

Music for all

THT launches a free summer music series this Friday during its opening gala. Arts + Leisure.



Fast start

The county's American Legion team opened with three home victories. See Sports, Page 1B.



Well-Being

Check out our Health & Wellbeing section for tips on staying fit.

ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

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\$2.00

Pieciak unveils \$20M housing program

By IAN CURRY

VERGENNES – State Treasurer Mike Pieciak joined state and local leaders on Tuesday at Vergennes Grand Senior Living to announce an additional \$20 million investment in housing and economic development projects across the state.

Established in 2014, the 10% in Vermont program authorizes office has identified Vermont's

the treasurer's office to invest housing shortage as a focus of up to 10% of the state's average daily cash balance into economic development projects that benefit Vermont communities. Due to increases in state revenues, the program now has a balance of about \$1.5 billion.

Pieciak said the treasurer's

the program. The \$20 million investment announced today will take the form of low interest loans which will support the construction of new affordable housing projects throughout the state, including assisted living and senior housing

additional This investment bolsters the \$84 million the program loaned out for housing projects since 2023. The investment supported local developers in constructing 1,340 housing units and creating 100 permanent jobs across 30 towns.

Pieciak said the investment was especially important for towns and (See Housing, Page 10A)

Council sets new budget; 2.2-cent tax hike seen

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES some last-minute financial maneuvering at its Tuesday night meeting, the Vergennes City Council adopted a Fiscal

Year 2026 general fund budget of \$3,336,868, about a 1% increase, and set the new municipal tax rate at 64.42

(See City tax rate, Page 8A)

Grand opening

Town Hall Theater ready to show off its \$8.5M overhaul in style

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Town Hall Theater officials during the past few months have been thrilled to gradually unfurl (and allow use of) spaces within the facility's new 7,000-square-foot, three-story addition fronting Merchants Row.

On June 27-28, the curtain will officially rise on the \$8.5 million transformation of THT, improvements that will further solidify the facility as the community's hub for visual and performing arts.

The celebration will include a variety of entertainment, food, magic shows, stunt performers and a modicum of pomp and circumstance one would expect in saluting an achievement that required many months of planning, fundraising and the artful use of a tricky expansion site near the intersection of South Pleasant Street and Merchants Row.

"It took a little bit longer than anticipated as most construction projects do, but we're very happy with the results and the work

that Bread Loaf Corp. and the subcontractors took on," said THT Executive Director Lisa Mitchell as workers made final, largely cosmetic tweaks to a building addition awash in natural light.

Cornwall artist Rebecca Kinkead has painted two beautiful canvasses to adorn the addition, and Mitchell has sourced plants from the Giving Fridge to further prepare THT for its big closeup.

Let's be clear that THT, even before the addition, was nothing to sneeze at. While its stewards have treated it with TLC, the building - Middlebury's former town hall, cinema, restaurant and Knight of Columbus Hall — simply could no longer accommodate all the requests for its use.

When Mitchell began her tenure as THT's top administrator in 2020, she had to reject roughly 80% of requests to rent the then-limited space. The main stage frequently couldn't be used for revenue generating events or rental because it was being used for set building or

(See THT, Page 13A)



Cooling off!

FRANKIE HOUGHTON, 8, of Middlebury, prepares to go underwater off the diving board at the Middlebury pool this past Monday as temperatures hit the mid-90s for two days. Houghton was one of hundreds of area youth and adults cooling off in area swimming pools and swimming holes as a heat wave swept through the area.

Local growing season picks up after cool, slow start

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY Farmers around Addison County say they've seen a cooler, slower start to this year's growing season, with rainy weather posing some challenges and affecting some

But despite the slow start, the season is now in full swing. Several growers reported new

crops coming in during recent weeks, and they noted some varieties of produce have fared

well in the cooler weather. Also, farmers markets are well underway around Addison County with some new offerings on tap (see related story).

"It's been a cool, wet start up until now, but things seem to be turning around," Spencer Blackwell of Elmer Farm told the

grow 40 different types of well, but the farm's onions and vegetables on about 7 acres at their Middlebury farm. Among the

farm's offerings is a CSA program, which has a popular pick-your-own component that the farm is looking to expand.

"Diversity is our risk prevention strategy," Spencer Blackwell said, noting that each year the farm typically loses a crop while another

For example, this year's zucchini Spencer and Jennifer Blackwell crop hasn't done particularly other crops have flourished, (See Growing season, Page 12A)

Farmers markets see growth

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — With summer officially underway, Addison County residents can expect to see farmers markets popping up on town greens and other spots across the region each week.

Such markets offer a chance for residents to engage directly with local farmers, artisans and other producers. Local farmers market officials say they're seeing a growing number of vendors take part in the weekly events, and in some cases, have newer offerings in the works for this season.

Sarah Stillman manages the Bristol and Vergennes farmers markets. (See Markets, Page 12A)



St. Stephen's Peasant Market will be held this year on July 12. The fair annually raises thousands of dollars to share with local nonprofits. The Peasant Market will accept antiques, jewelry, linens, kitchenware, toys (no guns, swords or knives, please), vinyl records and CDs, white elephants, sporting goods, and garden plants (See By the way, Page 13A)

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Historic marker fetes same-sex union of 200-plus years ago

With

WEYBRIDGE

attack from the marker commemorating two female partners "Pride who lived in Weybridge in the 1800s provided an interesting contrast at through a dedication ceremony rural

this past weekend. Saturday, June 21, the Henry Sheldon Museum, in

partnership with the history," said Laura State of Vermont Division for Trieschmann, Vermont State Historic Preservation, Vermont Humanities and the Town of Weybridge, erected a Vermont Roadside Historic Marker at the Weybridge Hill Cemetery in honor of Charity Bryant and Sylvia Drake. The same-sex couple lived in Weybridge during

This marker is just one out LGBTQ rights being under of the 343 Historic Markers Trump spread across Vermont in hopes Administration, a historical of boosting tourism related to the state's history. The

Weybridge marker has been two years in the making. "The Roadside Historic

Site Marker Program in Vermont is intended to America." commemorate, celebrate — U.S. Rep. and explain tribulations, Becca Balint not change or hide

Historic Preservation Officer. The historic marker program was started in 1947 and covers a wide range of topics, including the birthplaces and homes of United States presidents and legislators, Red Sox players, homes of famous authors and artists



U.S. REP. BECCA Balint speaks passionately at the Charity and Sylvia Historic Marker Dedication in Weybridge this past Saturday. Pictured below is the decorated gravestone where both women were buried in the fashion of a married couple in the mid-1800s.

the likes of Rudyard Kipling, Pearl S. Buck, Robert Frost, and Norman Rockwell. The oldest markers record Revolutionary War battlefields, the meeting places of the Green Mountain Boys, and America's first ski tow.

(See Charity & Sylvia, Page 16A)



MAUSD mulls next steps after new ed bill

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL lawmakers last week passed a landmark education reform bill known as H. 454, setting up a process for transforming the state's education system and prompting the question — what's next?

Mount Abraham Unified School District officials dug into that question on Tuesday, unpacking different aspects of the legislation and discussing potential next steps the district could take to ensure its concerns are considered in any changes proposed down the road.

One idea suggested at the board's June 24 meeting was to compile input to provide to the task force looking at potential configurations new, consolidated school

(See MAUHS, Page 10A)

Middlebury film festival tweaks its storyline

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Late August is still two months away, but the county's shire town is already being readied for its annual role as host of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF), a five-day showcase of some of the most exciting and thoughtprovoking work of both aspiring and already established movie makers.

With a decade under its belt, MNFF11 will burst onto big screens at five local venues Aug. 20-24 with 108 narrative and documentary features and shorts, all under the stewardship of a new executive director (Caitlin Boyle), Artistic Director and renowned filmmaker Jay Craven, and their supporting cast.

(See MNFF, Page 15A)

Two drown in separate cases

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police (VSP) and a variety of local emergency responders mobilized earlier this week for separate reports of swimmers in distress in Bristol and Ferrisburgh, with both cases resulting in deaths.

The first case involved a Burlington youth who died following a plunge into the New Haven River at Bartlett's Falls in Bristol late Saturday afternoon, June 21.

According to the VSP's investigation, 18-year-old Eljak Menjwak of Burlington drowned after jumping from the falls (off Lincoln Road) at around 5:10 p.m.

(See Deaths, Page 10A)

Starksboro preschool celebrates 50 years

By MARIN HOWELL

STARKSBORO — A lot has changed since the 1970s, but in the town of Starksboro at least one thing has remained the same — the Starksboro Cooperative Preschool's commitment providing a positive, affordable childcare option for children in and around town.

The preschool was founded by a group of local parents in 1974 and officially opened its door to the community that fall as the "Starksboro Meeting House Preschool." The school recently completed its 50th year of operation and is now readying for its next chapter, as renovations in the school's space at the Starksboro Village Meeting House will allow the preschool to add more slots and create a second classroom to serve toddlers

This past Saturday, former staff and families students, affiliated with the preschool gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary and get a look at the renovations underway.

"What's really kind of thrilling for me is that the school is back at the meeting house and that the two institutions have worked together so hard to make sure that there's support for both and they support each other," said Pebble Baker Brooks, a founding parent and former president-director of the preschool. "This renovation is such a wonderful expression of the collaboration and the history of the two institutions working together." **GETTING STARTED**

Brooks was among a group of several parents from Starksboro and Bristol that came together to establish the preschool in 1974.

"There wasn't any preschool in Starksboro itself, and we had taken our children to a playgroup in Hinesburg," Brooks recalled. "I realized that I knew a lot of families that had preschool-aged children, and I got really excited about the idea of starting our own school and starting it with parent help and cooperation as a parent co-op.'

In honor of the school's 50th anniversary and the ongoing renovations, Brooks has put together a summary of the school's founding and inaugural year. Those interested in reading the piece can reach Brooks at bpebble@aol.com and keep an eye out for it on the Starksboro Village Meeting House website.

In the summary, Brooks notes that the founding group chose to structure the school as a parent cooperative with the idea that parent members would help out in the classroom.

"We were excited by the idea that we could share equally in the care and education of all our children," Brooks wrote. "At the same time, by offering our own services to assist in the classroom, and in the maintenance and upkeep of the building, we could keep tuition affordable for as many parents as possible.'



AROUND A DOZEN community members gathered this past Saturday to celebrate the Starksboro Cooperative Preschool's 50th anniversary. Among those in attendance were the preschool's current director Susan Pare, left, former teacher Helen Frost and founding parent/former president-director Pebble Baker Brooks.

director of the school for about four years, and then worked as a teacher at the preschool. Reflecting on her involvement with the school, Brooks said an exciting aspect of her work was seeing how people

"All of the families involved, and the teacher (Helen Frost), and all of us got to know each other's children in an important way and have those relationships and be able to listen to children and know what they're context was," she

came together to support the effort.

Collaboration among community members has been a key part of the school's history. Brooks notes in her summary that the founding group of parents was on the verge of giving up on finding a location for the school when Brooks happened to meet with former Starksboro Village Meeting House trustee Ruth Hanson.

"After a number of conversations over tea with Ruth, sitting on her spacious porch right across the road from the building, and with other board members, including with town historian Bertha Hanson, I was delighted to inform our group of parents that we had been offered the use of the lower level of the Starksboro Village Meeting House as a space for our school," Brooks wrote. "This was an exciting opportunity, and one we were eager to accept!"

The preschool has been located in the meeting house for around 40 years, briefly moving to the Jerusalem School House in South Starksboro in 1979.

GROWING OFFERINGS

By the end of its inaugural year there were 17 children enrolled in the preschool, which offered a combined nursery and kindergarten program for kids ages 3-6. Helen Frost was hired to serve as the school's first teacher.

Over the years the preschool's offerings evolved, eventually providing additional time at the Brooks served as president- school for kindergarten-aged

children to stay after lunch and take part in various projects.

Brooks said that later on, the school operated two nursery-age groups and served kindergartenage students in the afternoon.

"We tried to respond to different needs and having a growing population of students," she explained.

Starksboro Today, the Cooperative Preschool serves 21 students ages 3-5. The renovations underway at the meeting house will allow the preschool to expand its capacity to a total of 26 students across two classrooms and serve children as young as two and a

Plans call for a full renovation of the walk-out first floor of the meeting house, investment in all new mechanical systems, new finishes inside, code compliance upgrades, and remediation of lead paint hazards that will enable functional use of the windows. The Starksboro Village Meeting House and the Starksboro Cooperative Preschool are teaming up on the project, which will also lower the floor to create more headspace.

The renovations will create a second classroom and an additional bathroom at the preschool, as well as office and meeting spaces. Starksboro Cooperative Preschool Director Susan Pare previously told the Independent that the project will make the school's operations more professional and comfortable.

The project is being supported by a variety of funding sources, including state and federal grants, a state tax credit award and donations from community members.

Starksboro Village Meeting House Board member Kevin Hanson noted the project timeline faced a bit of uncertainty in the midst of federal funding shifts executed by the Trump administration earlier this year.

Construction, however, is now (See Preschool, Page 3A)

Fresh Deals flyer in the store!

Midd water, sewer rates surge

MIDDLEBURY — Households and businesses connected to Middlebury's municipal water and/or sewer systems will see a significant upswing in their rates during fiscal year 2026, which begins July 1.

The rate increases, according to Middlebury Department of Public Works officials, are being driven by a combination of personnel costs, skyrocketing health insurance premiums, electricity, biosolid operating supplies, debt service and an effort to begin salting away money for a voter-approved \$49.5 million upgrade of the town's wastewater treatment plant.

The Middlebury selectboard recently approved FY'26 water rate increases reflecting:

• A base rate of \$111 per quarter for in-town users and a base rate of \$117 per quarter for out-oftown users. That represents a 35% increase for residential users compared to this year's flat rate of \$82 and a 31% bump for out-oftown water users compared to the \$89 they're now paying.

• A new usage rate of \$4.50 per 1,000 gallons used for in-town users (a 2% increase) and \$4.85 (up from \$4.72) per 1,000 gallons for out-of-town users — a 3% hike.

These increases are projected to bump the average annual cost for a residential account, within the town, from the current \$617.08,

to \$739.65 (for accounts outside selectboard of the town, the annual impact is expected to be around \$786.85, up from to \$666.10).

On the wastewater side, the selectboard OK'd a new FY'26 base sewer rate of \$55 per quarter (up 6% from \$52) and a usage rate of \$9.35 (up 24% from \$7.55) per 1,000 gallons for FY'24. The average residential wastewater user will see their annual outlay for sewer services increase from \$704.04 to \$834.50, according to Cherington.

"The wastewater rate increase related to the proposed treatment facility upgrade equates to roughly \$100 annually for the average household — 28 cents per day," noted Emmalee Cherington, director of engineering for the Middlebury Department of Public

"The rate increase will begin to build the fund account for bond repayment starting around 2030," she added. "The goal is to create a gradual increase in the rates, reducing sharp spikes while providing needed revenue for future improvements."

Selectboard members metaphorically held their nose in endorsing the sewer and water rate increases, lamenting the impact on users but acknowledging the need to cover increasing costs and deferred maintenance.

"None of us like it," said addisonindependent.com.

Carpenter. He noted how former Infrastructure Committee Chair Heather Seeley had repeatedly cautioned the town was falling far behind in making repairs to its considerable water and sewer

"I do feel like we've made some huge strides during the past threeto-four years, but there are still a lot of needs," he added.

Cherington presented charts showing that Middlebury is still a good deal when it comes to water and sewer fees. Statewide, the town will be offering the seventhlowest average annual cost for water users, and the fifth-lowest average annual wastewater cost for sewer users, according to Cherington.

"Drinking water and wastewater treatment play vital roles in our daily lives but are easy to take for granted," she said. "When operating smoothly, people forget how complicated and expensive the services truly are. In reality, both systems include a complex network of infrastructure that requires significant investment to protect our environment, health, and hygiene. As a town, it is our goal to exercise fiscal and environmental stewardship, providing safe, efficient and reliable services to our users."

John Flowers is at johnf@

School collaboration talks ramp up

BY JOHN FLOWERS

BRIDPORT/SHOREHAM The Addison Central School District (ACSD) is putting together a working group to further develop a plan to combine the Bridport and Shoreham K-5 student populations to assure them single-grade classroom instruction, beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year.

That group — to include the communities' elementary school principals, the ACSD's directors of facilities and finance/operations, and parents from both towns will design a plan that calls for the Bridport PreK program to move to Shoreham Elementary School (SES), and for K-5 students from both towns to be educated together at Bridport Central School (BCS).

That potential scenario emerged from a series of public forums

held earlier this year in both communities at which Shoreham/ Bridport school stakeholders brainstormed ways in which K-5 kids could have access to singlegrade instruction despite declining enrollment.

BCS served 47 students this spring, a number pegged to drop to 42 this fall. Meanwhile, SES's K-5 enrollment is expected to drop from 57 pupils to 52.

Both schools will maintain multi-grade classes for the coming (2025-'26) academic year and potentially pivot to the new Pre-K at SES and K-5 at BCS setup beginning in the fall of 2026.

ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker said Emily Blistein, the district's communications & engagement director, will facilitate the Bridport-Shoreham working

group's planning process this summer. Affected families will weigh in on the single-grade classroom collaboration October.

"Once we have clear details (and parental feedback), we will ... forward all information to the ACSD board for their consideration this fall," Baker said through a recent email to Bridport and Shoreham parents.

Baker also hinted at plans for a third community to be brought into the collaboration dialogue.

"Next year, teachers Shoreham, Bridport, and Weybridge will be working together to create common experiences that help to support success within multigrade classroom configurations," she said. John Flowers is at johnf@ addisonindependent.com.

Downtown improvement effort advances

BY JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A newly revitalized Middlebury Downtown Improvement District Commission (DIDC) is about to get another seven years to marshal resources for additional improvements to public property in the shire town's core village area.

The Middlebury selectboard on Tuesday received a valid petition seeking a seven-year renewal of the town's Downtown Improvement District ordinance, which levies a special tax on nonresidential properties in the core village area. That premium tax which has been around 5 cents per \$100 in property value — has been generating about \$33,000 annually, money that's leveraged additional state and federal grants.

The special tax, on its own, has raised roughly \$671,050 during the past 23 years, according to town officials.

THESE HISTORIC LIGHT fixtures are among many upgrades that have been made to public property in Middlebury village, thanks to the community's Downtown Improvement District ordinance. That ordinance is on the cusp of being renewed for another seven years.

such downtown improvements as new sidewalks; historic streetlight fixtures; upgrades to Since its inception in 1996, Triangle, Cannon and Riverside

the DID ordinance has paid for Parks; wayfinding signs; rapidflashing beacon pedestrian lights; assistance for business owners during the downtown rail tunnel (See Improvements, Page 7A)

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Beloved treasurer exits after 43

By BEE ECKELS

VERGENNES-The end of this month will mark the retirement of Evergreen Preschool's longtreasurer, Katrina Matthews. For 43 years, Matthews has served the youth of her community with steadfast devotion, aspiring to promote a learning experience rooted in the philosophy that children learn best through play.

"It's really Katrina that has been there for so long," Alex McGuire, Evergreen Board President from 2012 to 2016, said. "She represents an institution of knowledge and an institution of love for this program."

McGuire served alongside Matthews on the Evergreen board when her son Liam was enrolled at Evergreen.

"It was very clear from those early meetings what a steady and dedicated presence she was, is, has always been," McGuire said.

Matthews has been a Vermont resident since 1972 and has lived in Vergennes since 1976. She graduated from the College of St. Rose in Albany, N.Y., with a degree in Education and became involved with Evergreen Preschool as a teacher, treasurer and bookkeeper in 1982 when the program was

Evergreen Preschool leaders and parents credit Matthews' ongoing involvement with the program to "her deep love for the organization and its families."

"It was very clear from

what a steady and

(Katrina) was, is, has

— Alex McGuire

Over her years of service, has those early meetings Matthews helped the preschool successfully dedicated presence navigate many transitions of spaces always been." and leadership.

On top of her teaching daily expenditures and funding coming into the school, teacher's salaries, supply purchases, enrollment,

fundraising and budgeting. "She was the master of budgeting," according to Fran Putnam, who helped found Evergreen in 1982. "We were never in the red when Katrina was treasurer.'

McGuire seconded that statement

our means, and still had that nest egg leftover.'

Matthews also made a major Evergreen's handbook; helped



AFTER 43 YEARS of service to her community, Evergreen Preschool's Katrina Matthews is set to step down from her position as treasurer at the end of the month.

Photo / Ashley Bessette

state, enabling the school to receive funding as a nonprofit corporation, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, an organization that provides accreditation to early-learning programs that meet its rigorous standards, therefore demonstrating the program's commitment to highquality education.

She also played an active role in the planning of the children's fair, which is one of Evergreen's main annual fundraisers.

"Katrina was one of the big supporters of the children's fair, and it became quite a big fundraising event,'

Putnam said.

Putnam was one of four of Evergreen's founders along with three other women who were concerned about the issue of preschool education in their community

duties, Matthews kept track of all when they realized they couldn't find a preschool for their own children. Putnam met Matthews building costs and maintenance, that first year when they hired her as part of the teaching staff.

"She is by far the longest-serving member of the board," Putnam said in reference to Matthews' 12 years of both teaching and being treasurer, and then her additional 31 years serving just as treasurer. "She knew every child that went through there."

Both McGuire and Putnam have "Katrina jumped right in and described Matthews' unswerving stayed within our budget, within dedication to Evergreen as one that celebrate her service with a can only be matched by the motto of U.S. Postal Service.

McGuire said not rain, shine, contribution to the writing of sleet nor snow could prevent Matthews from carrying out her

register the preschool with the duties and marveled at no matter the weather or circumstance, Matthews would march over to the preschool with her finance folder to deliver a monthly budget report, sign a check or survey the needs of

And Putnam praised Matthews' infallibility.

"She was meticulous in keeping records, in knowing what we were doing ... she just never made mistakes. We trusted her implicitly," Putnam said.

Not only was Matthews exceptional at her job, but she clearly had an instinctive knack for

"She just absolutely has a passion for educating preschool children in a playful way," McGuire said.

McGuire appreciates how Matthews was always able to see all sides when deciding what was best for the children, parents, stakeholders and community, like the times she helped initiate an aftercare program or expanded the enrollment pool to outside of the Addison Northwest school district. Changes like these helped increase childcare and education options in the surrounding area and also generated revenue for the school.

"I can't imagine how they're going to get on without her, quite frankly," Putnam said.

Unable to say a final goodbye just yet, Matthews will continue to stay on the board for the upcoming school year with the purpose of training the new treasurer.

Evergreen Preschool popsicle and ice cream picnic event on Monday, July 14 on the Vergennes City Green before the weekly City Band performance at 7 p.m. All families are invited.

Vermont Rail updates 5-year plan

MIDDLEBURY— Every five years, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) updates the state's official Rail Plan. The plan covers the 580 miles of

The Ethan Allen

Express line through

Middlebury has seen

ridership from 2019 to

86,638 riders in 2023.

a 72% increase in

active rail lines in the state and guides the future of passenger rail, namely Amtrak, freight rail throughout Vermont and its neighboring

Right now the passenger rail sector is growing, thanks

Ethan Allen Express's extension to Burlington in 2022 and improved lines and stations along its path to New York City from Vermont's largest community. As a result, there was a 72% increase in ridership on that line in 2019 to 86,638 riders in 2023.

Meanwhile, the Vermonter, Washington, D.C., recorded 99,974 riders in the same time span.

Passengers at the newly built Middlebury Amtrak station offer

> insight some why ridership has increased including better service and the new station. Two are Middlebury residents Benson Nellie Pierce,

who often hop largely to the completion of the on the Ethan Allen Express in their hometown and head down to New York City to visit friends and family or pursue professional opportunities.

"We go down almost every month now," said Benson, "The workers here are super chill, and some of them even recognize us.'

running from St. Albans to compared to driving, is also significant for many, including Benson and Pierce, who live near

the Middlebury station. "We can walk to the station and back," Benson said. "We would

highly recommend the train." Rail is important to Vermont not only for passenger travel, but also for efficient freight movement.

Freight totals transported by Vermont's rail system stood at 1.98 million tons of freight, and 58,000 freight-car loads in 2023, but federal transportation officials expect those numbers to grow to 2.91 million tons by 2050, a 32% increase.

These projections were released in April 2024, prior to any changes to international trade agreements that occurred beginning in 2025. The expected increase is

(See Rail updates, Page 7A)



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Preschool

(Continued from Page 2A) moving along.

"Probably over the next month, maybe six weeks, we'll have all the studding up and the addition framed out, and then after that we'll put the stuff in the walls and put up the drywall and finish it,' Hanson said.

He noted

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around September-October. After that, the preschool will move back into the space. The preschool has relocated up the street to Robinson Elementary School renovations are taking place.

Attendees this past Saturday had the opportunity to take a look at the the target for renovations in the works. Spirits

completing the project is sometime were high as the group roamed the space, with attendees sharing fond memories and expressing their gratitude to see the school flourishing five decades after it was established.

"The whole idea of it all is just amazing," Pare said on Saturday. "We're all excited about it."

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ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Editorial

A big, bad bill for the Fourth

As Senate Republicans wrestle to pass President Trump's "big bill" by a self-imposed July 4 deadline, Vermonters should understand the policy changes that will impact their lives. At over 1,000 pages, the bill is deliberately packed with so many items as to confuse the public and Congress — successfully on both counts.

Even so, here are a few of the highlights as it currently stands:

TAX CUTS, WHO BENEFITS

The most popular aspect of the bill is that it maintains the tax cuts passed during Trump's first term in 2017. Those cuts overwhelmingly favored the wealthy and contributed to a sharp increase in the nation's wealth gap, but the cuts also extended tidbits of relief to all except the bottom tier of taxpayers. Many Democrats support extending the tax cuts for the lowerand mid-income ranges but oppose tax cuts for the wealthy.

Here are a few of the bill's specific proposals pertaining to the tax cuts: · According to a simplified USA today breakout, if your income falls under \$17,000 annually, you're likely to lose benefits from Medicaid, health insurance markets, food assistance programs like SNAP and student loans. In dollar terms, USA Today estimates you'll lose \$1,035 or see a 10.8% loss in benefits.

• Those with incomes between \$17,000-\$50,999, will see a loss of \$705 annually, or a 1% loss. Incomes of \$51,000-\$92,999 will gain 1%, or about \$845. Those with incomes between \$93,000-\$173,999 see a gain of 2.4% or \$3,245; those between \$174,000-\$262,999, see benefits of 2.9% or \$6,050; and those between \$263,000-\$387,999 will gain \$8,835 or 2.8%. From there the benefits bump up. The average gain for those with incomes between \$388,000-\$987,999 are \$19,965 or 3.5%; while those making between \$988,000-\$4.3 million see an average benefit of \$44,365 and up to more than \$300,000.

• The bill also would eliminate some taxes on tips and overtime. The Senate version of the bill puts a cap on those exemptions, including: the first \$25,000 of tips would be tax-deductible through 2028 with a \$150,000 income limit; and the first \$12,500 of overtime pay would be tax-deductible through 2028 with a \$150,000 income limit.

• For seniors, a person over 65 could deduct an additional \$4,000 if they make less than \$75,000, but only through 2028. The Senate version increases the deduction to \$6,000.

• Another significant change is the bill allows for an even larger tax exemption for large estates. The House version allows people to pass \$13.99 million of a \$15 million estate untaxed, while taxing just \$1.01 million at 40%. So, taxes owed on a \$15 million inheritance would be \$404,000. Without the change, the almost \$14 million exemption would expire at the end of 2025 and revert to just over \$7 million exemption.

 Increases in the popular child tax credit, championed by Democrats, would rise to \$2,500 through 2028 before returning to the current \$2,000. Without changes, the credit would fall to \$1,000 at the end of 2025.

• To sweeten the pot for everyone, the bill would gift children under 8 with \$1,000 each to open special savings accounts, with tax-free contributions to those accounts limited to \$5,000 annually until the child is 18.

• Controversially, the bill spends \$5 billion annually for the next four years to subsidize non-public school education, plus more than a generous scholarship allowance for students attending private schools.

In sum, Republicans are betting the public's appreciation to get any tax cut, along with special benefits to their core MAGA constituents, will outweigh the pain caused by cuts to government services, including popular services like the national parks, the postal service, the IRS's ability to pursue tax cheats or a thousand other benefits government provides the loss of which will be blamed on the oppositon in any case.

OTHER OUTRAGEOUS COSTS

• About \$150 billion more would go for defense, including \$20 billion for what Trump calls a "Golden Dome" missile defense system.

• Border security would increase from \$10 billion spent annually to \$150 billion, a huge change that will pile \$50 billion into completing the wall on the southern border; \$45 billion building detention centers; \$8 billion on additional immigration officers; and \$14 more billion spent on

• And in a little discussed item, according to USA Today, the bill would significantly increase taxes on private college endowments. The tax rate for endowments between \$500k-\$750K would be 1.4%; for endowments over \$2 million, the tax rate would be 21%.

CUTS TO SERVICES

To finance all those tax cuts, Trump and this Republican-led Congress are calling for significant cuts. Here are a few:

• Medicaid cuts of at least \$625 billion, or higher in the Senate version,

while shifting more of the burden onto the states. More than 10%, or 7.6 million people (mostly children), could lose their health care insurance. The measure also adds work requirements for adults enrolled in Medicaid expansion.

• SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) would be cut \$300 billion over 10 years, and would require states to provide more funding for food assistance programs in the future. SNAP benefits would only be provided to permanent, legal residents and new work requirements for people 55-64 would be imposed.

• The bill would repeal the \$7,500 tax credit for electric cars, along with other rules encouraging Americans to use electric vehicles. Many other cuts to renewable energy initiatives, social services, higher education, the arts, science in all fields, health care, disability payments, student loans, Veteran Affairs and much more are included in the bill.

COST OF THE BILL

Republicans want Americans to believe the cost of the bill is only \$440 billion by failing to count the cost of extending the tax cuts. More rational folks admit the cost is closer to \$2.4 trillion, not including the huge cost interest will add to the bottom line. Over the upcoming 10-years, the bill is expected to add \$3.3 trillion to the current \$29 trillion national debt.

Interest costs currently represent the third largest spending category in the budget, exceeded only by Medicare and Social Security, but are higher than National Defense. Those rising costs have some Republican deficithawks vowing to vote against the bill and push for more cuts to government services (rather than reductions in the generous tax cuts), while Democrats are expected to uniformly reject the bill.

To recap, the House narrowly passed its version of the bill, 215-214, back on May 22. The Senate, comprised of 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats, is hoping to take up the bill this weekend. If the Senate passes the bill, it will go to conference between the House and the Senate with the goal to work out their differences by the July 4 weekend.

Elections, readers should note, do make a difference, not only in electing the president, but Congress too.

Angelo Lynn

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Keeping her cool

MARGO AUDET, 9, jumps into the Middlebury Town Pool on Monday during the extreme heat. Independent photo/Steve James

The arts shouldn't cave, but do we?

Ways of

Seeing

Mitchell

In a dimly lit theater in Scotland, a liquid female voice, piped through the intercom, says: "Please keep your cell phone on at all times, so we can track you at any moment." The stage is flanked by pink Pegasuslike unicorn flags, and two musicians named Felix and Felka invite the audience into a fake singalong for The Pale Baron's birthday. The audience becomes part of the Underwater State, a territory ruled by a dictator (the baron) where all poets have mysteriously disappeared and censorship reigns.

What begins as an uncannily funny satire at an Edinburgh theatre festival, quickly develops into a play about the rising tide of risk for artists in a tyrannical state. For me and my Town Hall Theater colleagues, who attended this performance while in Scotland, this

work hit a particular nerve. In February, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced it would no longer fund arts programs that support diversity, equity, and inclusion, or "gender ideology." Of course, the slash-and-burn approach to many federal agencies already had the creative sector on heightened alert for funding cuts. But, for me, in my role as executive & artistic director of Town Hall Theater, there was something particularly unsettling and insidious about requiring organizations to certify that their projects will <u>not</u> support inclusivity. I was not alone in this feeling.

On calls with the Vermont Arts Council. Vermont Humanities, and arts leaders state-wide, we discussed the very real possibility that grant applicants could end up self-censoring their projects. Most arts

organizations, and many artists, rely on grants to support and sustain their work. A great deal of time goes into crafting these applications, so we all make strategic choices when developing grants. The fallout of a restrictive ideological framework could absolutely steer creatives away from "controversial" topics. If we start from this constrained place, we are allowing an

autocratic vision to mold our work and its messages.

Over the past few months, I've heard it said that Vermont arts organizations and artists should continue to pursue NEA grants, because if people choose not to apply for fear of the funding's precarity, this funding is certain to go away. The risks of financial loss from federal grants are real, though. In May, the NEA cancelled grants to organizations like Vermont Folklife, the Flynn,

and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. The question remains: what level of risk are we willing to take? Can we absorb the consequences — financially and ideologically?

The Kennedy Center and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. are experiencing unprecedented government overreach. In neighboring New Hampshire, the state has nixed funding for the state's arts council. The Vermont Arts Council (VAC) remains intact and has strong state support, but 45% of the organization's annual funding comes from the National Endowment for the Arts. If NEA funding is cut, the Vermont arts ecosystem will be hard hit. Last fiscal year, VAC granted more than \$3.2 million (See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

Protecting SNAP, protects farmers

By Georgie Rubens

As the director of the Burlington Farmers Market, I am deeply concerned about what's happening in Congress right now and the potential to gut Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid, two of the most essential programs that help people put food on the table and get the healthcare they need.

At our farmers market, I see every week how these programs support both the dignity and health of our neighbours, and the stability of our local

Programs like 3SquaresVT (Vermont's SNAP program) and Crop Cash (Vermont's SNAP incentive) allow customers to stretch their food dollars and buy fresh, local produce. Over the last two summers, more than \$80,000 of food benefits were spent at the market. When families can afford to shop here, farmers earn income.

SNAP isn't just a nutrition program, it's an economic engine that creates wins for all and creates inclusive community spaces.

If Congress moves forward with its planned SNAP cuts, the consequences will be severe. Our vendors will feel the hit in their bottom lines. People in our community, including seniors, families with children, and people with disabilities, will lose access to nutritious food and essential healthcare.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, some state food benefits were lost, and we saw how that negatively impacted our customers and vendors. Farms saw up to 40% decreases in their revenue, and market staff were left strategizing with customers to figure out how to stretch their dollars. The impact of deeper cuts to food benefits, like those in the current budget proposal, could be even more devastating.

Health and food security are deeply connected. When people have access to good food and stable healthcare, they are better able to work, care for their families, and contribute to their communities. Farmers markets like ours become places of connection and resilience, but only when the policies that support lowincome families remain strong.

Congress must reject proposals that would weaken SNAP and Medicaid. Instead, they should prioritize investments that strengthen our food systems, support rural economies, and ensure all Americans, of all incomes, can meet their basic needs with dignity.

While Vermont's senators are strong supporters of SNAP, our neighbours in other states need support urging their senators to vote "no" on this bill, on cuts to SNAP and Medicaid. I urge you to call your friends in other states, as close to home as Maine, and make sure they are raising their voices.

Our community, our farmers, and our health depend trying to slow my approach. My

Letters to the Editor

Say 'no' to taxes for genocide

While we endure a "firehose" of news on calamitous policies, or lack of them from this administration, the horrific treatment of Palestinians continues. Those in Congress who remain silent are complicit!

I am not the least antisemitic, but I am appalled by the actions of the IDF under orders from the Netanyahu government. Denying food, water and medicine to the remaining people of Gaza is beyond inhumane. They are not the ones who perpetrated the terrible loss of life and hostage taking on Oct. 7, 2023, and to subject them to starvation and constant attack is criminal.

https://www.theguardian.com/ world/2025/jun/16/gaza-foodcentre-shooting-israel-ghf?

I believe that Israel should be able to defend itself, but I highly object to my taxpayer dollars being spent on genocide.

Sally Jenks Roth Bristol, Vt.

Contrary to Trump, we exist

Imagine my surprise at learning (and my chagrin at not knowing this sooner) that, almost from Inauguration Day, 2025, I no longer officially exist in the eyes of our President. You may not either.

I am an elderly female who, when I have to choose a title, selects Ms. I am also an ordained Christian minister and belong to a very supportive church community. If you are a senior citizen, a woman, use the title Ms, and belong to any community, you are in the same position. If you are, in fact, other than a straight White male, you may want to be concerned that you are being written out of the White House mandated acceptable language guidelines.

Written in Black and white, the Independent ran a wonderful article on June 12th, highlighting the work of artist Pamela Fogg. She has painted the words on rocks and wood and placed them around Bristol. We use these words daily. Now, they have been flagged or banned by the White House from official memos, agency websites, and other federal government publications. The mandate has come through executive orders issued by President Trump.

So: elderly be banned; female be banned; Ms be banned; Black be banned; community be banned; other than straight, White male be banned!

It seems to me that the power behind the throne in this Administration is White Christian - in name only - Nationalism. The ultimate goal is an exclusively straight White male government, and any means to achieve this end is acceptable.

I wear a t-shirt that states: "We are all spots on the same cow". Standing together as a community is more urgent than ever. We need to say a very loud YES! "...with liberty and justice for all"

The Administration is tearing down the very pledge it proclaims. In whatever non-violent way we can, we must say a loud NO! to those seeking to destroy the Pledge of Allegiance. I will do my part as an elderly female, who sometimes uses Ms, and lives in loving community at church and in Bristol.

Patti Welch **Bristol**

Don't just be angry, advocate often, clearly

Many years ago, as a young Air Force pilot, I was cleared to land at an airfield along the Mississippi gulf coast. A fog bank was slowly moving in, covering the far end of the runway, and I was still hot and high, trying desperately to lose airspeed and altitude. Suddenly I realized that my feet were pressing on the brake pedals, instinctively

(See Talbert letter, Page 4A)

Middlebury language schools begin

MIDDLEBURY—The students at Middlebury College's summer Language Schools arrived on Friday, June 20. This summer, over 1,400 students and 300 faculty from all over the world will be living at Middlebury College, Bennington College, and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) in Monterrey, California.

Through its Language Schools, Middlebury College offers 13 intensive language programs. Known for its Language Pledge, students are entirely immersed in their language of study and are not allowed to speak any other language during the six- to eightweek program.

The Middlebury campus will host students of the eight-week Russian, Korean, Chinese and Japanese programs; and the seven-week programs in German, French, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. The College also hosts a two-week program in Abenaki, an indigenous language in northern New England and southern Quebec.

Arabic, Italian and Portuguese students will also be hosted at Bennington College. The sevenweek English program will take place at the MIIS campus in Monterey, California.

While many students at the Language Schools are Middlebury College undergraduates seeking to fulfill degree requirements, the Language Schools are open to people of all ages and backgrounds. Artists, corporate executives and government employees live and study together, intent on mastering a new language.

MAT LAUNCHED

This year, the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) graduate program will launch. The MAT is an 18-month master's degree program which offers a teaching license in world languages valid in the U.S. public school system. The MAT program offers a new pathway for graduates of the Language Schools to apply their learning in the professional world.

language teachers each year, including those based in Vermont. Seven and eight-week programs are available to language teachers seeking to immerse themselves in a new language, or to top up their proficiency in the language they already teach.

Thor Sawin, a Middlebury College professor and associate dean of the Language Schools, said that the Middlebury Language Schools have served teachers seeking professional development since its inception in 1915.

Sawin said that for decades. the Language Schools have been receiving requests to develop an Educator Preparation Program like the MAT, which has been years in the making and offers public school teaching licenses to world language teachers.

"Teacher licensing is a complicated system, as each state manages its own teaching workforce and sets its own requirements," Sawin said.

However, the national shortage of world language teachers motivated Middlebury to prioritize the creation of the MAT program. The percentage of schools that have found it very difficult to fill world language positions has increased drastically within the past 15 years.

"When schools can't fill a language teacher position, this is the main reason — not lack of community or student interest - why language programs get cancelled at schools. Schools' cancelling of language programs results in fewer students having the opportunity to discover an interest in languages, or to turn a heritage language into a language useable for job purposes," Sawin

The Language Schools also offer other scholarship programs and grants, including the Fellows for Peace. Fellowships cover tuition, housing, and food for the summer and are awarded to people of all backgrounds who have notable experience in peace work and conflict resolution around the

Scholarships are awarded to world. The fellowship program challenges Middlebury to train and recruit future peacemakers through a focus on language and policy

> Alistair Nalle, an undergraduate student at Middlebury College, spent last summer at the Arabic School in Bennington. At the time, Nalle's Arabic was at a beginner's level, and he worried that being a newcomer to the language would make it difficult for him to learn and connect with others.

> "I was kind of expecting to talk about the weather for eight weeks, but that turned out not to be the case. I found my development really surprised me and I was able to hold more mature conversations with my other friends on the program," he said.

> Nalle is currently interning at the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies in Jordan, where he contributes to the monthly Human Rights Monitor. He said that the Arabic Language School greatly improved his ability because they offered an Arabic language course deeply rooted in an appreciation for the culture.

> "I feel like it paid off because I've been at the internship for over a week now and I feel like I'm contributing to something that puts more positivity into the world, and I feel like Middlebury Language Schools really contributed to that," Nalle said.

> The Middlebury Language Schools have long been recognized as global centers of language learning, as well as peace and training conflict resolution; teachers, healthcare professionals and peacemakers. Together, students abide by the Language Pledge and spend the summer learning and living entirely in a different language.

> The language schools also host cultural events, including concerts, plays and guest lectures which are open to the public.

> Editor's note: Ian Curry is a rising senior at Middlebury College interning with the Addison Independent this summer.

H.454: Passed but not a done deal

The passage of the education education centers within our ideal in scale. bill, H. 454, in the General Assembly, and presumably gaining the governor's signature into law, marks the start of efforts to transform Vermont's education system into one that recognizes

incredible demographic changes over the past four decades, and correct the gradual but significant drift to a system where students in next-door towns have very unequal learning experiences and opportunities.

It also addresses Vermonters' call — as evidenced by the 2024 budget votes and subsequent legislative elections — to create a fairer funding and

tax system with more state-level control of spending, while also providing school districts with stable and predictable funding that is fair to all students and taxpayers.

One thing it is not, however, is

a done deal. H. 454 is a framework filled with future work by many entities and big decisions in the coming couple of years, work and decisions on which much of H. 454 rests. For example, the Legislature must decide on fewer and larger districts for the math to work — a decision that will be filled with politics and hard, hard choices. Additionally, the Legislature must decide how to fund career and technical current spending boundaries when we have a hodgepodge of governance structures and wildly varied tuitions charged by each.

And it's not just the Legislature. To implement key

parts of H. 454, the Agency of Education, under a relatively new and controversial secretary, accomplish much, from complex studies of special education delivery to hiring a team of experts to help the field with the transitions in H. 454. Also, the Tax Department must create a new secondhome category for a statewide education

tax, and implement a new homestead exemption that, with all the other pieces of H. 454, will leave most Vermonters better off tax-wise on the other

Legislative

Review

by Rep. Peter

Conlon, D-Cornwall

journey was H. 454's challenging, as is every piece of education legislation that looks to change the status quo. There were differing concerns from every part of the state, from areas not wanting to limit which private schools receive taxpayer-funded tuition, to rural areas that worry H. 454 puts small schools in jeopardy, to large districts with large schools and class sizes that may receive less in overall funding as a more equitable system is put in place, even though they represent the

Putting those in balance was hard enough, but there were also the demands of Gov. Scott, whose own transformation plan proposed just five school districts for the state, a studentto-staff ratio of 25:1 and a funding formula that would have pulled \$185 million out of the system, among other facets. The governor threatened to veto H. 454 at numerous stages, but was ultimately convinced by the work of the House to accept a foundation formula that recognizes Vermont today, not the future state of his plan.

It was not lost on the Legislature that Gov. Scott is very popular, including with Democrats, and that the politics of elections are ignored at one's peril, especially the call for working with the governor and for compromise. To his credit, he remained open to changes from his vision — within limits — and ultimately supported a bill that is much different.

H. 454 is a good start for Vermont. It sets up a map to needed future change, but puts in significant contingencies that must be met along the way. Meeting them will take as much work, decision making and political consideration as passing the bill to begin with.

It should also be noted the bill also allows for the time and space to delay, change and make other needed adjustments depending on those dark clouds on the horizon that form in Washington,

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A) dollars to 235 organizations and 131 individuals.

In "The Pale Baron," artists are referred to as "inferiors" by their government. That shook me ... artists are called "inferiors." Radio announcements interrupt Felix and Felka's performance — decrying artists and immigrants as "noncontributing" and "unproductive" members of society.

There is a stark scene in which Felka, an immigrant to the Underwater State, rehearses for

potential government interrogation. For fear of being eradicated for free speech (like the poets), Felix and Felka present their original music to the audience under the guise of leading a public rehearsal for a national event — the baron's birthday.

When the curtain closed on this show, we sat in silence for a good ten minutes. This play was, in many ways, a ridiculous dystopian piece, but it also had extraordinary, heart-wrenching resonance.

Our new British theatre friends

laughingly said: "You could never show that in America!"

Which made me wonder: Couldn't I? Just the fact that I seriously considered potential repercussions said everything to

Lisa Mitchell is executive and artistic director of Town Hall Theater, and co-founder of Middlebury Underground. She lives in Middlebury with her husband, Andy, and two sons, Jake and Billy.

Letters to the Editor

Talbert letter

(Continued from Page 4A) training kicked in, I released the brakes, focused on the runway, landed safely and taxied in

surrounded by the fog bank. Our first instinct isn't always our best. As I reel with the daily disasters unfolding in Washington I want to lash out at the administration and anyone damn fool enough to think this man wanted anything but chaos, power and revenge. But that's my first instinct. And the only sure way to beat back this man and his minions is through our system of government.

Specifically the courts, the

legislature, and the ballot box. Our justices need to hear from us regularly, expressing our opinions and our feelings. They are not immune to the public's perception of what is just and fair. And our legislators on both sides of the aisle worry about one thing more than any other - getting re-elected. Either because they care about our country, or because they want job security. So they pay at least some heed to their mail.

If I had blindly continued my approach 50 years ago with the brakes applied I would, at best, have blown the tires. So, first instinct though it is, don't just get angry. Instead write, early and

often, forcefully and respectfully, to as many of these potentially patriotic justices and legislators as possible. Here's where you can get some of the addresses you'll need: www.supremecourt.gov > contact >contactus

Find Your Members in the U.S. Congress | Congress.gov | Library of Congress.

> Jim Talbert Middlebury

I served in the Air Force from 1969-1974, training Vietnamese and Laotian pilots in Mississippi, and Air Force Academy cadets in Colorado. I retired from a financial advisory career in 2008.



etters 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

Elderly Services Inc. ESI College



Review of 2025 Supreme Court Cases

Two sessions: July 8 and 15, 10:00-11:30 AM At VFW, 530 Exchange St., Middlebury

Join U.S. District Court Judge Bill Sessions for a timely review of key 2025 Supreme Court cases and their broader legal and societal implications. Gain insight into the Court's decisions from a seasoned federal judge with decades of experience on the bench.

A Middlebury College graduate, Bill Sessions received his law degree from George Washington University Law School. He has worked as an Addison County public defender, taught at Vermont Law School, and had a private law practice. He is currently a U.S. District Court Judge and a Visiting Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. His expertise is in sentencing policy, and he was chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Tenets of Effective Leadership: A Discussion

Two sessions: July 22 and 29, 10:00-11:30 AM

At Elderly Services, 112 Exchange St., Middlebury

There are many styles of effective leadership; what do they hold in common? We will discuss what makes effective business, nonprofit, and government leadership, both from the perspective of an entrepreneurial startup and from a mature delegatory organization, including what constitutes founder's syndrome. Bring examples from your own life about effective leaders.

Bill Schubart has lived in and written about Vermont for decades. He has served as board chair for numerous Vermont organizations, including Vermont Public, UVM Medical Center, Vermont Digger, and the Vermont Board of Libraries. He has published several novels set in Vermont and regularly contributes to local print and radio media.





Register Now!

https://elderlyservices.org/esi-college-summer-2025/

or call 802.388-3983

Obituaries

Brenda Joyce (Shackett) Smith, 84, of Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Brenda Joyce (Shackett) Smith, 84, passed away June 19, 2025, at her childhood home; surrounded by her family. Brenda was born in Shoreham on July 17, 1940. She was the daughter of Quentin & Clarice (Couture) Shackett. She grew up in Shoreham where she received her early education, and graduated from Shoreham High School, class of 1958. Music was her life's work, started playing piano at age four by ear for family members, playing in school concerts, church choirs, town events. She earned her Music & Arts degree from Trinity College. Brenda had worked as a music therapist at Brandon Training School, and taught several students to play organ and piano. Over the past 60 years she played piano in several restaurants, with musical friends, in the area and conducted hundreds of church services around Addison, Rutland County, Utica, Gloversville, and Hudson Falls N.Y.

She was proceeded by her parents Quentin & Clarice Shackett, brother Robert Shackett, Allen "Bill" Shackett, Bill's wife Marlene, niece Stephanie, Jill Shackett, husband Burton E. Smith and former husband Edgar E. LaDuke and thirteen brothers & sisters in laws.



BRENDA JOYCE (SHACKETT) SMITH

She is survived by her children Kirk LaDuke, Kelly LaDuke Peckham, husband Rick Shoreham, Dana LaDuke his partner Donna of Salisbury, Scott LaDuke of Orwell, grandson Travis LaDuke, his partner April Smith, Her great grandchildren Kailyn, Aiden, Madelyn LaDuke all of Shoreham and extended family April's children Jade, Sophie, and Vance. Her brother Tom Shackett of Vero Beach, Fla., several sisters

& brothers in laws, Jean Shackett of Shoreham, Shelly Shackett of Vergennes, Donna Shackett Bristol, Maryann Villeneuve and her family of Los Angeles, Calif., Marilyn Stewart husband Mike Peru, N.Y., brother in law Tony Golovach Peru, N.Y., Philis Goddeau, husband Ron Peru, N.Y. Karen Hathaway Lewis, N.Y, Jessy LaDuke, wife Harriet of Old Town Fla., Bonnie LaDuke of Kingsland, Ga. and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends around the country.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on July 22, 2025, at 10 a.m., at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Bridport. Rev. Brandon Schneider, will be the celebrant. The graveside committal service and burial will follow in St. Genevieve Cemetery in Shoreham.

Our Family would like to thank Community Health Center Shorewell, UVM Porter Medical Center, Addison County Home Health & Hospice, family members, and her friends for helping, with her care. In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be made to; Addison County Home Health & Hospice or Shoreham Fire & Rescue.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon. ◊

Joyce Zwickel, 90, formerly of New Haven and Middlebury

MYSTIC, Conn. — Joyce (née Herbert) Zwickel, 90, passed peacefully on June 14, 2025, at her home in Mystic, Conn. with her family by her side, surrounding her with deep love, heartfelt gratitude and a lifetime of treasured shared

Joyce loved people, and loved her family fiercely. Born in Buffalo, N.Y, on May 5, 1935, to Richard and Clara Herbert, she often told childhood stories about WWII and the impacts on home, from wartime drills and victory gardens to rationing, but the biggest impact was learning how people had been affected. Social justice has always been integral to Joyce: reaching out and befriending a young immigrant child sitting alone on the schoolyard bench during childhood; collaborating with and befriending people of all backgrounds during her time working in a cancer lab in college; connecting with people of all races throughout her life. Joyce believed that people should be treated with dignity, fairness, equality and kindness, and befriended people from all walks of life.

A brilliant student, Joyce graduated top of her class at the University of Buffalo in chemistry, and headed to the University of Chicago for graduate school, where she received a master's degree in chemistry. Joyce was in the PhD program, but her studies were interrupted when her father fell ill, and she helped her mother with his care until he passed. Returning to the University of Chicago, her friendship with Allan Zwickel blossomed into the love of her life, and in 1959 they decided to start their lives together, marrying on the same day that Al received his PhD! Al secured a teaching position at the University of Florida in Tallahassee, and off they went. However, disturbed by the segregation prevalent in the South in the late 1950s/early 1960s, they soon moved north to Massachusetts with a 7-month-old baby (Cassandra) and a large dog in tow, and Al became a professor of chemistry at Clark University. They had a second baby (Gwen) and found a colonial-era home



JOYCE ZWICKEL

which they restored and enjoyed for many years.

In 1974, Joyce and Al decided to move further north yet, where they ran a general store, The Village Green Market, in the center of New Haven, Vt. Sadly, not long after this move, Al was diagnosed with throat cancer, and Joyce took care of him when he was ill, ran the store and raised their teenage daughters until he passed three years later at the age of 42. Our family is forever grateful for the deep kindness the people of New Haven, Vt. showed us during this very diffcult time. Joyce made many friends in the community and continued to run the store for a number of years, before she eventually decided to sell the store and move to Middlebury, Vt., where she became an offce manager for a local woodworking company, Brown Novelty. She was always delighted to run into people she knew from her years in New Haven.

Joyce enjoyed hikes, craft shows, local theatre, music, and travel, but most of all spending time with her family in both Vermont and Connecticut. She was very close with the extended families that each of her daughters married into, and enjoyed many family celebrations and vacations with them. Joyce spent her final years near her family in Connecticut.

In the words of her granddaughter Bethany, and speaking for all of us: "A paragon of unflinching strength and fearless compassion, you showed me the beauty in being human, to care and to comfort, to fight for family in sun and in storm. Kindness is your legacy, and I hope to leave the same imprint on the world. Queen of our clan, blood of my blood, home of my heart, we followed you till the end. Love you, Grandma, forever and for always."

Resilient, flexible, and ever

grateful for her life, Joyce rose to every challenge with strength, kindness and grace, finding joy in everything from a beautiful scene in nature to a good book, flowers in her garden, theatre with her daughters, playing with her grandchildren and after they grew up, her great-grandchildren, listening to a variety of music, art, and crafts. We will end this as we started - with her guiding spirit and fierce love for her family. Over the years, when Joyce would see herself do something her own mom would have done, she'd smile and say, "There you are, Mom." We will carry you in our hearts, look for those moments when we see you in us or your descendants, and smile and whisper, "There you are,

A special and heartfelt Thank You to the staff at Masonicare for their exceptional care and compassion over her final years.

Joyce is lovingly remembered her daughter Cassandra and husband John Ciullo of East Haddam, Conn.; daughter Gwen Zwickel of Addison, Vt.; granddaughter Bethany Ciullo and great-grandchildren Sadie and Cody Sottini of Colchester, Conn.; granddaughter Brittany Ciullo and husband Canaan Gifford of Amherst, Mass.; and granddaughter Emily Tichonuk and fiancé Boris Shirman of Brooklyn, N.Y. She was predeceased by her beloved and dearly missed husband Allan Zwickel.

A private memorial service will be held by the family at a later date.

Joyce cared deeply about this world, the environment and people. Donations in Joyce's memory are appreciated at Vermont Land Trust, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, or the charity of your

Judy Bissonette, 69, of Bristol

JUDY BISSONETTE

team with unwavering dedication.

something she proudly shared with

Judy was also the family's

go-to source of information. She

had a remarkable memory and

always seemed to know every

detail-birthdays, anniversaries,

family events, and the latest news.

She kept everyone connected and

informed, and her thoughtfulness

brought a sense of comfort and

once you were her friend, you were

a friend for life—essentially family.

Her friendships were marked by

deep care, untiring support, and

a generosity of spirit that made

A loyal friend, Judy believed that

family and friends.

unity to the family.

BRISTOL — It is with deep sorrow and love that we announce the passing of Judy Bissonette, who passed away on June 12, 2025, at the University of Vermont Medical Center. She was 69 years old.

Judy was born on Aug. 18, 1955, in Middlebury, Vt. Throughout her life, she was a devoted daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, and friend. Known for her strong spirit, generous heart, and quick wit, Judy brought warmth and strength to everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

A lifelong and passionate fan of the Boston Red Sox, Judy never missed a game. Whether it was a midsummer matchup or a nailbiting playoff run, she followed her



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She is survived by the father of her children, Peter Bissonette; her beloved children, Heidi (Kyle) Giroux, Andrew Bissonette (Brittany Winegar); and her treasured grandchildren, Wyatt, Jaxon, and Carsyn. She is also survived by her siblings, David (Jackie) Jerome, Jane Coffin, and Paul (Alicia) Jerome, as well as many nieces, nephews, and close

Judy was predeceased by her parents, Richard and Veronica Jerome; her sister and brother-in-Baseball brought her great joy, law Debbie and Ralph Lang; her and her love for the game was brother-in-law, David Coffin; and her nephew, Jody Cousino.

Judy will be remembered for her fierce love of family, her quiet strength, and her unwavering support for those she loved. She found joy in life's simple moments—watching a ball game, spending time with her friends and family, or enjoying a good beer. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

A celebration of life to Judy will be held on June 28, at Bristol American Legion Post 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Judy's memory to the American those around her feel cherished and Lung Association. ◊

Conrad Little, 74, formerly of Middlebury

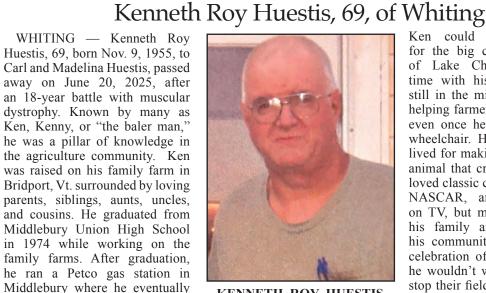
PORTLAND, Ore. — The family of Conrad Little is sad to announce the passing of our brother — Conrad Aimee Little, 74 years old, born in Middlebury, Vt. to Majorie and Kenneth Little, he died at his home in Portland,

Ore. of natural causes on May 6,

Burial services will take place on Sept. 9, 2025. At 11 a.m. ET at

Catholic Cemetery (St Peter) in Vergennes, Vt., 140 South Maple St. Vergennes, Vt. 05491.

He is survived by his brother -Richard Little and sister -Beverely Little. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony in the St Peters Parish Hall.



KENNETH ROY HUESTIS

at Hendy Bros. in Middlebury, Vt. for the remainder of his career. His specialty was anything John Deere or Claas, but he would tinker on anything he could get his hands on. After his official retirement,

Ken could be found fishing for the big catch on the banks of Lake Champlain, spending time with his grandchildren, or still in the middle of a hay field helping farmers repair equipment, even once he was confined to a wheelchair. He had a talent and lived for making friends with any animal that crossed his path. He loved classic cars, classic tractors, NASCAR, and good westerns on TV, but most of all he loved his family and the support of his community. There will be a celebration of life in the fall, as he wouldn't want any farmers to stop their field work to remember him. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in his memory to Addison County Benefit Pull at PO Box 126, Vergennes, Vt. 05491 to help assist other families in our community like those that helped him. ◊

Addison Independent Obituary Policy

print them, as long as they com. Families may opt for

met and married the mother of

his daughters. As he was, Ken

raised his kids between Bridport

and New Haven on the farm.

Ken would move on from Petco

to work for Cartmell's Sales and

Service before ultimately landing

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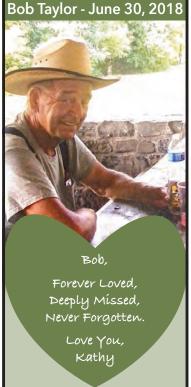
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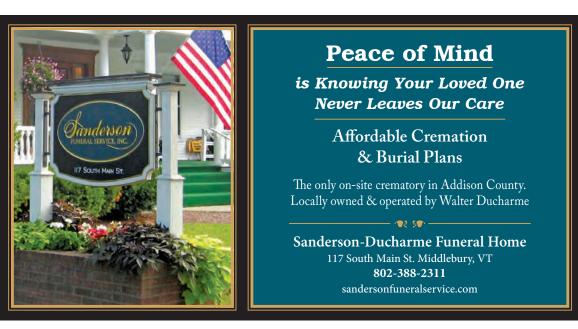
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ADDY INDY AG PAGES

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Addison native wears many crowns

Sophia Parker was named Miss Vermont 2025, but Miss Do-it-all seems more fitting

"The position of Miss

they want to be. I

mean, I'm a soldier,

a wildlife rehabber, a

Vermont. I do a million

weird things that make

nurse, and I'm Miss

no sense with each

it's all about.'

other, but that's what

— Sophia Parker

women can be anyone

BY PAIGE HESCOCK

ADDISON — Sophia Parker of Addison was crowned this year's Miss Vermont back in May, but the honor isn't the only thing keeping her busy.

Parker works as a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at the University of Vermont Medical Center and serves as a medic for the Vermont Army National Guard, while also operating Otter Creek Wildlife Rescue with her mother.

"It is a lot, so I would like to say one of her teachers at Vergennes

my sleep schedule is ideal and I always get eight hours of sleep, but unfortunately that's not the case," Parker said in a recent interview with the Independent.

"Ever since I was in high school, I've always had a job and then during college, I worked full-time doing home care as well as working with the National Guard

I'm pretty experienced at juggling a lot of different things."

But Parker doesn't accomplish everything on her own as she commends the huge support system she has: "I've been very blessed to have some extremely supportive bosses, professors and family like my mom will pick up the slack with the animals when I'm super

busy with Miss Vermont things or with working in the army."

Parker's love for animals began at a very young age where she always had an abundance of empathy for little critters.

"I was always that kid, even at like 2 years old, who would go outside and play in the field and come back with an injured baby mouse or an orphan baby bird, just anything that needed help.'

That's why Parker was taken by surprise when, at just 15 years old,

High School unexpectedly approached her and asked if she'd Vermont is to show that consider running for Miss Vermont's Outstanding Teen.

"At the time, I honestly looked at her like she was crazy. I was this little tomboy that climbed trees, hung out with boys next door on the farm, and helped wounded animals."

As a young girl, while being in nursing school, so who never wore makeup or did her hair, Parker at first couldn't picture herself entering a beauty pageant, let alone running for Miss Vermont's Teen. But even though she saw herself as a scared and nervous teenager who didn't know what to expect, she embraced the idea and the pageant as a new learning curve in her life.

The experience also changed her

perspective of the Miss Vermont Scholarship Organization. feel like it's really centered on empowering people, building public speaking capabilities, interview capabilities, confidence, and just having the ability to put yourself together for any situation. It's not really about fitting into a

While in the past, beauty pageants faced criticism for forcing women to fit into beauty standards, Parker refutes that idea, emphasizing instead that "the position of Miss Vermont is to show that women can be anyone they want to be."

"I mean, I'm a soldier, a wildlife rehabber, a nurse, and I'm Miss Vermont. I do a million weird things that make no sense with each other, but that's what it's all about."

Now as Miss Vermont, Parker wants to use her platform to the fullest by educating others on wildlife rehabilitation.

Parker's mom has been a licensed rehabber since Parker was 10 years old, and their Otter Creek Wildlife Rescue became a 501(c) (3) just a few years later.

'We have had the opportunity to work with just the most amazing network of other rehabbers, transporters, law enforcement, game wardens, veterinarians, and volunteers. They are simply the most phenomenal network of people and it's so inspiring to me - it restores my faith in humanity every day, to get calls from people all over the state who take the time out of their day to rescue either a baby mouse or an injured owl and to help transport it to a better place.'

But Parker shares that there are



SOPHIA PARKER OF Addison, smiles while holding a barred owl for the camera. Crowned Miss Vermont in May, she balances her pageant duties with serving as a medic in the Vermont Army National Guard and rehabilitating injured wildlife.

Photos / Jon Adams and Julianna Parker

more injured animals than there are people to help them. "We are on the front lines of it, getting 30 calls a day from people with creatures who need help and not having enough rehabbers to send them to."

Through her new title, Parker aspires to work with legislators and other organizations like Protect Our Wildlife to petition the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department to

allow more people to earn their wildlife rehabilitation licenses. As part of that mission, she's eager

to raise awareness through public engagement. She looks forward to the many public appearances that she'll be making — whether she's attending a golf tournament for the Rotary Club or speaking at her local library. "I want to say yes to everything," she says.







Improvements

(Continued from Page 2A)

construction project; landscaping of the new town offices; and Wi-Fi for the Triangle Park and the Town Green areas.

The DID encompasses 114 properties that are subject to the special tax. The parameters of the district can be found within the ordinance, which must be renewed every seven years. The latest renewal petition bore more than the requisite 67 signatures (of downtown property owners) required to make it legal. Check out the ordinance at tinyurl.com/ yk8v79xs.

take on based on available funds. In what has been a growing trend of appointed civic positions being hard to fill in municipalities throughout the region, the DIDC has carried multiple vacancies and thus hasn't been as active of late.

But that changed this year, when the town successfully filled all six

posts. Current members include Stacey Rainey (chair), Bruce Baker, Beth Bluestein, Selectman Dan Brown, Victoria Jette and Lorraine Tobias (vice chair).

"(Middlebury Town Manager Mark Pruhenski) is working really well with the reconstituted DIDC; I think there's a lot of commitment, activity and engagement to get a lot of projects going forward," said Kelly Flynn, co-director of the Better Middlebury Partnership, a nonprofit group that works with the DIDC for the betterment of the downtown area.

Rainey was unavailable for Each year, the six-member comment for this story. But in DIDC recommends projects to recent communications with Flynn, she confirmed plans for a DIDC survey of the community to gauge public opinion on priority projects for downtown. Plans call for the DIDC to discuss survey results at their next (Aug. 4) meeting.

Rainey has stated she'd like to see the commission meet on a quarterly basis.

Flynn was asked what DID investments she'd like to see. Speaking as a person who works and shops in Middlebury, Flynn said she'd like to see more investment in public art and creative wayfinding tools.

"Also, places to gather where all feel welcome and making the downtown look beautiful and comfortable," she added.

So what happens next with the ordinance?

Middlebury Assistant Town Manager David Sophrin said the selectboard must go through a statutory process of printing the ordinance as a legal in the Independent, then hold a public hearing, followed by a vote on either July 8 or 22.

John Flowers is at johnf@ addisonindependent.com.



Middlebury • Vergennes www.Hare.dog

Rail updates

(Continued from Page 3A)

primarily due to more transport of nonmetallic materials and lumber and wood products. Food and similar products were also predicted to nearly triple over the next two decades.

With the backdrop of increased passenger traffic and the projected increase in freight traffic, VTrans held its third public meeting to discuss the 2025 update of the Rail Plan.

Over 30 people participated in that final hearing. They represented municipalities, regional planning commissions, businesses, organizations from inside and outside of Vermont, and the Vermont Rail Advisory Council.

Comments focused on the following themes:

Concern about the resilience of the railways against storm and flood damage, a factor in both passenger and rail freight. Vermont was ranked fifth among the 50 states for the number of disaster declarations between 2011 and 2024. In 2024, storms were estimated to have done over \$500,000 in damage to the rail system even though repairs from the previous year holding up well. The state has been working to identify areas with the greatest

Passenger rail's role in supporting Vermont's tourism markets strengthening of the plan. and

between connections local Combined the communities. Vermonter and the Ethan Allen Express lines cover 910 miles, and the appendix of the 2025 Rail Plan includes discussion about bringing back Amtrak service to Bennington County.

Requests from the public for better connections with bus services and other transit options to better allow people who don't have access to private vehicles to reach train stations, improvements to station parking, and better pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Concerns about the safety around high-speed trains, specific railroad crossings, possible hazardous materials carried by freight trains, and noise impacts on communities. Section 4.1 of the proposed new plan outlines that the Rail Program will continue to prioritize and coordinate highwayrail at-grade crossings, including safety improvements funded under the Railway-Highway Crossing Improvements Program.

For those with questions, VTrans has created an interactive webtool located on their "Reports and Plans" page that allows viewers to explore preliminary draft recommendations in the context of various layers of maps to which they can provide comments. Also available to citizens is a story map with a summary of the draft of the 2025 Rail Plan and the actual draft



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worldnotes123@gmail.com

County towns win planning grants

ADDISON COUNTY - Gov. and develop plans to revitalize the feasibility of a Community Phil Scott and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) last week announced that 46 Vermont communities — including four in Addison County — will share \$1,002,329 in grants that must be used to write and update town plans and bylaws, plan for public space improvements, explore opportunities for new homes, and create resilience plans to combat

the high cost of extreme weather. "Municipal Planning Grants demonstrate how small investments can make a big difference," Gov. Scott said in a press release. "This funding is a powerful tool that helps towns identify their needs their communities.'

The local winners of this year's Municipal Planning Grants are: • Bridport will use its \$15,105 grant to update the town plan to

meet state planning goals, embrace Act 181 land use reforms and create needed housing opportunities in Bridport's Village Center. Total Project Cost: \$16,794 • Lincoln will use its \$17,880

grant for a comprehensive update to unify its zoning and subdivision regulations to align with town plan policies and recent statutory legislation. Total Project Cost: \$19,869.

• Starksboro will use its \$11.407 grant to conduct a study exploring

Land Trust to spur affordable housing in their rural community. Total Project Cost: \$12,675.

• Vergennes will use its \$22,275 grant to create the Veterans Park Master Plan to develop a comprehensive roadmap for revitalizing the park into a safe, accessible and multi-use recreation hub. Total Project Cost: \$24,750.



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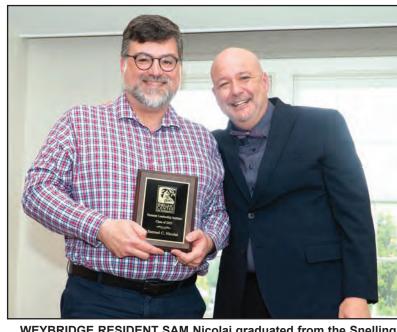


Nicolai earns degree from Snelling Center

WEYBRIDGE — Sam Nicolai of Weybridge graduated from the Snelling Center for Government at a ceremony at Basin Harbor of May

Nicolai is currently the VP of Engineering and Compliance at Casella Waste Systems. As a participant in the Vermont Leadership Institute, Nicolai joined 21 other leaders from around the state for a unique series of eight overnight sessions designed to foster meaningful relationships and explore some of the most important issues facing Vermont. With session themes including personal leadership adaptation, complex systems thinking, public policy, innovation, and leadership paradigms that actively promote diversity, equity and inclusion for all Vermonters, the program challenges and supports participants to develop self-awareness and acquire knowledge and skills that result in strong, effective leadership and thoughtful action.

Graduation as the With culmination of the VLI journey, this year's keynote address was delivered by Robert Miller (VLI '98), President and COO of the EastRise Credit Union. He urged folks to assume positive intent, be thoughtful, be human, be real, and



WEYBRIDGE RESIDENT SAM Nicolai graduated from the Snelling Center for Government's Vermont Leadership Institute at a ceremony at Basin Harbor on May 31.

share that realness with others. Miller explained that leaders must embrace change and empower people around them to make decisions based on fact and perspective.

The Class of 2025 is the 30th graduating class and Nicolai now joins a professional network of over 1,100 Vermont Leadership Network Alumni, including more than 750 VLI graduates who are positively influencing Vermont's future in business, public policy, education, community development and a wide range of volunteer and nonprofit sector roles.

To learn more about the Vermont Leadership Institute and the Snelling Center's other professional development programs, please visit www.snellingcenter.org or call 802-

Man cited for domestic assault

Based on press releases issued by the VSP's New Haven Barracks during the past week, state police.

• Cited Aaron D. Clements, 33, who state police said is a transient, for domestic assault, after responding to a report of an altercation near the intersection of Routes 7 and 17 in New Haven at around 10:38 p.m. on June 21.

Through their investigation, troopers are alleging that Clements "caused bodily injury to a household member.

Clements was taken into custody for domestic assault and subsequently lodged at the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility for lack of \$25,000 bail.

· Cited Steven Barrera, 26, of Vergennes, for driving under the of Rutland City, for impersonating

WORCESTER, Mass. — Almost

1,200 undergraduate students at

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

completed a senior capstone

thesis that is required of all

university's distinctive project-based

educational experience. Known as

Major Qualifying Projects, these

experiences in the students' fields

of study that challenge students

to solve the kind of problem they

would typically encounter in their

Four Addison County students

in WPI's class of 2025 have

completed their MQPs, including

Reagan Kayhart of North

professional discipline.

the following:

professional-level research

Vt. State Police Log

criminally suspended license, following an investigation of a one-vehicle crash off Lapham Bay Road in Shoreham at around 11:10 p.m. on June 21. State police at the scene found an injured Barrera and noted his 2009 Chevy had collided with a utility pole.

Further investigation determined Barrera was impaired, according to state police. Barrera was taken to UVM Medical Center for treatment of "suspected serious injuries."

• Cited Brittany L. Fitzgerald, 34, influence and operating with a another in an application; and

Students complete their final projects

ADDISON

COUNTY

Alexis Lynne Fitzgerald, 26, also of Rutland City, for violation of her conditions of release, following a traffic stop at the intersection of Route 7 and Little Chicago Road in Ferrisburgh at around 5:45 p.m.

During the stop, state troopers said they discovered Brittany Fitzgerald had allegedly registered a vehicle using a name that wasn't her own. Brittany Fitzgerald wasn't in the vehicle at the time of the traffic stop but was later found and cited, according to VSP.

Further investigation revealed that Alexis Lynne Fitzgerald allegedly the driver at the time of the stop — had violated her court ordered conditions of release at the time of the stop, according to state

majoring

Mechanical Engineering, completed

a project titled "Developing Hybrid

Renewable Solutions for Residential

MPQs are usually team-based

and often focus on specific issues

or needs of an organization that

has partnered with the university

to sponsor the students' work. In

addition to providing practical work

experience that proves valuable to

future employers, MQPs often lead

to publications in peer-reviewed

journals, presentations at regional

and national conferences, patents,

Others become useful innovations

and products for their corporate

entrepreneurial ventures.

City tax rate

(Continued from Page 1A) City officials estimate that rate is the equivalent of a tax rate increase of about 2.2 cents, although the previous rate was \$1.07.

Why? Vergennes earlier this year completed a citywide reappraisal of its property that increased assessments dramatically, and higher property assessments mean lower rates can raise the same amount of money.

A 2.2-cent municipal increase would translate into an additional \$22 per \$100,000 of assessed value, or \$66 on a \$300,000 home.

Earlier this year, the Addison Northwest School District released school tax estimates for district communities that included an 18cent drop for Vergennes. The new rate is like to have a comparable impact, but will come with a lower

Basically all of the higher spending is due to a new union contract for the city's well-regarded Vergennes police department, which is driving a 10.5% increase in the department's budget to \$1,419,673.

That contract, arrived at after talks both sides called friendly and collaborative, provides for raises of between 14% and 28%, with the larger percentages at the higher end of the scale.

Union negotiator Sgt. Mark Barber and Mayor Chris Bearor said the wage hikes simply brought Vergennes in line with other communities, with Barber citing Milton and Brandon as examples.

"Our biggest goal was to remain competitive with other agencies for recruitment and retention, not just for right now, but for the long-term future of the department," Barber

Barber said he and others in the union were happy to work on a compromise with health insurance

benefits once wages were worked

"We still have the coverage, but they also have some substantial savings," he said. "It was a good give and take for both sides, and everybody is happy with it."

Bearor said city officials agreed the Vergennes department's wages and benefits should be in line with those in the rest of the state.

"That's a big step increase for them for pay, and we're still not on the top of the pay scale," Bearor said. "But they're happy with it. They're happy with the contract, and we're very happy we worked good together on that.

The department is also finally adding a seventh officer, a position that is partially funded by a fouryear, \$125,000 grant. The city plans to spread that funding out over the course of three years, and will use an outlay in the coming year of \$34,722.

The tougher problem the council faced on Tuesday was how to pay for a badly needed new winter materials shed for the public works department. City officials had decided to abandon a partially funded replacement shed once the price tag topped \$1.1 million.

DPW head Jim Larrow brought in an estimate for a more reasonable \$300,000, but the city also still owed the state of Vermont \$75,000 for designing the original project.

Bearor said the council solved the problem by voting to take a \$300,000 emergency loan from the city's Water Tower Fund, which is fed by cellphone companies who lease space for broadcast equipment on the city's former water tower. He said there are options to pay off that loan that include bonding or "paying ourselves back over a five-or-10-year period."

The council also decided to fund several items with the city's

remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money, including the payment to the state for the shed design, a police cruiser, trucks for the sewer and public works departments, and \$125,000 for paving, and \$30,000 for sidewalk

Those decisions dropped what had been a possible estimated tax rate increase of up to 6 cents down to around 2.2 cents, Bearor said.

"We felt that was a fair number," he said.

Other than the police department, spending was lower, in part due to the investment of the Watershed and ARPS funding.

- · Public works spending for FY26 was approved at \$862,152, down \$102,000 from FY25. The infusion of ARPA funding from the Biden administration was a major factor in the decrease.
- Administration spending was set at \$543,822, down from \$616,504. The combination of the city clerk and treasurer into one position was largely responsible for the lower number.
- Fire department spending was back to \$352,548. The city's share remained unchanged at \$132,000.
- Recreation spending rose a little more than \$8,000 to \$171,160, and the pool budget decreased by about \$4,000 to \$114.660.

Bearor said the council ended up making few cuts to proposed spending.

"I feel very good about this budget. We've moving the city forward, and that's what I really like. We're trying to do what the city needs every year and not cut budgets just because of the tax rate," he said. "We're trying to find new ways to pay for everything, because for the most part, everyone seems to be liking the way the city

New Haven

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

NEW HAVEN — The New Haven Congregational Church invites occupation. children ages 4-12 to "Spirited!", a free 8-week evening camp held Wednesdays, 4–8 pm, July 2– August 20. Through storytelling, active games, nature, and service projects, we explore God's love as inclusive, creative, and justicecentered—open to all children and families. Each session also includes a kid-friendly meal. Spirited! is led by pastor and experienced educator Abigail Diehl-Noble and a team of Vermont fiddle tunes. volunteers. Parents are welcome to drop off and have an evening to themselves. Camp is free as a gift to

the New Haven community! Learn more and register at https:// forms.gle/Jxirxst28Q3xL5kg8

CHURCH HONORS HOMER HULBERT

Save the Date: Special Service at New Haven Mills "From New Haven to Korea: Small-Town Faith and Global Courage.

Join us Sunday, July 20 at 10 a.m. at the Union Church of New Haven Mills for a special service honoring Homer Hulbert (1863-1949), a New Haven native who became a teacher, linguist, missionary, writer, and national hero in Korea for his peaceful advocacy of Korean independence during the Japanese

Homer's father, pastor of New Haven Congregational Church from 1859-1869, and later president of Middlebury College, also helped start Beeman Academy, where Homer studied. This moving celebration will include a guest from the Homer Hulbert Memorial Society in Korea, Korean folk music Hulbert helped arrange, and traditional

All are welcome to this celebration of local history, music, and faith. Come experience how small-town roots can inspire global impact. Light refreshments will follow the service.

LIBRARY NEWS

From Earth to Earth: The Lost Art of Dying in America, July 2, 6-7 p.m. This is a short (20 min) documentary describing natural burial and its benefits through stories from the people who worked to make it legal in Vermont, and the stories of people whose experiences have shown ways it can help come to terms with the loss of a loved one and with one's own mortality. The documentary will be followed by a Q&A session led by Jim Hogle,

president of the Vermont Forestry Cemetery.

CHESS CLUB

Learn to play, sharpen your skills, or just enjoy playing chess. Led by Maggie Platzer. Open to ages 8 and up. At the library Wednesdays 3-5 **VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.**

CHICKEN BBQ

Whoops. We got the wrong date in the last news report. This year's BBQ is Saturday, June 28. Meals are TO GO ONLY starting at 5 p.m. \$15 dollars for a half of chicken (donated by Misty Knoll Farm), baked beans, potato salad (made by VGM) and a roll.

Pick up will be at the New Haven Town Hall next to the school. Traffic will loop around the parking lots and driveways so customers can remain in their cars. Please have exact change or check ready when you arrive.

WELCOME MAUSD ELP SUMMER PROGRAM

The MAUSD program will be happening at Beeman this summer! The community welcomes students and their families to New Haven for the next several weeks! Please drive carefully by the school and in the lots by the ball fields and library!

Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom name scholarship recipients

WAITSFIELD — Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2025 Eunice B. Farr Incentive Award scholarships. This

Ferrisburgh, an Aerospace

School News

Engineering major, completed a graduating seniors as part of the project titled "Design and Analysis of a Missile and High-Powered Rocket."

Spencer Doran of Middlebury, a Biomedical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering major, completed a project titled "3D Printing Based Silicone Earmold Mold Fabrication."

William Crawford of Ferrisburgh, majoring in Environmental Engineering, completed a project titled "Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Mitigation at WPI."

Milligan Fraser

sponsors.

Middlebury,

Living."

year's recipients from area schools

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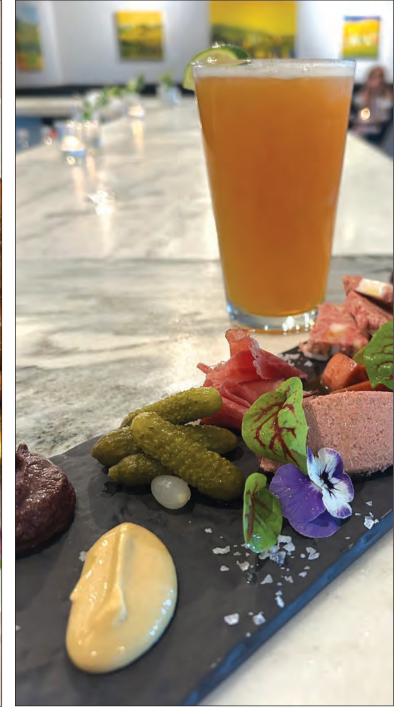
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ORGANIZERS OF THE planned Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area are pleased to report good progress on the 2-acre spot next to Bingham Memorial School. Planners just won a \$15,000 grant to help build a walking path, one of several amenities to be offered at the site.

Photo courtesy of Robert Isenberg

Cornwall rec area lands grant

By JOHN FLOWERS

CORNWALL Local shepherds of the planned Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area (CORA) continue to win grants to help build out the estimated \$450,000 project. Backers of the 2-acre park just south of the town's elementary school plan for its two acres to eventually offer pollinator gardens, an ADA-compliant walking path, pickleball and tennis courts, and other amenities.

The latest \$15,000 grant comes through the AARP's 2025 Community program.

That award will cover around two-thirds of the cost of the planned accessible walking path, a half-mile, 6-feet-wide route made of packed stone that will be accessible to all folks, including those in wheelchairs.

Funding and sitework are proceeding so smoothly on CORA that organizers are planning a mid-October ribbon-cutting ceremony at the property.

"Things are moving along well," said CORA Committee member Stan Grzyb, though he added, "It's been tougher lately with all the

The progress is a product of the hard work of CORA volunteers, the generosity of the community, and grants — donors have ponied up more than \$100,000 for the project

Last year, the CORA group used \$21,000 in local gifts to leverage

& Community Development. The Addison Community Athletics Foundation provided a \$7,000 gift, to go along with another \$70,000 from Cornwall's cut of American Rescue Plan Act money.

The biggest project assist the Vermont came through Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) Community Grant Program, which will reimburse CORA expenses up to \$248,231.

CORA was one of around 4,000 applicants nationwide for Challenge grant a cut of the \$4.2 million AARP was making available for "quickaction projects aimed at making communities more livable for people of all ages, with a focus on the needs of older adults," according to a recent AARP press release announcing the Vermont awards. CORA was one of just 383 awardees spread throughout all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin

> "AARP Vermont is proud to work with communities across the state to help make them more livable for people of all ages," said Kelly Stoddard Poor, AARP Vermont Associate State Director of Outreach. "These projects are about turning great local ideas into real improvements that make everyday life better, especially for older Vermonters.'

Other Vermont AARP grant the North Branch Pedestrian Bridge a \$40,000 grant through the in Montpelier, improvements Vermont Department of Housing (including kiosks and way-finding

\$28,500 Donated to Local Charities in 2024

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signs) to the Poultney River Loop, enhancements (a pollinator garden and wheelchair-accessible tables) for Lyndon's Bandstand Park, and safety upgrades at key downtown crosswalks in Randolph.

The new CORA walking path, once complete, will encircle the property and connect to its designated parking area and the adjacent Bingham Memorial

Folks traveling past the CORA site during the past three months have seen workers lay the foundation of a public amenity that will please young and old. Phase one work at this early stage has centered on installing a stormwater system and electrical conduits for lighting, and preparing spots for the parking lot and pavilion. Soon, work will begin in earnest on a kiosk, the walking trail, a pollinator garden and the tennis and pickleball courts.

A local contractor will soon bring in 35 different varieties of trees to plant on the CORA property.

Phase two will include building the picnic pavilion, a bocce ball court and a horseshoe/cornhole pitch, and paving the ADAcompliant parking lot.

Grzyb noted the logs for the future pavilion are currently being milled, in anticipating of a "community barn raising" event for the new structure next spring.

To learn more about CORA or winners included a lighting plan for to contribute to the project, go to

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Housing

(Continued from Page 1A) cities like Vergennes, where 30% of residents are cost burdened, meaning they spend one-third of their income on rent and housing costs. In Vergennes, 15% of residents spend half their income on housing costs.

"Vermont's housing shortage remains a critical driver of inflation, workforce shortages, and economic strain." Pieciak said.

Vergennes Grand Senior Living was one beneficiary of the 10% in Vermont program. In 2023, the assisted living facility received a \$5 million loan from the state through Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) to construct 65 additional assisted living and senior housing units, including those available to moderate- and lowincome Vermonters.

Rebecca Hassan, the COO and co-owner of Grand Senior Living, said that about 40% of

the senior residents are enrolled in the Choices for Care program, Vermont's Medicaid funded program that subsidizes care for older Vermonters.

"The 10% in Vermont program was what determined whether our expansion project could move forward," Hassan said.

Assisted living and senior care facilities are an important investment for the state to make. Not only do they provide specialized care for older Vermonters, but expanding the state's assisted living capacity frees up much needed housing stock for Vermont families and new workers.

"That's the exact kind of ripple effect we need more of," Pieciak

The Treasurer said this new round of investment will likely follow a similar framework to the \$84 million in investments made since 2023, with the state loaning money to trusted partners like VEDA and local banks, who will then disburse low interest loans to local developers across the state.

"The developers will find a thirdparty intermediary like a credit union or local bank and apply to the state. This gives us the ability to make long term investments in communities with little risk," Pieciak said.

The new investments will prioritize projects led by nonprofits, municipalities and partners who are deeply involved in their local communities. In the coming weeks, the treasurer's office will hold public forums across the state to hear from communities about their needs and priorities.

"What's good about our money is because we have that flexibility, we can help create workforce housing and affordable housing in a way that other housing providers can't," Pieciak said.

Deaths

(Continued from Page 1A) He immediately began to struggle in

the water, according to witnesses. Bystanders were unable to pull him from the river, according to

Multiple fire and rescue agencies responded to emergency calls, including technical rescue, and responders recovered Menjwak's body from the river at about 8 p.m., state police reported.

There are no indications this incident was suspicious, according to authorities.

Menjwak's body was taken to the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington for an autopsy to determine cause and manner of death. Bartlett's Falls, while scenic and

refreshing on a hot day, has claimed several lives through the years through various swimming, diving and jumping accidents.

The second drowning fatality occurred in Lake Champlain, offshore from the Basin Harbor Club in Ferrisburgh, on Tuesday night, June 24.

Police received a report at about 9:25 p.m. that a 30-year-old man who'd been swimming in the lake had gone under the water and had not resurfaced. Responding crews located the man in the water and brought him to shore. Lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful, and he

was pronounced dead at about 10:10

Police identified the deceased as Darren Kemp, a native of South Africa who'd been living and working at the Basin Harbor Club this summer.

Kemp's body was taken to the Vermont Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington for an autopsy to determine the cause and manner of death.

There are no indications this incident is suspicious, police said.

In addition to state police, responders to the incident included Addison, Charlotte, Ferrisburgh and Vergennes firefighters, and the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad.

MAUHS

(Continued from Page 1A) districts. That committee — created by H. 454 — is set to begin its work in August and is asked to come up with no more than three new school district boundary options for lawmakers to consider.

"The way I looked at it is you can either take a passive approach and just let this group do their work...or you can try to influence a little bit in terms of what are our values, how would we like to see those reflected in a new map," school board member and state Rep. Herb Olson said. "It's not just the maps, it's the whole 'how are the schools going to be operated and administered?' There's a lot of stuff going on...it's not just drawing lines on a map kind of thing."

Superintendent Patrick Reen noted that much of H. 454 is contingent on progress made by the redistricting task force and action taken by the Legislature to enact recommended new school district boundaries.

"Effectively if the new districts are not created then everything else in this (legislation) doesn't go away probably, but at least gets pushed back to some later date," he explained.

Reen highlighted other aspects of the legislation, including transitioning to a foundation formula to fund education in the state. That foundation formula, contingent upon the creation of new school districts, would allocate a base amount of \$15,033 per student to each school district.

"(The foundation formula) will

effectively mean less funds coming to Addison County than Addison County currently has coming in because we spend above that, which makes sense if you think about a leveling of the playing field, which is sort of the design of the foundation formula," Reen said. "Districts that spend more are going to be asked to spend less, we fall into that bucket, and the districts that have historically spent less are going to be spending more and there are districts that fall into that."

Reen noted that H. 454 also establishes class size minimums for students in grades 1-12 in the state's public schools.

"We've been tending to class size over the years already so we're pretty well positioned to fit pretty comfortably within that," he said of the class size minimums.

Reen acknowledged that many of the potential changes resulting from H. 454 would take effect in fiscal year 2029, though a lot of work would need to take place in the years leading up to then.

Olson and the school board's other Starksboro representatives suggested MAUSD officials take a proactive approach, such as by discussing what type of feedback they'd like to provide to the redistricting task force.

"I didn't mean that we would be sort of saying 'you should do this, you should do that' kind of thing, but within the charge of this commission I think they're going to be receptive to 'how do we want this to look," Olson said.

School board member Brad

Johnson noted MAUSD wouldn't be the only group to take such an approach. He pointed to some of his concerns with H. 454, such as issues

related to governance. "We have a hard enough time dealing with the nuances of developing our budget and the needs of our students, how does some big board all of a sudden decide how kids at (Monkton Central School) need to be programmed," he said.

School board member Kathi Apgar offered another perspective, particularly in regard to control of school district budgets.

"I see less and less control now. so as far as losing control, we've lost control a long time ago because we don't come at budget making anymore saying 'what's best for our district,' we come at it going, 'what can we afford here and how much is the state going to do for us," she said. "I don't think we're giving up anything we haven't already lost."

School board members highlighted other issues and concerns they'd like to see addressed, including maintaining a voice to advocate for MAUSD students inside of a potential new, larger district.

"For me, I want to advocate for our students and the culture of education that we have in our community," School board member Barbara Crandall said.

MAUSD officials discussed possible next steps, including meeting with school district officials from other learning communities in the Addison County area. MAUSD Board Chair Erin Jipner noted that school board chairs in other districts have expressed interest in working together.

"If this (MAUSD) board had any consensus about things they were interested in talking about or options they're interested in looking at, that might be a route to have sort of an Addison County voice," Jipner said.

Other school board members seemed supportive of talking with school officials in other learning communities across the county.

"If we could reach an Addison County consensus... just envision that, that's pretty powerful," Olson

Jipner suggested school board members follow up by sending her thoughts from the discussion, which she will condense into a list and bring to an upcoming meeting with other school board chairs in the area. What comes of that meeting could then help guide MAUSD officials' next steps, she



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4-6 pm

4-6 pm

Sunday, June 22 Tuesday, June 24 Wednesday, June 25

Saturday, June 21

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Man cited for active warrants

BRISTOL — Bristol police arrested and cited Timothy Taylor, 59, of Bristol following a June 6 traffic stop on Sugar Maple Lane, during which police determined Taylor had two active warrants and was driving without an interlock device.

Between May 25 and June 14 Bristol police completed 60 foot patrols and two car patrols, conducted 44 traffic stops, and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 21 times, at Bristol Elementary School 21 times and at local businesses 20 times.

Police also processed 34 fingerprint requests, helped one resident get into a locked vehicle, conducted one welfare check and responded to two alarms — one activated by a malfunction and another set off by accident.

In other recent activity, Bristol

• On May 25 received a report of a person violating a stalking order. An investigation is

ongoing. • On May 26 responded to a disabled vehicle at S 116 Road and Stoney Hill Road. Police found that the motorist was moving the vehicle when they arrived.

• On May 27 assisted the Bristol Public Works Department with traffic control on West Street while crews removed sand and stones from the roadway.

Bristol

Police Log

- On May 28 Bristol's community resource specialist completed outreach work with students at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School.
- On May 29 cited Corev Marshall, 25, of Hinesburg for driving with a criminally suspended license.
- On May 30 helped someone on Munsill Avenue with a potential
- On May 31 received a report of harassment by phone. An
- investigation is ongoing. • On June 1 received a mountain
- bike found on Mountain Street. • On June 2 assisted Bristol
- Elementary School with a truancy concern. • On June 2 responded to a noise
- disturbance on West Street. • On June 3 issued a violation to someone on Vincent Drive for
- failing to license a dog. • On June 4 responded to a family fight on Main Street. After investigating, police cited Christopher Roy, 31, of Bristol for
- domestic assault. • On June 4 responded to a twovehicle crash on Route 116.
- On June 4 responded to a report of vandalism on Airport Drive. An through the village. investigation is ongoing.

- On June 4 received a late report of a motor vehicle collision on Prince Lane.
- On June 5 assisted runners on West Street during the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Vermont.
- On June 5 received a report of a dog left unattended in a vehicle and determined the dog was not in
- · On June 6 assisted Bristol Elementary School with a truancy
- On June 8 responded to a report of a family fight on Firehouse Drive. Police determined there was no problem that rose to the level of an offense.
- On June 9 responded to a minor two-car crash on Main Street.
- On June 12 assisted Bristol Elementary School with traffic control during a school event on Mountain Street.
- On June 14 helped a disabled motorist on Lafayette Road in
- On June 14 responded to Spring Street for a dog at large. Police recognized the dog, returned the animal to its owner and issued a warning for dog at large.
- On June 14 joined the Bristol Fire Department in escorting the Mount Abe varsity softball team in their championship drive

LINCOLN FREE LIBRAR

Grab a book!

Lisa Nading, right, and Christine Birong-Smith, left, celebrate a new Little Free Library next to the pollinator garden by the Lincoln Town Hall. The effort was a joint project between the Lincoln Conservation Committee and the Lincoln Library.

Police look into burglary, arson

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police announced on June 21 that they are investigating — in concert with Vermont State Police and Castleton police — a connected burglary, stolen vehicle and an arson.

Police said they couldn't disclose many details due to the ongoing investigation, but noted the burglary occurred at an East Main Street home. They identified "store merchandise" as having been stolen.

Police said the related vehicle theft took place outside of Middlebury. That vehicle has been found, according to police.

The alleged arson fire took place inn Rutland County.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Helped resolve a family dispute at a Seminary Street residence on
- Responded to a domestic disturbance at a South Village EMS officials in responding to a
- Green residence on June 16. Received information June 16 about a local person potentially being in possession of illegal firearms. Police said federal authorities are handling the
- Responded to a report of a suicidal man in the Washington Street Extension area on June 16.

investigation.

- Responded to a report of a suicidal woman in the North Pleasant Street area on June 16.
- of a gun from a Perkins Lane residence on June 17.

Middlebury

Police Log

crash on Route 7 in New Haven on

- Responded to a report of a woman walking into traffic on Route 7 south on June 18.
- · Located a vulnerable adult on Seminary Street who had walked away from a group home on June
- · Helped VSP find a runaway juvenile in Middlebury on June 18.
- · Assisted with an emergency preparedness drill at Vergennes Primary Care on North Street in Vergennes on June 18.
- Gave a courtesy ride to a person in distress on Park Street at around 2 a.m. on June 18.
- · Assisted Middlebury Regional medical call on Creek Road on June 19
- Helped calm a dispute between parties involving in the purchase of skis on June 19.
- Gave a courtesy ride to a stranded person on Court Street Extension on June 19.
- · Responded to a report of a downed tree on North Pleasant Street on June 20. · Cited Jose Ramos-Gonzalez,
- 32, of Middlebury for driving • Investigated the reported theft under the influence following a stop on Court Street on June 20.
- Assisted Counseling Service • Helped VSP investigate a car of Addison County officials with a

client who had walked away from their home on June 20.

- · Responded to a report of a man causing a disturbance at an Exchange Street business on June
- Following the investigation of a traffic accident near the intersection of Route 7 and Foote Street, cited Crystal Hall, 45, of Middlebury for driving with a
- suspended license on June 20. • On June 21, looked into a report of reckless driving on Route 116, but were unable to locate the
- vehicle. · Helped a local resident who had an unwanted vehicle parked on their property on June 21.
- · Responded to a report of an unresponsive man in a vehicle parked near the intersection of Merchants Row and Main Street on June 21.
- · Cited Richard Tracey, 56, of Vergennes for driving under the influence, following a traffic stop near the intersection of Court Street and Charles Avenue at around 1:20 a.m. on June 21. Police alleged they measured Tracey's bloodalcohol content at 0.132%.
- · Assisted another state agency in gathering evidence from Porter Hospital on a potential sexual assault on June 22.
- Responded to a report of dogs inside a hot truck parked off Court Street on June 22. Officers spoke with owner of the vehicle and checked on the dogs, who they found to be happy and healthy.
- Conducted a foot patrol in the downtown area on June 23.

Sheriff's Log

ADDISON COUNTY Between June 15 and 21, the Addison County Sheriff's Department completed patrols in multiple towns, stopping 37 vehicles for various motor vehicle violations.

Also the department in Middlebury fingerprinted 19 people for background checks, and sent a new hire to a second week of training at the Police Academy in Pittsford.

On 6/15: Ferrisburgh — Provided security

for a special event at the Maritime Museum. On 6/16:

Middlebury — Provided security at a state building due to threats. Burlington — Assisted the

Chittenden County Sheriff's Department with a transport. New Haven — Provided a VIN

verification for a resident. On 6/17:

Provided Middlebury security at a state building due to threats.

Bennington — Assisted the Bennington County Sheriff's Department with a transport for a jury trial.

Addison Assisted Milton Police with attempting to locate a suspect from a hit and run crash.

Addison — Provided an escort for two oversized loads from the Crown Point Bridge to their final destination on Town Line Road.

Orwell — Assisted VSP with a call for a subject experiencing mental health issues.

Orwell — Received a call about three ATVs driving on Mt Independence Road. The ATVs were located and removed from the area. On 6/18:

Middlebury —

Provided security at a state building due to a threat. Bennington — Assisted the

Bennington County Sheriff's Department with a transport for a jury trial. On 6/19:

Bridport — Provided blue lights for a company that was working on power lines on Middle Road.

Middlebury Assisted back end of the vehicle on fire. The Middlebury PD with a response to an alarm. On 6/20:

Middlebury — Conducted a background investigation Cornwall — Assisted VSP with a

motorcycle crash on Route 125 Middlebury — Deputy Balestra graduated from the Level 2 academy in Pittsford. He will begin the next phase of training, which will take several months and include additional classes at the

Police Academy. Salisbury — Responded to a report of a vehicle fire on Route 7. Preliminary investigation revealed that the fire was most likely caused by a faulty catalytic converter, causing it to overheat and set the

operator, Francis Fielder (44) of Goshen, was arrested for driving with a criminally suspended Middlebury — Provided a

transport to Grace House in Rutland for a person that was arrested for DUI by the Middlebury Police On 6/21:

Middlebury — Assisted the Middlebury Police with a DUI

Weybridge — Provided traffic control assistance during a ceremony for the installation of a historical marker.

Leicester — Assisted VSP with a call on Route 7 for a person waving



Take note of fishing access restrictions

MONTPELIER the beginning of summer and swimming is not one of them. anglers fishing from shore, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife purchased and are maintained Department reminds

Swimming

access areas

is prohibited

due to safety

concerns and

because the

primary uses

of the fishing

for launching

and retrieving

motorboats

fishing.

and for shore

access areas is

at fishing

people that open fires and swimming are prohibited at all Vermont state fishing access areas.

Open fires and their remnants create unsafe areas for other anglers and boaters to use and enjoy. The remnants of these fires are also unhealthy for the animals and fish that live in adjacent waters. Fish and Wildlife cleans up the toxic waste left by open fires on state lands annually at considerable expense.

Swimming at fishing access areas is prohibited due to safety concerns and because the primary uses of the fishing access areas is for launching and retrieving motorboats and for shore fishing.

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department maintains 205 developed fishing access areas on lakes and rivers throughout the state. These areas have allowed

The access areas

> with funds derived from the sale of fishing licenses and motorboat registrations, well as a federal excise tax on fishing equipment, fishing tackle and gasoline for motorboats. These funding sources explicitly prohibit activities that are in conflict with fishing

> Fish and Wildlife regulations prohibit certain uses fishing access areas including, not limited to -

and boating.

swimming, littering, camping, picnicking, making a fire, parking of vehicles not related to priority uses, and commercial activity. Vermont State Game Wardens

will be strictly enforcing the rules at state fishing access areas this summer. Please help keep these areas clean and open for others to enjoy, and report violations to your local warden

With uses determined by law, and or use the anonymous Operation Game Thief online report form on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website. Time-sensitive violations should be called in to a local State Police radio dispatcher who can contact a warden.



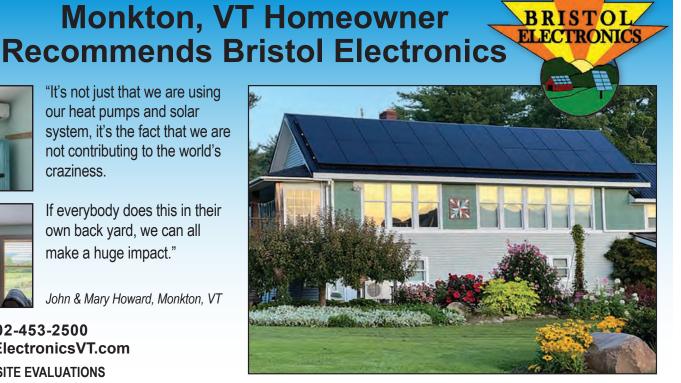
"It's not just that we are using our heat pumps and solar system, it's the fact that we are not contributing to the world's craziness.



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Growing season

(Continued from Page 1A) Spencer said.

"Things like the onions and cabbage that kind of like the cool weather have been thriving," he

He acknowledged the challenges that can come with a colder start to the growing season.

"We produce vegetables in a region that has a short growing season to begin with, so when we have a cool start things just don't get going as quickly, and we can't start making money as quickly. So it takes a little longer for the revenue to start coming in," Spencer said.

WET WEATHER

While weather has always been on the minds of farmers, local growers have had to contend with some particularly challenging weather over the past couple growing seasons, such as deluges and excessive rainfall.

"We've been relatively lucky," Spencer said of how Elmer Farm has fared in recent years. "We're not on a river so we don't get flooded, but 2023 was the first year we've ever seen our sales decrease as a result of the weather.'

He noted the farm received 30 inches of rain in six weeks that

"That was too much for anything to handle during that period, so we lost half an acre of lettuce crop and various other things that just didn't produce," he said.

Other local growers have been affected by wet weather in recent years. Kevin Bednar is co-owner of Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven. He said the vineyard has struggled during the wet seasons over the past couple years.

"Grapes are a particularly sensitive crop, and excessive rainfall is their biggest nemesis," he said. "We place a huge emphasis on carefully and strategically managing the canopy of the vines and the vineyard floor to maximize airflow and sunlight penetration and minimize fungal disease in these difficult seasons."

Bednar said that this year, the vines have been a bit stunted by the amount of water received during a wet start to the season.

"The constant rain and cooler weather can also lead to mildew on the sensitive new growth," he said. "Some vines are fighting phomopsis (a type of fungi) at the moment, but if we can just get some extended sun and warmth then everything should recover beautifully."

has impacted this year's crops.

"It's been a strange growing season so far, but strange is becoming normal. The weather has been variable with stretches of sun and heat followed by days of cold and mist," Bednar said. "The vines seem a bit confused and are a week or more behind last year. Bloom has just begun in the vineyard and it looks as though we'll have favorable conditions.

Bednar highlighted a couple of newer initiatives that have gotten off to a good start at the vineyard. Those include working with Werner Tree Farm and the farm's sheep to try out rotational grazing in the vineyard. Bednar called the effort a "great success," and said Lincoln Peak will look to expand on it next year.

"We've also installed bat houses on the farm in an effort to grow our bat population and take advantage of their voracious appetite for some of the damaging insects we find in the vineyard," he said.

IN THE WORKS

He noted the vineyard has some newer offerings coming down the

"We are super excited to be releasing lots of new wines from the 2024 vintage in the coming months," he said. "There will be some familiar Lincoln Peak favorites including La Crescent, Petite Pearl, and Frontenac, as well as plenty of new wines. We're especially excited about an orange wine, a couple sparklers, and three ciders made with apples from local orchards."

Monkton's New Leaf Organics also has changes in the works this season. The farm offers a variety of organic produce and flowers.

"We're taking a step back this year and only growing for wholesale with limited staff so the normal insane spring pace has felt relatively calm," Jill Kopel told the Independent.

Kopel said that this year, the farm has taken a lot of its land out of cash crop production and is experimenting with various cover crop combinations to rebuild its

"We're participating in a high tunnel cover crop study as well," she said.

Kopel noted that extreme weather in recent years has changed when the team can plan to get onto some of its fields, prompting the farm to slightly alter its crop rotation schedules.

"The pests are coming earlier, so we're trying to plant some crops later to avoid the first flush of them, like the potato beetle," she explained. "This year we held our seed potatoes three extra weeks in the cooler before planting. We're using a lot more row cover to help combat insects in the field, which increases production costs.'

Asked about challenges the farm has had to navigate this season, Kopel pointed to the impact of pests and shifting temperatures.

"We've had some unwelcome root maggot visitors on our early planting block that really slowed down our first round of kales," she said. "The wild temperature fluctuations were tough on our

greens." A SLOW START

which operates year-round at the VFW Post 1823 on Exchange St. She also noted cooler temperatures this spring have led to a slower start to the growing season.

"We had a colder winter and a longer cold season than we've had in quite a while, and so that made it more difficult to get started this season," she said. "It was super cold this past winter compared to several before that, the spring was slow to warm up and more rainy and windy than usual."

Sarah Stillman manages the Bristol and Vergennes farmers markets. She acknowledged that weather is one of a few challenges farmers have had to contend with this year.

"This season the farmers are concerned about financial hardships related to our new

Markets

(Continued from Page 1A) She said both markets have seen vendor numbers increase.

'We have doubled the size of Bristol FM since 2023. I joined in 2023 as a vendor, when we had 5-12 vendors on the green each week on average. After one season that I have served as manager, we have 20-24 on the green each week," she told the *Independent*. "In Vergennes, we launched our season this past Thursday and we had 14 vendors on the green up from the average of 3-6 last season.'

The Bristol Farmers Market operates on Mondays through September, from 3-7 p.m. on the town green.

Community members can stop by the Vergennes market on Thursdays through Oct. 9 from 3-7 p.m. at the Vergennes City Park.

Stillman said the application window is still open for both markets as of earlier this month.

Community members can shop at local farmers markets in a variety of ways. Last year, Stillman worked with the Shelburne Food Shelf to develop a new program that enables food shelf shoppers to use special tokens that are picked up during shopping days and can be used at any market vendor serving food.

"I'm super proud of that program," she said. "We received a grant this vear to continue and have begun our steps to model the same program in Bristol and Vergennes as well."

The Bristol market offers Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) and Crop Cash options, which Stillman said are also expected to be offered in Vergennes upon receiving authorization from the USDA. Crop Cash is a SNAP incentive program administered by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, which provides matching funds to 3SquaresVT customers when they spend their benefits at participating markets.

Stillman sits on the Vermont Farmers Market Association board, which helps set policy at the state level for markets and advocates for state nutritional programs that support families and farmers.

"We have been working hard this season to support farmers and hungry families, and this year we have secured additional funding for expanding our nutritional programs like Crop Cash and Crop Cash Plus, that will double and triple EBT benefits for customers when used at Farmers Markets," Stillman said.

The Middlebury Farmers Market Janis McWayne is a Benson is another market that participates in vegetable farmer involved in the Crop Cash program. The market He reflected on how the weather Middlebury Farmers Market, also takes part in Farm to Family, a program run by the Vermont Department for Children & Families that helps individuals purchase fresh produce at participating farmers markets and farm stands.

> "(Through Farm to Family) we get to meet a lot of new people, and we get to do a lot of education," said Janis McWayne, a Benson farmer

political climate, on top of the

regular farmer concerns about

unstable growing conditions due to

climate change that end up getting harder each season," she said.

"Last season there was significant

hardship due to farmers facing

recovery and need lots of support,"

Stillman continued. "It's always

"This season they are still in

floods and very wet conditions."



Independent photo/Steve James

Fish & Wildlife that "celebrates all the foods that make up our local foodscape and seeks to make all of these foods more accessible to more people."

According to the program's website, Vermont Wild Kitchen participants share recipes, stories and other information on food that's readily available in the state's fields, forests and other parts of the surrounding landscape.

"They were trying to show the connection between local farm-raised food and wild, hunted or foraged food," McWayne explained. "For example, one of our vendors (grows) mushrooms, and he educates about how to forage for mushrooms."

Stillman highlighted some of the offerings community members can expect at markets in Bristol and Vergennes, including beer gardens that will provide a space for attendees aged 21 and older to enjoy live music and products from local brewers.

"I'm also very proud of our live music, as we hire professional musicians from all over the region to delight our ears every week, and they include some really talented and famous local acts," Stillman said of other market offerings. "We budget and fundraise to pay musicians equitably, even though we operate on a shoestring like all other markets."

As the season continues, Stillman said she's looking forward to increased community support for farmers and artisans in the area, as well as community enthusiasm and good music.

"We are losing many 'third people gather in community. It truly feels like I throw a super fun party three times a week, and the markets are always a place that feels good to BE," she said. "I hope to see McWayne said later this summer lots of folks come out to our sweet stay with us for the duration of the

BROOKE WINSLOW SELLS cookies and natural products from Granville's Snow Devil Farm at a recent Middlebury Farmers Market. Weekly markets in Middlebury and elsewhere around the county have seen a growing number of vendors taking part in the events in recent years, according to market officials.

Independent photo/Steve James

"We have been working hard this season to support farmers and hungry families, and this year we have secured additional funding for expanding our nutritional programs like Crop Cash and Crop Cash Plus, that will double and triple EBT benefits for customers when used at Farmers

Markets." — Sarah Stillman

Market. "I have a background in public health and nutrition and people ask me a lot of good questions about how to cook the product they get."

Similar to the Vergennes and Bristol markets, McWayne noted the Middlebury Farmers Market has

financially and physically difficult

to be a farmer, and these times

are harder than usual. Flowers are

late, attendance and sales for our

weekend markets have been low

with 25 weekends of rain in a row."

one of several vendors taking part

in the Vergennes Farmers Market

this year. Like other local growers,

co-owner Karolyn Lalumiere noted

Ferrisburgh's Lalumiere Farm is

started to see its vendor numbers rise in recent years. "We lost some vendors during the

pandemic and now it's starting to grow again," she said. "We do have three new farms that have applied for a membership at our market and two are already (appearing at the

The Middlebury Farmers Market operates year-round on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at VFW Post 1823 on Exchange Street. McWayne noted the market featured less produce options in April and May due to a cold and slow start to the growing season (see related story).

However, more crops are starting to come in as the season unfolds.

"We have more produce coming into our market. My partner does spaces' in the digital age where the market in Rutland and he also said in June they started to get more produce," she said. "It's coming in, and what's starting to come in is looking great."

the market will host Vermont dinner markets, bring blankets and Wild Kitchen, a project of Rural Vermont and the Department of market day."

the farm has seen a slower start to

four years.

this year's season. "With all the rain and stuff, we haven't been able to get onto the field and plant as much as we'd like to, and with no sunshine really our greenhouse crops were slow as

well," she said. When the *Independent* spoke with Lalumiere earlier this month, she noted the farm was starting to

see strawberries and some of its other crops come in.

"We have an abundance of salad

greens because they like the cool weather," she said. There's also newer offerings on the horizon at the Ferrisburgh farm. Lalumiere said the team has planted plums, peaches and pears,

which should be ready in three to

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(Continued from Page 1A) theater rehearsals, Mitchell noted.

"Now that we have the dedicated scene shop and additional spaces for rehearsal, we have the ability to use the main stage (more efficiently)," she said.

IF YOU BUILD IT...

"We always knew there was a demand," said THT founder and Director in Residence Doug Anderson, who has served in virtually every THT role one can imagine since the facility opened 23 years ago.

"We knew we needed to double the space of the theater if we were going to serve as many people as possible.

And true to the "Field of Dreams" signature line of, "If you build it, they will come," clients are already lining up to book spaces in the newly expanded THT.

"We've been booking wedding events for next season. We've had folks interested in renting the entire building — old and new — to create a number of special events," Mitchell said.

available Spaces performances, parties, receptions, business conclaves, book clubs and other functions include:

• The 1,430-square-foot Doug & Debbie Anderson Rehearsal Studio. Among other things, it boasts floor- to ceiling windows, stunning views of the Otter Creek,

and a balcony.

· Jean's Place, an 862-squarefoot lounge and bar. It features high-top tables, comfortable seating and space to mingle. Whether paired with the Anderson Studio, or rented for a standalone rent, Jean's Place has a luxurious yet laid back feel.

- Seligmann Center for Learning & Engagement with a 1,107-square-foot classroom that can be divided into two.
- The 942-square-foot Grigg Lounge, which includes a coffee bar and other amenities.
- A 1,607-square-foot scene shop and technical education space.
- The 5,408-square-foot Maloney Public Plaza with outdoor stage, able to host more than 500 people for outdoor performances and celebrations.

"We've been paying attention to the vibe of each space; each space has its own quality to it, so the variety is there," said THT education Director Lindsay Pontius, director of THT's Center for Learning and Engagement.

Rental fees are aimed at ensuring THT's financial viability into the future, but rest assured, public performances will continue to be the organization's bread and butter. And more spaces will mean more events and choices.

"It's a balance," Mitchell said. "We have this giant wall calendar

and a digital calendar. When we're booking, we're looking at everything that's happening in all the spaces, thinking about the staffing it requires and that we're fully ready to meet that demand. It's been working very well."

Indeed, Mitchell and her colleagues have been putting THT 2.0" through its paces.

"We've already tested the limits of having things going on in every single room and space at the same time... and it's all working," she said. "The building has this beautiful buzz right now and we're looking forward to more of that."

Anderson through the years has developed a real connection almost a kinship — with the original 1883 theater building.

He's found another friend in the new addition.

"As much as we love our historic building, it's not light-filled," he said. "This is why (the addition) is so welcoming — especially during the winter months, to be able to sit here and have a cup of coffee. It becomes kind of a winter garden.

"We went for transparency from the very beginning."

KICK-OFF EVENTS

Magna Dodge is president of the THT board. She's thrilled to see how the facility has risen to meet the demands of the public and is confident in what the organization will become with a

MIDDLEBURY'S TOWN HALL Theater this weekend will hold a grand opening celebration for its newly upgraded campus at the intersection of South Pleasant Street and Merchants Row. Many of the activities will take place in THT's new 7,000-square-foot, three-story addition and the Maloney Public Plaza. solid foundation now in place. fortunate of having Lisa join in

"I think this building expansion was all about ensuring the longterm sustainability of THT," she said. "I don't think this would have happened, or been as successful as it has been, without Doug leading the way so many years ago, in terms of seeing the vision of purchasing the building and what he's built over the years. And we have the great 2020. Now we have the leadership for the future to expand what we're already doing. That's key to our success.

Here are some of the things you can check out at THT's grand opening celebration this weekend: • Friday, June 27, 5-8p.m.:

Party with Mihali on the Maloney Public Plaza, plus fire dancers, drums, BBQ and more.

• Saturday, June 28, 1-4 p.m.: Ribbon cutting and open house for the new addition, with familyfriendly performances throughout.

• Also Saturday, from 7:30-9 p.m.: The Rodney Marsalis Brass Band (ticketed admission) on the Rothrock Main Stage in the historic Town Hall Theater.

For more details about THT and the celebration, go to townhalltheater.org.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A) or tools. Please only bring things in good condition. The market doesn't accept electronics, stuffed animals, appliances, luggage, large furniture, DVDs, VHS, or cassette tapes, books, clothing or shoes, and anything rusty, dirty or broken. St. Stephen's will accept your donations on Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sunday, June 29, noon to 3 p.m.; Tuesday, July 1, 4-6 p.m.; and Wednesday, July 2, 4-6 p.m.

Revenue collections for the month of May 2025 have been compiled, and Vermont's General, Transportation and Education Funds receipts were a combined \$201.7 million, underperforming the \$214 million monthly consensus target by \$12.3 million, or 5.8%. Total General Fund revenues for May were \$118.6 million, which was \$10 million, or 7.7%, below the \$128.5 million monthly consensus cash

flow target. Transportation Fund revenues missed their \$28.9 million consensus target by \$1.6 million, or 5.6%, yielding \$27.3 million in total. And May Education Fund revenues of \$55.8 million were \$760,000, or 1.4%, lower than their May \$56.8 million cash flow target. According to Secretary of Administration Sarah Clark: "Although revenues were below monthly targets, cumulative General Fund receipts continue to be above consensus expectations in May, with an end of year surplus likely remaining. The Education Fund also continues to be on track to slightly exceed its cumulative target for the year. The outlook for the Transportation fund is more mixed as federal tariff policy continues to unfold."

The New Haven Barracks and other Addison County law enforcement agencies in Addison County will be conducting DUI

week of July 1. These checkpoints are focused on people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Vermonters are urged to use a designated driver when necessary.

Addison County recorded a jobless rate of 1.8% in May, down half a percentage point compared to the week prior, according to new data released by the Vermont Department of Labor (DOL). The county's workforce in May was placed at 21,876, of which 395 were searching for jobs, DOL officials said. Addison and Chittenden counties registered the lowest May jobless rate among the state's 14 counties, with the highest rate belonging to Orleans at 2.9%, according to the DOL. The statewide unemployment rate last month held fast at 2.6%. Meanwhile, the national jobless rate remained unchanged from April, at

employers indicate the summer hiring season is starting strong,' said Vermont DOL Commissioner Michael Harrington. "Over the last month, the Vermont economy added 900 jobs after including seasonal adjustment factors, and many Vermont businesses are still recruiting for both seasonal and full-time work."

Crop Cash Plus is back for 2025. From July 1 through

October 31, 2025, you can stretch your SNAP dollars even further at participating farmers markets. For every \$1 in SNAP you spend at participating farmers markets, you'll get \$1 in Crop Cash. Up to \$20 of your SNAP funds will be matched with Crop Cash, which can be spent on fruits, vegetables, herbs and culinary seeds and plant starts. Just like Crop Cash, for every \$1 in SNAP you spend, you'll get \$1

in Crop Cash Plus. Up to \$10 of your SNAP will be matched with Crop Cash Plus, which can be spent on any SNAP-eligible item. Crop Cash will be distributed at participating markets through April 30, 2026. Crop Cash Plus will be distributed from July 1 through October 31, or as long as supplies last, and can be spent through April 30, 2026. For more information about Crop Cash, go to tinyurl.com/57w85627.





Spotlight on Vergennes

Blood drive June 28 in Vergennes

BURLINGTON — As the busy Fourth of July holiday week gets closer, the American Red Cross asks donors to celebrate by making a blood or platelet donation appointment to help power the blood supply through mid-summer. While all blood types are needed, donors with type O blood are most urgently needed.

The Red Cross and goodr are joining forces in July and all who come to give July 1-14, will get an exclusive pair of Red Cross x goodr sunglasses, while supplies

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The Red Cross and *goodr are joining forces* in July and all who come to give July 1-14, will get an exclusive pair of Red Cross x goodr sunglasses, while supplies last.

last. Donors can personalize their one-of-a-kind shades with a blood type sticker! For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/goodr.

Or, those who make it in to give by June 30, will get a \$15 Amazon.com gift card by email, plus be automatically entered to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. See RedCrossBlood.org/June.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities here in Addison Vergennes: June 28, 9 a.m.-

1:30 p.m., Victory Baptist Church, 862 US-7

Middlebury: July 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Legion Middlebury, 49 Wilson Rd.

ADDISON **School Briefs** COUNTY

Jackson Coffey of Vergennes graduated from Paul Smith's College in May 2025. Coffey earned an A.A.S. in Arboriculture and Landscape Management.

Ben Hargett of Ferrisburgh, has been named to the University at Buffalo's spring 2025 dean's list.

Addie Frechette of North Ferrisburgh had been named to the dean' list at Bucknell University for the spring semester of the 2024-25 academic year. A student must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.





each high school in the United States may choose at least one sophomore to represent them at their state's Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar. This year, Vergennes Union High School's HOBY Ambassadors are Isabelle Van Voorst and Acasia Visser.

Van Voorst and Visser were nominated and selected for this honor based on their demonstrated and potential leadership skills and traits. The pair attended the HOBY Seminar on May 22-25, held at Vermont State University (Randolph Campus). Ambassadors participated in seminars and met with leaders in the fields of education, government, and the professions to discuss present and future issues.



ACASIA VISSER, LEFT, and Isabelle Van Voorst were Vergennes Union High School's ambassadors to this year's Vermont Hugh O'Brien Leadership Seminar, held in May.

Police deal with traffic accidents

VERGENNES — Vergennes police last week dealt with a rash of minor traffic accidents, including a couple in which parked vehicles were damaged.

On June 17 they took a report of damage to a car parked on Main Street; police said one of the

vehicle's side mirrors was broken. On the same day they took a report for insurance purposes that

a car had hit a deer on Route 22A. On June 20, a School Street resident reported damage to his vehicle "within the past week."

Also on June 20, a Collins Aerospace employee reported a vehicle was damaged in the company's Panton Road parking lot during a work shift, and that the guilty party had not left a note. Police provided a case number to the vehicle owner for insurance

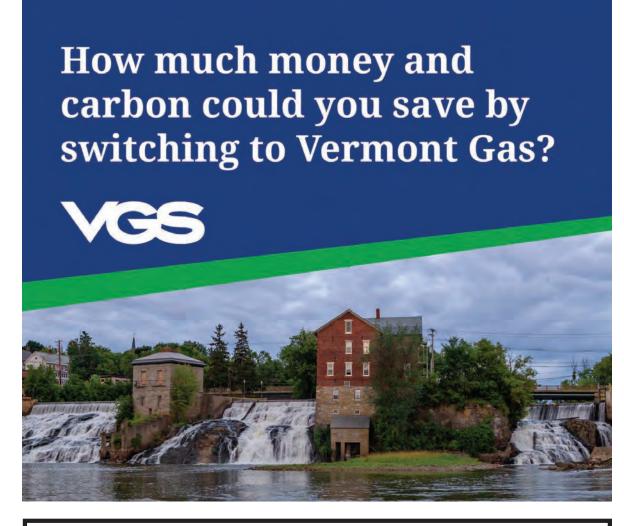
Vergennes Police Log

purposes.

Between June 16 and 22, Vergennes police also conducted 11 cruiser patrols, one foot patrol, nine traffic stops and a VIN inspection; processed two requests for fingerprints; responded to a false alarm, and:

- On June 16 looked into an online report of a suspicious person on North Street.
- On June 17 conducted a commercial vehicle inspection on Main Street.
- On June 19:
- Began investigating a possible violation of a restraining order.

- At the police station honored a request for public records.
- · Dealt with a parking complaint on Park Street.
- Handled a complaint about a social media post that included an individual's user name without consent. Police said the complainant was concerned because of past incidents involving the release of personal information. Police advised the complainant to block contact with the individual, and they spoke with the person who had put up the post in question, who agreed to remove the username and stop communicating with the complainant.
- · Helped the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad with a patient who reportedly had mental health issues. The patient was transported to a hospital without issue.



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MNFF

(Continued from Page 1A) The festival will also offer a menu of curated films.

"I'm really excited about the program," Boyle said during a recent interview. "A number of our films are going to be released this summer commercially, and this will be their only Vermont stop."

The *Independent* will provide more info on specific film offerings, festival honorees, panel discussions and other MNFF11 features when those details become available. See accompanying sidebar for a sneak peek, courtesy of Craven.

What follows here is a report on how the festival — a massive undertaking — is coming together under new leadership with some new venues added to the mix.

Organizers this year made efforts to slightly streamline the festival program, emphasizing "the cream of the crop" and themes/genres that audiences have historically enjoyed. It's a strategy that wouldn't have been possible without the solid MNFF foundation built by former festival Producer (and founder) Lloyd Komesar and Craven, according to Boyle.

"When a festival or any kind of exhibition entity starts out, you're developing your reputation as an exhibitor. You're testing what your audience responds to," Boyle said. "I think this year we're delivering a program that's informed and educated by 10 years of exhibition. We've really tried to create a program that speaks to what we know the audience will respond

That doesn't mean the lineup will be predictable or cookie-

"At the same time, we also want to challenge our audience to go beyond their comfort zones," Boyle said. "We want to sneak in stuff they might not have found on their own."

The festival's pivot to a more quality-driven lineup has actually been brewing for a while.

Craven and Boyle selected around 14% of the total 464 films entered into this year's festival. Last year, MNFF10 accepted and screened around 17% of 585 submitted films; and in 2023, around 19% of the entries made the cut for MNFF9, according to

This year, organizers took the added step of narrowing the festival's submission stream. The festival didn't advertise for film entries, a departure from the past.

"I wanted to see our baseline. if we weren't advertising. I was interested in seeing what happens with what comes in just through our outreach and connections, the general word of mouth and our connections and reputation," Boyle said.

For example, MNFF officials reached out to around 60 independent film organizations inviting their members, grantees, fellows, or mentees to submit their work.

In all, MNFF11 drew 464 submissions. That's 121 fewer than last year, but "it's still a very robust number," according to Boyle.

While MNF11 is tightening its porthole for film submissions, it's taking steps to broaden its audience and filmmaker participation.

Thanks to the MNFF Travel Fund, Boyle said "It's looking like we're going to be able to support every filmmaker who has travel needs, and this is 100% thanks to



THIS YEAR'S EDITION of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is coming together nicely, with a slightly leaner movie lineup and a new free-admission policy for high school and college students.

details.

Be advised MNFF11 festival

passes will get you into any of

the films shown Aug. 21-24,

consistently from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

each day. The opening night soiree

(always a sell-out, this year to be

held at THT) on Wednesday, Aug.

20, will as usual be a separate

admission. Festival officials

weren't ready to disclose the name

of the opening night film as the

MNFF11 will draw to a close on

Sunday evening, Aug. 24, with the

John Flowers is at johnf@

Independent went to press.

VTeddy awards at THT.

addisonindependent.com.

the community."

Tickets will go on sale after the July 4 weekend, though MNFF11 passes are already available for purchase. And there's really good news this year if you're a student and/or Vermonter. Show your Vermont ID and you'll get a festival pass for \$130 — a \$30 discount. Show your (college or high school) student ID and get a free pass.

The new free-student-pass policy is in part designed to help MNFF curate its next generation of festival goers. And student filmmakers are well represented among this year's crop of entries.

"Our patronage skews older; we have a strong boomer contingent," Boyle noted. "We love that, but we also want to diversify our age base."

Will offering free student passes cost the non-profit MNFF important revenue?

It depends on how you look at

Boyle is looking beyond MNFF11, to a future where this year's students will hopefully be regular patrons, donors and spectators at future festivals.

"I see it as a low-risk investment in our future," she said.

And tickets/passes aside, MNFF officials are deeply reliant — and appreciative of — the annual support from festival donors, sponsors and the screening locations: Town Hall Theater (THT); the Marquis Theater; and Middlebury College's Axinn Center at Starr Library, Twilight Hall and Dana Auditorium.

THT just capped an \$8.5M renovation and expansion project (see related story) that will greatly advance the facility's ability to co-host MNFF11. In addition to

By JOHN FLOWERS MIDDLEBURY — Details for

20-24 event.

the 11th annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival are still coming together, but MNFF11 Artistic Director Jay Craven gave us a preview of some of the coming attractions for the Aug.

Might there be any festival themes, based on the film entries? Craven, who as usual has viewed scores of submission in judging and prepping for the festival, cited "people persevering against the odds" and "resistance" as recurring tropes.

example, For attendees can see such films as "Tatami" and "The Encampments."

"Tatami" is about Iranian female judo athlete Leila (Arienne Mandi) and her coach Maryam (Zar Amir Ebrahimi), who in 2023 travel to the World Judo Championships in Tbilisi, Georgia, intent on bringing home Iran's first gold medal. But as the tournament proceeds, she faces a potential match with an Israeli athlete — something the Iranian government won't permit. The plot thickens from there.

"It's a very well-made film, beautifully performed," Craven said.

"The Encampments" is a documentary film about the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at Columbia University. The film features, among others, activist Mahmoud Khalil, a Syrian-born Palestinian activist who was detained by ICE earlier this year.

"What we come away with is multiple dimensions," Craven said, noting the film also shows Jewish students taking leadership roles in the protest efforts.

One of MNFF's special guests this year can definitely relate to overcoming odds. Rodney Evans is a blind filmmaker who also teaches filmmaking at Swarthmore College.

And there's a film on the MNFF11 list that embodies

deprecating way. an Idiot." Here's the synopsis: "André, a brilliant idiot, is dying because he didn't get a colonoscopy. His sobering diagnosis, complete irreverence and insatiable curiosity, send him on an unexpected journey learning how to die happily and ridiculously without losing his sense of humor."

MNFF 2025 line up takes shape

There's also a screening of "La Liga," a documentary about a soccer league made up of migrant farm workers in Vermont including many from Addison County.

migrant dairy farm workers change; Devin Delliaquanti, endure hardships while forging solidarity through soccer."

Craven shared a few more items on the MNFF11 itinerary, including:

• A panel discussion on "journalism and its myth making contemporary society.' Moderated by Independent news Editor John McCright, the panel will include David Sanger, the chief White House correspondent for the New York Times, and Geeta Anand, the Pulitzer Prize-winning new editor in chief of VTDigger.

"It's looking behind the scenes

resistance in a tragic, self- for a more nuanced perspective It's a on what's going on right now... documentary called "André is beyond the headlines," Craven said of the panel.

· A panel discussion on "comedy as a force for storytelling and social change," to include Vermont's own standup comedian Tina Friml, who attended Middlebury Union High School. Friml has gained a huge following based on her quick wit and hilarious stories; some of her jokes are about growing up in Vermont and having cerebral

The panel will also include Caty Borum, an American University professor and writer on the subject The tagline: "In rural Vermont, of comedy as a force for social a senior writer for Comedy Central's "The Daily Show;" Paul Zaloom, former ringmaster at the Bread & Puppet Theater and the driving force behind the children's science program "Beakman's World;" and Nick Paley, also with Vermont roots, who has directed for the comedy shows "Broad City," "Inside Amy Schumer," and co-wrote the Academy Awardnominated feature film "Marcel the Shell with Shoes On."

Check the Independent at middfilmfest.org for festival updates.

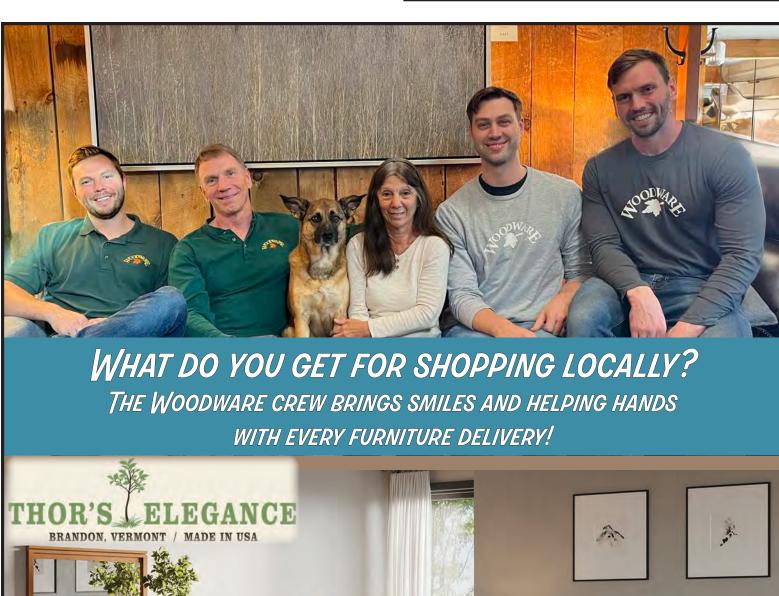


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Charity and Sylvia

(Continued from Page 1A) Saturday's dedication at attended by about 50 people, including U.S. Rep. Becca Balint,

D-Vermont, Vt. State Senator Ruth Hardy, "The Roadside Sheldon Museum Exec. Director Coco Moseley, and state Marker Program officials who work in Vermont is with this program.

State commemorate, Vermont Senator Ruth D-Addison Hardy, spoke to County, the importance of tribulations, not marker being change or hide erected during such history." a tumultuous time. "The values that it represents are so important right now, more than ever. The value of love, the value of women's

history...and the value of the LGBTO people to be able to live the lives they want to live and love the people they want to love."

Bryant and Drake met in Addison County 218 years ago when Bryant traveled here to visit her friend Polly Hayward.

"Once she laid her eyes on Sylvia, she never left," Eva Garcelon-Hart, Research Center Archivist at the Henry Sheldon Museum, said. "They spent the next 40 years together, living here in Weybridge." The two of them are now buried under one headstone in the Weybridge Hill Cemetery.

While the couple was able to live peacefully and openly, greeted with acceptance from the Weybridge community, Garcelon-Hart said, Rep. Becca Balint noted that the current politics in Washington, D.C. today is not as accepting.

"For Americans broadly, and for the LGBTQ community specifically, we have a very hostile administration right now," said Rep. Balint, adding that the current Trump Administration is trying to erase the history of many groups, including LGBTQ Americans, by blocking gender-affirming healthcare and discriminating

against LGBTQ people as well as directing hateful speech and actions the Weybridge cemetery was toward individuals representing those communities.

> Balint also spoke about how her colleague, and dear friend, Sarah McBride (D-DE), the first elected transwoman to Congress, is a target of fear and hatred from a select group, but that

> > more accepting.

most Americans were

"Americans don't

want to hate each other. They don't," Balint said. "I hear this across the state of Vermont (and across — Laura Trieschmann, the country) ... They Vermont Historic want to get back into Preservation communication with Officer one another, back into community with one

> Preceding Balint's comments Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup, Executive Director of Vermont Humanities, shared his own story of growing up in Vermont and feeling isolated and alone.

another."

"I grew up in Vergennes, and when I was growing up, I was



THE UNVEILING OF the "Charity and Sylvia" plaque in Weybridge recognizes the history of the LGBTQ+ community in Addison County. Independent photos/Steve James

for many of us," he said. "We were was there for us, literally, nobody

literally the only queer person in the alone, and nobody was like us, and universe, right? And that was true nobody understood us, and nobody

was there for us."

many years over 100 years earlier, — is now a major symbol for his story might have been different. the LGBTQ+ community and "I hope that this

historic marker can "I hope that this make that story available to young people today, so that they don't feel so alone in the future," Kaufman Ilstrup said.

Balint told the crowd stories like Bryant and Drake's exist everywhere in the country. "Pride runs through rural America... every single congressional district in

this country, regardless of whether it's currently being represented by a Republican or a Democrat, has LGBTQ people living there now, living there in the past," Balint said. "They should dig into their archives and see what stories are not being told that would be more inclusive of all of us."

A dramatic image of Bryant and Had he known that just six miles Drake — two framed silhouettes down the road in Weybridge, Bryant surrounded by a border of braided and Drake had lived happily for hair that connects into a heart

> demonstrates contributions the two women made to their historic marker can make that story available to young people today, so that they don't feel so alone in the is a significant

— Christopher Kaufman Ilstrup

future."

community just as their lives continue to defy the forces of hate in some corners of the country today. "The dedication of this historic marker

step in recognizing contributions LGBTQ+ individuals to Vermont and to

the nation's history," said Coco Moseley, Executive Director of the Henry Sheldon Museum, after the ceremony. "The marker promotes greater visibility for Vermont's LGBTQ+ community and fosters a more inclusive narrative of the past, ensuring that LGBTQ+ history is a part of the early American story."



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Vt. State Senator Ruth Hardy; Meg Tamulonis, Pride Center of Vermont; Christopher Kaufman, Vermont Humanities; Becca Balint, U.S. Rep.; Eva Garcelon-Hart, Sheldon Museum Archivist; Laura Trieschmann, Vt. State Historic Preservation Officer; Coco Moseley, Sheldon Museum; and Megan Sutton, Weybridge selectboard.

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MATT DICKERSON —

Rail trails and swallowtails

We had not been on the trail for more than a few minutes peddling up a hill west of Gorham when the first tiger swallowtail appeared, fluttering up from the forest understory-or perhaps from some wet sand where it had been licking salt — and out in front of our bicycles.

Since we were climbing a hill and not in any sort of hurry, we were puttering along at only six or seven miles per hour. For several dozen yards, the butterfly stayed out



in front of us, keeping pace at about the level of our handlebars. Then it lifted up and over us and settled back down on the trail behind me. After

that, it seemed like every few dozen yards we came upon another of its kind foraging along the borders of the trail.

It was our second rail trail excursion of the week. When we planned our weeklong vacation in Maine in the foothills of the White Mountains, with St. Johnsbury as roughly the midpoint of our drive, my wife suggested we bring our bikes and stop along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail for a ride. Biking together is one of our favorite outdoor activities, perhaps second only to Nordic skiing. Or at least it would be if we had more bikefriendly places to ride.

But while the scenery of Vermont lacks nothing for beauty, the road conditions often leave something to be desired. The increasing number of drivers both texting and speeding, and the lack of wide shoulders on most area roads, makes road biking less appealing than it otherwise could be. The state highways can be especially bad-and where we live it's impossible to go anywhere without at least a couple miles on a highway.

Even if we felt safe on highways, they lack the quiet and solitude we (See Dickerson, Page 3B)

Sports

Team Goodman

takes First Flight

MIDDLEBURY — The team of Kyle Goodman and Kirk Goodman

won the First Flight of the Ralph

Myhre Golf Course Member-

Member tournament, held on June

21 and 22. The pairing of Steve Myhre and Kris Kelton came in

The First Flight net score winners were the tandem of Russell Barrett

The Senior Flight winning team

was Robert Cameron and Stan

Pratt, and the runner-up duo was

The Senior Flight net winners

were David Holbrook and Mike

Bordeleau, with Marsdin Van Order

On June 18 at the Vermont Golf

Association Vermont Open contest

at the Lake Morey Country Club,

Lucas Politano claimed first place in the Amateur Division and

In VSWGA State Day play at Stratton Golf Course on June 16, Susan Rand finished in a sixthplace tie in Flight 1 for best net

In VSWGA State Day at

Sugarbush Golf Club on June 17,

in Flight 2 Nicole Laberge finished

in a tie for fifth place gross, and Eileen Sims finishes in seventh

In VSWGA State Day at

Champlain Country Club on June

17. Rand finished in seventh place

net in Flight 1, Eva Mastalos

finished in a tie for seventh place

net in Flight 3, Jean Goodwin

finished in a first place gross tie

in Flight 4, and Giselle Lafleche

(See Golf, Page 3B)

Ray Kelton and Robert Keiner.

and Bill Brown taking second.

finished 11th overall.

result.

place net.

and Matt Randall, with Brett Barrett and Robert Clark taking

second.

second place.



AC'S TUCKER WRIGHT collides with South Burlington first baseman Mateo Ortiz on a close play in Tuesday night's American Legion game in Middlebury. He was called out on the play.
Independent photo/Steve James



AC'S AIDEN FULLER slides safely into second base during the county Legion team's June 19 victory



AC SECOND BASEMAN Brody Barnard races to make a play on a bouncing ball as a CVU baserunner dives into the bag during the county Legion team's June 19 game.

Independent photo/Steve James

Legion nine starts with three victories

Pitching, patience at plate pays off

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison County American Legion baseball team started its season with three home wins, one of them a nonleague game, all on the team's home turf — Middlebury College's South Street Field.

AC capped the streak on Tuesday by knocking off previously undefeated South Burlington, 8-3, as three pitchers combined to toss a one-hitter, with Aricin Griffin getting the win and Tyler Kimball picking up a save for working out of a jam while it was still a close game.

On Sunday AC coasted past the Strikers, a younger travel team based in Essex, 17-3. And on June 19 the local nine opened by defeating Champlain Valley, 10-5.

Catcher Carter a Legion veteran and former Middlebury Union High School standout who played for VTSU-Lyndon this spring, said this year's AC roster is deep and talented.

"There's no holes on this team. You stick someone out there, and they know how to play that position," Paquette said. "Our pitching is good. We've got guys who can control the zone and get batters out when we need to, as you saw today."

AC is getting a few key hits, such as Eyon Tembreull's goahead fifth-inning RBI double on Tuesday, and is showing patience at the plate — many of their runs have come by drawing walks and creating traffic on the bases. But

(See Baseball, Page 2B)

Marlins swim to home win in opening meet of season

By BEE ECKELS

MIDDLEBURY Marlins Swim Middlebury Team on June 24 topped visiting Burlington Country Club, 260-179, in the team's opening meet of the Champlain Valley Swim League

The Marlins are set to host the Town of Essex Swim Team on July

The Marlins claimed victories in 11 relays, while visiting Burlington Country Club took the remaining

tour.

Felix and Mitzi Poduschnick each claimed two individual wins, while Constantin Bellmann touched the wall ahead of his competitors three times.

Jorgen Pirrung claimed four individual wins, earning a total of 20 points for his team.

Marlins scoring points for their team with top-three finishes in their races were:

BUTTERFLY

• U-8 girls: 2. Alula Remaniak.

• U-8 boys: 3. James Foley. • U-10 girls: 2. Rose Phinney; 3.

Harper Nelson. • U-10 boys: 3. Patrick Martin. • U-12 girls: 2. Cassandra

Bellmann. • U-14 girls: 1. Mitzi Poduschnick, 34.57; 3. Nicola

Power • U-14 boys: 1. Constantin

Bellmann, 35.56.

30.56, 3. Abigail Hamilton. • U-18 boys: 1. Jorgen Pirrung,

• U-18 girls: 1. Sadie Chance,

BACKSTROKE

• U-8 girls: 1. Georgia Nelson,

26.07; 2. Ellie Butler.

• U-8 boys: 1. Vaden Brooks, 24.81. • U-10 girls: 1. Natalie Butler,

21.61; 2. Vela Remaniak; 3. Ada Simpson.

• U-10 boys: 2. P. Martin. • U-12 boys: 1. Ben Phinney,

39.66; 2. Nolan Almstrand.

• U-14 girls: 3. Elise Almstrand. • U-14 boys: 1. George Martin,

41.56.

• U-18 girls: 2. S. Chance; 3. A. Hamilton.

• U-18 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 35.66.

BREASTSTROKE • U-8 girls: 2. Tilly Hopkinson.

• U-8 boys: 2. V. Brooks.

• U-10 girls: 1. R. Phinney, 23.18;

2. Romy Graves; 3. N. Butler.

• U-12 girls: 1. Ca. Bellmann,

• U-12 boys: 1. Felix Poduschnick, 39.91; 2. B. Phinney. (See Marlins, Page 2B)

COUNTY ATHLETES NAMED TO ALL-STARS

COMMODORE SOPHOMORE MEREDITH Dufault was named a Division II First Team Girls' Lacrosse All-Star. Independent photo/Steve James

Locals named girls' lax stars

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Ten athletes from the Middlebury Union and the Mount Abraham-Vergennes Cooperative girls' lacrosse teams have received postseason honors from either the Division I or Division

From the Tigers, senior attacker Ada Weaber and sophomore midfielder Isabel Quinn were named D-I First-Team All-

From the Commodores, senior attacker/ defender Safoura Camara and sophomore midfielder Meredith Dufault were named D-II First-Team All-Stars.

Junior Tiger attacker Kenyon Connors earned Division I Second Team recognition. From the Commodores, junior attacker/ midfielder June Yates-Rusch and junior

(See Lacrosse, Page 3B)

Skyler Choiniere makes a running catch of a foul ball during a home game against Mount Abe. Independent photo/Steve James

Girls' softball all-stars named

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Twenty softball players total from the Mount Abraham, Middlebury, Otter Valley and Vergennes union high school teams received postseason recognition from the Lake Division or the Southern Valley League's



TIGER ALL-STAR FIRST baseman

B Division. A dozen of the players honored came from the Division II champion Mount Abe squad, which defeated top-seeded Lyndon, 6-5, in

the D-I final and finished with a 14-3 record. Seven came from an MUHS squad that finished 8-7 and reached the D-II quarterfinal and dropped a one-run heartbreaker to Lyndon.

Four players were recognized from a young 15-4 OV team that reached the D-II semifinal round before losing for a second time this spring to Mount Abe. The SVL honors only a first team and honorable mentions, unlike the

(See Softball, Page 3B)



EAGLE SOFTBALL ALL-STAR shortstop Gen Forand slugs a double during Mount Abe's semifinal playoff victory.

College to host Twin State baseball twin dip

MIDDLEBURY This year's edition of the Twin-State Baseball Classic, a doubleheader pitting top graduated high school players from Vermont and New Hampshire against one another, will be held this Saturday, June 28, at Middlebury College's South Street baseball field.

The two seven-inning games are set to begin at 10 a.m. following brief pregame ceremonies. No admission to the twin bill will be charged.

No local players are among the 18 athletes from 14 highs schools scheduled to represent Vermont.

The Vermont roster includes Ryan Sheehan of BFA Fairfax; Kason Blood and Brody Kingsbury of Blue Mountain; Tanner Swisher of Green Mountain; Wyatt Mason of Lyndon; Parker Hakey and Gavin Nichols of Missisquoi Valley; Clayton Foster

of Montpelier; Hunter Sherwin of Mount Anthony; Langdon Hazen of Mount Mansfield; Kaden Jones of North Country; Aaron LeFrancois of Rutland; Colton Merchant of Rice; Will Eaton, Rex Hauser and Cage Thompson of Saint Johnsbury; Lucas Van Mullen of South Burlington; and Ben Runstein of Woodstock.

The Vermont coaches are Trevor Coyne of Mount Anthony, Mike Lacourse of North Country, Logan Cooke of Montpelier and Chris Kendall of Saint Johnsbury.

A year ago, Vermont split a pair of games played in New London, N.H. Vermont won the opener, 7-0, and New Hampshire took game two, 4-3. It was the fifth twin-bill split in the series since Twin-State Baseball Classic was revived in 2015, with nine games settled by one run. A single nineinning contest was played in 2023.



AC HURLER ARICIN Griffin tossed five innings of scoreless one-hit baseball to help the county American Legion team defeat visiting South Burlington on Tuesday. Independent photo/Steve James

Marlins

(Continued from Page 1B)

- U-14 girls: 1. M. Poduschnick, 40.00; 2. E. Almstrand.
- U-14 boys: 1. Co. Bellmann, 38.47; 2. G. Martin.
- U-18 girls: 1. Selma Citarella,
- 34.79; 2. S. Chance. • U-18 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 38.03.
- **FREESTYLE**
- U-8 girls: 3. Halsey Brooks. • U-8 boys: 2. V. Brooks.
- U-10 girls: 1. V. Remaniak, 16.05; 3. R. Phinney.
- U-10 boys: 2. P. Martin.
- U-12 girls: 1. Cecily O'Leary, 35.55; 3. Ca. Bellmann.
- U-12 boys: 1. F. Poduschnick, 30.35; 2. B. Phinney; 3. N. Almstrand.
- U-14 girls: 2. E. Almstrand. • U-14 boys: 1. Co. Bellmann,
- 31.78; 3. G. Martin. • U-18 girls: 2. S. Citarella; 3. A.
- U-18 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 28.07.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News

Anya Raley of Salisbury has been named to the dean's list for the winter 2025 semester at Northern Michigan University. She qualified with a grade point average of between 3.50 and 3.99.

April Lajeunesse of Bristol has been named to the president's list at Norwich University for the spring 2025 semester. Fulltime undergraduate students who earned a semester GPA of 4.0 are awarded president's list honors.

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three local students have been named to the president's list at Plymouth State University. They are: Alyssa Whitcomb-Sherman, Bristol, Elementary Education and Youth Development; Martha Horne, Middlebury, Art and Design; and Andrew Nolan, New Haven, Allied Health Sciences.

Area students receive Paul Smith's honors

PAUL SMITHS, N.Y. — Paul Smith's College announces students who have been named to the Dean's List and Adirondack Scholars for the Spring 2025 semester.

Congratulations distinguished scholars on earning academic achievement: Graycen Elkins of Bristol, Finnley Jacobson of Vergennes, and Donovan Richardson of Vergennes.

Peter Coffey of Jackson graduated form Vergennes, Paul Smith's College in May 2025. Coffey earned a AAS in Arboriculture and Landscape Management.

too much at the plate, not staying within themselves. But we just attacked in that fifth inning and

didn't look back after that," Paquette said. With GPAs of 3.70 or better, Before the season the team's coach, Tim Paquette, told the

Independent he believed AC would contend this summer. What does Carter think?

Baseball

(Continued from Page 1B)

Paquette said AC is waiting for a

team-wide offensive surge that he

believes is on the way, as was the

"These guys are trying to do

case late in Tuesday's game.

"I agree, 100%," he said. "I don't see a situation where we're not in the playoffs and making a run for it."

AC will be looking to move to 3-0 in league play at Montpelier this Thursday. Next, AC is scheduled to play a doubleheader at Essex on Saturday, a single game at Franklin County on Sunday, and host St. Johnsbury at 5:30 p.m. next Wednesday.

AC, 8-3

The first four innings of Tuesday's game was a pitcher's duel between AC's hard-throwing Griffin, and South Burlington's Matt Chamberlain, who kept AC off balance with curveballs.

Griffin struck out 10 in his five-inning stint and allowed just one hit, but also walked five. SB advanced two runners as far as third base against him. In the third, after a walk, Mateo Ortiz stroked a two-out single to put runners on first and third. But Griffin got a grounder to second baseman Cole Warren to end the threat. In the fifth Jack Foster walked and stole

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retired the next three batters to end his successful stint.

AC had more baserunners, but couldn't break through against Chamberlain until the fifth. In the second Gabe Velez reached on an infield hit and Griffin walked with none out, but AC couldn't plate them. In the fourth Clark Crary singled and Velez walked, but they were also stranded.

AC broke through in the fifth, batting around and scoring four times on three hits, a walk and a hit batter. Cole Warren started the festivities by being hit by a pitch, Aiden Fuller singled, and Paquette walked to load the bases. Tembreull then cleared them with

second and third base, but Griffin a double that one-hopped the leftcenter field fence. Tucker Wright followed with an RBI single, and the lead was 4-0.

> 100 pitches, and Coach Paquette then went one scoreless inning summoned Jackson Jennings to before pulling away. the mound; Jennings had thrown well and gotten the win vs. Champlain Valley. But on Tuesday he struggled to find the strike zone, and he left after getting one ground ball out, walking four and hitting a batter with the lead down to 4-2 and the bases loaded.

Kimball came on and hit the next batter to force in a run. But Kimball righted the ship, mixing in a lethal changeup with his fastball to fan the next two hitters.

And then it was AC's turn to benefit from pitchers having trouble throwing strikes. Chamberlain walked Warren. Paquette singled to put two runners on, and Chamberlain hit Tembreull with a pitch and walked Writh to make it 5-3. Foster entered to pitch and walked Crary and Ryan Brouillard to force in two more runs. Noah Lapierre then took the mound to get the final two outs — one was a Velez RBI grounder that made it

Kimball made quick work of SB in the top of the seventh, striking out two more batters to nail down AC's win.

AC, 17-3

Sunday's non-league outing was

against a 16-and-under traveling team based in Essex. AC took a 5-3 lead into the bottom of the fourth and broke the game open with five Griffin had thrown just short of runs in that inning. The local nine

> Among contributors were Warren (walk, hit by pitch, two runs), Griffin (two hits, two runs), Paquette (double, single, two RBI, run), Tembreull (two singles, RBI, four runs), and Crary (three hits, RBI, two runs).

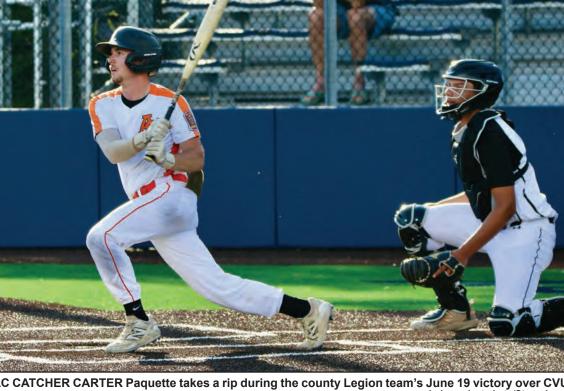
> Brouillard started and gave up three runs in four innings, and Tembreull earned the win with four scoreless relief innings. Warren tossed a scoreless ninth.

AC, 10-5

On the previous Thursday AC won its opener, 10-5, when the CVU starting pitcher had trouble finding the strike zone early on. AC scored eight times in the second inning on one hit to take charge.

Wright and Mike Dunbar both walked, and Jennings was hit by a pitch. Fuller walked to force in a run, and Paquette followed with a double to plate more runs. Walks to Tembreull and Dunbar and a run-scoring ground ball capped the

Jennings started on the mound for AC and gave up five runs, three earned in six innings, for the pitching win. Kimball tossed a scoreless seventh inning to nail down the win.



AC CATCHER CARTER Paquette takes a rip during the county Legion team's June 19 victory over CVU.

Independent photo/Steve James

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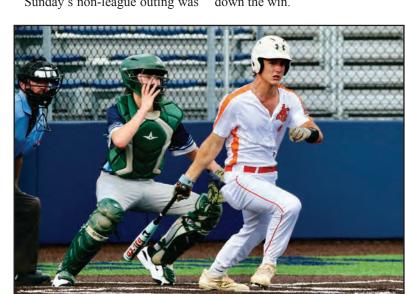
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AC'S CLARK CRARY makes contact against South Burlington during the county American Legion team's home win against South Burlington on Tuesday.

State triathlon titles decided

Vt. Sun stages annual Vermont championship races

Vermont Triathlon championships at Branbury State Park, on Lake Dunmore, in Salisbury was held in perfect conditions.

Tim Russell, 36, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. won the Olympic distance Men's Lake Dunmore another 1:06 behind Russell. Triathlon, consisting of a 1,500and 6.2-mile run, in 2:08:03. 1500 feet of climbing over 28 Waterbury's Lance

Parker was second, in "Today was 2:08:44.

fun, hard In the women's race, racing as Katie Dolbec, 42, the three of South Burlington defended her title by of us really dominating the race pushed with the fastest women's ourselves splits in all three legs. to the limits Her winning time of of our 2:29:30 was about 15 minutes faster than abilities." — Tim Russell runner-up Kate Kogut, 19, of Charlottesville (2:44:34).

of Williamstown, Mass., held off Guido Bartolacci of Colchester to win The Vermont Sun Triathlon, ride and 3.1-mile run, in 1:05:17. Kjelleren's 27-year-old son, Hayden placed third.

In the women's Vermont Sun races Sage Alix, 23, of New York City won by 1:31 in 1:15:38 over Neily Jennings, 42, of Charlotte. Alix had the best women's bike ride at 20.8 mph, and second-best run (22:22).

Russell, the champion in three seconds separating them, the

Triathlons and the Sprint Course record holder, was second to finish the swim. And he trailed last August's Lake Dunmore Triathlon champion, Noel Mulkey of Saint Albans by 2:46. Parker, winner of the August 2023 race, was next,

Averaging 25.4 miles an hour yard swim, 28-mile bike ride, on the hilly bike course that has

> miles, Russell caught and passed Mulkey at mile 20. Russell had the second fastest bike time of the day, and Mulkey had the third-best at 24.3 mph. Meanwhile, Parker, using the best bike time of 1:05:37 caught Mulkey, just as the two entered the park.

Russell's transition to the run was 34 seconds faster than Mulkey as he pulled into second place, now just 47 seconds

Sixty-year-old Don Kjelleren behind Russell. Mulkey had the fastest run of the day (37:12) to go along with the best swim, but it was just 13 seconds faster than a 600-yard swim, 14-mile bike Russell's and 19 seconds better than Parker's. All three ran at a pace of about six minutes per

Mulkey got closer to Parker as Russell stayed out front to win in 2:08:03. Russell claimed second in 2:08:44 with Mulkey, 11 seconds behind him in 2:08:55.

Those top three are among of the best triathletes in the In the men's Olympic race, country. Finishing with only 52

SALISBURY — Saturday's past Vermont Sun Olympic race came down to their speed in transitioning between race elements. Russell's total transition time was 1:12, Russell's was 1:30 and Mulkey took 2:10, 58 seconds behind Russell who beat him overall by just 52 seconds with a personal best time.

> "Today was fun, hard racing as the three of us really pushed ourselves to the limits of our abilities" Russell said

Christopher Foster of Middleton, Connecticut finished fourth in 2:22:10, and Middlebury's Kyle Friis placed fifth in 2:23:52.

Friis was pleased with his result. "My goal was to get a top-three finish and maybe get the state championship. But when I saw those three here I knew that would be tough. I'm real happy with my

time today" he said. Sixty-nine-year-old Schumann of Salisbury placed seventh overall in the shorter men's triathlon and won his age group by 15 minutes in 1:15:00. Middlebury's Erin Quinn was second in the men's 60-64 age group in 1:36:44. The oldest finisher in the sprint was 86-yearold Bob Heins of Plattsburgh, N.Y., in 1:53:26.

The oldest Olympic finisher was Kristopher Hammer of Montpellier in 3:38:52. The second oldest finisher, Steve Hare, 68, of Middlebury won the 65-69 group in 2:50:44 and was 16th overall. Middlebury's Katherine Donahue was second in the women's 20-24 group in 3:03:23.

For complete results and splits go to vermontsun.com



TIGER SENIOR ADA Weaber was named a Division I First Team Girls' Lacrosse All-Star.

acrosse

(Continued from Page 1B) defender/midfielder Maris Laperle received Division II Second Team recognition.

Tiger defender/midfielder Louisa Orten earned Division I Honorable Mention, and sophomore attacker/ midfielder Thompson Davis and

freshman defender/midfielder Callie Rule received Division II Honorable Mention



(Continued from Page 1B) Lake Division, which recognized a second team as well as a first team and honorable mentions. Basically, it's harder to become an SVL all-star.

One player from rebuilding Vergennes, the only D-III team in the Lake Division, earned honorable mention.

The Lake Division also chooses players by position, while the SVL does not.

Earning First Team Lake Division honors were: Tiger senior first baseman Skyler Choiniere, Eagle junior second baseman Morgan Larocque, Eagle junior shortstop Gen Forand, Tiger senior third baseman Meredith Cameron, Tiger senior outfielder Lily Dame, Eagle sophomore outfielder Emi Rougier, and Eagle freshman utility player Nora Hurlburt.

From OV, pitcher Sophie Parker and first baseman Adyson Humiston were named to the SVL B Division first team.

Otter senior Leann Thomas and OV junior earned SVL honorable



OTTER SOFTBALL ALL-STAR Kaylee Maloy makes contact on a pitch during the Otters' semifinal at Mount Abe.
Independent photo/Steve James

mention, and OV Coach Kelly Lexi Whitney, Tiger freshman Trayah was named the SVL B Division Coach of the Year.

Earning spots on the Lake Division Second Team were OV junior pitcher Gretchen Toy, Eagle senior catcher Elise Parker, Eagle sophomore first baseman Brooke Barnard, Tiger freshman second baseman Mckenna Whitney, Eagle senior third baseman Abba Parker; Tiger senior utility player

outfielder Lillian Paquette, and Eagle sophomore outfielder Leah Tierney.

Lake Earning Division Honorable Mention were three Eagles, freshman Mady King, sophomore Reagan Lafreniere and Brooklyn Ryersbach; Tiger junior Ireland Hanley; and Commodore freshman



Sun sprint distance triathlon on Saturday at Branbury State Park. Photos / Pat Hendrick Photography

Golf

(Continued from Page 1B) finished in a ninth place net tie in Flight 4. Goodwin also won a closest to the pin contest.

In weekly Thursday Men's Golf play the foursome of Eric Bergland, Douglas Biklen, Stan Pratt and

Taking second place was the Jen Heath and Bryon, Julia Emilo

team of Robert Cameron, Mike Adams, Tom Lachenman and Gary Wright. Two teams tied for third: John Myhre, Tim Etchells, Matthew Biette and Tom McGinn; and Jim Stahl, Joe Thilbourg, Jeff Stetson and Vince Paradis.

In Friday Mixer play, the team of

and Laura Emilo took the honors. The quartet of Amy Nuceder-Kellogg, Steve Kellogg and Elizabeth and John Illick were second, and the foursome of Craig Miner and Susan Miner and Fred Lichtenfels and Sheri Lichtenfels

Addison balks at resolution

Selectboard declines to act on civil rights measure

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON — The Addison selectboard at its June 3 meeting declined to endorse a statement supporting Constitutional guarantees for "due process, equal protection, and fundamental rights to all persons regardless of citizenship, immigration status, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or political belief."

The resolution is one that a number of other Vermont communities have adopted, Rutland including City, Wallingford, Brandon, Shaftsbury, Vergennes, Bennington, Jericho and

Pittsfield. Several other towns' selectboards, including East Montpelier, Rutland Town, Proctor and Middletown Springs, reportedly had also in May placed the resolution on agendas for upcoming meetings. According to the Rutland Herald, Rutland resident Peter Franzoni had claimed he has emailed a draft of the resolution to officials in every town in Vermont. Franzoni was one of about a dozen-anda-half people at the June 3 selectboard meeting in support

of the resolution. According to Addison's

board members who spoke said they believed the Constitution itself and their oaths of office covered the issues raised by the resolution without, in board member Peter Briggs' words, requiring "specific adoptions of resolutions.'

In the minutes, board member Roger Waterman is described as having "expressed that the Constitution should stand alone as a document protecting the people of America."

The minutes also indicate that Briggs "stated that when board members are elected, they take an oath saying they will uphold the Constitution and that statement should mean something."

Resident Mary Saudade introduced the resolution at the meeting and read it aloud. Per minutes, she called it "a citizen-led effort started by Rutland City citizens," notably Franzoni.

When someone at the meeting said Congress is responsible for immigration law, not local government, responses in the minutes included that "at the lowest levels of government there should be obvious support for constitutional freedoms," June 3 selectboard minutes, while another commenter

"talked about past experiences living in other countries where government overreaches are present."

The document itself includes, in part, the following language:

• "The detention of legal residents in Vermont without clear justification or timely access to legal counsel, represent a dangerous escalation of government overreach and a violation of constitutionally guaranteed protections."

 "History has shown that when the rights of any group are violated, such violations open the door to similar abuses to be carried out against all others who do not conform to the views of those in power.'

• "Silence of public officials in the face of such abuses amounts to complicity."

"(Addison) condemns violations of due process, equal protection, and unconstitutional government power against any persons in the United States."

At the conclusion of the discussion, per minutes, Board Chair Jeff Kauffman Sr. asked "if board members would move to adopt or deny the resolution, but no members were inclined to speak; hearing nothing no action was taken."



ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT **NOTICE OF ADOPTED 2025 RATE CHANGES**

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District Board of Supervisors adopted new rates for mattress recycling or mattress landfill disposal at its June 19, 2025, meeting. The new rates will take effect on Aug. 1, 2025.

The new rates at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury are:

- (1) Crib Mattress Recycling: \$15/each;
- (2) All Other Size Mattresses or Boxspring Recycling: \$40/each;
- (3) All Size Mattresses or Boxspring Landfill: \$156/ton plus \$45 Fee
- (4) Mattress Quantities Greater than 10: By Appointment Only at \$40/each

For a copy of the CY2025 Rate Sheet, please call the District at 802-388-2333, or email the office at acswmd@acswmd.org. Both are also available on the District's website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

TOWN OF ADDISON PUBLIC NOTICE

The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025 at the Addison Community Center at 6:30 PM. (regular monthly meeting)

- Open the meeting.
- 2. Roll call given.
- Public Comment time allowed (beginning & end if deemed necessary).
- Continue to work with Katie Raycroft-Meyer on the Town Plan revisions, finalizing details & progressing with the next steps for the Town Plan. Katie will bring a rough draft of the plan
- Follow up with input we want to put in the plan for GOALS & OBJECTIVES for the Village Center & Commercial Neighborhood Area for future use.
- Approve the meeting minutes for June 16, 2025.
- Follow up with progress of board members taking required ethics training online at https://ethicscommission.vermont.gov/training.
- Discuss any remaining miscellaneous Planning Commission business or concerns.

If needed allow public comment time at the end.

Michael Hollis, Chair Starr Phillips, Secretary Addison Planning Commission

TOWN OF ADDISON NOTICE OF TAX SALE

The resident and non-resident owners, lien holders and mortgagees of real property in the Town of Addison in Addison County are hereby notified that the taxes assessed by such Town remain, either in whole or in part, unpaid on the following described lands in such Town, to wit:

Property Owners: Gary Blanchard and Deanna Blanchard Property Address: Ten Acre Campground #73

Parcel ID # TA0073-T

A travel trailer located at Ten Acres Drive, Lot 73 Ten Acres Drive Campground & RV Park.

Tax Years: 2022-2023

Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$2,328.00

Property Owners: John Hinkell, Sr.

Property Address: Sportsman Campground #62

Parcel ID # VR0062-T A travel trailer located at Sportsman Campground, Lot 62.

Tax Years: 2021-2024

Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$3,222.48

Property Owners: James Koerber

Property Address: 144 Cedar Drive Parcel ID # CD0144

Land and premises described in a Quitclaim Deed from Louise Koerber to James Koerber dated June 1, 2018, and recorded at Volume 115, Page 280, of the Town of Addison Land Records.

Tax Years: 2022-2024

Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$4,462.32

Property Owners: Jim McLain Property Address: Sportsman Campground #49

Parcel ID # VR0049-T

A travel trailer located at Sportsman Campground, Lot 49. Tax Years: 2018-2024

Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$2,587.89

Property Owners: John E. Oliva Property Address: 9 Oven Bay

Parcel ID # OB0009

Land and premises described in a Quitclaim Deed from Donald Freda to John E. Oliva dated January 23, 2020, and recorded at Volume 111, Page 823, of the Town of Addison Land Records.

Tax Years: 2022-2024

Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$20,658.72

Property Owners: John E. Oliva Property Address: 392 Tritown Road Parcel ID # TR0392

Land and premises described in a Quitclaim Deed from Donald Freda to John E. Oliva dated January 23, 2020, and recorded at Volume 111, Page 821, of the Town of Addison Land Records.

Tax Years: 2022-2024

Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$20,428.43

Property Owners: David Stanilonis Property Address: 4581 VT Route 22A Parcel ID # VA4581

Land and premises described in an Executor's Deed from Paul B. Stanilonis, Executor for the Estate of Wilma W. Stanilonis to David Stanilonis dated October 31, 2006, and recorded at Volume 90, Page 245, of the Town of

Tax Year: 2023-2024

Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$5,289.04

Property Owners: Shayne Thompson Property Address: 3313 VT Route 17W Parcel ID # VW3313

Land and premises described in a Warranty Deed from Daniel Devries to Shayne Thompson dated February 21, 2017, and recorded at Volume 107, Page 240, of the Town of Addison Land Records.

Tax Years: 2022-2024

Amount of tax, interest, cost and penalties: \$3,796.46

Reference may be had to said instruments for a more particular description of said lands and premises, as the same appear in the Town Clerk's Office of

So much of such real property will be sold at public auction at the Addison Town Clerk's Office, 65 VT Route 17 West, Addison, VT 05491, on July 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., as shall be requisite to discharge such taxes with interest, costs and penalties, unless previously paid. Property owners or mortgagees may pay such taxes, interest, costs and penalties in full by cash or certified check made payable to the Town of Addison. At tax sale, successful bidders must pay in full by cash or certified check. No other payments accepted. Any questions or inquiries regarding the above-referenced sale should be directed to the following address:

Kristen E. Shamis, Esq. Monaghan Safar PLLC 27 Main Street Burlington, VT 05401 kshamis@msvtlaw.com

Monaghan Safar PLLC, and the Town of Addison give no opinion or certification as to the marketability of title to the above-referenced properties as held by the current owner/taxpayer.

Dated at Addison, Vermont, this 18th day of June, 2025.

Alden Harwood

Collector of Delinquent Taxes Town of Addison

Whiting's Ryan ends Devil's Bowl drought

WEST HAVEN — Brothers Jimmy Ryan of Whiting and Randy Ryan of Orwell dueled to the firstand second-place finishes in the top feature at Devil's Bowl Speedway on Saturday, a 30-lap Sunoco Sportsman Modified feature.

Aiden Benoure of Salisbury and Norm Morrill of North Ferrisburgh were the other local drivers taking the checking flag on Saturday at the West Haven oval dirt track.

The Ryans began their journey in the main event in the second row behind top qualifiers Alex Palmer-Sawyer and Nick Brundige, but before long the Ryan brothers were dueling for the lead, with Jimmy taking the lead on the first lap. The race was caution free, with

no stoppage until lap 26, when drivers worked their way forward, including Vince Quenneville Jr. of Brandon, Dave Camara and Fire

But the Ryans held off the challengers, and Jimmy Ryan, a perennial contender, powered to his first Devil's bowl win since 2021. Randy Ryan was second,

and Swamp took third. Quenneville settled for sixth, and Bristol's Josh Masterson (eighth) and Whiting's Brent Warren (ninth) also cracked the top 10 in the big field.

Hartland's Tyler Travis claimed the win in the 25-lap O'Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman feature, taking the lead in the sixth lap after starting in the second row and holding on from there. Logan Denis of Whiting finished sixth, and New Haven's Alex Layn took ninth.

Mike Mahaney of Elizabethtown, N.Y. picked up the win in the 30lap DIRTcar 358 modified feature. Brandon's Joey Scarborough and Bristol's Josh Masterson ran at or near the front early, but settled for fourth and fifth, respectively, and Bridport's Troy Audet was sixth.

Salisbury's Benoure impressed with an eighth-to-first run in the 20-lap Hoosier Racing Tire Novice Sportsman race, edging out second-place finisher Winston Forbes of Brandon in the process. Leicester's Matt Cram ran sixth, and Salisbury's Matt Little was



WHITING DRIVER JIMMY Ryan's main feature win at the Devil's Bowl Speedway on Saturdaywashisfirstinfouryears.

Photo / Devil's Bowl Speedway

In a 15-lap Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint race, Scott Bachand of St. Albans collected his first-ever feature win in 42 seasons of racing. Bachand started in ninth and stormed to victory. Among those trailing him were Orwell's Ray Hanson in second, Brandon's Quinn Quenneville in third, and Bridport's Gage Provencher in 10th.

The Fisher Auto Parts Mini Stocks ran two features. In the first, a 15-lapper, New York driver Jake Fountain prevailed, passing runnerup Jakobee Alger on the final lap. Orwell's Ron Alger was third, and Kaleb Shepard of Vergennes was ninth.

York driver Jeremy New Brownell won the six-lap B feature. Cornwall's Brian Blake was sixth.

Finally, North Ferrisburgh's Morrill claimed his first 9th State Cannabis Crown Vic feature win of the season in a 20-lap event. Bristol's Eric Friend took fourth.

Devil's Bowl Speedway is back in action this Saturday, June 28 at 6 p.m. with the track's annual "Independence Day Spectacular," featuring a 44-lap, \$2,000-to-win Sunoco Sportsman Modified feature and a big fireworks display. Admission is \$20, with no charge for children 12 and under.

Dickerson

(Continued from Page 1B) enjoy when cross-country skiing. Of course, trail biking is an option for some. But neither of us have ever been drawn to mountain biking, at least not the more aggressive variety; though the quiet of the woods is appealing, we are not adrenaline junkies. And anyway, we don't own bikes designed for serious offroad travel. Nor do we enjoy long climbs up steep mountain roads or trails, which is also an impediment to biking in the steepest state in the country. (Yes. For those who haven't heard, that's Vermont!)

Multi-use rail trails provide the solution to all these problems. Built on abandoned rail lines (with the

SUPERIOR COURT

CAG NATIONAL FUND I LLC

DEFENDANT(S)

in said mortgage,

PLAINTIFF

Addison Unit

Public Notices can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 4B, 6B and 10B.

STATE OF VERMONT

ANDREW MONTROLL, ESQ., SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO THE PHILLIP H.

LIVINGSTON AND HARRIET N. LIVINGSTON LIVING TRUST; SECRETARY

OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING

NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale

filed on January 7, 2025, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose

that certain mortgage given by Philip H. Livingston, Surviving Trustee under

the Philip H. Livingston and Harriet N. Livingston Living Trust to MetLife Home

Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A., dated August 26, 2011, and recorded

in Book 98, at Page 154, of the Town of Addison Land Records, of which mort-

gage the undersigned is the present holder by virtue of the following Assign-

ments of Mortgage: (1) Assignment of Mortgage from MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage, D/B/A Champion

Mortgage Company recorded in Book 99, at Page 469 (2) Corrective Assign-

ment of Mortgage from MetLife Home Loans, a Division of MetLife Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC D/B/A Champion Mortgage Company recorded in

Book 101, at Page 450 (3) Assignment of Mortgage from Nationstar Mortgage

LLC d/b/a Champion Mortgage to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development recorded in Book 109, at Page 551 (4) Assignment of Mortgage from

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to CAG National Fund I LLC

breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing

the same will be sold at Public Auction on July 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM at 498

recorded in Book 119, at Page 43, all of the Town of Addison Land Records, for

Burgey Farm Road, Addison, VT 05491 all and singular the premises described

AT 498 BURGEY FARM ROAD, ADDISON, VT 05491

CIVIL DIVISION

DOCKET NO: 24-CV-03493

railroad tracks removed), they are free from automobile traffic and feature limited grades on ascents and descents. In New England, they also tend to have long sections running along rivers or in the

Vermont's LVRT runs 93 miles from St. Johnsbury to Swanton, with connections to other trail systems, including the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail. As its name suggests, much of it follows the Lamoille River. In the past, we have biked the section east of West Danville that parallels US-2 through farmland and forest, past campgrounds and rural residential land, down toward St. Johnsbury. We have also ridden both east and west from Morrisville. On our drive

to Maine, we decided to try a new section, heading northwest from West Danville parallel to VT-15.

There is parking for the trail right off US-2 by Joe's Pond. Since the excursion was Deborah's suggestion, I will excerpt from her journal, which begins by mentioning that both locust trees and mosquitos were in full bloom and continues to describe the scene.

"We parked in the lot across from the Hastings Store (owned and operated by the same family since 1913). Many other parked vehicles had various contraptions for carrying bicycles and the lot was busy with couples and families unloading bicycles, helmets, water bottles, and snacks. The skies were clearer without the scent of smoke than when we had left the Champlain Valley and the air temperature was perfect for pedaling. When I commented upon the clear air inside Hastings Store (where we picked up some peanut butter cookies and drinks for the trail), the baker joked that she had been frying doughnuts all morning which helped push the wildfire smoke away. We thanked her for the valiant efforts and hopped on our bikes, taking the trail along Joe's Pond . . . For the first few miles, we pedaled along with families out with their children. Like Canada geese, mom would be out of Jefferson. front, offspring in the middle, dad cyclists, a few runners, dog walkers, and parents pushing strollers made use of the trail. Despite the weeks of rain, the trail was firm and easy to pedal on ...

"We noticed a few wellmaintained beaver condominiums on the quiet edge of Joe's Pond. After riding past acres of wetlands, we entered a more wooded area. The shade of the trees and the rock ledges cast coolness upon us as we

listened to the soundtrack of stream and bird song. Once we got out a short distance from the parking area, we had the trail to ourselves (much like our experience at most Nordic ski centers). The grade was mild. Even when pedaling a long uphill segment, I never had to shift into the low gears. Road and driveway crossings were well marked with stop signs.'

What Deborah doesn't mention were the numerous beautiful tiger swallowtails all along the trail which we also enjoyed just six days later on our return from Maine when we stopped in Gorham, New Hampshire for a 15-mile bike trip on the Presidential Rail Trail that runs along the north side of Mount Jefferson, New England's third highest peak. The character of this trail was different. It was woodier with less evidence of nearby human habitation. The grade seemed slightly steeper at the start, though we still never had to drop into our lowest gears. And instead of meandering along the wider and slower moving Lamoille, it followed the course of a clear, cold, tumbling mountain stream that looked like a perfect refuge for wild brook trout, crossing back and forth across that brook as well as smaller tributaries coming in off the slopes

What it did have in common coasting in the rear. In addition to with the LMVT, in addition to the numerous swallowtails, was a beaver pond and lodge, a lot of shade, serene quiet, and a lack of traffic and texting drivers. We are already planning when we will get back to one or the other of these trails, perhaps for an overnight trip. (There are numerous lodging opportunities along both rail trails). And perhaps, next time, with my backpacking fly rod in my paniers.

TOWN OF BRIDPORT ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Bridport Developmental Review Board will hold a public hearing on July 16, 2025 at 6pm in the Bridport Town Office, at 82 Crown Point Rd, on each of the following applications:

 At 6:05 PM on Application (#25-19) by Brennan Kensey. Applicant requests a Variance for construction of 16' x 16' pad to accommodate a shed due to insufficient setback requirements.

• At 6:10 PM on Application (25-20) by Adam Bauer. Applicant requests a Variance to construct a 24'x26' cabin and a 24'x24' garage with insufficient side setback from neighbor.

Plans and additional information regarding any such application may be viewed at said Town Office or by calling 802-758-2483, Ext. 2. Participation in the Bridport Developmental Review Board proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal on any decision of it on an application.

Dinah Bain, Chair Al Zaccor, Secretary Tim Howlett, Acting Zoning Administrator

> STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-03053 IN RE ESTATE OF: JAMES TORREY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: James Torrey, late of 391 Torrey Lane, Shoreham, VT 05770. 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: 06/18/25

Ann Torrey 11 Notch Road, Mendon, VT 05701 802-775-0125 chrisc@corsones.com

Publication: Addison Independent

Publication Dates: 06/26/25, 07/03/25 Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

All that certain parcel of land situated in the County of Addison, State of Vermont, being known as being all and the same land and premises conveyed to Philip H. Livingston Trustee under the Philip H. and Harriet N. Livingston Living Trust by Warranty Deed of Philip H. and Harriet N. Livingston dated 1/17/02, recorded 9/18/02 in Vol. 78 at Page 18; also being the same land and premises

and Monika Hauser dated 8/9/01, recorded 8/14/01 in Vol. 73 at Page 391. The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

conveyed to Philip H. and Harriet N. Livingston by Warranty Deed of Philip T.

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.

Bozena Wysocki, Esq. BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC 23 Messenger Street 2nd Floor Plainville, MA 02762

VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com

CAG National Fund I LLC

THURSDAY une

Storytime in Starksboro. Thursday, June 26, 10:30 a.m., Starksboro Public Library, Route 116. Stories, Fun and Bubbles! All towns are welcome.

Next Steps: Addison County's Retirement Communities in Salisbury. Thursday, June 26, 6 p.m., Salisbury Free Public Library, 918 Maple St. Come meet representatives from Eastview, The Residence at Otter Creek, and Shard Villa, and hear about what makes their communities special.

FRIDAY iune

Town Hall Theater new wing celebration featuring Mihali in Middlebury. Friday, June 27, 5-8 p.m., Maloney Public Performance Plaza, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Come to The official launch of the THT's new wing and outdoor performance space. Mihali is a Vermontbased singer, songwriter, guitarist and co-founder of rock outfit Twiddle. Mihali draws on a rich mix of influences, with reggae and upbeat lyrics shaping the architecture of his original music. Free. More info at townhalltheater.org. Also, Rock 'n' Roll Strong Quartet, Cirque de Fuego, Samulnori Drums, food trucks, magic, pop-up costume photo booth, and more. Free. More info at townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY

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Big Pride in the Little City in Vergennes. Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m., Vergennes City Green. Come and celebrate love and pride in the little city with a big heart! This year's festivities kick off at the VUMSHS with sign making, then a march to the green at 11 a.m. The celebration continues at the Vergennes Green at 11:30 a.m. with speakers, music, drag story hour, art fights, dancing and more! Whether you are a community member or an ally, come as your age and love who you are.

Vermont Gran Fondo in Bristol. Saturday, June 28, Bristol Rec Park. The Vermont Gran Fondo was born from a famous bucket-list epic 4-gap ride known by the locals as the LAMB ride. LAMB comes from the names of Lincoln Gap, Appalachian Gap, Middlebury Gap and Brandon Gap. When combined into a single ride, can easily top 100 miles and over 10,000 feet of climbing on a bike! The après ride party will get underway at the Start-Finish under the big tent. Enjoy live music, a variety of food choices, locally produced beverages, and farm-to-spoon ice cream. More info at vermontgranfondo.com.

Town Hall Theater new wing celebration in Middlebury. Saturday, June 28, 1-4 p.m., Maloney Public Performance Plaza, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row, Come celebrate the official opening of the Town Hall Theater's new wing, and the launch of the new outdoor Maloney Public Performance Plaza and Tilly Stage with a ribbon cutting, The Real McCoy Stunt Show, Bill Vitek Jazz Trio, Tom Verner Magic Show, plus Crazy Cotton Candy Lady and Lulu Ice Cream throughout. More info at townhalltheater.org.

Vol. Fire Dept Chicken BBQ in New Haven.

Saturday, June 28, 5 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 96 North St. The New Haven Vol. Fire Department will start serving take-out only at 5 p.m. Please have correct change or checks made out to New Haven Fire Dept. MENU: 1/2 BBQ Misty Knoll chicken, homemade potato salad & baked beans, and a roll for \$15.00 per serving. Pick-up will be at the New Haven Town Hall.

SUNDAY

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"The Strong Women of Western Vermont during the American Revolution" in Hubbardton. Sunday, June 29, 1 p.m., Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, 5696 Monument Hill Rd. Site administrator Elsa Gilbertson will give an illustrated talk about some of the strong and resilient women and girls from western Vermont, in the southern Lake Champlain area, during the Revolutionary War.

MONDAY

Comic Art workshop in Shoreham. Monday, June 30, 3-5 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Pick up your graphic novel on June 24 so you can join in our book discussion on the 30th. Ages 9

Strawberry Festival in Vergennes. Monday, June 30, 6-8 p.m., City Park, Main St. Strawberry shortcake (homemade pound cake, vanilla ice cream, and fresh picked strawberries) and beverage: \$8 or 2 for \$15. Vergennes City Band will provide music. For more information, contact Marion at 802-417-4300.

Vergennes City Band concert in Vergennes.
Monday, June 30, 7 p.m., City Green. A staple of
Vergennes summer. Relax on the green and listen to live band music.

Cribbage Night in Bristol. Monday, June 30, 7 p.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North and Elm Streets The Masons of Libanus Lodge in Bristol will hold their semi-monthly Cribbage Night at the Lodge. Starts at 7 and usually finishes around

iuly WEDNESDAY

Summer political luncheon series in Middlebury. Wednesday, July 2, 12:30 p.m., EastView at Middlebury. Middlebury College Professor Matt Dickinson will host this popular series of talks on politics biweekly all summer long, in-person at EastView and via Zoom. Please call 802-989-7501 for the Zoom link.

Folk Art painting (part 1 of 2) with Ms. Kim in **Shoreham.** Wednesday, July 2, 3-4 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St.

"From Earth to Earth: The Lost Art of Dying in America" in Middlebury. Wednesday, July 2, 6 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. See the award-winning documentary, which describes natural burial and its benefits through stories from the people who worked to make it legal in Vermont, and the stories of people whose



They're back

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BRISTOL TOWN BAND is back for its 155th season this summer, so stop by the Bristol town green any Wednesday from now until Aug. 27 at 7 p.m., to hear (or play) some good-old summertime music for free.

Image courtesy of Henry Sheldon Museum

experiences have shown the ways it can help come to terms with the loss of a love one and with one's own mortality. Q&A to follow.

Bristol Town Band in Bristol. Wednesday, July 2, 7-8:30 p.m., town green. Bristol Town Band will be holding their 155th season of weekly summer band concerts. Rain location will be Holley Hall. All are welcome to join the band. More information at 802-281-2315

THURSDAY

4th of July storytime in Shoreham. Thursday, July 3, 10 a.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. For ages 0-5 and their parents or caregivers

Great Brandon Auction in Brandon. Begins Thursday, July 3, 11 a.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Our great indoor location will be open for 10 days and items will be available for silent auction bidding and e-bay style "Buy It Now" format. Antiques, collectibles, new merchandise, surprises and treasures from attics and barns. Many gift certificates to scores of local businesses including restaurants, stores, brew pubs, massages, services and much more. Runs through Saturday, July 12 at

Independence Eve celebration and Fireworks in Bristol. Thursday, July 3, 6 p.m. Bristol Rec Park, Airport Dr. A runner up to July 4th festivities with music by the 40th Army Band, DJ Jam Man, food and craft vendors, games and raffle tickets, with fireworks at dusk.

FRIDAY

Fourth of July celebration in Bristol. Friday, July 4, Main Street and points around town. The day starts with a 5K road race at 7 a.m., followed by Bristol's annual outhouse races at 9 a.m. and parade at 11 a.m. Live music, food, fun and games on the park will commence at noon.

50th Annual Ice Cream Social in Salisbury. Friday, July 4, 2 p.m., Salisbury Church Meetinghouse, 853 Maple Street. Rain or shine, join us for ice cream by the dish or cone, with toppings or with delicious homemade pie. Under the tent and on the lawn. Proceeds to support local charities. To volunteer or donate a pie or two, call Glenn Andres (802)352-6671 or Laurie Cox (802) 388-7820.

SATURDAY

Independence Day Celebration in Brandon. Saturday, July 5, locations around town. This small town knows how to throw a party and there are free events planned from morning to night and for everyone in the family. Beginning with a parade, there will also be bands in the parks, the Heritage train giving rides up Park Street and two auction sites where you can take home winnings on the same day. Also a beer garden, our world-famous Little Debbie Swiss Cake Roll Eating Contest, an evening street dance and fireworks at dusk that can be seen from up to a mile away.

Fundraiser Yard Sale in Cornwall. Saturday, July 5, 10 a.m., DAR Chapter House, corner of routes 74 and 30. There will be a large variety of items including antiques, household, townie bike and more!

Midd Summer Market in Middlebury. Saturday, July 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Triangle Park, corner of Main Street and Merchants Row. Circus Smirkus is in town! On your way there stop by and see what's on offer from Vermont artists, craftspeople and purveyors of fine Vermont products and prepared food. Shoppers can expect beautiful handmade items perfect for gifts, mementos, or staples for everyday use. Rain or shine. Learn ExperienceMiddlebury.com/middmarkets.

Collections Corner: American Revolution Artifacts in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, July 5, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Mark Independence Day with a special glimpse into local stories that played a role in our nation's founding. Take a look at original artifacts from the Battle of Valcour Island, Arnold's Bay and other sites around the region, and hear about the research being done at the site. Free. No registration or

Reading Frederick Douglass in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, July 5, 1 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Participate in reading Douglass's historic speech. More info at www.rokeby.org. Afternoon movie in Shoreham. Saturday, July 5, time TBD, Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St.

Join us wearing your favorite — green or pink for this fantasy musical in the cool of the library.

SUNDAY

Summer Middlebury. Sunday, July 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Triangle Park, corner of Main Street and Merchants Row. See July 5 listing. Food & Farm Fest in Orwell. Sunday, July 6, noon-4 p.m.. on the green. Farmers and makers market with over 20 vendors and music by Bird Mountain String Band.

july

MONDAY

Egg tempera workshop Shoreham. Monday, July 7-Friday, July 11, 9 -10 a.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join local artist and educator Jenny Muskopf to learn the art of mixing egg tempera paint and explore the medium. Adults only by registration at plattlib. org/programs-and-events.

Make your own belt with Stuart Lilie, Saddler, in Shoreham. Monday, July 7, 6:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. For ages 9 and

Vergennes City Band concert in Vergennes. Monday, July 7, 7 p.m., City Green. A staple of Vergennes summer. Relax on the green and

iuly WEDNESDAY Folk art painting (part 2 of 2) with

Ms. Kim in Shoreham. Wednesday, July 9. 3-4 p.m. Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 5 and up.

Bristol Town Band in Bristol. Wednesday, July 9, 7-8:30 p.m., town green. Bristol Town Band will be holding their 155th season of weekly summer band concerts. Rain location will be Holley Hall. All are welcome to More information at 802-281-2315.

july

THURSDAY

Embroidery circle drop-in in Shoreham. Thursday, July 10, 5-7 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Come by with your current project or come to learn a new embroidery skill. This program is a drop-in, so you can come at any time and leave when you're done.

iuly

FRIDAY

Theater Walk in Middlebury. Friday, July 11, 3-4 p.m., Otter Creek Gorge northern trailhead, Morgan Horse Farm Rd. Explore the enchanting Otter Creek Gorge and experience the magic of MALT campers putting on a play along the TAM. Enjoy a unique performance brought to life by MALT campers in collaboration with Town Hall Theater. Free. Space is limited. More info and registration at www.maltvt.org/events.

uly

SATURDAY

Bird banding in Weybridge. Saturday, July 12, 8-10 a.m., Hurd Grassland, Route 23. MALT welcomes folks for a morning of bird banding with Audubon Vermont Biologist Mark LaBarr. You'll get the chance to get hands-on with birds while contributing to a better understanding of their life cycles and migration patterns. Activities for families and youth. Bring food for a small picnic following banding. Light refreshments provided by MALT. Free. No bird banding experience required! More info and registration at www. maltvt.org/events.

Peasant Market in Middlebury. Saturday, July 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., on the green. Fabulous deals on jewelry, toys, sporting goods, garden accessories, plants, household goods, quilting fabric, linens, antiques, homemade baked goods and amazing fruit pies. Silent auction plus live auction for a solo wooden canoe. All proceeds to local social service agencies.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR

CALENDAR ONLINE

addisonindependent.com

Addison Independent, Thursday, June 26, 2025 — PAGE 5B

University of NE names dean's list

BIDDEFORD PORTLAND, MAINE TANGIER, MOROCCO — The following students have been named to the University of New England's dean's list for the spring semester 2025. Dean's list students have attained a grade point average

AND of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester. **Bristol**

Chance Denecker Greta Jennison Vergennes Mackenzie Flint

DeBaise earns degree from Quinnipiac

HAMDEN, Conn. — Aiden from Quinnipiac University during DeBaise of Starksboro, received a Master Business Administration in May.

a commencement ceremony held

Nicholas Coughlan of Monkton was among more than 700 College and Conservatory's Studies.

2025 commencement exercises. Coughlan graduated with a students honored during Oberlin Bachelor of Arts in Environmental



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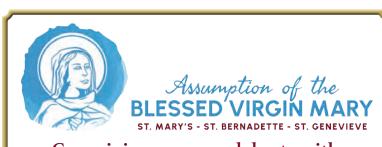
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Sundays, 9:00 am (St. Mary's)

St. Mary's Church - 326 College Street, Middlebury, VT St. Bernadette Church - 9 Crown Point Road, Bridport, VT stmary.vermontcatholic.org | Parish Office: 802-388-2943





- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs Parent Training & Child Center
- Helping Young Families

Get The Right Start

Reader Comments

Here's what one reader has to say about us!

A subscriber from New Haven writes:

"I love the Indy — totally vital today! Thank You!"

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



TOWN OF SALISBURY

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, July 16,

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold a Public Hearing

An application from Property Owner, Moosalamoo Club Inc./Applicant Jeff

Schumann, (Parcel ID #13XQ153), for a Conditional Use Review, in connection

with a proposed permit to raze and reconstruct Cottage C-8, located at 8

Moosalamoo Road, in Lake Shore District 2, (LS2), in which the proposed

This application is pursuant to §2.4.4, §3.4.2, §3.4.6, and 4.0.5 of the Salisbury

Participation (either oral or written) is a prerequisite to an interested person's

These hearings will be conducted with in-person and remote access. Those

wishing to participate remotely must obtain the necessary remote access codes.

Access codes (for on-line or phone) are available by contacting the Salisbury

Town Clerk during regular business hours prior to 3:00 PM on July 15, 2025.

The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and

Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during

regular business hours and on the Town Website at townofsalisbury.org.

right to take any subsequent appeal from the DRB's decision. See 24 V.S.A.

reconstruction requires review under 3.4.2 of the Unified Zoning Regulations.

Monkton

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

NEWS

were able to participate or check out Monkton's Town-wide Yard Sale. This year I was able to be one of the yard sales 'on the map' and was pleasantly surprised at

2025, to consider the following:

Unified Development Regulations

Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Application 2025-04

MONKTON — I hope you the amount of visitors we had, including neighbors, friends, a few relatives and strangers who could become friends! I can't say I made a lot of money, but it was a fun day.

continues to sponsor activities at the library. On Saturday, June 28 the Poetry Club meets from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. All are welcome to bring their own written poem or The Russell Memorial Library the writings of a favorite author to share and discuss with other poetry enthusiasts.

> The Monthly Book Club with Janet continues on Wednesday, July 2, starting at 7 p.m. Email russellmemlibrary@gmail. com to learn more or to sign up for an e-mail list.

> A lot of activities continuing for July and August at the library! Keep watching for the details.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News

The following local students have been recognized on the dean's list at Norwich University for the spring 2025 semester: Alexis Bartlett and Kohar Teague, both of Middlebury, and Madison Ask of New Haven. Fulltime undergraduate students who earned a semester GPA of at least 3.40 are awarded dean's list honors.



Jing Williams receives UWAC award

MIDDLEBURY — United Way of Addison County fosters community service for all community members, but especially for youth in Addison County. In that spirit, UWAC honors a local high school senior through the UWAC Youth Volunteer Scholarship Award. Jing Williams of Waltham is the 2025 United Way of Addison County Youth Volunteer Scholarship Award recipient this year.

On behalf of a generous donor, one student is chosen annually for the award, recognizing a high school senior who has volunteered in their community and is interested in advancing their education. This award comes with a \$3,000 scholarship for the Addison County student to be used for post-graduation education.

was introduced Willaims



JING WILLIAMS

to volunteering at a young age, growing up in a serviceoriented household and often attending community events. As a sophomore, Jing made a weekly commitment to volunteer at Homeward Bound: Addison County's Humane Society. That same year, Williams attended the first meeting of a new youth service group, the LEOS Club, under the Vergennes Lions, and she never looked back!

"It has been really nice to be part of a group of likeminded individuals who want to get involved in our greater community," said Jing. "Through the LEOS Club, I have been part of several volunteer efforts, including reading to elementary schoolers, making bird cages at the Otter Creek Wildlife Rescue, and

administering eye tests to children. This past year, I had the opportunity to create my senior project with the Club at the Vergennes Community Food Shelf."

Williams's senior project with the Food Shelf has involved improving energy efficiency in the Food Shelf's space. Working closely with Director Paul Vachon, she helped coordinate the installation of heat pumps, insulation, improved windows, and painting the floor. In addition, Williams helped write grants and find money to support the project. As a result of her efforts, the Leos have established a long-term partnership with the Food Shelf, hoping to return every year for service projects.

Cookie Steponaitis, the Adult Mentor for the Vergennes LEOS Club, said, "What sets Jing apart from many her age is her willingness to jump in and learn from the ground up. Before joining us, she was already a leader, but her work in LEOS kicked her skill set into high gear. She has been a part of every major project we have undertaken since 2022. We are honored to have been a part of her early years of community work. I know she will continue to lead as a Lion, community advocate, and teenager who already knows the power of many hands making light

After graduating from Vergennes Union High School, Williams plans to attend Lehigh University to major in Journalism and English.

SALISBURY PLANNING COMMISSION UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Salisbury Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 21 at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Office in Salisbury on the proposed Salisbury Unified Development Regulations. This hearing is held pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4441. This notice is issued pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4444(b).

You may participate remotely using Zoom. If you wish to participate in this way, it would be helpful to let us know so we can be sure to look for you.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89617340525?pwd=1O3it8B8kagPIKwg6NzXle9S UmuHbJ.1

Meeting ID: 896 1734 0525

Passcode: 231264

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND AREAS OF TOWN AFFECTED

The purpose of this bylaw revision is to comply with changes in state statutes, correct errors, modify sections that have been confusing or difficult to administer, and reflect changes in the Salisbury Town Plan. The Unified Development Regulations include Zoning, Subdivision, Flood Hazard and River Corridor Bylaws. In accordance with the Town Plan, these regulations govern development within the town and, in certain cases, change the zoning districts and the density allowed. All areas within the Town of Salisbury are affected.

Topics include:

Article I: Authority, Purpose, and Applicability

Article II: Zoning Districts

Article III: Administration and Enforcement

Article IV: General Regulations

Article V: Specific Use Standards Article VI: Flood Hazard and River Corridor Bylaw

Article VII: Subdivision Standards and Review

Article VIII: Definitions

Copies of the proposed Unified Development Regulations can be viewed at the Town Office, School Street, Salisbury, VT, or on the town website: www.TownofSalisbury.org

Written comments are welcome until August 3. Please emai brightondeborahp@gmail.com or mail comments to the Planning Commission at the Salisbury Town Office, PO Box 66, Salisbury, VT 05769.

For further information please call Deb Brighton, Clerk of the Planning Commission, at 802-349-5634

Salisbury Planning Commission

PROPOSED STATE RULES

Public Notices can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 4B, 6B and 10B.

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/ . The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Rules for the Designation and Operation of Home Health Agencies. Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P021

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL)

CONCISE SUMMARY: It is not uncommon for designated home health agencies, despite their best efforts to recruit and retain staff, to lack the necessary staffing to provide designated services, as currently defined, to all individuals who are referred. The severe workforce shortage of personal care attendants prevents home health agencies from complying with the requirement to serve all individuals on Choices for Care who are referred for services. As a result, most agencies are operating under a variance to this requirement. The proposed rule would remove Choices for Care services, including personal care, respite, companionship, and homemaker services, which are not "home health services," from the Rule's definition of "designated services," to ensure that agencies are not held responsible for providing services that they frequently lack staffing to provide, while allowing them to continue to provide these services when they do have sufficient staff. The proposed rule makes other technical changes for clarity

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Pamela Cota, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) HC 2 South, 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671-2060 Tel: 802-241-0347 E-Mail: pamela.cota@vermont. gov URL: https://dlp.vermont.gov/survey-cert/facility-regs.

FOR COPIES: Stuart Schurr, Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) HC 2 South, 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671-2060 Tel: 802-238-3754 E-Mail: stuart.schurr@vermont.gov.

Turkey brood survey starts July 1

MONTPELIER — The Vermont survey helps us monitor long-Fish and Wildlife Department term trends in the productivity is asking the public for help of Vermont's wild turkey in monitoring the condition of population," said Vermont Fish Vermont's wild turkey population. and Wildlife's turkey biologist 2007, the Since

department has run an annual online survey in August for reporting turkey broods, but beginning in 2021, the survey was expanded to include July. If you see a flock of

turkeys in Vermont during July and August, the department asks you to go to the turkey brood annually in order to maintain a survey on its website and report healthy, abundant and sustainable your observations, including where and when you observed the turkeys with the number of adult and young turkeys you observed. The value of the data collected improves when more people participate.

"Information gathered from this

Toni Mikula. "It also helps us assess the impacts of spring weather on the survival of poults and adult turkeys which is an important consideration in the management of turkeys."

"We monitor manage wild turkey numbers population of these iconic and ecologically significant birds throughout the state," Mikula.

"Please help us scientifically manage the turkey population by reporting your Vermont turkey sightings during July and August.'



ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

2025 Addy Indy Garden Game

Frequent Garden Gamer Laura Asermily brought some serious competition this week with a long, slender asparagus spear measuring an impressive 20" L x 1.75" C. Noting that her asparagus crop is longer and skinnier this year, Laura's veggie is a standout! Although it doesn't quite outsize Pat Martin's entry from last week.

> With warmer temperatures settling in, gardens all around the county are kicking into high gear.

Think you've got a veggie that could take the crown? Bring it in—we're always excited to see what's growing out there!

Play the Garden Game!

Do you have veggies to share in our pages? We welcome entries from any of the listed categories. Bring your entry into our office between 9am and 4pm Monday-Friday and we'll measure it and snap a photo. Each week, we'll publish new entries and update our frontrunners for each category in the contest. At the end of the season, each category winner* will be eligible to receive a gift certificate from our Garden Game sponsor, Middlebury Agway.

CATEGORIES & FRONT-RUNNERS:

Asparagus (length x circumference) - Pat Martin, 36" x 2.25"

Beet (circumference) Broccoli (diameter)

Cabbage (circumference)

Cantaloupe (circumference)

Carrot (length x circumference)

Cauliflower (diameter)

Corn (length x circumference)

Cucumber (length x circumference)

Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Gary Miller, 16.25" x 8"

Eggplant (circumference x circumference)

Fennel (length x circumference)

Green Bean (length)

Kohlrabi (circumference) Leek (length x circumference)

Melon (circumference)

Onion (circumference) Parsnip (circumference)

Pepper (circumference x circumference)

Potato (length x circumference)

Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)

Radish (circumference) Rhubarb (length)

Rutabaga (circumference)

Summer Squash (length x circumference)

Sunflower (diameter)

Tomato (circumference)

Turnip (circumference) Winter Squash (length x circumference)

Zucchini (length x circumference)



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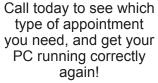
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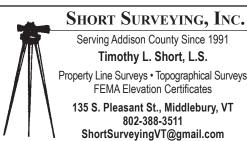
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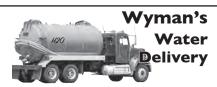
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Public Meetings

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 vermontalanonalateen.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

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

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Opportunities

Public Meetings

OVEREATERS ANONY-MOUS 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.

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Opportunities

Help Wanted

DENTAL HYGIENIST Full Time or Part Time. David E. Congalton, DDS 106 Main Street, Vergennes. Dr. Congalton's office is seeking a full or part time dental hygienist. Excellent pay and full benefits. Please contact the office at drcongalton@yahoo.com for more information.

FRONT DESK AGENT/ **CONCIERGE-FULL TIME** Swift House Inn is hiring a full-time front desk agent. This guest-facing role includes check-ins, reservations, and concierge services. Ideal candidates are detail-oriented, friendly, and comfortable with computers. Weekend availability required, prior hospitality experience a plus. Apply in person or email owner@ swifthouseinn.com.

PART-TIME PERSONAL **CARE** assistant wanted to help 77 year old man in Addison for 3-4 hours a day for 4 days a week. Help with housekeeping, cooking, and chores. \$25 an hour. Reply to ellenresnik@ gmail.com

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Homeless Services Coordinator 32 - 40 hours a week, negotiable

Assist persons experiencing homelessness in identifying and accessing services and programs needed to stabilize them while homeless, and to address the barriers to obtaining stable housing.

Minimum of 2 years' experience working with persons with mental illness and substance use disorders, knowledge of mainstream resources required. Must have a valid driver's license and reliable auto.

HOPE offers competitive wages, platinum medical coverage, dental, life, matched retirement savings, and generous paid time off.

To apply, send resume and letter of interest to receptionist@hope-vt.org, or mail to 282 Boardman Street, Suite 1A, Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

AGWAY

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

Charter House Coalition Volunteers



Charter House Coalition is looking for volunteers to help with food donations, meal prep, deliveries, and serving meals in our dining room. We also train volunteers to take shifts in the shelter, providing general oversight of the home. In all these roles, our volunteers engage with clients in the long-time Charter House mantra of "neighbor helping neighbor"



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

To learn more, visit: chcvt.org/want-to-get-involved/ volunteer





Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Director of Developmental Services

Community Associates at the Counseling Service of Addison County Do you care deeply about Vermonters with intellectual

disabilities? Are you passionate about inclusion and dignity? CSAC is seeking a dynamic Director to lead our Developmental

Service program. This role oversees a department of 100 staff providing residential, home-based, and community services to adults with intellectual disabilities and traumatic brain injuries. The Director ensures services meet community needs, staff

receive the training and support they need, resources are managed efficiently, and all compliance requirements are met. As part of SAC's Management Team, the Director also contributes to strategic planning, advocacy, and overall administration.

The ideal candidate will have: a demonstrated history of collaborative leadership; a thorough understanding of the Vermont system of care; experience with managing a \$13M+ department budget; excellent communication skills; and a Master's Degree in a related field (preferred).

We offer competitive compensation and benefits package.

If you are ready to make a meaningful impact in Addison County supporting families, and helping hundreds of individuals thrive, we want to hear from you.

To apply, visit https://www.csac-vt.org/careers/careers.html Please include a cover letter.

CSAC is an Equal Opportunity Employer



The Addy Indy is looking to hire an enthusiastic and motivated Digital and Calendar editor.

If you are tech savvy, curious about community events and quick with technology, this position could be perfect for you!

The Digital Editor will help us develop our digital platforms, working with the news team and publishing team to manage all digital content on our websites (AddisonIndependent.com and MiniBury. com), social media and newsletters.

Experience with WordPress and MailChimp preferred, along with a strong commitment to learn new systems and improve our platforms to reach and engage our readers. Additional responsibilities include copy editing, proofreading and working with our audience development team to analyze patterns and reach more readers!

The Addison Independent is an equal opportunity employer.



elsie@addisonindependent.com

INDEPENDENT

Learn more about us at addisonindependent.com

ADDISON INDEPENDENT

58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Addison Independent

SSIFIED 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: Special 4 Address: _ Phone: **Email: Or,** submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com **DEADLINE**: Monday at 5 p.m.

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

for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, ities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted			
Notices		Att. Farmers	
Card of Thanks	☐ Help Wanted	☐ Motorcycles	
Personals	☐ For Sale	☐ Cars	
Services	☐ Public Meetings**	☐ Trucks	
Free**	☐ For Rent	SUVs	
Lost 'N Found**	☐ Want to Rent	Snowmobiles	
Garage Sales	☐Wood Heat	Boats	
🛮 Lawn & Garden	Real Estate	☐ Wanted	
Opportunities	\square Animals	☐ Real Estate Wanted	
Adoption		☐ Vacation Pontals	

802-388-4944 addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD

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arred. No refunds will be possible. Adertiser will please notify us of any errors	Internet Listing:	\$	
hich may occur after first publication.	TOTAL:	\$	

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale

2011 38' CAMPER needs little work, \$6500, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

BICYCLE HELMET Model: Raider RX/Adult MX. MFG Date: 2021/01 Size L size 7 Raider RX/MX DOT FMVSS No.218 Certified. Worn one time looks new, \$50 (firm). Color: Blackwhite-gray. Call Art at 802-458-2726

ENCORE WOOD STOVE porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-

FIREWOOD STOVE in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

TWO ITEMS Kenmore 12k BTU multi-room window AC. Energy star rated, good condition \$75 cash. Drywall/panel hoist 150lb capacity like new, \$125 cash. Call 802-989-0721, leave a message or a text.

Ford Pickup **FOR SALE!**

4 wheel drive, Long bed 6-speed standard transmission \$6,000



Help Wanted

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAM-PLAIN 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.

3 BEDROOM 2 1/2 bath 3

story house for rent. (1500 square feet.) Lots of windows and light, southern exposure. It is on 5 acres. some wooded and some open, with garden space on a dead-end road (399 Jockey Lane, Monkton). Two decks and a small porch. 30 minutes from Burlington. Energy efficient: solar electricity, heat pump. Rent is \$2400 per month plus electricity and fuel. We are responsible for mowing and landscaping; renter is responsible for snow removal. Washer/ dryer provided as well as all appliances. References required. Email is best but if you would like to call, the number is 802-877-3742. Please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street Middlebury, VT. 802-349-

Help Wanted

AGWAY.

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!

Excellent Perks including an Employee Discount and Flexible Schedule

but ability to work weekends is also a must.

Please stop in to pick up an application or send Resume and References to:

Middlebury AGWAY Farm & Garden,

Attn: Jennifer Jacobs 338 Exchange St. Middlebury, VT 05753

or by email to info@middleburyagway.com

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. – Middlebury, VT.

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.

For Rent



ALL REAL ESTATE ad-

vertising 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 Tollfree at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft - Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury - 802-558-6092

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

Help Wanted

For Rent

VERGENNES VALLEY

taking waitlist applications

for 1 and 2 bedroom apart-

ments. No smoking/no

pets. Income limits ap-

ply- Rent rate based on

income. Equal Housing

FERRISBURGH: Senior ORWELL: Outdoorsy retirwoman seeks homeshare ee who enjoys landscaping, guest for home near Basin hiking, swimming seeking Harbor. Enjoy quiet setcompanionable dog-friendting with friendly Vermonter ly housemate to share her who likes watching TV and rural home. \$350/month, all knitting. \$200/month in exincluded. 802-863-5625 or change for companionship, HomeShareVermont.org for assistance with household application. Interview, refermaintenance, light cleanences, background checks ing. 802-863-5625 or Horequired. EHO meShareVermont.org for

For Rent

application. Interview, refer-

and these issues are sel-

dom or never addressed.

At The Commons, there

is a maintenance person

who quickly takes care of

802-388-4831, AJ Neri

Property Rentals.

BEEF

Savello

Deer Valley

ences, background checks VIEW APARTMENTS is required. EHO currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must **HOUSING OPPORTUNITY** be 62+ years of age. No For those planning on gosmoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based ing into elderly housing in Middlebury, the best choice on income. Equal Housing would be The Commons. Opportunity. 802-247-0165 Those who live in the facil-TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com. ity near Shaws have many problems with electrical plumbing and safety is-**VERGENNES WILLOW** sues just to mention a few **APARTMENTS** Is currently the list goes on and on

the problems. For more Opportunity 802-247-0165 information, call Legal Aid TTY: 800-253-0191. www. at 1-800-889-2047. SummitPMG.com. MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAM-PUS HOUSING available.

For Rent

VERMONT SUN BUILD-ING Space for rent. 3600 square feet. Contact Steve, mornings, 802-989-1244. vermontsun.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-

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

Wanted

LIONS CLUB: needs good items for their annual auction. Please no appliances or electronics. Call for pick up: 802-989-1494. Help us, help others.

NOTICE OF SELF-STORAGE

LIEN SALE

116 SELF STORAGE, BRISTOL, VT

Notice is hereby given that the contents

of the self-storage unit listed below will

be sold at public auction by sealed bid at

the 116 Self Storage facility. This sale is

being held to collect unpaid storage unit

occupancy fees, charges and expenses

The entire contents of the self-storage

unit listed below will be sold, with the

proceeds to be distributed to 116 Self

Storage for all accrued occupancy fees

(rent charges), attorney's fees, sale expenses in relation to the unit and its

sale. Any proceeds beyond the foregoing

on 7/3/2025 commencing at 10 a.m. Sealed bids are to be submitted on the

entire contents of the self-storage unit.

Bids will be opened one-quarter of an

hour after the unit has been viewed on

7/3/2025. The highest bidder on the storage unit must remove the entire

contents within 48 hours after notification

of their successfull bid. Purchase must

be made in cash and paid in advance of

the removal of the contents of the unit A \$50.00 cash deposit shall be made

and will be refunded if the unit is broom

cleaned. 116 Self Storage reserves the

shall be returned to the unit holder. Contents of the unit may be viewed

of the sale.

Addison County Solid Waste Management District (1)

116 Self Storage (1)

Addison (2)

Bridport (2)

Shoreham (2)

Salisbury (2)

State of Vermont (1) Stewart Construction (1)

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 4B, 6B and 10B.

Stewart Construction, located in Essex Junction, Vermont is seeking bids from qualified subcontractors for a fast paced, multi-family construction project off Seminary Street Extension in the town of Middlebury, Vermont. The scopes of work available for bids include but are not limited to: Sitework, Concrete, Wood Framing, Mechanical/Plumbing, Electrical, Fire Suppression and Finishes - both interior and exterior. Minority, Women, Small Owned, & Section 3 Businesses are encouraged to respond. Interested subcontractors must not be debarred from receiving State or Federal funding and must be capable of processing certified payroll with Davis Bacon wages. Please reach out to info@stewartconstruction.com for access to the Townhouse 2 (Lot 8) and Duplexes 1-4 (Lot 7) bid documents; bids will be accepted for the work until June 27th, 2025.

TOWN OF SHOREHAM NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on 7/17/2025 at 7:00 PM at Town Office (297 Main St) to consider application #25-004 submitted by Brandon Streicher & Tanya Scuteri for a subdivision in accordance with Shoreham's Unified Development Regulations.

The location of the proposed project is School Street (09-01-05.012) and involves the subdivision of a residential lot with an existing single-family home into four additional single-family residential lots.

The application is available at the Town Office and on the town website for review. Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal.

Use the following login information to attend the hearing by videoconference or by phone:

URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88285358991?pwd=A5zfnTxiJLWEnef9Zyo

vnqUsonR225.1 Meeting ID: 882 8535 8991 Passcode: 638706 Phone: (301) 715-8592

John Kiernan, Chair

TOWN OF BRIDPORT PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Town of Bridport Selectboard will hold a public hearing at the Bridport Town Office, 82 Crown Point Road, Bridport, VT, on Monday, July 14, 2025, at 6:05 p.m. on the following: TOWN OF BRIDPORT PROPOSED INTERIM ZONING BYLAWS ON CHĂNGES REGARDING STRUCTURES.

ARTICLE A: BACKGROUND AND EFFECT

Subsection A-1: Background and Purpose

The Town's Planning Commission is studying making changes to the Town's Zoning Regulations. These changes include certain ones regarding structures. The Bridport Selectboard has determined that revisions to the Bridport Zoning Regulations are required on an interim basis for certain changes regarding

Section A-2: Authority

The Selectboard is authorized to enact these interim Zoning Bylaws pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4415, which allows for the enactment of interim bylaws after public hearing upon public notice, and pursuant to Sections 4411, 4414 and other provisions of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117 generally.

Section A-3: Effect on Existing Zoning Regulations

These Interim Zoning Bylaws are intended to supplement and not to replace the existing Bridport Zoning Regulations. The existing Zoning Regulations will remain in full force and effect, except to the extent modified by these Interim Zoning Bylaws. Pursuant to the Selectboard's creation of a Development Review Board on March 10, 2025, it is recognized that the Development Review Board became the appropriate Municipal Panel for applicable review functions formerly performed by the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission under the existing Zoning Regulations. It is also recognized that Commission under the existing Zoning Regulations. It is also recognized that the existing Zoning Regulations are subject to any applicable modification because of Vermont Act 181 enacted in 2024.

Section A-4: Effective Date and Duration

These Interim Zoning Bylaws shall become effective as of the date of adoption by the Selectboard and shall remain in effect for a period of two (2) years, unless extended, repealed, or amended in accordance with law. Upon the expiration or repeal of these Interim Zoning Bylaws, those provisions of the existing Zoning Regulations which were superseded hereby shall be reinstated and shall once again be in full force and effect, unless repealed or amended in accordance with law.

ARTICLE B: CHANGED REGULATIONS REGARDING STRUCTURES

• For the duration of these Interim Zoning Bylaws, as defined in Section A-4 above, in Section 130 on Definitions of ARTICLE I of the Bridport Zoning Regulations, the following definitions are either changed or added

Accessory Use or Building: A use or building customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal use or building and located on the same lot. An unregistered trailer or shipping container used for storage or other accessory use shall be considered a structure subject to all of the terms and conditions of

Fence: A structure used primarily for enclosure or screening, not exceeding 8 feet in height and not impeding a right of way. Fences having finished and unfinished sides will have the finished side facing the abuttor's property.

Seasonal Dwelling: A dwelling which is occupied no more than 180 days during any one-year period, including campers, tents and yurts unless a wastewater permit has been issued by the State. Additionally, the conversion of a seasonal dwelling to a residential dwelling or accessory dwelling unit requires a zoning permit. Seasonal dwelling must follow the setback requirements for the district zone it is located in.

Structure: An assembly of materials for occupancy or use, including but not limited to, a building, mobile home or trailer, sign, wall, fence or ground based

• For the duration of these Interim Zoning Bylaws, as defined in Section A-4 above, in Section 301 on Exemptions & Exceptions 24 V.S.A. § 4413 of ARTICLE III of the Bridport Zoning Regulations, which Section in part says: "The following uses shall be exempt from these regulations to the extent provided below:"; the 8th such use is changed to read as follows:

8. Doghouses, sheds, tree houses, or similar accessory structures having less than or equal to 120 square feet in floor area and less than or equal to ten feet in height, may be located within a yard, a minimum of 10 feet from any property line but not obstructing a right of way. Existing Small Lots may be exempt from the 10 foot from property line rule after approval by the Administrative Officer. The approval document will be recorded in the Town zoning

Bridport Selectboard

AUCTIONS

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT Sales for 6/19/25 & 6/23/25 COST

A. Brisson	1960	1.65	\$3234.00
Goodrich	1820	1.65	\$3003.00
Wilcon	1195	1.60	\$1912.00
Gosliga	1625	1.50	\$2437.50
Shelburne	1640	1.48	\$2427.20
Blue Spruce	1535	1.45	\$2225.75
			OT
		CC	ST
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
CALVES A. Brisson	LBS . 91		
		/LB	\$
A. Brisson	91	/ LB 14.00	\$ \$1274.00
A. Brisson Barnes Bros	91 90	/LB 14.00 14.00	\$ \$1274.00 \$1260.00

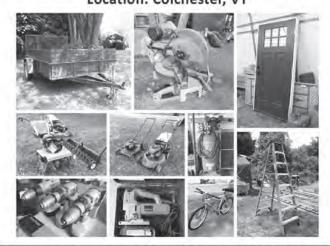
91 13.00 \$1183.00 Total Beef - 106 Total Calves - 211 We value our faithful customers.

Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs. call 1-802-388-2661

right to accept or reject bids. Unit #32 - P. Washburn

<u>(1678) GLASSMAKERS, TOOLS & SUPPLIES</u>

Auction Closes: Monday, July 7 @ 11AM Preview Auction: Monday, June 30 from 11AM-1PM Location: Colchester, VT



THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

FORECLOSURE: 3 BR/1 & 3/4 BATH HOME ON 0.51 ACRES IN BRANDON, VT

Live Auction: Tues., July 15 @ 11AM Open House: Tues., July 1 from 11AM-1PM Address: 335 Deer Run Road, Brandon, VT 05733



Built in 1988, this home offers comfortable living with 3 bedrooms and 1 & 3/4 baths across 1,008 sq. ft. of thoughtfully designed space. Enjoy the outdoors from the 14^\prime x 12^\prime back deck, perfect for relaxing or entertaining, and take advantage of the convenience of an attached garage. The full partially finished basement has a 3/4 bath, a bedroom and laundry.

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY THCAuction.com • 802-888-4662

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the Addy Indy.

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted



East Middlebury based musician Mihali will help kick off the Middlebury Town Hall Theater's Opening Celebration this Friday with a free, outdoor concert on the new Maloney

Performing Arts Plaza from 6-7:30 p.m. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. Friday and continue through Saturday.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DAVE DECRESCENTE PHOTOGRAPHY

BY **ELSIE** at the new Maloney LYNN PARINI Performing Arts Plaza.

hile the temperatures
have cooled from earlier
this week, the downtown
Middlebury music scene
is still heating up. Starting
Friday, June 27, from 5-8
p.m., Town Hall Theater
will host its free Summer
Sounds Concert Series
at the new Maloney
Performing Arts Plaza

The newly constructed wing of the performing arts center wraps around the plaza, creating an ideal outdoor performance space.

"It's a natural fit for our live music series," said

THT Executive & Artistic Director Lisa Mitchell during an interview last week in the new lobby that looks out onto the plaza and stage. "It's nice to be able to have our own outdoor space," Mitchell added, noting that THT will be able to host food trucks on site and serve drinks from their full bar to audiences in the plaza.

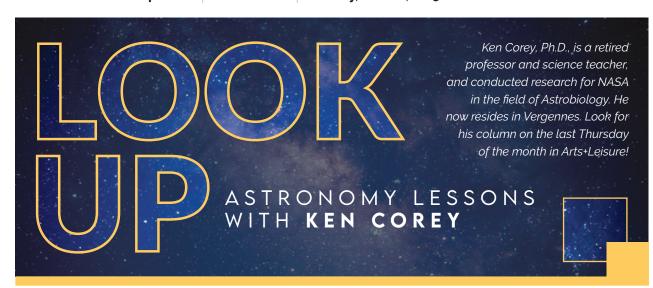
The first performance this Friday evening will star Mihali — an East Middlebury-based singer, songwriter, guitarist, and co-founder of rock outfit Twiddle. Mihali draws on a rich mix of influences, with reggae and upbeat lyrics shaping the architecture of his original music. Food on Friday will feature A Taste of Abyssinia Ethiopian & Eritrean Cuisine; Pratt's Classic

American Grilling and ice cream from Sisters of Anarchy.

This opening show is also part of the downtown theater's Opening Celebration Weekend. Before Mihali takes the stage, Rock & Roll String Quartet will play from 5-6 p.m., on the THT steps, then Mihali will play on the Maloney Plaza, and to finish the evening strong Samulnori Drums and Cirque de Fuego will take us into the evening from 7:30-8 p.m.

The fun continues on Saturday afternoon from 1-4 p.m. with more food options, activities for all ages, a ribbon cutting, stunt show, Tom Verner Magic Show, and jazz performance

SEE SOUNDS ON PAGE 3



Navigating the Summer Sky: Bright Stars, Asterisms and Constellations

Warm summer nights are great for being outdoors and enjoying the night sky. The days before and after a new moon are particularly good for appreciating the band of the Milky Way arcing from the dense star clouds of Sagittarius, the archer and Scorpius, the scorpion in the south through the northern cross of Cygnus the Swan and over to Cassiopeia the Queen. Perhaps you have noticed many bright stars and asterisms (prominent grouping of stars) and wished to identify and learn more about them.



Summer Triangle showing the bright stars Altair, Deneb, and Vega and Milky Way. NASA/ESA.

In this column, I will provide some basics for navigating the summer sky for mid-latitudes in the northern hemisphere (e.g. Vermont at about 44 degrees north latitude). While there are so many good sky apps for your phone, I also like to use a good old-fashioned planisphere to see how the locations of the stars change with the time and seasons and to prepare myself with a snapshot of the sky before I go out to observe. To download a planisphere you can make at home go to lawrencehallofscience.org/wp-content/ uploads/2021/10/SouthStarwheel2.pdf. This is the popular Uncle Al's Star Wheel, but there are many others to explore on-line. Constructing a planisphere is a nice craft project for any age.

Having a good phone app is a lot of fun and quite helpful in verifying stars, asterisms, and constellations. Most apps will also show you locations of planets and some deep sky objects. I have Stellarium and two other apps. Explore what is out there for your phone.

Select a dark sky site with minimal light pollution and good sky coverage. There are many dark sky site locations in Vermont (go to go-astronomy.com/dark-sky-parks-stargazing-state.php?State=VT for details). A good site for reading about dark skies and the recommendations to state and local governments for establishing and protecting dark sky oases is darksky.org. In general, cool

lights rich in blue wavelengths have greater light polluting effects than warm lights due to the greater scattering of blue light. Read about dark-sky friendly fixtures at darksky. org/what-we-do/darksky-approved. If you want to combine your observing with hiking, mountain summits with 360-degree views can be magical. Some of them are located near Long Trail shelters if you do not wish to make the careful trek down the mountain. The convenience of your own backyard will likely be just fine to enjoy major highlights of the summer sky.

It is helpful to have a red flashlight or red LED headlamp so that you can retain your dark adaptation. Many of the sky apps can highlight in red to show celestial bodies. A technique for detecting faint objects near the limit of light gathering power for the human eye is called averted vision. The retina contains rod and cone cells. On the fovea, which is at the center of the retina, there is a high density of cone cells, which are sensitive to color. At the periphery of the fovea, there are more rod cells, those which are sensitive to dim light. Looking slightly to the side enables fainter objects to be seen.

Identifying bright stars and asterisms can assist you in star hopping around the sky to identify different constellations, and also locate and observe double stars, star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies with binoculars and telescopes. Starting with the familiar Big Dipper asterism, find the outer part of the dipper bowl (pointer stars Merak and Dubhe) and extend a line about 30 degrees (about three fists at arm's length) to reach the end of the handle of the Little Dipper, the north star Polaris. The position of Polaris is the number of degrees above the horizon as is the degrees of latitude of your location, about 44 degrees for Vermont. Next, go back to the Big Dipper and go to the end of the handle and then arc over to the brightest star in the July sky, Arcturus in the constellation Bootes. Notice the kite asterism in Bootes. Continue the arc and speed on to Spica, the brightest star in Virgo. Returning to Arcturus, go in an east northeasterly direction and find the conspicuous summer triangle, which is made up of three bright stars in three different constellations (see table). About two-thirds of the way between Arcturus and Vega, one vertex of the summer triangle, is the keystone, a trapezoidal-shaped asterism in the constellation Hercules. About two thirds of the way between two stars of the keystone is the globular star cluster M13, a concentration of gravitationally-bound stars numbering in the hundreds of thousands. A pair of binoculars will reveal this cluster as a fuzzy patch. In the southern sky, go a little above the horizon and you will see the teapot asterism spilling stars out of its spout in Sagittarius, the archer. When SEE LOOK UP ON PAGE 3

Asterisms and bright stars for summer observations

Asterism	Constellation	Bright Starsa
Big and little dippers	Ursa major and minor	Big - Alioth (1.8)
		Little - Polaris (2)
Keystone	Hercules	Zeta Herculis (2.8)
W- or M- shape	Cassiopia	Schedar (2.2)
Summer triangle	Cygnus, Lyra, & Aquila	Deneb (1.25), Vega (0.03), and Altair (0.77)
Northern Cross	Cygnus	Deneb (1.25); Albireo (2.9) ^b
Parallelogram	Lyra	Vega (0.03)
Teapot	Sagittarius	Kaus Australis (1.8)
Fishhook	Scorpius	Antares (0.6 to 1.6)

^a Apparent magnitude in parentheses. The lower the number, the brighter the star. ^b Albireo can be resolved into a gorgeous gold and blue double through a small telescope.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

featuring Vanessa
Dunleavy. Saturday
evening will
conclude with a
concert by the
Rodney Marsalis
Brass Band on
the Rothrock

Main Stage. (See related story about THT's completed projects in this week's Section A.)

"This is an Opening Celebration and an open house," Mitchell said. "We want people to come and get familiar with the space and programming... And it's a way of thanking the community for their incredible support."

The weekend festivities will conclude on Saturday, but the free music series will continue weekly through August.



The name "Maloney" (for Maloney Plaza) is an honor to Doug Anderson's first employee and right-hand-woman, Barbara Maloney of Bristol.

The summer line up continues in July with Connor Young Quartet, Julianna Luna & Friends, Windborne Community Singalong and The Traveling Middleburys. August will bring performances by Sarah King, Zach Nevins Quintet,

Atom & the Orbits, the Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra (this one's at the Marble Works River Front Park), Soulshine Revival and Bobby Alu.

The series has a little bit of everything from reggae to jazz to rock to classical... There's even a singalong with Windborne.

Mitchell is hoping these free concerts "drive foot traffic downtown and bring vibrancy!"

The funding for this free summer music series comes from a generous (and anonymous) grant.

In addition, Mitchell is in the process of going for a Levitt Amp Grant, which offers \$40,000 a year for three years to fund live music and requires a match.

"This would allow us to grow even more in what we are doing with these free live music concerts," Mitchell said, imagining a main stage on the green across the street for headlining musicians and the Maloney Plaza stage being used for up-and-coming musicians and youth performers.

We'll keep ya posted on how that grant application goes — if Town Hall Theater is considered there will be a public voting

component that will require lots of local participation.

But we're not quite there yet...

Let's come back to the awesome party that kicks off the opening of Town Hall Theater's new wing and performing arts center this weekend. All the free festivities are indeed free! Food, drinks and other ticketed concerts require — yep — money.

Town Hall Theater is also asking folks to please register (townhalltheater.org or call 802-382-9222) for events they plan to attend this weekend (as well as Summer Sounds shows from now through August) so they can plan for enough food, etc. Oh, and a word to the wise for audience members who prefer to sit during concerts: BYO chair. See ya there!

SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERT SERIES

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 5-8 P.M.

Twiddle's **Mihali**: The official launch of the Maloney Public Performance Plaza will star Mihali, a Vermont-based singer, songwriter, guitarist, and co-founder of rock outfit Twiddle. Mihali draws on a rich mix of influences, with reggae and upbeat lyrics shaping the architecture of his original music.

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 5:30-7 P.M.

Connor Young Quartet: Connor Young is a Vermont-born trumpeter, composer, and educator who performs a mix of jazz standards and original compositions. He'll be joined by Geza Carr on drums; Josh Childs on piano; and JD Haenni on upright bass.

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 5:30-7 P.M.

Julianna Luna & Friends: Julianna Luna Vasquez is an Afro-Dominican singer, actress, and event producer with Vermont Public. Julianna performs with several jazz bands, and is a performer at the 2025 Burlington Discover Jazz Festival.



JULIANNA LUNA

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 11 A.M.

Windborne Community Singalong:

THT is partnering with the Otter Creek Music Festival to present Windborne for a ticketed full-length evening show on Sunday, July 20. Earlier in the day, Windborne will lead a free singalong in THT's Maloney Plaza at 11 a.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 5:30-7 P.M.

The Traveling Middleburys: Four long-time musicians from some of Addison County's favorite bands join forces to reproduce the acoustic vibe and vocal harmonies of some timeless songs from the '60s, '70s, and '80s.

SATURDAY, AUG. 2, 5:30-7 P.M.

Sarah King: Known for her powerhouse

voice and "fiery, vulnerable songs," Sarah King's genuine stories draw on classic folkblues themes. King has earned recognition as the New England Music Awards songwriter of the year.

SATURDAY, AUG. 9, 5:30-7 P.M.

Zach Nevins Quintet: Teenage trombonist and composer Zachary Nevins is establishing himself as an innovative up-and-comer in both the East and West Coast music scenes. Nevins is a Middlebury local, back in town premiering his latest quintet project in anticipation for his first jazz album as a leader.

SATURDAY, AUG. 16, 5:30-7 P.M.

Atom & the Orbits: Noah Hahn has spent the last decade playing in two-step bands from Vermont to Louisiana. Atom & the Orbits is the rocket ship he has assembled to launch those danceable modern-rock rhythms.

SUNDAY, AUG. 17, 6-7 P.M.

Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra at the MarbleWorks: Bring your picnics, blankets and chairs and enjoy a Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra Pops Concert — outdoors at idyllic River Front Park in Middlebury's Historic Marble Works.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 5:30-7 P.M.

Soulshine Revival: With superb musicianship, this tribute band faithfully recreates Allman Brothers live performances and their classic hits.

FRIDAY, AUG. 29, 5:30-7 P.M.

Bobby Alu: Australian/Samoan singer, ukulele strummer and drummer Bobby Alu, with his band of musical soul brothers, ride the groove spectrum from Polynesian folk through roots, reggae, harmony laden soul to tropical pop.



WINDBORNE

UPCOMING





The Medicine Tribe will play at the Ralph Myhre Golf Course on Sunday, June 29 from 1-4 p.m.

Sunday Sessions take over at golf course

Every Sunday, from 1-4 p.m., unwind and groove to the sounds of fantastic local talent on the Ralph Myhre Golf Course Tavern on the Tee Patio. Set against the backdrop of the Green Mountains, weekly Sunday Sessions offers a blend of lively music, spectacular views and unique flavors served up by Tavern on the Tee.

The best part? The music is always free and open to everyone. Here's the line up through August:

June 29 with The Medicine Tribe

July 6 with Bobby Sheehan

July 13 with James C Sullivan

July 20 with Nick Bredice

July 27 with The Morning Dudes

August 3 with Granville Daze

August 17 with Cooie

August 24 with Sammy Blanchette

August 31 with Deep Think



MORE TUNES-

FATHER-SON DUO WRAP UP FRESHIE FRIDAYS MUSIC SERIES

There's a fresh space that's been spinning fresh music in Bristol since the middle of May... Have you been? It's the Bristol Collaborative Campus Freshie Friday Music Series. If you haven't caught a show yet, there's a final event with the Gusakov's on Saturday, June 27, from 5-8 p.m.

Nate and David, weave together threads of classical, bluegrass and old-time traditions into something wholly their own. Their collaborative sound bridges generations and genres, blending Appalachian rhythms with lyrical depth and melodic interplay that feels both timeless and freshly innovative.

The concerts are held at BCC Botanicals (in the greenhouse), 140 North Street in Bristol. RSVPs are helpful to make sure there's enough food to go around. Register and get more info at bristolcollaborativecampus.com/gathering#freshie-Friday.



David and Nate Gusakov will perform on Saturday, June 27 for the final Freshie Fridays concert in the series (yes, we know it's a Saturday event.) The duo will play from 5-8 p.m., in the greenhouse at 140 North Street in Bristol. Free.

S_BSCRIBE THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

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AR ON EXHIBIT

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Pastoral Impressions," featuring the landscapes of local artist Joe Bolger. Bolger's paintings are characterized by his commitment to plein air painting, a practice that allows him to observe and depict the transient effects of light in real-time. On view June 7-July 27.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Pools of Reverence," a solo exhibition featuring work by Rory Jackson. This exhibit traces the artist's journey back to the woods and waterways of his home in Lincoln, where he finds his roots, his inspiration, and his sense of awe for the landscape of this region. The collection of paintings that have evolved from this place of sanctuary emanate with the emotion that the artist feels for the landscape. 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.

"Above Vermont: Photographs by Caleb

Kenna." Come see Kenna's bird's-eye view drone photographs capturing breathtaking views of Vermont in all its glorious seasons. A reception for the artist will be held on Friday, July 11, from 5-7 p.m. On view June 27-Aug. 31.

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.

"Dreams and Imagined Realities." Featuring photographs that embody the spirit of dreaming — images that are deeply personal, ethereal, mysterious, or even unsettling. These images capture the blurred

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14



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QUILTERS' CORNER MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC

FLORAL

GIFTS

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Career developments may be a bit unclear this week, Aries. Your motivation may need a little extra boost. You might

have to consider if a career change is in order.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. A lack of information is proving confusing, Taurus. If you suspect there's more details to uncover, choose a course of action and do your best to get as clear a picture of the situation as possible.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Keep your money in your wallet this week, Gemini. You might want to spend it or give it away impulsively and that could affect your finances in an impactful way.

CANCER: June 22/ July 22. Cancer, this isn't a good time to sign contracts or make any significant purchases. Keep your money safe and try to keep your savings account full at this point.

LEO: July 23/Aug.
23. People have been asking you to take on too many responsibilities lately, Leo. This could be stressing you out or taking away from your own needs. Learn to turn others away for now.

taking away from your own needs. Learn to turn others away for now.

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OR Middlebury, Vt. 05753 (802)388-3559

OR

may present an opportunity to restore your self-confidence. For too long you have been floundering and not finding the traction you need and deserve.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, something could be distorting your perspective right now and making it difficult to concentrate and

Largest

Selection

of Chocolates

in New England

communicate. Take a few days off from your responsibilities.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/ Nov. 22. Scorpio, after some gloomy feelings the last few weeks, good news has you feeling like you are on cloud nine. Savor it and

celebrate.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. This is a good week to try to enhance your love life, Sagittarius. Take every opportunity to woo your significant other, and plan a special event for the two of you.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/ Jan. 20. You may want some magical force to whisk away all of the little difficulties that have been affecting you, Capricorn, but it will require hard work to do that.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/ Feb. 18. Lately there have been a lot of thoughts swirling through your head, so much so that you can't get any peace, Aquarius. It may be beneficial to sit down with someone to talk it out.



PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, try something new this week even if it scares you. It is good practice to challenge yourself once in a while to test your resilience to change.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 27 — Lucille Clifton,

poet, writer & educator (d)

JUNE 28 — John Stewart Bell, physicist (d)

JUNE 29 — Anne-Sophie Mutter, violinist (62)

JUNE 30 — Lena Horne, actor (d)

JULY 1 — Louise Penny, novelist (67)

JULY 2 — Thurgood Marshall,

Supreme Court Justice (d)

JULY 3 — Dave Barry, humorist (78)

JUNE 26-JULY 5 2025



THURSDAY, JUNE 26

BREAD AND BONES IN

GOSHEN. Thursday, June 26, 5-8 p.m. Blueberry Hill Inn, Ripton Goshen Rd. Free music with pizza by the pond. Cost \$34 per person (age 13 and older), includes all-youcan-eat pizza, lemonade, live music, taxes, and fees. Kids 7-12: \$20. Kids 6 and under: Free when accompanied by their parent or guardian. More info at blueberryhillinn.com/ pizza.

DROP-IN MAKERSPACE ACTIVITIES IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, June 26, 4 p.m.-Saturday, Aug. 2, 5 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Drop in to the HSM's Makerspace for weekly rotating activities. Take on this week's project or enjoy the other stations offered for creative fun.

WILDERNESS PROGRAMMING IN

MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, June 26, 7 p.m., Turning Point Center for Addison County, 79 Court St. These events are open to persons in the community that are in recovery as well as their close friends and family. The group is organizing events throughout the summer with the goal of giving people an opportunity to gather and enjoy the outdoors together.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

TOWN HALL THEATER

NEW WING CELEBRATION **FEATURING MIHALI IN**

MIDDLEBURY. Friday, June 27, 5-8 p.m., Maloney Public Performance Plaza, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Come to the official launch of the THT's new wing and outdoor performance space. Mihali is a Vermont-based singer, songwriter, quitarist and co-founder of rock outfit Twiddle, Mihali draws on a rich mix of influences, with reggae and upbeat lyrics shaping the architecture of his original music. Free. More info at townhalltheater.org. Also, Rock 'n' Roll Strong Quartet, Cirque de Fuego, Samulnori Drums, food trucks, magic, pop-up costume photo booth, and more. Free. More info at townhalltheater.org.

NATE & DAVID GUSAKOV

IN BRISTOL. Saturday, June 27, 5-8 p.m., BCC Botanicals, 140 North St. This fatherson duo weaves together threads of classical, bluegrass and old-time traditions into something wholly their own. Their collaborative sound bridges generations and genres, blending Appalachian rhythms with lyrical depth and melodic interplay that feels both timeless and freshly innovative. More info at bristolcollaborativecampus. com/gathering#freshie-Friday.

POINT COUNTERPOINT **FACULTY CONCERT IN**

SALISBURY. Friday, June 27, 5-8 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Admission is free, and goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

TOURNESOL IN NEW HAVEN.

Friday, June 27, 6-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Free live music at the vineyard featuring local musicians and food trucks. Bring a blanket and a friend and celebrate the weekend with Vermont wines and Vermont vibes. Lincoln Peak Vineyard. Food by Shady J's BBQ and wine available for

BENEFIT CONCERT IN

LINCOLN. Friday, June 27. 7-1- p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Four live bands take the stage to help raise funds for the Lincon Cooperative Preschool. Two local bands, one from Ripton (Hissss) and one from Bristol (Damp), a great Rock 'n' Roll band from Providence, R.I., Ravi Shavi, and a NYC band, Pets. \$20-\$40 suggested donation or pay what you can. Cash bar. All are welcome.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

VERMONT GRAN FONDO IN BRISTOL. Saturday, June 28, Bristol Rec Park. The Vermont Gran Fondo was born from a famous bucket-list epic 4-gap ride known by the locals as the LAMB ride. LAMB comes from the names of Lincoln

Gap, Appalachian Gap, Middlebury Gap and Brandon Gap. When combined into a single ride, can easily top 100 miles and over 10,000 feet of climbing — on a bike! The après ride party will get underway at the Start-Finish under the big tent. Enjoy live music, a variety of food choices, locally produced beverages, and farm-tospoon ice cream. More info at vermontgranfondo.com.

POETRY CLUB IN MONKTON.

Saturday, June 28, 9:30 a.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. All are welcome to bring their own written poem or the writings of a favorite author to share and discuss with other poetry enthusiasts. Email russellmemlibrary@gmail.com to learn more or to sign up for an e-mail list.

BANJO JIM SHAW IN BRANDON. Saturday, June 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kennedy Park, off Center St.

TOWN HALL THEATER NEW WING CELEBRATION IN

MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 28, 1-4 p.m., Maloney Public Performance Plaza, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. Come celebrate the official opening of the Town Hall Theater's new wing, and the launch of the new outdoor Maloney Public Performance Plaza and Tilly Stage with a ribbon cutting, The Real

McCoy Stunt Show, Bill Vitek Jazz Trio, Tom Verner Magic Show, plus Crazy Cotton Candy Lady and Lulu Ice Cream throughout. More info at townhalltheater.org.

RODNEY MARSALIS BRASS BAND IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, June 28, 7:30-9 p.m., Rothrock Main Stage, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. The electrifying grand finale of our Grand Opening Weekend will be the virtuosic and boundary-breaking Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass Ensemble. Prosecco toast and small dessert bites following the show. Tickets \$75 generous/\$40 standard. Sliding scale option. Tickets and more info at townhalltheater.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB WAY TO WEYBRIDGE

RIDE. Sunday, June 29, meet at 8:45 a.m., Shelburne Village Shopping Center. 64 miles of rolling hills from Shelburne through Vergennes and on to Weybridge. There are several food options in Vergennes for either the way out, the way back, or both. More info contact Allan Kunigis at 802-324-9958 / akunigis@gmail. com; or co-leader Chip Krakoff at 603-943-3701 or ckrakoff@ koiosllc.com.

SUNDAY SESSIONS IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, June CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091

10 a.m.

12 p.m.

Channel 1071

Through the Night: Public Affairs From Around the State

Friday, June 27

Press Conferences 5 a.m. Congregational Church Service 7:30 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 10 a.m. 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service

5:30 p.m. Energy Week 6:30 p.m. Public Affairs

Saturday, June 28 Selectboard, Public Affairs 10 a.m. 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar Catholic Mass 7 p.m. 7:30 p.m. The Talk Press Conferences 9 p.m.

Energy Week Sunday, June 29 **Energy Week** 8 a.m. 9 a.m. Catholic Mass

11 p.m.

Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Selectboard

4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar Catholic Mass 7 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Public Affairs Monday, June 30 Energy Week 4:30 a.m. 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conferences

Selectboard

Public Affairs

Press Conferences 5 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Public Affairs Tues day, July 1 Press Conferences 7 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Eckankar

10 a.m. Selectboard 2:30 p.m. The Talk Congregational Service 4 p.m. Energy Week 5:30 p.m. Selectboard 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 2 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785. Middlebury, Vt. 05753

10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs

4 p.m. **Energy Week** 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Energy Week Thursday, July 3

5 a.m. Press Conferences Congregational Service 8 a.m. 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8 p.m. **Energy Week** 9:30 p.m. Eckankar

Selectboard

Channel 1091

10 p.m.

Friday, June 27 4 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m.

Yoga ACSD Board Meeting 7:30 a.m. Gardens & Conservation 12 p.m. 5 p.m. Chat with an Artist: Kelly Hickey **HCC Board Meeting** 7 p.m.

9 p.m. Book Talk Saturday, June 28 4:30 a.m. Tai Chi

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

12 p.m.

8 p.m.

6 a.m. Author Talk Our Schools: Meetings, Events 8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Mary Hogan Elementary 6 p.m. Graduation 7:30 p.m. Kelly Hickey Sunday, June 29 5 a.m. Yoga 6 a.m. Book Talk Tai Chi

Chair Yoga

5 a.m.

7:30 a.m. Kelly Hickey 8 a.m. Gardens & Conservation 10 a.m. 12 p.m. Our Schools: Meetings, Events All Things LGBTQ 10 p.m.

Monday, June 30 All Things LGBTQ 5 a.m. Chair Yoga Authors & Poets 6 a.m. 7:30 a.m. Tai Chi 12 p.m.

12:30 p.m. Chair Yoga ACSD Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Author Talk 10 p.m.

Tuesday, July 1 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga Our Schools: Meetings, Events 12 p.m.

Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. 6 p.m. Audio Book - The Belonger Book Talk 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 2 5 a.m. Tai Chi Chair Yoga Our Schools: Meetings, Events 6 a.m. 7 a.m. The Garden 2 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 4 p.m. 5 p.m. Chat with an Artist: Bob Greene, 9 p.m. Authors & Poets Thursday, July 3 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Gardens & Conservation 8 a.m.

Our Schools: Meetings, Events

TOP PICK-

"WHAT TO THE SLAVE IS THE FOURTH OF JULY?"

Frederick Douglass delivered this speech on July 5, 1852, in Rochester, N.Y., to a local antislavery women's group. It began with a sympathetic account of the American Revolution and its great promise for freedom, and then in the second half pivoted to detail the gross hypocrisy of American enslavement on the legacy of that struggle. Each year at Rokeby the museum celebrates the importance of Douglass' speech by inviting the public to participate in reading it on July 5, 1-3 p.m. Dr. Francois Clemmons will be present to begin the ceremony. Admission to the event is free.

29, 1 p.m., Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Rd. The Medicine Tribe is a highenergy, groove-forward band born right here in Vermont, blending rock, soul, and funk into an irresistible sound that's made for summer afternoons. Free and open to the public.

MONDAY, JUNE 30

FIBER ARTS CIRCLE IN STARKSBORO. Monday, June 30, 1-3 p.m., Starksboro Public Library, Route 116. Explore the world of fiber arts. Join us for a weekly gathering dedicated to the fiber arts. All fiber arts welcome. You do not need to be an expert to come knit, crochet, weave, embroider, sew or quilt with us. All levels welcome. Bring a friend or two and come learn a new stitch or technique and share your current projects. No registration required. Drop in anytime between 1-3 p.m.

VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES.

Monday, June 30, 7 p.m., City Green. A staple of Vergennes summer. Relax on the green and listen to live band music.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

GEESE BANDING IN ADDISON. Wednesday, July 2, 8 a.m., Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Route 17. Here's a great opportunity to go on a wild goose chase that can make a difference. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for volunteers to help in rounding up and placing identification bands on the legs of Canada geese. Please call the Fish and Wildlife office in Essex at 802-878-1564 to volunteer and leave your phone number in case the event must be rescheduled due to bad weather.

CHESS CLUB IN NEW HAVEN.

Wednesday, July 2, 3 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Learn to play, sharpen your skills or just enjoy playing chess. Led by Maggie Platzer. Open to ages 8 and up. Happening every Wednesday.

ATOM AND THE ORBITS IN

BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 2, 5-8 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 North 116 Rd. Come hear original songs influenced by 1950s rock and roll and beyond. The music is free, food and beverages available for purchase.

JENNI JOHNSON IN BRANDON. Wednesday, July 2, 6 p.m., behind the Brandon Inn. Brandon's Music by the Riverbend begins with this concert of old- and newschool music, jazzy, swinging and funky. Rain location in Brandon Town Hall.

EARTH TO EARTH: THE LOST ART OF DYING IN AMERICA IN NEW HAVEN. Wednesday, July 2, 6 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Come join us for a showing of the award winning (20 min) documentary which describes natural burial and its benefits through stories from the people who worked to make it legal in Vermont.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB IN MONKTON. Wednesday, July 2, 7 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Come discuss the monthly read with Janet. Email russellmemlibrary@gmail.com to learn more or to sign up for an e-mail list.

BRISTOL TOWN BAND IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, July 2
18, 7-8:30 p.m., town
green. Bristol Town
Band will be holding
their 155th season of
weekly summer band
concerts. Rain location
will be Holley Hall. All are
welcome to join the band.
More info at 802-281-2315
for further information.

THURSDAY, JULY 3

SHIPWRECK TOUR IN
FERRISBURGH. Thursday,
July 3, 10 a.m.-noon, Lake
Champlain Maritime
Museum, 4472 Basin
Harbor Rd. Dive into Lake
Champlain's underwater
history without getting wet!
This scenic boat tour will
take you to the sites of some
famous local shipwrecks as
Museum experts recount their
dramatic stories. Tickets \$25
kids/\$45 adults. More info at

PHOTOGRAPHY OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.

LCMM.org.

Thursday, July 3, 4-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. An opening for the exhibit Color + Space.

INDEPENDENCE EVE CELEBRATION AND FIREWORKS IN BRISTOL.

Thursday, July 3, 6 p.m. Bristol Rec Park, Airport Dr. A runner up to July 4th festivities with music by the 40th Army Band, DJ Jam Man, food and craft vendors, games and raffle tickets, with fireworks at dusk.

FRIDAY, JULY 4

4TH OF JULY 5K ROAD RACE IN BRISTOL. Friday, July 4, 7 a.m., Mt. Abraham Union High School. Start off your fourth with a 5K, then settle down for outhouse races and Bristol's annual 4th of July parade. Proceeds from the race go to the Stampede 2.0 fundraising efforts for Cystic Fibrosis research and cure.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN BRISTOL.

Friday, July 4, Main Street and points around town. The day starts with a 5K road race at 7 a.m., followed by Bristol's annual outhouse races at 9 a.m. and parade at 11 a.m. Live music, food, fun and games on the park will commence at noon.

GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB SALISBURY ICE CREAM

SOCIAL RIDE. Friday, July 4, 1 p.m., meet at Three-Mile Bridge Rd. A 27.5-mile ride from Middlebury to Lake Dunmore and Salisbury. It's a scenic tour with rolling hills and nice views of Lake Dunmore. The ride stops in Salisbury for their annual Ice Cream Social. More info contact leader John Bertelsen at 802-557-4633 or jo.bertel@gmail.com, or co-leader Karla Ferrelli 802-864-0101 or karla. ferrelli@gmail.com.

50TH ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL IN SALISBURY. Friday.

July 4, 2 p.m., Salisbury Church Meetinghouse, 853 Maple Street. Rain or shine, join us for ice cream by the dish or cone, with toppings or with delicious homemade pie. Under the tent and on the lawn. Proceeds to support local charities. To volunteer or donate a pie or two, call Glenn Andres 802-352-6671 or Laurie Cox 802-388-7820.

SATURDAY, JULY 5

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN GRANVILLE.

Saturday, July 5, Clark Brook Trail. Spend a day in the shade climbing to the Long Trail along Clark Brook. It may be an adventure finding the trail, 6-10 miles and more than 1,500 feet of climbing. Contact Ellen Cronan at 908-595-2926 for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

WILDLIFE WALK IN

MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 5, 7 a.m., intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Join Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust as they survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Meet at the parking area of Otter View Park at the in Middlebury. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. For more information, call 802-388-6019.

AFTERNOON MOVIE IN SHOREHAM. Saturday, July 5, time TBD, Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join us wearing your favorite — green or pink — for this fantasy musical in the cool of the library.

SEE MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING NEW YORK OF THE PROPERTY OF

New Native American Art center planned to open at Shelburne Museum in 2027

OF OVER 90
INDIGENOUS
VOICES SHAPED
THE PERRY
CENTER'S DESIGN."

"A CHORUS

— Thomas Denenberg, John Wilmerding Director and CEO of Shelburne Museum

Shelburne Museum officially broke ground on June 20, for the Perry Center for Native American Art, a new building and integrated landscape designed for the stewardship and care of the Indigenous art housed within the museum. The Perry Center is designed in close partnership with Tribal Nations and culture bearers whose cultural items are represented in the collection of art from across the continent.

"Groundbreaking for the Perry Center for Native American Art is a milestone to celebrate; it is also a moment to express gratitude to the Tribal members, culture bearers, and experts who we have heard from over the past seven years in planning for this building and gathering space," said Thomas Denenberg, John Wilmerding Director and CEO of Shelburne Museum. "A chorus of over 90 Indigenous voices shaped the Perry Center's design and will continue to drive the program in an impactful way to create a national resource for the study, interpretation and stewardship of Native American art."

The Perry Center is an 11,200-square-foot structure with galleries, an orientation and gathering space, and specially designed housing space that will accommodate private



View of gathering circle and north façade, Perry Center for Native American Art at Shelburne Museum.

IMAGE / ANNUM ARCHITECTS

viewing of items in the collection. Architects for the \$14 million project are Annum Architects of Boston and Two Row Architect of Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation, noted firms with depth of experience in both major museum and Indigenous projects. Landscape design is by Reed Hilderbrand of Cambridge, Mass., a practice with extensive experience designing landscapes that seamlessly integrate with architecture. Construction management is by PC Construction of South Burlington.

"The strength of the Perry Center is that it honors the traditional stewards of the land while being referential to the many cultures whose items will be housed there," said Annum Principal Steven Gerrard. "Designed with partners Two Row Architect and landscape architect Reed Hilderbrand, the Center's design — interior, exterior and outdoors — is informed by what we heard in series of Talking Circles with culture bearers and Tribal members."

The Perry Center for Native American Art will serve as a welcoming space for Tribal members and scholars to study and engage with the collection and will reimagine the museum experience for all visitors. The Perry Center is scheduled to open in 2027.

"Rooted in a process of deep listening, the design honors the host nation through their SEE MUSEUM ON PAGE 14



Breaking ground on the site of the Perry Center for Native American Art at Shelburne Museum on June 20. Pictured from left: Vermont Secretary of Commerce and Community Development Lindsay Kurrle; Chief Brenda Gagne, St. Francis/Sokoki Band of Missisquoi Abenaki; Steven Gerrard, principal Annum Architects; Sen. Peter Welch; Heidi Dreymer; Peter Graham, president Shelburne Museum Board of Trustees; Christine Stiller, Shelburne Museum Board of Trustees; Teressa Perry; Thomas Denenberg, John Wilmerding Director and CEO of Shelburne Museum.

ponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY



ACROSS

- **1.** Computer manufacturer
- **5.** Noted space station
- **8.** Kurt Russell film "Captain"
- **11.** Automaton
- **13**. Everyone has one
- **14.** Incline from the vertical
- 15. Fights
- **16.** Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
- 17. Finishes off
- **18.** Places to store things
- **20.** Dutch painter Gerard __
- **21.** Smaller quantity
- 22. There's a North,

South and Central of these

- 25. In an early way
- 30. More spacious
- **31.** Short-term memory
- **32.** One who possesses
- 33. Sesame
- 38. Forbid
- **41.** A way to explain
- 43. Not around
- **45.** Evoke or suggest
- **47.** Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Dekameter
- 50. Fencing sword
- 55. "Luther" actor Idris
- **56.** Affirmative (slang)
- **57.** Afflicted
- **59.** One point north of

northeast

- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- **62.** Hong Kong food stall: __ pai dong
- 63. Not the start
- 64. Post

DOWN

- 1. Creative expression
- 2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- 3. City in ancient Syria
- 4. College army
- 5. More disturbed
- **6.** Pays no attention

to

- 7. Restored
- 8. Competitions
- 9. Lyric poems

10
37
58
4

3 7 9 8 6 3 4 1 4 3 9 5 4 6 8 5 5 2 8 5 8 9

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

- **10.** Famed American lawman
- **12.** Expression of disappointment
- **14.** Scars
- 19. Satisfy
- **23.** Central European river
- **24.** Brass instrument
- **25.** One who gets paid to perform
- 26. Propel with oars27. Long period of
- time

- 28. Woman (French)
- **29.** Type of plane
- **34.** Pitching stat
- **35.** Pointed end of a pen
- **36.** Pro sports league
- 37. Body part
- **39.** Inoffensive
- **40.** Yellowish cotton cloth
- **41.** Feline
- **42.** Does not tell the truth
- **44.** Set out to attract

- **45.** Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- **46.** Abba __, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- **48.** Genus of flowering plants
- **51.** Tributary of the
- High Rhine **52.** Prejudice
- 53. C. European river
- **54.** Restrain
- **58.** Father



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ASK A MASTER CARDENER

STRAWBERRY SEASON IS IN FULL SWING

here's nothing like the taste of a fresh-picked strawberry. Sweet, juicy and flavorful, it's the first fruit to ripen on our local farms, and this year's crop is a good one.

(USDA) Census of Agriculture counted 125 farms with 168 acres of strawberrie in Vermont. A typical yield is about 6,0 pounds an acre, so over a million poun Vermont strawberries must be picked,

The buds that produce strawberries were formed last fall. Growers then

tucked the plants away under a layer of straw to protect them from winter

damage. Flowers that opened this spring turned into berries in about a month.

BYVERN

Strawberries are grown on many diversified vegetable and berry farms. They're an important crop because they provide early season income and have a high value per acre. However, the risks are also high. In addition to potential winter injury, early spring frosts, heat waves during harvest and a variety of pests can lead to crop losses.

The 2022 U.S. Department of Agriculture's

125 farms with 168 acres of strawberries in Vermont. A typical yield is about 6,000 pounds an acre, so over a million pounds of Vermont strawberries must be picked, sold and eaten in a relatively short time. Almost all these berries are sold directly to customers or to local stores and distributors.

Nationally, about 1.4 million tons of strawberries are produced each year. The vast majority come from specialized farms in California, with Florida a distant second in production. These berries get shipped to stores and processors.

Most of the strawberries grown in Vermont are called June-bearers, for obvious reasons. There are also some strawberry varieties called ever-bearing, which bloom and fruit all summer long. These are trickier to grow because they require ongoing attention and are more vulnerable to insect attack later in the summer



Dr. Vern Grubinger is the University of Vermont Extension vegetable and berry specialist.

Wild strawberries have been eaten since ancient times, but the development of modern varieties was a fairly recent process, involving a lot of plant breeding including the hybridization of different strawberry species.

"Hovey" was the name of the first American strawberry variety resulting from plant breeding. It was developed by Charles Hovey, a nurseryman in Cambridge, Mass., in 1834.

"Wilson" was bred in 1851 by James Wilson of Albany, N.Y., who crossed "Hovey" with other varieties. Wilson was productive, firm and hardy and could be grown in many types of soil. It also had "perfect" flowers, containing both male and female reproductive structures, so could be grown by itself without another variety for pollination.

Wilson changed the strawberry into a major crop that would be grown across the continent. The ease with which it could be grown, and the availability of railroads for transporting the crop, led to "strawberry fever" that dramatically increased production in the 1860s.

Arthur Howard learned to love strawberries as a young man while living with the Perfectionist community in Putney, Vt. He later developed "Howard 17" at his farm in Belchertown, Mass. That variety dominated strawberry production in the early 1900s. It had tolerance to leaf spot, leaf scorch and virus diseases, and it formed many crowns with early flower bud initiation. For decades it was important for commercial use and breeding.

Before 1920, strawberry breeding was done by growers, but since then most new varieties have been developed by scientists at federal and state experiment stations. One renowned strawberry breeder was Dr. George M. Darrow, a Vermonter who was chief horticulturist at the USDA. He improved the disease resistance of strawberries and developed dozens of varieties that helped create the fruits that we eat today.

To find a farm where you can pick your own fresh, delicious local strawberries, visit vermontpickyourown.org.



Strawberries are the first fruit to ripen on local farms in Vermont with June-bearer varieties available to pick in June.

Hot weather tips for our pets

e all love spending the long, sunny days of summer outdoors with our furry companions, but it's important to remember that like any season, summer comes

with its hazards. To make sure you're prepared for whatever comes your way this summer, check out this list of summer safety tips from our experts at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC).

Give pets plenty of fresh, clean water when it's hot or humid outdoors as pets can get dehydrated quickly. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful not to over-exercise them and keep them indoors when it's extremely hot.

Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle.

Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool. If you plan on spending time near a pool, lake or beach with your pet, make sure you give them fresh water and avoid letting them drink from the pool, or ingest ocean or lake water. When swimming, introduce your pets to water gradually and make sure they wear flotation devices when on boats. Rinse your dog off after swimming to remove chlorine or salt from their fur.

Keep all unscreened windows or doors in your home closed and make sure adjustable screens are tightly secured. Open unscreened windows pose a real danger to pets, who often fall out of them.

Feel free to trim longer hair on your dog, but never shave your dog. The

layers of dogs' coats protect them from overheating and sunburn. Brushing cats more often than usual can prevent problems caused by excessive heat. And be sure that any sunscreen or insect repellent product you use on your pets is labeled specifically for use on animals.

Don't let dogs linger on hot asphalt when the temperature is very high. Being so close to the ground, your pooch's body can heat up quickly, and sensitive paw pads can burn. Keep walks during these times to a minimum.

Use caution when using herbicides and insecticides. When applying these products to your yard it is best to keep your pet away from the area being treated, follow directions on the packaging and prevent your pet from accessing the area until it is dry or has been appropriately watered.

Be mindful of what you are planting in your garden. Identifying possibly harmful plants ahead of time may prevent unwanted exposures. Always keep an eye on your pet when they are outside as even non-toxic plants can cause stomach upset if ingested.

Never use fireworks around pets.

Exposure to lit fireworks can potentially result in severe burns or trauma, and even unused fireworks can contain hazardous materials. Many pets are also fearful of loud noises and can become lost, scared or disoriented, so it's best to keep your little guys safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area of your home.

Thanks to ASPCA for these expert tips for a happy, healthy and fun summer with your furry friends.

Pet of the week Send us your pet! news@addisonindependent.com

Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society



This guy may be small, but don't let his size fool you- Mr. Bean packs the heart of a lion and the spirit of an adventurer! He's sweet, brave, and always ready to explore every corner during floor time like he's on a grand expedition. With his adorable nose always on the move and his ears perked for adventure, Mr. Bean is the kind of guinea pig who will bring joy and wonder into your home. He's curious, incredibly charming, and absolutely full of life.





I'm **Venus**, a young husky mix with piercing blue eyes and a fluffy tail. I came to the shelter as a stray with my friend, Serena, so staff has no prior history of me. All they know is that I love to give hugs. And since I'm so fluffy and petite, my hugs feel like a warm pillow. I also love to be around

people and to sniff all the interesting smells in the yard. Relaxing is one of my favorite hobbies here at the shelter, but once I get outside, I'm quite active!

Elenor and Eliza

Elenor and Eliza are a bonded pair of beautiful Abyssinian-tabby sisters with striking features. They have tons of energy and love to jump, climb, run, wrestle, and play continuously. They are highly intelligent and need plenty of engaging stimulation. Elenor is extremely social and will follow

you around the house, talking and asking for play time. Eliza is more independent, quiet, and sweet. They get along with other cats but have an unknown history with dogs. They would be fine with respectful older children, but probably not younger ones, as Elenor may occasionally gift you with a gentle love bite that might be scary for a child.



I'm Serena, a young husky mix with piercing blue eyes and a fluffy tail. I came to the shelter as a stray with my friend, Venus, so staff has no prior history of me. All they know is that I really like people! I enjoy being outside and sniffing all the interesting smells in the yard. Relaxing is one of my favorite

things here at the shelter, but don't be fooled! I also love playtime and get the zoomies when playing with my toys!





Want to learn more?

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MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING! 62 COURT STREET

MLS #5047976 | \$425,000 3-UNIT | 2352 SF | 0.50 ACRES

Solid income generating investment with parking, and proximity. First floor office with bath, kitchen, reception, storage, and basement access. Second floor 1 bdrm apartment, and a studio apartment with a deck!



MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING! 385 EAST MAIN STREET

MLS #5047893 | \$420,000 2 BD | 2 BA | 1206 SF | 0.136 ACRES

This circa-1900 farmhouse was lovingly restored by a previous owner. Quality materials & craftsmanship in the restored staircase, fir side-entry door, maple cabinetry, wood floors, low windows, wrap-around porch, and additional charming details around every corner. Butcher block counters, farmhouse sink, several new stainless appliances in the kitchen. First floor primary bedroom with en suite bath. Second floor bedroom with French doors opening onto a lovely office/studio/dressing room. The one car garage is insulated, and currently used as a workshop. Garden shed and attached woodshed. Village living close to both recreation and downtown Middlebury!

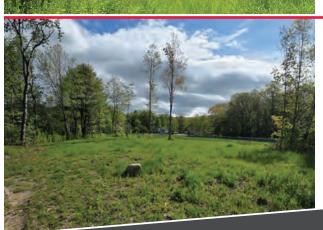


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A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Mountain views and backyard privacy

Live conveniently near the Downtown District yet with a country feel on this generous lot that offers elbow room on all sides. The backyard is private and affords you great outdoor space to entertain with a generous patio featuring an outdoor fireplace and grilling gazebo. The house is at the end of a dead-end street with only local traffic. There is a beautiful perennial garden off the front porch and rear sunroom. It is perched high on the lot with views to the Adirondacks, providing beautiful sunsets to enjoy from the covered front porch. The home has been meticulously maintained with tasteful finishes. The main floor is expansive with a large eat-in kitchen, den, large formal dining room (or use as the formal living room), a library (or bar room), and finally a light-filled 3-season porch that you will live in 7 months out of the year. The huge family room features a brick fireplace with old barn beam mantle, built-in firewood storage, and a soapstone woodstove insert. A wonderful place to spend time in the winter. There is also an office/hobby room on this level and a full laundry room. The bedroom level boasts a substantial landing with a primary en-suite on one side and 2 guest bedrooms on the other. Both the full attic, basement, oversized garage & 14- x 24-foot shed give you ample storage. A must-see home if you are looking

for a solid, well-maintained, spacious property.



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GROUP

This week's property is managed by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. More info at vtregroup.com.





EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

line between reality and fiction, bringing forth the magic, wonder and complexity of the mind's eve. Juror Emma Powell (a Middlebury

native!) selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view June 6-June 27.

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/artistsin-the-house-fundraiser. On view May 21-Sept. 6.

"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 treasurers 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 sslllllooooooowwwww doooowwwwnnnnnnn and really look. This is a space for immersive attention, close 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.

MUSEUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

stories and values. creating a space where cultural belongings can exist in harmony with the architecture that

shelters them. It is a place of protection and respect — one that regenerates the surrounding landscape while integrating seamlessly into the broader museum campus," said Two Row Architect Partner Matthew Hickey.

The Perry Center will be the 40th building on the museum's 45-acre campus and will house a significant collection that includes items gathered by Anthony and Teressa Perry and recently gifted to the museum. When combined with the Indigenous art already stewarded by the museum, the collection represents more than 500 items from 389 Tribal Nations across the continent.

Learn more at shelburnemuseum.org.



East entry, Perry Center for Native American Art at Shelburne Museum.

IMAGE / ANNUM ARCHITECTS



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LOOK UP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

observing Sagittarius, you are looking toward the center of the Milky Way where there is a supermassive black hole. In between us and the black hole are dense regions of star clusters

and nebulae. Next to Sagittarius is the constellation Scorpius which has a hook configuration of stars at the tail and the bright red supergiant star Antares at the head. There are many deep sky objects, particularly along the band of the Milky Way, which include nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies that are visible with relatively inexpensive optical aid. Star hop to locate them with your sky app.

An excellent one-page guide to navigating many of the summer asterisms and constellations can be downloaded and printed at astroleague.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/06/2024-July.pdf.

This very basic introduction to the summer sky of mid-northern latitudes will help you in learning how to star hop, recognize key star groupings, and hopefully give you a greater appreciation for the summer night sky.

SKY WATCH EVENTS FOR JULY

July 3 - First quarter moon 0.8 degrees from Spica, brightest star in Virgo

July 7 - Waxing Gibbous Moon 0.4 degrees of reddish Antares, brightest star in Scorpius

July 10 – Full Moon; Buck Moon, comes from time of maturation of male deer antlers; also Thunder Moon & Hay Moon, a time of lightning bolts and mown fields

July 13 - Venus 3 degrees north of orange-red Aldebaran, brightest star in Taurus

July 14 to Sept. 1 - Beginning and ending of the Perseids meteor shower!

July 16 - Moon 4 degrees north of Saturn

July 24 - New Moon; check out the Milky Way in summer under dark skies

July 28 - Moon 1.3 degrees south of Mars

July 31 - Delta Aquarids meteor shower at peak; Moon is 1 degree south of Spica

July Column: Debris in our Atmosphere & Perseids Meteor Shower

CORRECTION: At the end of the last column about Henrietta Leavitt, there was an error in extracting data from the following website timeanddate.com/ sun/@5238504 where the daylength of the summer solstice in Middlebury, Vt., was given as 14 hours, 26 minutes. The actual daylength calculated from sunrise and sunset data is 15 hours, 30 minutes.



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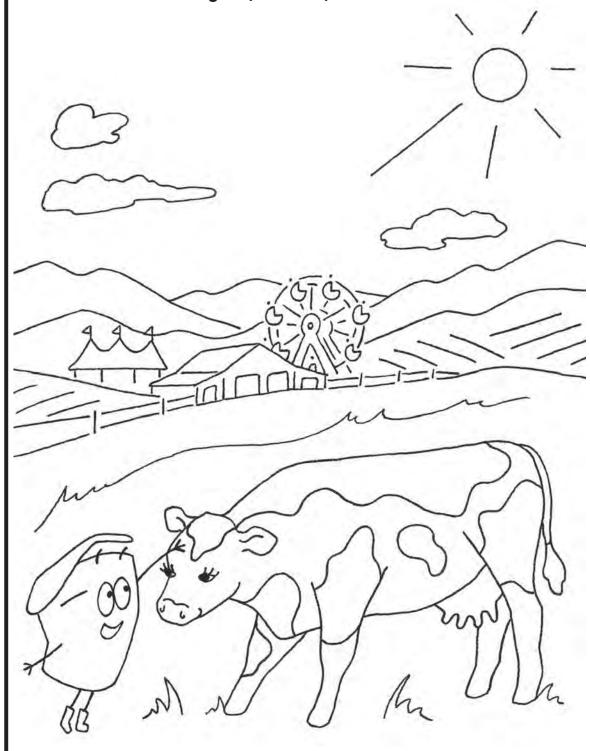






Fair - Time Coloring and Decorating Contest

Summer's in full swing! Bring your brightest colors and help Sappy Bucket® celebrate the sights, sounds, and flavors of Addison County Fair & Field Days (7/29 - 8/2)!



Thank you to the Little Pressroom for providing this sweet custom image to color! For Sappy Bucket® products, visit sappybucket.com

Feel free to tear out this coloring page or go to the Addy Indy website for a printable version.

All entries must be submitted by Friday,
July 18th. Winners will be notified by
July 22nd and officially announced in the
July 24th edition of the
Addison Independent.

Two winners from each age group will get two passes to Addison County Fair & Field Days and a gift certificate to the fairgrounds sugarhouse, which can be picked up from the Addy Indy office July 22nd-25th.

All submissions will be displayed in the sugarhouse during the fair.

Submit your entries:

Online at

addisonindependent.com/contests

🕸 By Mail or In Person

to Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

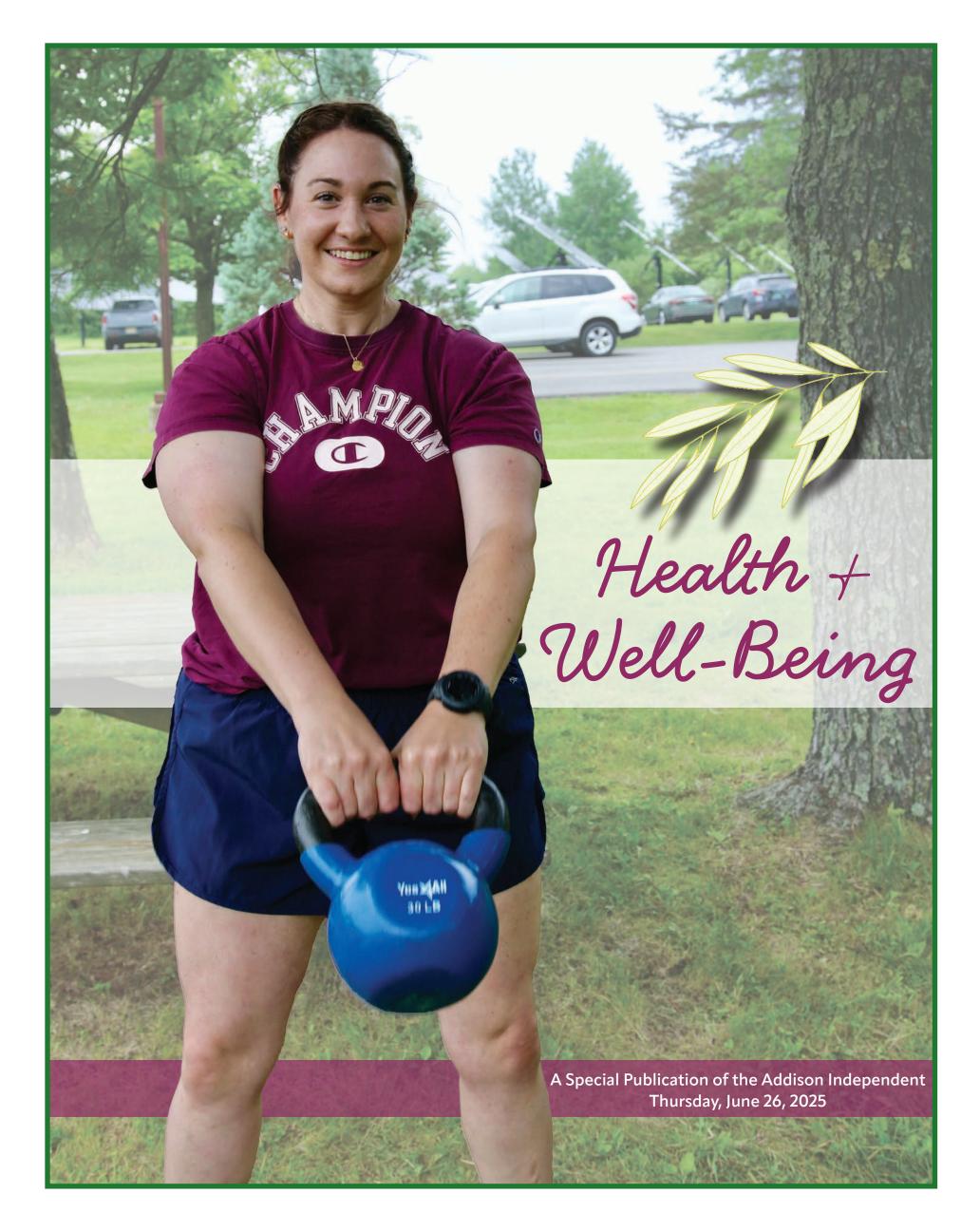
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ADDISON COUNTY

INDEPENDENT



Summer offers opportunities to stay active

Trainers provide tips for exploring exercises

BY MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — From exploring a new hiking trail to swimming in Lake Champlain, summer in the Green Mountain State offers numerous opportunities to stay active while enjoying the outdoors.

But, finding an activity that's best suited to your personal goals can be intimidating, let alone finding the time to fit exercise into a busy schedule.

With that in mind, the *Independent* spoke with two personal trainers at Vermont Sun about how people can incorporate more movement into their daily lives during the summer months.

Personal trainer Lauren Woloohojian emphasized that it's important to move your body each day, regardless of how you choose to do so.

"I always try to aim for some sort of movement, whether it's 5-30 minutes, at some point in the day or five minutes six times a day," she said. "Setting aside some time to move purposefully is going to be important not just for the short term



THE SUMMER MONTHS offer several opportunities to stay active, from hiking to cycling. Personal trainers Kathleen Copeland, left, and Lauren Woloohojian both encourage community members to aim for 30 minutes of movement each day, whether that's all at once or split up throughout the day.

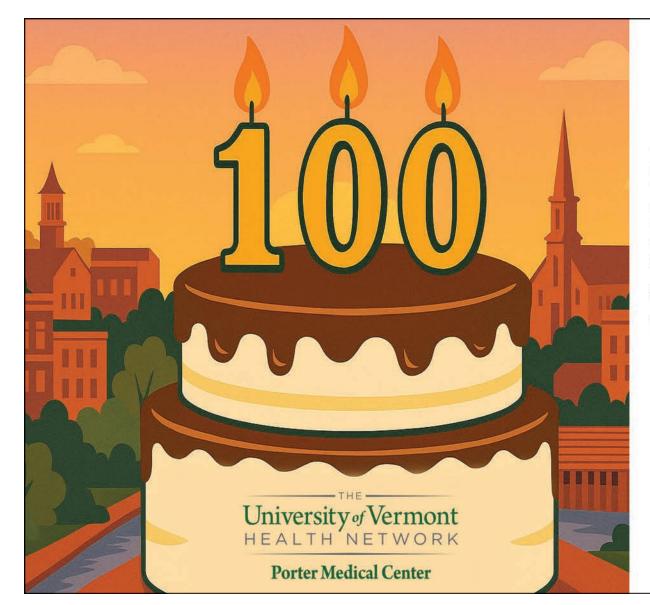
Independent photo/Steve James

but long term as well in terms of (health benefits)."

"Especially for young children up to the elderly population, movement is going to help with longevity, keep us injury free and help us be able to balance ourselves when we're walking up the stairs or carrying groceries," Woloohojian continued.

Figuring out what type of activity you like to do is key, she said.

(See Stay active, Page 3)



Thank You for Being Part of Our Story

We're grateful to everyone who joined us for Porter Medical Center's 100th birthday party. Your presence and support—both at the event and through the years—are what keep us going strong. Being entrusted to care for our family, friends and neighbors is a true honor and at the heart of everything we do.

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KATHLEEN COPELAND AND LAUREN WOLOOHOJIAN

Staying active

(Continued from Page 2)

"Find something you enjoy as far as that movement because then it's not going to feel like a workout," she explained. "If somebody prefers to be in the gym, and that's where they find their enjoyment that's great, and if someone hates going to the gym and they'd rather be walking outside with their dogs that's great, too."

Kathleen Copeland is a personal trainer at Vermont Sun and owner of BYWIT (Because You're Worth IT) Personal Training. She underscored the importance of finding an activity you enjoy, as well as one that your body is able to do, and getting clearance from your doctor before starting a new activity.

"I know this can seem like a pain because when the mood strikes to start exercising you don't want to put it off

VOU ARE CONTRACTOR OF THE CONT

KATHLEEN COPELAND

because you need to wait on a (doctor) to say 'OK,' but it is important to make sure you are physically ready to take on the new adventure," she said.

Copeland often works with groups on things like goal setting and exploring the psychological aspect of fitness. She noted that finding community is another key part of staying active.

"I think one of the biggest things that I would say to anybody wanting to stay with it would just be doing a team approach, like a buddy system," Copeland said. "Creating a buddy system so that you're held accountable for those activities is really key, getting some positive peer pressure."

SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES

When it comes to staying active during the summer, Woloohojian noted that popular activities amongst her clients are swimming, hiking and cycling. She pointed to some of the benefits those activities offer.

"As far as going out and hiking or biking or even swimming, you're working on your strength, your muscular endurance, as well as your cardio capabilities," she said. "Those are three incredibly important things that people need to move every day."

As for other low-impact exercise options, Copeland recommends walking.

"If people are afraid of walking or tripping you can use the walking poles that have become very popular. Walking poles are really beneficial for those that want the low impact but you still get a little upper body movement," she said. "You could also walk on the (Middlebury College) track, so you don't have to worry about tripping on the curb."

Swimming is another low-impact workout option, Copeland said. She noted the Middlebury Town Pool offers open swim times for local residents throughout the summer.

"Swimming is great for inflammation; it keeps inflammation down when you're (See Summertime, Page 6)

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Deaths from opioid overdose declined significantly in 2024

WATERBURY — New data from the Vermont Department of Health shows a significant decline in opioid overdose deaths last year. According to the newlyreleased Fatal Opioid Overdoses Among Vermonters Report, 183 Vermonters died from an opioid-related overdose in 2024, a 22% decrease from 2023 when 236 people died. This marks the second consecutive year of a decline in overdose deaths, after a slight drop in 2023.

"We're grateful to see this decline," said Health Department Deputy Commissioner Kelly Dougherty, who oversees Vermont's substance use programs. "At the same time, people are still dying due to opioid overdose, and we must not forget the lasting impact these losses have on families and communities. We must continue strengthening our partnerships and systems of care to respond to these challenges."

While fatal overdoses involving fentanyl decreased by 25% between 2022 and 2024, fentanyl continues to be the number one substance involved in opioid-related deaths, accounting for 93% of opioid fatalities in 2024. Cocaine involvement in deaths increased significantly — from 60% in 2023 to 70% in 2024 — and remains the second most common drug involved in fatal overdoses. Xylazine was involved in 42% of fatal overdoses in 2024, up from 32% in 2023.

Vermont last saw a significant decrease in opioid fatalities in 2019, when 115 people died, down from 131 in 2018. However, the COVID-19 pandemic increased many risks related to substance use disorder, including isolation, unemployment and health disparities, leading to record numbers of deaths -244 in 2022 alone. The 2024 decrease also aligns with national trends: on May 14, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported a nearly 27% decline in U.S. drug overdose deaths in 2024, the steepest such drop since 2020.

While the factors contributing to this decline are complex, public health efforts that support prevention, treatment and recovery are helping save lives. This includes strategies such as offering fentanyl test strips and the statewide naloxone distribution program, which helps ensure people have access to life-saving medication. The Health Department distributed more than 70,000 doses of naloxone to community partners in 2024.

The Health Department said the new overdose data reflects the work of a vast network of partners across the state to expand access to community-level prevention, recovery and treatment services, including through the huband-spoke system of care and its strong foundation among Vermont's primary



Push forward

PERSONAL TRAINER KATHLEEN Copeland exercises outside on a recent summer day. When it comes to staying active, Copeland recommends finding an activity you enjoy and that your body is able to do, as well as getting clearance from your doctor before starting a new activity.

Independent photo/Steve James

care providers. While there is still more work to be done, Health officials thanked primary care providers, other clinical providers, syringe services providers, recovery resources, public safety and EMS responders and other health care partners for their vital role in this work.

Officials also emphasized that outreach and resources remain critical through campaigns such as KnowOD, and VTHelplink, a free and confidential support and referral service, available

"Vermont's communities know the

lasting toll the opioid epidemic has taken in our state," Interim Health Commissioner Julie Arel said. "Seeing this decline in overdose deaths is heartening, but we can't take our foot off the gas. We must continue to make our systems of prevention, treatment and recovery stronger so that we can meet the needs of people struggling with substance use disorder and build safer, healthier communities for all."

Read the 2024 Fatal Opioid Overdoses Among Vermonters Report online at tinyurl.com/VtOverdoses2024.



Natural Beginnings

Vicki is a board-certified registered lactation consultant who offers home, phone, and telemedicine visits for breastfeeding mothers who are facing various challenges in Addison and Rutland counties, and some areas in New York State. She also has a monthly prenatal breastfeeding class available on Zoom. Mothers can feel overwhelmed when trying to balance milk production, latching issues, nipple soreness, engorgement, pumping, and returning to work. Vicki is available to help during this transitional period - you are not alone! Schedule an appointment today.

Vicki is a provider for BCBS, CBA Blue, and Vermont Medicaid for home consultations, personal use breast pumps, and pumping supplies.



VICKI KIRBY RN, IBCLC, RLC

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CSAC programs help clients achieve independence

'This job allows me to blend in family time'

Being a part of the Residential

Home Program,

Home Providers,

such as Middlebury

resident Kim Porter,

impact of their work

get to witness the

first-hand.

By BEE ECKELS

MIDDLEBURY — For 65 years, the Counseling Service of

Addison County (CSAC) has played an integral role in helping preserve and support the social and emotional well-being of the residents of Addison County, with a crowning achievement being the success of the Residential Home Program.

The program was launched after the 1993 closing of the Brandon Training School, which at the time was Vermont's only public institution for individuals with mental and developmental disabilities. The Residential Home

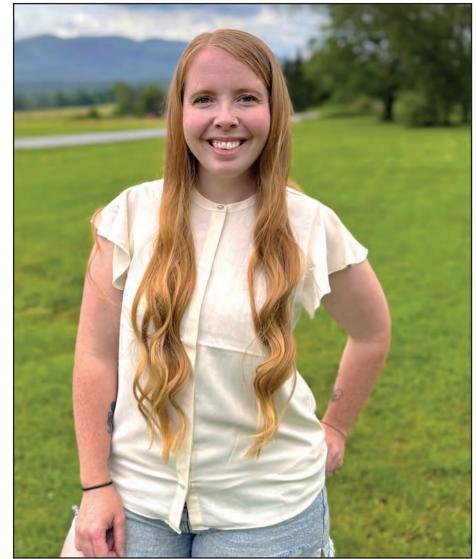
Program is a shared living service for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Set up by the state as a way to help people transition into their community, CSAC tailored the program to help adults live as independently as possible in the setting of their choice.

Described as the "backbone of care and system of support for... the individuals we serve" by Beth Tarallo, Development, Outreach & Engagement Officer at CSAC, the initiative provides community and employment support for the adult clients they serve in Addison County.

Home Providers, such as Middlebury resident Kim Porter, are a vital part of the Residential Home Program and witness the impact of their work first-hand. Porter began her career in a community support position in 2018 where

she helped adults with disabilities by taking them out in the community to foster engagement, integration, acceptance and independence.

For the past 10 years, Porter has (See CSAC respite, Page 7)



KIM PORTER

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reating a

so that you're held

accountable for

those activities is

really key, getting

some positive peer

– Kathleen Copeland

pressure."

buddy system

Summertime

(Continued from Page 3) swimming because of the water pressure on the joints," she said.

Rowing, either out on the water or on a machine in the gym, is another activity folks can try out this season.

"It's one of the best full body exercises that you can do, Copeland said.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Ferrisburgh offers opportunities for new and experienced rowers alike to get out on the water during the warmer months. More information can be found at www. lcmm.org/adult-rowing.

Woloohojian, Like Copeland recommends members community aim for 30 minutes of movement each day.

"For some of clients that seems really overwhelming, like, can't walk for 30 minutes,' and you don't have to.

You could walk three times a day for 10 minutes," Copeland said. "What will happen sometimes is if you set your goals small and you can be successful at them, then your goals will naturally grow longer."

Copeland noted that members might find it easier to skip a workout during the summer months, opting to bask in the sunshine and warm temperatures instead. She recommends

> incorporating movement into your day on the way home from work, for example.

"Sitting down on the couch between work and the gym is really like the kiss of death," she said. "Stop on your way home from work directly ... and get your 20 minutes, do a 20 minute workout, and then go home."

TIPS FOR STAYING ACTIVE

Woloohojian said she pushes her clients to get outside during the summer months.

"For them to be out in the sun, Vitamin D is incredibly important for our body, and it's a mood booster," she said. "There's not only that physical

benefit but also that mental benefit of enjoying being outside."

What about folks that can't always set aside time to go for a hike or bike ride? Woloohojian recommends trying out a (See Staying active tips, Page 8)



KATHLEEN COPELAND

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CSAC respite

(Continued from Page 5)

transitioned to be a Respite Provider—a role that provides temporary relief for caregivers, guardians and other Home

Providers by taking clients into their homes—and, in recent years, she became a Home Provider—a

role that provides a home for an individual, as well as care and assistance with daily activities.

Being Home Provider allow // Vou have to flexibility in her role as a full-time mom, as pass the well as being able to hold state of Vermont a job. A routine day sees Porter getting her kids up home inspection, and ready for school or the day's events, while but CSAC helps you also waking up her client prepare for that. and administering their medication. On school They send someone days, she takes her kids over and do a preto school while her client gets ready to start the day check and point out on their own. When Porter things that might returns, her client goes to work for four hours. While get flagged." she is not technically "off — Kim Porter the clock" while her client

respond to situations that might arise during the client's time at work.

is at work, CSAC does

As a mother of three with a toddler,

elementary schooler and middle schooler to keep her hands full, Porter has been happy to find that housing a client means she can show up for her

> family while still bringing in an income. While the compensation amount

for this position varies based on the needs of the individual that the provider is serving, a home provider can earn, in the form of a tax-free stipend, between \$15,000 to \$60,000 annually, plus payment for room and board and a budget for respite care.

When fully staffed, CSAC has about 320 workers. Out of that 320, 100 work in Community Associates which is the Developmental Services program.

"We have about 45 Developmental homes – these are the homes where we contract with community providers to offer a home for our clients," said Rachel Lee,

Executive Director at CSAC. "Homes are supported by Service Coordinators who help with case management...

CSAC offers varied opportunities

A side from the residential program, CSAC offers a variety of resources to help improve the lives of individuals and the state of the overall community. The core services provided by CSAC include those focused on emergency and crisis support (including a 24-hour suicide lifeline), substance use, adult mental health, developmental services, case management and adult stabilization

programs, employment services and youth and family services.

Anyone interested in being a home provider, contact CSAC at 802-388-4021 or visit CSAC's employment page on their website to see a list of available openings for Shared Living Providers at https://www.csac-vt.org/careers/shared-living-providers.html.

and Direct Support Professionals, who work with our clients to be active and engaged in the community or at work."

While there is no required training to be a Home Provider, the applicant has to know CPR and the home must pass both a state sanctioned water test and home inspection.

"You have to pass the state of Vermont home inspection, but CSAC helps you prepare for that," Porter said. "They send someone over and do a pre-check and point out things that might get flagged."

Despite the relatively quick process of inspections, it may take many months to get matched with a client. It may also take several tries to find an individual who meshes well with you, your family, your pets or your living situation.

"It is very normal to not always click with a client and that's OK," said Porter. Porter herself had a client who wasn't a comfortable fit, but she tried again and found success. Regardless if you are married, single or in a committed relationship, the qualities of an effective home provider remain the same: compassion, empathy, patience, commitment, problem solving skills and communication are essential to create a supportive home environment.

CSAC emphasizes that through the process of helping one person at a time, you are helping make an entire community stronger. By being a Home Provider, you are "allowing an individual to continue being a part of a community where they have been their whole life," said Lee.

And it's equally rewarding for home providers. "People don't realize how flexible and rewarding this job is," said Porter, adding she's grateful she's grown into this role over the past decade.

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Tips

(Continued from Page 6)

practice she's incorporated into her daily life called "exercise snacks," which are short bouts of activity like jumping jacks or lunges.

"Your body is always going to move, and it doesn't matter if you're moving as in hiking or in the gym, movement is movement," she said. "If you've got five minutes of free time that day or you've finished lunch and you don't want to go sit in the office, doing some body weight squats or push-ups or walking up and down the stairs is a great way to put some movement into your day without putting aside a day to hike or to go to the gym."

For those that plan to incorporate outdoor activities into their summer plans, Woloohojian offered some tips for how to do so safely.

"If it's something you're not sure you can do or you have some limitations, always talk with your doctor to make sure what you want to do is safe," she suggested.

Copeland added that residents should suit up with necessary gear, like a security vest or a helmet when biking. She noted it's essential to stay hydrated.

"If you are one who doesn't drink enough water, try drinking with a straw in your water bottle. Also, try drinking a glass of water during your day with an already established habit," Copeland said. "If your habit is drinking coffee every morning, before you do this, add a glass of water before your coffee. You can do this throughout your day, add a new behavior that you want to make a habit and pair it with an already established behavior."

Woloohojian also encouraged people to use sunscreen when exercising outdoors and to stay safe while hiking, potentially bringing along a buddy for the trek. She recommends finding a support system for your exercise endeavors, which can provide social benefits and add a



LAUREN WOLOOHOJIAN

layer of safety.

Copeland underscored the benefits of a team approach to staying active, whether through engaging in an activity like pickleball or signing up for one of Vermont Sun's triathlons as part of a team.

"Team approach is a fantastic way to help you stay on task and motivated," she said. "Social support, accountability, shared goals (running a race together), positive peer pressure and exercise helps reduce stress ... (don't we all carry a lot of that lately)."

Copeland offered a couple other recommendations for staying motivated this summer, including listening to music that you only play while exercising and checking out the books "Mini habits for weight loss" by Stephen Guise and "The 5 Second Rule" by Mel Robbins.

Whatever activities folks decided to engage in this summer, it can all make a difference.

"All movement matters, and all movement counts," Woloohojian said.



KATHLEEN COPELAND



Gov. Scott signs into law 2 bills to address high health care costs

By HABIB SABET, VtDigger

MONTPELIER — Gov. Phil Scott this week signed two significant pieces of health care legislation into law, both of which seek to rein in health care costs while bolstering state oversight of hospital practices.

One bill, H.266, Wednesday, limits the amount that Vermont health care providers can charge for outpatient prescription drugs medications administered by injection or IV that are often used to treat cancers and autoimmune diseases

Another, S.126, signed Thursday, aims at a more comprehensive, long-term transformation of health care regulation in the state. Among other items, the bill requires state health care officials to develop a "statewide health care delivery plan" and present it to the Legislature by 2028. The legislation also directs the Green Mountain Care Board to implement reference-based pricing, a system that tethers the prices that health care providers charge to the equivalent rates that Medicare allows.

Taken together, the two pieces of legislation represent a major effort by Vermont lawmakers and officials to curb health care costs while bolstering oversight of hospitals.

The passage of the bills comes at a time when many health care entities in the state are struggling to stay afloat while patients and employers are facing skyrocketing insurance premiums.

"We have no choice," Mike Fisher,

Vermont's chief health care advocate, said Thursday. "There's a substantial risk that we're going to lose key providers in communities around the state if we don't

'The most consequential and immediate effort'

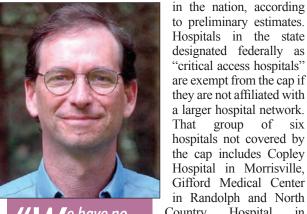
Among the main contributors to ballooning health care costs in Vermont are the extreme markups that hospitals charge for certain drugs, lawmakers and officials have said.

Currently, the average price of outpatient pharmaceuticals in the state are more than five times the amount of the manufacturer's average sales price, by far the highest average markup in the nation, according to data compiled by the research and consulting firm RAND.

H.266 caps the cost of those drugs at 120% of their manufacturers' average sale price beginning in January

2026, a move that health officials say will go a long way toward immediately lowering Vermont's rising insurance premiums and health care expenditures.

Under the new cap, outpatient drug prices at Vermont hospitals would be the lowest



le have no choice. There's a substantial risk that we're going to lose key providers in communities around the state if we don't intervene." — Mike Fisher, Vermont's chief health care advocate

to preliminary estimates. Hospitals in the state designated federally as "critical access hospitals" are exempt from the cap if they are not affiliated with a larger hospital network. That group of six hospitals not covered by the cap includes Copley Hospital in Morrisville, Gifford Medical Center in Randolph and North Country Hospital Newport.

"It is most consequential and immediate effort I have heard of to reduce health care costs in the state,' Owen Foster, chair of the Green Mountain Care Board, said Thursday.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont, the state's largest health insurance provider, has already said the measure would reduce the insurer's

projected rate of premium increases for next year by an estimated four percentage points for plans offered on Vermont Health Connect, the state's Affordable Care Act marketplace, and by three percentage points for public school employees.

But advocates for the state's hospitals argue that the proposal would take away millions of dollars of revenue, requiring some health care providers to drastically tighten their belts and potentially cut staff and services.

"As we do this work, we'll first ensure we look to administrative and other savings to limit and avoid, to the fullest extent possible, impacts on direct patient care and services," Devon Green, a lobbyist for the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Care Systems, said in a written statement. "We know this will be challenging, but if we work with our state partners, the GMCB and together as hospitals, we are confident we can make meaningful progress.'

'A significant amount of work to do'

Lawmakers and officials are looking to rein in hospital prices in the longer term with S.126, which requires the Green Mountain Care Board to establish a reference-based pricing system for the state's hospitals by 2027.

Under the proposed model, the Green Mountain Care Board will limit the amount that hospitals charge private insurance companies for patient procedures by pegging those prices to the equivalent rates that Medicare sets for hospitals.

State officials have long trumpeted reference-based pricing as a means of clamping down on rising health care costs.

A 2024 report produced by the care board found that implementing the cost (See Gov. Scott, Page 10)

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WHEN PUTTING TOMATOES and other starter plants in the garden, allow enough space between plants to avoid overcrowding, which may lead to competition for available water, nutrients and light and increase susceptibility to diseases and other problems. photo / Deborah J. Benoit

Tips for a healthy garden

By Deborah J. Benoit **Extension Master Gardener University of Vermont**

Every gardener wants a healthy, productive garden whether they're growing vegetables, berries or flowers. While some problems are outside our control, there are a number of things you can do to help keep your garden healthy all summer long.

Start with healthy soil. How do you do that? Have a soil test done. Taking a sample is easy, and the test is inexpensive.

While testing soil before planting is ideal, it can be done at any time. The results can tell you about your soil pH, available

phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), micronutrients and more. It will recommend nutrients needed to benefit the plants you're growing so you don't waste time and money applying unneeded fertilizer.

A soil test will also recommend amendments that can be added to your soil before or after the growing season. For more information, see https://go.uvm.edu/ soiltest.

The second thing to consider is light. Most edible crops require full sun for at least 6 to 8 hours daily. Low light can

(See Healthy garden, Page 11)

Gov. Scott

(Continued from Page 9)

saving system just for state and school employee insurance plans could save the

// There's a

amount of work

to do to come up

with a payment

methodology for

reference-based

pricing. All of these

things are going to

take a fair amount

of time and effort

to get it right, and

initiating."

so that's what we're

Mountain Care Board

of the Green

significant

state tens of millions of dollars annually. Doug Hoffer, the state auditor, similarly touted referencebased pricing as a costsaving measure for the state's health care system in a 2021 report.

In practice, the measure represents a seismic shift in the way that hospitals price patient care, and it remains unclear exactly how the system would work.

"There's a significant amount of work to do to come up with a payment methodology for referencebased pricing," Foster said. "All of these things are going to take a fair amount of time and effort to get it right, and so that's what we're initiating.

S.126 also tasks state officials with transitioning the state's health care system to a "global budget" payment model by 2030, meaning participating hospitals would receive fixed amounts of money from participating insurers to operate within a given year rather than receiving separate payments for individual procedures.

Vermont already took steps in the direction of establishing a global budget

model when, earlier this year, it signed onto a pilot program run by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services called the AHEAD model. The pilot program, if it moves forward, would allow the state to incorporate federally funded insurers into the payment system.

Additionally, the bill would give state regulators more general oversight of health care providers, allowing the Green Mountain Care Board to collect more data and financial information from hospitals for the sake of standardizing pricing and budgets.

Last week, Scott also signed into law H.482, legislation that gives the Green Mountain Care Board

emergency authority to reduce hospital prices in the case of risks of insolvency to insurers.

"It just provides a layer of protection for the entire system," Foster said. "I see that as a critical step in the situation that we're in, with financial concerns at our primary

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Melon

Onion

Parsnip Pepper

Potato

Pumpkin

Radish

Rhubarb Rutabaga

Summer Squash

Sunflower

Tomato

Turnip

Winter Squash

Zucchini





Stay safe as summer heats up

WATERBURY — We experienced unseasonably hot temperatures early last week, with high temperatures in the upper 80s to mid 90s. High heat can increase the risk for dehydration, muscle cramps, headache, nausea, fainting, or even heat stroke, especially before our bodies are used to the change.

In states with relatively cool climates like Vermont, older adults, people with disabilities and people managing chronic health conditions are often at the highest risk for severe heat illnesses, said Jared Ulmer, Climate and Health Program Manager with the Department of Health.

"It's a good idea to check in on loved ones and neighbors, especially if they don't have air conditioning at home, live alone or need help with daily care," Ulmer said.

TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE AND HEALTHY IN HOT WEATHER:

- "Look Before You Lock!" **Never** leave children, people with disabilities, older adults, or pets in a closed vehicle.
- Drink plenty of water, or non-alcoholic and decaffeinated fluids.
- Seek relief in air-conditioned spaces or other cool and shaded places Find an interactive cooling sites map at: HealthVermont.gov/hot-weather.
- Close window shades during the day. Keep windows closed when it is hotter outside than inside. Avoid using

appliances and lights that generate heat.

• It can take up to 14 days for your body to get used to being active in the heat, so take extra precautions earlier in the summer. Ease into any activities and limit them during the hottest part of the day.

Most heat illness symptoms can be treated by drinking fluids and resting in a cooler place. If symptoms continue or get worse, or someone you are with seems confused or loses consciousness, dial 9-1-1 and get immediate medical help.

Other people at high risk of heatrelated illness include those who work or exercise outdoors, people who are unhoused, pregnant people, young children, and people using drugs or alcohol. Consecutive hot days with warm overnight temperatures are particularly dangerous for people without air conditioning, especially if they live alone.

Resources for Vermonters include new Heat Safety Guidance for Caregivers to help reduce the impacts of heat on the people they care for, heat safety tips and information in 12 languages, and an interactive map of cooling site locations.

Vermonters are also encouraged to subscribe to VT Alert at vem.vermont. gov/VTAlert to be notified by phone, text or email when a heat alert is issued.

Healthy garden

(Continued from Page 10)

result in slower growth and lower yield. If your yard receives insufficient sunlight for the plants you want to grow, consider switching to an elevated bed or containers, which can be set up in the best location for what you are growing.

When purchasing starter plants, it's easy to underestimate how much space they will eventually need. Plant according to their mature size to allow sufficient room for growth.

Overcrowding in the garden makes plants compete for available water, nutrients, room to grow and light. One plant may block the sun from others. Overcrowding may make plants more susceptible to diseases and other problems and make it difficult to spot them early on.

Be sure to take into account your plants' need for water. What nature provides may be sufficient for an in-ground garden, but when growing in raised beds or containers, or during dry periods, supplemental watering can make the difference between a healthy garden and a lack of flowers or poor harvest.

When watering, a good, deep soaking is more beneficial to plants than frequent, shallow watering. As an alternative to manual watering, drip irrigation can help conserve water through less evaporation, get water to the roots where it's needed and help keep the soil's moisture level more consistent.

Applying a layer of mulch on the surface



WHEN WATERING CROPS such as blueberries, a good, deep soaking is more beneficial to plants than frequent, shallow watering.

photo / Deborah J. Benoit

can help retain moisture in the soil. In addition, mulch can help keep soil and roots cooler during excessive summer heat.

Mulch will also help discourage the growth of weeds and can make those that do appear easier to pull. Weed regularly, before they get large enough to compete with what you're growing. Never let weeds go to seed.

For those times that you need help identifying or dealing with a problem or just have a question about home gardening, consult the volunteers at the University of Vermont Extension Master Gardener Helpline. Call (802) 656-5421 (Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.) or submit questions online anytime from April to October at https://go.uvm.edu/gardeninghelp.



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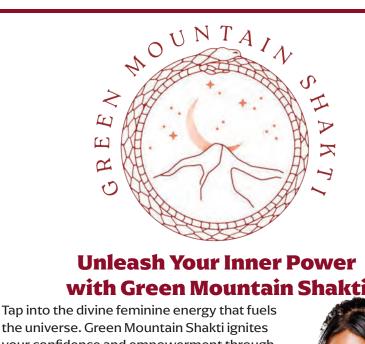
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