Fifth in a series.

Up here in Starksboro, we just finished up with Vermont’s infamous “fifth season.” On top of spring, summer, fall and winter, we also have “mud season.” An eagerly anticipated (a signal winter is soon over) and often dreaded transition when the frost comes out of the dirt roads, turning them into a soupy mess that can literally swallow vehicles.

Despite the impediment to travel, mud season does serve an important social function. It is an annual reminder that we need each other. No matter who you are, what your annual income is, or what political party you belong to, if you get stuck in the mud, you can count on a neighbor to pull you out or to give you a ride. Mud season seems to be getting more intense as the climate changes, but whether or not folks agree on how or why, we all seem to agree that we can and should help each other get through the mud.

Freedom and Unity

By Pete Antos-Ketcham



Here in Starksboro, our work has centered nurturing community programs to address the issues of food and nutritional insecurity, energy poverty and isolation. We operate a weekly food distribution program out of the First Baptist Church called Food Share. We grow a large garden to supply Food Share with produce. We operate two Little Free Pantries. We help people with firewood or other heating fuels during emergencies in the winter months. And we connect neighbors with neighbors to help develop in-person relationships that may not have occurred in

(See *Freedom and Unity*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Senator asked about ‘no’ vote

This letter was sent to Addison County Senator Heffernan asking for clarification in regard to his vote of No in the Senate Resolution 13.

I live in Monkton and was dismayed by your vote of “no” regarding S.R 13. (Senate resolution strongly objecting to the manner and circumstances under which U.S. immigration authorities arrested and detained Mohsen Mahdawi and strongly advocating that he be afforded due process under the law and released immediately from detention).

I suggest you have an obligation to all the voters in our county, to publicly explain your thinking and motivation in the decision to vote no on this resolution.

I have seen multiple letters to the editor of our local newspaper from your constituency, asking for an explanation. It shouldn’t take but a few paragraphs and but a moment of your time to respond publicly via the local paper to clarify your viewpoint. I will be posting this email for next week’s edition and perhaps, and I hope, you’ve already thought to respond.

Julie Mitchell
Monkton

Ed reform effort going too fast

The writer sent this letter to Rep. Peter Conlon and Sen. Ruth Hardy and copied the Independent.

I strongly believe that H.454 is being rushed through without enough scrutiny and support, either from the Legislature or from Vermonters.

I know there is political pressure to do something, but this seems very fraught. Even the chair of Senate Education seems very ambivalent about this bill.

The purported cost savings have not been demonstrated, especially if we have to build or renovate multiple buildings to meet the 450 student per school 6-12 requirement.

It seems that to meet the budgetary goals, there will have to be mass layoffs of staff and faculty which will harm our students.

Finally, this bill will negatively affect Addison County, which you both represent. How can you sell this to our voters?

I’m asking you to slow this process down; do not send this bill out yet. It isn’t ready for prime time.

Fran Putnam
Weybridge

Wildlands bill merits support

I write in support of H.276, Vermont Climate Resilience and State Wildlands Act. This bill, recently introduced by Middlebury State Rep. Amy Sheldon, would create a wildlands system on lands owned by the state of Vermont.

In 2001, I edited a book titled “Wilderness Comes Home: Rewilding the Northeast” that focused on wilderness and wildlands in the Northeast. The book sought to (1) survey the state of wildlands in the Northeast, (2) provide an Eastern voice in the wilderness conversation, which typically centered in the West, and (3) present a model for developing a wilderness and wildlands system in the Northeast moving forward.

In terms of thinking about wildlands in Vermont and the Northeast, three characteristics are central: the lands will be recovered and restored rather than pristine, the lands will be both public and private, and these wildlands will be situated in a landscape of sustainably-managed farmland and forestland.

In the 25 years since I edited this book, there have been several positive developments in Vermont. More wilderness was designated in the Green Mountain National Forest in 2006, bringing the total in the forest to over 100,000 acres.

(See *McGrory Klyza*, Page 5A)

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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Letters to the Editor

Bill H.454 might not be the cure public schools need

My head is spinning trying to keep up with all the permutations of Vermont H.454. It’s goal seems clear enough as stated by Governor Scott at the start of his current term. We need to get a grip on our steadily rising property taxes.

However, each version of H.454 carries associated costs, most notably the construction of new or renovated schools to accommodate the consolidation of students into larger schools.

As a retired educator, I’m wary of the legislation of educational changes that will weaken our schools. Vermont schools have long been respected nationally for our effective educational innovations. The qualities that enrich so many of our local schools cannot be measured in standardized test scores.

According to Senator Ruth Hardy of the Senate Finance Committee, it is not at all clear that H.454 will lower property taxes. In fact, Addison County taxes may become higher while our school funding is lowered — and we will have no local control of either situation.

I also share Senator Hardy’s concerns that the latest version of H.454 does not limit private school vouchers. It rushes the process of transformation without an effective and well-researched plan.

How about we start by addressing Vermont’s healthcare crisis? That would help every Vermonter and would also address the biggest driver of our increasing education costs.

Alice Leeds
Bristol

McGrory Klyza letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

The Northeast Wilderness Trust (NEWT) — a land trust based in Montpelier that either owns or holds easements on wildland — has thrived, protecting 93,000 acres in New England and New York, including 18,000 acres in Vermont. And the Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands, and Communities Initiative (WWFCI) was launched in 2010 to focus on a regionwide landscape-level conservation vision, featuring a mix of wildlands (at least 10%), managed woodlands (60%) and farmland (7%). This vision makes clear that the choice is not between wildlands and managed forests, but a call for both.

Turning to Vermont more specifically, the WWFCI undertook a census of wildlands in New England in 2023, and determined that Vermont has a bit over 220,000 acres of wildlands, 3.7% of the state. The bulk of these wildlands is in the Green Mountain National Forest; an additional tens of thousands of acres are under the private control of groups like NEWT. Which brings us to H. 276. This bill is exciting and of great importance in complimenting wilderness in the national forests and in private lands — the third leg of a wildlands stool.

Why wildlands? Wildlands are places where natural processes dominate and are important for many reasons:

- for protecting water quality and advancing flood resilience;
- for sequestering carbon;
- for improving air quality;
- for biodiversity: these lands serve as ecological reserves, satisfying other Vermont policies such as the Vermont Conservation Design, which calls for 9% of Vermont to reach old forest or old growth conditions; and the Vermont Climate Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act (Act 59), which seeks to conserve 30% of Vermont by 2030 and 50% by 2050. This is crucial to connectivity, as species move across the landscape due to climate change;
- for recreation and scenery;
- for solitude.

Wildlands serve multiple uses, and are very much part of the working landscape.

H.276 would bring Vermont to 7% wildlands. Although logging would no longer occur on these lands, the vast majority of the state’s forestlands would remain open to logging. I am not opposed to logging: I burn firewood to help heat my house; and I sit on the board of Vermont Family Forests, which works with family landowners to plan active forest management — including logging — on their lands. The time may come to debate how much wildland should be set aside in Vermont. But with less than 4% wildlands, such a debate is premature.

In closing, I strongly support H.276. It is an important step to protect Vermont biodiversity and further climate resilience. As fellow New Englander Henry David Thoreau wrote over 150 years ago: “In wildness is the preservation of the world.”

Chris McGrory Klyza
Middlebury

Editor’s note: Chris McGrory Klyza is the Stafford Professor of Public Policy and Professor of Environmental Studies and Political Science at Middlebury College.

Freedom and Unity

(Continued from Page 4A)

our online and atomized culture. All of our programs center on our belief that everyone deserves a fair shot at a decent life. To us, this is what justice means.

NCP’s Food Share program is a space where, no matter who you are, whether you volunteer or receive food as a gift, we as neighbors can gather and connect around a common purpose. In this case, it’s because we have neighbors who need our help gaining access to a regular supply of nutritious food. On one level, people either come to help or come for the food. But, on another level, all of us also come for contact, mutual support and a sense of belonging. We’re a diverse group of people from all walks of life, embracing these weekly, local, face-to-face interactions that remind us of our common humanity.

In these times of deep economic and political divisions, we need to channel that neighborly and community-minded impulse that has us pull our fellow citizens out of the mud when they are stuck. We know that when everyone is well-sheltered, warm, fed, and has companionship with friends and neighbors, our communities are more resilient and better able to thrive in these challenging and uncertain times.

A lot of blame to go around for current dysfunction

How deep is the rot?

For over three months, Donald Trump and his minions have been damaging — and trying to destroy — the most valuable elements of contemporary America. Until I read Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson’s article in *The New Yorker*, “How Joe Biden Handed the Presidency to Donald Trump,” I thought Trumpers were the only villains. Sadly, that article shows that those closest to Joe Biden were nearly as dishonest and misleading as the Trumpers.

A year before the election of ’24, Biden’s inner circle knew Joe was incapable of fully being president. But they chose to keep silent about his shortcomings and claim he was fine. But what for? To get an unqualified man re-elected? To preserve their own positions or influence? To avoid offending Biden or his office? To make money? Can you think of one public good to justify their deceit?

I can’t.

Then today we learn that the Navy’s former second-in-command, four-star Admiral Robert P. Burke, has been convicted of bribery and committing acts affecting his personal financial interest while concealing material facts. And, for assisting him, the co-CEOs of technology firm Next Jump have been charged with involvement in the admiral’s crime to steer a multi-million-dollar contract to Next Jump in return for a \$500,000 job.

If this admiral, Next Jump’s CEOs, Joe’s followers, and Trumps’ sycophants could attain the highest positions in our country, where does truthfulness, righteousness, and responsibility reside? Are these “leaders” merely reflections of our own failings, examples of the only path to power, or something I can’t imagine? They have traded integrity and duty for lies and selfishness. How can Americans expect better from those with less influence and fewer options? What a sad moment.

John Freidin
Middlebury

Bumpy roads provide infrastructure reminders

I am fortunate to have a job that takes me and my truck to all four corners of our county, and doing so, I run over the same bumps annoyingly day after day. Most seem to be the result of frost heaves, old age, trenches for utilities, weakness in the road edges, and the like.

I’m sure there are countless other causes, but the ones I write about are often caused by intentional excavation to access and improve our water, drainage and sewer lines. There’s no doubt about it; we need to keep all of these systems working at top notch.

My complaint is not the inevitable bump itself following the patch in the asphalt. What annoys me is that the bump becomes a permanent fixture, side effect on the road. Of course, the longer it stays in place, the easier it is to remember to swerve to avoid it.

I wonder, though, why the contractor should not be required to do the repairs promptly at his/ hers expense just as if the plumber left a leaking pipe after their job is completed. Ah, life’s little annoyances!

Tim Hollander
Middlebury

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

Perhaps I would do well to relearn what preschoolers know. Be a good friend. Be curious. Be helpful. Be messy and joyful, but put away your things when you are finished. Enjoy all the small pleasures in life. Instead of thinking I need to take a nap because I’m getting old, maybe I’ll find some quiet growing time each day. Perhaps that will help me better understand our crazy world and ways to bring more warmth and joy into it.

Cheryl Mitchell is president of Treleven, a retreat and learning program located on her family’s sheep farm in Addison County. She does freelance consulting on issues related to children, families, social policy and farm to community work. She can be reached at cheryl.w.mitchell@gmail.com.

Letters to the editor

The Addison Independent encourages readers to write letters to the editor. We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to debate issues of the day.

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. Be sure to include an address and telephone number, too, so we can call to clear up any questions.

If you have something to say, send it to: Letters to the Editor, Addison Independent, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to news@addisonindependent.com.



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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

Teague Jonathan Hunziker, 52,
formerly of South Starksboro

LANGLEY, B.C., Canada — It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Teague Hunziker, formerly of So. Starksboro, Vt., on the evening of April 15, 2025. Teague passed peacefully at his home in Langley, British Columbia, Canada, in the loving arms of his wife Sarah and daughter Violet, following a brief and brutal fight against a very rare and aggressive cancer.

Teague was a dedicated and doting father and a faithful and unconditionally loving husband, who lived for his family. He loved being a dad. He was the ultimate “girl dad,” a great hockey coach, and the best advisor, confidant and teacher. To Sarah and Violet, he was the world. He was incredibly intelligent, creative and compassionate. There was no problem he couldn’t solve, broken thing he couldn’t fix, or question he couldn’t answer. He was an avid nature and animal lover and always felt happy and at peace in the woods. He cared about his role in the world and his impact



TEAGUE JONATHAN HUNZIKER

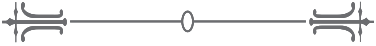
on others. Teague was a kind and gracious man. He was a champion for women, minorities and anyone who is victimized or marginalized. The world needs more men like Teague, not less.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah; daughter, Violet; mother, Mary McGrath; father, Mark; sister, Johanna; stepmother, Judi; and stepbrothers, Sean and Chad

Harrington.

He was laid to rest on April 23, 2025, in a beautiful natural cemetery in the woods on Salt Spring Island, B.C., Canada, where he had shared many happy memories and adventures with Sarah, Violet and his beloved dog, Gord.

There will be a celebration of life in the coming months. ◇



Alice Neef Perine, 100, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Alice Neef Perine of Middlebury passed away peacefully on May 14 with her family by her side.

Alice was born on April 28, 1925, in Queens, N.Y., to Kathryn (Brandt) and Frederick Emil Neef. Alice was raised in Scarsdale, N.Y., attended Middlebury College, and made Middlebury her home for close to 75 years.

Alice was predeceased by her husband of 54 years, Gordon C. Perine; her brother, Frederick; and two sisters, Dorothy and Kathryn. She is survived by her four children, Everett “Perry” (Lynn Hassouna) of North Falmouth, Mass., Ken (Carolyn) of Middlebury, Sue of Middlebury, and Ron (Heidi Lamar) of West Simsbury, Conn.; eight grandchildren, Meg and Vivian (Perry), Chandler, Jennifer Quinn, Kristi Ryan, and Kate Livesay (Ken), Nikki Cabral and Em (Ron); and 13 great-grandchildren.

Alice was a life-long English and



ALICE NEEF PERINE

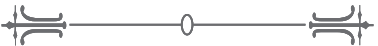
Language Arts teacher. She taught in Fair Haven and Vergennes in the early years but most of her 26-year career was teaching English at Middlebury Union High School. Alice was an active leader in the teachers’ union on both the state and national levels. Upon her retirement in 1988, she re-focused

her energy and time to community service, notably with the United Way and the Henry Sheldon Museum.

Family and friends recently joined Alice to celebrate her life and legacy on her 100th birthday. In light of that, the family has chosen not to have a memorial service. A private graveside committal for the immediate family will be held at Middlebury Cemetery.

The family would like to thank the Eastview staff for the loving care and compassion they provided Alice over the last four years and to Addison County Home Health and Hospice for the guidance and grace shared in Alice’s final days.

Memorial contributions in Alice’s name may be made to Addison County Home Health and Hospice, 254 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven, VT 05472 or Eastview at Middlebury, 100 Eastview Terrace, Middlebury, VT 05753. ◇



Christopher J. Daniels memorial
service

NEW HAVEN — A service for Christopher J. Daniels of Starksboro, who died May 11, 2025, will be held Saturday, May

31, at 11 a.m., at the New Haven Congregational Church, Town Hill Road, New Haven.

Obituary
Guidelines

The Independent will publish paid obituaries and free notices of passing. Paid obituaries cost 25 cents per word and will be published, as submitted, on the date of the family’s choosing. For those who do not wish to purchase an obituary, the Independent offers a free notice of passing up to 100 words, subject to editing by our news department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to obits@addisonindependent.com. Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Wednesday for publication in the Thursday paper. Email obits@addisonindependent.com or call 802-388-4944 for more information.

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Beverly Wimett McCoy, 89, Salisbury native

BENNINGTON — Beverly W. McCoy of Bennington passed away peacefully on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at the Southwestern Vermont Medical Center.

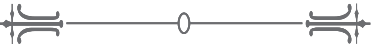
Beverly was born in Middlebury (Salisbury) on Nov. 30, 1935, to the late Forrest and Helen Wimett. She graduated from Middlebury High School in 1953 and went on to fulfill her dream of being a nurse at Grasslands Hospital in White Plains, N.Y., and The Putnam School of Nursing in Bennington. She was a fixture in the local nursing community, working at Putnam Memorial Hospital (SVMC), the Bennington Convalescent Center, the Bennington School System and private duty nursing.

Beverly will be remembered for her many charitable acts, which greatly enhanced the community.



BEVERLY WIMETT MCCOY

When she volunteered for a cause, she could be counted on to give 110% to make it successful. She will also be remembered for her love of family, the theater, arts and animals. In her later years of life,



Edward Dalton Wells, 77, formerly of Middlebury

PORTLAND, Maine — Edward Dalton Wells passed away peacefully in his home in Portland, Maine, on May 12, 2025.

Ed was born on May 15, 1947, in Hartford, Conn., to Harland Wells and Evelyn Wallace Wells, joining the family as the fourth of five brothers, Richard, George, Harland and Roger. Ed grew up throughout the Northeast Kingdom and graduated from Newport High School in 1966. He studied education at Lyndon State College and earned a master’s degree from the University of Vermont in 1972. In 1971 Ed married JoAnn Provost, also of Newport, Vermont.

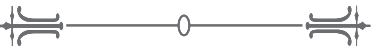
Ed was a devoted educator, father and husband. He spent over 40 years teaching at Vergennes Elementary School, where he was loved for his humor and playfulness (it just wasn’t a soccer game unless Mr. Wells was also on the field!). He loved working with children, and had a special way of connecting, even with those that



EDWARD DALTON WELLS

struggled the most. After retiring to Maine, Ed continued to work in schools, teaching at Cathedral School and then substitute teaching at Longfellow Elementary School in Portland, Maine.

Ed delighted most in spending time with his family, particularly his four grandchildren — reading with Sloane, teaching Dalton how



Barbara ‘Barb’ A. Stiles, 54, of Queensbury, N.Y.

QUEENSBURY, N.Y. — Barbara “Barb” A. Stiles, 54, of Queensbury, N.Y., left us on April 23, 2025. Barb spent most of her life in the Middlebury area before moving to Queensbury. Her presence will be missed beyond measure, but the love she gave will live on in all of us.

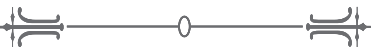
Barb’s heart was generous, her spirit unshakable and her laughter unforgettable. She is leaving behind cherished memories and a legacy of kindness and strength. She will be remembered for her warm heart, generous spirit, and the love she gave freely to her family and friends. Barb had a passion for the outdoors and possessed an eye for beauty. Through her love of photography, she captured special moments with her camera.

Barbara was a proud mother to Randy Garrow and Josh Garrow



BARBARA “BARB” A. STILES

and his partner Mercedi Pelkey; and a beloved sister to Claire Wilber, husband Mark; Janet Danyow and her partner Brian Litchfield; and stepfather Larry Danyow. She also shared close, meaningful



Catherine “Kay” Orvis
graveside service

LINCOLN — The family of Catherine Claudette “Kay” Orvis respectfully invites you to a graveside service. The service will be held at Maple Cemetery, 390 West River Road, Lincoln, Vt., 05443, on June 14, at 10 a.m. Kay passed away Dec. 5, 2024, after a long battle with lung cancer. A private memorial, with the planting of an apple tree on the hill, in memory of Kay, Eugene, and her beloved dogs is planned immediately after the graveside service. ◇

relationships with David Marnell and special friends Tina Black, Sally Stark Dean, and Jennifer Millington. Barb was preceded in death by her parents, Robert Stiles Sr. and Donna Lee Danyow, and her twin brother, Robert Stiles Jr.

Barb dedicated much of her life to building her career as a supermarket store manager, where she was known for her strong work ethic, leadership, and caring nature toward both customers and staff. Her staff truly appreciated her words of encouragement and the knowledge she shared with them. She helped everyone around her and would say “be your best self!”

A celebration honoring Barb’s memory is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, from 2-5 p.m., at the VFW in Middlebury, Vt. All who knew and loved Barb are welcome to join in remembering her life and legacy. ◇



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Pierre Akpo-Sani, 79, of Orwell

ORWELL — Pierre Akpo-Sani was born in the village of Pira, in the country of The Republic of Benin previously Dahomey), in West Africa on May 1, 1946. He died after a short illness on May 17, 2025, surrounded by family at his home in Orwell, Vt. His parents were Moise Akpo-Sani and Agbale Batchodjouwon Tonnin.

Siblings are Lassissi Akpo-Sani of Pira, Benin; Madeleine Akpo-Sani (deceased), Magloire Akpo-Sani (Catherine) of Atlanta, Ga.; Marguerite Akpo-Sani of Cotonou, Benin; Paul Akpo-Sani (deceased); Claude Akpo-Sani of Cotonou, Benin; and Rufin Akpo-Sani (deceased).

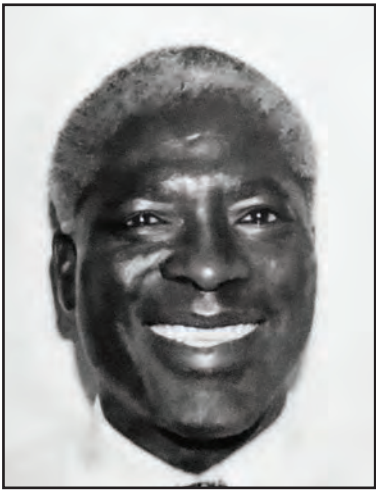
Pierre is also predeceased by his parents.

Pierre also has many nieces, nephews, and cousins in Benin and the United States.

When Pierre was four years old he moved to Niamey, Niger, to live with his Aunt Jeanne Akpo-Sani to attend school. He developed three major loves — soccer, movies and music, which he enjoyed his entire life. He also joined the Boy Scouts and later had a position of leadership and mentored other boys in the Scouts in Niamey, Niger, and Pira, Benin.

After finishing his education Pierre remained living in Niger as an elementary school teacher.

Pierre met Ramona Goddard of Orwell, Vt., in Niamey, Niger, West Africa, where she was serving in the Peace Corps, from 1971-1973. Pierre moved to the U.S. in July of 1974, and he and Ramona were married in Plattsburgh, N.Y., on July 27, 1974. They made their home in the U.S. until the present. On Dec. 3, 1976, they had a son, Olatundji Akpo-Sani, who



PIERRE AKPO-SANI

is currently living with his wife in Sydney, Australia.

Pierre was smart, outgoing, gregarious, and loved people, community, and his family. He made friends easily wherever he went and by the time of his death he was loved by people around the world.

Pierre attended SUNY Alfred and graduated in 1980 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He and Ramona visited his home in West Africa after the graduation. He then took a position with Xerox Corporation in Rochester, N.Y. At the age of 40 he furthered his love of exercise by training for and running four marathons. Even later in life he could be seen biking and walking for miles and miles along the roads and country lanes of Orwell and the surrounding areas.

Pierre always knew the value of education and strived to spread that throughout his family in Africa by assisting his brother, Magloire, in coming to the U.S. in 1980 so that he might attend college here,

and supporting his nephew through his schooling in Benin. He also contributed to many other family members' education in Africa.

Magloire chose to remain in the U.S. and became an American citizen. He and his family are currently living in Atlanta, Ga. He and Pierre were very close as brothers and Magloire came to Vermont to spend several weeks with Pierre before his death.

Pierre and Ramona lived in Rochester until June of 2008, when they moved to Orwell, Vt., to be close to Ramona's family. His love of gardening came alive around their new home, where he planted large vegetable gardens, many varieties of fruit trees, and new flowers added to the yard every year, especially roses, Ramona's favorite. On Sept. 11, 2009, Pierre became a U.S. Citizen at the State House in Montpelier, Vt. Among those who attended the ceremony were his wife and son, and a group of students from Orwell Village School whom he had been coaching in soccer, giving them the love of the game that he had.

In July of 2024 Pierre and Ramona celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

The funeral will be held at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Orwell at noon, Saturday the 24th of May, followed by burial in Mountain View Cemetery in Orwell, and a reception at the Rectory by the Church. All are invited.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to; Addison County Home Health & Hospice, P.O. Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◇

Jamie L. Billings, 51, of Rutland



JAMIE L. BILLINGS

RUTLAND — Jamie L. Billings, age 51, passed peacefully from this life and into his heavenly home on May 07, 2025, after a long illness. Jamie was born in Burlington, Vt., on Jan. 15, 1974. He is the son of Gerald L. Billings and Bonnie (Clark) Betourney. He grew up in Middlebury where he received his public education at Mary Hogan Elementary School and Middlebury Union High School.

Aside from being active in sports during high school, Jamie enjoyed fishing, hunting, and golfing. Jamie also had artistic talent and drew beautiful artwork, using charcoal and colored pencils as his medium. His hobby of collecting major league sports cards continued even after he became disabled in 2022. He was an avid Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan. During high school, Jamie worked in dining services at Middlebury College; first as a dishwasher and then as prep-cook. After high school he worked as the Assistant Park Ranger at Branbury State Park and during the winter months he operated the Skyeship gondola at Killington Ski Resort.

In 2006, Jamie entered the ministry at Teen Challenge in Johnson, Vt., where he was a student for 18 months. Jamie was mentored and disciplined by the leadership at Teen Challenge. During his time at Teen

Challenge Jamie gave his heart to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He graduated from Teen Challenge in 2008 in Brockton, Mass. After graduation he served at Teen Challenge in Newark, N.J., where he mentored and disciplined a house of 12 men for 18 months. He was then called to serve as House Manager at Covered Bridge Recovery Ministry in Saint Johnsbury, Vt. After leaving Covered Bridge, Jamie returned to his love of cooking and serving good food. He became the head cook and restaurant manager at the Coffee Corner in Montpelier, where he worked for several years. He later worked in various restaurants in Chittenden and

Denise Marie Regnaud, 63, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Denise Marie Regnaud, 63, of Vergennes, passed away peacefully on May 18, 2025, at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

Denise was born Oct. 31, 1961, in Meriden, Conn. She and her family moved to Vermont at a young age. Denise was a loving mother, daughter, sister and aunt. She loved her family and friends. Her two fur babies Peanut and Pickles were her everything. She enjoyed all the family gatherings, the holidays and all the adventures she would go on with her mom, her daughter and her two very special nieces Kristian and Heather.

Denise is survived by her daughter, Tammy and husband Eric Bright of Essex Junction; her father Raymond Regnaud Sr. and her stepmother Ann Regnaud



DENISE MARIE REGNAUD

of Alburg; her three brothers, Raymond Regnaud Jr. of Lincoln, Roger Regnaud and wife Tina of Vergennes, and Gerald and

Addison Counties until his health declined and he became disabled in 2022.

As we reflect on Jamie's life, we are reminded of his resilience and strength. He faced challenges with grace, never losing hope in the promises of God and His eternal love.

Surviving are his mother, Bonnie and stepfather, Michael Betourney of Salisbury; his brother, Jason Billings of Shoreham; his father, Gerald L. Billings of Middlebury; a stepbrother, Jason Betourney (Heather) of Bridport; a stepister, Heather (Bobby) LaPorte of Leicester; his two nephews Crosby and Langston Billings Chamberlain of Ferrisburgh; as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins.

A funeral service will be held on May 31, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Whiting Community Church, 7 North Main Street in Whiting. Following the service, there will be a luncheon and refreshments for family and friends in the fellowship hall. A private graveside service and burial will be in West Salisbury Cemetery at a later date.

Funeral arrangements by Miller & Ketcham in Brandon. Memorial gifts can be made to Teen Challenge of Vermont, 1296 Collins Road, Johnson, VT or to Covered Bridge Recovery Ministry, 184 Pearl Street, Saint Johnsbury, Vt. ◇

wife Donna of Ferrisburgh; her stepbrother Keith Spaulding of Colchester and stepsister Lisa Spaulding of Florida and her two nieces and nephews. Denise was predeceased by her infant son, David; her mother, Patricia Bluto; her sister, Michelle Holbrook; and sister in-law Brenda Robidoux. Many heartfelt thanks to all of the UVM team on Baird 6 for all of the excellent care and kindness she received.

There will be no public services. Remember Denise by spreading love and kindness to loved ones still here on earth. Donations may be made in her memory to Homeward Bound, 236 Boardman St. Middlebury, Vt 05753. To send online condolences to her family please visit www.brownmccayfuneralhomes.com. ◇

State park day use now free for eligible Vermonters

MONTPELIER — Vermont Parks Forever, the only non-profit foundation for Vermont's 55 state parks, has announced a first-in-the-nation, privately funded pilot program that will provide free day-use entry to Vermont State Parks for over 100,000 income eligible Vermonters this 2025 park season.

In partnership with Vermont State Parks, the Department for Children and Families' Economic Services Division, and the Department of Health's WIC Program, this initiative will run from the end of May through October and is available to families and individuals receiving services through the Economic Services Division and WIC. The pilot program is an expansion of Vermont Parks Forever's Park Access Fund that has been creating a more equitable outdoor experience

since 2016.

"Vermont's state parks are for everyone. This pilot program will strengthen our communities and make it easier for more Vermonters to enjoy the outdoors," said Sarah Alberghini Winters, Executive Director of Vermont Parks Forever.

Vermont individuals and families enrolled in Reach Up, 3SquaresVT, Fuel Assistance, General Assistance, Essential Person Program, Summer EBT, and WIC are eligible for free day-use entry to Vermont State Parks in 2025. For more on how to use this pilot program visit: www.vermontparksforever.org/paf-pilot.

Contributions are welcome in support of this pilot program and can be made at: www.vermontparksforever.org/give-park-access.



JOYCE JODY PERKINS

Joyce Jody Perkins celebration of life

SOUTH BURLINGTON — Join us for a celebration of life in loving memory of Joyce Jody Perkins, who died on Dec. 26, 2024. Burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. on June 7, at North Ferrisburgh Cemetery on Hollow Road, with a Luncheon following at the American Legion on Armory Lane in Vergennes. ◇

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Bristol hosts EMS services celebration

BRISTOL — This week, May 18-24, is National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. It is an opportunity to recognize and honor the essential services EMS professionals provide to their communities nationwide.

“Everyone deserves help in their greatest moment of need, and we provide that critical safety net any time of day or night, regardless of age, background, or circumstance,” said Liam Knight of the Bristol Rescue Squad Inc. “We are proud of the employees and volunteers who provide high quality emergency care at Bristol Rescue Squad and we go to great lengths to ensure every employee has the opportunity to be the best medical provider they can be.”

However, Knight pointed out that EMS agencies in Addison County and beyond are facing growing challenges related to sustainable staffing and funding. Increasing call volumes and higher training requirements limit the viability of volunteer staffing, and an unsustainable reimbursement model make equitable staffing a challenge, he said in a recent press release. Legislative changes are slow, and the threat of Medicare/Medicaid cuts from the current administration hangs ominously over our future. There is no simple fix.

“Despite these challenges, Bristol Rescue is exceptionally grateful for the support we have from our community,” Knight said, pointing out that at town meeting this year, Bristol residents proposed increasing the rescue squad’s allotment above what we asked for. He called that a demonstration of that support and strong community spirit.

“We regularly receive notes and letters from community members thanking us for our services, which we wear as a badge of honor and proudly display inside our station,” he said.

He invited the public to join Bristol Rescue in celebrating EMS providers and thanking our community for support this EMS Week. Bristol Rescue is hosting two events on Thursday, May 22, at its station on North Street. At 4 p.m. there will be an Open House. This is an opportunity for the community to visit the station, meet some of providers, learn about the ambulances and equipment, and hear how the squad operates within the 911 system.

Then at 6 p.m., BRS is hosting a Pediatric Emergency Care night at the station. It will cover:

- What to expect when you call 911.
- How to respond to choking.
- Pediatric CPR.
- Essential first aid skills for common childhood injuries.

Vorstevels are held in contempt of court

By IZZY WAGNER
VTDigger.org

The Vermont Supreme Court this month found the owners of a Panton dairy farm in contempt of court for their failure to reduce agricultural runoff produced by their large operation.

The latest decision in a long-running legal case could further mire the farm’s application for state approval of its plan to add 580 cows. The expansion has already prompted concerns from neighbors who complain that the farm is worsening the water quality in nearby Lake Champlain.

Owned by Rudy, Hans and Gerard Vorstevel, the property is recognized as a Large Farm Operation by the state. The farm’s 1,500 mature dairy cows and 1,500 heifers produce 19.87 million gallons of liquid manure annually. The proposed 580 cow expansion would generate an estimated 6.1 million additional gallons of waste each year, according to their permit application.

In response to Vorstevel Farm’s application, 18 concerned Addison County residents urged state leaders to deny the expansion in an April letter to the secretaries of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and the Agency of Natural Resources as well as Gov. Phil Scott. The neighbors cited the farm’s multiple violations, lack of compliance and defiance of court orders.

Additionally, a crowd of roughly 60 people gathered at an April 3 public meeting held by the Agency

of Agriculture to discuss the farm’s expansion plans. After a five-day public comment period following the meeting, the agency began reviewing the farm’s expansion application and plans to approve or deny it June 16.

In response to neighbors’ claims, Gerard Vorstevel has said the farm would gradually increase the herd, rather than adding all 580 cows at once. He acknowledged public concern and said he and his brothers were following orders from the state regarding the farm.

Neither the Vorstevels’ attorney, Claudine Safar, nor Gerard Vorstevel returned multiple requests for comment.

A HISTORY OF CONFLICT

The brothers have already been accused of releasing pollution into local waterways, including Lake Champlain — one of Vermont’s primary drinking water sources.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency filed a civil suit against the Vorstevels last summer for allegedly violating the Clean Water Act and destroying wetlands. The brothers denied the charges, and the case remains open.

In 2022, Addison Superior Court Judge Mary Miles Teachout found the Vorstevels liable for trespass due to polluted runoff crossing a neighbor’s land and flowing into Lake Champlain. The contaminants included nitrates, phosphorus, suspended solids and E. coli levels comparable to untreated sewage, according to the

court decision.

Though the court ordered the farm to stop the runoff in 2022, the Vorstevels were held in contempt in September 2024 for failing to comply. Teachout ordered they pay a \$1,000 fine for each day the farm was out of compliance, starting Nov. 15, 2024.

The Vorstevels, through their attorney, appealed the decision and invested an estimated \$60,000 in improvements to their tile drainage system to prove their compliance with court orders.

“The Farm did its best to address the issues that were raised by every point, and spent a significant amount of time and money addressing these issues,” Safar said in an argument before the Vermont Supreme Court.

In rebuttal, the Hoppers’ attorney Merrill Bent argued much of the \$60,000 the Vorstevels spent on improvements was geared toward the EPA’s lawsuit against the farm, rather than in response to Teachout’s contempt order. Bent said “there is a robust record” of evidence validating Teachout’s motion for contempt.

At evidentiary hearings on April 24 and 25, Gerard Vorstevel testified that he had capped the tile drains, successfully preventing water from flowing into neighbors’ property. Although the excess runoff was halted temporarily, the court found that Vorstevel’s solution did not meet the clear and convincing standard to prove permanent compliance with the

initial contempt order, according to Teachout’s May 1 Superior Court decision.

To conclude the three-year legal battle, a final Supreme Court decision on May 9 upheld the lower court’s contempt order. However, Teachout relieved the Vorstevels of any fines due to their attempt to comply during the period between Nov. 16, 2024, through April 25, 2025.

COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS

In their letter to state agencies and the governor, neighbors pointed to the contempt ruling as evidence that Vorstevel Farm has not addressed the continued harm to Vermont’s waterways, therefore, “the question the Secretary of Agriculture must determine when evaluating an LFO Amendment application has already been conclusively determined.”

Neighbor Glen Macri pointed to the EPA’s separate lawsuit accusing the Vorstevels of illegally discharging pollution into wetlands, calling it a clear contradiction against the farm’s ecological practices such as cover-cropping and no-till farming.

“They are trying to maximize yields, but there’s no countermeasure to control the accelerated runoff that’s going directly to the lake or surrounding waterways,” Macri said. “I guess there’s no regulation or requirement to prevent that.”

He said the farm is situated in an environmentally sensitive area with the Dead Creek watershed

to the east and Lake Champlain directly to the west, both of which provide popular public recreational sites.

Paulette Bogan, another neighbor and longtime Addison County resident, said algae blooms near her Lake Champlain property have rapidly increased since the Vorstevels built their tile drainage system, which she believes to be the cause of the pollution.

“We have a dock ... I used to swim in it, and I would not swim in it anymore. It’s directly a result of the algae blooms,” she said.

In an email to VTDigger, Safar (a Vorstevel attorney) wrote that these claims from neighbors were “completely baseless.”



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(Continued from Page 1A)
the 3,200-square-foot onsite. The structure offered a home for his contracting and building services.

In addition to his work in construction, Clark spent several years studying agriculture at Craftsbury's Sterling College and working on farms. While life took him down a different career path, Clark said he's always been drawn to agricultural endeavors.

"This property was a great opportunity to get back into what I was passionate about in my 20s and in college, which was largely community-based endeavors," he said.

Walsh joined Clark in establishing BCC, bringing her years-worth of experience in agriculture to the table. In the late 1990s and early 2000s Walsh grew medicinal herbs, vegetables and perennials that she sold at farmers markets.

In 1998, she launched a nutrition counseling and health and wellness coaching business called Rootswise. She's also worked on a farm in Oregon, taught health and wellness classes and worked as a

nurse for around 20 years. "Food, community, health, plants — it's always been a passion, so it's cool to see it come together in different ways here," Walsh said.

SPACE TO COME TOGETHER
The BCC site features five greenhouses filled with annuals, perennials, veggies and herbs. The duo said part of their goal is to continue the legacy of the Heffernans' work on Pine Tree Gardens.

"We really didn't want to change up too much, so we're offering the same annuals and vegetables," Clark said.

The pair shares a deep appreciation for farming and began thinking about other ways they could increase access to locally grown food through BCC.

Last year, the team began hosting a live music series called "Freshie Fridays." Each week, local residents can stop by to hear performances and enjoy food and drinks. This year's series of Freshie Fridays will kick off on Friday, May 23, and run through June 27. A full lineup can be found at www.bristolcollaborativecampus.com.

[bristolcollaborativecampus.com](http://www.bristolcollaborativecampus.com)/gathering.

Clark said initially the idea was for the event to serve as an alternative farmers market.

While it didn't quite pan out that way, the pair wants to continue offering a space to support local growers and producers. There's a farmstand on the property where visitors can find groceries, gardening necessities and other products made locally.

"We do offer some artisan goods and maple syrups and honeys, some local crafts and other herbal products," Clark said, adding that Walsh recently relaunched her tea brand.

Throughout the season, BCC will also offer workshops and events centered around painting, growing medicinal herbs and more.

"That word 'collaborative' really was a big part of our mission when we started this because we understand that there's so many talented people in this area, so many people with gifts to offer, but also that it takes collaboration," Walsh said. "We wanted to have a space where people could come together and showcase some of their own talents, whether it's through music, classes or different events that we'll be hosting."

LOOKING AHEAD
Clark and Walsh are working on creating other opportunities for community members to gather at BCC. They've received a wastewater permit to support a commercial kitchen on the property, which the pair says will help expand grocery offerings at the farmstand and provide a space to host food programs.

"Basically, (it's) creating a food hub where there will be classes centered around food, whether it's learning about food, learning about nutrition, but also actually cooking together as a community," Walsh said.

She noted that the commercial kitchen will feature a fulltime bread baker and could provide opportunities for hosting pop-up dinners and allowing residents to rent out the space.



MEGAN WALSH AND Silas Clark are passionate about growing food and building community. The pair is blending those interests through their work at the Bristol Collaborative Campus, home to their greenhouse business and events designed to bring community members together.

Independent photos/Marin Howell

"A big goal of ours, too, is to be able to utilize the kitchen to create prepared meals, so working with local farms to source some great ingredients and then using the kitchen space to prepare meals for people," Walsh said.

"With the hope of making healthy, good food more accessible," Clark added.

The pair is exploring the possibility of forming a nonprofit around that effort. Ultimately, they're hoping to offer a wide variety of classes in and around food and gardening at the site.

"In this day and age where the financial struggle is real for many people, how can we work with the community in helping each other be able to make affordable food and choices around that," Walsh said of the pair's mission. "Also, what we put into our bodies is what we get out of them ... so, how can we learn about good foods, not just growing and making meals, but how can we support our bodies in the process?"

"I feel like a vibrant, happy,

healthy community is one that thrives and sustains itself, and it ripples out," she continued.

If food is one key pillar of BCC's work, building community is another.

"Just the holistic nature of health being more than just food and more than just medicine, but people and community," Clark said. "Making this a public space is the hope."

That vision is starting to take shape. On a sunny afternoon last week, several folks wandered in and out of BCC's greenhouses, stopping to chat with Clark and Walsh as they perused the plants. Clark noted that earlier that day, a couple of groups had stopped by to sit and enjoy coffee served in the farmstand that morning.

The BCC team has also collaborated with community entities on a few endeavors, such as serving as a site for the BEATS Eats Food Truck this past fall. It also worked with local students involved in the MAUSD's Expanded Learning Program and artist Matthew Denton to create a

mural on one of the greenhouses.

"I think first and foremost, last year and this year, we really just wanted to get a foundation here and get our wings underneath us, get some sort of a flow with this, see what the community wants and needs," Walsh said. "But, then also having this greater vision that we want to implement in the next couple of years."

Walsh and Clark said they've appreciated the local support over the past year and getting to engage with residents in a new way.

As their work at BCC continues to evolve, the pair said they're open to hearing from community members about what offerings they'd like to see.

"We're very open to ideas that we didn't come up with or think about at all," Clark said.

Walsh agreed.

"Outside of what we want to create, what does the community need and what do they want? That's been really awesome to just talk to people and figure out," she said.



BRISTOL COLLABORATIVE CAMPUS'S offerings include the farmstand shown here, where visitors can find groceries, gardening necessities and locally-made products. The property also features five greenhouses and is the site of community events like live music nights and workshops.

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Photo by A.J. Murray



CHRISTINE BIRONG-SMITH



COLLEEN NIERING



JEN OLSON

County educators receive their degrees

ADDISON COUNTY – Several Addison County early childhood educators graduated from The Snelling Center for Government is Early Childhood Leadership Institute on April 25 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee. They include:

Christine Birong-Smith, Lincoln Cooperative Preschool; Colleen Niering, Otter Creek Child Center; Jen Olson, Wren’s Nest Forest Preschool; and Jackie Prime, Mary Johnson Children’s Center.

As the culminating event in their six-month leadership journey, the Early Childhood Leadership Institute Class of 2025 celebrated their achievements with Graduation at Lake Morey Resort. Family members, friends, and colleagues joined the cohort for a celebratory graduation luncheon.

ECLI Co-Directors Reevea Murphy and Su White awarded the graduation plaques to 24 members of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute Class of 2025.

This year’s keynote address was delivered by Aly Richards, Chief Executive Officer of Let’s Grow Kids. Richards spoke to the importance of accessible quality early childhood education in Vermont, specifically as it relates to workforce development and the economy. She highlighted the amazing progress that has been made in recent years to elevate the profession in Vermont. She recognized and thanked the cohort for their important work.

The Class of 2025 is the seventh graduating ECLI class and now joins a professional network of over



JACKIE PRIME

1,100 Vermont Leadership Network Alumni, including more than 150 ECLI graduates who are positively influencing Vermont’s future for children and families.

To learn more about the Early Childhood Leadership Institute and the Snelling Center’s other professional development programs, visit www.snellingcenter.org or call 802-859-3090.



TURTLES, LIKE THIS painted turtle, are on the move and may be encountered on roads. Drivers are urged to keep an eye out for them and, if safe to do so, help them cross the road.

Turtle nesting activity peaks between late May and June, and drivers are urged to keep an eye out for turtles on the road – especially when driving near ponds, rivers and wetlands.

“Turtles are usually slow to move, so they have a tough time safely crossing roads. If you spot a turtle on the road, please consider helping it across but be sure you’re in a safe spot to pull over and get out of your car. Human safety comes first,” said Groff. “If you’re going to move a turtle off the road, always move it in

the direction it was traveling. They know where they’re going.”

Most turtles can be picked up and carried across the road. However, snapping turtles have long necks and a powerful bite, so people should be alert and know what the species looks like. If the turtle is large or if it lacks colorful lines, spots, or other markings, then it may be a snapper. Instead of picking up snappers with your hands, try gently lifting them with a shovel or pulling them across the road on cardboard or a car floor mat.

Turtles on the roadway need your assistance

MONTPELIER — Vermont’s turtles are on the move, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for the public’s help in keeping them safe.

Female turtles will soon be looking for places to lay their eggs, and they sometimes choose inconvenient or dangerous locations. For example, turtles often lay eggs in gravel parking lots and driveways and along road shoulders, which puts them at risk of being hit by motor vehicles.

“Turtles commonly cross roads as they move to nesting sites and summer foraging habitats,” said Luke Groff, biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. “Many of the turtles killed on roads are mature breeding females, so not only is the female taken from the population but so are her future offspring. Turtles grow slowly and females of some species may not reproduce until 10 or even 17 years old. So, for small, isolated populations, the loss of mature breeding females may have population-level effects.”

James

(Continued from Page 1A)
loving the town, and knowing everybody. And then working as a (legal assistant) and understanding everything that’s involved in permitting and putting together a real estate closing, because understanding land records and providing services for real estate transfers is a big part, along with zoning planning, of what town offices do. That’s a ton of background.”

James’s management and financial skills will also be vital, he added, for a position that he said will include administrative and financial duties in a town that is Addison County’s third largest in population, but lacks a town manager or administrator.

But with growing town management complexities beyond the ability of a selectboard that meets twice a month to handle, Hinsdale acknowledged managerial responsibilities will default to James.

“She also in that position will be doing the budget and managing the finances of the town,” Hinsdale said. “Which is not really in the town clerk’s job description either, but when you start adding in grants, and modern state requirements and audits, and all that sort of stuff, it’s not realistic (for the selectboard to handle).”

James will start fulltime in August. Before then, starting sometime in June she will split time between her jobs, working in the town office learning the ropes from longtime Ferrisburgh

Town Clerk Pam Cousino, whose responsibilities have also grown over time. Cousino months ago announced her August retirement.

James said she was interested in becoming the new town clerk because the “timing was right for her professionally” after more than a decade in her current job, and because of her desire to focus on serving her hometown.

“I’ve always been passionate about my town and loved working with everybody in the town,” James said. “And I won’t have another job to balance in order to do more work for my community.”

“And I think I can have fun with it,” she added with a laugh. “And I can walk to work, and Gilfeather’s will be open next door so I can see my friends.”

James could see herself keeping the job for a while, largely because of her devotion to Ferrisburgh, but also because of regular hours and good benefits, as well as the somewhat flexible working hours that her colleagues can provide for a mother of high- and middle-schoolers.

“I think it’s a pretty good job considering the market right now,” she said.

James believes, as does Hinsdale and the hiring committee, her work experience has prepared her for the job. She spent years as a retail district manager for Gap Inc. before holding her current position and serving several years on the selectboard.

“I feel like being on the selectboard, being a chair, knowing all the chairs of the other

boards, knowing the government process of the town, that’s huge. I think that and having the admin skills, and knowing who everyone is, who the players are, that’s a huge learning curve for someone just walking in brand new,” James said.

James’s hire is also part of a reconfiguration of town office personnel, Hinsdale said.

“We will gradually move to three fulltime people in the office,” he said.

One will be James, and Laurie Curler will stay on as a fulltime assistant clerk/treasurer.

Meanwhile, Hinsdale noted half-time town treasurer Allison Brigger has given her notice, and Hinsdale said the town plans to hire a fulltime person to replace her who will be “kind of a treasurer/assistant town clerk.”

“We’ve got interviews coming up for that position,” he said.

Thus, James and the new hire will both have financial expertise, and James will have help to handle not only finances, but also important, but more routine, tasks like recording documents and issuing licenses if she is tied up in managerial duties.

“She’ll have two people to delegate duties to,” Hinsdale said.

The town a few months back hired a new zoning administrator, Katherine Hill, who Hinsdale said is doing well.

“She’s had her three-month review and gotten glowing marks from the chairs of zoning and planning as well as us (the selectboard),” he said.

MAUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)
educators throughout MAUSD, which serves students in Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro. The new contract covers all non-administrative, licensed professional staff, including teachers, school nurses, special educators, and speech and language pathologists, among other staff.

“This agreement covers the next three school years and creates a foundation for a community that continues to support our students and provides them with opportunities to thrive,” MAEA Chief Negotiator Michael Williams wrote in a statement to the *Independent*. “A huge amount of time and effort goes into the negotiation process, and we are very grateful to all who contributed.”

Williams noted that the MAEA negotiation team — which includes six professional staff from across the five schools serving in various roles — met with representatives of the school district to negotiate the agreement beginning this past fall.

“This negotiation process is unusual, as a nontraditional negotiation approach has been established, called Critical Issues Bargaining (CIB),” he wrote. “This form of negotiations emphasizes coming together to share issues or concerns that either party may have and phrase them in a way that searches for an acceptable solution and, if possible, beneficial to all stakeholders whether they be students, residents of the towns served by the MAUSD, staff, administrators, board members, etc.”

Williams said the process is aimed at “solving problems and

meeting future needs, rather than focusing on past issues.”

“Key to this process are the relationships and trust between all those involved in negotiations, which allow for considered decision making and, when necessary, professional and constructive robust debate,” he wrote.

Williams said they were fortunate to work with Annie Rutsky, a facilitator who worked for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS)

“Unfortunately, the FMCS has recently been greatly reduced in size, but we are very thankful for the support that has been provided over the years,” he said. “This approach to negotiations has helped build positive relationships within MAUSD.”

MAUSD Board Vice Chair Mike Dash also highlighted aspects of the negotiation process.

“Here, each group initially generated a list of issues to be discussed and the lengthy series of remaining meetings were used to 1) collectively develop our understanding of these issues from multiple perspectives and 2) collaboratively identify options for helping to address those issues,” he wrote. “Such an approach resulted in significant improvements to the final agreement while also 1) strengthening relationships between the board, administration, and MAEA and 2) improving our collective understanding of the challenges that we all are currently grappling with.”

Key provisions of the 47-page agreement include the pay increases. Those increases will be applied to the salary schedule outlined in the agreement, which is a

structured pay scale that determines how staff are compensated based on experience and education.

MAEA Co-president Sarah Mangini noted the higher pay increase in year one of the contract “was to get MAUSD educators ‘caught up,’ following similarly high increases in other districts (those for which contract negotiations had happened following the pandemic and subsequent high-inflation years).”

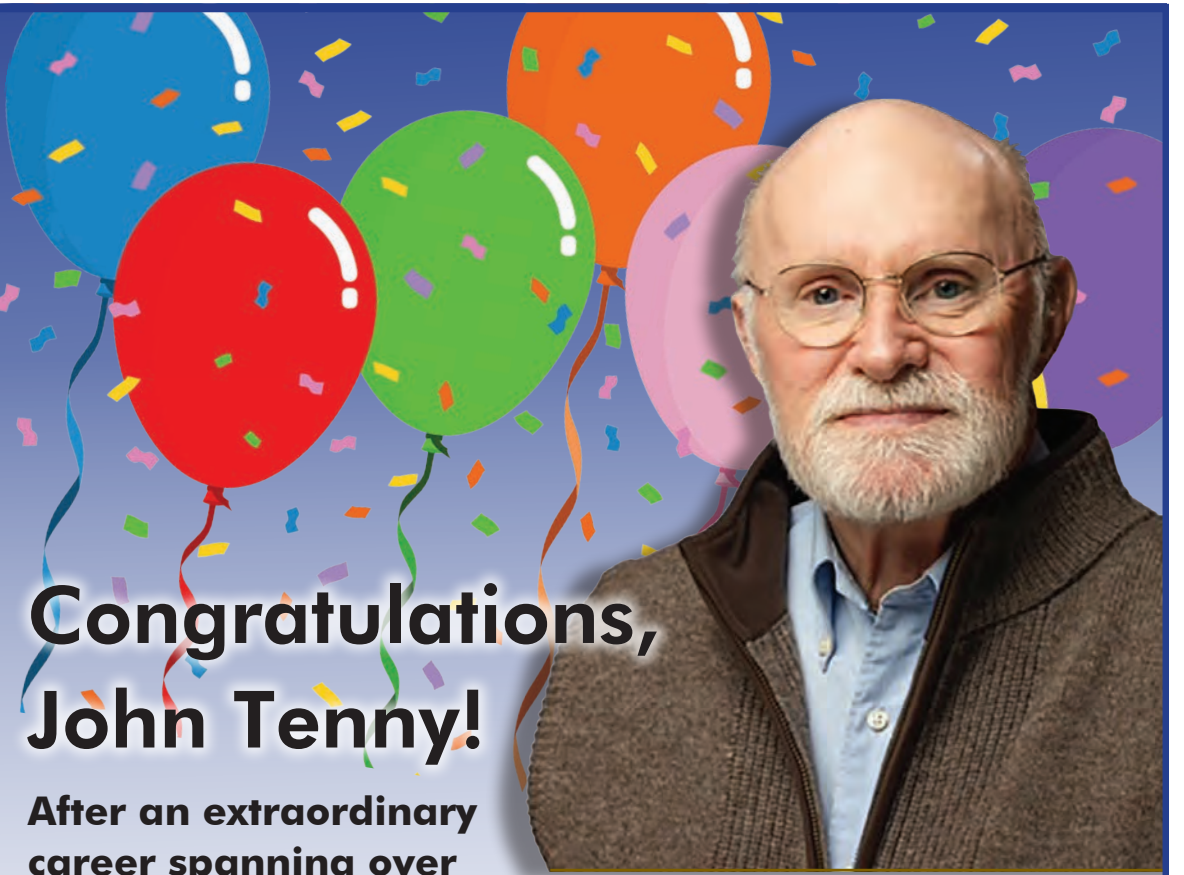
Dash said the increases were negotiated to ensure the district’s professional staff were competitively paid relative to other districts in the area, as well as to “address the loss of purchasing power associated with previous annual salary increases that failed to keep up with inflation.”

He said another substantial change in the agreement had to do with elementary school staff preparation time and duty coverage.

“Here we both 1) protected periods of individual prep time for all professional staff and 2) provided administrators with additional flexibility in assigning duty coverage to ensure adequate student support during recess, lunch, and drop-off/pick-up,” he explained.

Dash pointed to some other changes reflected in the new agreement.

“(Additional changes) were made throughout the agreement including changes to how sick time is used (hours instead of days), curricular development compensation, speech language pathologists’ placement on the salary schedule, updated definitions and communication expectations surrounding reduction in force, changes to the health-care buyout option, district support for additional required staff licenses, new language to support employee safety, and language outlining a plan of action for continued cooperative dialogue between MAEA and administrators at Mt. Abe High School,” he wrote.



Congratulations, John Tenny!


After an extraordinary career spanning over five decades, John Tenny is retiring from Silver Maple.

John’s journey began in northern Ohio and led him to Vermont in 1970, where he quickly immersed himself in community and craftsmanship.

From his early days as a rookie carpenter to his years at Mill Bridge Construction, he brought dedication, integrity, and vision to every project. Beyond the building trades, John’s impact on Addison County has been profound—guiding affordable housing initiatives as President of the Addison County Community Trust, shaping local policy as Chairman of the Middlebury Select Board, and supporting cultural preservation through his work with the Henry Sheldon Museum.

Since 2017, John has been a vital member of the Silver Maple team, sharing his wisdom, leadership, and kindness with colleagues and clients alike. From Sean Flynn: “I could not be more appreciative for the time John has generously given us at Silver Maple. The wisdom and wry humor he brought to every situation made our break into the commercial construction world both possible and enjoyable. He will be genuinely missed as he embarks on this well deserved next chapter with his wonderful wife Madeline.”

We are grateful for his many contributions and wish him all the best. Thank you, John—for everything.



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Mentoring

(Continued from Page 1A)

time there was only one other mentoring program in the area — the Community Friends program at Middlebury College, Johnston noted.

“It was really just too far for people to travel to Starksboro to mentor,” she recalled. “So, we started our own program.”

Johnston acknowledged that some Robinson students had limited access to resources and experiences outside of school and their home. The mentoring program offered an opportunity for pupils to get out into the community.

“It’s a community-based program in the school. Mentors are free to meet in the community, to explore, to hike, to bake, to volunteer together with their mentees,” Johnston explained. “Many school programs happen only on the campus. I think one of the reasons (the program) has worked over the years is because it could rotate on the mentor’s schedule.”

Participating mentors commit to meeting with their mentees for an average of one hour per week during the school year. Though, Robinson Elementary School Mentor Coordinator Emily Gibbs noted mentors can divide up those

visits in a way that works with their schedules.

“Sometimes folks meet for a longer visit for two or three hours twice a month,” she said.

Prospective mentors must be at least 18 years old and complete a background check and training.

Currently, Starksboro has 12 matches at the elementary school level and another 13 at Mount Abe. Gibbs noted that 97 youth and 88 mentors have taken part in the program over the years.

Johnston saw many of those participants move through the program during her time at the elementary school.

“The joy that it’s brought to me to watch children with their adult mentors connect and create special handshakes and ways of connecting and relating, seeing those two generations come together is such a joyful and fun thing to watch,” she said. “If you could have a mentor relationship that started in second grade and went until a child graduated high school, that’s profound.”

Mentors and mentees wanting to continue those relationships is what prompted the program to expand beyond Robinson Elementary over a decade ago. Johnston noted that participants wanted to keep meeting after students’ finished sixth grade, but the program didn’t initially have the ability to support that.

“(We) expanded the program to the middle and high school and several matches made it through all of their years,” she said. “I think when the district noticed the impact of the program with their matches, they were interested in other schools modeling their programs after Starksboro.”

MAUSD now operates mentoring programs in each of its four elementary schools, as well as at Mount Abe.

“What has been interesting to observe is the impact mentoring has had on specifically our retired community,” Johnston said. “Their



MENTORS AND MENTEES from Robinson Elementary School take part in an after-school group event at Starksboro’s Russell Tree Farm. The mentoring program will commemorate its 20th anniversary with a June 1 celebration at the school.

Photo courtesy of Emily Gibbs

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feeling of contribution and making a difference in the life of a child is really important for people.”

BENEFITS FOR ALL

Starksboro resident Cecilia Elwert got involved with the mentoring program after retiring. She’s now in her second year of mentoring a second grader at Robinson.

Throughout the school year, Elwert visits the elementary school to have lunch with her mentee and walk down to the nearby creek when the weather allows.

The pair attends special events in the community — Elwert noted the mentoring program provides tickets to productions at Mount Abe. The duo also has a goal of visiting each of the public libraries and school playgrounds in Addison

County, which they check off during school vacations.

“I know it’s wonderful for the kid, but it’s also wonderful for me, the mentor, and I would say that other mentors would probably echo the same thing,” Elwert said of the program. “I’m almost 72, and I have a son (who is 35), and to be back in his elementary school is amazing.”

She said staying connected to the elementary school through the program has allowed her to meet staff and students, as well as made her more aware of issues within the education system.

“It makes me feel much younger than I actually am because (you are) seeing the world through the eyes of a kid, which I think is a wonderful thing for an older person,” Elwert said. “It makes me think of the world that (my mentee) is growing up in, and it’s very different than the world I grew up in in the 1950s.”

Elwert acknowledged that the program is always looking for mentors and recommend community members get involved.

“Even if you just stick to the one hour a week, that really has a huge impact because this kid knows that you are focusing on them for that one hour,” she said. “You could be mentoring them all through high school, but even if it ends up just being through elementary school there are tremendous benefits.”

Frazer underscored the program’s positive impact on its participants.

“I think a lot of people, when they consider (being) mentors, they think, ‘Oh what if my kid doesn’t like me, or they don’t think I’m fun to be with, or I can’t think of anything to do with them,’” she said. “None of that is relevant ... as soon as a kid finds out that this is their person, that’s all that matters.”

“What we’ve found is that as soon as kids get assigned a mentor, that day of the week that they see their mentor becomes their favorite day of the week, and they’re never absent, and they’re in a good mood, and they come to school ready to go,” she continued.

Frazer currently mentors Tracy Whalon, a sophomore at Mount Abe. Over the past several years, the pair has played lots of games together, gone rock climbing and played disc golf, among other activities.

“My mentee’s siblings also have mentors, so sometimes we’ve done things as a group, and then he has another friend who has a mentor who’s a friend of mine, so we’ve done a lot of things in groups of mentors,” Frazer said.

Those group outings are the activities that have stuck with Whalon over the years. He said he got involved in the program after seeing other students having fun



EDORAH FRAZER AND Tracy Whalon were matched several years ago through the mentoring program at Robinson Elementary School. Together they’ve played lots of games over the years, as well as gone on various adventures and taken part in outings with other mentor and mentee matches.

with their mentors and that he’d encourage local youth give it a try.

“I would definitely recommend it to other students not only because you get to meet with new people from different age groups and other schools, but you get to meet with someone that you’ll most likely enjoy having time with and be able to do a lot of fun stuff with,” he said.

JUNE 1 CELEBRATION

Mentors and mentees who have taken part in the program over the years are invited to celebrate its 20th anniversary on Sunday, June 1, from 3-5 p.m. at Robinson Elementary School.

Gibbs noted that participants from other MAUSD schools and anyone interested in mentoring is also welcome to attend. The event will feature food, games and time to connect with mentors and mentees.

Those interested in mentoring at Robinson Elementary School can contact Gibbs at Emily.Gibbs@mausd.org. MAUSD community members looking for mentoring opportunities may visit mentorvt.org or email Anna.howell@mausd.org.



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ROBINSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL mentor Terry and mentee Abi stock shelves at the Starksboro Food Shelf during a service day in spring 2024. Over the years, 97 local youth and 88 adult mentors have taken part in the school’s mentoring program, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Photo courtesy of Emily Gibbs



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IN the MAUSD Expanded Learning Program’s production of “The Wizard of Oz,” will take flight on opening night with the help of ropes and training from professional riggers. Pictured clockwise from above are: Delia Park as Dorothy and Piper Donlon as the Scarecrow; a group of munchkins celebrate; and Levi Clark, Milo Stoddard and Donlon get blown away.



Independent photos/Steve James

Students to take flight in Mount Abe musical

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Student performers in the MAUSD Expanded Learning Program’s rendition of “The Wizard of Oz” next week will soar on opening night.

Literally. This year’s middle school musical will see several students take flight thanks to professional riggers who will work with ropes and other equipment to lift actors off the stage to dramatic effect.

“I think it’s going to be a really interesting addition and really fun,” said Isolde Tierney, a seventh grader playing the lead flying monkey “Nikko” in the show.

Professional riggers and flying directors from Kentucky’s ZFX Flying Effects will visit Bristol this weekend to train performers and operators in how to use the equipment that will give audience members a memorable trip to Emerald City.

This spring’s middle school musical is the fourth to be staged by Mount Abraham Unified School District’s Expanded Learning Program, or ELP. It will once again be directed by Jen Allred, who serves as Director of Arts & Enrichment for ELP and directs musicals at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School.

During the past several years, Allred has also directed a summer musical through ELP for students in grades 3-6.

“Her idea is that, just like soccer and baseball and basketball all have their feeder programs, she was hoping to build the (theater) feeder program,” ELP Co-Director Mandy Chesley-Park explained. “She has seen a significant increase in middle school students that are now growing up through the program now that it’s been six or seven years.”

Some of those students were in attendance at a rehearsal this past Thursday, along with several alums of the middle and high school theater programs helping out with things like choreography and stage management.

Chesley-Park said there are around 52 students in grades 6-8 taking part in the musical, a slightly

smaller group than in the past couple of years.

She noted that with each programs ELP has been a part of with Allred, the team has tried to invest in some type of equipment for the theater program when possible.

“We really are huge fans of Jen Allred and are excited to support her work and the program’s work, so it’s kind of just leaving our own little token and just seeing how we can push the bounds of the theater program here, which is a pretty incredible program,” Chesley-Park said.

The Friends of Mount Abraham Musical Theatre Inc. has often supported past efforts, and this year, funds from the state’s SStep Ahead Recognition System will cover the cost of working with the riggers.

A steel bar and other necessary equipment has also been installed in the Mount Abe theater to allow for flying.

“After this, outside of the riggers that you have to hire, the equipment is set up now and the investment has been made,” Chesley-Park said.

This isn’t the first Mount Abe production to feature flying, though it’s been several years since professional riggers helped performers at the school take flight. The school worked with ZFX for its 1999 production of “Peter Pan.”

TAKING FLIGHT

ZFX is one of just a handful of companies that specialize in flying effects.

“I would say there are less than a thousand people around the world that do what we do,” said William Courson, a flying director at ZFX.

Courson has worked in flying effects for 13 years and helped out with shows across the globe, including around 39 other productions of “The Wizard of Oz.” His work as a flying director consists of rigging, training local theater companies and doing choreography, as well as handling project management throughout the process.

“We do a lot of what are called ‘manual shows,’ which is what we’ll be doing in Vermont, where human beings will be pulling on ropes to

lift the performers and move them,” Courson said.

Courson and a flying director-in-training will travel to Bristol this weekend, where they’ll setup the equipment and rigging needed for the show. They’ll then conduct training that will include how to put on the harnesses and use the systems.

After that, they’ll work on choreography with the operators — the individuals pulling on the ropes — and then work with the performers.

“That’s the part that’s fun for me, is that rehearsal process,” Courson said. “I want to see what they have already put together as far as the staging of the show and what character development they’ve worked on, and from that we’ll start creating the flight sequences that are tailored to them and their show, so it’s a really collaborative and creative part of the process.”

All of that work will take place over three days.

“We’ll train the local guys and gals how to use the system and do the choreography with the system and then we’ll leave and they’ll run the show and take it down and ship it all back, and that’s really common,” Courson explained.

He noted the process looks a bit different when working with younger actors who are flying for the first time.

“It’s a much different approach than working on something like Broadway,” he said. “A lot of performers that I work with on the

professional circuit have had some experience, so there’s an expectation that we don’t have to cover some of the topics, but for the younger groups, I really like to be thorough and explain things in a methodical way.”

While performers might be in the air for just a few moments, the process requires months of preparation. Courson likes to start the conversations six months before the show.

“There’s discussion about what they want artistically, so I can pack the right equipment,” he said.

Student performers in recent weeks have submitted various measurements to ensure the equipment is suited to them, as well as secured parental consent.

KIDS FLYING

Five students are set to fly: Tierney, Marleigh Vose, Jillian Cousino as the Wizard of Oz, Emily Wells as the Wicked Witch of the West and Aurelia Urban as Glinda.

“I’m really looking forward to seeing the kids fly,” Allred said. “I’m excited for the group to have that opportunity to learn what that means and the level of preparation and performance that’s going to have to take place for all of them.”

Students expressed their excitement about the upcoming show during a rehearsal last week.

“The Mount Abe musicals are always really cool and unique

but we’ve never done flying before (in a middle school musical),” Urban said. In addition to the flying, students were looking forward to other parts of the show.

“I’m really excited about the fact that it is ‘The Wizard of Oz’ and we have a bunch of cool characters and everyone gets to play a lot of different characters,” Wells said.

Community members will get a chance to see all of the pieces come

together when students take to the stage on Friday, May 30, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 31, at 2 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit tinyurl.com/mausdelp.

“There are definitely a lot of funny parts that will make you laugh,” Cousino said of the upcoming show. “So, it’s a really good musical if you want to laugh a lot.”

“I’m really looking forward to seeing the kids fly.”

— Jen Allred

Congratulations Courtney! Good luck on your new venture!

We are thrilled to announce the addition of Courtney DeBisschop as Director of Silver Maple’s Commercial Division. A seasoned real estate professional with deep roots in Addison County, Courtney brings more than 25 years of experience in the local market, along with a sharp business acumen developed through her degree in Economics and Small Business from the University of Vermont.



Courtney’s career began early—earning her real estate license at just 19—and has been shaped by a passion for property, a proactive mindset, and a strong commitment to her clients and community. Her professional journey includes managing a real estate office, overseeing residential investments and renovations, and co-running a local excavation company alongside her husband. These experiences give her a unique, hands-on understanding of both the business and building sides of construction and development.

“We are thrilled for Courtney. Her experiences in real estate and her commitment to the success of her clients will bode well for her in this next venture. As we continue to cross paths, both personally and professionally, I’m excited to watch her thrive at Silver Maple” says Amey Ryan, Owner of IPJ Real Estate

From CEO of Silver Maple, Sean Flynn, “We are proud to welcome Courtney to the Silver Maple team. I have known Courtney for nearly two decades and have always been in awe of what a power house she is no matter what challenge she has in front of her. While she has big shoes to fill I am already amazed with the great work she is doing to build out our ever growing commercial construction division.”

As she steps into her new role at Silver Maple, Courtney is eager to apply her skills, grow the commercial division, and build on the strong foundation laid by John Tenny. Her knowledge, energy, and strategic thinking make her an invaluable addition to our team—and we are excited for what’s ahead.



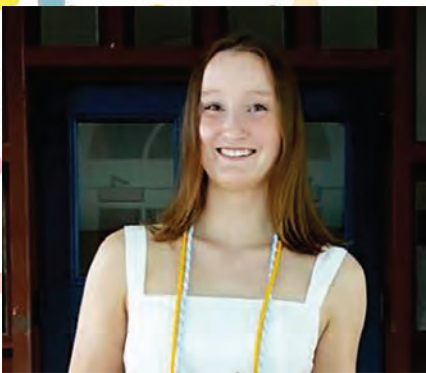
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FROM SILVER MAPLE AND IPJ REAL ESTATE

The team at Nino’s is thrilled to celebrate Olivia Audet’s graduation from the University of New Hampshire! She earned her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation and Sustainability. Olivia, we deeply appreciate your years of service and trusted leadership. We are excited to see the great things you’ll do and know you will be an outstanding advocate for our planet.

Congratulations, Olivia.



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Woman with knife taken into custody

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police took into custody a woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis during this past Thursday afternoon. She had allegedly brandished a knife at authorities outside of 15 Court St. on May 15 (see related story in Section A of this paper).

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Responded to a noise disturbance at a North Pleasant Street home on May 12.
- Helped Vermont State Police at a traffic stop at the intersection of Court and Monroe streets on May 12.
- Opened an investigation into a possible case of possession of child sexual abuse material in the Airport Road area on May 12.
- Assisted a local woman on May 12 who was being scammed online.
- Cited Tanya Brace, 35, for driving with a criminally suspended license on North Pleasant Street on May 12.
- On May 13, arrested Todd Gordon, 51, and Richard Murray, 58, both of Middlebury, on separate outstanding warrants for their arrest.
- Assisted with a juvenile issue at Middlebury Union Middle School on May 13.
- Helped a landlord who was “having issues” with a tenant on May 13.
- Responded to a report of a man littering and “making people uncomfortable” in the North Pleasant Street area on May 13.

Middlebury Police Log

- Assisted the Department for Children & Families with an upset woman in the South Village Green neighborhood on May 13.
- Tried to find a sick raccoon reported in the Buttolph Drive area on May 13.
- Assisted a juvenile on May 14 who had run away from home.
- Helped Addison Central School District officials with a suspected fraud case on May 14.
- Warned a man who was throwing clothing and drinking alcohol in the Court Street area on May 14.
- Responded to a noise complaint in the North Pleasant Street area on May 15.
- Cited Cory Parizo, 45, and Crystal Roth, 45, both of Rutland, for retail theft, after they were allegedly found to have been shoplifting at Hannaford supermarket on May 15.
- Responded to a two-vehicle crash, with no injuries, on Court Street Extension on May 15.
- Checked on a man found sleeping on a bench off Main Street at around 11 a.m. on May 15.
- Checked on the welfare of a man in downtown Middlebury on May 15.
- Investigated a report of a vehicle leaving the scene of an accident on Court Street on May 16.
- Checked on the welfare of a Seymour Street resident on May 16.

- Responded to a three-vehicle accident at the intersection of Main and Seymour streets on May 16. Police reported no injuries.
- Responded, with Middlebury Regional EMS, to a medication overdose case in Triangle Park on May 16. Police said MREMS took the patient to Porter Hospital.
- Cited Gerald H. Moulton, 41, of Bridport for driving under the influence, following a traffic stop on College Street on May 16.
- Received a report about a man acting in a disorderly fashion outside of Shaw’s Supermarket on May 17. Police said the man had left before they got there.
- Responded to another report of a disorderly person on May 17, this one involving a man outside a Court Street Extension business. Police said the man had left before their arrival.
- Were informed of the theft of a trash receptacle from a Lowers Plains Road address on May 17.
- Pulled over a driver speeding in the South Street area on May 17. The officer quickly learned the woman in the passenger seat was in labor. The vehicle made it to Porter Hospital.
- Responded to a noise complaint related to a Middlebury College party in the Cross Street area on May 18.
- Helped a local resident with a scam-related complaint on May 18.
- Responded to a noise disturbance at a South Pleasant Street apartment building on May 18.

Sheriff’s Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Addison County Sheriff’s Department Cpl. Robert Wesley was on patrol in Monkton on the afternoon of May 15 when he saw a motor vehicle violation on Hardscrabble Road and attempted to stop the car.

The vehicle fled, Cpl. Wesley followed and found it a short distance later in a driveway on Boro Hill Road.

The vehicle fled again, and Wesley attempted to catch up again. While fleeing, the driver of the vehicle and lost control on a curve and crashed in a ditch. She got out and ran away.

While fleeing on foot, the driver fell and hurt her ankle; the sheriff’s deputy caught up and identified the driver as 42-year-old Jill Smith of Bristol.

The Bristol Rescue Squad was called to evaluate Smith, and they ultimately took her to the hospital as a precaution.

The Sheriff’s Department cited Smith for driving with a criminally suspended license and for attempting to elude police.

That wasn’t the only action that Cpl. Wesley saw last week.

The department reports that he was conducting speed enforcement on Swinington Hill Rod in Leicester on May 14 at around 11:45 a.m. when he observed a vehicle going 74 mph in a 40 mph zone. When he attempted to stop the vehicle, it fled and Cpl. Wesley followed it a short distance down Leicester Whiting Road before stopping because he decided it was unsafe.

The sheriff’s department posted photos of the car on social media and identified the driver. The department said it would follow up.

In other recent activity, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns and stopped 91 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations and fingerprinted 13 people for background checks.

The sheriff and his deputies also:

- On May 12 completed a background check at the Middlebury headquarters.
- On May 12 assisted the Bristol Rescue Squad with a medical call at Broadview Estates.

- On May 13 gave a hand to the Middlebury Area Rescue Squad with a call on Route 7 in Salisbury.
- On May 14 assisted state police with a welfare check on Route 17 in Starksboro.
- On May 14 helped Middlebury police in attempting to find a missing person.
- On May 14 assisted state police with a driving under the influence arrest on Blake Roy Road in Middlebury.
- On May 14 spotted two malnourished horses on Hawkins Road in Ferrisburgh and contact with the owners. Deputies learned that the horses are recent rescues and their owners are working with a vet to get them healthy again.
- On May 15 assisted state police at a crash on Route 17 in Addison.
- On May 17 participated in “Big Truck Day” in Shoreham. A deputy ran the rollover car, which simulates what happens during a crash when occupants don’t wear their seatbelts.
- On May 17 transported a person from Middlebury to Brattleboro for an evaluation.

Several injured in pickup crash

ADDISON COUNTY — The crash of a pickup truck full of people on Route 17 in Addison this past Thursday resulted in several people being taken to the hospital with serious injuries.

On May 15 at around 7:22 a.m. Vermont State Police were called to the crash of a 2013 Ford F-350 on Route 17 West near Cedar Drive. Police report that the truck with seven people in it was traveling southbound at approximately 45 mph when it left the southbound lane and struck a telephone pole. Three of the occupants were transported to UVM Medical Center. Investigation into the cause of the crash is still ongoing.

Troopers report that 47-year-old Antonio Marcos Da Costa of West Long Branch, N.J., was the driver.

State police offices were assisted on scene by the Addison County

Vt. State Police Log

Sherriff’s Department, Addison Fire Department, Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, Middlebury Regional EMS and Bristol Rescue Squad.

In a separate incident, state police stopped a vehicle on Blake Roy Road near Three Mile Bridge Road in Middlebury on May 15 shortly after 4 p.m. Troopers cited Jamey W. Pattison, 37, of Middlebury for driving under the influence. He also got traffic citations for driving a vehicle that wasn’t registered and for driving with a license that had been suspended (civil violation).

Meanwhile, state police

announced late last week that they had identified the driver who had stolen a car from Burlington and crashed it, head-on, into a Monkton man’s car before running away on May 11.

Troopers said that, thanks in part to several tips received from the public, they identified Eugene Streeter, 40, of Burlington as the person who stole the Audi Q5 from an 83-year-old Burlington woman then crashed it in Monkton. While they hadn’t located Streeter by late last week, police got an active warrant for his arrest. Investigation into the identities of the remaining occupants of the stolen Audi is still ongoing.

When they catch him, state police said they will cite Streeter for three felonies and five traffic tickets that could draw fines of up to \$1,740.



Pretty in pink
SURROUNDED BY CRABAPPLE blossoms, this Chipping sparrow enjoys a quiet spring moment in a Weybridge tree.

Photo by Susan Humphrey

Police respond to family fight

VERGENNES — Vergennes police responded to a report of a family fight on Ice House Court on May 12 and cited a resident into court to answer multiple charges.

Vergennes police allege Shelby Canterbury, 38, of Vergennes committed domestic assault, cruelty to a child, an offense committed in the presence of a child. Canterbury was cited to appear in Addison Superior Court on May 14.

In other activity between May 12 and 18, as well as working on ongoing investigations, Vergennes police conducted three cruiser patrols, a traffic stop and three VIN inspections; responded to a false alarm and a 911 hang-up call; processed three fingerprint requests; and also:

On May 12:

- Referred a report of a rotting carcass in a neighbor’s shed to a Fish & Game warden.
- Checked out a Green Street report of a juvenile who appeared to have been forced into a vehicle. Police said a juvenile girl did not want to get in a vehicle with her father, and both left before police got there. Police followed up.
- Took a report that an Amazon package was stolen from a Green Street porch. Police said the case is closed pending further information.

Vergennes Police Log

- Heard from a New Haven Road resident that his neighbor was driving on the greenspace in front of his house and making ruts and had stolen reflector markers from his lawn, allegations the neighbor denied. Police issued both parties no-trespass notices for the other’s property.
- Took a report of a smashed car window, but learned from its owner’s ring camera it was broken accidentally by a lawn care company.
- On May 13: Received a tip about possible drug activity in the Main Street area.
- Backed up Vermont State Police at a traffic stop near the Ferrisburgh train station.
- Received and logged several phone calls from a Hillside Acres resident with known mental health issues.
- Served an abuse prevention order on Ice House Court.
- On May 14: At the request of a caller, contacted his ex-partner at a city address and asked him to stop contacting the caller and to throw

- away any items that were left behind.
- Issued citations/court diversion paperwork to two Vergennes Union High School students who had vape pens containing tetrahydrocannabinol, known more widely as THC.
 - On May 15: Dealt with a noise complaint on Walker Avenue.
 - Calmed a parent-juvenile argument on MacDonough Drive.
 - Responded to a report of a family fight on Green Street, but learned the fuss was a parent disciplining children.
 - At the request of the Department of Public Works directed traffic around a West Main Street traffic hazard.
 - Checked out a report of two people sleeping in a vehicle in Falls Park and discovered they were homeless; police recommended resources.
 - On May 16 served a relief from abuse order at a Second Street residence.
 - On May 18: Accepted a wallet found on Meigs Road and left a message for its owner.
 - Talked to a juvenile who had left a city home after a dispute with a parent. Police said he went to stay with his other parent for the day.

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Vt. Education bill is not ready to be law

Editor's note: Sen. Hardy posted this column on Monday. On Wednesday the leader of the State Senate pulled bill H.454 from the floor of his chamber.

On May 10, I hosted a public forum with Rep. Peter Conlon and Sen. Steve Heffernan about the major K-12 educational transformation bill, H.454, which has been the primary focus of this legislative session. You can find a recording of that forum on the MCTV YouTube channel. On May 12, I also recorded an episode of former Rep. Dave Sharpe's education policy TV show, Sharpe Takes, talking about the details and impetus for H.454 and educational transformation. You can also watch that show on the MCTV YouTube channel.

Over the past week, however, a lot has changed with H.454. As I noted at the forum and on Sharpe's show, I had serious concerns with the bill as it passed out of the Senate Education Committee. Unfortunately, the Senate Finance Committee made the bill even worse, and I was one of two members of the Committee to vote against the bill. The bill will be up for a vote on the Senate floor this week. I urge you to reach out to Senator Heffernan, who voted for the Senate Education version, and ask him to also vote against H.454 on the floor.

Here are ten significant problems with the Senate version of H.454:

- 1) It will not lower property taxes, especially for the people who need it most
- 2) It will under-fund public schools, especially those in the Addison District
- 3) It creates a funding formula that is not based on empirical analysis and is possibly

- unconstitutional
- 4) It includes a rushed, political process for consolidating school districts
- 5) It does not address the major cost-drivers in school budgets
- 6) It maintains private school vouchers and does not sufficiently limit public funding for private schools
- 7) It imposes an unrealistic timeline for change that will create chaos in our schools
- 8) It fails to advance needed reforms at the state or local level
- 9) It eliminates the structure for taxing upscale second homes at a higher rate than primary residences
- 10) It does not center kids and lacks a clear understanding of how K-12 schools actually work

If you'd like to compare versions of the bill, here are links to several versions of the bill and supporting materials:

- 1) Governor's plan outline and bill as introduced in late-February
- 2) House bill as passed in March, JFO summary, and transformation timeline
- 3) Senate Education Committee bill passed in late-April, JFO summary, and transformation timeline
- 4) Senate Finance Committee bill passed last week and JFO summary

The Senate version of the bill is being pushed by Senate leaders of both parties, spearheaded by Pro Tem Phil Baruth and Minority Leader Scott Beck. This bill will not provide property tax relief for most Vermonters and will likely be destructive to our public school system, at a time when public schools are already facing severe pressure and possible funding cuts from the federal government. I will be voting "No" on the bill this

week and I hope others will join me.

Finally, I end with a reminder of the great things happening in schools around the Addison District, including an amazing public art project at the Mount Abe School District, innovative hands-on learning at Vergennes Union Middle School, and incredible leadership at the Salisbury Community School. Students are thriving in our local public schools and we owe it to them to make sure we do no harm with educational transformation efforts.

Whack!

MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School ninth-grader Addy Taylor prepares a forehand volley in her No. 4 singles match against BFA's MacKenzie Smith in Middlebury on Monday. Taylor was victorious, 6-0, 6-3.

Independent photo/Steve James



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OPINION

Asking the wrong question about schools

Achievement taking a back seat to cost

Community Forum: *This week's opinion comes from James Cryan. The Cornwall resident is a former public school teacher, principal and superintendent.*

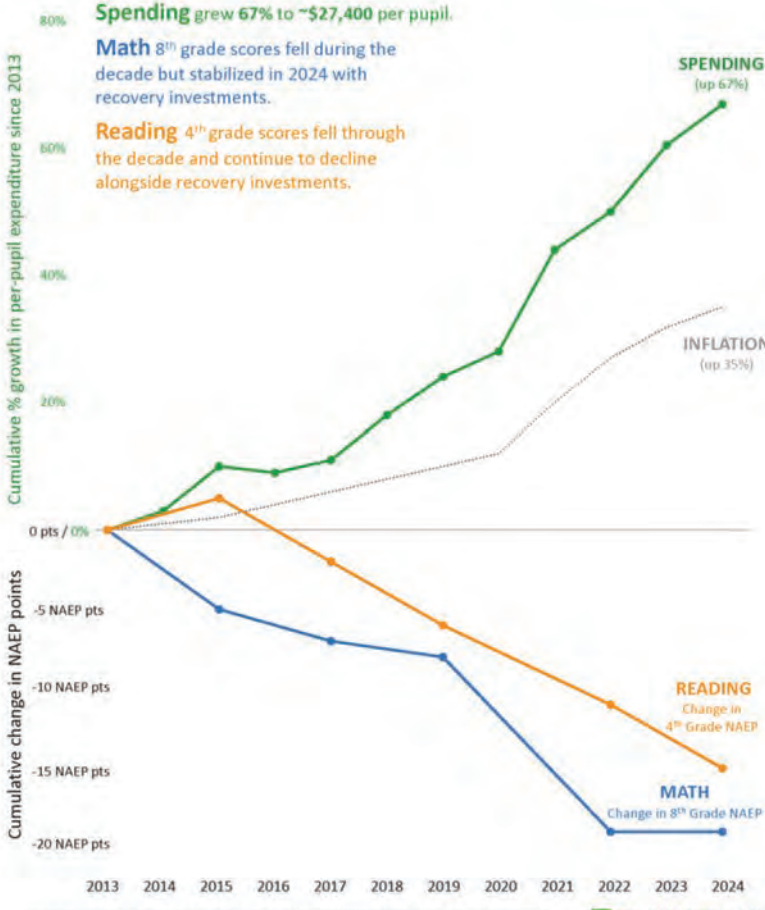
There's been plenty of (deserved) attention paid to the education reform proposed this legislative season in our brave, little state. While many are focused on cutting costs, I have heard few asking the right questions or focusing on the right problem.

Earlier this year, the most recent National Assessment of Educational Progress results were released. The results for Vermont's children are highly concerning. Despite having the fourth-highest per-pupil spending in the country, our children now perform lower academically than children in Louisiana, Mississippi, both Dakotas, and 27 other states. The Urban Institute adjusted results by demographics and found that Vermont children have the third-worst average adjusted performance in the country.

This wasn't always the case. For decades, Vermont has had high public spending, and high student performance — not a bad deal. However, despite spending increasing significantly since 2013, student performance has dropped precipitously (figure 1). In fact, no state has dropped more over that time period (figure 2).

As lawmakers deliberate on the future of Vermont's public education system, they seem to be

Vermont: Change in Spending and Scores since 2013



Year	Spending % growth	Math 8th Grade NAEP pts	Reading 4th Grade NAEP pts
2013	0	0	0
2014	~5	~-5	~-5
2015	~10	~-10	~-10
2016	~15	~-15	~-15
2017	~20	~-20	~-20
2018	~25	~-25	~-25
2019	~30	~-30	~-30
2020	~35	~-35	~-35
2021	~40	~-40	~-40
2022	~45	~-45	~-45
2023	~50	~-50	~-50
2024	~55	~-55	~-55



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics

solely focused on the cost question. However, aren't there a more pressing set of questions?

Editor's note: James Cryan's schools have been recognized multiple times for top student growth and performance in Colorado, and as one of Denver's Top 100 Workplaces.


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NEWS

MONKTON — The Monkton Friends Methodist Church will be holding its annual plant, bake and craft sale on Saturday, May 24, starting at 9 a.m.

The plant sale will net a wide variety of hardy perennials including flowering plants, berry bushes, lovely shade plants, herbs, shrubs, lilac bushes and much more! All plants are from our own local gardeners so very hardy for the area and will thrive in Vermont weather. At the bake sale you will be delighted to find a wonderful selection of easy to grab treats and goodies. You will be able to select that special gift for someone such as a baby gift or those wonderful looking potholders plus many things you can't get anywhere else in the craft section. Don't miss this opportunity to support the Monkton Church, see neighbors and friends plus get some great buys. If you have any questions,

please call Marilyn Cargill at 453-5192.

From the desk of Candace Polzella of the East Monkton Church Association: Did you know Monkton has an Honor Roll monument to honor veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War? It is located in front of the Monkton Borough Baptist Church, often called the Grange.

The East Monkton Church Association is hosting an Open House and display featuring Monkton's Honor Roll. Why should you come to the East Monkton Church on Memorial Day? Because like Memorial Day itself, it was created just after the Civil War. Come soak in the feel of the historic (non-denominational) building and learn a bit more about some of Monkton's veterans. We'll even have a sneak preview of one of the displays in the new Monkton

History Museum. You'll also see some news accounts of Monkton's children visiting cemeteries as part of their school day in honor of Memorial Day. There were multiple schools! Drop in between 1 and 2 p.m. at the East Monkton Church, 405 Church Road.

Events continue at the Russell Memorial Library. Every Saturday, Community Yoga continues from 8 to 9 a.m. Open to all ages and abilities. All are welcome. Nerd Night continues this month on Thursday, May 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. with games and fun for tweens and adults. The Monkton Poetry Club will meet on Saturday, May 31, at 9:30 a.m. Bring a poem or two from a favorite author or one that you've written yourself to share and discuss with other enthusiasts. Refreshments served.

If you haven't yet gotten a Monkton Flag, check with the Town Clerk at 802-453-3800 to see if there are still some available.

Summer meals

(Continued from Page 1A)
hurdle this summer for children ages 18 and younger, as the U.S. Department of Agriculture again this year will subsidize both breakfast and lunch at more than 275 free meal sites throughout Vermont — including several here in Addison County.

Yes, we mean *free*.
No application.
No registration.
“We want to make it very clear to folks that there's no risk to summer meals funding this year. We're maintaining an active eye on that, but there are absolutely no signs of cuts this year,” said Erica Morrell, the meal programs specialist with Hunger Free Vermont, a nonprofit whose mission includes “protecting and expanding nutrition programs so everyone can get the food they need with dignity,” according to hungerfreevt.org.

Parents — especially those on tight budgets — are happy to grab a wedge of food stability amid this period of high grocery prices and federal cuts. Morrell said that while free summer meals are secure for 2025, the future is murky for federal food assistance. The House Agriculture Committee late last week advanced a budget reconciliation bill that reflected an estimated \$300 billion in cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the next decade. SNAP in Vermont is known as 3SquaresVT. “People are really in need right now, and these kinds of (free summer meals) programs take the edge off,” said Kathy Alexander, director of school nutrition services for the Mount Abraham and Addison Northwest school districts. “What I'm hearing is they're like a stress reliever for parents. One less thing they have to worry about is whether their child is going to be well fed during the day.”

Hunger Free Vermont will finalize the list of statewide summer meal sites on June 1, Morrell said. Please visit hungerfreevt.org/summer-meals after that date to get the full picture of what's available in your area.

LOCAL OFFERINGS

In the meantime, here's what you can expect to see in Addison County, based on interviews with Alexander and Steve Marinelli, director of food nutrition services for the Addison Central School District.

Summer meal programming in our area is expected to begin June 23 and last through Aug. 8.

In the MAUSD (Bristol area) and ANWSD (Vergennes area) area, free breakfasts and lunches for kids and teens will be offered at locations including Vergennes Union Elementary School, serving

the Vergennes Commodore Program.

“It will also be an open site, so any kids not enrolled in that program could come in and get a daily meal there,” Alexander said.

In addition, food will be dispensed through Bristol's recreation programs, with Mount Abraham Union High School serving as a focal point for breakfast and lunch.

Both VUES and MAUHS on Fridays will also dispense weekend meal kits, according to Alexander, acknowledging that families' larders can get bare on Saturdays and Sundays, too.

So your children aren't participating in municipal recreation programs? No problem. You'll be able to pick up a to-go meal kit from Vergennes Union High School, Monkton Central School, New Haven Library or Starksboro's Robinson School. Alexander believes distribution will take place mostly on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and pickup times have yet to be set.

Meal kits, according to Hunger Free Vermont, are made possible through the USDA's Non-Congregate Meal Service. The department granted a waiver for to-go summer meals during the COVID pandemic.

MAUSD and ANWSD families whose children don't access daily free meals during summer camp programs can get a seven-day meal box through Monkton Central School, New Haven Library or Starksboro's Robinson School. Seven-day meal kits *won't* be available through Mount Abe or VUES, because children will already be receiving daily meals at those outlets. But those two larger sites *will* dispense weekend meal kits, according to Alexander.

As the *Independent* went to press, Alexander said free meals were being considered for the Ark Preschool summer camp at Victory Baptist Church in Vergennes. Camp Common Ground in Starksboro is also on the list.

ON THE MENU

So what kind of food will be served up from the MAUHS and VUES kitchens?

According to Alexander, breakfast items will include some combination of the following: A whole-grain croissant or muffin, milk, fruit, breakfast burrito, or breakfast sandwich.

“There's always fruit; that's one of our requirements,” Alexander said.

As for lunches: “Kids during the summer are running around and,

on the go, so it's not an elaborate meal,” she stressed. “It's often a sandwich or wrap, yogurt parfaits — things that are appealing to children on hot days. And we always have a fresh vegetable and fruit, with a milk, of course.”

Children who qualify for seven-day meal boxes will receive a variety of fresh fruit, produce — such as peppers, lettuce, cucumbers, apples, bananas and oranges. There will be muffins, a breakfast bar, tuna fish, chicken, Cabot cheddar cheese, yogurt and other foods designed to be parsed out for the child during their week.

“We've created this whole menu that goes with it,” Alexander said, adding, “the food is specifically kid friendly.”

For example, a one week kit might include the fixings for melted cheese on a bagel, or tuna salad.

Marinelli, meanwhile, is setting the table for free summer meal programs in the district that includes Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

He confirmed the ACSD will be operating meal sites at Mary Hogan Elementary School, Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS), Shoreham and Salisbury elementary schools, and at Middlebury's Memorial Sports Center — where the popular Camp Kookamunga for kids is held each summer.

Breakfast and lunch will be available Monday through Friday at the five ACSD sites. In addition, the MUMS and Mary Hogan sites will offer weekend meal kits to take away on Fridays.

Unlike at MAUSD and ANWSD meal sites, the ACSD won't offer seven-day meal kits. That's because Marinelli and his staff are committed to making hot meals for three of the five weekdays. And hot meals aren't always a wise add to a weekend food package, he reasoned.

ACSD sites gave away around 30,000 meals last summer, and Marinelli is expecting good demand this year, too.

Who knows what next year will bring in the world of federal nutrition programming. But come this June, it'll be “ready, set, play and eat” for hundreds of Addison County kids.

“We definitely feel our programs are going to be targets in one way or another. It seems like the federal government is cutting everything, and cutting essential programs is not out of the realm of possibility,” Alexander said. “But I have to live right now in the moment and make sure we do everything we can to support families now, with the resources that we have. We are bracing ourselves for what's coming, but I can't make that part of my operational planning.”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



CREWS IN BRISTOL on Wednesday were finishing up work to repair a slope failure that occurred across from Martin's Hardware on West Street. Selectboard Chair Peeker Heffernan led the repair efforts and said Wednesday morning that the work had gone well and was essentially complete.

Photo courtesy of Peeker Heffernan

Landslide

(Continued from Page 1A)
occurred directly across from Martin's Hardware, at 68 West St.

Interim Town Administrator Ian Albinson alerted people on social media Sunday about the landslide and said the town was assessing the situation.


“Due to the severity of the landslide and its close proximity to the road, they have determined that immediate action is necessary to ensure public safety and maintain access to our pedestrian-friendly

village center,” Albinson wrote. “This slope failure comes after our recent spring weather patterns and is being addressed swiftly to minimize disruption to our community's daily activities and to ensure continued safe access to our downtown area for residents and visitors alike.”

On Wednesday morning, Bristol Selectboard Chair Peeker Heffernan said repair efforts were just about finished, with only topsoil and seeding in the area still needing to be completed.

Work to address the landslide had begun on Monday morning and was led by Heffernan with support from the town's Public Works Department. Heffernan noted that repair efforts went well and crews were able to build the slope back to where it originally was.

“I was going to watch it over the next couple of days to see where we're at with the rain, but I believe we're in good shape,” he told the *Independent*.



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INTRO TO AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Hagan White - HOME
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INTRO TO STEM

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TIGER SENIOR SUBIA Kahn makes a play at the net during her No. 1 Doubles match vs. St. Albans on Monday in Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS NO. 1 DOUBLES player Clara Chant lines up her two-handed backhand during a successful match against a St. Albans duo on Monday in Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James

MUHS girls’ tennis wins once in three outings; stands at 4-3

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls’ tennis team continued its

largely competitive season in recent action, winning once in three outings. The Division II Tigers lost, 7-0, at home to D-I

Stowe on May 14; dropped a road match to D-II Harwood, 5-2, on May 16, an outing in which several individual matches were

closely contested; and blanked visiting D-II St. Albans on Monday, 7-0. The Tigers remained above

.500 at 4-3 with, according to the MUHS website, three home matches left on their schedule — all weather permitting. It is

possible if more rain strikes one or more matches could be played at Middlebury Indoor Tennis, (See Girls’ tennis, Page 3B)

Women’s lax in Final Four

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — In games played in Middlebury this past weekend, the Middlebury College women’s lacrosse team defeated two teams in the NCAA Division III regional and advanced to the tournament’s final four this weekend. On Saturday the Panthers dismissed the University of Chicago, 23-6, and on Sunday they defeated York, 19-4, in what was an NCAA quarterfinal. The 19-1 Panthers will next take on NESCAC foe Colby (16-3) in a 4 p.m. semifinal on Friday, May 23, in Salem, Va., while Tufts (20-1) will face Gettysburg (16-3) in the other semifinal at 7 p.m. The (See Women’s lax, Page 2B)

MUHS tops MAV in girls’ lacrosse

Tigers split other games while MAV posts victory

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Division II Mount Abraham-Vergennes girls’ lacrosse team jumped to a 4-2 lead in the first six minutes over host Middlebury on Tuesday, but ultimately the Commodores had no answer for the Tigers’ attack — MUHS rattled off the game’s next seven goals over a 10-minute span on the way to a 19-10 victory. D-I MUHS improved to 8-3 with their seventh win in eight outings and they moved into fifth place in the D-I standings. Co-Coach Jeff Weaber noted that while several of his players had big games that eight Tigers in all found the back of the net. He said that balanced attack makes the Tigers harder to defend. “We play so many teams that

when you look at the scorebook, two or three girls have scored all the goals,” Weaber said. “We’ve got eight girls on the books scoring today. That’s great. That’s fantastic. That’s what we like. It’s been great to develop that balance this year. And it took time. Last year we focused on the defense, and this year we’ve really focused on the offense. We’ve developed some plays.” MAV Assistant Coach Sarah Cook was filling in on Tuesday for Coach Emiko Chrusciel, who was unavailable. Also unavailable were three MAV regulars, which didn’t help the Commodores when they were trying to punch up a weight class, especially when they tried to contain the Tiger attack.

“We just couldn’t cover their cutters,” Cook said. “We tried a zone; we tried a man. We tried a man with a backer. They were just a little bit quicker. We just couldn’t seem to find the cutter in the middle.” The Commodores’ quick start was fueled by sophomore midfielder Meredith Dufault dominating the draw — she controlled 11 overall in the game, and MAV won seven of nine in the first quarter. The Tigers struck first, however, as sophomore middie Izzy Quinn sank a free position shot with just over a minute gone. The teams traded two more goals in short order. Freshman middie Callie Rule converted a free position for MAV, and Tiger Kent tossed in a rebound (See Girls’ lax, Page 5B)

Eagle baseball soars over Tigers

Mount Abe victorious in rematch of 2024 title game

By ANDY KIRKALDY
BRISTOL — In a rematch of the dramatic 2024 Division II baseball final, host Mount Abraham earned a measure of payback on Thursday, May 15, breaking open a 2-2 game with five runs in the third inning against defending champion Middlebury and cruising from there to an 11-5 victory. Mount Abe has established itself as a contender once again and improved to 6-2. The Eagles after the win admitted they had this game circled on the calendar after losing the title game to the Tigers in extra innings last June in a game they entered on paper as the favorite. “Definitely that game

was a super big upset in the championship, and all the boys were coming out super excited, super fired up,” according to Eagle sophomore third baseman Abe Ready, who drove in five runs with four hits, including two doubles. “And we definitely produced today, hit really well.” Even Mount Abe Coach Jason Barnard acknowledged his team was fired up for the rematch, even if the Tigers were 1-5 coming in and harder hit by graduation than the Eagles. “We always enjoy playing those guys,” Barnard said. “And we really wanted to beat them, too.” For Tiger Coach Tim Paquette, it was more of the same so far this spring. His team has yet to

put everything together at the same time. Against the Eagles, the Tigers did some things well, particularly playing sound defense. But Paquette said they could have performed better in other areas, including hitting with runners on and throwing strikes — five Eagle hitters who walked eventually scored. “We played better defense,” Paquette said. “We just didn’t get timely hitting when we had runners on base. And our pitchers had too many walks at the beginning of the game, and they scored, like always. Eighty percent of the time they get walks, they score.” That problem cropped up in (See Soaring, Page 4B)



MUHS SENIOR BOYS’ No. 1 Jackson Murray strokes a backhand during dominating win against Brattleboro at Middlebury Indoor Tennis on May. 16.

Independent photo/Steve James

Boys’ tennis goes 1-2

Tigers top Bratt, are competitive in losses to contenders as playoff title defense looms on horizon

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The defending state champion Middlebury boys’ tennis team won once in three matches against top competition last week, dropping a close contest to visiting title contender Stowe, 4-3, on May 14; besting Brattleboro two days later in a match played at Middlebury Indoor Tennis, 5-2; and losing a tense road match at Burlington on Tuesday, 4-3. Stowe (7-2), Burlington (6-2) and Brattleboro (8-3) are ranked 3-4-5, respectively, in the state boys’ tennis standings. Coach Ken Schoen’s defending state championship team stands at 6-5 and at No. 7 in the standings with two matches left on its schedule. Nevertheless, Schoen said the Tigers shouldn’t be taken lightly

in their quest for a repeat. Senior No. 1 Jackson Murray and sophomore No. 2 Charles Young are both undefeated, players like seniors Baker Nelson and Kaden Hammond and sophomore Nate Cook Yoder are improving rapidly due to their hard work, and the relatively new doubles team of juniors Adrien Malhotra & Spencer Copeland is coming on strong. Schoen described Murray and Young as “probably the best two players I’ve had in the nine or 10 years I’ve coached,” adding they’re both likely to reach the state individual singles final as well as continue to give the Tigers two points in every match. Schoen said they simply work on their game as well as have talent. “They play all year,” he said. “They play every day.” Brattleboro’s top two players took only one game against the two of them, vs. Murray, although the other team’s top players were more competitive against the Tiger aces. Cook Yoder is a steady lefthander who overcame a slow start against his Brattleboro opponent at No. (See Boys’ tennis, Page 4B)



EAGLE FIRST BASEMAN Cam Castillo stretches for the throw that nipped hustling Tiger senior Alex Sperry at first base on May 15 at Mount Abe.

Independent photo/Steve James

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Baseball

5/14 Rutland vs Mt Abe.....	3-0
5/15 Mt Abe vs MUHS.....	11-5
5/15 OV vs Green Mt.....	11-1
5/15 Missisquoi vs VUHS.....	10-0
5/16 Brattleboro vs OV.....	9-3
5/17 VUHS at Mt Abe.....Ppd to 5/30	
5/17 MUHS at Milton.....	Suspended
5/19 Mt Abe at Milton.....Ppd to 5/23	
5/19 MUHS vs Montpelier.....	5-3
5/20 Hartford vs OV.....	5-2
5/20 Missisquoi vs Mt Abe.....	13-5
5/20 Enosburg vs MUHS.....	7-6 (9)
5/20 VUHS vs Milton.....	9-6

Softball

5/14 Mt Abe vs Rutland.....	16-5
5/15 Mt Abe vs MUHS.....	15-3
5/15 OV vs Springfield.....	19-11
5/15 Rice vs VUHS.....	22-3
5/16 OV vs Brattleboro.....	12-0
5/17 VUHS at Mt Abe.....Ppd to 5/30	
5/17 MUHS vs Milton.....	7-4
5/19 Mt Abe at Milton.....Ppd to 5/23	
5/20 OV vs Hartford.....	7-6
5/20 Rice vs Mt Abe.....	19-9

Girls’ Lacrosse

5/16 CVU vs MUHS.....	18-12
5/16 MAV vs Colchester.....	17-7
5/19 MUHS vs Harwood.....	21-9
5/20 MUHS vs MAV.....	19-10

Boys’ Lacrosse

5/15 Harwood vs MAV.....	7-0
5/16 MUHS vs CVU.....	8-6
5/16 MAV at Colchester.....	9-5
5/19 MUHS vs Rice.....	11-4
5/19 MAV at Lyndon.....Ppd to 5/31	
5/20 OV at MAV.....	OV forfeit

Boys’ Tennis

5/14 Stowe vs MUHS.....	4-3
5/16 MUHS vs Brattleboro.....	5-2
5/20 Burlington vs MUHS.....	4-3

Girls’ Tennis

5/14 Stowe vs MUHS.....	7-0
5/16 Harwood vs MUHS.....	5-2
5/19 MUHS vs St Albans.....	7-0

(See Scoreboard, Page 4B)

Bird listening — it’s good for you

Magnolia warbler, black-throated green warbler, blackpoll warbler, pine warbler, mourning warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, orange-crowned warbler and yellow warbler. Also: gray catbird, American goldfinch, rose-breasted grosbeak, American robin, wood thrush, American redstart, red-eyed vireo, ovenbird, black-capped chickadee, American crow, eastern phoebe, indigo bunting, song sparrow, red-winged blackbird, common yellowthroat, downy woodpecker, scarlet tanager, common yellowthroat, chipping sparrow, blue jay and veery.

That’s what the Merlin app on my phone told me I was hearing or had heard over maybe eight total minutes of recording in my backyard across just three mornings this May.

And I’m thinking: *I’ve never even heard of some of these birds.* Magnolia warbler?

I’ll admit to not having heard of the species before. Same with the black-throated green warbler, whose mouthful of a name I couldn’t possibly have forgotten.

And while I’m confessing, the blackpoll warbler, and the supposed rare mourning warbler were also new birds. And how do I know my Merlin app is getting these identifications correct? I don’t doubt that a female pine warbler can distinguish a male pine warbler from any of the other seven types of warblers on the list. But they sound fairly similar to my untrained ears.

Just as I’m thinking that — just moments after “magnolia warbler” pops up on my phone screen indicating that Merlin thinks it has identified one as I record — I see a flutter of movement in the thick foliage near the top of a tall ash tree just 20 yards away. It’s my third morning sitting out listening, and this time I have my camera with me on a tripod, with a 400mm lens. I quickly focus on where I see the movement, zoom in, and snap a couple shots. And what do you know? It’s a magnolia warbler. The long black stripes on

the underbelly are unmistakable.

A couple minutes later, after I’ve turned off my app and stopped recording, a very loud and melodic song erupts from just a few feet away. About the time I get the app going again and it tells me a Baltimore oriole is nearby, a bird with an orange breast and the distinctive orange, black and white wing pattern of an oriole emerges from the leaves a short distance away, and I watch it fly off to another tree where it sits a couple minutes giving me the privilege of actually bird *watching* and not just bird *listening*. My count rises from 29 to 30 different birds.

I’d never in the past considered myself an avid bird watcher. And in a way, I’m still not. Because the reality is, I’ve seen very few of the birds that pop up on my list. And without my app, I can identify far fewer than half of them by call. The song of a wood thrush I know well, and at this time



MATTHEW DICKERSON
Outdoor Columnist



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of year during the first and last hours of the day I can almost always hear at least a couple of them in the woods around my house. Same with the more common tufted titmouse, cardinal, chickadee and of course the crow as well as a few others like the pairs of eastern phoebes that nest under our deck and eaves. But most of the birds that I hear, I never even see. Not even the red-eyed vireo whose songs and calls are ever present in our woods.

Scarlet tanagers, Baltimore orioles, and indigo buntings are so bright and beautiful that I ought to be able to see them when my app tells me they are present. They are also distinctive enough that I do recognize them. But though they appear in our woods for a least a couple weeks each spring, I rarely see more than a flash or two of one for a few seconds. With most of the varieties of warblers, however, I’d need a very long look and some time comparing what I’m seeing with pictures in a book to identify them. The magnolia warbler is still the only one of eight I’ve heard I’ve positively identified from sight. As for different species of sparrows, unless I snap a really good photo and can spend hours comparing details, I’m also lost.

Yet I am falling in love with just sitting and listening to the beautiful soundtrack of a woods full of birds every morning and evening that the weather is conducive to sitting outside for 10 or 15 minutes. I’m very slowly adding to the list of songs that I can pick out from among the symphony-size variety of avian instruments out in the sylvan orchestra. Now and then I even spot one of the musicians. And I come to realize why the term *birding* has replaced *bird watching* in common vocabulary.

And, as it turns out, just sitting and listening to birdsongs is good for my mental health even when I’m not seeing the birds. I was emailing with a friend about the variety of birds we were seeing around our house, and he sent me a summary article in *Psychology Today* about various scientific experiments on the positive effects on mental health of listening to birdsong, including alleviating stress and anxiety. I’ve known for a long time about studies showing how spending time in green spaces is good for mental health. It turns out that even listening to recordings of birdsongs in indoor spaces can be helpful. But if you listen to birdsongs outdoors in a green space, it magnifies the already positive impacts of the greenspace.

So now I have a new outdoor sport. I suspect it’s going to take me a lot longer to learn to distinguish the calls of eight species of warblers in my woods than the colorations and spot patterns of North America’s five species of char. But at least I’ll be getting healthier by trying.

Mixed results for local nines

VUHS, MUHS split games; Eagles drop two

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — In recent local high school baseball action, Middlebury and Vergennes each split two games, while Mount Abraham ran into a rough patch with a pair of road setbacks.

The Tigers also visited Mount Abe on May 15; see story on Page 1B.

The Commodores’ game at Mount Abe on May 17 was postponed and moved to May 30.

Eagles

On May 14 Rutland pitcher Cade Kenyon tossed a complete-game two-hitter as RHS blanked the Eagles, 3-0. **Gary Clark** and **Abe Ready** had the Mount Abe hits, and starting pitcher **Evan Corrigan** struck out nine over four innings of work.

The Eagles’ Monday game at Milton was postponed until Friday at 4 p.m.

Mount Abe’s Tuesday game was moved to Missisquoi due to poor home field conditions in Bristol. There, the undefeated T-Birds defeated the Eagles, 13-5. Parker Hakey got the pitching win, allowing three earned runs over six innings. Tabor Rich and Beau Reynolds had two hits apiece for the T-Birds, who are in first place in Division II.

Aricin Griffin and **Clark Crary** each poked two hits for the Eagles, and **Stefan Johnson** drove in two runs. At 6-3 the Eagles apparently are in fourth place in D-II, although Tuesday’s game

was not reflected in the Vermont Principals Association standings as of Wednesday morning.

Commodores

On May 15 VUHS came up short at Missisquoi, 10-0, in five innings, as T-Bird hurler Tabor Rich limited them to one hit. Meanwhile, the T-Birds poked five hits and scored seven runs, four earned, in the first two innings. Max Wagner homered for MVU, and AJ Dennett drove in three runs for the undefeated T-Birds.

The Commodores bounced back on Tuesday to defeated visiting Milton, 9-6. **Gabe Scribner** earned the pitching win, allowing six runs, two earned on eight hits and five walks, striking out eight. He also doubled in a run. **Liam McGuire** paced the VUHS attack with three doubles and two RBI.

At 6-4, the Commodores were holding down fourth place in D-III as of midweek.

Tigers

The Tigers’ game on Saturday at Milton was suspended with MUHS leading, 5-4, in the top of the fifth. It is unclear if the game will be completed.

On Monday the Tigers rallied from a 3-0 hole in a game suspended from May 3 and defeated visiting Montpelier, 5-3. MUHS rallied for four runs in the sixth inning to take the lead and pick up their second win of the season. **Alex Sperry, Tucker Wright** and **Owen Butterfield** each had two hits to

(See Baseball, Page 4B)

Women’s lax

(Continued from Page 1B)

NCAA final will be held at noon on Sunday, May 25.

In this past Sunday’s other quarterfinals, Tufts survived a challenge from Salisbury, 8-7; Colby edged Wesleyan, 7-6; and Gettysburg topped Denison, 16-13.

Middlebury has defeated all three of the other final four teams this spring, but not always easily. The Panthers won at Gettysburg, 15-6, back on March 17. On April 5, Middlebury eked out a 12-11 win at Colby, and on April 12 the Panthers hung on for a 16-15 victory at home over Tufts.

The Panthers’ only loss of the season was at the hands of Wesleyan.

Coach Kate Livesay’s Panthers will be seeking their fourth straight NCAA title.

WEEKEND GAMES

In Saturday’s game the Panthers took an 11-1 lead in the first quarter, and the rest of the game was played under the 10-run running time mercy rule.

Leading the attack were Hope

Shue (four goals); Britt Nawrocki (three); and Caroline Adams, Maggie Coughlin, Anna Spehr, Maeve Lee, Kelcey Dion and Jamee Numan with two apiece. Goalies Elizabeth Savage and Gina Driscoll combined for seven saves. Jill Hooley scored twice for UChicago, and goalie Rachel Keefe made four saves.

Also on Saturday York improved to 17-3 by defeating William Smith, 11-8, after a lengthy delay due to persistent thunderstorms. William Smith wrapped up at 14-5.

On Sunday the Panthers rolled to a 13-1 halftime lead in their 19-4 romp over York. Shue led the way with five goals and three assists, in the process setting the program record for points in a season with 107 (76 goals, 31 assists). She broke her own record of 106, which she had shared with 2023 graduate Jane Earley.

Adams and Coughlin added four goals and an assist apiece, and Savage made four saves and allowed two goals in the first half.



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MUHS NO. 2 SINGLES player Piper Farnsworth charges forward to set up a forehand during her home match on Monday vs. St. Albans. Independent photo/Steve James

Girls' tennis

(Continued from Page 1B)
according to Coach Dan Comar.
The Tigers were set to host Montpelier on Wednesday after deadline for this issue, and then close out their season with matches with U-32 on Friday and Colchester next Wednesday.
Stowe Match
Against visiting Stowe (3-7) on May 14, the individual results were:

At No. 1 singles, Stowe won by forfeit.
At No. 2 singles, Harper Freund (S) defeated Piper Farnsworth, MUHS, 6-0, 6-1.
At No. 3 singles, Lucy Gaines (S) defeated Anna Wolosinski, MUHS, 6-4, 6-1.
At No. 4 singles, Malory Sequist (S) defeated Maryam Khan, MUHS, 6-2, 6-4.
At No. 5 singles, Harper Eliason (S) defeated Olivia Kearley, MUHS, 6-3, 6-1.
At No. 1 doubles, Anja Murphy & Malice Seigler (S) defeated Subia Khan & Clara Chant, MUHS, 2-6, 6-4 (2-10).
At No. 2 doubles, Haley Williams & Etta Lamaberg (S) defeated Sophia Nicolai & Addy Taylor, MUHS, 6-0.
AT HARWOOD
At Harwood (3-4) on May 16 individual matches were played first to eight games by at least two games due to lightning delays. The individual results were:
At No. 1 singles, Alexia Cantollops, HHS, defeated Sophia Boise, MUHS, 8-1.
At No. 2 singles, Farnsworth,

MUHS, defeated Savannah Fulton, HHS, 8-4.
At No. 3 singles, Nina Hamel, HHS, defeated Wolosinski, MUHS, 9-7.
At No. 4 singles, Haley MacDonald, HHS, defeated Kearley, MUHS, 8-4.
At No. 5 singles, Sophia DeSanto, HHS, defeated Taylor, MUHS, 8-4.
At No. 1 doubles, Eleanor Hume & Isabella Schole, HHS, defeated Subia Khan & Chant, MUHS, 8-6.
At No. 2 doubles, Maryam Khan & Quinn Mackey, MUHS, defeated Maclyn Fitzgerald & Addie Lazorchak, HHS, 8-6.
VS. ST. ALBANS
At home vs. St. Albans on Monday the individual results were:
At No. 1 singles, Boise, MUHS, defeated Lily Zekos, BFA, 6-0, 6-1.
At No. 2 singles, Farnsworth, MUHS, defeated Tessa Rocheleau, BFA, 6-0, 6-0.
At No. 3 singles, Wolosinski, MUHS, defeated Emily Ackel, BFA, 6-0, 6-1.
At No. 4 singles, Taylor, MUHS, defeated MacKenzie Smith, BFA, 6-0, 6-3.
At No. 5 singles, Grace Ritter, MUHS, won by forfeit.
At No. 1 doubles, Subia Khan & Chant, MUHS, defeated Aubrey Benedict & Kyla Holsopple, BFA, 6-0, 6-0.
At No. 2 doubles, Kearley & Maryam Khan, MUHS, won by forfeit.

Softball: Mount Abe, Tigers post victories

By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON COUNTY — In recent local softball action, Mount Abraham won two out of three games, with one victory at the expense of rival Middlebury. The Tigers won their only other outing in a rain-shortened schedule, while Vergennes dropped a pair of games.
Rivalry GAMES
On May 15 host Mount Abe earned a five-inning, 15-3 victory over the Tigers. Wielding the big bats for Mount Abe were **Brooklyn Ryersbach**, with a homer, double and two RBI; **Reagan LaFreniere**, with a homer and two RBI; and **Gen Forand** with two doubles and three RBI. Winning pitcher **Gretchen Toy** added two hits and two RBI.
For the Tigers, **Lily Dame** swatted a three-run homer and also single. **Lexi Whitney** took the pitching loss.
The Eagles' May 17 visit from the Commodores was postponed until May 30.
EAGLES
On May 14 the Eagles dispatched host Rutland, 16-5. **Morgan Larocque** led the Eagles with three hits, and **Leah Tierney** and LaFreniere each poked two hits.
The Eagles' Monday game at Milton was postponed until Friday at 4 p.m.
On Tuesday, Rice took over first place in Division II with a 19-9 victory over the host Eagles in a game in which the teams combined for seven homers, four by the 10-1

Green Knights. Alayna Havreluk had one of the Rice longballs and drove in five runs. Finley Strong, Bella Messineo, March Lumbra and Molly McGibney also went yard for Rice.
Forand, Ryersbach and LaFreniere cleared the fence for Mount Abe, which dropped to 7-2 and into third place in D-II. Tierney added four hits, Larocque poked three, and **Abba Parker** drove in three runs with a pair of hits.
COMMODORES
On May 15 host Rice defeated the Commodores in five innings, 22-3. Winning pitcher Bella Messineo held the Commodores to three hits and no earned runs. **Jordan Hutchins** took the pitching loss.
On Tuesday, visiting Milton topped VUHS, 22-8 in five innings. It was the senior game for Commodores **Rory Couture**, **Rizz Mullin** and **Katie Laberge**.
The Commodores are 1-7.
TIGERS
On Saturday the Tigers defeated

host Milton and the oncoming rainstorm, 7-4. Whitney tossed a six-hitter, fanning five and allowing two earned runs. **Meredith Cameron** singled, doubled and drove in three runs for the Tigers; **Lily Dame** doubled, singled and drove in a run; and **Brianna Foss** poked two hits. Cianna Tomasi had two hits for Milton.
The Tigers' Tuesday game vs. Enosburg was postponed. At 4-5 they sat in eighth place in D-II as of Wednesday morning.

On May 15 host Rice defeated the Commodores in five innings, 22-3. Winning pitcher Bella Messineo held the Commodores to three hits and no earned runs. **Jordan Hutchins** took the pitching loss.
On Tuesday, visiting Milton topped VUHS, 22-8 in five innings. It was the senior game for Commodores **Rory Couture**, **Rizz Mullin** and **Katie Laberge**.
The Commodores are 1-7.
TIGERS
On Saturday the Tigers defeated



MEMBERS OF THE MUHS softball team gather at home plate to welcome senior Lily Dame, right, after she belted a home run against host Mount Abraham on May 16. Independent photo/Steve James



EAGLE JUNIOR MORGAN Larocque slides safely into second base during the Mount Abe softball team's victory over visiting Middlebury on May 16. Independent photo/Steve James

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Scoreboard

(Continued from Page 1A)

5/21 Montpelier at MUHS	Late
Girls' Ultimate	
5/15 S Burlington vs MUHS	11-2
5/19 Milton vs MUHS	15-0
Boys' Ultimate	
5/15 S Burlington vs MUHS	11-2
5/16 MUHS vs Colchester	15-5
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Women's Lacrosse	
NCAA D-III Regional at Midd	
5/17 Midd vs UChicago	23-6
5/17 York vs William Smith	11-8
5/18 Midd vs York	19-4
Baseball	
NCAA Regional at Union, N.J.	
Four-Team Double Elimination	
5/16 Midd vs Cortland St.	6-5
5/17 Kean vs Midd	13-6
5/17 Cortland St. vs Midd	4-3

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS	
Baseball	
5/22 OV at Fair Haven	4:30 PM
5/22 Milton at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/22 VUHS at Enosburg	4:30 PM
5/22 Missisquoi at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/23 Mt Abe at Milton	4 PM
5/24 OV at Bellows Falls	11 AM
5/24 VUHS at MUHS	11 AM
5/27 Mt Abe at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/27 OV at Burr & Burton	4:30 PM
5/27 Missisquoi at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/29 Mt Abe at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/29 Rutland at OV	4:30 PM
5/29 Milton at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/30 VUHS at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/31 Mt Abe at N Country	11 AM
Softball	
5/22 VUHS at Enosburg	4:30 PM
5/22 Milton at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/22 Rice at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/22 OV at Fair Haven	4:30 PM
5/23 Mt Abe at Milton	4 PM
5/24 Mt Abe at Enosburg	11 AM
5/24 VUHS at MUHS	11 AM
5/24 OV at Bellows Falls	4:30 PM
5/24 VUHS at MUHS	11 AM
5/27 Rice at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/27 Mt Abe at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/28 Woodstock at OV	4:30 PM
5/29 Mt Abe at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/29 Milton at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/30 VUHS at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
5/31 Mt Abe at N Country	11 AM
Girls' Lacrosse	
5/23 S. Burlington at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/24 Rice at MAV	11 AM
5/28 MAV at Spaulding	4:30 PM
5/27 MUHS at Essex	7:30 PM
5/30 MUHS at Mt Mansfield	4:30 PM
5/31 MAV at U-32	11AM
Boys' Lacrosse	
5/23 MUHS at S. Burlington	7 PM
5/24 MAV at Fairfax	11 AM
5/27 Essex at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/28 Spaulding at MAV	4:30 PM
5/30 Montpelier at MAV	4:30 PM
5/30 Mt Mansfield at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/31 MAV at Lyndon	Noon
Boys' Tennis	
5/23 MUHS at Brattleboro	4:30 PM
5/28 MUHS at Colchester	3:30 PM
Girls' Tennis	
5/23 U-32 at MUHS	4 PM
5/28 Colchester at MUHS	4 PM
Girls' Ultimate	
5/22 Burr & Burton at MUHS	4 PM Boys' Ultimate
5/21 Essex at MUHS	4 PM
5/28 Mt Mansfield at MUHS	4 PM
Track	
5/22 VUHS/Mt Abe at MUHS	3:30 PM
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Women's Lacrosse	
NCAA D-III Final Four in Salem, Va.	
5/23 Midd vs Colby	4 PM
5/23 Tufts vs Gettysburg	7 PM
5/25 Final	Noon
Weather and other factors can change schedules at the last minute. Fans are advised to check school websites for scheduling information.	

Baseball

(Continued from Page 2B)

spark the Tiger offense, and **Gabe Velez** earned the pitching victory, On Tuesday host Enosburg scored six runs in the sixth to erase a 6-0 Tiger lead and won the game in the ninth, 7-6. Hornet Sawyer Bentley led off the decisive inning with a double off losing pitcher **Ryan Brouillard** and eventually scored the winning run. **Tucker Morter** helped the Tigers take the lead earlier with a pair of hits. Brouillard singled in a run and walked three times. MUHS stood at 2-7 after splitting the two games.

Tiger boys' lax keeps winning

Pair of triumphs keep MUHS on top of D-I standings

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' lacrosse team picked up two more victories in recent action and tightened its grip on first place in the Division I standings. According to the Vermont Principals Association standings, as of midweek the 11-1 Tigers were the only team with one loss, and only one other team, Mount Mansfield (7-2 as of Tuesday) had as few as two losses. The Tigers have a tough closing schedule, however, according to the MUHS scheduling website. They visit third-place South Burlington (7-3 as of Tuesday) on Friday, host sixth-place Essex this coming Tuesday, and close the season by hosting Mount

Mansfield on May 30. In recent action, the Tigers defeated defending champion Champlain Valley on the road on May 16, 8-6, and Rice at home on Monday, 11-4. At CVU, the Tigers spotted host Champlain Valley an early 3-0 lead before pulling out their two-point victory. The Tigers shut out the Redhawks in the second half in what Coach Matt Rizzo called a great win. Rizzo noted in an email that it is the third straight regular season game in which MUHS had blanked CVU after the halftime break. In this game he said low defenders Cooke Riney, George Devlin and Marshall Eddy each scooped three ground balls and caused three turnovers, while

Cam Whitlock was "terrific at long stick midfield. The Midd team defense was extraordinary," Rizzo wrote. Goalie Levi Nuceder backstopped the win with nine saves. Offensively, Brady Lloyd (three goals, assists), Logan McNulty (two goals, three assists) and Angus Blackwell did the damage. Six Redhawks scored a goal apiece, and CVU goalie Shamus Phelan made five saves for his 5-5 squad. On Monday vs. Rice (4-9), Blackwell (five goals) and McNulty (four goals) led the assault. Landon Kean and Luke Nuceder each set up two goals, and Cal Boulanger won 13 of 16 faceoffs for the Tigers.



TIGER OWEN BUTTERFIELD beats the throw to Eagle third baseman Abe Ready during a May 15 baseball game at Mount Abe. Butterfield then scored to tie the game, 2-2.

Independent photo/Steve James



WITH FORM LIKE this, Mount Abe pitcher Stefan Johnson gets the win against visiting rival Middlebury with five innings of work this past Thursday.

Independent photo/Steve James

Soaring

(Continued from Page 1B)

the bottom of the first after the Tigers went quietly in the top of the inning. Tiger starter Ryan Brouillard walked the first two batters, Brody Barnard and Clark Crary. Ready doubled in Barnard, and Cam Castillo singled in Crary before Brouillard worked out of further trouble, in part because of his own nice play on a grounder hit by Evan Corrigan.

The Tigers tied the game at 2-2 in the second with a few hard-hit balls off winning pitcher Stefan Johnson. Owen Butterfield singled, and Timothy Ploegman doubled to put runners on second and third. Butterfield scored on Trevor Wright's sacrifice fly. Ploegman advancing to third on a wild pitch that bounced away from Crary, the catcher, and racing home when Crary threw wildly trying to catch him at third base. The Eagles took the lead for good in the bottom of the inning. Barnard walked and stole second before scoring on an infield error on a ball hit by Crary. Crary scored on a Ready single, and it was 4-2. Two good defensive plays kept the Tigers in check in the third. Castillo, the first baseman, made a diving catch of a foul pop, and Johnson snared Brouillard's screaming line drive back up the middle. The Eagles kept coming in their half of the third. Johnson singled and stole second, moving to third

when a Tiger outfielder dropped a Riley Coffey fly ball and scoring on a wild pitch that advanced Coffey to third. Crary walked, and Paquette signaled for Gabe Velez to pitch, Ready greeted him by bouncing a two-run double off the right-field fence, and it was 7-2. Velez and Johnson both threw well until the Eagles erupted again in the fifth, again with walks causing issues. Velez issued Barnard and Crary free passes, and Ready singled home both runners. Ready scored on a Castillo single to make it 10-2 before Velez worked out of further trouble. The Tigers fought back with two runs in the sixth. Brouillard pounded a double to deep left center to lead off, and Tucker Morter singled to put runners on the corners. A throwing error as Morter stole second allowed Brouillard to trot home, and Morter scored when Trevor Wright pounded a double to left center to make it 10-4. Ploegman took to the mound for MUHS in the Eagle sixth and gave up Mount Abe's final run. Johnson doubled, moved to third on an error on the play, and scored on a Coffey sacrifice fly. Ready pitched the seventh for the Eagles and the Tigers scored one and threatened for more. With one out, Alex Sperry and Morter singled, and Brouillard walked. Sperry scored to make it 11-5 on a groundout, but Ready worked out

of the jam with a fly ball. Coach Paquette noted he has young players who are beginning to make a difference, pointing to freshman Trevor Wright at third base and sophomore Landon Kean at second both played well to go along with senior veterans like Mortar and Sperry and sophomores Brouillard and Velez, who all played big roles on the 2024 title team. "There's a lot to look forward to in the future. I'm trying to mix it up now and see what's working and not working, because right now we're in a slump, and we've got to get out of it," he said. "But it's coming." For the Eagles, the future appears to be now, according to Coach Barnard. "This is a very talented group, deep in pitching, and we play great defense, and have hitters up and down the lineup," Barnard said. "So it's a fun group to coach. We look forward to every day. We compete in every game we've been in. It's been a heck of a season, a lot of fun." Ready said the team is excited for what lies ahead in the next few weeks, even with 2024 ace Castillo not pitching due to an injury. "We're feeling pretty good," he said. "We've got some deeper pitching besides Cam this year that's carrying us through games, and obviously our bats are coming through. We have a really deep lineup."

Boys' tennis

(Continued from Page 1B)

3. Down by 4-1 in the first set, he relaxed, steadied his play and won five straight games to claim the set. Cook Yoder then won the second set, surrendering only one more game. Hammond, Schoen said, is a "fierce competitor" with an unconventional stroke who has steadily improved this spring. He moved up to No. 4 against Brattleboro and outhit his opponent. Nelson, a doubles player who has improved and played well at No. 4 singles for MUHS this year, was away against Brattleboro. Doubles player Kirin Biancosino filled in and was competitive in a loss at No. 5 vs. Brattleboro. Malhotra and Copeland have won three and lost two matches after teaming up. Last week, they forced a tiebreaker vs. Stowe before narrowly losing and then won vs. Brattleboro and Burlington. Schoen said they have untapped potential, and the coaches will be working with them heading into the postseason. There are a number of reasons the Tigers have remained competitive this season despite heavy graduation losses, Schoen said, starting with hard work at a facility—Middlebury Indoor Tennis—unlike few, if any, other teams have available when it rains. "They're an awesome group to work with. These guys have a work ethic. My guess is, without knowing, that we get more practices than any other team, because we get to practice here whenever it rains," Schoen said. "I have these guys coming, even up to four days ago, coming at six in the morning because we can't practice at regular times. Or we practice at 8 at night. Since the beginning of the season, we've gotten in six days of practice every week. And these guys insist they want practices." Schoen said he and the team are profoundly grateful to Middlebury Indoor Tennis for allowing the team to play and practice there. MIT is operated by the nonprofit Addison County Athletic Foundation, which in turn functions under the umbrella of the Vermont Community Foundation. "That's what's making these guys better, and they also really want to learn," Schoen said. "They're sponges." Next up on the Tigers schedule is a May 23 date at Brattleboro, and a final match at Colchester is set for May 28. **STOWE MATCH** In individual match results vs. Stowe, which as of midweek was

7-2 and in third place: At No. 1 singles, Murray (MUHS) defeated Max Biedermann (Stowe), 6-4, 6-2. At No. 2 singles, Young (MUHS) defeated Parker Guffy (Stowe), 6-4, 6-2. At No. 3 singles, Carter Macdonald (Stowe) defeated Cook-Yoder (MUHS), 7-6, 6-4. At No. 4 singles, Declan Coggins (Stowe) defeated Nelson (MUHS), 6-2, 6-3. At No. 5 singles, Hammond (MUHS) defeated Drew Zimmermann (Stowe), 6-3, 6-2. At No. 1 doubles, Xavi Violette & Hayden MacDonald (Stowe) defeated Malhotra & Copeland (MUHS) 3-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-8). At No. 2 doubles, Ben Gants & Fluke Sithiwong (Stowe) defeated Yankee Rheume & Kirin Biancosino (MUHS), 6-4, 6-3. **BRATT. MATCH** In individual match results vs. Brattleboro, which as of midweek was 8-3 and in fourth place, at MIT: At No. 1 singles, Murray (MUHS) defeated Malo Renault (Bratt), 6-0, 6-1. At No. 2 singles, Young (MUHS) defeated Mark Richards (Bratt), 6-0, 6-0. At No. 3 singles, Cook-Yoder (MUHS), defeated Elias Frazer Olsen (Bratt), 6-4, 6-1. At No. 4 singles, Hammond (MUHS) defeated Eli Welch (Bratt), 6-3, 6-3. At No. 5 singles, Beckett Mann (Bratt) defeated Biancosino (MUHS), 6-4, 6-1. At No. 1 doubles, Malhotra & Copeland (MUHS) defeated Jackson Pals and Tucker Hessel (Bratt) 6-4, 6-3. At No. 2 doubles, Dashiell Moyse and Seamus Bald (Bratt) defeated Rheume and Alex Andersson (MUHS), 6-4, 6-7, 1-0 (10-6) **BURLINGTON MATCH** In individual match results vs. Burlington with a reconfigured Tiger lineup: At No. 1 singles, Murray (MUHS) defeated Oscar Crainich (B) 6-0, 6-7, (7-1). At No. 2 singles, Young (MUHS) defeated Noah LeMay (B), 6-3, 6-2. At No. 3 singles, Sam Wick (B) defeated Hammond (MUHS), 6-1, 6-2. At No. 4 singles, Quinn Moore (B) defeated Rheume (MUHS), 6-0, 6-0. At No. 5 singles, Oliver Crainich (B) defeated Kirin Biancosino (MUHS), 6-1, 6-1. At No. 1 doubles, Semin Dervic & Tobey Bernabe (B) defeated Cook-Yoder & Nelson (MUHS), 6-3, 6-4. At No. 2 doubles, Malhotra & Copeland (MUHS) defeated Miles Kenny & Ben Koh (B), 1-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-6).



TIGER DOUBLES PLAYER Spencer Copeland serves during his and partner Adrien Malhotra's victory against Brattleboro at Middlebury Indoor Tennis this past Friday.

Independent photo/Steve James



SOPHOMORE CHARLES YOUNG laces a forehand during the MUHS No. 2 player's match vs. Brattleboro's No. 2 at Middlebury Indoor Tennis on May. 16.

Independent photo/Steve James

SPREAD THE WORD

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Girls’ lacrosse

(Continued from Page 1B)
of a save made by MAV senior goalie Kendra Jackson at 7:38, and MUHS led, 2-1.

MAV then went on a 3-0 run over the next two minutes. Junior middle June Yates Rusch scored in transition, Dufault whipped home a free position, and Yates-Rusch circled from behind the net and fired a shot home to make it 4-2 at 5:51.

That proved to be the Commodores’ highwater mark. A minute later, junior attacker Kenyon Connors converted the first of six Alice Livesay assists, and Ada Weaver cut to goal and buried a Kent feed to tie the game at 3:01. Before the quarter ended, Livesay picked up a ground ball near the goal and slipped it home, and in the final minute freshman Ellie Conklin and Connors both scored to make it 7-4.

The Tiger run continued early in the second period. Quinn went solo, and at 9:45 Livesay set up Connors, and it was 9-4. Rule broke the spell with a nice goal cutting through the defense to make it 9-5. But only Dufault scored later in the quarter as the Tigers broke the game open with five more goals, two from Livesay, two from Weaver and one from Connors, and it was 14-6 at the half. The Commodores came no closer than seven goals in the second half.

Yates-Rusch (assist) and Rule finished with three goals apiece to lead MAV, and Dufault and senior Safi Camara (assist) added two apiece. Dufault added four ground balls to her goals and draw controls, and Yates-Rusch controlled four draws. First-year senior goalie Jackson made eight saves.

Cook said overall she was not discouraged.

“I think we’re in pretty good shape for D-II,” Cook said. “We’ll take what we can learn from this game and move forward, and we’re back at it on Saturday. We’ve had a good season so far. We’ve got some new kids, and they’re learning and they’re playing together and having fun.”

Having big games for MUHS

were Livesay (three goals, six assists), Weaver (five goals, assist, seven draw controls), Connors (four goals, three assists), and Quinn (three goals, five ground balls). Kent finished with a goal, two assists and three ground balls, and Lia Calzini, Matty Austin and Conklin had a goal apiece. Sophomore goalie Ada Weaver made 11 saves.

Co-Coach Weaver is happy with his team’s mental outlook as well as its play as the regular season nears its end.

“The team’s confidence in themselves is improving, and spirits are everything,” he said. “So as long as the spirits are high, we can do a lot.”

EARLIER GAMES

In other recent games, played on May 16, MAV won one on the road, while MUHS split two games

The Commodores easily won at Colchester, 17-7, on May 16. Dufault (six goals) and Olivia Sawyer and Yates-Rusch (five goals apiece) teamed up for 16 MAV goals, and Esme Visco-Lyons (two assists) notched the other. Aubrey Coffey (three assists) and Ruby Hellier (two assists) also contributed, and Jackson made 10 saves.

Halle Christian led the Lakers with three goals, and goalie Sarah Palmer stopped nine shots.

At MUHS on May 16, visiting Champlain Valley took the lead early and outscored the Tigers, 18-12. Rose Bunting (five goals), Bibi Frechette (four goals, five assists) and Heather Pelletier (four goals, assist) caused the most problems for MUHS. Redhawk goalie Kenna Hutchins made 10 saves.

Weaver and Quinn led MUHS with three goals and an assist apiece. Connors scored twice; Livesay contributed a goal and an assist; and Quinn Doria, Calzini and Kent added a goal apiece. Blackwell made eight saves.

On Monday the Tigers cruised past host Harwood, 21-9. Quinn (six goals), Connors (three goals) and Weaver, Kent and Livesay (two goals apiece) led the attack.

Panther baseball out of NCAA tournament

UNION, N.J. — The Middlebury College baseball team finished its season at 28-13 when it lost twice on Saturday in an NCAA Division III regional hosted by Kean University after winning its opener. The Panthers won 18 of their final 21 games and the NESCAC playoff tournament for the third time in four years.

In the Panthers’ opener they took a 6-0 lead through the top of the third inning and held on for a 6-5 win over 19th-ranked Cortland State (31-12).

Kyle McCausland gave the Panthers a 1-0 lead in the first with a solo homer. The Panthers made it 5-0 in the third, when Nathan Samii stroked a two-run single, and Ben Slaughter launched a three-run homer.

The Red Dragons scored all of their runs with two outs in the fourth off starter Emmet George

(four runs, three earned) and reliever Jacob Sherf (one unearned run).

From there, Sherf, who earned the pitching win with 1.1 innings of work, combined with relievers Dylan Knightly and Stefano Yozzo to shut out Cortland the rest of the way. Yozzo tossed a 1-2-3 ninth to earn his fourth save. Samii had three hits on the day.

In the other Saturday games, No. 9 host Kean defeated Husson, 4-2, in the first round, and then Cortland eliminated Husson, 17-7, in the losers’ bracket final.

On Sunday against Kean in the winners’ bracket final, the hosts scored five runs in the first vs. Middlebury and never looked back in a 13-6 victory. The Cougars struck with five runs in the bottom of the initial frame off losing pitcher Christian Zebroski. Zebroski went five innings in all and allowed nine

runs, eight earned.

The Panthers scored one run on a Carter Chi homer in the third, and then added two runs in the fourth. Samii double and scored on an error, and Brayden Mathews singled in Slaughter. Two Panther runs in the sixth made it an 11-5 Kean lead. Mathews singled in Samii, and Pablo Spielman-Rodriguez’s sacrifice fly plated Slaughter. Joe Basso homered in the ninth for the final Middlebury run.

In the second game, the Panthers pitched well, but two early unearned runs eventually proved costly in their 4-3 loss. Charlie Kutz went 5.2 innings and allowed three runs, one earned. Kunal Handa then took the loss with two innings of hitless relief, but hit a batter who scored when the Panthers’ third pitcher, Yozzo, allowed that inherited runner to score on an infield hit in

the bottom of the eighth.

After Cortland scored twice in the first, the Panthers cut the lead to 2-1 in the third on an Owen Fox homer. Middlebury took the lead, 3-2, in the sixth when McCausland doubled, Samii walked, and McCausland scored on a Mathews single. Will Ashley then singled Samii home.

But Cortland scored an unearned run in the bottom of the inning on a throwing error. And in the eighth the hit batter, a stolen base and an infield hit plated what proved to be the run that ended the Panthers’ season.

McCausland added to his career-leading total with his 45th double in a Middlebury uniform, while Samii’s four-hit day included his 44th double, good for second place on the career list. Mathews also had four hits on the day and drove in three runs.

MAV boys’ lax wins first

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham-Vergennes boys’ lacrosse team split a pair of recent away games, with the Eagles victory at Colchester on Friday, May 16, their breakthrough first of the season. Counting a forfeit win on Tuesday over the struggling Otter Valley program, the Eagles saw their record improve to 2-7. The team’s Monday game at Lyndon was postponed.

Back on May 14 host Harwood blanked the Eagles, 7-0. Eamon Langlais led the Highlanders with two goals, and goalie Evan Andrews made five saves.

Connor Nason had an outstanding outing in goal for MAV with 17 saves.

On May 16 the Eagles bested host Colchester, 9-5, as Asa Pratt poured in six goals and assisted another, and Nason stopped 10 shots.

Chase Atkins also added a spark to the Eagle attack with a goal and three assists, Joe Sullivan and Addy Halby added a goal and an assist apiece, and Spencer Gebo chipped in two assists.

Adam Coburn led the Lakers with two goals, and goalie Dylan Neely made eight saves.

MAV is scheduled to visit Fairfax on Saturday morning.



Contact!
EAGLE LEADOFF HITTER Brody Barnard makes contact at the plate against a Tiger pitch during a May 15 game at Mount Abe.
Independent photo/Steve James

LOCAL
SPORTS



Steve
James



Andy
Kirkaldy



Matthew
Dickerson



Karl
Lindholm

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Lincoln, VT Homeowner
Recommends Bristol Electronics



Phase I - 2014

For a long time I had been thinking of going solar, but had not pursued it until I talked with a neighbor who just had hers installed. I contracted with her installer and soon had panels on the roof that supplied all of my household electricity, with some extra capacity to supply an on-demand electric water heater I soon put in. I loved not hearing the propane boiler firing up in the summer to keep domestic water hot for the shower I’d be taking 16 hours later. Thrilled with the installation and not having an electric bill. I even splurged and bought my first ever noisy window A/C.


Phase II - 2016

While my primary heat source has been a woodstove and later a pellet stove, the propane boiler served as my backup. On a December road trip to PEI, I discovered the 25+ year old propane boiler died on me. I’m lucky to have had a monitoring system to notice this and awesome neighbors to feed pellets until I got back. Rather than buy another fossil fuel burning device, I decided to have heat pumps installed. At the time Bristol Electronics didn’t install those, but they were very competitive as I shopped around for additional solar capacity. So in February 2016 they were on the roof installing panels that would provide enough electricity year round to supply my heating needs. And, since the heat pump also cools the house quietly on the hottest days, I sold the window unit. Maybe I’m just getting older, but there seems to be more and more of those hot days.

Phase III - 2019

Since I commute from So. Lincoln to Burlington, I’ve always felt guilty about all of the CO2 I’ve been emitting to get to work. I still have 7-10 years before I can even think about retiring, so I decided to make the investment and buy an electric car. And part of that investment was to buy the additional solar capacity to power it. I didn’t think twice about having Bristol Electronics do it. My roof was running out of space, and since it has a low pitch, snow coverage was a issue for the last two years. This time I worked with Chris, Stephen, Dave and Trevor to have a ground mount installed that will be easy to clear the snow off of. They did amazing work, despite weather issues, and were actually able to make some long overdue landscaping improvements during the process. I couldn’t be happier with my experience with this team!

~ Paul Webb, Lincoln, VT



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FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

Early Bird Nature Walk to be held May 25 in Orwell

ORWELL — Spend the morning participating in the “Early Bird Nature Walk” at the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell, on Saturday, May 25. The walk runs from 8 to 10 a.m. Bird expert and guide Sue Wetmore will introduce participants to the birds of spring, spring migration, and identifying

whatever birds that appear. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Bring your binoculars. No pets please. Meet in front of the museum. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$1 for children 14 to 6, under 6 free. Also free are Green Mountain Passport holders. The walk is co-sponsored by Mount Independence Coalition.



may22

THURSDAY

“Critical Thinking: Your Super Power” in New Haven. Thursday, May 22, 6-7 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Bridport mechanical engineer and designer Paul Kenyon will give this presentation on critical thinking — what it is, how it works and how you can build and use your own version. The techniques shared will help everyone to step into a new appreciation of and have an empowered engagement with the world around you. Time has been set aside for discussion.

may23

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

Boat Launch Day in Ferrisburgh. Friday, May 23, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Celebrate the launch of the newest boat built by students in the museum’s alternative education boat building program. The gig will join the museum’s fleet for education, school rowing teams, expeditions and the public. Students will present their finished boat, share a little bit about their experience building, and then everyone will parade them down to the harbor where they will launch the boat for the very first time in the lake. Free.

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 ekeenan00@gmail.com by May 1.

may24

SATURDAY

Early Bird nature walk in Orwell. Saturday, May 24, 8-10 a.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd. Spend an enjoyable morning with bird expert Sue Wetmore from Brandon, who will introduce participants to the birds of spring, spring migration, and identifying whatever birds that appear. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Bring your binoculars. No pets please. Meet in front of the museum. Cost \$8 adults/\$1 children 14 to 6/under 6 free.

Town-wide yard sale in Lincoln. Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Weathervane 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 Weathervane 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.

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 Rossigg, general info, brandoncongregationalchurch@gmail.com or 802-247-6121. All proceeds will benefit the Steeple Repair Fund.

may25

SUNDAY

Revolutionary War Memorial Service in Ticonderoga, N.Y. Sunday, May 25, 11 a.m., Fort Ticonderoga. Join the procession of an American soldier’s funeral and see him laid to his final resting place. Pay respect to the numerous soldiers who did not receive a proper burial at Ticonderoga in 1775 and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice they made to secure our liberty today.

Family fishing day in Ferrisburgh. Sunday, May 25, noon-4 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. A day for anglers of all ages to come and join a great day of learning and fishing. We’ll explain and distribute fishing regulations then spend the rest of the time down at our waterfront fishing. There will be fishing poles, bait and other equipment available courtesy of Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s Let’s Go Fishing Program. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Register at tinyurl.com/LCMM-Family-Fishing.

Memorial Day parade in Orwell. Sunday, May 25, 1:30 p.m. The parade route runs east on Main Street from North Orwell Road, turns onto Church Street, circles Roberts Avenue, and bends back west onto Main Street. The parade concludes with a ceremony on the town green. Lots of fun.

may26

MONDAY

Plant and bake sale in Cornwall. Monday, May 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., the Ethan and Mary Baker Allen Chapter of DAR/Samson Library, corner of Routes 30 and 74. Perennials, houseplants, vegetables, flowers and hand-baked goods, along with tours of the Chapter House.

Memorial Day parade in Middlebury. Monday, May 26, 9 a.m., downtown. Middlebury American Legion Post 27 and the Town of Middlebury will once again hold a Memorial Day Parade honoring the memory of men and women who have lost their lives defending the United States of America.

Memorial Day Parade in Vergennes. Monday, May 26, 11 a.m., Main St. Come to Vergennes for the biggest Memorial Day Parade in the state. This year’s theme: Honoring, Courage and Sacrifice.

East Monkton Church Association Open House in Monkton. Monday, May 26, 1-2 p.m., East Monkton Church, 405 Church Rd. Come see a display featuring Monkton’s Honor Roll and soak in the feel of the historic (non-denominational) building and learn a bit more about some of Monkton’s veterans. We’ll even have a sneak preview of one of the displays in the new Monkton History Museum. You’ll also see some news accounts of Monkton’s children visiting cemeteries as part of their school day in honor of Memorial Day.

New Moon Circle in New Haven. Monday, May 26, 6:30 p.m., New Haven Congregational Church, Town Hill Rd. Celebrate the beginning of the Strawberry Moon, named by the Algonquin people to honor the ripening of wild strawberries. An evening of campfire connection, nature observation, poetry, meditation, journaling, a blessing circle and dyeing with strawberries. Each participant will take home a strawberry plant to bring some sweetness into their own home garden. Dress for the outdoors, and bring writing materials and a snack to share, if you’d like. Free and open to all.

may27

WEDNESDAY

“Insurance Insurance” 101: Umbrella Insurance in Middlebury. Wednesday, May 28, 5:30 p.m., National Bank of Middlebury, 30 Main St. rear entrance. Join the National Bank of Middlebury and Gretchen Kellogg from the Richards Group for an informative discussion. Gain valuable insights into overage, exclusions and why policies matter. Free and open to the public.



Ursine coexistence

LEARN WHAT WE humans can do to live more harmoniously with black bears at the presentation “Living in Bear Country: Learn to be Bear Wise” on Thursday, May 29, from 7-8 p.m., New Haven Town Hall. Vermont Coverts Bear Ambassadors Cheryl and Don Mitchell will share information and lead the discussion.

may29

THURSDAY

“Dementia and Home Safety — Helping Older Vermonters Create a Safer Environment” in Middlebury. Thursday, May 29, 4 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 3 Main St. Brought to you by Elderly Services, this talk will be presented by Rachel Wiley, MS, Occupational Therapist/The Dementia Collaborative and 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. Free and open to entire community.

Astrology meet-up in Bristol. Thursday, May 29, 5:30 p.m., 5 Mountain St. Make the most of your energy by keeping tabs on the planetary movements and how they can affect the most important areas of your life. We meet monthly to discuss the rapidly changing landscape of our times through the lens of astrology. Beginners welcome! Proceeds go to Pathways Vermont to end homelessness. RSVP required at welcome@home-body.co.

“Living in Bear Country: Learn to be Bear Wise” in New Haven. Thursday, May 29, 7-8 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 72 North St. It’s spring and that means bears and cubs are awake, hungry and looking for food everywhere, including your backyard. VT Coverts Bear Ambassadors, Cheryl and Don Mitchell will share information about black bears and what we humans can do to live together safely in this beautiful environment. Come to learn about bear habits and habitats, and discover effective strategies for bear encounters, including proper food storage, securing compost and chickens. Free. All are welcome.

may31

SATURDAY

Spring Wave race in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, May 31, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. The spring open-water rowing season for all middle and high school rowing teams ends with this seasonal championship race. Over 100 youth rowers from around Vermont and New England will participate. All are welcome to come and cheer on these rowers from the museum’s harbor.

Plant Sale in Middlebury. Saturday, May 31, 9 a.m.-noon, on the green. Middlebury Garden Club invites you to get your garden and house plants — annuals, perennials, vegetable starts, herbs, shrubs and more — for the coming season. Plants will be in pots and labeled by name, color and basic care. There will be a table with books and gardening accessories, too. Trays and boxes will be available to carry your purchases.

Rhubarb Festival in Middlebury. Saturday, May 31, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. The centerpiece is rhubarb pie and savories, but over the years this unique fundraising event for our community has included a plant sale, book sale, cookbooks, “bling” (or gently used adornments) sale, café, and live music. Come early (pies sell out by 11:30). Parking at nearby MUHS. More info at cvuus.org.

Clothing Swap Shop in Vergennes. Saturday, May 31, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Otter Creek Room, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Need to refresh your wardrobe? Addison County Solid Waste Management District invites you to bring your unwanted clothing items in good condition to swap for something for free! Questions? Contact eco@acswmd.org.

“Smitten Kitten” in Middlebury. Saturday, May 31, 2-3 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Rd. Join Vermont Literacy Network for stories and crafts to support Homeward Bound, Addison County’s Humane Society.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — The families at the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool will be hosting an in-person silent auction and concert featuring the band Sunday Morning, on Friday, May 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Burnham Hall. There will be dozens of fantastic auction items to bid on, as well as a cash bar and snacks. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person, but all are welcome regardless of ability to contribute. All proceeds will benefit the preschool.

In observance of Memorial Day, the town offices and library will be

closed on Monday, May 26.

FROM THE TOWN

Lincoln Gap is officially open for the season. Be aware that bicyclists and hikers may be on the road so please drive with caution.

REMINDER

The town-wide yard sale to benefit Weathervane is Saturday, May 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The library will be having their plant and book sale and the fire department will be serving lunch.

Until next time ... May Your Troubles Be Less And Your Blessings Be More.

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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



New Haven

Have a news tip?
Contact Kim Callahan at kimcallahan99@gmail.com.

NEWS

NEW HAVEN — The New Haven Conservation Commission's next Armchair Naturalist speaker series: "Living in Bear Country: Learn to be Bear Wise" will be held Thursday, May 29, from 7-8 p.m. at New Haven Town Offices. Vermont Coverts Bear Ambassadors, Cheryl and Don Mitchell will share information about black bears and what we humans can do to live together safely in this beautiful environment. Come to learn about bear habits and habitats, and discover effective strategies for bear encounters, including proper food storage, securing compost and chickens. The event is sponsored by the New Haven Community Library, the New Haven Conservation Commission, Treleven, and Vermont Coverts, is free, and all are welcome.

The presentation "Critical Thinking: Your Super Power" will take place Thursday, May 22, from 6-7 p.m. at the New Haven Community Library. The talk will explore what critical thinking is, how it works, and how you can build and use your own version. The techniques shared will help everyone to step into a new appreciation of and have an empowered engagement with the world around you. (Just ask the fish.) The presentation is from the perspective of Bridport mechanical

engineer and designer, Paul Kenyon and includes examples from practical engineering, literature and art. Critical Thinking is fun. Time has been set aside for discussion.

"We can judge our progress by the courage of our questions and the depth of our answers, our willingness to embrace what is true rather than what feels good."

— Carl Sagan

The New Haven Congregational Church is holding a New Moon Circle on Memorial Day, May 26, at 6:30 p.m., to celebrate the beginning of the Strawberry Moon, named by the Algonquin people to honor the ripening of wild strawberries. These Celtic Christian-inspired circles welcome people of all faiths and none. Everyone is welcome for an evening of campfire connection, nature observation, poetry, meditation, journaling, a blessing circle and dyeing with strawberries. The evening will begin in the pollinator and vegetable gardens, where the strawberry plants are thriving, and move indoors later for natural dyeing projects. Each participant will take home a strawberry plant to bring some sweetness into their own home garden. Dress for the outdoors, and bring writing materials and a snack to share, if you'd like. This event is free and open to all, and is sponsored by the New Haven

Congregational Church.

Beeman students and staff will hold their annual Memorial Day walk on May 27 to the Evergreen Cemetery on Town Hill Road, placing Beeman at 8:45 a.m. to place flags and/or flowers on service members' graves. Thank you Beeman students and staff for continuing this wonderful tradition.

The Food Closet usage has increased significantly and we are asking you to consider donating food or money to help continue to serve folks with food insecurity in our area. Some suggestions for food donations are: Mac & cheese, tuna or other canned meats, soup, cereal, spaghetti sauce and canned fruits. Please put all donations into the donation box to the right of the food closet by the side New Haven Congregational Church door. Monetary donations can be mailed to PO Box 6, New Haven VT 05472. We are grateful to be part of such a supportive and caring community. nhccfoodcloset@gmail.com

If you haven't noticed, a new roof is being added to the Depot on North Street this month. It is part of the ongoing renovation of the building and there are plans afoot to celebrate this milestone once completed. Stop by and take a look as the transformation is underway!



BIRDS ON THE BASS

THREE DESIGNS BY students in Lisa Rader's class at Hannaford Career Center are up for a vote for this year's Festival on the Green T-Shirt. Vote for your favorite at the link in the article below.

Vote for this year's Festival On The Green t-shirt design

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Summer Festival on the Green celebrates its 46th season this year. Look for us under the big white tent on the Village Green next to St. Stephen's Church during the week of July 13th through 19th (yes ... a week later than usual). During more than four-and-a-half decades as a top attraction on the arts calendar in Vermont, the festival has showcased an impressive list of talent, artists with long résumés and up-and-comers, quiet solo acts and lively bands, accessible to all and never charging an admission fee!

For the twelfth year, the festival has partnered with students from Lisa Rader's Design & Illustration Program at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center to create a t-shirt design. The Festival Committee reviewed an impressive portfolio of 14 designs and narrowed the selection to three: "Birds on the Bass," "Flying Banjo," and "Raspberry-colored Flowers." We invite the community to cast a vote for this year's design. Voting will remain open until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, May 25. To cast your vote, type this URL into your favorite web browser: bit.ly/votefor2025festivalshirt

The Durham County Poets, a Québec-based blues, roots, and soul band, opens this year's Festival on Sunday, July 13. The fantastic lineup booked by our Program Committee also features Caitlin



FLYING BANJO



RASPBERRY-COLORED FLOWERS

Canty, Ray Vega's Afro-Caribbean Jazz Ensemble, Ordinary Elephant, Honey & Soul, Ali McGuirk, Mathis Andersen Trio, Dobet Gnahoré, Buffalo Rose, and Madaila. A Street Dance with the Vermont Jazz Ensemble closes the festival on Saturday night. The popular "Brown Bag" noontime series returns Monday through Friday with Mathis, Gaëlle & Marc, the Middlebury Community Music Center Faculty Concert of New Orleans Jazz & Swing, No Strings Marionette Company, Magician Tom Verner, and Juggler Jason Tardy. For further information about this year's festival and to learn about making a donation and/or volunteering, visit the festival website at www.festivalonthegreen.org.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Middlebury Union High School

Ethan Spitzer

Middlebury Union High School is pleased to introduce Ethan Spitzer as its next Student of the Week. He resides in Middlebury with his parents, Natali West and Mark Spritzer, his younger sister, Autumn, who is in 7th grade at MUMS, and two cats, Pete and Luna.

Ethan will graduate in June as a full International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate. Known as a capable and responsible student, Ethan is highly respected by his teachers and his peers. Ethan's approach in the classroom is one of focus and determination, and he has an ability to grasp difficult concepts with ease.

Ethan's favorite subjects include mathematics and music, and he credits both Ms. LeBeau and Mr. DeBruyn for being his mentors. He says that his DP Music class "expanded my musical understanding and interest in music theory." He began playing the clarinet at age six and continues to play in the MUHS school band. He also plays the bass clarinet and the piano in the jazz band. He would like to thank Mr. Comar and Mr. Harrington for their "always interesting" classes in math and science.

Additionally, he sings with the school choir and had a role as an Oompa Loompa in the senior play, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," in March. Ethan has, along with fellow MUHS musicians, participated in New England All State and District competitions each of his four years in high school. He has enjoyed playing with the school's pit orchestra for the drama productions and with Midd Jazz on Burlington's Church Street as part of the Discover Jazz Festival each spring.

Outside of the classroom, Ethan can be found running track or cross country with the Tigers. In the winter he spends time skiing at Pico. He's focused on completing his list of 46ers with his father; together they plan on hiking each of the Adirondack peaks that are 4,000 feet tall or taller. To date they have done 33 of the 46. He has also volunteered with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps.

As Ethan prepares to graduate he says he is grateful for his four years as a member of the Tiger community, but is excited about what lies ahead. He plans to study at a four-year liberal arts college where he can combine his interest in music with science. We are certain that a bright future awaits and wish him well.



Ethan Spitzer
MUHS

Vergennes Union High School

Kendra Jackson

Kendra Jackson of Ferrisburgh is Vergennes Union High School's final Student of the Week for the 2024-25 school year. Kendra has found her voice at VUHS, saying that she has liked how many connections she has made here with both students and staff that have helped her come out of her shell. Her involvement in Full Send has been particularly rewarding. "Now I can stand up in front of hundreds and speak with confidence," she says. Her favorite class is AP Biology, and Biology in general is her favorite subject. She also appreciates teachers Ms. Kirkaldy and Ms. Thompson. Both of whom she says are always there academically and personally and bring a lot of energy to class. One highlight for her was a Spanish class trip to Puerto Rico. Kendra has been on the high honor or honor roll throughout her time at VUHS, and has earned underclass awards. She was a representative to HOBY and selected for Girls' State, but was unable to attend due to having knee surgery.

Kendra has played basketball and lacrosse for VUHS and has been part of the school's Equity and Inclusion Task Force. She has enjoyed the camaraderie and second family of sports teams. "At the end of the day we are a family. I love having that community to fall back on at the end of the day. I would have those girls' backs and they would have mine," she says.

Kendra volunteers at the Vergennes doctor's office of Dr. Bicknell, whom she shadowed. The experience has sparked Kendra's love of nursing. Working at the Vergennes Grand retirement community has also allowed her to continue with that interest. Kendra loves to hang out with friends in her spare time as well as spend time with her parents, her older brother and her pets (two dogs, a cat and a bunny).

She says one thing that has inspired her throughout high school is learning how to persevere. Whether that's through academic challenges, sport challenges or other life challenges, school has taught her how to persevere through it. "It has taught me to never hang my head even if it seems impossible to get through, and instead work 10 times harder and push through it," she says. Persevering after her knee surgery her junior year to be ready for basketball her senior year was proof positive of this.

In the fall Kendra will be attending UVM, where she plans to get a degree in Nursing. All of us at VUHS wish her well in what we are sure will be a very bright future.



Kendra Jackson
VUHS

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Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.

Best of luck to all Addison County students!

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

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Wyman's Water Delivery

Residential Water delivery for
Swimming Pools and Wells

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Rough Sawn Lumber • Sand and Gravel

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Tracy Wyman, Brandon, VT**

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 vermontwindowtreatments.com

JACK OF ALL TRADES?

CALL 802-388-4944

OR EMAIL [ADVERTISING@
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:ADVERTISING@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM)
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS.



Advertise your business on these pages for under \$10 per week.

Call 802-388-4944 or email advertising@addisonindependent.com for details.

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.

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

Public Meetings

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

Help Wanted

Public Meetings

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

Services

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

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

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

Services


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

Help Wanted

Services

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

Help Wanted

Free

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

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Head Start Home Visitor


Interested in making a difference in the lives of young children and their families? Head Start has an opening for a Home Visitor starting in July 2025!

Head Start is a federally-funded, national child and family development program which provides comprehensive services for pregnant women, children from birth to age five, and their families. As a Head Start Home Visitor, you will provide services in home-based settings to program participants to provide or support the care of preschool-aged children so as to enhance their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development, support parents in the care and nurturing of their children, and help parents move toward self-sufficiency and independent living.

This is a full year position serving Addison and Chittenden counties, 40 hours/week, with reduced summer hours. Starting pay \$22.08 - \$27.26 per hour, health plan and excellent benefits.

Interested in working with us?

CVOEO is interested in candidates who can contribute to our organizational and community inclusion. Applicants are encouraged to include information about how they will further the goal of inclusion at the organizational and community level. Review of applications begins immediately and will continue until suitable applicants are found. We're one of the Best Places to Work in Vermont! Join us to find out why! To apply please submit a cover letter and resume with your application to <https://www.cvoeo.org/careers>.



THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Help Wanted

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



Nursery/Greenhouse Assistant

Now taking resumes and applications for immediate employment for an **IN SEASON up to 40 hrs/OFF SEASON 20+ hrs** per week position. Middlebury Agway is seeking an experienced, qualified and highly motivated individual to assist in a thriving retail plant sales department. Responsibilities include Care and Sales of Greenhouse and Nursery Plants, Seeds and Bulbs, plus a genuine interest in providing knowledgeable customer service. Extensive Plant knowledge is a must! **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  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.

Substitute Teachers


Head Start is looking for Substitute Teachers!

Head Start is a federally-funded, national child and family development program which provides comprehensive services for pregnant women, children from birth to age five, and their families.

We have opportunities for on-call, "as-needed" substitutes in early education classrooms in multiple locations. High school diploma; related experience; effective verbal and written communication (bilingual abilities a plus!); access to reliable transportation; the physical ability to carry out required tasks. Starting pay \$20.00 per hour.

Interested in working with us?

CVOEO is interested in candidates who can contribute to our organizational and community inclusion. Applicants are encouraged to include information about how they will further the goal of inclusion at the organizational and community level. Review of applications begins immediately and will continue until suitable applicants are found. We're one of the Best Places to Work in Vermont! Join us to find out why! To apply please submit a cover letter and resume with your application to <https://www.cvoeo.org/careers>.



THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



Cashier - Customer Service

Part-time and Full-time Positions available

Immediate Openings available.

Must be able to work until 6pm. Days and Weekends a MUST. Up to 40 hours per week.

Wage commensurate with experience.

Please send Resumes to info@middleburyagway.com or Fill out Application at **Middlebury Agway, 338 Exchange St., Middlebury VT.**

Please no phone calls.

All of our positions offer generous, twice a year bonuses and employee discount on all products.

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. – Middlebury, VT.

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities


Opportunities

Become an RSVP volunteer!

RSVP of Addison County connects volunteers age 55 and up with organizations that need their support. RSVP provides a wide range of opportunities from delivering healthy meals to neighbors, helping community members with transportation, to reading to a companion, or providing support to children of all ages. RSVP will help you find an opportunity to fit with your causes, interests and schedule.

Learn how you can make a difference!

To learn more, please visit www.volunteersinvt.org or contact us at 802-468-7056



AmeriCorps Seniors

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

• 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
• 50¢ internet listing per issue • minimum 2 insertions

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

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

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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

_____	Number of words: _____
_____	Cost: \$ _____
_____	# of runs: _____
_____	Spotlight Charge: \$ _____
_____	Internet Listing: \$ _____
_____	TOTAL: \$ _____

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



HOPE is looking for a Gleaning Coordinator for the period of June 1 through December 31, to work 25 – 29 hours a week.

This person will be responsible for providing farms in Addison County with professionally-coordinated gleaning services, organizing and training volunteers to glean in local farm fields, picking up donated produce, and delivering it to various sites around the county, data entry and more. The ideal candidate will have experience harvesting and handling crops, have excellent communication and organizational skills, and be able to lift 50 pounds or more on a regular basis.

Must also have a valid driver's license and experience driving large vehicles.

To apply, send a resume and letter of interest to receptionist@hope-vt.org, with the subject "gleaning coordinator."

Garage Sales

2 FAMILY YARD SALE Kitchen, household, builders & shop, camping items include: Keurig K-Cup, Immersion Blender, juice machine, Yogurt Maker, dorm fridge, 5 Disc CD Player, DVD Player, Laptop Brief case, iPad/Tablet Guide Bag, Audio Books, Music CDs, Screen Room, Zamp 160W solar, Coleman 40qt 12V cooler, Volcano fire pit, Zero G chairs, Chain Saws – Husqvarna 455, 350, Wagner Paint Sprayer, bench jig saw, bench belt sander, contractors items, windows, electric fencing & charger. Sat Sun May 24 & 25, 9am-4pm. 434 Whitford Rd, Addison

BIG YARD SALE Several antique dealers/collectors continue downsizing. Antique furniture, china, silver, copper, art, lamps, crocks, small country and decorative items, boxes, baskets, jewelry, yarn, garden accessories and much more. 275 South Munger St. Saturday May 24, 9-2.

HUGE MULTI-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.

LINCOLN SALE Town Wide Sales, Sat. May 24, 9-3 rain or shine. Maps available at General Store. Sponsored by Weather-vane Senior Housing

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/classes/home.html>

For Sale

2007 COUGAR CAMPER 27 foot 5th wheel. One slideout. Inside clean and neat. Outside slightly weathered. Does not leak. Includes hitch, 2 TVs, and more. Asking \$2500. 802-877-3044 leave message if necessary.

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

OVER 2000 BOOKS \$175. Benefit Elmore SPCA Mineville, Ny. 518-546-8687

Vacation Rentals

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.

For Rent

1000 SQUARE FEET OF RETAIL available with parking on Bakery Lane in downtown Middlebury. 802-349-8544.

For Rent

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

SPACE FOR RENT Vermont Sun Building. 3600 square feet. Contact Steve, mornings, 802-989-1244. vermontsun.com

FURNISHED SUITE AVAILABLE in house in Addison. Bedroom, bathroom, living area with TV, and kitchen facilities with small refrigerator, microwave, toaster/oven, double burners. Access to laundry. \$700 month includes utilities, call 802-349-6312

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

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

Help Wanted

For Rent

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

SPACE FOR RENT Vermont Sun Building. 3600 square feet. Contact Steve, mornings, 802-989-1244. vermontsun.com

FURNISHED SUITE AVAILABLE in house in Addison. Bedroom, bathroom, living area with TV, and kitchen facilities with small refrigerator, microwave, toaster/oven, double burners. Access to laundry. \$700 month includes utilities, call 802-349-6312

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

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

Help Wanted

For Rent

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

Wood Heat

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

Att. Farmers

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

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

Help Wanted

Van Drivers Needed

Looking for part time work?
Excellent drivers needed to transport members of our adult day center, Project Independence.



- Work 7:15-9:45, Monday-Friday.
- Additional hours available.
- Friendly and caring work environment.
- No CDL needed.



Elderly Services Inc.
Your partner in eldercare

The mission of Elderly Services, an innovative, award-winning non-profit agency, is to help frail elders continue to live at home, to provide support to family caregivers, and to bring joy and community to elders' lives.

For more information: elderlyservices.org/job-opportunities/

AUCTIONS



ONLINE AUCTION

(1668) VEHICLES, TRAILERS & ACCESSORIES AUCTION

Auction Closes: Monday June 2 @ 12PM
Preview: Wed., May 28 from 11AM-1PM



Discover over 60 lots of unbeatable deals featuring a large selection of surplus vehicles, trailers, tools, and equipment from a local construction company. Whether you're upgrading your fleet, enhancing your workshop, or seeking reliable transportation, this event offers exceptional value.

Items Located in Jericho, VT - BID NOW ONLINE!



THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 800-634-7653

ONLINE AUCTION

(1673) GATOR, TOOLS, COINS & COLLECTIBLES

Auction Closes: Thursday, June 5 @ 10AM
Preview: Monday, June 2 from 11AM-1PM



Get ready for an exceptional estate auction featuring over **660 lots** of high-quality items! This auction features outdoor and recreational items, an unparalleled selection of American Silver coins, tools & equipment, furniture and home decor.

Items Located in St. Albans, VT - BID NOW ONLINE!



THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 800-634-7653

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found on **Pages 11B and 12B.**

Addison (1)	Lincoln (1)
Addison Central School District (1)	Mt. Abraham Unified School District (2)
Addison County Courthouse (1)	Middlebury (1)
Addison County Regional Planning Commission (1)	Panton (1)
Brandon Fire Department (1)	Shoreham (1)
Bristol (1)	State of Vermont (2)

TOWN OF PANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Panton Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the Panton Zoning Regulations on June 12th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Panton Town Hall, 2nd Floor, and available via Zoom, as well.

In accordance with the provisions of 24 VSA § 4444, the Panton Zoning Regulations will be amended to include;

- The adoption of a Noise Ordinance, providing improved definitions and regulations regarding noise generated by a variety of sources.
- An ordinance which grants the Panton Zoning Administrator additional enforcement capabilities, up to and including civil fine.

Copies of the proposed regulations are available for review at the Panton Town Clerk's Office located in the Panton Town Hall, 3176 Jersey Street, Panton, VT during normal office hours or on the Town's website at www.pantonvt.us.

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-02836 IN RE ESTATE OF: EDWARD PLACE, JR.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Edward Place, Jr., late of Addison.

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: 05/20/25

Carrie E. Cowan
1008 Watauga Ct., Thompsons Station, TN 37179
(802) 233-2235
carrie417@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Date: 05/22/25

Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

TOWN OF BRISTOL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

West Street Sidewalk Improvement Scoping Study

The Town of Bristol seeks qualified professionals to provide planning and design services for sidewalk improvements along the corridor between Holley Hall and 49 West Street. The existing sidewalk in this area is inconsistent, with some portions containing established pedestrian infrastructure while other sections lack any sidewalk installation. The selected professional will collaborate with the Town Administrator, Planning and Zoning Administrator, and Public Works Foreman throughout the study. The scoping process should consider all potential risks and solutions.

A detailed scope of work can be found on Bristol's website at: <https://bristolvt.org/rfp-west-street-sidewalk-improvement-scoping-study/>

Please direct questions to the Town Administrator at townadmin@bristolvt.org or (802) 453 2410 ext. 1.

Final Submission must be received no later than 4:00 pm, Wednesday, June 4, 2025. Please submit proposals to townadmin@bristolvt.org.

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Weybridge Municipal Planning Consultation

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) will meet on **June 10, 2025 at 7:00PM**, for a public hearing with the Town of Weybridge's Planning Commission.

The meeting will take place in person, with a hybrid option, at the Weybridge Clerk's Office, 1727 Quaker Village Road, Weybridge, VT 05753.

As per 24 V.S.A. §4350, ACRPC will consult with Weybridge in regards to the municipality's planning efforts, ascertain Weybridge's planning needs, identify needed assistance from ACRPC, and confirm that the municipality is:

(1) is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan that is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title;

(2) is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with the program for implementation required under section 4382 of this title; and

(3) is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

Please call (802-545-2270) or email jjwolson23@gmail.com or clerk@townofweybridge.org for instructions on participating in the hearing via Zoom.

Questions, please call either:

Danelle Biron, Community Planner
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
802-388-3141
Jeff Olson
Chair, Planning Commission
Town of Weybridge

MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 5/15/25 & 5/19/25

COST			
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
K. Bourdon	1635	1.78	\$2910.30
J. Fifield	1355	1.74	\$2357.70
Correia	1470	1.63	\$2396.10
Goodrich	1700	1.60	\$2720.00
T. Patten	1610	1.53	\$2463.30
Westminster	1525	1.50	\$2287.50
Iroquois Acres	2015	1.48	\$2982.20

COST			
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
A. Manning	83	15.10	\$1253.30
A. Brisson	77	15.00	\$1155.00
Conants	90	14.00	\$1260.00
M+L Quesnel	79	14.00	\$1106.00
Vorsteveld	75	14.00	\$1050.00
Barnes Bros	87	13.00	\$1131.00

Total Beef - 118 Total Calves - 183
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

The Addison County Clerk located in the **Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury** is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS

Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm
Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday - **Closed**
Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm
Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

For appointment, go to www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com or call 802-388-1966.

Email Us!

News Articles

news@addisonindependent.com

Advertise

ads@addisonindependent.com

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 ads can be found on Pages 10B & 11B.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Full-Time Employment Public Works Department

The City of Vergennes is seeking a qualified person to work full-time with the Public Works Department. Valid drivers license is required. Participation in random drug and alcohol testing program is required. Prior experience in operation and maintenance of vehicles and equipment used, snow plowing, lawn care, landscaping, concrete, building construction, facilities maintenance, repair and maintenance of stormwater and wastewater are preferred but willing to train the right person. Duties require the ability to withstand extreme weather conditions and work long hours particularly during the winter months.

Compensation: \$22.00 to \$25.00 per hour with excellent employee benefits: Health insurance; an HRA of \$5,000/year; life insurance of 1.5 times your base annual wages; Vermont Municipal Employees' Retirement System. We also provide paid time off as follows: two weeks of vacation, twelve days of sick time, and two days of personal time. Additionally, there are ten paid holidays each year.

Mail cover letter and resume to:
Ron Redmond, Vergennes City Manager, PO Box 35, Vergennes, VT 05491.
For more information, contact Public Works Supervisor **Jim Larrow** at (802) 877-3585.

The City of Vergennes is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Public Notices

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

TOWN OF SHOREHAM

INVITATION TO BID: CLEANING SERVICES

The Town of Shoreham is accepting proposals for cleaning services. The scope of work includes cleaning the Town Office and the Firehouse/Town Garage every other week, outside of regular business hours. We invite both companies and qualified individuals to submit proposals. The awardee must be able to provide proof of insurance.

The duration of the contract is 2 years with the option to renew. Bids are due by 4:00 PM on Monday, June 9, 2025. Mail or deliver proposal to:
Shoreham Town Office
297 Main Street
Shoreham, VT 05770

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

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT

PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT

DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-00166

IN RE ESTATE OF: JAY EDELSTEIN

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Dated: 05/20/25

Byron Edelstein
314 Geronimo Street, Temple, TX 76504
(360) 672-4743
bedelstein103@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 05/22/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT

PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT

DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-02963

IN RE ESTATE OF: LEONARD W. TIEDEMANN

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Leonard W. Tiedemann, late of Ripton.
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: 05/20/25

Douglas Tiedemann
3 Academy St., Skaneateles, NY 13152
(315) 406-7704
doug.tiedemann@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 05/22/25
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT

Addison Unit

CIVIL DIVISION

DOCKET NO:188-9-19 Ancv

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST PLAINTIFF

VS.

STEPHAN WELLS; CITIMORTGAGE, INC. AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 2290 HEMENWAY HILL RD, SHOREHAM, VT 05770
DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Amended Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale entered on October 22, 2024, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by James S. Wells, Stephan Wells and Michele Lynn Wells to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for LibertyQuest Financial, Inc., dated June 30, 2005 and recorded in Book 64, at Page 105 of the Town of Shoreham Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by virtue of the following Assignments of Mortgage: (1) Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for LibertyQuest Financial Inc. to U.S. Bank National Association recorded in Book 79, at Page 7 (2) Assignment of Mortgage from U.S. Bank National Association to Selene Finance LP recorded in Book 89, at Page 4 (3) Assignment of Mortgage from Selene Finance LP to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC recorded in Book 93, at Page 16 (4) Assignment of Mortgage from Selene Finance, LP to Specialized Loan Servicing LLC recorded in Book 94, at Page 71 (5) Assignment of Mortgage from Specialized Loan Servicing LLC to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust recorded in Book 96, at Page 117, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on June 25, 2025 at 04:00 PM at 2290 Hemenway Hill Rd, Shoreham, VT 05770 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Stephan Wells by Quitclaim Deed of Michele L. Wells dated June 21, 2013 and recorded May 25, 2017 in Book 85, at Page 491 of the Town of Shoreham Land Records and further described therein. Also, being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Stephan Wells and Michele L. Wells, husband and wife, and James S. Wells by Warranty Deed of Raymond G. Fuller and Linda L. Fuller dated August 23, 2001 and recorded August 24, 2001 in Book 54, at Page 245 of the Town of Shoreham Land Records and further described therein.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust
Bozena Wysocki, Esq.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com

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

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.

ATTENTION FARMERS

State of Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation is soliciting interest in a license for approximately 25 acres of state land in Addison, for ag purposes for license beginning April 2026.

Licensee will be required to ensure compliance with all aspects of Required Agricultural Practices, ANR Riparian Management Guidelines, DEC wetland stream alteration rules, perform triennial soil tests. Licensee must have a nutrient management plan equivalent to NRCS conservation practice 590/compliant with MFO/LFO requirements.

Licensee shall agree to carry insurance and identify the State as additional insured on policies in the same manner as required by State Standard Provision for Contracts and Grants, Attachment C.

Potential bidders must call (802) 505-8328 by 6/13/2025 for an invitation to bid.

TOWN OF ADDISON

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

PROCESS & DATES FOR 2025 GRIEVANCES

Grievance hearing will be held at the Addison Town Clerk's Office on Thursday, June 5, 2025, starting at 9:00AM-2:00PM. All grievance hearings by appointment only. Please make an appointment by calling the Town's Clerk's Office at (802) 759-2020 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 8:30AM to 12:00PM & 1:00PM to 4:00PM and Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM prior to June 5. All grievances must be in writing and delivered at your hearing on or before June 5, 2025

Title 32. Vermont Statutes Annotated. Section 4111 (G) says:
"A person who feels aggrieved by the action of the Listers and desires to be heard by them, shall, on or before the day of the grievance meeting, file with them his (or her) objections in writing and may appear in person or by his (her) agents or attorneys. Upon the hearing of such grievance, the parties thereto may submit such documentary or sworn evidence as shall be pertinent thereto."

Town of Addison Board of Listers:
William Munoff
Terry Cutich
John Spencer

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

CHILD FIND NOTICE

Mount Abraham Unified School District Annual Notification of Rights of Parents and Eligible Students

Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD), serving the towns of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven, and Starksboro are required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to locate, evaluate, and identify persons with disabilities from birth through age 21, who may be in need of special education, related services, or accommodations in order to access a free appropriate public education; and to provide such needed services for children ages 3 through 21 including:

- children who are not enrolled in school
- children attending independent schools or home study programs within the five towns
- children who are suspected of having a disability, even though they are advancing from grade to grade
- children who are mobile or lack stable housing (e.g., migrant families, in transitional housing)
- and children who are in state custody or who are vulnerable adults.

If you know a child residing in the towns within MAUSD who you believe may have such needs but is not currently receiving services, please contact Beth McGeorge, Director of Student Support Services, at 72 Munsill Avenue, Suite 601, Bristol, VT 05443; email beth.mcgeorge@mausd.org or call 802-453-3657.

Children ages birth to 3: Services to intervene early and for eligible children ages birth to 3 years are provided through the Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention program through the Addison County Parent Child Center in Middlebury, Vermont, or call (802) 388-3137.

Children ages 3-5 years old: Services to intervene early and for eligible children ages 3 to 5 are provided by MAUSD. For screening, evaluations, or additional information contact the MAUSD Early Education Program located in Bristol, Vermont or call (802) 453-3674.

School-aged Children enrolled in Kindergarten through Age 21: Services to intervene early and for eligible children from kindergarten up to their 22nd birthday are available through the MAUSD multi-tiered system of support. If you suspect a child may need early intervention or support, please contact the building principal in the school in which the child attends. If the child is suspected of having a disability (i.e., autism, deaf-blindness, emotional disturbance, hearing loss, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, speech-language impairment, or specific learning disability), contact Beth McGeorge, Director of Student Support Services at beth.mcgeorge@mausd.org or call 802-453-3657.

Information obtained during Child Find remains confidential as required by Vermont Special Education Regulations and the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act. In accordance with MAUSD's policies and with 34 CFR Part 99 (the Family Education Rights Privacy Act of 1974), this public notice informs all parents within their jurisdictions about how information is maintained when it is collected during identification, location, and evaluation of all people with disabilities.

TOWN OF LINCOLN, VERMONT

WEBSITE: LINCOLNVERMONT.ORG

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF CODE OF ETHICS

INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE

On 4/22/2025, the Selectboard of the Town of Lincoln, Vermont, adopted a "Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance" pursuant to Vermont State Ethics Commission. This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972 to inform the public of the adoption and of the citizens' right to petition for a vote to disapprove this adoption.

The purpose of this ordinance is to enact procedures for the investigation of complaints that allege a municipal officer has violated Vermont's Municipal Code of Ethics and the enforcement in instances of substantiated complaints, including methods of enforcement and available remedies.

The full text of the Ordinance may be examined at the Lincoln Town office at 62 Quaker St., Lincoln, Vermont and may be examined during regular office hours.

CITIZENS' RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

Title 24 V.S.A. § 1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove an ordinance adopted by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the Ordinance signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town's qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the Ordinance. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

PERSON TO CONTACT

Additional information pertaining to this Ordinance may be obtained by contacting Trish Waugh, Town Administrator at 62 Quaker St., Lincoln, Vermont 05443, or by calling 802-453-2980 during regular office hours.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING

ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89218461697>
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 892 1846 1697

For those wishing to watch but not participate:
Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTVermont>
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

7:00

1. Call to Order
2. *Approval of Agenda
3. *Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3a. *Approval of the Minutes of the May 13, 2025 Regular Selectboard Meeting
- 3b. *Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (if any)
- 3c. *Approval of Applications - Renewal of State Licenses/Permits (if any)
- 3d. *Town Mowing Contract (if available)
- 3e. *Approval of Check Warrants
- 3f. **Town Manager's Report
- 3g. Consent Agenda Placeholder

7:05

4. **Citizen Comments (Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda)

7:10

5. Infrastructure Committee - Updates & Recommendations
- 5a. *Town Paving - Proposed Contract - Summer 2025
- 5b. *Middlebury River Project - Awarding Proposed Construction Contract & Engineering Agreement
- 5c. *Wheeled Loader - Proposed Sale & Purchase
- 5d. **Other Project Updates

7:20

6. **Stonecrop Housing Development - Summit Properties - Project Update

7:30

7. **Town Departmental Update to Selectboard - Finance Department

7:40

8. **Turning Point Center of Addison County - Opiate Settlement - Funds Report - Update

7:50

9. *Additional Board/Committee Application - Energy Committee - Appointment

7:55

10. *Energy Committee - EECBG Grant - Enhanced Energy Planning for Addison County

8:00

11. *Exchange Street Sidewalk - Proposed Contract Amendment - Bowman - ACRPC

8:10

12. Policy Review Committee - Recommended Policies (if available)
- 12a. *Purchasing Policy
- 12b. *Disposal of Town Property

8:25

13. Agenda Placeholder
14. **Board Member Concerns
15. Executive Session - Not Anticipated

8:30

16. Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
17. *Adjourn

*Possible Decision

**Discussion

Email your Public Notices to legals@addisonindependent.com

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members. To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible. To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Insurance Holding Company Systems.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P017

AGENCY: Department of Financial Regulation

CONCISE SUMMARY: The Insurance Holding Company Systems Rule sets out the rules and procedural requirements necessary to carry out 8 V.S.A. Chapter 101, Subchapter 13, which establishes regulatory requirements governing registration, acquisitions and other transactions, and solvency of insurance holding company systems as a whole (and not limited to insurance companies within the system). The update is necessary to bring the rule into compliance with 8 V.S.A. §§ 3681, 3684, and 3685 as modified by Act 110 (H.659) of 2024. The revisions to the rule are intended to provide regulators with more transparency regarding insurance holding company systems as a whole and to make risks and solvency concerns within the system easier to identify. Changes to the rule clarify some of the statutory exemptions to filing requirements and required terms in agreements for cost sharing and management services. Other changes are for clarity and to simplify the process for filing certain documents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Dan Raddock, Department of Financial Regulation, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-828-2921 E-Mail: dan.raddock@vermont.gov URL: <https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/legal-general-counsel/proposed-rules-and-public-comment>.

FOR COPIES: Karen Ducharme, Department of Financial Regulation, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-828-1959 E-Mail: karen.ducharme@vermont.gov.

Real Estate

Exhibits

Entertainment

Music

Calendar

Feature Interviews

ARTS+LEISURE

The Addison Independent • May 22, 2025



VERMONT-BORN RUNNER TURNS GRIEF INTO GRIT

SEE STORY
PAGES 2-3

*Emily Halnon pushes past Island Lake
in Colorado's San Juans during the
Hardrock Hundred Mile Endurance Run.*

PHOTO / JAMESON HALNON

Emily Halnon sets 460-mile record & pens powerful debut memoir

This weekend more than 5,000 runners, 20,000 spectators and 800 volunteers will pack the Queen City (that's Burlington) for the annual Vermont City Marathon on Sunday, May 25. No doubt there will be a bunch of Addison County runners and supporters participating; including Lincoln native Emily Halnon — who has just released her debut memoir "To the Gorge."

BY **ELSIE LYNN PARINI**

For Halnon, running 26.2 miles with her mom, Andrea Halnon, in 2007 wasn't enough... In fact, quite the opposite.

"I've found that even when you pour everything you've got into a running goal, you usually don't cross the finish line and say, 'Well, that was all I've got in me. End of story,'" Emily Halnon told us. "You ask: 'What else can I do?'"

For her, that determination led Halnon to become an accomplished ultrarunner — someone who participates in running events *longer* than a marathon — as well as a newly published, bestselling author.

"To the Gorge" follows Halon's experience breaking the record of the women's supported Fastest Known Time, and the men's supported record, on the 460-mile Oregon section of the Pacific Crest Trail, or PCT. This extraordinary accomplishment came just eight months after the loss of her mom in January 2020 to a rare and aggressive uterine cancer.

Halnon, who 's now 40 and lives in Eugene, Or., uses the pages of her book to remember her late mom (a lifelong Vermonter, who taught at Bristol and Cornwall elementary schools for 42 years, and ran and biked all over the state). With what *Publisher's Weekly* called "pulse-pounding descriptions of Halnon's athletic feats" alongside personal stories of her mother's life and death, Halnon explores the complicated experience of grief — and what shines through it.

MEET EMILY

Emily Halnon will be in Vermont this weekend and speaking at the Double Tree in South Burlington on Saturday, May 24, 12-1 p.m. Her Trailside Chat is free and open to all. She'll have books for sale and encouragement for any Vermont City Marathon runners gearing up for the race on Sunday!

[More at runvermont.org/2025-Expo](https://runvermont.org/2025-Expo).



Dilly Pickle Chip is Emily Halnon's K-9 companion and running buddy.

COURTESY PHOTO

The author will be back in the Green Mountain State for the Vermont City Marathon this weekend. She will host a Trailside Chat on Saturday, May 24, noon-1 p.m. at the Double Tree hotel in South Burlington, to talk about her achievements and new memoir.

Here's a Q&A with Emily Halnon to scratch the surface. If you find you're like Halnon, and want to dig a little deeper... go find her book at your local bookstore.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO ELITE RUNNING?

My mom is every reason I'm a runner. I watched her run the Vermont City Marathon the year she turned 50 and felt wildly inspired to try the distance myself. Despite making plenty of rookie mistakes during that first marathon [in 2007] (and getting smoked by my mom, who beat me to the finish by 20 minutes), I got hooked on long-distance running. I loved that it gave me an outlet to explore my strength and redefine my limits — again and again and again.

WHAT WAS YOUR RECORD-BREAKING TIME FOR THE OREGON SECTION OF THE PCT IN 2020?

7 days, 19 hours and 23 minutes.

HOW DID RUNNING SPUR YOUR WRITING CAREER?

My first public writing was through a running

blog. I originally started it to stay in touch with my Vermont running friends when I moved to D.C. in 2009, but I quickly felt how storytelling can be a powerful vehicle for connection and I loved engaging with the running community through writing.

It took a bit before I saw myself as a "writer" and pursued publication beyond my blog or studied the craft of writing. Once I did, I often used running stories to explore elements of the human experience, which is also a thread throughout my book, which uses my run across the Oregon PCT to explore the complicated experience of grief. Now, writing is my career, which is made up of a mix of creative writing and freelance writing.

GRIEF HAS HIT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HARD. WHO DID YOU LOSE?

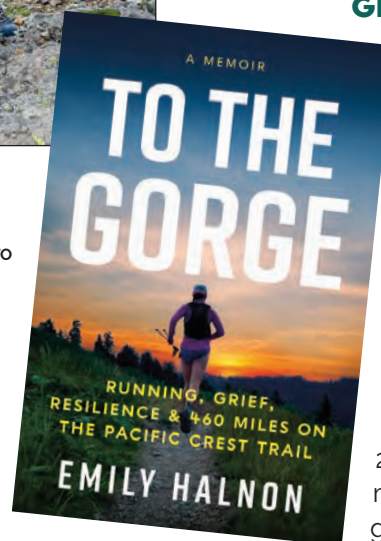
My mom and sister-in-law, Jessica, were both diagnosed with cancer in late 2018. My mom's diagnosis was grim from the start, as she had a rare and aggressive uterine cancer with limited treatment options. She lived with cancer for 13 months before passing away in January 2020. Jess passed away seven months later. And I had to say goodbye to my dog, Brutus, that April.

My immediate family is so small, just my parents and my brother, Jameson. And when we had so much cancer ravaging our family, it felt like one of those situations that shouldn't be permitted under the rules of the universe. It was too much sickness, and too much loss, all at once. But, of course, that's not how life actually works and it was unfortunately our reality.

HOW DID THE LOSS OF YOUR MOM SPECIFICALLY IMPACT YOUR ULTRA-RUNNING GOALS?

My mom lived in the most bold, brave and wholehearted way. After running her first marathon at 50, she went on to learn how to swim when she turned 60 so she could do her first triathlon. She went skydiving that same year to celebrate her birthday. And she lived through 13 months of cancer with extraordinary courage, strength and joy. She, of course, felt the darkness of cancer but she refused to let that be the full story. And she insisted on continuing to live with a lot of joy by doing things like road tripping to Maine for a diner's Bald Thursday special when chemotherapy took her hair.

SEE MEMOIR ON PAGE 3



MEMOIR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

When she passed away, I knew I wanted to do something in her bold, brave, wholehearted spirit and I knew that thing couldn't be, like, riding a tricycle down the block. Trying to run 460 miles across the PCT in Oregon and trying to do it faster than anyone else checked all the right boxes.

It also gave me a way to hold my mom close through my rawest grief. Running had always been a love language for us and having a reason to keep running through grief gave me a place to find my mom while I was struggling with navigating a world without her.

WHAT WAS TRAINING LIKE FOR THIS PACIFIC CREST TRAIL?

I had a little over seven months between deciding to do the run and starting it, but I felt like I'd been training for it for years. To run 460 miles, and to attempt to do it in record time, requires much more than physical fitness. One of the only guarantees of such a long run, is that things will go wrong. And, that it will feel extraordinarily hard at times. So, you need to leverage a lot of problem-solving and mental strength to get through it. I'd been running for 13 years at that point and doing ultra distance events for seven years and I knew that experience was going to be a huge piece of the puzzle that would let me average about 60 miles a day and run across the entire state of Oregon.

In the months leading up to the start, my training hinged on running a high, but sustainable, volume of miles and vertical gain, and doing things that would help harden both mental and physical strength. Like, running 40 miles around Mount Hood's Timberline Trail one day, then doing a hard push up a mountain the next day to build confidence about what I could do on tired legs.

CAN YOU TAKE US INTO A FEW MONUMENTAL MOMENTS OF THE COURSE?

Getting to run the full length of the Oregon PCT felt like a celebration of things and places that have become important pillars in my life. I loved getting to go on a slow-cooked tour of

"TRYING TO RUN 460 MILES ACROSS THE PCT IN OREGON AND TRYING TO DO IT FASTER THAN ANYONE ELSE CHECKED ALL THE RIGHT BOXES."

— Emily Halnon

Oregon's Cascades and the patchwork of wilderness areas that make Oregon so special. The trail itself was a real high, as were the people who showed up to support me through things like pacing me into the middle of the night and surprising me with ice-cold Powerade miles from a trailhead on a piping hot day. The hardest day was my sixth day, when I had to run past three of Oregon's biggest volcanoes through a horrendous storm. I'd never been so cold, wet and hopelessly uncomfortable in my life and it took me until nearly 4 a.m., to get through that day's miles. Going on to finish the run in record time and getting to cross the Bridge of the Gods surrounded by my friends' cheers and headlamps was also an indescribable high.

WHAT DO YOU CALL ON WHEN YOU'RE AT THE EDGE OF YOUR LIMITS?

I try to channel a lot of gratitude when I'm running, especially when I'm competing in big endurance events, because it does feel like a privilege to get to do it. To get to choose to do something hard, in a world with so much suffering. I'm always bowled over at the start of a 100-miler, when volunteers and crew members outnumber runners by a mind-blowing amount. Sometimes more than five times as many people show up to help the runners get through something we love — and I want to always hold onto perspective and gratitude when I get to be one of those runners.

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO WRITE THIS BOOK?

Most of my writing up to that point used running to explore different elements of the human experience, so after I finished the biggest run of my life, which was intertwined with the most significant emotional experience of my life, I knew I'd write something. And it was quickly pretty obvious that I had more to say than I could cram into a 1,000-word essay or quick blog

SEE RUN ON PAGE 15

— EDGEWATER GALLERY PRESENTS —
VERMONT
 PLEIN AIR COLOR & COMPOSITION
 WITH
PHILIP FREY
 AT SHELburnE FARMS
 AUGUST 14TH & 15TH, 2025
 REGISTRATION ENDS JUNE 1ST
 INFORMATION & REGISTRATION
 call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com
edgewatergallery.com

CHAT WITH AN ARTIST
 A Chat with Bob Green, Potter
 Join Bob Green and Kathy Clarke
 as they discuss raku & pit firing
FREE!
 Middlebury Studio School's
 New Location: 94 Court St.
 Saturday, May 31
 5:30-6:30

PRINT OR DIGITAL
READ THE ADDY INDY
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ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

ART ON EXHIBIT

Series Without Limits: Photographs, Prints, and Film by Andy Warhol

Andy Warhol shaped the zeitgeist of American culture in the 1960s and 1970s — an era defined by Pop Art and shifting social paradigms — and continues to resonate in contemporary visual culture.

"Series Without Limits" — a new exhibit opening at the Middlebury College Museum of Art on May 23 and running through Aug. 10 — presents Warhol's artistic legacy through a selection of prints, photographs, and film to illuminate the complex tensions animated within his artistic practice. Warhol investigates how images function as currency within society. The selection of screenprint portraits on view reveal Warhol's fascination with fame and celebrity culture.

The film "Eat" (1964) captures Warhol's interest

in pushing cinema beyond entertainment toward a more conceptual framework that questions our perception of an artist and patience.

From the 1960s until his death in 1987, Andy Warhol cultivated an enigmatic public persona. His studio space offered a type of social experiment that defined the art world in New York City. Hosting artists, celebrities, and everyday people allowed Warhol to participate in and observe culture from a protective distance. This strategic detachment helped mask profound insecurities about his appearance, sexuality and artistic reputation.

Using his camera to navigate social relationships while maintaining emotional
SEE WARHOL ON PAGE 8



Andy Warhol (American, 1928–1987), Bob Colacello, 1973, August, Polaroid (Polacolor Type 108), 3 ¾ x 2 ⅞ inches. Collection of Middlebury College Museum of Art. Gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., 2008.041.076. Copyright © The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

Register now for free professional development workshops for artists in Vt.

Assets for Artists' June/July 2025 workshop season is now live and registration is open for all workshops. This season's workshops are all online and include topics such as project management, quarterly taxes, website design, project portfolios, and more.

As always these workshops are completely free and are open to artists of all disciplines

and career stages in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine and Vermont.

What is Assets for Artists? It's a program of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA). A4A is an artist-led and artist-centered program that provides an ever-evolving selection of free online and in-person

workshops to address the most urgent needs, challenges, and opportunities facing artists in New England. The Vermont Arts Council entered into a partnership with A4A last fall and was able to offer workshops starting then for the first time.

Space is limited, so register today at assetsforartists.org/workshops.



JESSICA'S
AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

SUMMER HOURS
STARTING MAY 28

BOOK ON OPENTABLE

Wednesdays – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursdays – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Fridays – 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Saturdays – 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Sundays – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mondays – Closed
Tuesdays – Closed

The Blue Bar at Jessica's
Is Open 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Seven Days a Week





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College & high school grads.

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Down the Alley to Marble Works
[THEFOURPILLARSFARMSTEAD.COM](https://thefourpillarsfarmstead.com)

ART ON EXHIBIT

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." 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 02-458-0098 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 02-989-7419 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, 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

"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.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 12

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, this week your dreams might be a tool for gaining insight on what you want to accomplish. Although dreams can't predict the future, they may reveal some of your subconscious desires.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Follow your instincts this week, Taurus, even if you're more prone to reason than whimsy. Let the chips fall where they may and go with the flow.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. This week can be all about feeding your mind, Gemini. Walk around a bookstore and pick up the first book that catches your eye, regardless of its subject matter.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Something may be worrying you lately, Cancer, but you can't exactly put your finger on it. Talk about your feelings with others as another person may have a different perspective.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, seize an opportunity to pursue the things that you want most of all. Use this week to map out a plan and then get started on all of the steps before you reach your goal.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Check out ways that you can advance your career or education this week. The energy around you is favoring growth, so now is the time to take advantage and learn a new skill.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Others trust your opinions because your intuition tends to be spot on, Libra. When a friend comes to you this week asking for some advice, you will not hesitate.


SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Use your creativity to make things happen this week, Scorpio. This may not produce a finished product, but it could be about an innovative way to approach a task or problem.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Figure out some new ways to expand your horizons this week, Sagittarius. Identify means to personal growth, including educational opportunities.


CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, it is important to step out of your routine every so often to increase your knowledge and expand your horizons. This is one of those weeks to do so.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Are you satisfied with your career, Aquarius? If you have been mulling a career change, this could be the week to start moving your chess pieces around.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, don't worry too much about the changes that lie ahead this week. You have a more adaptable nature than you might realize. As changes come your way, embrace them.



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MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 23 — Carl Linneaus, botanist (d)

MAY 24 — Bob Dylan, singer-songwriter (84)

MAY 25 — Octavia Spencer, actor (55)

MAY 26 — Miles Davis, musician (d)

MAY 27 — Rachel Carson, marine biologist (d)

MAY 28 — John Fogerty, musician (80)

MAY 29 — Annette Bening, actor (67)

CALENDAR

MAY 22-JUNE 5
2025



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.

MAX KNOUSE WITH THE SPACEY BASEMENTS AND JAKE WILDWOOD IN BRANDON. Friday, May 23, 4-6 p.m., Red Clover Ale, 43 Center St. Free live music with beer and goodies for purchase.

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.

COMMENCEMENT CHOIR IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, May 23, 7:30-9 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Join the College Choir in its final performance of the academic year in a bittersweet choral sendoff for our seniors. Always lively and entertaining, this concert includes repertoire selected by the graduating senior singers, as well as other College Choir favorites. Families welcome. Free and open to the public.

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.

EARLY BIRD NATURE WALK IN ORWELL. Saturday, May 24, 8-10 a.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd. Spend an enjoyable morning with bird expert Sue Wetmore from Brandon, who will introduce participants to the birds of spring, spring migration, and identifying whatever birds that appear. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Bring your binoculars. No pets please. Meet in front of the museum. Cost \$8 adults/\$1 children 14 to 6/under 6 free.

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 demonstrate the process she uses to forage and incorporate natural pigments from the trails into her work. 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.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.					
Channel 1071 Through the Night: Public Affairs, State House Events Friday, May 23 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week Saturday, May 24 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 11 p.m. Energy Week Sunday, May 25 6 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 4 p.m. Congregational Service 2 p.m. Selectboard 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass		Monday, May 26 Memorial Day Middlebury's Parade & Commentary Live Ceremony at the Monument & the Parade will be re-played throughout the day Tuesday, May 27 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. Memorial Day Events Wednesday, May 28 5 a.m. Memorial Day Ceremony 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Energy Week 5 p.m. Memorial Day Events 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Energy Week Thursday, May 29 5 a.m. Press Conferences		8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 5 p.m. Memorial Day 8 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Racial Disparities Advisory Panel Channel 1091 Through the Night: Nature, Science, Art, Education Friday, May 23 4 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7:30 a.m. Gardens & Conservation 12 p.m. Our Schools: Meetings, Events 8 p.m. Festival On the Green 10 p.m. From the Archives 11 p.m. Sharpe Takes Saturday, May 24 4 a.m. Festival On the Green 5 a.m. Chair Yoga for Better Energy 6:30 a.m. Sharpe Takes 7 a.m. Hannaford Career Center		12 p.m. Chat with an Artist - Matt Heywood 1 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 6 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 p.m. Sharpe Takes 8 p.m. From the Archives Sunday, May 25 6 a.m. Matt Heywood 7 a.m. Tai Chi 8 a.m. Chair Yoga for Better Energy 10 a.m. Sharpe Takes 12 p.m. Our Schools: Meetings, Events 7 p.m. From the Archives 10 p.m. All Things LGBTQ Monday, May 26. Memorial Day 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Chair Yoga for Better Energy 7:30 a.m. Hannaford Career Center 12 a.m. Tai Chi 5 p.m. Sharpe Takes 6:30 p.m. ACSD Board Meeting 11 p.m. No-Nonsense Gardening Tuesday, May 27 5 a.m. Community Mindfulness		5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 12 p.m. Our Schools: Meetings, Events 4 p.m. Chair Yoga for Better Energy 6 p.m. Sharpe Takes 7 p.m. From the Archives 10 p.m. Matt Heywood Wednesday, May 28 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga for Better Energy 9 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Hannaford Career Center 7 p.m. Music from Around Vermont 10 p.m. Sharpe Takes Thursday, May 29 5 a.m. Sharpe Takes 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Chair Yoga for Better Energy 8 a.m. Matt Heywood 9:05 a.m. School Board Meeting 2 p.m. Here We Are 4 p.m. No-Nonsense Gardening 5 p.m. More No-Nonsense Gardening	

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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

SUNDAY MORNING IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, May 28, 5-8 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 North 116 Rd. Come hear a group of friends who celebrate life by attempting to make pretty sounds. Songs about the ins and outs of life focused on melodic harmonies, with an air of celebration range from softer piano-jazz cocktail lounge songs to louder banjo driven country with an occasional Latin twist. Music is free. Food and beverages for purchase.

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.

ERIN CASSELS-BROWN IN BRISTOL. Friday, May 30, 5-8

p.m., BCC Botanicals, 140 North St. A tireless storyteller with calloused hands and a cosmic heart, Erin Cassels-Brown brings his signature blend of celestial country and roots rock to the stage with grit and grace. More info at bristolcollaborativecampus.com/gathering#freshie-Friday.

"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.

RANDY MIRITELLO AND THE HOP CITY HELLCATS IN BRANDON. Saturday, May 31, 7-9 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. \$10 suggested donation.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

SCOVE HILL BIRDING WALK IN CORNWALL. Sunday, June 1, 7 a.m., Meet at the parking area across from 626 Swamp Rd. OCAS board member and avid birder Dave Guertin will lead a walk to Scove Hill in Cornwall Swamp. Parking is limited and carpooling is encouraged. Terrain is varied so waterproof boots are recommended. Co-sponsored by the Cornwall Conservation Commission. Call 802-989-1767 with questions. Rain date, June 7.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL. Sunday, June 1, 9 a.m., Bristol Trail Network. The 3-mile loop around the village offers a scenic mix of history and geography and takes 2.5-3 hours. The elevation gain is under 100 feet, but there are some steep sections and uneven terrain. Sturdy shoes and poles are recommended. Excellent options for snacks/lunch in Bristol before or afterward. Contact Porter Knight at knight@gmavt.net or 802-343-3920 for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

WETLAND WALK WITH ZAPATA COURAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, June 1, 10 a.m.-noon, Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Join Zapata Courage, a Wetland Ecologist for Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation, for a nature walk along the trail at Wright Park. Courage will discuss the dynamics of this beaver influenced wetland system and teach what makes a wetland and how to identify one using plant identification. Must be able to walk at least a mile on easy trails. Come prepared to get wet and muddy. Free. More info and registration at maltvt.org/events.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

THE ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, June 4,

5-8 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 North 116 Rd. The Albany Sound is Lowell Thompson, Michael Chorney, Pat Melvin and Jeremy Fredrick. The band honed its sound, a rich combination of American country, folk and rock, with a weekly residency in Bristol. Thompson's songs make up the heart of the Albany sound and compliment their repertoire with renditions of rarities by Lucinda Williams, John Prine, Bobby Charles, Small Faces and others. Music is free. Food and beverages for purchase.

CHAT WITH AND ARTIST IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, June 4, 5:30-6:30 p.m., 94 Court St. Join Middlebury Studio School for its Chat with an Artist series at the school's new space on Court Street. Textile artist Kelly Hickey will talk with Jill Madden about the process of textile art. Free. More info at middleburystudioschool.org.

"CATCHING PEOPLE'S STORIES" IN SHOREHAM. Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Shoreham Historical Society welcomes Jane Beck, who has used the recorded interview as her major source of material

for exhibits, media and written materials throughout her career. A Vermont Humanities Council event.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5,

TRUE CRIME PODCAST CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, June 5, 6 p.m., Mini Ilsey Public Library, 30 Main St. Join fellow sleuths to discuss this month's podcast, "Park Predators - The Garden." Acadia National Park may exist on an island but in the late 1970s a human predator showed up there and started hunting. The identity of the killer has remained unknown for more than four decades and the mystery as to who killed Leslie Spellman is still waiting to be uncovered.

NATHANIEL IAN MILLER IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, June 5, 6 p.m., Anderson Studio, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Bestselling author of "The Memoirs of Stockholm Sven," Nathaniel Ian Miller will appear in conversation with award-winning local author Janice Obuchowski to discuss his new book, "Red Dog Farm." Visit vermontbookshop.com for more details.

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ART ON EXHIBIT

Four Friends open exhibit together in Shelburne

William Sessions, Amy Panitz, Louise Cadwell and John Freidin are four Addison County friends who get together regularly to paint. They will be exhibiting a collection of their work at the Village Wine & Coffee shop in Shelburne for the month of June. Proceeds from art sales to benefit various causes. Stay tuned for a feature story next month!

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

WILLIAM SESSIONS

I first picked up a paint brush in 1967 at Middlebury College. I've been painting for about 55 years, but took 35 years off to raise my three super kids. I practiced law in Middlebury and have been a Federal judge for the past 30 years. Aside from raising kids, spending time with my grandkids, and hiking with my wife, one of my favorite things to do is to throw paint — and lots of it — onto a canvas.

AMY PANITZ

A retired middle school educator, I

always incorporated art in my lesson planning to help bring history alive for my students. I majored in art at Middlebury. Since college, I studied at MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art) in Baltimore, with Robert Henry (a student of Hans Hoffmann), with Kate Gridley in Middlebury, and have done two residencies at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson. Some of my art heroes are John Marin, Richard Diebenkorn, Alex Katz, and Joan Mitchell. My regular travels to New Mexico and Maine always inspire me to paint.

LOUISE CADWELL

I have been an arts educator for my whole working life. I am also an author, writing about an aesthetic and poetic approach to learning and life from Reggio Emilia, Italy. My mother loved art and took me to museums and painted with me from an early age. I have always kept a sketchbook journal and encouraged



Pictured left to right: William Sessions, Amy Panitz, Louise Cadwell and John Freidin.

COURTESY PHOTO

my family to do the same. In the last ten years, I have started to paint with oils. It is a joy to find a group of friends to paint alongside.

JOHN FREIDEN

Writing and words were my medium until 2013, when I participated in a two-hour painting class in the basement of the National Bank of Middlebury. Those two hours were so refreshing that I started to take classes — first with Mary Lower, then Janet Fredericks. Working with Janet was such fun that several of us, including Carol Calhoun, Sarah Ashe, and Ken Oboz, began painting monthly in Janet's studio. Ever since I've always found a way to paint with others rather than alone. I hope you enjoy what we've done.



Caleb Kenna's photos on view at his Open House in Brandon

Middlebury photographer Caleb Kenna will host an Open Studio at 40 Old Farm Road in Brandon, on May 24 and 25 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Come check out his studio on a beautiful hilltop setting in a tea house built in 1909. All are welcome to come to see new prints and great views.



WARHOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

distance, Warhol explored the visual language of everyday life through images of his friends or crowds on the streets of New York. The Polaroid portraits, often preliminary studies for his silkscreen paintings, document Warhol's creative process. His subjects — ranging from celebrities like Tom Jones and Pelé to socialites and unidentified individuals — were positioned against plain backgrounds and photographed with standardized lighting, creating a vibrant visual language.

Warhol's methodical approach to portraiture — beginning with Polaroid studies before translation to a silkscreen — reveals his meticulous attention to the technical aspects of production. This process mirrors the manufactured nature of celebrity branding. By flattening complex personalities into reproducible images, Warhol exposes the divide between authentic identity and public persona. Works on view — including his vibrant depictions of Marilyn Monroe, Mao Zedong, and Mick Jagger — extend beyond mere celebration to examine the construction of public image in society. Reimagining media images with bold color manipulation, Warhol simultaneously glorifies and deconstructs his subjects. The result transforms recognizable individuals into icons.

PUZZLES

sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

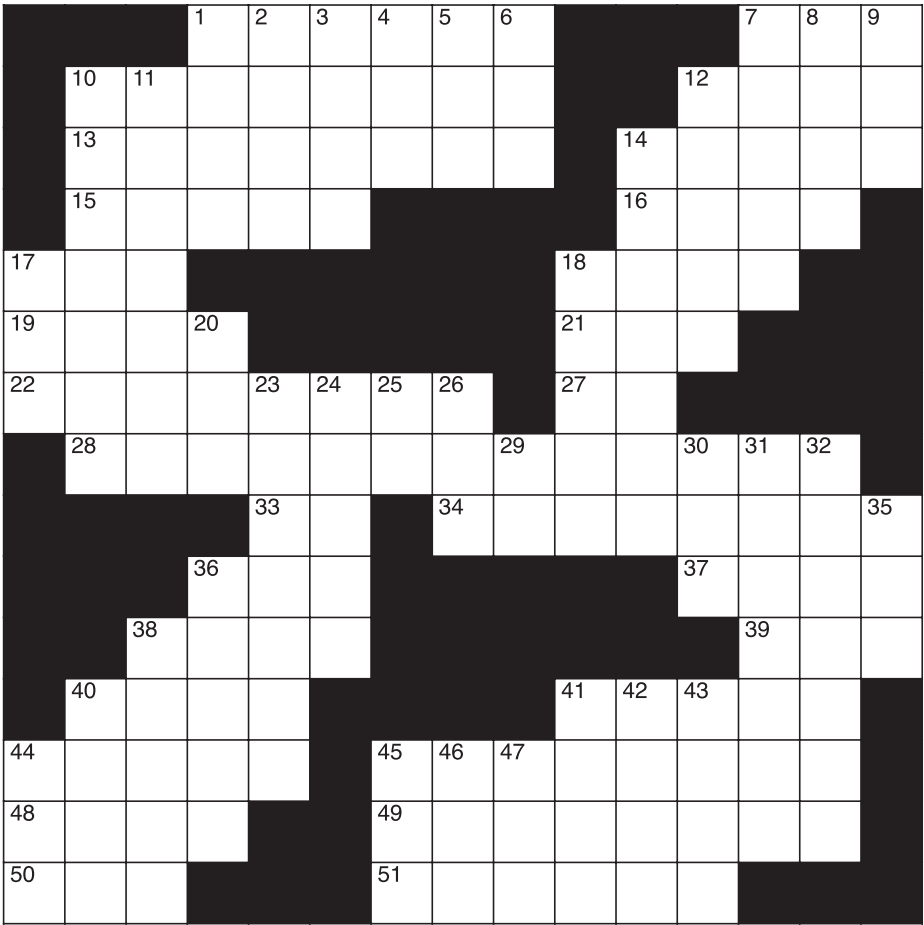
- 1. Bring up
- 7. Child
- 10. Formal written defense
- 12. Bangladeshi currency
- 13. Burial site
- 14. In the lead
- 15. Large recesses in a church
- 16. Count on
- 17. Defunct phone company
- 18. Golf scores
- 19. Afflicts
- 21. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 22. Prominence

- 27. "The Great Lakes State"
- 28. SoCal ballplayer
- 33. Location of White House
- 34. Magnificence
- 36. Hip hop songstress
- 37. Capital of Yemen
- 38. __ Blyton, children's author
- 39. Bomb
- 40. Pancake made of buckwheat flour
- 41. Pinkish-violet color
- 44. A way to make right
- 45. Monument

- to one buried elsewhere
- 48. Region south of Dead Sea
- 49. Acts out against
- 50. Harsh cry of a crow
- 51. Formal title for a woman

DOWN

- 1. Kitchen devices
- 2. Wings
- 3. Mythological birds
- 4. Everyone has one
- 5. Matchstick game
- 6. Bar bill
- 7. Weights



4		9				3		
7								2
		3		8		7		
9					5	6	3	1
								9
8	3					5		7
1				9				3
	4				6		2	5
		2		4				

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

- 8. Satisfactorily
- 9. Small amount
- 10. Tree types
- 11. Small protuberances
- 12. Equivalent of 100K BTU
- 14. Type of horse
- 17. More (Spanish)
- 18. Argentinian province
- 20. A bad act
- 23. Moving in a circular way
- 24. Battery type
- 25. Atomic #58
- 26. Popular breakfast food
- 29. An alternative
- 30. Tooth caregiver
- 31. A way to conform
- 32. Disfigured men
- 35. Cool!
- 36. Genus of mosses
- 38. Body part
- 40. Kashmiri people
- 41. Round water pot
- 42. Something to purchase
- 43. Emit coherent radiation
- 44. Indicates 10
- 45. Advertising metric
- 46. Pitching stat
- 47. Head movement

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



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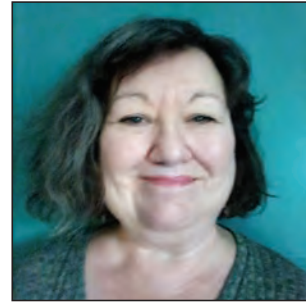
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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

FOR THE LOVE OF LILACS



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

Easily recognized by their sweet fragrance and cone-shaped clusters of tiny flowers, the common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) has been a part of America's gardens for much of our country's history. Lilacs arrived

with colonists in the early 1700s, bringing with them memories of homes and lives left behind.

Native to Asia and southeast Europe, lilacs are cold-tolerant, and most varieties actually require a period of cold to produce flowers. They're hardy in

United States Department of Agriculture Hardiness Zones 3 to 8. You can find your USDA Hardiness Zone here: planthardiness.ars.usda.gov.

Today there are thousands of varieties of lilacs available. Flowers come in shades of purple, reddish-purple, blue, pink, white and even yellow. They appear for about two weeks each spring.



Native to Asia and southeast Europe, lilacs come in thousands of varieties with flowers ranging in color from the popular purples and pinks to white and blue, among other colors.

PHOTO / DEBORAH J. BENOIT

That time can be extended by planting different varieties that bloom earlier and later in the season. There are even some varieties of reblooming lilacs that produce flowers in the spring, then in late summer or fall bloom again.

The common lilac with its heart-shaped leaves is a shrub that can grow 12 to 15 feet tall and nearly that wide. Dwarf varieties are smaller at 4 to 6 feet high.

Lilacs are a low-

maintenance addition to the garden and can live over 100 years. Plant in full sun (6 hours of sun daily) in soil that drains well. While they'll grow in clay soil, standing water can cause root rot.

Poor or heavy soil can be amended with compost, but a soil test can provide specific recommendations. To learn more about soil testing, visit go.uvm.edu/soiltest.

Lilacs often send out suckers from their root system. Prune or pull these unwanted shoots at any time. Alternatively, dig them up and transplant elsewhere to start a new lilac. It may take up to four to five years for the young plant to mature and flower.

When planting lilacs, water well at the time of planting and as needed during the first growing season to prevent the roots from drying out. There's no need to fertilize when planting. If desired, fertilize in early spring with a granular fertilizer according to package directions.

There are many reasons that a lilac might fail to flower. It can take several years for a young plant to produce flowers as it establishes itself. Too little sunlight could cause a lack of flowers. Over fertilizing can result in more foliage instead of flowers.

Occasionally, after a period of stress (drought, SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 11

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Picot is almost 18 years old. What I like most about her is her little mustache and her panda like coloring. Generally, she is very mellow and a good cuddler at bedtime. For a few years, Picot has shuttled between Ferrisburgh and Essex Junction. She spends her summers on Long Point in Ferrisburgh and then goes back to my sister's house so that my wife and I can travel in our camper van.

Robert Fuller
Ferrisburgh

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

extreme heat, heavy pruning, defoliation), a lilac will produce flowers in the fall. There's no permanent damage to the plant, but as a result, the following spring there will be fewer flowers.

Deadheading faded flowers isn't necessary, but if desired, you can remove them immediately after

flowering has finished. Do any needed pruning at that time. Doing so too late in the season can result in fewer flowers the following year. Lilacs bloom on old wood. They begin setting buds for next season's flowers soon after flowering in the spring.

If you have children or small pets, there's no need to be concerned about having lilacs in your garden. The flowers are edible. Just be sure they haven't been treated with pesticides or

other chemicals before taking a taste.

Now that spring has arrived, step outside. Take a deep breath. If the lilacs are blooming, why not pick a bouquet to bring the fragrance inside? They won't be here long, so enjoy them while you can.

If you have home gardening questions, the UVM Extension Master Gardener Helpline is available to help at go.uvm.edu/gardeninghelp.

Pets In Need

HOMEBOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Rosie

Rosie is a 10-year-old superhero who has not let a tough life get her down! Before coming to Homeward Bound, she was a friendly barn cat and surrendered with her kittens in the hopes that she could put her life of constant motherhood behind her and have the chance to become a spoiled house cat. Rosie is very affectionate towards people (including kids!) and is an expert head-nudger. She gets along with cats and has most likely been around dogs before, but a slow introduction to dogs would be best. Do you have a space in your heart and home for a cat who deserves the world?



Savannah

Savannah is a sweet but nervous girl. She loves to be pet but takes some time to warm up. She is looking for a patient and understanding home that will let her come out at her own pace. Savannah has been an indoor-only cat and has lived with other cats. She has some experience with dogs.



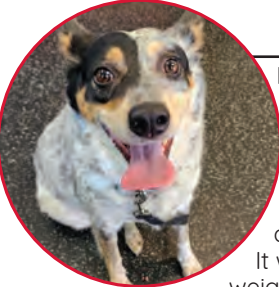
Xena

Xena is a playful and affectionate girl who we estimate to be 6 years old. Her favorite things include being pet and eating treats. She has been an indoor-only cat and has lived with other cats. Xena has some experience with dogs.



Miley

I'm **Miley**, a 4-year-old Australian Cattle Dog. I love to snuggle and hang out with people! I've lived with dogs previously and can co-exist. I love playing with children, but I should go to a home with dog-savvy kids since I can be shy. It would be good for me to lose some weight and practice my leash walking skills. I get startled easily by loud noises. I love treats and cuddling!



Roxy

I'm **Roxy**, a 7-month-old mixed breed trying to figure out this big, scary world. With my long legs and long tail, I'm a kangaroo in disguise. My true, playful personality comes out when another dog is around. I need that canine friend for comfort. Toys are so much fun, but food is my main motivator! Whether it's biscuits, peanut butter, or chicken, I will be right there to gobble it all down! Staff is unsure about previous interactions with kids and cats. I'm looking for a family that can give me the patience and time I need to feel safe. A fenced-in yard would be ideal!



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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The work holds a mirror up to current politics and invites viewers to imagine new possibilities in interpreting, 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.

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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.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury
For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions

"Series Without Limits: Photographs, Prints, and Film by Andy Warhol" presents Andy Warhol's artistic legacy through a selection of prints, photographs, and film to illuminate the complex tensions animated within his artistic practice. Warhol investigates how images function as currency within society. The selection of screenprint portraits on view reveal Warhol's fascination with fame and celebrity culture. On view May 23-Aug. 10.

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.

ROKEBY MUSEUM

4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh
For more info visit Rokeby.org or call 802-877-3406

"Inspired by Nature: The Women Artists of Rokeby," shares a small portion of the work made by Ann Stevens Robinson and her daughters Rachael Robinson Elmer and Mary Robinson Perkins. On view May 10-Oct. 12.

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury
For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"Artists in the House: An Exhibit & Silent Auction Fundraiser" brings together contemporary artists in Addison County in this 50/50 fundraiser and summer exhibit, which features over 30 works on display in the Museum's historic kitchen. To bid, visit henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/artists-in-the-house-fundraiser.

"Finding Hope Within: Healing & Transformation Through the Making of Art Within the Carceral System," 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. On view May 21-Sept. 30.

"Material Narratives: Ornament & Identity." Organized by students of Professor Erin Sassin's course at Middlebury College, this mini exhibition is the result of meticulous research and thoughtful curation, showcasing many unique treasures in the Sheldon Museum's collection. On view May 21-Oct. 31.

"Slow Seeing: A Close Observation Room." In this room, you're invited to ssslllllllooooooowwwww doooooowwwwnnnnnnnn and really look. This is a space for immersive attention, close



This piece is on view now in the "Finding Hope Within" exhibit at the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury. On view through Sept. 30.

COURTESY PHOTO

looking, and paying attention to the details. Take a seat, use the magnifying tools at hand and take the time to look. You are invited to draw, to dream, to write, to read, to think. On view May 21-Oct. 31.

"Stitching Memories: Daughters, Samplers, and Family Records." 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. On view May 21-Jan. 3.

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"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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RUN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

post. In December of 2020, I wrote the first words of "To the Gorge" and spent about the next year working on the first chapters and full book proposal.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In the last few years, I've gotten completely hooked on the Hardrock Hundred Mile Endurance Run, which is a wild and stunning high-altitude run through Colorado's San Juan Mountains. I didn't get a spot this year, but I'll still go back to Colorado for a few weeks to soak up the wildflowers and alpine trails with my dog, Dilly Pickle Chip. I haven't landed on any competitive goals for the year yet, I'm mostly excited we're rapidly approaching my favorite season for trail and mountain running.

Editor's Note: To register for the free Trilside Chat with Emily Halnon, visit runvermont.org/2025-Expo.



Lincoln native Emily Halnon has made her career from ultrarunning and writing. She recently released her debut memoir "To the Gorge," which follows her record setting run on the Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon alongside her experience of the loss of her mother, Andrea Halnon, who taught in Addison County for over 40 years.

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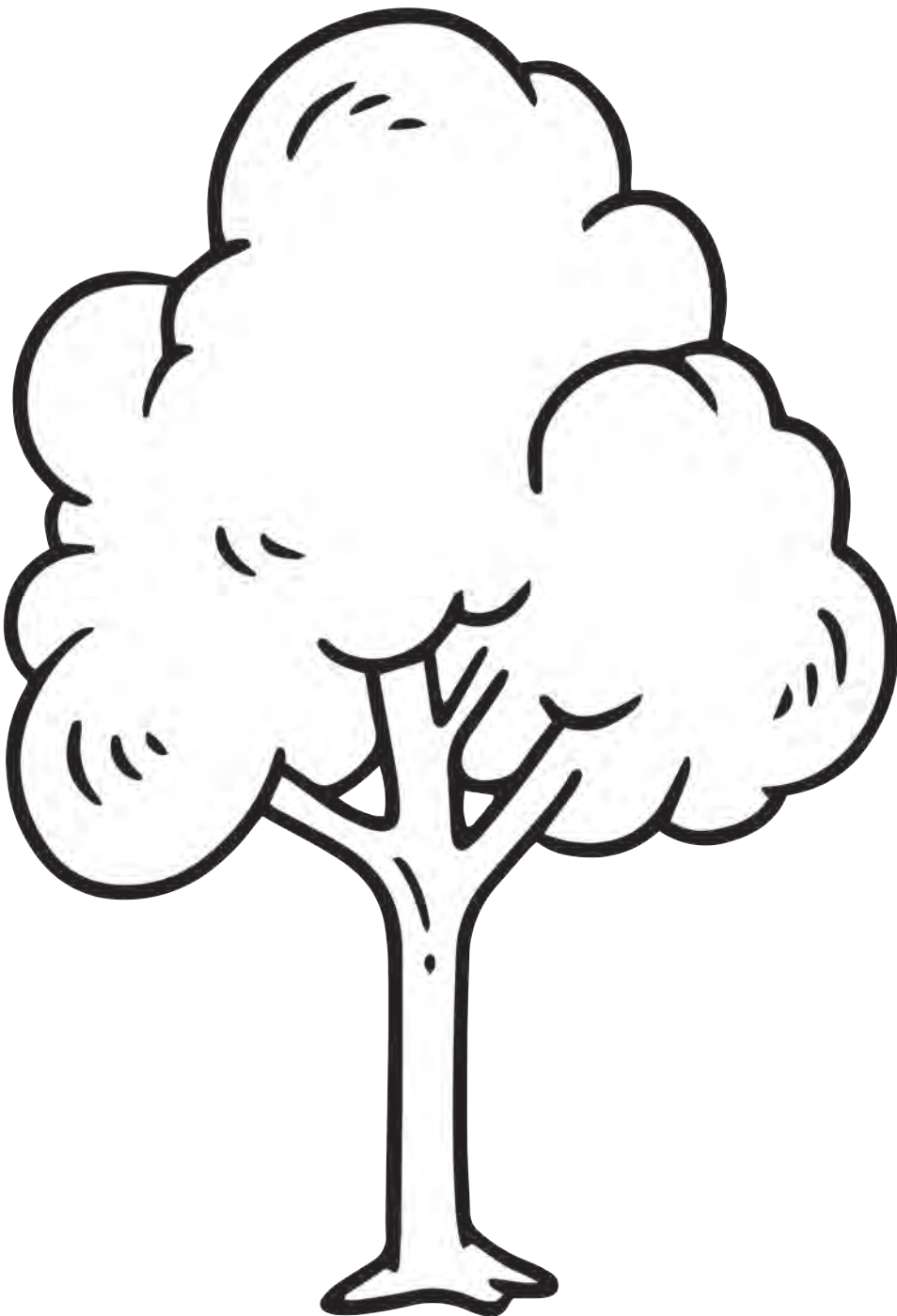
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LINCOLN BODETTE, LEFT, and Martin Gee, fifth graders at Vergennes Union Elementary School, place flags at St. Peter's Cemetery in observance of Memorial Day. Learning communities around the county are planning to commemorate the upcoming holiday in several ways.

Photo courtesy of VUES

Local students honor Memorial Day

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — From visiting local cemeteries to hosting student-led ceremonies, there are multiple ways schools around Addison County are planning to commemorate Memorial Day this year.

Some learning communities will continue to observe decades-old traditions, while others are preparing for newer events to honor those who have died while serving in the line of duty.

At Bristol Elementary School, principal Aaron Boynton is organizing a student-led Memorial Day ceremony slated for Friday, May 23, at 9 a.m. He noted the school used to hold a Memorial Day ceremony, and now in his second year at the school, he's looking to bring back a newer iteration of the event.

"I think it's important for children and students to know and understand what Memorial Day is about, and why we have it," he told the *Independent*. "I try to help

them recognize that it's not just a long weekend at the end of May; it's not just a day off, an unofficial start of summer. It has a real and important meaning. To have them understand and recognize the meaning of it is important to me."

Boynton said there are upwards of 20 students in grades 3-6 taking part in this year's ceremony. Pupils will

"This is what really makes Memorial Day and its meaning personal."

— Vergennes fifth-grade teacher Josh Brooks

read poems and speeches, a group of students will perform "Taps," and third graders will sing a song.

He noted that students volunteered to take part in the ceremony.

"I looked for students that wanted to not only be part of this, but also students that we knew would take this seriously," he said.

The Bristol American Legion's Color Guard will

attend to present the colors, and Boynton will play the bagpipes toward the end of the event.

He noted the ceremony is open to all Bristol Elementary parents and families.

(See Students, Page 3)



On the cover

Vergennes Union Elementary School fifth grader Paige Chamberlin earlier this month places an American flag at the grave of a departed veteran of the U.S. military in St. Peter's Cemetery in the Little City. This is a good occasion to learn about sacrifice for the community.

Photo courtesy of Vergennes Union Elementary School

Students

(Continued from Page 2)

LINCOLN AND OTHERS

At the nearby Lincoln Community School, students are expected to continue the tradition of honoring Memorial Day with a march to Maple Cemetery. In previous years, students have heard remarks from the school principal and United Church of Lincoln minister.

Last year, students heard from retired pastor David Wood, as well as Lincoln resident Brian Frazier and his two sons, Ian and Mason — both of whom are LCS alums. Frazier’s family has a long history of service in the U.S. military, and he is a member of several military and civil fraternal organizations, including the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Major General James A. Garfield Camp 62, which is headquartered in Lincoln.

This year’s visit to Maple Cemetery was scheduled for the morning of Thursday, May 22.

Meanwhile, a couple local elementary schools have some commemorative events on and just after Memorial Day.

First-grade girls at Neshobe Elementary in Brandon have the option to lay flowers at the Monument after the Memorial Day Parade in Brandon.

The next day, May 27, students and staff at New Haven’s Beeman Elementary will hold their annual Memorial Day walk to the Evergreen Cemetery on Town Hill Road. There they will place flags and/or



MICHAEL DAVIS OF the Sons of the American Legion in Vergennes passes out flags for Vergennes Union Elementary School students to place in St. Peter’s Cemetery. Each year, the students recognize Memorial Day by placing the flags and putting together a VUES Memorial Wall honoring those who have served and since died.

Photo courtesy of Josh Brooks

flowers on service members’ graves.

That same day, students at Otter Creek Academy (the former Leicester Central School) will walk to the cemetery to perform a small Memorial Day ceremony. **VERGENNES**

Over the past several years, students at Vergennes Union Elementary School have observed Memorial Day in a couple of different ways.

Each year, the learning community sets up an annual “VUES Memorial Wall” to remember friends and family members who died while serving their country, as well as those who served in the armed forces and have since died.

Josh Brooks teaches fifth grade at VUES. He said members of the school community were invited to send in photos of their loved ones beginning in early May.

“We post those photos on our VUES Memorial Wall, along with their name, rank, details of their service, and the names of children and staff at VUES they are connected to,” he said. “After talking about the meaning of the word ‘solemn,’ we have a short ceremony where students take turns placing photos on the wall and reading the person’s name. This is what really makes Memorial Day and its meaning personal.”

He said the wall is kept up through the

end of the school year so members of the community can visit, and the school posts an online link to the memorial wall in its weekly newsletter.

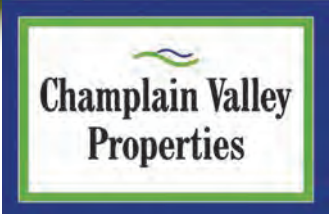
For the past several years, sixth graders at VUES have placed flags at the St. Peter’s Cemetery, located off South Maple Street in Vergennes. Fifth graders at the elementary school are carrying on that tradition this year, as sixth graders now attend Vergennes Union Middle School.

This year, pupils also placed flags at the Vergennes Burying Ground, which is at the corner of School Street and Mountain View Lane.

(See Honoring, Page 4)



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LINCOLN COMMUNITY SCHOOL students and staff in May 2024 continued the school’s decades-long tradition of honoring Memorial Day with a walk to Maple Cemetery. Students last year were joined by, from right, retired pastor David Wood and Lincoln resident Brian Frazier, whose family has a long line of service in the U.S. military.

Photo courtesy of Tory Riley

Honoring

(Continued from Page 3)
Brooks noted that ahead of placing flags, students take part in a short overview of Memorial Day, how it started and why it is celebrated in a different way than Veterans Day.
“Michael Davis of the Sons of the American Legion in Vergennes meets us at the cemetery and gives the kids a quick lesson in flag etiquette and the role the Legion and its members play in the city’s Memorial Day commemoration. He

also brings new flags for the students to place,” he said.
Students place flags about two to three weeks before Memorial Day, Brooks said, since community members are getting ready to visit and clean up family gravesites as spring gets underway. Typically, about 30 to 40 students take part in placing flags.
Brooks acknowledged that while history is about big events and their impacts, it’s also about people.

“All year long, we look for ways to make a personal connection with the past. It makes history real, but it also plants a seed — that the impact of history is all around us, especially in our own community,” he explained. “This is a way for 5th graders to connect the past, present, and future, as well as giving them an opportunity to serve their community in their own way”



A TRIO OF Vergennes Union Elementary fifth graders — Kolby Bell, Nathan Clark and Elias Hekkers — take a moment for a discussion about the flag placing activity they are doing in preparation for Memorial Day.

Photo courtesy of Josh Brooks

Dr. Robert Austin,
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(See Medenwald, Page 6)



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NORWICH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT Gen. John Broadmeadow will be the featured speaker on the city green during festivities at the end of the Vergennes Memorial Day Parade this coming Monday morning.

Medenwald

(Continued from Page 5)
amphibious assault into Afghanistan in 2001 immediately following the attacks of 9/11. He then served multiple tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan, including as the lead advisor to the 7th Iraqi Infantry Division in 2009 and culminating with leading the drawdown and retrograde of equipment from Helmand Province in 2013. He’s also experienced with Humanitarian Operations, having led forces in both Somalia for Operation

Restore Hope and in Japan following the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear plant damage that devastated the coast north of Tokyo.
A 1983 graduate of Norwich, Broadmeadow earned a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College and a Master of Arts in Business Administration and Computer Resources Management from Webster University.

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Ron LaRose on Memorial Day

Bristol's Ron LaRose knows a thing or two about service to his country. The 78-year-old enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 2, 1966, in B Battery 86th Field Artillery in Vergennes, beginning as a private and attaining the rank of staff sergeant. During most of his enlisted time, he served as a Howitzer Gun Chief.

He was commissioned a second lieutenant on June 24, 1976, in the Field Artillery. During his commission years, he served in many positions to include Commander of an Artillery Battery, Executive Officer of an Artillery Battalion, Range Manager and Director of Logistics at Ethan Allen Training Site, Director of Personnel and State Safety Manager at State Headquarters, and Assistant Chief of Staff.

LaRose was one of the first National Guard Officers in the country to serve in an assignment outside the continental United States, being selected to the "Captains to Europe Program," where he served for three years with the 40th Field Artillery, 3rd Armored Division, Hanau, Federal Republic of Germany. During this tour, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

LaRose attained the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring on June 30, 2005, from the Army and the Vermont Army National Guard with 39 years of total



LT. COL. RONALD L. LaROSE

service, 10 years enlisted and 29 years commissioned service. For many years he has been a leader at Bristol's Post 19 of the American Legion.

In 2020, when he was Commander of the Vermont Department of the American Legion, LaRose wrote down his thoughts on the most somber of American holidays.

Read his speech on Page 8

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What Memorial Day means to you and me

What does Memorial Day mean to you? Most of you probably know you will have a three-day weekend — no school or work on Monday. Some of you might be going camping with your families over the long weekend. You might have watched the parade in Middlebury or Vergennes (in most years). Maybe you will have a family barbeque or go to the lake. Many people use the extra day to get their gardens planted or do other outside work. Nearly everyone enjoys having the extra day off from work or school. BUT, do you understand why we recognize and celebrate Memorial Day — why it is a National holiday?

Memorial Day is also often confused with Veterans Day. Many adults, young and old alike, confuse the meanings of the two holidays.

Veterans Day is intended to thank all veterans for their service to their country. It is not intended to recognize only those who served during wartime, but rather a time to “acknowledge that veterans contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served — not only those who died— have sacrificed and done their duty.”

The work of honoring dead soldiers goes back as far as our earliest civilizations.

As the United States was just coming

through the Civil War, Americans found themselves grieving as deeply as any of their ancient ancestors. Having expected a short skirmish, our nation instead fought a four-year war that remains the single most deadly in American history. Historians estimate that 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, a number that surpasses US losses in World War I (115,000 dead) and World War II (318,000) combined.

These losses were all the more heartbreaking because it was not uncommon for families to have sons or cousins fighting on opposite sides. And when they did fall on the battlefield, it could take weeks and months to locate the dead and bury them properly. And so, wrote General John A. Logan in 1868, by the end of the war, soldiers had been buried “in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land.” How would the nation grieve properly, and heal? A powerful custom

arose among women and families across the country: honoring the graves of the fallen. On April 25, 1866 in Columbus, Mississippi, for example, women visited a Confederate cemetery to place flowers on the graves of soldiers who had died in the Battle of Shiloh. While there, they noticed unkempt graves of Northern soldiers — and the women decorated those graves as well, in respect. Similar commemorations

happened across states, both North and South, with celebrations first known as “decoration days.” With his “Order Number 11,” issued in June of 1868, General John A. Logan made the first official national proclamation of a day “designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country”. Let “no ravages of time testify,” he wrote, “to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.”

In 1971, our National Holiday Act declared Memorial Day a federal holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday of May. This is an official day off from work, but it is also a time of official ceremony. At Arlington Cemetery, for example, which began in 1864 and today holds more than 260,000 military graves, over a thousand 3rd US Army Infantry troops will place American flags on more than 260,000 graves, and will maintain a 24-hour honor patrol through the long weekend.

Their work will be echoed across the country. Since 1951, to name an example, Boy Scouts in St. Louis, Missouri, have decorated military graves at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. More than 15,000 military are marked at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, again thanks to the efforts of local scouts. Bringing an example closer to home, Bristol Boy Scout Troop 543 scouts replace tattered and faded small American flags with new flags on the graves on nearly 700 veterans in our

five-town school district cemeteries every year just before Memorial Day.

What would be some other ways you and your families might recognize the meaning of Memorial Day and honor those who died in combat? You might consider just visiting a local cemetery and look out over all the flags at the graves. You could attend a local service held on Memorial Day to honor the fallen, or maybe visit a veteran in your area. Maybe just do some research on the history of Memorial Day to learn more about the meaning behind this day.

No matter what, remember the weight of this day. In the words of Thomas Sherlock, Arlington National Cemetery Historian, “The most important thing parents can tell their children is that we, as Americans, are able to enjoy the freedoms we do because there have been men and women willing to sacrifice their lives so that we can be free. We should all stop and remember this on Memorial Day.”

Memorial Day honors the sacrifices of each and every one of the more than 1.2 million men and women who have died in service to their country. They died to preserve the freedoms all Americans enjoy. These young men and women sacrificed birthdays, weddings, children and grandchildren and so much more. They gave all of their tomorrows so that you might have yours. This sacrifice should never be forgotten. Find a way to honor those who gave so much for you.

Ron LaRose Department of VT American Legion Commander



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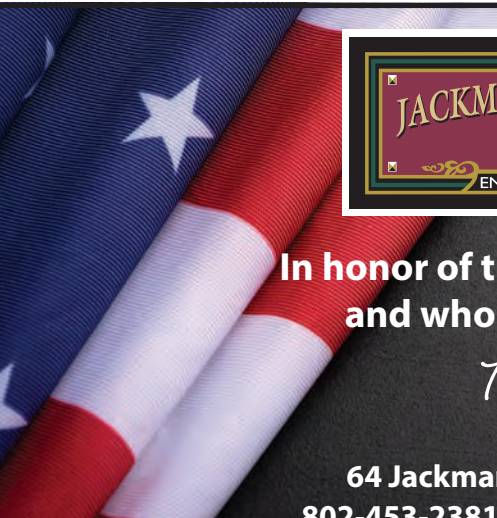


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Get ready for county parades!

ADDISON COUNTY — Towns all over Addison County — and Brandon — this coming weekend will honor the memories of those who gave their lives in service of their country. Highlights will include not only parades, but also post-parade ceremonies. Those Memorial Day ceremonies may include traditional readings such as “In Flanders Fields” and President Abraham Lincoln’s stirring Gettysburg Address; music provided by school groups, bagpipe bands and fife-and-drum corps; prayers; and guest speakers who offer historical context and meaning for the day of memory.

As more than one veteran or survivor of a military casualty will remind you, Memorial Day is more than a parade. It is an occasion to remember those who served our country with their lives, and it is a constant reminder that the freedom we enjoy has come at a cost and that we must be vigilant to protect our freedom in the future. It is a small way to honor and remember.

ORWELL EVENTS

But, yes, there *are* parades. Before Memorial Day itself officially arrives on Monday, Orwell will honor the memory of those who served with its traditional Sunday afternoon parade. The town’s 50th annual Memorial Day Parade will line up at 12:30 p.m. on North Orwell Road and step off at 1:30 p.m.

“For the 50th Orwell Memorial Day Parade, our Grand Marshal will be ALL VETERANS!” parade organizer George Macedo announced on Facebook. “We honor you and the veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Veterans will be at the front of the parade this year, please join us!”

The Catamount Pipe Band has confirmed its appearance in the parade lineup, as well as the Cast Off 8’s Square Dance Club and the local Girl Scouts. The 45-minute parade also typically features American Legion color guards, local Shriners, the Fair Haven Union
(See Parades, Page 10)

THE VERGENNES MEMORIAL Day Parade is a mix of levity and solemnity. At last year’s parade, members of the Middlebury Union High School marching band, top left, share a few smiles and laughs as they prepare for the 1.5-mile walk through the city performing for big crowds. At left, Vergennes Fire Chief David DiBiase leads a serious group of firefighters through Vergennes in 2024.

Photos by Glenn Russell/VTDigger and Steve James/Addison Independent

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Parades

(Continued from Page 9)

High School band, plenty of old and new classic cars, and veterans from many service branches.

And don't forget the antique tractors.

The parade route runs east on Main Street from North Orwell Road before turning onto Church Street, circling Roberts Avenue, and bending back west onto Main Street. The parade concludes with a ceremony on the town green.

MIDDLEBURY PARADE

The annual Memorial Day parade in Middlebury will, of course, be held this coming Monday, May 26. American Legion Post 27, the town of Middlebury and the large number of guests attending will honor the more than 1 million men and women who have lost their lives defending America since the Revolutionary War.

The parade, which will include its usual accompaniment of military color guard, fire trucks, bands, civic groups and cute kids. They will assemble in the college's Middlebury Arts Center parking lots at 8:30 a.m. and commence at 9 a.m. Marchers will proceed from Porter Field Road north on South Main Street, through the traffic circle, around the green and end at Court Square.

MCTV will have a stationary camera set up at the town offices, with live video and commentary streamed online.

There will be a ceremony following the



NO ONE APPRECIATES good weather on Memorial Day more than the people who march in the parades. These folks in the Mountain View 4-H Club are clearly enjoying their interactions with the crowd along Middlebury's Main Street in 2024.

Independent file photo/Steve James

parade at the Soldier's Monument in front of the Town Hall Theater.

There is still time for those wanting

to participate. Contact the Middlebury American Legion Post 27 at 802-388-9311 and speak with the bartender on duty or email middleburypost27@outlook.com indicating the name of the group or organization, the number and nature of participation (walkers, vehicle, float, etc.), and a contact name and telephone number.

BRANDON ON MONDAY

The Brandon Memorial Day parade will have a slight change in its traditional route. Participants will muster at 9:30 a.m. on Park Street Extension, and the parade steps off at 10 a.m. Marchers will start from the corner of High Street and Marble Street and parade down Park Street to the Civil War monument and gazebo in Central Park for Flower Girls and Memorial Exercises.

The Legion Post Color Guard and other veterans will march, and joining them will be the Otter Valley Union High and

Neshobe Elementary school bands, who will both also play at the ceremony after the parade. Neshobe second-graders will lay flowers on the monument during the ceremony, and Neshobe students will read traditional selections.

"All are politely reminded that Memorial Day is not the same thing as the Fourth of July. It is a solemn observance of sacrifice rather than an occasion of entertainment and frivolity," Brandon Town Manager Seth Hopkins said in a social media post. "There will be time for fun together on July 5th at Brandon's Independence Day Celebration with festivities and fireworks."

CITY PARADE

In Vergennes American Legion Post 14 organizes Vermont's largest Memorial Day parade every year.

This year's theme is "Honoring, Courage & Sacrifice," and retired Lt. Col.

(See Vergennes parade, Page 11)

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Vergennes parade

(Continued from Page 10)

John Medenwald will be Parade Marshal. The parade honors all the men and women who have served our country during times of conflict and gave the ultimate sacrifice. It is designed to appeal to both Veterans and our community as a whole.

As always, the parade starts at Vergennes Union High School at 11 a.m. and winds its way along Monkton Road and Main, South Maple, Victory and Green streets until it reaches the city green, where the post-parade ceremony will be held. The parade will include an even larger mix than Middlebury's of floats, farm equipment, classic cars, fire trucks, bands, Shriners, politicians and more.

The ceremony will feature guest speaker John Broadmeadow, president of Norwich University and a retired three-star Marine Corps general.

Parade participation is free along the 1.5-mile route through downtown Vergennes.

All participants are required to prominently display patriotic-style decorations in keeping with the purpose and theme of the parade: Honoring, Courage & Sacrifice.

Following the parade and the remembrance ceremony in the park, the American Legion Post 14 will host a Chicken BBQ at the Post, located at 100

Armory Lane.

Whether you're marching, riding a float, driving a classic car, or representing a community group, the Legion would love to have you be part of this meaningful tradition, and you can do so by signing up here: tinyurl.com/Vparade2025.

For questions, please contact Martha DeGraaf at marsulli75@gmail.com.

BRISTOL WRAPS IT UP

You can end your Memorial Day festivities on a note that is appropriately somber. Bristol's American Legion Post 19 will host its 2025 Memorial Day Ceremony on the village green at 1 p.m. on May 26.

The ceremony will be emceed by Post Commander Ron LaRose, who will supervise the laying of a wreath on the Veterans Memorial in the park. He expects to have a guest speaker from the Vermont National Guard, but as of press time he hadn't finalized the details.

LaRose, who has led Post 19 for years, served in the U.S. Army and the Army National Guard for 39 years. He retired in 2005 at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He will offer his thoughts on the meaning and importance of Memorial Day, as well.

The entire ceremony is expected to last 30-45 minutes. There will be no parade in Bristol this year.

All are welcome at Bristol's Memorial Day Ceremony.



A LEADER OF Union cavalry blows his horn to alert his contingent of U.S. Civil War re-enactors during the 2024 Vergennes Memorial Day Parade. The Union soldiers are always a big hit at local parades.

Independent file photo/Steve James



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Fort Ti to pay tribute to the fallen soldiers

TICONDEROGA, N.Y. — Fort Ticonderoga, one of the first places that United States armed forces took part in battle, will pay tribute to the men and women who lost their lives during the American Revolution.

It will host the Real Time Revolution event over Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday and Sunday May 24-25. Experience all aspects of the life for American citizen-soldiers in 1775, from their weapons to their rations, and learn about what they believed would come from their sacrifice in the name of liberty. Special living history programs and demonstrations will be presented throughout the weekend.

“Join a hive of activity as newly drafted American soldiers ply their civilian trades and help rebuild this military outpost,” said Stuart Lilie, Fort Ticonderoga vice president of Public History. “Throughout the weekend, visitors will witness the labor of liberty as Fort Ticonderoga staff portraying New England militia bring to life this defining story through military drill, weapon demonstrations, historic trades, hauling timber with oxen and repairing the fort they just arrived at.”

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JOIN FORT TICONDEROGA on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-25, 2025, to remember the armed forces of the United States on the very grounds where so many American soldiers paid the ultimate price for freedom.

the *Carillon* and cruise along the same shores of Lake Champlain that American soldiers and sailors sailed in 1775.

Activities and programs offered throughout the weekend include daily tours within the fort, King's Garden, and museum exhibition spaces; historic trades programs; ongoing living history programs; thrilling

weapons demonstrations; fife and drum performances; the Mount Defiance experience; and the Carillon Battlefield hiking trail. A full schedule can be found at www.fortticonderoga.org.

The fort will feature a special service on Sunday, May 25. At the 11 a.m. memorial service, join the procession of an American soldier's funeral and see him

laid to his final resting place. Pay respect to the numerous soldiers who did not receive a proper burial at Ticonderoga in 1775 and reflect on the ultimate sacrifice they made to secure our liberty today.

A 10% general admissions discount will be given to military members with proof of service for this special weekend-long event.



Remembering those who served.

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT



IT TOOK BOTH individual effort (Shyloh Bernard is in the photo above) and teamwork (to the right, Damon Mullen holds the flags while Ben Emerson places them near the graves) for Vergennes Union Elementary School fifth graders to cover the St. Peter's Cemetery with flags this month in honor and remembrance of the sacrifices that veterans made — including the ultimate sacrifice.

Photos courtesy of VUES

What families can do to honor fallen vets

The freedoms people living in the United States are afforded would not have been possible to provide if not for the brave efforts and undying commitment of the many individuals who have served in the nation's armed forces. American military personnel have played vital roles in securing freedoms for their fellow citizens as well as individuals overseas.

Each year on the final Monday in May, the United States commemorates military personnel who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces. Those individuals made the ultimate sacrifice, and Memorial Day is a way to honor them and thank their families for their selfless acts. This Memorial Day, families can embrace various measures to honor fallen veterans.

- **Visit a local veterans cemetery.** The United Service Organization notes that most states have national veterans cemeteries. Though some veterans cemeteries are open only to family members of service personnel, others are open to the general public. Visiting a veterans cemetery is a great way to honor fallen military members and ensure the memory of their service and sacrifice is not

forgotten on Memorial Day.

- **Celebrate veterans over Memorial Day weekend.** Memorial Day weekend is now synonymous with getaways and backyard barbecues. By taking time out during the weekend to honor fallen veterans, families can ensure the meaning behind the holiday is not lost in the midst of celebrations with family and friends. Take time out during a family barbecue to discuss a family member who served or, if traveling, make an effort to visit a veterans memorial along your travel route.
- **Help raise funds for veterans organizations.** Fun runs or community Memorial Day walks may benefit local veterans organizations that help service members in need. Many service members may need help dealing with the deaths of friends or family members who died while serving in the armed forces, and veterans organizations may provide such help or direct funds to groups that do. That makes participation in events that benefit veterans organizations a great way to honor current military personnel and those who have served in the past, including those who died in service of their country.
- **Teach youngsters about the role of**


the armed forces. There's a lot competing for the attention of today's young people, and that can make it easy to overlook the very freedoms that make the United States such a unique country throughout world history. Parents and guardians can emphasize the role the armed forces play in procuring and protecting freedoms in the United States and emphasize the

significance of the sacrifices of those who gave their lives to ensure a higher quality of life for all U.S. residents.

Memorial Day commemorates military personnel who died while serving in the armed forces. There is much families can do to ensure those sacrifices are never forgotten or taken for granted.

— Metro Creative

**We support, honor,
and thank the men
and women who have
served our country.**



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8 ways to honor veterans

Millions of people make considerable sacrifices to protect the freedoms of their fellow citizens. Memorial Day is the time we set aside to remember and thank those who lost their lives. And it is also a time to honor the living.

According to the Pew Research Center and data from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Census Bureau, there are currently more than 18 million living veterans in the United States.

The term “veteran” refers to a person who served in the active military, naval, air service, or space service and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. In the U.S., there are actually five types of protected veterans, according to the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974. Under VEVRAA, a veteran may be classified as a disabled

veteran, recently separated veteran, active duty wartime or campaign badge veteran, or Armed Forces service medal veteran.

Veterans deserve respect and admiration all year long, and Americans can consider these eight unique ways to honor the veterans in their community.

1. Attend events. Organize or participate in local Memorial Day celebrations, such as parades and ceremonial events.

2. Get involved with veterans’ affairs. Support veterans by volunteering with organizations that assist them, such as the VA, local veteran’s groups, VA hospitals, or charities dedicated to veteran services.

3. Petition for veteran speakers. Reach out to schools, scout troops or other groups

and arrange opportunities for veterans to share their stories and contributions. Learning about the sacrifices these men and women made can heighten individuals’ appreciation for veterans.

4. Support the families of veterans. Reach out to veterans’ families, who also must make sacrifices and concessions.

Anything from shopping, babysitting, doing chores, or making a meal can help the families of veterans.

5. Make a donation. If finances allow, make contributions to reputable charities that provide services for veterans like those that offer mental health counseling or job placement services. If there isn’t a charity that fits with your vision, begin one.

6. Hire veterans to work. If you are a business owner or hiring manager, consider hiring veterans for open positions at your company. It can

be challenging to re-enter the workforce after service, so make it known that your firm welcomes veterans.

7. Offer personal acknowledgements. Take the time to speak to veterans and thank them for their service. If possible, when dining out, ask the server if you can pay for the meal of a veteran who also is dining that day.

8. Don’t forget the fallen veterans. Although Memorial Day is designed to honor those who lost their lives through military service, people still can honor the fallen veterans on Veterans Day by sharing stories or placing flags at veteran cemeteries.

— Metro Creative



Stars & stripes forever

COLORFUL SHIRTS MAY not be everyone’s cup of tea, but no one would argue over the patriotic intent of this parade-goer’s attire. Plus, he’s giving a lift to the next generation.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Thank you to those who have served
Have a Safe and Happy
Memorial Day!



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Always a lot to see

WHILE PULLING THE Battell Hose Company antique firefighting rig in the 2024 Middlebury Memorial Day Parade, above, these horses appear to be heading for a chat with spectators before they are reined in. Right, a very short Scout keeps pace during a very long parade in Vergennes last year.

Independent file photos/Steve James



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