



## Smirkus!

The traveling circus is coming to Middlebury this weekend. Read about it in Arts + Leisure.



## Diving in

The Champs swim team began its summer season by splitting two meets. See Sports, Page 1B.



## Dove tale

A local artist's towering papier-mâché sculpture will be in Bristol's July 4 parade. See Page 2A.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## Two advance for Addison-4 seat

Dems recommend Albert & Sharpe

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRISTOL — Democratic leaders in the towns of Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro have given Gov. Phil Scott two names to consider as he prepares to appoint someone to serve out the rest of a two-year term vacated last month by former Addison-4 House Rep. Mari Cordes, a Bristol

Democrat.

Both hopefuls need little introduction.

They are former longtime Addison-4 Rep. Dave Sharpe, D-Bristol, who served from 2003-2019 and for several years chaired the House Education Committee; and Jeanne Albert of (See Running, Page 10A)

## Panel eyes future of Ripton school

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — A panel of Ripton residents and Addison Central School District officials will spend this summer brainstorming potential future uses for the Ripton Elementary School (RES) building, which closed its doors to local

K-5 instruction last month due to declining student enrollment.

And ACSD Superintendent Wendy Baker confirmed to the *Independent* the RES building won't sit idle into the fall; it will be used by the district and the Ripton (See Ripton school, Page 10A)



## The big uphill

CYCLISTS RIDING IN Saturday's Vermont Gran Fondo dig deep during the steepest part of the climb up Route 125 in Hancock heading up to the Middlebury Gap. See more photos on Page 16A.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Marketplace keeps health care costs affordable

By IAN CURRY

VERMONT — Healthcare insurance premiums in Vermont consistently rank among the highest in the nation.

Paying a health insurance premium is not easy.

For someone over age 30, the cheapest unsubsidized individual plan available from a private health insurance company in Vermont costs \$807.97 per month, not including any additional out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, according to Melanie Clark, a Vermont Health Connect Certified Application Counselor in Middlebury.

At that rate, someone making Vermont's minimum wage would (See Healthcare, Page 9A)



## Ring of fire

AN ENTERTAINER in the Cirque de Fuego fire performance troupe gets lots of oohhs and aaahs as she spins a fiery hoop during the celebrations of Town Hall Theater's big addition in downtown Middlebury this past Friday. See more photos on Pages 4A and 11A.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Mixed feelings on education reform bill

Citizens are confused or concerned

By IAN CURRY, BEE ECKELS & MARIA BARR

ADDISON COUNTY — "Rushed."

That's the word several Addison County residents have used to describe the sweeping changes to Vermont's education system signed into law by Gov. Phil Scott on Tuesday.

H.454 aims to radically transform the way Vermont's

schools are funded and run over the next few years. The 155-page bill will likely see the state move to consolidate many of its school districts, while implementing class-size minimums and restructuring the way tax revenue is collected and distributed to schools across the state.

Key provisions of H.454 do not go into effect for another three (See Education reform, Page 9A)

## Real estate market still good for sellers

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — According to one of Addison County's most experienced residential real estate appraisers, the volume of sales in the county picked up in recent months, while values continue to appreciate across the board.

Bill Benton, the head of Benton Real Estate Appraisers in Vergennes, also a lister in Vergennes and formerly the head lister in Middlebury, discussed with the *Independent* what remains a sellers' market.

Benton cautioned he does not yet have resale data — sale prices of the same property over time — to confirm what could be a surge in county real estate values in the past six months. Still, according to his company's analysis of sales so far this year, the median sales price of county homes sold rose 18% over 2024's median to \$489,900.

That's based on the sale of 105 homes so far this year through the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) run by the Realtors' organization. (See Real estate, Page 17A)



## By the way

On Sunday, July 13, Middlebury Festival on-the-Green volunteers will be setting up the staging, chairs, and a lot more to get ready for the (See By the way, Page 16A)

## Home decarbonization gaining momentum

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — It was around one year ago that a free program aimed at helping county residents decarbonize their homes got into full swing.

That program is an initiative of the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County known as Addison County Energy Navigators.

Through the program, residents receive free one-on-one support

in identifying ways to reduce their homes' carbon footprint and utility bills.

This summer, the Energy Navigators program is continuing to expand its reach and closing in on a key milestone. Energy Navigators Director Shannon Bryant said the team has completed 96 energy navigations with local homeowners and renters and expects to reach (See Homeowners, Page 18A)

## Support for clean energy projects still available

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — Lawmakers in Washington, D.C., have spent recent weeks deliberating on a massive tax-and-spending bill that appears all but ready to reach President Donald Trump's desk by July 4.

That legislation includes

proposed phase-outs for various clean energy tax credits, such as those for energy audits and rooftop solar. For example, a residential clean energy credit currently slated to be terminated by the bill has offered an annual tax credit for qualifying homeowners who (See Clean energy, Page 8A)

## Jailed individuals speak through art and poems in Sheldon exhibit

They tell their story in 'Finding Hope'

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — "R.G." spends most of his time confined to a 90-square-foot cell in the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield, the price he's paying for the crimes for which he was convicted. He shares — with a cellmate — a desk, a cot, a chair, a toilet and a sink.

But in his mind, R.G. is a wild goose, soaring high above his solitary-but-cacophonous carceral setting, his beloved wife fluttering alongside him.

It's a metaphor for the brief visits he's allowed with his spouse.

R.G. committed his reverie to words, in a poem titled, "Homecoming."

(See Sheldon, Page 12A)



THIS COLORFUL BLANKET is among a collection of artwork and poetry created by inmates in Vermont's prison system and can be seen as part of a new exhibit at the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History.

Independent photo/John Flowers

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# Brandon 4th has floral flare

## Sunflowers are the theme at the town’s annual Independence Day festivities

BRANDON — Celebrate Independence Day in Brandon with free events all day on Saturday, July 5. There will be the parade, contests, children’s activities, beer garden, auctions, street dance, fireworks and much more. The theme of the day is Sunflowers, which represent happiness, good fortune and the ability to find beauty everywhere!

Brandon’s parade kicks off on Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. There are free events planned from morning to night and for everyone in the family. The Street Dance starts at 6:30 p.m. and fireworks, which will be visible from all over downtown, begin at dusk.

Hardworking volunteers have thought of it all: Easy parking with a convenient shuttle, fantastic food vendors / trucks, a crowd-pleasing parade, loads of free activities, favorite music groups, super fun fundraising opportunities (those fireworks are expensive!) including a silent auction, the Ducks over the Neshobe River contest and a 50/50 raffle (the pot is growing daily – last year’s winner took home more than \$1900!).

For a complete schedule and more information, visit online: [brandon.org](http://brandon.org) and click the Events and Happenings page. Also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BIDCC>.

# Goodrich reward offered

## Local woman missing for three years

By IAN CURRY

The family of Ashley Goodrich, who disappeared over three years ago, has raised a \$10,000 reward for information that leads to her recovery and the prosecution of anyone who may be involved in her disappearance.

Goodrich was last seen on the railroad tracks near her home on Prospect Street in Fair Haven. For several months, family members received texts from her phone number and Facebook account, but no calls. Goodrich’s family began to suspect she may have been a victim of foul play and filed a missing person’s report on Dec. 29, 2022; 14 months after her initial disappearance.

Goodrich was raised with family in Addison County, attending schools in Vergennes and Ferrisburgh. Relatives said Goodrich was happily spending time with her family shortly before she disappeared, and that the timing of her disappearance

didn’t seem to add up.

Fair Haven Police Chief William Humphries told WCAX that the police have spoken to relatives and is following up on any leads, but currently have no persons of interest.

Local, state and federal law enforcement have searched Goodrich’s Fair Haven property and the surrounding area but have not disclosed any of their findings.

“It does appear that either something happened to her, she got hurt, somebody did something to her, but we can’t prove either way,” Chief Humphries told WPTZ. “We’re still hopeful that we will find her.”

Law enforcement asks anyone with information related to Goodrich’s disappearance to contact the Fair Haven Police Department at 802-265-7839 or send an anonymous tip to Vermont State Police at [vsp.vermont.gov/prevention/tipssubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/prevention/tipssubmit).



BRISTOL ARTIST ELISSA Cobb shows off the papier-mâché head of “Arlo,” a towering dove she handcrafted to be carried by the Addison Northwest Indivisible group in Bristol’s Fourth of July parade.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Local artist’s dove invites reflection at July 4th Parade

By MARIA BARR

BRISTOL — This Fourth of July, a giant dove named Arlo will take flight in the Bristol parade.

The sculpture, created by artist, poet and yoga instructor Elissa Cobb, is meant to spark reflection.

“If it weren’t for the dove being able to be in the parade, I wouldn’t be celebrating the Fourth of July,” Cobb said. “I’m not willing to celebrate a holiday that was made to celebrate the independence of just white people when people were enslaved.”

Members of the Northeast Addison County Indivisible Chapter will carry Arlo in the town’s annual parade. For Cobb, the float is about inspiring a pause.

“What matters is that we treat all people like people, the way we would like to be treated,” she said. “And that includes most of all the current administration and the people that want to take away humanity in favor of money and take away peace in favor of a war machine that hurts everyone.”

The dove is huge; when the bird is held up in Cobb’s studio its head scrapes the ceiling as its tail cascades across the floor.

The idea for the movable sculpture began after Cobb attended two demonstrations in Williston — one outside the ICE building and another at Hannaford supermarket in support of Milk with Dignity. She was struck by the creativity of large protest visuals made from simple materials.

“But the bigger motivation is... at age 72, I can’t quite do the same kind of protesting I might have done in the ‘60s or ‘70s, and this is something I could do that would maybe have some kind of an impact,” she said.

Arlo, named after the folk singer whose last name is Guthrie, was built without a pattern.

“Everything happened right on the first try,” Cobb said. “Everything I needed to make it just fell into my hands, mostly for free. And I just had the sense the whole time that this dove wanted to be made.”

Cobb has decades of experience crafting papier-mâché floats and costumes, but this project was shaped by deeper political and personal currents — especially a meeting where Mount Abraham Union High School students spoke out against racism.

“I was appalled,” she said. “I discovered on that night that racism was absolutely doing very well in my own little hometown of Bristol, Vt., and I was completely taken by that.”

That realization continues to fuel her work.

“I think I’m most proud of my consistency,” she said. “At age 72, it’s been a lot of years of doing it. And without a lot of result. But I haven’t stopped doing it.”

Cobb sees art as essential to activism.

“I think artists are one way that points get across to more people in a deeper way sometimes than words,” she said. “And one way we know that is that it’s trying to

be controlled.”

Through Arlo, Cobb puts this into practice by prompting parade-goers to question what this holiday truly means.

“Doing the dove, I’m not really there to celebrate the Fourth,” Cobb said. “I’m there to celebrate an opening.”



THE ARTIST ADJUSTS Arlo’s wings ahead of his parade debut on Friday in Bristol. The dove, named after folk singer Arlo Guthrie, aims to prompt peace and reflection.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Green Mountain Care Board welcomes new ED

MONTPELIER — The Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) recently announced the appointment of Emily Brown as its new Executive Director, effective August 18, 2025.

Brown most recently served as Vermont’s Deputy Commissioner of Insurance at the Department of Financial Regulation (DFR), where she managed the Insurance Division and over 30 staff, oversaw

commercial market regulation, and led several major statewide initiatives to improve access, affordability, and accountability in Vermont’s insurance system. A licensed attorney with deep

policy and regulatory expertise, she has served in a variety of leadership roles at the DFR over the past decade, including Director of Insurance Regulation

(See GMCB, Page 3A)

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### A different kind of heron

NOT ALL HERONS are “great” and “blue.” Some are small and “green.” This Green Heron was seen recently at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Photo by Dale Cockrell

## Local foundation planning memorial event

### Brendon P. Cousino Med47 Foundation to mark 10 year anniversary

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Brendon P. Cousino Med47 Foundation is organizing a 10-year memorial event to honor Brendon Cousino, an emergency medical technician who was killed in a wrong-way crash in 2015.

The charitable organization was established in memory of Cousino and plans to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of his death with “Adventures for Brendon,” an event that will encourage participants to take part in an outdoor activity of their choosing.

“I would like to do something special to mark the ten years and for Brendon to continue to be remembered,” organizer Cindy Cousino said of the event. “He loved kayaking, he loved camping, he loved outdoor stuff with his three daughters.”

The Brendon P. Cousino Med47 Foundation organizes several fundraisers and other events throughout the year, including silent auctions, craft fairs and a popular Halloween haunted forest hosted by Cindy and Garry Cousino near their home in Bristol.

Cindy said the charitable organization raises around \$50,000 each year, which it uses to award scholarships to local

tech students entering the trades, support area first responders and meet a variety of other needs in their community.

This year, the organization gave out six \$1,000 scholarships to local students and purchased 10 floatation devices for the Bristol Rescue Squad. Cindy noted that fundraisers have done so well over the years that the organization has been able to provide other types of community support, assisting local organizations and helping address residents’ needs where they can.

“It’s kind of evolved the longer we’ve been at it,” Cindy said of the organization’s efforts.

Cindy noted that the upcoming memorial event is not intended to be a fundraiser, though there will be a \$25 registration fee to help cover the event’s costs.

Participants will receive a “swag bag” that includes a Med47 rubber duck, backpack, water bottle, bandanna and other items. Registration fees will include an additional \$11.50 for participants having the swag bag shipped to their location.

Those taking part in the event are asked to choose an outdoor adventure to complete and share a picture of their Med 47 duck taken during the activity.

“They’ll place the little duck, take a picture, and then they’ll post it to our Facebook page or send it to us,” Cindy said. “So, hoping that it’s going to get people out there ... People will be thinking about Brendon, and it’s just a positive event.”

Organizers noted the event is intended to remember Cousino with something he loved.

“Brendon was just a really special person. He was a very giving person; he was an EMT and gave a lot of himself, and he was a very kind person, and I want that to be remembered,” Cindy said. “It’s been ten years, and time slips away, and as a parent you worry that they’re being forgotten in the place they held, and it’s always such a gift when someone shares a memory.”

The event will run from July 26 through Aug. 31.

Community members will have a chance to learn more about the event and register during the Bristol Fourth of July celebrations. The Brendon P. Cousino Med47 Foundation will have a table set up at the park during the festivities.

Prospective participants can also register for the event and find more information on the foundation’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Med47Foundation/](http://www.facebook.com/Med47Foundation/).

## Addison Residential flourishing

### Middlebury company is riding the construction wave

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The distance from where Mike Gingras used to work and where he currently toils is just four-tenths of a mile along a busy stretch of Route 7 South in Middlebury.

But in reality, he’s come a very long way.

His business is Addison Residential, which specializes in home design, management, consulting and custom mill work at 2160 Route 7 South.

Eight years after being laid off when Connor Homes pulled the plug on its operations at 1741 Route 7 South, Gingras and his brother John are leading their own enterprise. Business is so brisk that J.P. Carrara & Sons has greenlighted a new, 9,600-square-foot building to supplement that warehouse space that Addison Residential already occupies at 2160 Route 7 South.

“I’m very excited,” Gingras said during a recent interview. “The purpose of the new building is to move our wall panel shop over there. Then we can expand our cabinetry operation into the old building and have more room for storing our hardwoods, and then we’ll put CNC (Computer Numerical Control) equipment in.”

Gingras has been in the construction business for around 45 years and has successfully navigated the industry’s ups and downs. Things hit a low point in December 2016 when he was among the 63 Connor Homes workers who suddenly found themselves without jobs when the former manufacturer of mill-built abodes abruptly ceased operations in its 116,000-square-foot headquarters at Middlebury’s

former Standard Register building.

Gingras and a handful of his former colleagues spent the majority of the winter of 2017 planning a new venture to again showcase their architectural, design and building skills. They signed a short-term lease for 6,600 square feet in the former Connor Homes headquarters, where they started to build fine cabinetry, custom windows, stairs, doors and other special orders.

Addison Residential soon found more permanent quarters in the J.P. Carrara & Sons campus at 2160 Route 7 South. There, Addison Residential’s staff of 20 has been very busy. The company is on pace

to do around \$6 million in business this year, according to Gingras.

“We were initially focusing on design and cabinetry, then we moved into building houses, doing remodels, then moved into wall panel systems and insulation. Now we want to enhance all of it, by having more space,” Gingras said.

Wall panels have become an increasingly popular segment of the business. Addison Residential has cultivated a network of 41 builders throughout the state with which it does business.

“Having the 40-plus building network out there that we work with has helped keep the blood flowing,” Gingras said.

“The wall panel systems and frames are something we want to do more of,” he added. “We were a bit limited with our space. We wanted more capacity,” Gingras

said.

And the new 9,600-square-foot building will provide that capacity.

“We’re straight out. We’ve got enough work — houses and remodels — for a couple of years,” Gingras said. “Our cabinet shop is usually out four to six months.”

Fortunately, company officials have found customers very patient and understanding of current market conditions. New houses are in high demand in Vermont, but there are a limited number of builders to crank them out.

“Our average customer is already anticipating a year or two out (to get a home). That’s helpful,” he said.

“It’s hard to turn

people away.”

Addison Residential officials believe they have the formula and product demand to stick around for a long time. The business is recruiting additional workers, which is challenging in a county with a 1.8% unemployment rate.

“It’s taken me all this time to get the solid people I have,” Gingras said. “It used to be a lot easier to find people. We’re growing slow and steady as resources allow.”

Gingras is preparing for Addison Residential’s next chapter.

“I’m going to be retirement age not too far down the road, so the idea is to hand this off to employees, eventually, in some capacity. I’m delighted there’s so much work out here for us.”

Reporter John Flowers is at [johnf@addisonindependent.com](mailto:johnf@addisonindependent.com).

### ADDISON COUNTY

## School News

Hailee Allen of New Haven was among 40 students in the northeast to receive a scholarship from Farm Credit East. The scholarship supports students with diverse career aspirations in agriculture, commercial fishing, forest products and related fields from across the association’s eight-state territory.

Allen received a \$2,000 Farm Credit East scholarship, and an additional \$2,000 “Futures” Scholarship. The futures award is given to students who plan to pursue a career in production agriculture. Allen will attend SUNY Cobleskill to major in dairy management. She plans to manage and eventually own a dairy operation.

## GMCB

(Continued from Page 2A)

and Assistant General Counsel.

Throughout her career, Brown has directed complex regulatory investigations, authored key legislative reports on health policy, testified frequently before the Vermont Legislature, and served in national roles with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. She holds a law degree from Vermont Law School and a bachelor’s degree in

political science from New York University.

“Emily has the experience, insight, and leadership skills needed to guide the board through the evolving challenges of Vermont’s health care system,” said Board Chair Owen Foster. “Her knowledge of Vermont’s health care landscape, along with her track record of innovation and her ability to translate complex policy into action, makes her an

ideal fit for this role.”

Brown succeeds Susan Barrett, who has served as Executive Director of the GMCB since 2013. Barrett played a pivotal role in establishing the board’s regulatory framework and guiding it through more than a decade of complex healthcare reform.

While Barrett steps down as Executive Director, the board announced she will continue her service as the Board’s Chief

Operating Officer. In this position, she will focus on strengthening internal operations, strategic implementation, and continuity across the board’s work.

“For over a decade, Susan has led with heart, skill, and an unwavering focus on what’s best for Vermonters,” said Chair Foster. “We are deeply grateful for her service and look forward to continuing our work together in this new capacity.”

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## Celebrating the red white & blue

Closed Friday and Saturday to allow our staff to enjoy the holiday with family and friends - Happy Fourth!

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# Guest Editorials

## Wrestling people from their families is no way to solve our border problems

By David Moats

Three federal judges in Vermont have played a leading role in trying to establish constitutional protections against the unlawful seizure and imprisonment of people by arbitrary government force.

These three cases are a small sample of the vast program of immigration enforcement launched by President Trump in order to deport thousands of immigrants to El Salvador or South Sudan or wherever he can send them. Such a program could not be anything but brutal. Justice takes time — to hold hearings and consider individual cases. We are all individuals deserving of justice, and our immigration status does not alter that constitutional reality.

The cruelty of the program has become apparent to millions of Americans who turned out in all 50 states on June 14 to declare that America is not a nation of kings.

By the logic of the Trump administration, all those millions could well have been rounded up and imprisoned in some vast gulag. After all, the administration has advanced the idea that protest itself may be antithetical to the national interest. And dissenting views seemed to be the only specified basis for the seizure of foreign nationals in two of the Vermont cases.

One of those foreign nationals, Mohsen Mahdawi, is a lawful resident of Vermont and a student from Columbia University, where he was also a pro-Palestinian activist. His activism, according to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, could “potentially undermine” U.S. foreign policy.

The absurdity of Mahdawi’s arrest, and of Rubio’s claim, was compounded by the fact that masked and armed ICE agents seized him after he had turned up in Colchester for a citizenship interview. In other words, he was doing everything right. While in prison, he has said he felt empathy for his father and other relatives on the West Bank who had been imprisoned by Israelis. But as it turned out, U.S. District Judge Geoffrey Crawford saw no justification for his detention and ordered his release.

In another case, a Turkish woman, Rûmeysa Öztürk, was grabbed off the street in Somerville, Mass., by masked government agents and whisked away in a car. In ordering her release from a Louisiana detention center, U.S. District Judge William Sessions found the government’s justification for her detention to be pathetically weak. What had she done? She had co-authored an op-ed piece for a student newspaper supporting Palestinian rights.

But of course, this is what people in America do — they express wide-ranging views on issues of their choosing. Rather than undermining American policy, this freedom is a bulwark of our democracy, drawing people here from all over the world, seeking to participate in that freedom. The Johnson and Nixon administrations thought that dissent on the Vietnam War was inimical to American interests, even if history proved that dissent on the war was pointing the nation in the right direction.

In a third case, U.S. District Judge Christina Reiss found that there was no basis for the government’s case against Russian scientist Kseniia Petrova, whom it had held in detention for four months. She had entered the country with frog embryos obtained from a lab in France to further her research at Harvard Medical School. Not only was her detention illegal, but it represented a further chilling assault on science. The most brilliant scientists from abroad have long sought to come to the United States, but now they are wondering why they should.

Vermonters are familiar with these three cases. But multiply them by the thousands, and we gain an understanding of the outpouring of protest in downtown Los Angeles, and in other cities, as well as the recent No Kings marches in every state. Brutality seems to be not an accident, but a feature of the administration’s policy.

It was on display in the manhandling and cuffing of Sen. Alex Padilla. His crime? Showing up at a press conference and daring to ask a question of Kristi Noem, secretary of homeland security. That was followed later by the manhandling of Brad Lander, New York City comptroller, also on a bogus charge.

It used to be that public officials knew how to handle questions that made them uncomfortable. It was part of their job. Now the job seems to be the deployment of force to send the message that dissent won’t be tolerated.

Except dissent is spreading in all parts of the country. Wrestling people away from their families, sending them off to who-knows-where — this is not right, and it is no way to solve the border problem. The government will argue that making life miserable for foreigners here will dissuade others from coming.

It used to be that we tried to make America great by making it a vibrant, welcoming, open, prosperous place where we were proud to welcome people from other places. Not American carnage, but America the beautiful.

*Editor’s note: David Moats of Salisbury is the former editorial page editor of the Rutland Herald, where he won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for a series of editorials on Vermont’s civil union law.*



### Friends of the arts

BARBARA MALONEY AND husband, Dennis, for whom the new Maloney Plaza at Town Hall Theater is named, speak during the dedication of the beautiful space this past Friday. Observers at the celebration noted the great accoustics in the outdoor space.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Why so much time in the garden?

Most mornings, I step out the back door to check the weather, coffee mug in hand. Inevitably something in my garden beds cannot be left another minute. My coffee grows cold as I dig out a dandelion that has wandered in from the lawn. One weed leads to another, weeds that must have popped up overnight.

This compulsion to tidy up the garden and keep expanding its reach is not necessarily good for my health. Back pain is part of my gardening. Ergonomic tools or no, using them takes a toll. My thumb joints throb at random moments, reminding me how my lease on them is running out. It takes more than a few seconds to straighten up after bending over, pulling or digging. To get up off the ground takes what looks like a twisted somersault I would rather no one witness. I never could grow fingernails, but I had what were passable ones before gardening overtook me.

Still, I’ve ramped up my gardening. During the COVID Pandemic I had more time to care for and enjoy my vegetable and flower beds. As that wound down I bumped into a woman excited about gardening with native perennials, shrubs and trees to protect native pollinators. She invited me to join in a county-wide effort. It seemed like a way to take small steps to help conserve our diversity of plants and the creatures dependent on them. I could start in my gardens. I agreed to get involved, never dreaming how deep this would go.

First, this meant dropping a long-held habit of buying what was available in local nurseries by color and size.

I previously gave no thought as to what pesticides the plants contained and if the plants provided nectar, pollen and seeds for insects and birds. Additions to my garden now would be from private and commercial sources offering plants to feed and shelter our native species of bees, other insects and birds. This involved extending my beds, something I had promised myself not to do. To compromise, I did so gradually, one bed a year.

It was not those early mornings full of bird song and weeds to pull that changed me from a casual gardener to the inspired one I am now. It wasn’t the pandemic’s settling me into more time at home either. While I love the idea of being part of a worldwide movement to address the loss of habitat for biodiversity through organizations like Homegrown National Park, Pollinator Pathway, the Xerces Society and others, this was not the biggest reason.

I was and continue to be inspired and motivated by being part of a community of people who want to be outdoors digging in the soil, tending toddler transplants and re-envisioning yards and public spaces for native plants. The women in the Addison County group are generous with their gardens, their stories of successes and failures and with their friendship. As part of my role in Pollinator Pathway I started a town group to revitalize and transform a large flower bed in front of Bridport’s elementary school. I know a few women who garden and invited them, but it turns out that the most active volunteers are people in town I didn’t previously know.

Over three growing seasons we have spent hours (See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

### Ways of Seeing

By Jill Vickers



## CHIP will help rural Vt. towns grow

I want you to imagine a place in the heart of Vermont.

Picture a little town, home to a small ski mountain and halfway between two of the Northeast’s largest ski resorts. It’s on a scenic byway. The Long Trail and White River run straight through it. It has mountain peaks, waterfalls, swimming holes and miles of public trails.

Imagine yourself walking down Main Street. What would you expect to see? Young families walking to school? College kids in coffee shops, mountain bikers out for a post-ride beer at a local brewery, couples on a stroll after a dinner date?

Well, this place exists. It’s where I live. But there are no coffee shops, breweries or restaurants. No mills or manufacturing, not even an operating farm. No daycares, grocery stores, doctors, lawyers or realtors. No sidewalks, bike lanes, stop lights or lamp posts.

Less than 50 years ago the town of Hancock was among the nation’s highest producing mill towns. Hundreds of workers once traveled here for jobs. It is the place where John Deere invented the steel-tipped plow. There were once five schoolhouses.

We are a place that Vermont forgot.

Well-intended legislation has frozen us out of the future that many other communities are building.

### Community Forum

This week’s writer is Hancock resident Samantha Sheehan, a municipal policy specialist for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and a school board member of the Granville-Hancock Unified School District.

Hancock is roughly 90% conserved land — mostly national forest, but also state forest, municipal land and privately owned parcels enrolled in Current Use or under conservation easement. New changes to Act 250 could make it even more difficult to build on the remaining developable land. School consolidation, our dissolving grand list, and the post-pandemic real estate market means that state laws for property valuation and education funding cause wild swings in our property tax bills. We are an orphan inside of state subdivisions, served by a county, school supervisory union, Senate and House districts, and regional planning district that generally do not overlap. Our three-person selectboard truly does all the work of local government, including managing the recovery for three recent devastating floods.

The Granville Hancock Unified School District had the single highest property tax increase in the state in 2024. We are in the second-highest energy burden block, with the average home spending more than \$7,000 per year on home heating, electricity and transportation fuel. According to recent census data, the average household income is \$72,366 and our poverty rate is 25% higher than the state average. And despite having no school, about 15% of everyone who (See *Community forum*, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

### Apartments site not a good fit

Dear *Addison Independent* and ALL Middlebury Residents,

If you haven’t heard already, a large, four- story apartment building is proposed to be erected on the corner of Route 7 and Middle Road, jammed between the Dollar Store and one of the busiest corners in town during school day mornings and afternoons. This large structure will loom approximately only 15 feet away from Route 7, which is *not* compliant with our current zoning codes, and unlike any other structure of its size in Middlebury.

It will house 31 four-Bedroom apartments, and only one one-bedroom apartment. Sounds like a dormitory, right? Yes, we need more affordable housing for working professionals and families in this area, but this current proposed structure is *not* the solution, especially since each four-bedroom unit is only allotted one parking spot.

This is unrealistic. There will be more traffic and congestion on this corner, where our kids walk and ride bikes to school every day. If you are concerned or want more info, contact JR Christ at the Town Offices or reach out to the members of the Developmental Review Board. There will be a public hearing soon — stay informed to be heard.

Elisabeth Van Duyne  
Middlebury

### Building site is problematic

A standing room only crowd of about 70 filled a room at the Residences at Otter Creek last week to hear Mr. Philip Rosenzweig, a Philadelphia developer, share his plan for a four-story apartment building at the corner of Middle Road and Route 7 in Middlebury.

After a long explanation of his love of our beautiful town and how he came to see the opportunity to build, he turned to his architect to explain what they planned to do. The drawings of the building were shown as well as the site plan of the property — a large building on 0.7 of an acre. The parking for the 32 apartments allows for 32 spaces — only one space per apartment — and would be located on another lot behind the proposed apartment building. They are asking for a variance from the standard setback requirements on Route 7, so that they can maximize the number of units in the building. We were told they believe there are no other places in our community to build this four-story complex.

Allowing this variance will set a precedent for the future, and soon we will have an even tighter corridor into our business district. The congestion and traffic danger it would add to the already very busy intersection (which is the only access road to the middle school) and to the neighbors who travel Middle Road will be significant and long lasting. This project would totally change the tenor of the neighborhood.

Citing this building on that small corner lot seems unwise and an ill-conceived solution to the housing needs in Middlebury. Surely our community can do better and not accept this slapdash solution. I value my community more than to accept this proposal.

Lyn DuMoulin  
Middlebury

### Trump tramples right to protest

When Trump took control of the National Guard in California to protect U.S. government property and personnel performing federal functions, did you see that he declared his right to send “at least 2,000 National Guard personnel ... for 60 days” to any state, including Vermont?

He could have written his order just for LA while there was vandalism, but he chose to write an order including “locations (See *Haviva letter*, Page 5A)

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INDEPENDENT

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# Lawmaker reviews the session

Greetings! As one of your representatives in Montpelier, I wanted to reach out to you about what happened this legislative session. Here is Part 1 of a summary of enacted legislation. Please get in touch in person, by phone or text (401-829-1678), or by email (herb.olson1123@gmail.com) if you want to discuss these issues further, or if there is legislation not included here that interests you.

Last summer and fall I asked voters whether Montpelier was listening to our community. The consensus was that folks were frustrated by the relationship. After a year at the Statehouse, I can report some progress, but also some continued frustration. Here is a brief summary of legislation that might impact our community.

The Education Bills

- The Big Education Bill (H.454) may potentially hurt rather than help our community schools. Problematic provisions include: (1) A significant drop in funding for local schools when the Foundation Formula is implemented, without relief from expensive Montpelier mandates; (2) Much larger school districts will be created, without explicit ways preserve community values and connections; and (3) “Bigger is better” is enacted as state policy, threatening smaller schools even if they are providing a good education at a reasonable cost. I will be working with community members, and across Addison County, to develop an Addison County solution designed to mitigate the potentially harmful effects of this legislation.

- H.480 is the Miscellaneous Education Bill. While the legislation includes good policies (including restrictions on cell phone use), it is typical of much education legislation that imposes requirements on schools that will cost time or money.

Housing Bills

- Act 69 creates the Community Housing Infrastructure Program. For the first time in many years, rural Vermont towns will hope of more housing, using a tax increment financing approach. It is a voluntary program for towns, who will approve specific housing projects, and offer developers a type of abatement of municipal and education taxes to fund necessary housing project infrastructure such as water and septic systems, driveways, utilities, and other expenses. At the end of the day, the developer will have a financial incentive to build in the town, and the town and the school district will see their tax base grow.

- H.91 is the Emergency Housing bill vetoed by the governor. I continue to be mystified as to why,

in a state where decades of poor housing policy has created one of the highest rates of homelessness in the nation, we cannot reach a bipartisan consensus on how to provide shelter for those dealing with Vermont’s unaffordable housing market.

Health Care Bills.

Vermonters have been very upset with the high cost of health care and health insurance. For the first time in my memory, the Legislature and the governor took action this year to address the problem. Much more remains to be done.

Act 68 implements “reference based pricing” for hospitals beginning in October 2026. This pricing system should have the effect of significantly lowering hospital prices, especially the state’s largest hospital. The legislation also authorizes the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) to regulate hospital networks, which

because of their economic power can have inflationary effects on health care costs, and thereby reduce access to care.

While Act 68 may help reduce health care inflation over the medium and long term, Act 55 will have an impact on this year’s health insurance premiums. Act 55 places limits on the prices hospitals can charge for prescription drugs. Current hospital drug prices are grossly in excess of Medicare price schedules. Exceptions can be made for hospitals facing quality and access concerns.

Last year the GMCB found that Vermont’s largest health network violated its budget order, but procedural difficulties arose in enforcing the finding and order. Act 49 establishes enforcement mechanisms, and permits the GMCB to appoint an independent observer in the case of allegations of material misrepresentation or noncompliance.

Kids Code Act

Many social media companies use computer code designed to influence the behavior of minors, sometimes inducing them to engage in harmful behavior. Many of these companies make accessible the personal information of minors, sometimes to bad actors who intend harm to our children. Parents, teachers and doctors have reached a consensus that these practices are bad for kids. Act 63 is designed to protect kids by restricting the type of code design used to improperly influence children, and to prohibit the unlawful disclosure of personal information.

“Tax and Spend” Bills

- Act 27 is the annual Appropriations Act, which allocates tax revenue for state agencies

and programs, as well as for the Education Fund. I am encouraged that for the first time in many years the Appropriations Act was the product of bipartisan consensus.

- S.51 enacted a series of tax credits, or enhance tax credits for several groups of Vermonters, including retired veterans, low-income children, and Social Security retirees. Good for them! But payment of tax credits means less state revenue for other purposes, especially with federal budget cuts looming. Down the road the state will be faced with a choice of whether to cut programs or raise taxes. The choice is made more difficult by increasing tax credits, even for deserving populations.

- A similar problem is posed by the decision of the Legislature and the governor to use over \$100 million in state funds to “buy down” our education property taxes this year. Great! But the temporary buydown will mean tough choices about cutting education programs or raising taxes next year.

The Federal Landscape

- Congress is still working on the federal budget, but it seems clear that Vermont will face significantly reduced funding for state programs and services. Some of the major impacts will be to health care programs, food for low-income children, and education. Some feel that the federal government should be more efficient, but these cuts go beyond efficiency. The Legislature may need to be called back into session this fall to address federal budget decisions.

- I am very concerned about recent actions by the federal government and presidency that disregard our due process rights. Also, many courts have found that the federal government and presidency have disregarded our duly enacted laws. State government has sued the federal government to address some of these situations, but Vermont and other states are having difficulty being effective in protecting our rights. The rule of law is part of the critical foundation on which our democratic republic exists.

Final thoughts: First, thanks so much for those who contacted me this session with your perspective. For example, there was an outpouring of support for my decision to oppose the Education Bill because of its potential negative effects. Your support helps me in conversations with influential people in Montpelier. Second, I’ll be working with others over the summer and fall on priorities for our community during the next legislative session. For example, (a) Mitigating the impact of the Education Bill, (b) Encouraging more housing, and (c) Better access to primary care. Please let me know your ideas.

Enjoy the summer!

# Haviva letter

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

where protests against these functions are occurring or are likely to occur based on current threat assessments and planned operations.” Locations where *protests are likely* to occur? Not locations where *violent* protest is occurring?

About 42,000 Vermonters attended peaceful No Kings Day protests on June 14. That is 6.5% of the population. Around 5 million people in the U.S. protested that day, possibly the largest single day protest in U.S history, but that is only 1.4% of the U.S. population.

With Vermonters so politically

active, do you think Trump will want to claim control of 2,000 National Guard members in Vermont for two months if he thinks protests of federal functions, like ICE raids on dairy farms or housing construction sites, are likely to occur?

Violence really disturbs me, whether it is a political protest, a personal crime, a war, or someone who has lost control. I sure appreciate our law enforcement officers putting themselves in danger to protect the rest of us.

But the First Amendment says, “Congress shall make no law ... abridging ... the right of the people peaceably to assemble.”

When Trump was talking with reporters about his birthday parade he said, “If there’s any protester that wants to come out, they will be met with very big force.” He did not say violent protesters would be arrested. He said “any protester.”

Is it okay with you that Trump is not respecting the rule of law, the First Amendment to the great Constitution of the United States? Would you feel okay if the next Democratic president took control of thousands of troops in Vermont?

Clove Haviva  
Bristol

# Community forum

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

lives here is a school-age child. That means we have more kids per family than in the Burlington-South Burlington metro area.

Hancock has lost homes from the grand list in both the last two decades and in several of the last five years. Houses are not fixed assets. Rural Vermont loses homes every year to fire, flood and a perpetual lack of renovation caused by hardship and diminishing return on investment. To just stay the same, we simply must build more homes.

But I don’t want my town to stay the same. I want a better future, where Hancockians can afford more and have greater opportunities. I want my neighbors to age here in dignity and a part of the community they have invested their entire lives in. I want kids here to have the same academic experience as any other growing Vermonter. That means we need to build more than what we’ve lost.

For the first time ever, the state has a plan for us to do just that.

The Community Housing and Infrastructure Program (CHIP) is Vermont’s first real plan to build housing in rural areas. It is the most consequential housing policy ever devised by the Vermont legislature, and if signed by Gov. Scott it will be this state’s greatest investment in public infrastructure ever.

CHIP could bring up to \$2 billion in public investment that supports housing over the next decade. Towns would be allowed to borrow money to build public infrastructure and pay the debt down over a 25-period from future tax money raised from the new homes and businesses built by CHIP.

CHIP does not forsake our statewide conservation goals, and it maintains local control in terms of what type of housing may be

built and where. It does not raise taxes, rates or fees on homeowners or renters. Most importantly, it doesn’t leave rural towns behind.

CHIP may be used by any municipality with a plan and a need for housing. It can be used for any type of housing: mobile home parks, single-family homes, mixed-used and mixed-income rentals, and perpetually affordable housing developments. The new housing will increase state and

local revenues by hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 20 years, and by billions more in the decades to come.

The CHIP law will put towns in the driver’s seat. Only a local government can plan, apply for and use CHIP in partnership with a home builder. It’s not a handout — it’s a hand-up for rural Vermont.

Now, Hancock can choose its own future.

## Open Your Home – Make a Difference

Northwestern Counseling & Support Services is seeking an **active couple or small family** in the **Bridport, VT area** to share their home with a **social, 31-year-old deaf woman**. Some **ASL fluency** required. She uses a wheelchair, so an **accessible home** (or willingness to modify) is necessary.

This is a **“split model”** arrangement: two providers alternate care every two weeks. Must be **21+**, have a **high school diploma or equivalent**, pass background checks, and complete a home inspection.

Includes **tax-free stipend, room & board, and hourly/overnight pay**. Also open to **day support or respite** providers through Aris Solutions.

Contact **Marie Greenia** at  
802-524-6555 / Mgreenia@ncssinc.org  
or **Lauren Irish** at  
802-370-5387 / Lauren.irish@ncssinc.org

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## OPINION?

Email it to: [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)

# Ways of Seeing

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

deciding how to design and build a garden, a kid-friendly, pollinator-friendly garden, that retains the favorite flowers of those who originally planted in the garden. We share the excitement of observing bees and butterflies visiting pesticide-free native plants for food

and as hosts for their larvae. We pull together to get the word out about modifying our lawns and gardens to serve all wildlife. Connecting to the cycle of plants forming blossoms, dropping petals, growing seeds and drying back or lying dormant with my garden friends reminds me of my connection to all life and to my

place in eternity.

*Jill Vickers is a native of the Champlain Valley, a retired teacher of literacy and the founder of a video production company. Special interests include family history, travel and outdoor activities. She lives with her husband and their springer spaniel in Bridport.*


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## 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.



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ADDISON  
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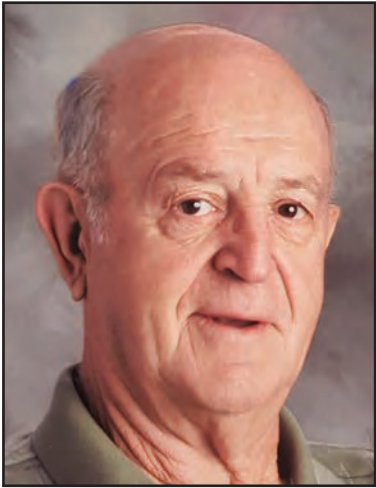
# Obituaries

## Roland Joseph Desforges, 85, of Sudbury

SUDBURY — Roland Joseph Desforges, age 85, passed away in his sleep due to complications from progressive supranuclear palsy, on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at his home in Sudbury.

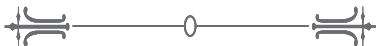
Roland was born in Sudbury on April 18, 1940. He was the son of Leo and Yvette (Larocque) Desforges. He grew up on the family farm in Sudbury, where he received his early education in Sudbury schools. He attended Brandon High School. Afterwards, he was a carpenter before buying, with his brother John, the family farm from his parents. After a few years of dairy farming, they sold the farm and Roland stayed on to become the farm manager for Rocky Knoll Cattle Company for 27 years. He later joined the staff at New England Woodcraft for many years. He also drove a school bus for Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union for several more years before his retirement. He liked to hunt and fish, and also took pride in caring for his property and vegetable garden.

He is survived by his wife,



ROLAND JOSEPH  
DESFORGES

Jaska (Forguites) Desforges of Sudbury, whom he married in St. Monica’s Catholic Church in Forest Dale in August of 1962; three sons, Kevin Desforges of Shoreham, Brian Desforges and wife Elaine of Bridport, and Thomas Desforges and wife Mary of Pittsford; two brothers, Raymond Desforges, and Paul Desforges both of Sudbury; and one sister, Yolande Larson of

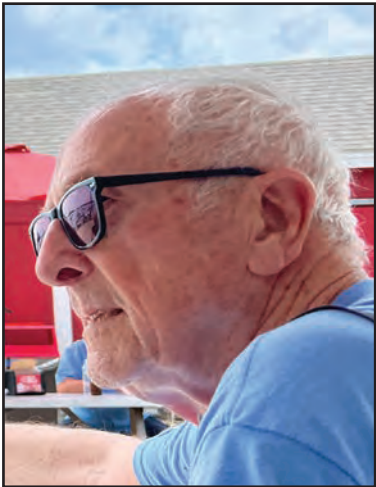


## Ronald Slicer, 90, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Ronald Slicer passed away peacefully on Feb. 9, 2025. Ronald was born May 10, 1934, to Foster and Gwendolyn Slicer in Craftsbury, Vt.

Ronald started his early education in Albany, Vt., in a one-room schoolhouse. He then went on to attend Craftsbury Academy, graduating in 1952. Following graduation, Ronald and his friend Carl Fortune joined the navy together. They started boot camp in Bainbridge, Md. Following bootcamp, Ronald went to school in San Diego, Calif. Ronald also was stationed in Adak, Alaska and Hawaii. Ronald was known to have many slides of all the places where he was stationed.

After the Navy, Ronald returned to Vermont and was employed as a Vermont State Trooper in the Middlebury, Vt. area for many years. He left the police force to pursue a career as a salesman for Nabisco Crackers. During this time in his life, he married Dorothy Clark of Glover, Vt., and started a family in East Middlebury, Vt. Ronald moved



RONALD SLICER

on in his career and became the Co Op Coordinator for the Addison County Vocational Center in Middlebury. He was also the instructor for the Hunter Safety course.

After the passing of Dorothy, Ronald married Donna Everett. They would leave Vermont and make their home in Jefferson, Maine. Ronald became the local mailman for the Jefferson area.

Charlotte. He is also survived by five grandchildren, Bailee, Calvin, Jacob, Ava and Evan; one great-grandson, Jase; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents; two brothers, John and Robert Desforges; and a sister, Shirley Plouffe.

A Memorial Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on July 7, 2025, at 11 a.m., at Our Lady of Good Help (St. Mary’s Church) in Brandon. Rev. Maurice Moreau, pastor will be the celebrant. Following the mass the family will receive friends at Brandon American Legion Post 55, for a time of remembrance.

A private graveside committal service and burial will take place at a later date.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Whiting First Response % Whiting Volunteer Fire Department, 74 South Main Street, Whiting, VT 05778, or to Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.◇

Ronald and Donna were known to travel many places together with their RV, as they enjoyed camping. Following Donna’s passing, Ronald married Joyce Parmelee, whom he met at their local Methodist church. They would reside in Damariscotta, Maine. They were active members of the church, where they founded the pet food pantry.

Following Joyce’s passing, Ronald returned to Vermont and made his home in Leicester.

Ronald was known for many crafts and skills – especially leather crafting and woodworking. He was a long-time member of the Middlebury United Methodist church.

Ronald was predeceased by his parents, Foster and Gwendolyn Slicer; beloved wives Dorthy, Donna and Joyce; brothers Richard and Robert; and stepson Robert. He is survived by his daughter, Kimberly and son Stephen; grandchildren Justin and Aly; and brother David; stepchildren Sue, Patricia, Barbara, Dale and Earl; and several step-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins from both Vermont and Maine.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. ◇

## Barbara Ann Boutwell, former Addison County resident

ST. PETER, Minn. — After a short illness, Barbara Ann Boutwell was called to her Heavenly home to be with her Savior Jesus Christ. She was born in Lake Delton, Wis., to Christian and Jessie Bhend and grew up in Edgerton, Wis. She was confirmed in the faith at the Central Lutheran Church in Edgerton, Wis.

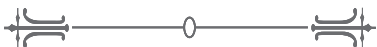
In 1972 she united in marriage to Randy Boutwell. He survives her as do their three children, Sarah Boutwell, CDR (ret.) U.S. Navy and her husband Brandon Arnold; Jen Brisson, her husband Daniel and their sons Brett and Devin; and Ryan Boutwell and his wife Kami and their sons Zach, Kyle and Luke.

Barb is also survived by her brother William (Alice) Bhend, their sons, David and Jeff (Cindy) and sister Bonnie Schonasky and her son Eric (Robin). She was



BARBARA ANN BOUTWELL

predeceased by her parents and brother-in-law Don Schonasky and David’s wife Christina. Barb took great pride in her family.



## Eric Nelson, 79, artist, fly fisherman, grandpa

MIDDLEBURY — Eric Nelson, 79, was born in Aurora, Ill., on Oct. 7, 1945. He died peacefully at home, with his wife and daughter by his side, on Friday, June 20, 2025, after a long struggle with osteoarthritis and lung cancer.

Eric grew up wandering and exploring the woods and fields of Illinois farm country. He was fascinated by nature — animals, birds, trees, plants, flowers, insects — everything wild fascinated him. He once climbed a tree and took a baby squirrel home to raise. He raised a baby crow that enjoyed riding around on his dog’s back.

His interest in art began at this young age as he experimented with different media: pencil, pastel, watercolor, and paint. Things in nature and scenes of the farmland he loved were nearly always the subjects of the art he created in his early years.

Although his fascination with art and nature took hold early and continued throughout his life, other things caught his interest as well. During high school he worked for a Swedish grocery store, where he often delivered groceries to elderly Swedish ladies who enjoyed getting “secret” deliveries of snuff. He was asked to keep this a secret, a fact that amused him greatly! Although humorous, this may have been the beginning of his interest in other cultures!

During college he spent summers working for the railroad. One summer his job required him to disassemble old coal-fired steam engines using welding tools, perhaps influencing his later sculptures made of scrap metal.

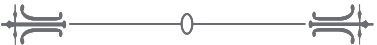
He began college as a math major in order to please his dad but after taking a course that



ERIC NELSON

had something to do with “finite vector spaces” he followed his heart and became an art major. He received his MFA in Sculpture from the University of Iowa in 1974. Following graduation, he maintained the Art Studio at Indiana State University Evansville for two years, then taught sculpture there until being hired by Middlebury College to teach sculpture and design.

He and his wife moved to Vermont in 1978 and never looked back. His daughter, Leah, was born in Middlebury in 1982. He received tenure and continued teaching and showing his art (both sculpture and photographs) until he retired. His art was exhibited in both one person and group shows in galleries around the U.S. (New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont) as well as at the Moulin a Nef, Auvillar, France. His piece “Three Hundred Sixty Five: An Idea and the Reality” was, perhaps, his most challenging as well as his most delightful. His idea was to create



## Robert Willets Hardy, 92, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Robert “Bob” Willets Hardy, 92, of Ferrisburgh Vt., our loving husband, father, and grandfather left us unexpectedly on June 26, 2025.

He was born in Summit, N.J., March 31, 1933, the son of Charles and Mariah Hardy. He graduated from Princeton University in 1954, where he proudly rowed in the bow position for the University Freshman and Varsity crew eights for all four years. He then went to serve in Korea in 1955 and 1956 as Assistant S-3 for the 13th Field Artillery Battalion, 24th Infantry Division along the DMZ.

Professionally, Bob focused on new business development, primarily with technology from

Switzerland, which included continuous flat-bed screen printing, automated materials distribution systems generically called Telelift Systems, and Biomass waste conversion systems to convert municipal wastes into useable and clean forms of energy.

Bob was accepted by his word in business, which everyone knew was his bond and that is why he was so successful in launching new and unknown enterprises.

Bob found a wonderful partner, his compensating balance who kept him going through thick and thin, in Karin Stockar from Zurich, Switzerland.

Bob and Karin have been quiet supporters of education and life

Barb worked for the Counseling Service of Addison County in Middlebury, Vt. for many years. After relocating to Minnesota, she worked in the Financial Aid Office at Gustavus Adolphus College. Everywhere she worked, she made many friends.

Services were held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 28, at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion, 118 North Minnesota Ave, St. Peter, Minn., with a reception following in the Three Crowns Room at Gustavus Adolphus College. Burial will take place at the Kasota Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations are preferred to the St. Peter Food Shelf or Backpack program. Condolences for the family can be left at [www.saintpeterfuneralhome.com](http://www.saintpeterfuneralhome.com). ◇

a piece of sculpture every day for one year. Each piece was carved out of a piece of wood about 4 inches high that stood on its own small platform attached to a wall. His favorite way to exhibit it was to have the pieces mounted at eye-level encircling a gallery so people could walk along and see each piece easily. Although the plan was to finish it in one year, in reality it took 8 years to complete!

In addition to art, Eric played tennis and was an ardent fly fisherman. He spent many happy hours fishing in favorite Vermont rivers as well as several of the big rivers out West. He and his wife and daughter (when she was young) enjoyed travelling. They visited many of the states in the U.S. as well as many countries in Europe. But his favorite moments were spent with his grandsons, Alden and Andrew, playing games, reading books, teaching them to fish, building things with them and being silly together.

He will be greatly missed by his wife of 53 years, Dottie Nelson of Middlebury; daughter and son-in-law, Leah and Christopher Green and grandsons Alden and Andrew of Centerville, Mass; brother and sister-in-law, Jeff and Gina Nelson and niece, Sarah Beth, of St. Paul, Minn.; nephews, Dan, Phil and Kent Bateman and their families, of Illinois; and cousins Tracy and Rick Brown and George and John Sensor. He will also be greatly missed by his “Pizza Night Family,” a group of friends in Middlebury who have gotten together every Friday night for over 40 years!

A celebration of Eric’s life will be held on Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2 Duane Ct., Middlebury, starting at 1 p.m. ◇

### Obituary Guidelines

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

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

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# Secretary of State introduces kids’ civics education program

MONTPELIER — Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas announced today that her office will be bringing a national civic education initiative, Kid Governor, to Vermont this year. Kid Governor is a free program that teaches fifth-grade students about state government, voting, and the importance of civic engagement through an authentic election for their state’s Kid Governor. The program will debut during the 2025-26 school year, with its first election in November 2025.

The program, founded by the Connecticut Democracy Center (CTDC) in 2015, has spread nationwide and garnered broad support from educators and elected officials. Vermont joins Nebraska, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Oregon this year in bringing this unique civic learning experience to fifth graders from across the state.

“Secretaries of State across the country have been enthusiastic supporters of Kid Governor, and we are thrilled to be partnering with the Vermont Secretary’s Office to bring the program to the state’s fifth-grade classrooms,” said Brian Cofrancesco, CTDC’s Director of Kid Governor®. “Kid Governor gives young people an opportunity to get involved in civics at an early age—and it’s our goal to empower them to remain engaged in our democracy and within their communities for the rest of their lives. We welcome our newest affiliate program and look forward to Vermont’s fifth graders electing their state’s first Kid Governor this fall!”

“Increasing civic engagement, particularly among young Vermonters, has been one of my top priorities since taking office,” said Secretary Copeland Hanzas. “Voting is an important civic duty that these fifth graders will get to learn more about, but I’m particularly excited that Kid

Governor invites them to think about problems that they would like to solve if they were in elected office. This is a crucial lesson for our youth: when you live in a democracy, you can step up to run for office and help solve a problem! I can’t wait to work with our first Kid Governor and their cabinet.”

This fall individual fifth-grade classes can register with the Vermont Secretary of State’s office to participate in Kid Governor. Each participating school can nominate one student for the election to determine Vermont’s 2026 Kid Governor. Each student who runs for the office must identify an important community issue and develop a three-point platform with ways that fifth graders can address that issue. School nominees will create campaign videos outlining their platforms and persuading fellow fifth-grade voters to elect them as Kid Governor.

Seven final candidates will advance to a statewide election coinciding with Election Day in November. All fifth graders from participating schools will watch and analyze the candidates’ campaign videos in class before voting for the student to represent them as the voice of Vermont’s fifth graders. The student with the most votes will become Kid Governor, and the six finalists will serve as the Kid Governor’s Cabinet. The team of student leaders will serve a one-year term, during which they will have the opportunity to work with the Vermont Secretary of State’s office to advance their platforms and inspire their constituents to make a difference in their local communities. Kid Governor is a program that the Vermont Secretary of State will host multiple years, giving many Vermont children access to this exciting opportunity.

Learn more about Vermont’s Kid Governor program here: <https://vt.kidgovernor.org/>.

# Waldo search returns

MIDDLEBURY —Where’s Waldo? In Middlebury, of course! Find Waldo Local has become a beloved summertime event in communities nationwide. This year, Candlewick Press and the American Booksellers Association are again teaming up with 325 independent bookstores nationwide, including Vermont Book Shop, for some hide-and-seek fun designed to encourage residents to patronize their local businesses. There is no charge to participate, and the hunt lasts for the entire month of July.

Families love joining the scavenger hunt to find the iconic children’s book character, with his red-and-white-striped shirt and black glasses, hidden in twenty-five local businesses, including The Marquis Theater, Vermont’s Own Gifts & Goods, and Middlebury Agway. Find Waldo Local is a wonderful way to support the Shop Local movement by increasing foot traffic to a variety of stores. “Middlebury’s locally owned businesses and nonprofits are wonderfully supportive of one another and love to share in the fun of this (almost) annual tradition,” says Kathryn Torres of the Better Middlebury Partnership.

To join in the fun, people of any age can pick up a “Find Waldo Local in Middlebury!” stamp card at any of the participating stores. With each miniature Waldo they spot, searchers get their card stamped or signed by the participating shop. Eagle-eyed hunters can also look for Waldo’s special 2025 red and white-striped magnifying glass in Vermont Book Shop. Collecting

store stamps or signatures at twenty or more businesses will entitle diligent seekers entry into a grand-prize drawing for Waldo books and other prizes, including Middlebury gear from the Middlebury Shop and movie passes from Marquis Theater.

All participants are welcome to attend the celebration party under the tent at the Henry Sheldon Museum on Saturday, Aug. 2 at 11:30 a.m. Martin Handford’s collections of crowd scenes took the world by storm in the late 1980s, and since then the books have held a cherished place on bookstore shelves, in family libraries, and in classrooms around the world. More than 80 million Waldo books have been sold worldwide, and they’ve been translated into over thirty languages.

For more information about hunting for Waldo in Middlebury, call Vermont Book Shop at 802-388-2061 To see a map of all participating stores, visit [www.indiebound.org](http://www.indiebound.org).

## ADDISON COUNTY

## School Briefs

**Kassidy Jay** and **Payton Vincent**, both of Bristol, received dean’s list recognition at Salve Regina University during the spring 2025 academic semester. To qualify for the list, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6.



**IT TAKES A lot of people to organize, stage and direct the proceeds of the St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church’s annual Peasant Market, which this year will take place on Saturday, July 12. The church recently disbursed \$28,500 in proceeds for last year’s Peasant Market. The nonprofit recipients included the Atria Collective, the Open Door Clinic and Homeward Bound’s PetCORE program. Pictured here are organizers and representatives of the receiving organizations.**

Photo courtesy of Vanessa Almony

# St. Stephen’s donates \$28.5K to help people in need

MIDDLEBURY — Each year, proceeds of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church’s iconic Peasant Market are distributed to nonprofit organizations and used for outreach to the community in need. On June 5 of this year, \$28,500 was awarded from last year’s (2024) Peasant Market proceeds. Another \$1,500 of the total \$30,000 net from the “Miracle on the Green” will be used to cover costs of local nonprofits’ free use of the church facility for meetings and training sessions as well as local outreach projects — including Welcome Home Kits, which provide basics such as cookware and linens for people moving out of transitional housing.

St. Stephen’s Outreach Committee requested proposals that focused not only on basic needs, such as food, housing, health care, and safety, but also curbed social isolation and celebrated inclusivity. They researched more than two dozen submitted proposals for programs that were innovative and, where needed, used collaborative funding to ensure that Peasant

Market contributions would be useful and for a sustainable program.

The committee selected 13 projects, including:

- \$5,000 to Atria Collective for emergency shelter and essentials for survivors of dating, domestic, sexual, and stalking violence from at-risk and historically marginalized populations.
- \$5,000 to Open Door Clinic to target and document a reduction in hypertension cases among seasonal agricultural workers in Addison County by making visits directly to farms and orchards, offering diagnosis, treatment, and tools for preventive care (e.g., education, blood pressure monitors).
- \$4,000 to Counseling Service of Addison County to prepare one site location (e.g., ground leveling, stones) and connect a reusable, accessible tiny home, known as a WheelPad, to its pilot site to assist developmentally disabled persons to transition to independent living.
- \$3,500 to Elderly Services to provide transportation to and from their adult day program

for elderly and physically challenged participants and those with dementia whose families do not qualify for government reimbursement of transportation services.

- \$2,500 to John Graham Housing and Services to expand the JGHS Vermonters Feeding Vermonters program to purchase meat and to extend deliveries of produce and eggs from November 2025 through May 2026.
- \$1,500 to Willowell Foundation for full and partial scholarships at week-long outdoor camps.
- \$1,000 to Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community in support of a community garden to bring together Grove tenants, Gather guests, spiritual practitioners, and neighbors to grow food, tend the earth, and strengthen relationships.
- \$1,000 to Henry Sheldon Museum to promote and support a panel discussion that offers the community an opportunity to connect directly with formerly incarcerated artists, fostering dialogue on themes of healing, hope, and art as resistance.

• \$1,000 to Homeward Bound for the PetCORE program, which provides pet services to under-resourced Addison County residents, most of whom are disabled and/or elderly.

- \$1,000 to Middlebury Community Music Center for tuition assistance at summer camps for music making and creative expression.
- \$1,000 to Turning Point Center of Addison County to provide coaching for patients in the Porter Medical Center Emergency Department who are identified by physicians as presenting with substance use disorder.
- \$1,000 to Middlebury Skatepark for purchasing new helmets to support a variety of existing and expanded programming.
- \$1,000 to New Community Project to purchase one new energy efficient chest freezer unit and controller that converts it to an energy efficient refrigerator as needed.

Peasant Market 2025 convenes Saturday, July 12, starting at 9 a.m. on the Middlebury town green.

# Peasant Market set July 12 on Middlebury green

MIDDLEBURY — It’s almost here! St. Stephen’s Church will host its beloved Peasant Market on the Middlebury town green, starting at 9 a.m. sharp on Saturday, July 12. By the time it wraps at 1 p.m., you’ll likely walk away with something unexpected and delightful — maybe that missing kitchen item, or camping gear, jewelry, linens, puzzles, toys, quilting supplies, handicrafts, a plant or a striking antique.

You can grab lunch and a fresh fruit pie

baked in the church kitchen. There will be a children’s midway.

“This year’s silent auction features a handcrafted Wee Lassie canoe by St. Stephen’s boatswains, more of last year’s hit cutting boards and a new food option — Gene’s Chili Hut, a family-run food truck,” said 2025 co-chair Amy Beaupré. “We’re also adding a fabrics booth, spinning off from our popular linens section.”

The silent auction will also include original watercolor paintings by noted artist

Alan Thompson.

“It’s a joyful day that helps our whole community,” said 2025 co-chair Heather McConville Durante. “Last year’s Peasant Market raised nearly \$30,000 in grants for local organizations.”

Volunteers from the community are welcome to help set up and clean up on Peasant Market day. To assist, please contact Amy Beaupré at [ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com) or 802-388-7200.

# State applies restrictions to pet turtle sales

MONTPELIER — Under Vermont’s newly-passed Act 47 of 2025 the sale of pond slider turtles, which includes the popular red-eared slider, is subject to new restrictions starting July 1.

Pond sliders are the most popular turtle sold in pet stores nationwide. They are also an invasive species that competes for food and habitat with native species like the painted turtle, which is common in Vermont, and the spiny softshell turtle, which is listed as threatened on the state’s threatened and endangered species list.

Act 47 began as a package of wildlife legislation introduced this year in H.231. The bill included

a proposal from biologists with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to stop the continued importation and sale of pond sliders in Vermont. These measures were identified as priorities for protecting vulnerable populations of native reptiles and amphibians. On June 5 this year, H.231 was passed into law as Act 47.

Among the first provisions of Act 47 to come into effect is the ban on importation and sale of pond sliders beginning this July.

“This is very good news for our native turtles,” said Luke Groff, the lead reptile and amphibian biologist with the department. “Pond sliders can outcompete native turtles and

cause them to have smaller body sizes, slower growth rates and higher mortality rates. Sliders can also transfer diseases and parasites to native turtles. Ultimately, these impacts can result in population declines for our native species.”

Starting July 1, pet stores and pet dealers in Vermont can no longer bring new pond sliders into the state. Stores that currently have pond sliders in their inventory may sell those turtles as long as they can provide documentation demonstrating they possessed the turtles prior to July 1.

People who currently have pet pond sliders are legally allowed to keep their turtles, and in fact are

strongly encouraged to do so. This is because Act 47 also prohibits the release of pond sliders into the wild.

“If you have a pet slider already, you do not need to do anything different,” said Groff. “Just keep taking good care of your pet and never release it into the wild.”

In addition to the ban on importing pond sliders, Act 47 includes several other updates to Vermont’s wildlife laws that were identified as priorities by biologists and game wardens with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. These include increased fines for big game violations like deer poaching, and a new mentored fishing day to take place on Labor Day each year.

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# United Way delivers \$132K in grants

MIDDLEBURY — The United Way of Addison County (UWAC) board of directors has approved a combined \$132,000 in Community Impact Funding (CIF) grants this year that are being divided among 12 local nonprofits that deliver health services to people in need.

In addition to the annual disbursements UWAC makes to more than two-dozen Addison County nonprofits, the organization each year assembles, and awards, CIF funding to charitable service providers in three core areas: health, education, and financial stability.

This year’s CIFs are targeting health care providers.

Below are the grantees and the amount each received:

- Addison Allies Network (\$8,000)
- Addison Children’s Advocacy Center (\$8,000)
- Addison County Home Health & Hospice (\$12,500)
- Addison County Relocalization Network (\$10,000)
- AgeWell (\$10,000)
- Atria Collective (\$20,000)

- Elderly Services (\$8,700)
- Have A Heart Food Shelf (\$5,000)
- Lund (\$2,000)
- Mountain Community Health (\$12,500)
- Open Door Clinic (\$22,500)
- Turning Point Center (\$12,800).

Because of the generous support of mission-driven donors, UWAC is able to invest \$12,521 more in its funded partners this year than in 2024.

Each year, UWAC enters new three-year funding partnerships through this program, guided by a comprehensive review process led by a team of Addison County volunteers. These reviewers evaluate applications and make funding recommendations to the UWAC board.

“UWAC’s Community Impact Funding is a powerful investment of local philanthropic dollars that are intentionally flexible so our local nonprofits can use them where/how they are needed most,” said Helena Van Voorst, the organization’s



## Lunch on the go

THIS TINY HUMMINGBIRD clearwing moth reaches out to grab a quick meal from a lilac in Lincoln recently. Dale Cockrell saw the nice, gentle sun on the lilacs and the dark green shade behind, and thought it would make for a nice shot if a clearwing were to show up — and it did!

Photo by Dale Cockrell

executive director. Amy Hoekstra, UWAC’s community impact manager, led the

CIF process from start to finish. “We’re incredibly grateful for the thoughtful work of our team

and community partners, and for the support of the UWAC board,” Hoekstra said. “This outcome

reflects our shared commitment to equity and impact.”

# Clean energy

(Continued from Page 1A)

invest in renewable energy options such as solar and geothermal.

As of this writing, it was not yet clear how exactly those credits would ultimately be impacted. Though, regardless of changes at the federal level, Addison County residents will still have access to support for clean energy projects offered by various local entities.

“We still can provide the service that we’re providing,” said Shannon Bryant, Director of the Addison County Energy Navigators program.

The program is an initiative of the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County that provides free one-on-one support for homeowners and renters exploring ways to reduce their

home’s carbon footprint and utility bills. The effort got going in full swing last year and is continuing to expand its reach in and around the county (see related story).

Energy Navigators meet with community members to identify options for decarbonizing their homes, as well as resources and incentives available to tackle those projects.

“The incentives that we point people to might change, but we’re staying on top of that stuff and trying to give people the most current information available,” Bryant said.

The Energy Navigators website provides information on where to get started with clean energy projects and other steps, as well as on available financial resources.

Community members can also sign up for a free energy consultation with the Energy Navigators team to discuss their priorities and personal goals for reducing their home’s utility bills and carbon footprint.

“What we’re stressing when we visit with people now is that if the incentive is there and you’re thinking about doing it, go for it... because we don’t know how long certain buckets of funding will be there or not be there, and we can’t predict the future,” Bryant said.

She added that the Energy Navigators team is working with Efficiency Vermont and is in constant communication about the rebates and incentives offered by the statewide energy efficiency utility.

“They seem committed to

continuing to offer these sorts of things,” Bryant said.

**SUPPORTS AVAILABLE**

Efficiency Vermont Public Relations Manager Matthew Smith echoed that sentiment, noting that Efficiency Vermont’s rebates and other incentives will remain available regardless of changes to federal clean energy tax credits.

Efficiency Vermont offers a variety of incentives, rebates and other support. Smith highlighted some of those offerings for homeowners, including cash back on heat pumps for heating/cooling, an up to \$9,500 rebate for weatherization and a \$600 discount on heat pump water heaters.

He noted that many of the energy-saving heating/cooling systems for homeowners are eligible for rental units, “but it requires the property owner to engage with Efficiency VT for installation and rebates.”

Additionally, renters can access a kit of free products like LED bulbs; a DIY weatherization rebate; and rebates for clothes dryers and washer/dryer combo units.

Smith also pointed to supports for low-income Vermonters.

“If a significant portion of a household’s income goes to electric bills, Efficiency Vermont can help with free or reduced-cost products and services to help lower bills, including connecting that customer to free weatherization from Vermont’s Weatherization Assistance Programs (this applies to mobile/manufactured homes, too), a kit of new LED light bulbs and water-saving devices, a voucher to replace one appliance with a new, more efficient model (like a refrigerator, freezer, or clothes washer), and other technical support,” he said.

He noted that when Efficiency Vermont doesn’t offer a rebate, its website points to various partner offers, weatherization partners, and other available resources.

Smith acknowledged some of the challenges residents might

face when looking to pursue clean energy projects.

“The biggest challenge many Vermonters face is knowing where to start,” he said. “As we’ve learned over 25 years of promoting efficiency, every home or building is different. Vermonters who contact us often share things like ‘my bills are too high’ or ‘my home is too cold even when I have the heating system cranked’ or ‘my home is too hot in the summer even with my window AC unit.’ Folks reach out to get help with high bills, comfort, health and safety issues, or all of the above. Improving a home’s energy efficiency can help address all of these concerns.”

Other common challenges include understanding the importance of weatherization and helping residents understand their homes in depth.

**GETTING STARTED**

When it comes to navigating such challenges, Smith noted a first step can be reaching out to Efficiency Vermont, which has a team of energy advisors available to talk with residents about their needs.

“We hear out their concerns and help them understand what programs or rebates are available. (Some are directly from Efficiency Vermont, some are from partners like the state’s Weatherization Assistance Programs or the customer’s utility),” he said.

Efficiency Vermont offers free Virtual Home Energy Visits for renters and homeowners, which consist of a one-on-one call with an energy consultant.

“Over about 90 minutes the consultant (an Efficiency Vermont employee) covers the basics of how that particular home is using energy. They review the heating systems, appliances, and other factors like insulation that can influence how much energy a home uses. And they give the

customer time to ask questions and discuss options for projects and next steps,” he said.

Resources provided by Efficiency Vermont can also help residents navigate next steps for various projects, such as finding a contractor or weatherization expert.

Smith noted that cost can be another area where residents might feel challenged.

“You’ve gotten a Virtual Home Energy Visit, found a contractor, and know what you want to do, so how can you get help paying for this work? Our energy advisors can help connect Vermonters to support to pay for that project over time,” he said.

He said Efficiency Vermont partners with local lenders to offer a Home Energy Loan and also works with electric utilities to offer “on-bill financing to spread out the cost of a project into monthly charges on your electric bill,” through the Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP).

Smith also pointed to Efficiency Vermont’s incentive calculator, which highlights the electrification technologies currently supported by federal tax credits.

“As you know, these may be affected by changes in Congress and so the window for the federal tax incentives may soon change,” he told the *Independent*. “But more than anything, the Incentive Calculator shows folks their options based on their income and their utility. (Note, as this is all about electrified systems, there’s some technologies that Efficiency VT does not offer rebates for, like EVs, and some of our rebates like wood heating systems are not included in this tool).”

Those interested in getting connected with Efficiency Vermont can contact (888)-921-5990 or [info@efficiencyvermont.com](mailto:info@efficiencyvermont.com).



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Awe and admiration for the human anatomy, spirit, and healing capabilities has led me on a lifelong journey of discovery and education in the wellness field. I began offering services professionally in Westchester, NY in 2015. Gradually I expanded my offerings and moved to Vermont in 2017. The modalities I use in my practice are the same that have helped me heal from chronic pain, injury, scoliosis, PTSD, and spiritual depression. I am so grateful to be on this journey and am continually amazed by the progress of my clients in recovery and strength building in all layers of their being. Recently I have added CranioSacral therapy to my education and offerings. I am excited and fascinated by this modality, particularly its reported benefits for people with autism, ADHD, PTSD, anxiety, and depression as well as its supportive measures for assisting in the aging process.

Sliding scale, donation, and package options available. Please contact me with any questions, to book your appointment or if you are interested in hosting a small gathering or workshop at LPG!

Melissa Mae, LMT RYT CRMP

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ADDISON COUNTY

## School News

### CCV announces spring student honors list

MONTPELIER — The Community College of Vermont celebrated students who earned Dean’s List, Honors List and President’s List honors.

#### DEAN’S LIST

This honor recognizes fulltime students with a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.99.

**Bridport:** Reese Valley  
**Bristol:** Dannel Auclair, Alexis Porter and Zackery Preston

**Middlebury:** Atticus Peterson

#### HONORS LIST

This honor recognizes part-time students with a 4.0 grade point average.

**Bristol:** Miles Burgess, Elizabeth Chamberlain, Sydney Perlee, Christofer Wolak

**Ferrisburgh:** Nathalie Fassett, Cecilia Mills

**Lincoln:** Preston Connel, Amber Thomas

**Middlebury:** Crystal Chaveco, Alessandra Delia-Lobo, Katie Nop and Gabrielle Sullivan

**New Haven:** Bethany Scott

**Salisbury:** Christina Dick  
**Vergennes:** Jennifer Moulton, Olivia Sestokas, Jessica Torrey and Kristen Vincent

**Weybridge:** Angela Chagnon,

Jack Connolly and Justin Moran

**PRESIDENT’S LIST**  
This honor recognizes fulltime students with a 4.0 grade point average.

**Bristol:** Jacob Denny  
**Lincoln:** Dillon L’heureux  
**Middlebury:** Kirsten Sargent  
**North Ferrisburgh:** Anthony Dicovitsky

**Vergennes:** Contessa Galvez

#### ASSOCIATE DEGREES

**Bridport:** Ruby A. Carter  
**Bristol:** Andrea Butterfield, Wendy Chase, Maegan Conrad, Halie Cornet, Maxine Cromis, Erin B. Gebo, Shelby Gurney, Makayla Lambert, Sydney Perlee and Madeline Winn

**Ferrisburgh:** Cierra Hoyt, Cecilia Mills and Julia Reitz

**Lincoln:** Dillon M. L’Heureux  
**Middlebury:** Kimberly Balparda, Atticus Peterson and Krista Sargent

**Orwell:** Elizabeth Qualey

**Panton:** Emily Packard

**Salisbury:** Catherine Carpenter and Amber Thornton

**Starksboro:** Ava Young  
**Vergennes:** Dustin Benway, Collin Clair, Charles Dugood, Tyler Gray and Jennifer Moulton

## Education reform

(Continued from Page 1A)  
years, but its controversial contents have already been the subject of fierce debate among not only state government officials, but among Vermont residents.

Over the last week, the *Addison Independent* spoke with a number of citizens throughout the county to hear their opinions on the far-reaching education reforms H.454 seeks to enact. Some people were happy to share their thoughts but asked not to include their names.

School district consolidation and the possibility of school closures were issues on the minds of many when speaking about the new education law. Several local residents worried that class-size minimums and redistricting would lead to the closure of smaller rural schools. Middlebury resident Priscilla Baker said she thought small class sizes and rural schools were worth supporting and preserving.

“I’d like them to keep as many open as possible, but I understand that it’s not sustainable to keep every single small school open, and I grieve over that. Small schools are the heart of communities,” Baker said.

Judy Dardeck, who formerly taught at Otter Valley Union High School, had similar thoughts when reflecting on her time in the classroom. She emphasized the value of knowing her students personally — something she fears could be lost in larger, regional schools.

“A small class allows you to modify because you genuinely know what a student’s having problems with... In a big class, there were students whose voices

weren’t heard,” she said.

However, the rising costs of education in Vermont and the complex ways in which tax revenues are used to fund the system has long been a source of contention in the state. One Vergennes parent observed that that it does not seem practical to continue spending money to keep a school open where there are fewer kids and potentially fewer resources to give them an equitable education.

Others thought state government should take a more cautionary approach to school district consolidations. Bern Terry of Lincoln worried about how the state might handle consolidations but thought the education reforms warranted consideration.

“I don’t know that we can continue as we are,” Terry said. “I’m very concerned about how it’s done ... we should consider it, but we have to be careful.”

He worried, though, about the effect of consolidation on Vermont’s smallest towns.

“I’m fine with fewer unions, fewer districts, but in more rural areas, you take the school away, you take, not only part of the convenience, but part of the town.”

Dierdre Kelly, a member of the Lincoln School Board, told the *Independent* that while she supports making education decisions that are fiscally responsible, she does not think there is any evidence coming out of Vermont that shows governance consolidation and closing smaller schools would solve the financial issues at the heart of Vermont’s education system.

“I’m not against consolidation,

I’m against the way it’s been structured,” she said.

Kelly was also in disagreement with the state’s decision to centralize decision-making, especially around local school budgets, highlighting that the democratic nature of the state’s school system is one of its strengths.

“I don’t think it’s about keeping it small. I think it’s about trusting the people in the schools to make those decisions and to run the numbers. I think there’s a real story at the state level that small is expensive, when if you look across the board, that’s not the case. And so, I think small schools are being blamed for the education challenges,” Kelly said.

However, even individuals like Kelly who said they understood the new education law rather well, still stressed that H.454 is confusing and complex in its current form; a sentiment that the *Independent* found was shared by many other Addison County residents.

Some are just very hesitant to go forward with school district consolidation.

“I’d say no,” said Danielle Brown of Starksboro. “It’s already too much for them to handle. Things are going to get swept under the rug.”

If some schools are closed, one local resident said that old school buildings could still be used for child-related purposes, like the former elementary school in Salisbury that was converted into a childcare center.

Many also felt that H.454 passed through the legislature too quickly considering the gravity of the reforms in the bill.

*“I’d like them to keep as many (schools) open as possible, but I understand that it’s not sustainable to keep every single small school open, and I grieve over that. Small schools are the heart of communities.”*

— Priscilla Baker

## Healthcare

(Continued from Page 1A)  
have to work over 57 hours to simply pay their monthly premium — so nearly a week and a half on the job each month just to pay for healthcare.

The cost for families is even steeper. Clark said the cheapest unsubsidized family plan in Vermont amounts to \$2,270 a month. It would take someone making minimum wage four 40-hour work weeks to pay for the premium alone. This means that one family member would have to work all month simply to pay the family’s monthly health insurance premium. This doesn’t include the \$18,400 out-of-pocket medical costs families in Vermont are liable to face each year.

However, the state government does provide ways for eligible Vermonters to receive financial assistance in paying for health insurance.

Vermont Health Connect, the state government’s health insurance marketplace, allows eligible Vermonters to apply for Medicaid or for a qualified health plan. People on qualified health plans receive financial help from the state to help pay for plans managed by private insurance companies Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and MVP Health Care.

According to the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), 32,000 people — an increase of 11% — signed up for health and dental plans through Vermont Health Connect in 2025. It was a record number.

In 2025, DVHA said that an eligible individual earning \$40,000 a year qualified for the lowest cost Gold plan for less than \$1 a month, saving almost \$14,000 a year. Eligible families of four earning \$100,000 a year qualified for a Gold plan for \$155.37 a month, saving more than \$35,000 a year.

2010’s Affordable Care Act provides funding from the federal government to help the state subsidize health insurance for Vermonters through Vermont Health Connect. 2021’s American Rescue Plan Act modified parts of the Affordable Care Act and provided higher subsidies to individuals eligible to enroll in Vermont Health Connect. According to Clark, these subsidy increases led to more individuals enrolling in qualified health plans through Vermont Health Connect.

However, these federal subsidies, including a federal tax credit known as the Advance Premium Tax Credit, are due to expire at the end of this year unless Congress acts to extend them.

Should the Advance Premium Tax Credit expire, the federal government would no longer subsidize health insurance premiums for households earning less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level. For a family of four in Vermont, this applies to households making \$128,600 or less a year.

“Without subsidies from the federal government, even the most basic health insurance plan offered by our carriers would be out of reach for most Vermonters,” Clark said.

The U.S. Senate this week was in heated debate over the Trump Administration’s “Big Beautiful Bill.” If the bill becomes law, it would likely lead to fundamental changes in the way healthcare is funded and provided throughout the country, but especially in rural areas like Vermont. The GOP has also promised sweeping reforms to

Medicare and Medicaid, including widespread cuts to medical spending and tighter eligibility requirements that could leave thousands of Vermonters without health insurance.

It is unclear how Advance Premium Tax Credits, or Vermont’s larger healthcare subsidy system, might be affected should some version of the Big Beautiful Bill become law. Though it definitely will affect Vermonters.

However, with fewer people insured through Medicaid combined with less money available to subsidize insurance through Vermont Health Connect, the costs of Vermont’s already expensive insurance premiums are likely to continue rising.

Clark says that whether Vermonters can pay for health insurance comes down to simple dollars and cents.

“If you were put in the position of choosing between paying for health insurance premiums, groceries, fuel, housing or clothing for your children, what would you choose?” she asked.

“I think it’s safe to say that subsidized healthcare is not only important to the health and wellbeing of Vermonters, but essential in today’s economy,” she said.

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# Running

(Continued from Page 1A)  
Lincoln, a longtime educator and former member of the Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board (2021-2022).  
Albert, who also chairs the Lincoln School District Board, competed for one of the two Addison-4 seats last year but didn't advance beyond an August Democratic primary. Cordes and Herb Olson of Starksboro won that primary and the two seats in the November general election that followed.

Sharpe announced in March 2018 he wouldn't seek reelection that fall. During Sharpe's tenure, the Legislature took steps to adjust school funding and in 2015 passed Act 46, which ushered in school governance consolidation.

The *Independent* will provide more coverage of the candidate Scott ultimately picks to fill out Cordes's term, which runs through 2026. The appointee will be able to seek reelection in November 2026 when all Vermont House and Senate seats are up for grabs.

Per a process laid out in Title 17, Chapter 53, section 2623 of Vermont state statutes, a district committee made up of Democratic leaders in the four Addison-4 towns met this past weekend to consider candidates who voiced interest in succeeding Cordes, according to Bas Phair, a volunteer with the Addison County Democratic Committee.

He said the panel considered five candidates, with Albert and Sharpe making the forward list.

The other three on the list were Karen Lueders of Lincoln, Robert Demic of Bristol, and Dave Lucey of Monkton, according to Monkton Democratic Town Chair Stephen Pilcher.

State law allows Scott to "... appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the remaining portion of the term, whether or not the appointee is recommended by the party committee."

Scott spokesperson Amanda



JEANNE ALBERT



DAVE SHARPE

Wheeler acknowledged that he had received the list of names.

"The governor doesn't have to act within a certain timeframe — since the Legislature is out of session right now, there is a little more flexibility in terms of when an appointment is made but we'll continue to move the process forward," she told the *Independent*.

Pilcher, who has been in touch with the Scott administration, believes the governor will make the appointment before the end of this month.

Albert last summer cited the Legislature's renewed scrutiny of education funding as a major reason for her House run. Her Apportionment Board work three years ago required her to occasionally testify at the Statehouse, which gave her a feel for the legislative process. In 2023, Albert gave lawmakers input on a different issue: Lincoln's ultimately successful bid to become an autonomous school district.

The past few years have seen taxpayer angst reach a boiling point on education financing, which contributed to a third of Vermont's school budgets being defeated by voters in March 2024. That led to efforts this year by both Scott and the Legislature to revamp the state's public education through bill H.454. That legislation, recently signed by Scott, calls for (among other

things) a new education funding formula, imposition of class-size minimums and a redrawing of new, larger school districts.

Sharpe has stayed off local election ballots (except for a brief stint on the Mount Abraham Unified School District board) during the past seven years but has remained a keen observer of state affairs from the sidelines and is now willing to dart back into the fray. He weighed in on a number of issues — including H.454 — during this past winter's legislative breakfast series, through social media, and through letters to the editor to the *Independent*.

In addition to his experience in the House, Sharpe is a former member and chair of the Bristol planning commission and town selectboard.

Dave and his wife, Pat, owned and operated Hill Automotive for 18 years, before Dave in 1991 began to teach automotive technology at the regional technical centers in Middlebury and Essex Junction.

As previously reported by the *Independent*, Cordes announced in early June plans to take a nursing job in Canada, thus ending her eligibility to serve in the Legislature. She co-represented Addison-4 for almost seven years, serving on the House Committee on Health Care.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

# Ripton school

(Continued from Page 1A)  
community during the upcoming, 2025-2026 academic year.

The ACSD board in June made the painful decision to shutter Ripton Elementary and send the town's roughly 20 K-5 children to the Salisbury Community School beginning this fall. It was a move largely driven by a newly revised ACSD policy stipulating classes of at least 10 students, from no more than two grades.

While Ripton students have been given a new school address, ACSD and Ripton stakeholders want to sort out the future use of the RES — an important asset and community hub. The district took ownership of the building back in 2016 as part of Vermont's Act 46, through which the ACSD was formed.

The ACSD is governed by a single board that sets policy — and a single preK-12 budget — to educate children in the towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

Prior to Act 46, each of the seven towns owned its own school building, had its own elementary school board, decided its own K-6 budget, and elected representatives to the UD-3 board, which governed Middlebury Union Middle and High Schools.

The articles of agreement that created the ACSD eight years ago also speak to school closures. Article 14 calls for at least 10 of the ACSD board's 13 members — and a majority of the collective electorate of the seven-town ACSD — to endorse closure of a school, following a series of public meetings and other protocols.

If the board and ACSD electorate were to approve the school closure, the school building would be offered to the town (in this case, Ripton), for \$1, "provided that the town agreed to use the property for public and community purposes for a minimum of five years."

But the ACSD board this past April didn't pursue a formal closure process under article 14. A majority of the panel wanted to see how the district might maintain some kind of educational programming in the RES building as a possible placeholder while stakeholders studied future uses and allowing time to see if Ripton's school-age population might rebound.

That process will begin to play out during the coming weeks through the district's new, eight-person Ripton school working group. Baker said David Hohenschau of the consulting group Community Workshop LLC has been picked to lead the working group's brainstorming sessions.

Community Workshop LLC seemed like a good match, according to Baker, given its experience working on community development projects that required building consensus among multiple stakeholders.

Baker said Hohenschau and the working group will meet publicly and invite feedback, while adhering to a "structured decision-making process" that's expected to lead to a report and ideas for the district school board to consider in late October.

As the process unfolds, the working group will ideally get a fix on Ripton residents' and ACSD officials' values, and how those might intersect. Then the process will consider the feasibility of the jointly held aspirations for the building.

The working group has thus far met once, largely to get acquainted. The town of Ripton will host and record the panel's meetings. The group will host two community-wide meetings this summer, according to member Laurie Cox, who also chairs the Ripton selectboard. The panel's other Ripton appointees include residents Bill Hunsinger (who's also a town selectman), Debbie Waters, and Molly Witters, a longtime activist on Ripton school

matters.  
Steve Cash, Ripton's representative to the ACSD board, will likely be a regular meeting attendee, according to Cox.

Cox is looking forward to a full and inclusive discussion of possible uses for the RES building. The *Independent* asked her if she had any ideas for the structure at this early stage. She said she'd like to see if part of the building could host Ripton's town offices and potentially other municipal services.

The Ripton town offices are now based in a small building at 1311 Route 125, next to the Ripton Community House. While it recently got a new coat of paint, Cox noted "the structure is not very good; it's got issues."

Ripton officials around seven years ago got estimates for replacing or overhauling the town offices at their current location. Both estimates were around \$1 million, according to Cox.

Officials decided that was more than townspeople should be asked to pay and pivoted to the less costly concept of erecting a basic town office structure somewhere else in town. That task has been sidelined by COVID, flooding, solving a sand/salt shed issue, and the rising costs of construction.

Cox is intrigued by the possibility of RES hosting town offices and a municipal library (Ripton currently doesn't have one), while ensuring local residents' continued access to the school gym.

"Would we need the entire building? No," Cox said. "There's definitely interest from a lot of townspeople to have use of that building in some way. Nobody has said, 'Gee, that would be a horrible thing for the town to take on.'"

"We'll have to see," she added.

In the meantime, ACSD officials are sorting out academic uses for RES to go along with Ripton uses during the upcoming school year. Baker said the district's uses will likely include:

- Outdoor planning and learning for some K-12 students.
- A portion of the year's summer retreat for ACSD administrators.
- A training space for new district hires.

"It will be a multi-use facility," Baker stressed about the coming year. "This (school building), which townspeople are understandably proud of and feel deep ownership of, can continue to enrich the community in ways that come to the surface as possibilities."

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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**Raising the curtain**

DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBURY WAS teeming with arts enthusiasts this past Friday and Saturday for a grand opening celebration of the expanded Town Hall Theater. The new performance space outside the Merchants Row venue saw, counter-clockwise from top right: House Manager Walt Deverell and Executive Director Lisa Mitchell cut a ceremonial ribbon opening the new space; spectators get an eyeful of guitarist and singer Mihali as he performs in new Maloney Plaza; Mihali jams during his set; master trumpeter Rodney Marsalis does his thing with some backup brass; Chris Cleary of Cirque de Fuego breathes fire into the celebration; a hardhat-wearing juggler entertains the crowd; and Town Hall Theater founder and Director in Residence Doug Anderson has a moment with Middlebury's newly elected dog mayor, Tela, and her handlers.

Independent photos/Steve James





# Was the ‘No Kings Day’ protest largest in history?

By ALICE FINNO AND HENRY FERNANDEZ, VtDigger

Vermonters turned out in force around the state Saturday as part of the nationwide “No Kings Day” protests, championing myriad causes but generally united behind opposing President Donald Trump. As Washington, D.C., geared up for a military parade to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Army and celebrate Trump’s 79th birthday, 1,800 events unfolded across the country to protest the Trump administration as part of the “No Kings Day” of national mobilization.

Burlington saw one of its biggest protests in recent years. Geri Peterson, lead organizer with the activist network 50501, said 8,000 people signed up to participate in the rally on the Burlington waterfront. But as everyone gathered in front of the stage set up for the event, she said the crowd grew to more than 16,000 people, based on the group’s drone footage.

People showed up for different reasons: protecting democracy, standing up for immigrants, protesting the Trump administration’s budget and program cuts, showing solidarity with Palestinians, upholding LGBTQ+ and reproductive rights, and more.

The protest in Burlington unfolded peacefully Saturday. As the lawn filled with people, speakers began taking the stage.

Mohsen Mahdawi, a Palestinian activist and Columbia University student previously arrested by ICE during an interview to obtain U.S. citizenship, shared his experience growing up in a refugee camp under the Israeli government and witnessing the killing of his best friend. He said the solidarity and love of Vermonters helped him heal from the trauma he experienced.

“We see the fires in California and the violence, and it’s like a spark, and if we don’t put it down, any spark of violence here, the fire will spread,” Mahdawi said. “We have to put it down with love and care. We have to keep guarding our communities.”

Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., Vermont’s lone member in the U.S. House of Representatives,

also spoke to the crowd: “Today is an urgent call for every American, no matter who you voted for, no matter if you voted at all,” she said.

Balint referenced how Sen. Alex Padilla, D-Calif., was recently taken to the ground and zip-tied by Homeland Security agents after interrupting a press conference hosted by Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

“He was doing his work — his responsibility to do oversight over Homeland Security,” Balint said. “If they will do that to a man with that much power, what are they doing to the least among us?”

Balint denounced the threats and harassment faced by students, residents and migrant workers and encouraged people to continue organizing and resisting.

“We, today, are creating community by doing this important work together” she said, “and we will use it to push back against policies that don’t serve us, against politicians who divide us, against people who want to keep us down. That’s why we are out here today.”

Meanwhile, in Montpelier, the Statehouse lawn was teeming with more than a thousand people attending the capital’s “No Kings” protest.

Ron Dufresne, a veteran, said attending the rally was part of his military duty.

“I came to the protest today because we have to reclaim our country,” Dufresne said. “I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution as a U.S. Army officer, and I take that oath very seriously. I see this administration trampling on the Constitution. Our country will only be strong if we, the people, reclaim our devotion to the Constitution and rule of law.”

More than 40 events were held around the state Saturday, including a border-to-border anti-Trump flag parade that traveled up Route 7 from Massachusetts to Canada. Vermonters honked and waved along the route as the parade passed by. At least 15 communities outside of the parade route held their own anti-Trump protests. Several thousand people gathered throughout Addison County, including over 750 in Middlebury.

## Sheldon

*(Continued from Page 1A)*  
During this once a week two hour visit,  
We are still Antony and Cleopatra,  
Dovetailed for three decades,  
Mad geese joined at the wingtips...  
I draw your face on jail cinder blocks  
Slick with cold, dreaming of a July Reunion, with hugs that will never end.

R.G.’s poem is among a collection of writings and artwork produced by inmates — men at Southern State Correctional Facility, or SSCF, and women at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF) in South Burlington. Those works can be seen through Sept. 30 at Middlebury’s Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History in the exhibit “Finding Hope Within: Healing & Transformation Through the Making of Art Within the Carceral System.”

It’s a collection co-curated by A Revolutionary Press founder/owner John Vincent of New Haven and Heather Newcomb, who helps incarcerated women pivot to jobs and other goals through the nonprofit organization Vermont Works for Women.

Both Newcomb and Vincent have spent years working with incarcerated individuals, encouraging them to spend their idle time creatively while making post-prison plans.

For Vincent, the “Finding Hope Within” exhibit is rooted in a call he received in 2022 from Adriane



THE KEY AND lock to the first county jail are part of a new exhibit at Middlebury’s Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History. The exhibit features prison-related artifacts, as well artwork and poems created by folks incarcerated in Vermont.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Herman, an art professor at the Maine College of Art & Design. Herman was also a volunteer art teacher at some of Maine’s prisons. She’d seen some of Vincent’s A Revolutionary Press work on display — dealing with incarceration and solitary confinement — at a Maine bookstore.

Herman told Vincent about the practice in Maine of publicly

exhibiting prisoners’ artwork and poems. Security and other rules meant prisoners didn’t have access to art

supplies, anything that might be weaponized. So the inmates’ poems were being printed on a fairly (See Exhibit, Page 13A)



THIS CROCHETED WEDDING dress was made by an incarcerated mom for her daughter, who was also incarcerated at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility. The dress is part of the exhibit “Finding Hope Within,” currently on display at Middlebury’s Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History.

Independent photo/John Flowers



## Safety Tips for Hanging Around Outside Season

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## ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

# READER COMMENTS

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— Tim P., Ohio



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# Exhibit

(Continued from Page 12A)

saccharine white paper.

“I could letter press this work of theirs,” Vincent told Herman. His A Revolutionary Press is a nonprofit that has adopted many charitable causes through the years. Vincent already had a solid background in the criminal justice system; in a previous career, he worked 15 years as a police officer.

Vincent received and letter-pressed multiple poems created by folks in the Maine prison system.

“I engaged with some of the artists and writers whose work I was printing,” he added. “Some of the best conversations I’ve had in group settings were with these men and woman at the prisons, formerly incarcerated people and people involved with the criminal justice system.”

He saw the incarcerated poets and artists embrace their creative outlet, using it as a therapeutic diversion, a possible career steppingstone, or a way to metaphysically commune with a life suspended by past transgressions.

One Maine inmate summed it up for Vincent during one of the poetry meet-ups.

“He said, ‘We forgive, we heal, we grow,’” Vincent recounted.

“So many people in prison are looking to transform themselves from the worst thing they may have ever done, to become something other than that — for themselves, their families, their communities and to the person they harmed,” he added

Vincent began thinking about how the Maine prison system’s public art/poetry program might be replicated in other states — including Vermont. He learned there was no such offering in Vermont — at least, nothing consistent.

That changed in 2023, after he was connected to Newcomb and officials at the Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh. The Rokeby that year hosted an initial “Finding Hope Within” exhibit featuring around 50 poems and artwork from inmates based in Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts.

Newcomb had long been working with women incarcerated at CRCF whose isolation became even

more profound during the COVID pandemic. Creating art had become more impactful for some of the women while social distancing.

“As contractors (with Women Works for Women), we weren’t even permitted (into CRCF) for nine months,” she said. “We were finding a way to communicate with them and give them projects that kept them busy and gave them purpose. Art is a vehicle the women often use to busy their time, whether it be crocheting, drawing or poetry. They are left with a lot of free time.”

One of the “Finding Hope Within” exhibits is a crocheted white wedding dress. It was made by an incarcerated mom for her daughter, who was also incarcerated. The mother used proceeds from her facility job (around \$5 per day) to buy the yarn. Once completed, she requested that her daughter be allowed to wear the dress at her wedding inside CRCF. That request was denied due to prison policy; both mom and daughter had to wear their prison-issued uniforms, but that didn’t dampen the ceremony, according to Newcomb.

“The smiles on their faces were just as deep as if this ceremony were being held in a beautiful venue,” said Newcomb, who was there. “For me, it was not whether this dress was worn or not. It’s about a mother expressing her love for her daughter and wanting to be as ‘normal’ as possible despite their current circumstances.”

**SCENIC BEAUTY**

Other examples of the Sheldon exhibit artwork include an image of a sun rising over a mountain and meadow, splashed with pink flowers; a collage depicting a woman surrounded by majestic plants; a charcoal on paper image of a woman wearing a floral headdress; and another collage bearing a series of phrases made up of words clipped from magazines. The phrases include, “deep dark fear,” “shelter from the storm,” “searching for something bigger,” and “The prophet of doom and hope.”

It’s no coincidence that most of the artwork centers on scenic beauty.

“It’s a way for them to transport

themselves into an environment that invokes peace and calmness,” Newcomb said.

One of the ironies of correctional facilities is that they conjure images of people alone with their thoughts for endless hours, when in fact they’re “very noisy, very active — slamming doors, loud yelling. It’s very hard to get a moment to yourself,” according to Newcomb. “Being in the carceral setting, constantly being watched, it’s hard to get into the mindset where you feel free enough to create art.”

Every item in the Finding Hope Within exhibit has a story behind it, though the artists must remain anonymous. Newcomb and Vincent explained the Vermont Department of Corrections forbids prisoners from signing their public artwork, as it could be triggering to victims of the crimes they committed.

Vincent understands the policy but isn’t a fan. He yearns for a more progressive state corrections system, one that might eventually allow the incarcerated to sell drawings to fund restitution and some savings to make their transition back to the community easier.

“It takes away a person’s humanity when you don’t know who they are,” he said.

Newcomb has been impressed by the artists’ talents.

“And the creativity they use to create (artwork) is unbelievable, because of the restriction in getting supplies,” she noted.

For example, one artist used material from a feminine hygiene product to create the snow on top of a model house.

When Newcomb got married last year, she carried a bouquet of crocheted flowers courtesy of a CRCF inmate. The stems? Corn dog sticks salvaged from a recent meal the incarcerated artist had eaten.

The women are allowed to use colored pencils for their art depictions, which double as makeup pencils.

Artists who want to add more verve to their paintings blend their magic marker designs with a water-soaked tissue.

Newcomb had hoped to introduce her charges to making art with linoleum block art. But



A PRISON KEY, gavel and primitive handcuffs — all part of the Sheldon Museum’s collection — are among the items assembled in a new exhibit called “Finding Hope Within” in Middlebury. Independent photo/John Flowers

carving tools were a non-starter in correctional facilities.

Linoleum block work is also a no-no for the men incarcerated at SSCF. But Zoe Geiger, a recent Middlebury College graduate, made a linocut of two geese flying — for R.G.’s “Homecoming” poem — based on an original drawing by Meg McCarthy.

The two geese are featured in flight side by side, with wingtips barely touching.

Particularly poignant for Vincent is a poem in the exhibit called “Oneself.” It was written by an SSCF inmate named “W.B.”

*As time flies*  
*Time will tell*  
*Life’s clock ticking away*  
*Leaving much to thought...*  
*No knowing finality*  
*Hurts and pains me*  
*Live on either way*  
*Awaiting my destiny*  
*Hurts and pains me*

W.B. died this past January and his fellow incarcerated friends collaborated a pocket watch design to be carved into a relief block to

print with the poem. Fabric from SSCF, including inmate clothing and bedding, was turned into pulp and made into the paper that bears the pocket watch and poem.

Newcomb is particularly drawn to a pencil drawing of a horse frolicking through a meadow.

It’s creator, C.C., wrote that she drew it because “I miss my barrel horse, Rico, and I had my life taken away from me because of the crimes I did. But this is what sets me free...”

Like W.B., C.C. didn’t survive her prison term. Newcomb sends C.C.’s mother a photo of her drawing each time the exhibit moves, showing how it’s displayed in each venue.

Her mother is very attached to it, looking forward to the day it will gallop home, Newcomb said.

**LOCAL ADDITIONS**

The Sheldon exhibit also features some gruesome relics of Addison County’s prison system as it was in 18th and 19th centuries. Courtesy of the Sheldon collection, there’s a lock and key from the first jail (circa 1811) in Middlebury, which was

located in a building on Washington Street; a key to the first Addison County jail, built in 1794; a gavel (circa 1899) carved by Henry Sheldon out of wood salvaged from the first county courthouse; and a pair of very old handcuffs.

Eva Garcelon-Hart is the Sheldon Museum’s archivist, who arranged the Finding Hope Within display in the museum.

She, too, has been touched by the quality of some of the artwork and its symbolism.

“I think it’s essential for us to see human beings as human beings, with the same feelings, worries, desires that we carry,” Garcelon-Hart said.

Check out the Sheldon Museum website, [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org), for events related to the exhibit, including an upcoming artists & curators panel at the museum on Wednesday, July 23, from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

John Flowers is at [johnf@addisonindependent.com](mailto:johnf@addisonindependent.com).

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# Bangs receives Scouting honors

BRISTOL — Girl Scouts in the Bristol area are benefiting from a wealth of experience brought by Rae Bangs, a Girl Scout troop and service unit leader. She has been named the Volunteer of the Month for June by Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, the council serving all of Vermont and New Hampshire.

Bangs began her volunteer work with Girl Scouts Troop 51876 in 2023, but is a lifelong Girl Scout who has given her time and talent to troops in Florida and Louisiana before moving here.

“I met my current troop through a post in Front Porch Forum that they were selling cookies, and I said to my daughter, ‘Let’s go meet this troop and see if they’re local! We can join them,’” she said. “And then I called the council ... and we got right into selling cookies last year.”

It wasn’t long before the council encouraged her to do more. She now co-leads the troop and has stepped up to become a volunteer support coordinator —

someone who helps leaders in the area with ideas and help.

Her co-leader is Ursula Olender, who nominated Bangs for this honor.

“Rae brings unbridled enthusiasm for the Girl Scout movement,” Olender said, “volunteering her time as Troop 51876 co-leader and as SU244’s VSC. She recently relocated to Vermont from Louisiana, where she volunteered with a very active troop. She has re-energized our service unit with her



BRISTOL’S RAE BANGS, shown here with her daughter, Sheridan, has been chosen as Volunteer of the Month by Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, the council serving all of Vermont and New Hampshire.

Photo courtesy Bristol Girl Scouts

commitment and follow-through, including a wonderful Thinking Day event involving our local troops.”

Bangs

*“I’ve worked with Daisies up through Seniors, my last troop. I love to see the growth and the independence that they are starting to get as they mature.”*

— Rae Bangs

coordinated the World Day event for all the troops in her service unit, where each troop chose a country to highlight and share information about.

Her Girl Scouts participated in the Vergennes Memorial Day Parade and look forward to the Bristol Fourth of July parade. The troop will hold a service unit-wide bridging ceremony this summer or early fall to recognize the Girl Scouts moving up a level. Her troop also recently participated in a STEM workshop at Middlebury College with one of the clubs there and attended a workshop designed around the Automotive badge,

offered to all in the service unit.

Bangs is planning a first aid/CPR workshop for leaders in her service unit and camping is in the works — a little different from the warmer weather her southern Girl Scouts experienced. In Louisiana, she took her troop to a gathering of Girl Scouts called The Big Event where they met members of the National Guard and talked to women in positions of service, and another program that had the girls working with horses. She also helped plan two camporees in Louisiana. She wants her troop to have opportunities to do things that will help them gain valuable life experience and give back to the community.

Girl Scout Cookies fueled their activities and enabled some of her Girl Scouts to pay for their summer camp weeks.

“We have a couple girls that are rock stars” in the cookie-selling effort, she said. Seeing her Girl Scouts grow and develop is what motivates Bangs.

“I’ve worked with Daisies up through Seniors, my last troop,” she said. “I love to see the growth and the independence that they are starting to get as they mature. And it became more girl-led, which is what we’re all about. So, I like to see the progression. Right now, we have a lot of younger girls, not as many older girls, and I like to see that they are getting those skills, especially when we’re taking new girls camping and doing different things. I just think that’s magical!”

Bangs also appreciates the strong, lifelong friendships she has made through Girl Scouting and noted that it’s a great way for adults to form strong bonds.

When not volunteering for Girl Scouts, Bangs is a special education teacher at Vergennes Union High School with a focus on math.

# Vt. State University names honors

RANDOLPH CENTER — Congratulations to the following students who recently graduated from Vermont State University with the Class of 2025.

Declan Anderson of Orwell  
Miranda Berry of Bristol  
Danielle Berry of Bristol  
Jordyn Bessette of Leicester  
Katha Bolduc of Addison  
Kate Bolger of Shoreham  
Caleb Cousino of Monkton  
Haley Curtis of Sudbury  
Cam Frankenhoff of North Ferrisburgh  
Rachel Gracie of Bristol  
Emma Jackman of Lincoln  
Rosa Kehoe of Middlebury  
Gabrielle Lafreniere of Starksboro  
Allison Lanthier of Orwell  
Sherman LaRose of Bristol  
Kelsey McCormick of Bristol  
Dylan McKee of Orwell  
Rosie Nop of Middlebury  
Tracey Orvis of Bristol  
Fraser Pierpont of Salisbury

## PRESIDENT’S LIST

The following students were named to the Vermont State University President’s List for the spring 2025 semester. To qualify for this highest academic honor, students must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 4.0.

Declan Anderson of Orwell  
Jordan Bertrand of Whiting  
Jordyn Bessette of Leicester  
Io Binder of Middlebury

Lake Champlain Waldorf School celebrated the graduation of six students on Saturday, June 15, at the Shelburne Town Hall.

## ADDISON COUNTY

# School News

Justin Bolduc of New Haven  
Robin Chamberlain of Middlebury  
Jack Eickenberg of Starksboro  
Madison Gile of Bristol  
Thane Gill of Ferrisburgh  
Samantha Hallock of Ferrisburgh  
Emma Jackman of Lincoln  
Allison Lanthier of Orwell  
Ryleigh Laporte of Leicester  
Sherman LaRose of Bristol  
Kaylee Maloy of Sudbury  
Kelsey McCormick of Bristol  
Dylan McKee of Orwell  
Megan Mentzer of Ferrisburgh  
Katherine Miles of Addison  
Vladislav Moore of Ferrisburgh  
Kinsey Moyer of Leicester  
Jackie Prime of Weybridge  
Clarabel Redondo of Orwell  
Eyon Tembreull of Vergennes  
Grant Thurston of Whiting  
Paiton Tolmer of Sudbury  
Chris Wood of Lincoln

## DEAN’S LIST

The following students were named to the Vermont State University Dean’s List for the Spring 2025 semester. To qualify for this academic honor, students must maintain full-time status and achieve a 3.5 or greater semester average.

Ava Almeida of Addison  
Jack Almeida of Orwell  
Carson Babbie of Orwell  
Carson Barnes of North Ferrisburgh  
Tyler Bergmans of Ferrisburgh  
Miranda Berry of Bristol  
Keleigh Boise of New Haven  
Kaitlyn Brown of Salisbury  
Dakota Catella of Bristol  
Jamison Couture of Vergennes  
Sam Cowan of N Ferrisburgh  
Emma Deering of Middlebury  
Zeke Dubois of Addison  
Bella Gale of E Middlebury  
Gwen Gill of Ferrisburgh  
Rachel Gracie of Bristol  
Kailyn LaDuke of Shoreham  
Noah Letendre of Vergennes  
Elsa Michaels of Vergennes  
Oliver Newmarco of Rochester  
Rosie Nop of Middlebury  
Vin Paquette of Orwell  
Jeffrey Perez Pedraza of Addison  
Fraser Pierpont of Salisbury  
Felicia Poirier of Ferrisburgh  
Bre Rockwell of Bristol  
Caleb Russell of New Haven  
Greg Swain of Bristol  
Audrey Tembreull of Vergennes  
Jackie Prime of Weybridge  
Macey Thayer of Vergennes  
Grant Thurston of Whiting  
Paiton Tolmer of Sudbury  
Kimberly Trombley of Ferrisburgh  
Joanie Wisdahl of Rochester  
Nathan Wisdahl of Rochester

**Ella Hameline** of Vergennes was named to the College of Charleston spring 2025 dean’s list. Hameline is majoring in Biology.

# Ferrisburgh

Have a news tip?

Email Sally Kerschner at [smwkersch@comcast.net](mailto:smwkersch@comcast.net)

## NEWS

FERRISBURGH — The Ferrisburgh Grange “King Pede” card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of July 5 and July 19. These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede is challenging in that it involves “trick-taking” such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking!

Rokeby Museum’s Interim Director, Joan Gorman, will host a series of Gallery Talks centering on a museum curator’s role and

how Rokeby constructed its exhibit “Inspired by Nature: The Women Artists of Rokeby.” There are multiple dates throughout the season for attendees to gather and get a peek behind the scenes as to how a museum works. The first was on Wednesday, July 2. Others will be held Wednesday, July 30, Monday, Aug. 25, and Monday, Sept. 15. These talks are at 12:20 p.m. and will be held in the Rokeby gallery.

Frederick Douglass delivered the speech “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” on July 5, 1852, in Rochester, N.Y. to a local antislavery women’s group. It begins with a sympathetic account of the American Revolution and its great promise for freedom then pivots to describe the gross hypocrisy of American enslavement on the legacy of that struggle. Each year Rokeby celebrates the importance of Douglass’ speech by hosting a public reading. This year’s reading will be on Saturday, July 5, from 1 -3 p.m. Rokeby will welcome Dr. Francois Clemmons, who will be present to begin the ceremony. Admission to the event is free.

Rokeby will host a conversation with Dr. Mark Kelley, author of “An Uncommon Woman: The Life of Lydia Hamilton Smith” on Sunday, July 13, from 1-3 p.m. Smith was a mixed-race businesswoman in Lancaster, Pa., who, for 25 years, engaged in a committed interracial relationship with abolitionist congressman Thaddeus Stevens. Together, they worked to secure the rights of African Americans, aided freedom seekers on their journeys north, managed two households, and established a real-estate business.

The Bixby Book Club meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. The group reads a variety of books, spanning the genres of contemporary, literary, and historical fiction and non-fiction. The list of 2025 Book Club Selections is available at: [tinyurl.com/bixby-book-club](http://tinyurl.com/bixby-book-club) The book for the July 8 meeting is “The Rent Collector” by Camron Wright. This is the story of Snag Ly, who struggles to survive by picking through garbage in Cambodia’s largest municipal dump and is forced on a desperate journey to save her ailing son from a life of ignorance and poverty. The book for Aug. 12 is “North Woods” by Daniel Mason, about a pair of young lovers who abscond from a Puritan colony and whose humble cabin in the woods soon becomes home to an extraordinary succession of human and nonhuman characters alike.

Bixby is offering fun ways for us to read all throughout this summer.

From June 17-Aug. 14, children ages pre-K through Grade 8 can participate in the Summer Reading program, Booked for Bikes. Readers can win weekly prizes and possibly, at the end of the summer, a bicycle from Earl’s Cyclery.

Color Your Shelves is a creative reading challenge for adults and young adults. From June 17-Aug. 16, readers can pick up a bookshelf-bookmark in the library lobby to track progress as they delve into books that span six different categories. For each book completed, color in a book spine on the bookmark and return to the Bixby to be eligible for a gift card to Cookie Love.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum continues with many educational and outdoor lake events throughout its 2025 season. The grounds, exhibits, and Museum Store are open for all to visit and explore — at no cost to visitors. Visit the museum’s website for updates on all its offerings. [www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org). Note that on Wednesday, July 16, at 1:30 p.m., the Museum will offer a session entitled Nature of a Sketch. Participants can develop observation and drawing skills in basic techniques of field sketching, a combination of art and qualitative note taking, all while enjoying the natural beauty of the Lake Champlain Basin. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is hosting regular shipwreck tours this summer. These boat tours visit the sites of several famous Lake Champlain shipwrecks as Museum experts recount the dramatic stories about the events of the ship wrecks. Participants will view underwater footage of shipwrecks from the Museum’s archaeology team and underwater Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs), learn about the lake’s unique geology and history, talk with Museum experts, and get a first-hand look at the nature and animals that make up the lake’s ecosystem. The tours will be held Thursdays at 10 a.m, July-Sept., and are designed for all ages. For accessibility requests and information please email [info@lcmm.org](mailto:info@lcmm.org) or phone at 802-475-2022. Tickets are \$25 for children and \$45 for adults.

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

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### The big ride

CYCLISTS FROM NEAR and far gathered this past Saturday for the Vermont Gran Fondo, a non-competitive ride through the Green Mountains that began and ended in Bristol over courses that covered between 40 and 148 miles. Pictured at this year's event clockwise from top left; Esther Fonseca of Boston readies for the ride; a cyclist nears a downhill stretch; a biker offers a thumbs up in Ripton; Fonseca greets her husband, Bram Vandermark, who is working a rest station near the Middlebury Snow Bowl; Bo Twiggs of Shelburne stops to hydrate; a cyclist passes the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area; and a bike waits for its rider to return from a quick stop at the Middlebury Gap.

Independent photos/Steve James



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# Search warrant executed in Middlebury

ADDISON COUNTY — At the conclusion of a Vermont State Police investigation that included the execution of search warrants, the Attorney General’s Office this week announced that Jonathan Wieman, 48, of Middlebury had been arraigned on a misdemeanor count of unlawful disclosure of sexually explicit image without consent.

State police had received a report that Wieman had posted sexually explicit images of a persononlinewithoutthatperson’s consent. Wieman pleaded not guilty at his arraignment Monday in Chittenden County Superior Court, Criminal Division.

Meanwhile, state police at the New Haven barracks are working with other law enforcement agencies in Addison County to conduct drunken driving checkpoints this week. 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.

In other recent activity, troopers:

- On June 25 announced

## Vt. State Police Log

charges of embezzlement from the Stewart’s Shops in Ferrisburgh. Police say that on March 25 they began investigating a report that the convenience store noted missing funds on its bank statements. Police allege that Laura M. Brewer, 42, of Charlotte, the manager of the store, failed to deposit \$8,763 in cash. On June 25 Brewer turned herself in at the New Haven barracks and was cited for embezzlement.

- On June 26 just before 4 p.m. responded to a one-car crash on Route 22A near Route 17 in Addison. Police report that Karen Pratt, 66, of Waukee, Iowa, was driving a 2022 Chevy Suburban when she fell asleep; her vehicle left the road and struck a pole. None of the five occupants of the SUV were injured. Troopers were assisted on scene by the Vergennes Fire Department and Vergennes Area Rescue Squad.

Police issued Pratt a \$220 traffic ticket.

- On June 27 around 7:30 p.m. went to a Greenbush Road home in Ferrisburgh for getting a call for help. Police allege that, after a verbal argument, Kira M. Degray, 29, of Ferrisburgh assaulted a 63-year-old Addison woman and vandalized property. Police cited her for simple assault and unlawful mischief.
- On June 27 just before 8 p.m. stopped a vehicle on Route 7 near Chicago Road in Ferrisburgh and ended up citing Claire R. Delaney, 23, of Ferrisburgh for driving under the influence. Troopers were assisted by Vergennes police.

Finally, on June 26 troopers responded to a report from LD Safety Marking Corp. that it was getting threatening messages following routine lane marking on Route 22A in Pantton. Police determined that Jackson Buck, 43, of Pantton attempted to harass the company by repeatedly sending electronic communications. On June 30 state police cited Buck for disturbing the peace by electronic communications.

## Sheriff’s Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Deputies in the Addison County Sheriff’s Department assisted a Starksboro landlord with an eviction on June 26. Several cats were found inside of the home after the person left and they were turned over to Homeward Bound. Due to the condition of the animals, officers opened an investigation into animal cruelty and more information will be released at a later time.

Between June 22 and 27, deputies completed patrols in multiple towns and stopped 21 vehicles for various motor vehicle

violations and fingerprinted 12 people for background checks. They also provided transport of prisoners for other agencies four times, transporting:

- Two prisoners to their court hearings at the Mahady Courthouse on June 22.
- An intoxicated person to Grace House in Rutland for Middlebury police on June 23.
- Someone to Bennington for the Department for Children and Families on June 25.
- A person to Burlington for the Chittenden County Sheriff’s Department on June 27.

In other recent activity, the sheriff and his deputies also:

- On June 22 completed a background investigation.
- On June 22 assisted Vermont State Police with a welfare check in Shoreham.
- On June 24 completed VIN verifications for residents in New Haven, Cornwall, Monkton and Leicester.
- On June 24 assisted a person who had come across a deceased deer on the side of Route 7 in Salisbury; the person was wondering how to dispose of the carcass.
- On June 25 arrested Dermot McKeon McMillan, 21, of Middletown, Conn., for excessive speed. Authorities said that McMillan was driving 71 mph in a 40 mph zone on Bristol Road.
- On June 25 assisted state police at a dispute on West Shore Road in Salisbury.
- On June 27 assisted state police at a rollover crash on Route 125.

### July 4th Sale

Thurs July 3 - Thurs July 10

	Just Reduced	Reg.	Sale
Asst Annuals 4" Rd.	\$4.99	\$0.99	
Petunia 6-Pak	\$5.49	\$0.99	
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Perennials 6" Red Pot	\$10.99	\$5.49	
Perennials 6" Blk Ridge	\$12.99	\$6.49	
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### Long-time helpers

MONKTON RESIDENT CATHIE Buscaglia, left, along with Laura Pearce of Essex Junction were recently recognized with the achievement of working for Howard Center for three decades. The Burlington nonprofit provides progressive, compassionate, high-quality care and supports to those in need, including mental health, substance use and developmental services. Speaking to Howard staff in a ceremony at the Doubletree by Hilton in Burlington, Howard CEO Sandy McGuire praised Buscaglia and other long-tenured employees for their dedication, compassion and hard work. “People often talk about Howard Center as though it’s just a name or a structure, but in truth, it is you ... You are the living legacy of this organization.”

## By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

**week-long 46th festival. The first concert, featuring Canadian blues rockers Durham County Poets, starts at 7 p.m. that evening. Organizers could use your help during the daytime family events (Monday-Friday at noon), at the evening shows, and when Main Street is closed for the street dance on Saturday, July 19. If you’re able to pitch in a couple of hours on one or more days of the festival (July 13-19), please go to FestivalOnTheGreen.org and select the “Volunteer” tab on the menu to get in touch.**

Here’s an important environmental reminder: Batteries don’t belong in your recycling bins or in the trash, as they can cause fires that endanger workers who handle solid waste. Batteries are accepted at the Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) transfer station in Middlebury for special recycling — for free. There are also other collection locations throughout Addison County and the state. Call2Recycle, a stewardship program for the special recycling of batteries in Vermont, has more information on battery recycling at call2recycle.

org/vermont/. Also be advised the following batteries are banned from the trash and should be brought to the ACSWMD transfer station in Middlebury: Lithium metal, button cells, lead acid/wet cell, rechargeable batteries, and alkaline and carbon-zinc batteries. Please call the district at 802-388-2333 for advice on safe handling and disposal of puffy, swollen, damaged, or defective batteries.

The Town of Middlebury will temporarily shut off water service to part of town to replace a hydrant on Middle Road (north) on Tuesday July 8, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shut-off is anticipated to last only around four hours, but town officials are asking affected residents to be prepared for a longer duration. The impacted locations will include properties along Middle Road north, south of the Hannaford’s Supermarket back entrance; Lodge Road; Basinview Road; Amory Lane; Fields Road; South Ridge Drive; Meadow Glen Drive; Deerfield Lane; and Gardiner Close.

Middlebury-based Tri-Valley Transit is seeking 20 volunteer drivers to help provide essential

transportation to Addison County residents. Needed trips include, but are not limited to, dialysis, radiation and chemotherapy appointments; grocery shopping; and visiting elderly family in nursing homes. Time commitments are based on your availability. Volunteers enjoy meeting new people and feel a sense of pride helping others. All miles driven are reimbursed at the current GSA rate. If you’d like to learn more about helping out in the Addison County region, call 802-388-2287 or email [rachel@trivalleytransit.org](mailto:rachel@trivalleytransit.org).

Governor Phil Scott’s office earlier this week announced a range of new appointments to various state boards and commissions, and a handful of Addison County residents made the list. They include Bristol’s Krista Siringo, to the State Rehabilitation Council; Weybridge’s Anne Murphy, to the State Veterinary Board; Bridport’s Nicole Foster, to the Vermont Milk Commission; and Bridport’s Stephanie Pope, to the Working Lands Enterprise Board. Also, Brandon’s Krystal Disorda was appointed to the Vermont State Board of Nursing. The governor’s office is currently soliciting applications to fill vacancies and upcoming term expirations. All those interested in serving on board or commission should visit the governor’s website at <https://governor.vermont.gov/boards-commissions> to apply.

As hiking season kicks into high gear, state environmental officials are urging outdoor enthusiasts to help safeguard forests by cleaning their boots, clothing and gear before and after hitting the trails. This simple step plays a critical role in stopping the spread of destructive invasive insects, such as the spotted lanternfly, hemlock woolly adelgid and jumping worms. Although spotted lanternfly has not yet become established in Vermont, it is established in neighboring states and could easily be transported here. Hemlock woolly adelgid is established in southern Vermont and is already killing hemlock stands there. Identifying new infestations early is key to managing this pest. Jumping worms and their cocoons and egg cases may spread several ways, including through compost, leaf litter, nursery plants, untreated mulch or soil and bait for fishing. To date, jumping worms have been found in 12 of Vermont’s 14 counties. For more information on invasive species and how to help stop their spread, visit [vtinvasives.org](http://vtinvasives.org).

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# Real estate

(Continued from Page 1A)  
In the first six months of 2024, 89 homes were sold. But by way of comparison, this year’s pace of sales is short of 2023’s, when 273 homes were sold over the course of the year through the county MLS.

There are good reasons why Benton said he is not ready to forecast the arrival of a hotter market. They included interest rates that remain high, thus making the cost of mortgages more expensive, and an economy that has slowed under the new administration in Washington, D.C. He also wonders if the buyers are truly representative of the larger market, or a smaller sample from which conclusions should not be drawn.

“It’s not an across-the-board increase. I just don’t see it. And I still think the economy (is an issue),” he said. “I think the people who have been waiting to buy and have resources (did).”

Benton said he and his appraisal colleagues — son Will Benton and daughter Eliza Benton Huizenga — have analyzed same properties’ resales to estimate how home values have increased, and their research points to a more modest — and slowing — increase in home values.

In the past three years they found about 60 such properties that show market values that are still rising, but gradually slowing: They found the average increase in county property values in 2022 was 11.9%; in 2023, 8.7%; and in 2024, 4.2%.

“So it (the rate of increase) went down by 3 or 4% each year,” Benton said.

He added there have been only three resales this year, not enough to draw conclusions, but that they suggest values still rising “probably in that 4% range.”

Of course, there are towns that might outstrip the averages.

“Middlebury, Cornwall and Weybridge are still the gold spots,” Benton said, noting he has been told Cornwall’s town assessments “essentially doubled” after a reappraisal, while in Weybridge they went up “close to 80%.” Those assessments were well out of date, and increases reflect many years of appreciation.

Of course, Vergennes values have also jumped — Benton helped oversee the city’s recently completed reappraisal and estimated an average increase of 73% in that community’s outdated assessed residential values. He added “you’re basically seeing 70, 75% (assessment increases) in most areas” due to community-wide assessments being out of date by a decade or more.

Middlebury, he said, must reappraise in the next couple years because the town reappraised in 2019, just before the pandemic, and “Now they’re out of whack again” after the COVID-19 out-of-state buying spree.

Times on the market also haven’t changed that much in the “gold spot” towns. In the first quarter of this year the average time on the market of a Middlebury residential listing (as determined through the MLS), was 34 days, Benton said. In the same quarter of 2024 it was 32 days, and for all of 2024 it was 36 days.

“Actually, it’s pretty consistent from 2022 on up. They’re all in the 30s,” Benton said.

While lack of inventory is keeping things relatively quiet in Vergennes and Bristol, the county’s northern tier remains active.

“Monkton and Ferrisburgh are going crazy, with sales and even some new construction,” Benton said.

But the first six months of the year does show a wider surge, he noted — about 35 of the 105 sales in the past six months were south of Middlebury.

By price range, Benton Appraisal’s written study summed up where the



THIS FOR-SALE sign might not be up for long — properties on the market are selling quickly so far in 2025, according to data.

Independent photo/Steve James

market segments broke down:

“The most active price range (was) \$400,000 - \$600,000 with 44 sales followed by \$300,000 to \$400,000 with 30 sales. The market over \$600,000 has increased with 17 sales between \$600,000 and \$800,000 and 12 sales over \$800,000.”

Meanwhile, Benton described the high end of the market as becoming a little quirkier. Three properties in Addison sold for more than \$1 million in the past nine months, none with frontage on Lake Champlain, for example.

There are still lakefront sales

topping \$1 million or \$2 million in Pantton and Ferrisburgh, but Benton said he is hearing from brokers that at least some buyers in that end of the market are a more cautious than they were a few years ago. He described what one broker said to him.

“The big money in the market right now is still interested in buying, but they are very concerned about potential resale down the road, and being in an area or a market where there’s enough of a market to support a resale,” Benton said. “They just don’t come in and blindly pay a lot more than anyone else. They’re

thinking a little longer and harder about it.”

At the more affordable end, Benton doesn’t foresee the builders of Middlebury’s major Stonecrop project having a hard time finding buyers.

“It seems like the price point is good. There’s definitely demand for it,” Benton said, while disclosing his daughter has done appraisal work there. “I think it’s something needed in Middlebury, and something needed in Vergennes, or something similar, but not to that scale.”

# VUHS honor roll

VERGENNES — Vergennes Union High School has released its honor roll for the second half of the 2024-2025 academic year. Those named to the roll include:

## GRADE 12

**High Honors:** Gerrit Beenen, Mary Cosgrove, Rory Couture, Ethan Croke, Luke Davis, Grey Fearon, Torrey Hanna, Mia Kutchukian, Katelyn Laberge, Reese Paquette, Isabella Porter, Lily Root and Jing Williams.

**Honors:** Robin Andrus, Hayden Bassett, Evan Brooks, Owen Collette, Morgan Davis, Nina Giron, Austen Hamel, Sophia Johnson, Megan LaFontaine and Brody McGuire.

## GRADE 11

**High Honors:** Calvin Almeida, Kyan Barcomb, Tiegen Buskey, Octavia Devine, Ava Francis, Amelia Giroux, Sadie (Di) Hunt, Scout Jacobson, Gina LeBeau, Carter McGuire, Mya Provencher, Phoebe Raphael, Libby Ringer and Quincy Sabick.

**Honors:** Theodorus Elzinga, Nilah Fitzgerald, Aiden Fuller, Chance Koenig, Faith McAllister, Ryker Mosehauer, James Petersen, Ashtin Stearns, Logan Thibeault, Evan White, Eleanor Wilkinson-Sachs and Ryan Wright.

## GRADE 10

**High Honors:** Isabella Audy, Kelsey Becher, Juan De La Cruz, Eloise Eckels, Alexandria Jewell, Khanlen Ouimette, Lola Rollins, Adrienne Smits, Noah Smits, Madeleine Stroup, Isabelle Van Voorst, Holland VanderWey, Acasia Visser and Ryenn Wisell.

**Honors:** Delaney Bicknell, Jude Bragg, William Clark, Leah Doran, Cole Gagnon, Luke Galera, Benjamin Hale, Georgia Krause, Quinn LeBeau and Liam McGuire.

## GRADE 9

**High Honors:** Ella Bearor, Eleanor Brooks, David Coburn, Charlotte Coffey, Petra Fearon, Chloe Gosselin, Lauren Hill, Lauren Husk, Marek Jablonski, Lily Kidde, Georgia Kunkel, Abigail LaFlam, Kaiden LeCompte, Marwan Liebhaber, Joseph Maneen, Pearce Mosehauer, Rowan Neffinger, Jeremiah Peryea, Marley Quinn, Jillian Reichert, Joseph Stanley and Magdalene Wittmeyer.

**Honors:** Laci Almeida, Vivienne Audy, Tessa Buskey, Abigail Letendre, Kalix Miles, Serenity Moehringer, Alexander Morgan, Emerson Morrill, Liam Paquette, Grace Petersen, Jackson Scribner and Kalder Steen.

## OPINION?

Email it to: [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)

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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.

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# Homeowners

(Continued from Page 1A)  
100 such consultations sometime this month.  
“I think the more we do this the better we get at it, and we dial in tools that can help and processes are dialed in,” Bryant told the *Independent*. “One of the things that’s really exciting is the development of volunteers, and the potential to do a really good job here in Addison County and then scale it as we can.”

**FREE SUPPORT**

The Climate Economy Action Center, or CEAC, initially launched a pilot version of the Energy Navigators program in fall 2023. The initiative kicked off in earnest in 2024 and ties into CEAC’s efforts to help reduce local greenhouse gas emissions. A Climate Action Plan for the county published by the nonprofit in June of 2022 outlines various steps community members can take to achieve reductions in local greenhouse gas emissions, such as decarbonizing homes’ energy use.  
The Energy Navigators program is intended to help residents tackle such projects, assisting them in finding options for reducing their home’s energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as connecting them with resources and incentives available for those projects.  
The program is free and open to anyone living in Addison County. Community members can find more information and next steps on the Energy Navigators website.  
“If we can help anyone reduce their greenhouse gases, reduce their costs and increase their comfort then we want to visit with you, and

it’s free,” Bryant said. “All it takes is somebody’s time.”  
As of last week, Energy Navigators had connected with homeowners and renters in most towns around Addison County. Energy Navigators have helped residents living in a variety of different homes, from older farmhouses to manufactured homes.  
“I worked with someone that was living in a manufactured home... she added a heat pump and she got a solar heater for her pool,” Bryant said. “That’s going to completely change what she’s looking at for energy costs, and she’s not going to have to rely on her oil furnace as much.”  
The Energy Navigators team meets with residents for energy consultations to discuss their priorities and personal goals for reducing their homes’ utility bills and carbon footprints. From there, the team looks to help them navigate their options and identify available resources and incentives.  
“What we’re finding when we talk to people is they’re like ‘Oh, I didn’t know I qualified for anything,’ and there’s incentives out there for everybody,” Bryant said. “It doesn’t matter what your income is; there’s all sorts of incentives out there.”  
Incentives available for residents looking to tackle clean energy projects include rebates and tax credits. As of this writing, lawmakers in Washington, D.C., were deliberating on a tax-and-spending bill that included proposed phase-outs of clean energy tax credits, such as credits for energy audits and rooftop solar.



**ENERGY NAVIGATORS VOLUNTEER** Steve Duclos demonstrates how to use a thermal camera at an energy education workshop in Weybridge. The Addison County Energy Navigators program helps residents decarbonize their home and is continuing to expand its reach through various initiatives.

Photo courtesy of Shannon Bryant



**ENERGY NAVIGATORS OUTREACH** Specialist Adayiah Ley sees how much effort is needed to light up an incandescent versus LED lightbulb. The Energy Navigators program has hosted a variety of educational workshops over the past year, focusing on topics like home heat transfer and home energy conservation.

Photo courtesy of Shannon Bryant

While it’s unclear at this point exactly how those incentives will be impacted, support for clean energy projects offered through the Energy Navigators program and other entities will remain available regardless of shifts at the federal level (see related story).  
The Energy Navigators program has received funding from Vermont Low-Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) for another grant cycle, Bryant said. The team will continue to provide the same support to Addison County residents and aims to stay as up to date as possible on available resources and information.  
**LOOKING AHEAD**  
The program is also in the process of expanding its work in towns around the county. Through partnerships with Efficiency Vermont, the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) and the Vermont Energy Education Program (VEEP), the program is broadening its reach through various offerings.  
Energy Navigators has partnered with VEEP to offer educational

workshops around the county, focusing on topics like home heat transfer and home energy conservation. Those workshops will wrap up later this month with events in Bridport on July 15 and Middlebury on July 16. More information on those events can be found on the Energy Navigators website.  
The team is looking to offer similar workshops in the future.  
“We’re hoping to set up a series of these workshops, maybe one a month for the next year in different locations,” Bryant said, noting the team is looking to partner with Efficiency Vermont and incorporate the statewide energy efficiency utility into such workshops.  
Those involved in the program have also been working to train a cohort of seven volunteer Energy Navigators, who will eventually head out into their communities to help residents explore energy upgrades. Training volunteers will also allow community members to talk with someone they know when exploring clean energy projects,

according to Bryant.  
“We’re sitting down at people’s kitchen tables and talking to them about one of the biggest investments in their life, and it can be helpful to have someone that’s a trusted, local expert across from the table,” Bryant said. “It’s someone maybe in your community or an adjacent community, and I think that’s really key to some of the communication that happens.”  
Volunteers are already assisting with navigations, Bryant said, and some are expected to start leading navigations by the end of the summer. Those volunteers are from towns across the county, including Goshen, Vergennes and Middlebury.  
“We don’t have a person from every town yet, but we’re hoping to keep expanding this,” Bryant said.  
The program also plans to expand its operations beyond Addison County. Energy Navigators will soon begin working in Brandon, with support from a grant the town received through the Vermont Department of Public Service.

Another one of those grants will allow the program to expand its service in Middlebury.  
“Both of those towns have hired CEAC to run our Energy Navigator program in their towns really specifically, and they have targets to meet for the grant,” Bryant explained.  
Bryant noted Energy Navigators will continue its work in other parts of the county while those newer initiatives are underway. Looking ahead, Bryant said she’s excited about how the program might build on its work over the past year.  
“Now we’re in a position that’s like, ‘Can we really drive the demand for home energy coaching and help more people,’” she said. “I think that’s the exciting part, is that now that we have developed tools and partnerships and an understanding of how to deliver this, now we just have to drive demand, so that we can sit down with people and see ‘How can we help your specific situation and how you live in your house?’”

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WILL CLARK GETS off to a flying start on the way to victory for the Vergennes Champs in the boys' 15-18 50-yard backstroke race in the city pool on Tuesday.

Independent photo/Steve James



VERGENNES CHAMP SWIMMER Roxanne Perry competes in the 13-14 girls' 50-yard butterfly race in the Vergennes city pool on Tuesday.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Champs open season with a win and a loss in league meets

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Champs opened their season by splitting two Champlain Valley Swim League meets, winning at Winooski, 263-203, on June 26, before losing in their home pool to defending CVSL and Vermont Summer Swim League champion Burlington Tennis Club on Tuesday, 378-115.

Next week the Champs will host the St. Albans Sharks on Tuesday at 6 p.m., and on Thursday they will visit Essex at 6 p.m.

### Champs top Waves

Against the Winooski Waves, the Champs won 10 of 17 contested relays, while Savannah Wallace, Riker Cooley, Jordan Hutchins and Will Clark won three races apiece.

Brantley Cooke and Vivian Romond took two firsts, and Rhett Cooke, Mabelle Fidalgo, Ella Bearor, Lauren Husk, Scarlet Giroux and Adrienne Smits each prevailed once.

Champ swimmers scoring points with top-three finishes in individual races were:

### BUTTERFLY

- U-8 boys: 2. Ezra Norwood.

- U-10 girls: 1. Savannah Wallace, 16.50; 3. Mabelle Fidalgo.
- U-10 boys: 1. Riker Cooley, 17.66; 2. Rhett Cooke.
- U-12 girls: 1. Vivian Romond, 37.9; 3. Scarlett Giroux.
- U-12 boys: 1. Brantley Cooke, 41.35.
- U-14 girls: 1. Jordan Hutchins, 31.12; 2. Lauren Husk.

- U-14 boys: 2. Connor Husk.
- U-18 girls: 1. Ella Bearor, 30.62; 2. Adrienne Smits.
- U-18 boys: 2. Noah Smits; 3. Khanlen Ouimette.
- BACKSTROKE
- U-8 girls: 3. Juliet Kennedy.
- U-8 boys: 2. E. Norwood; 3. Declan Husk.
- U-10 girls: 1. M. Fidalgo, 19.74; 2. Margaret Smits.

- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooke, 21.47; 3. Evan Angier.
- U-12 girls: 2. V. Romond; 3. Sophee Shepard.
- U-12 boys: 1. B. Cooke, 41.07; 2. Keegan Cooley.
- U-14 girls: 1. L. Husk, 35.97.
- U-14 boys: 3. C. Husk.
- U-18 girls: 3. Ellie Brooks.
- U-18 boys: 1. Will Clark, 42.9;

(See Champs, Page 2B)

## Middlebury Marlins swim past Essex

By BEE ECKELS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Marlins Swim Team on July 1 topped visiting Essex, 333-121, in the team's second meet of the Champlain Valley Swim League season.

The Marlins are scheduled to travel up to Burlington to race the defending league and state champion Burlington Tennis Club on Tuesday, July 8, and will host the Winooski Waves on Thursday, July 10.

In a meet full of DQs, Essex held a 17-15 edge in relay races, but the Marlins ultimately outperformed their visitors in the individual events.

Six Marlins claimed two individual wins apiece: Halsey Brooks, Cecily O'Leary, Cassandra Bellmann, Mitzi Poduschnick, Elise Almstrand and Cassidy Scott.

Three Marlins claimed three individual wins apiece: Vela Remaniak, Cooper Butler and Felix Poduschnick.

Two more touched the final wall

four times: Constantin Bellmann and Jorgen Pirrung, each scoring a total of 20 points.

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

### BUTTERFLY

- U-8 girls: 1. Tilly Hopkinson, 38.43.
- U-10 girls: 1. Vela Remaniak, 17.91; 3. Rose Phinney.
- U-10 boys: 1. Patrick Martin, 22.45; 2. Lincoln Hunt.
- U-12 girls: 1. Cecily O'Leary, 42.78; 2. Cassandra Bellmann.
- U-12 boys: 1. Felix Poduschnick, 33.57.
- U-14 girls: 2. Mitzi Poduschnick; 3. Elise Almstrand.
- U-14 boys: 1. Constantin Bellmann, 33.14; 3. George Martin.
- U-18 girls: 1. Cassidy Scott, 29.45; 2. Abigail Hamilton.
- U-18 boys: 1. Jorgen Pirrung, 31.15.
- BACKSTROKE
- U-8 girls: 1. Ellie Butler, 26.56; 2. T. Hopkinson.
- U-8 boys: 3. Hugh Spafford.

- U-10 girls: 1. Natalie Butler, 22.78; 3. Ada Simpson.
- U-10 boys: 1. Cooper Butler, 20.85; 2. L. Hunt; 3. Aldon Rafferty.
- U-12 girls: 1. Bianca Spafford, 43.78; 2. Willow Hunt.
- U-12 boys: 1. Ben Phinney, 39.28; 2. Nolan Almstrand; 3. Jack Simpson.
- U-14 girls: 2. E. Almstrand; 3. Aliza Hurlburt.
- U-14 boys: 1. Co. Bellmann, 38.55.
- U-18 girls: 1. Sadie Chance, 34.13; 2. C. Scott; 3. A. Hamilton.
- U-18 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 38.15.
- BREASTSTROKE
- U-8 girls: 1. Halsey Brooks, 33.28; 3. T. Hopkinson.
- U-10 girls: 1. V. Remaniak, 22.20; 2. R. Phinney; 3. Harper Nelson.
- U-10 boys: 1. C. Butler, 23.52; 2. P. Martin.
- U-12 girls: 1. Ca. Bellmann, 44.03; 2. B. Spafford.
- U-12 boys: 1. F. Poduschnick, 39.26; 2. B. Phinney.

(See Marlins, Page 2B)



TIGER JUNIOR BOYS' lacrosse attacker Logan McNulty, seen here making a move against Mount Mansfield in a home game, was named a USA Lacrosse All-American as well as a First-Team Division I All Star.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

## Local boys receive lax honors

Middlebury and MAV players garner postseason recognition

ADDISON COUNTY — A number of athletes on the Middlebury Union and Mount Abraham/Vergennes high school boys' lacrosse teams earned postseason recognition from both Division I and the Metro Conference in the case of the Tigers and Division III and the Mountain League in the case of the Eagles.

Both teams reached semifinals before bowing out of postseason play, the Tigers after earning the top seed in D-I.

Topping the list was Tiger junior attacker Logan McNulty, who was also named a USA Lacrosse All American and also scored his 100th career goal this season.

McNulty was also named a First-Team Division I and Metro Conference attacker.

Tiger senior faceoff specialist Callan Boulanger was named a First-Team D-I and Metro Conference player, and was named to the Vermont Twin State team.

Tiger junior defender Cooke Riney was named a First Team Metro All-Star and a Second Team D-I All-Star.

Earning Second Team Metro Conference recognition were Tiger junior defender Marshall Eddy and sophomore goalie Levi Nuceder.

Senior defender George Devlin was named to the Vermont Twin State team.

### MAV STARS

Three Eagles earned First Team Division III recognition: senior long-stick middle Spencer Gebo, junior defender Cooper Cook and sophomore short-stick defensive midfielder Levi Smith.

Earning Second Team D-III recognition were sophomore attacker Asa Pratt, sophomore midfielder Lincoln Painter, and faceoff specialist Baxter Montgomery.

Receiving D-III Honorable Mention were senior attacker Chase Atkins, freshman long-stick middle Mazin Sweptson, and senior short-stick defensive midfielder Jake Prouty.

The Mountain League consists of both D-II and D-III teams.

MAV's First-Team Mountain League stars were Cook and Gebo, and Smith made the second team.

Pratt, Painter, Montgomery and Prouty earned honorable mention.

MUHS SOPHOMORE LACROSSE goalie Levi Nuceder celebrates scoring a goal in one of his team's home games this spring. Nuceder was named a Second Team Metro Conference All Star.

Independent file photo/Steve James

## County Legion baseball splits four

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison County American Legion baseball team split four recent games and stood in third place in Vermont's Northern Division with a 4-2 record. That was heading into a Wednesday home game with second-place St. Johnsbury.

AC defeated visiting Montpelier on June 26, 2-1; dropped a doubleheader at Essex on June 28, 5-4 and 6-4; and rallied for a win at Franklin County on Sunday, 9-6.

As of Wednesday morning, the Northern Division standings were 1. Essex, 6-2; 2. St. J., 4-1; 3. AC, 4-2; 4. South Burlington, 2-3; 5. Montpelier, 4-5; 5. Franklin County, 3-5; and 7. Champlain Valley, 1-4.

Next up for AC after St. J. is a Thursday home game with Champlain Valley at 5:30 p.m., a doubleheader at South Burlington on Sunday, a Tuesday away game at St. Johnsbury, and a 5:30 p.m. home game on Thursday, July 10, vs. Montpelier. AC plays its home games at Middlebury College's field on South Street.

### AC, 2-1, VS. MONTEPELIER

On June 26 AC eked out its 2-1 win over host Montpelier by pushing across the winning run in

the top of the 10th inning. The run came home when the Montpelier shortstop bobbled a ground ball hit by Clark Crary after AC loaded the bases on consecutive singles by Eyon Tembreull, Tucker Wright and Brody Barnard.

AC took the lead in the first inning when Aricin Griffin walked, stole second and scored when the Montpelier right fielder dropped a fly ball.

Barnard started and pitched six-plus scoreless innings, but left the mound in favor of Tembreull after surrendering a hit in the seventh. Montpelier then tied the game on a two-out RBI double to force extra innings. But Tembreull shut down the home team the rest of the way, allowing only a 10th-inning walk as AC came away with the victory.

### ESSEX SWEEPS

On Saturday, June 28, host Essex swept a pair of close games from AC, 5-4 and 6-4.

In the opener, defensive miscues hurt, as Tyler Kimball pitched well and most, if not all, of the Essex runs were unearned. Kimball allowed only five hits in seven innings.

AC broke a 2-2 tie with a pair of runs in the fifth inning, but Essex scored three in the bottom of the

inning to go up, 5-4, and hung on from there.

For AC, Cole Warren had two hits; Tembreull and Carter Paquette each had a hit, a run and an RBI; Barnard had an RBI; and Griffin scored the tying run in the fifth.

In game two, Paquette gave AC the first-inning lead with a two-run triple. AC added single runs in later innings on walks and hit batters. Ryan Brouillard started and pitched creditably, but surrendered a tie-breaking two-run homer late in the game.

### AC VS. FC

On Sunday, AC rallied from a 5-0 deficit to defeat host Franklin County, 9-6. After cutting Franklin's lead to 5-2, AC went on top for good with a six-run sixth inning keyed by Warren's two-run single.

Tembreull started for AC and went the distance, allowing 13 hits but getting help from the AC defense, which turned two double plays behind him. Meanwhile, AC reached FC starter Gavin Nichols for nine runs, seven earned, over 6.2 innings. Nichols also walked five.

Warren finished with three RBI and two hits, Brouillard poked three hits, and Gabe Velez had a pair.



# Champs

(Continued from Page 1B)

2. K. Ouimette.  
BREASTSTROKE

- U-8 boys: 2. D. Husk
- U-10 girls: 1. S. Wallace, 20.38.
- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 22.53;

2. E. Angier.

- U-12 girls: 1. S. Giroux, 42.24;

2. Gretchen Hill.

- U-12 boys: 2. Martin Gee; 3. K. Cooley.
- U-14 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 37.84; 2. Cecilia Neffinger.
- U-18 girls: 2. Ellie Eckels; 3. A. Smits.
- U-18 boys: 1. W. Clark, 29.40.

FREESTYLE

- U-8 girls: 3. J. Kennedy.
- U-8 boys: 2. D. Husk.
- U-10 girls: 1. S. Wallace, 15.69;

2. M. Fidalgo.

- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 15.43;

3. R. Cooke.

- U-12 girls: 2. V. Romond; 3. G. Hill.
- U-12 boys: 1. B. Cooke, 34.78;

2. K. Cooley.

- U-14 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 30.19; 2. L. Husk.
- U-14 boys: 3. C. Husk.
- U-18 girls: 1. A Smits, 27.47;

3. E. Bearor.

- U-18 boys: 1. W. Clark, 22.35; 3. K. Ouimette.

**BTC MEET**

On Tuesday, Burlington Tennis Club appeared ready to defend its titles and won 14 of 16 relays. A bright spot for the Champs in the relays was the 9-and-10-year-old team of Mabelle Fidalgo, Savannah Wallace, Mary McGuire and Zoey Kress, which won both the medley and freestyle relays.

Individually, the Champs won six races, three by Zoey Kress, two by Will Clark and one by Riker Cooley. They and other Champs scoring points with top-three finishes were as follows:

**BUTTERFLY**

- U-8 boys: 3. Ezra Norwood.
- U-10 girls: 1. Kress, 19.91; 3. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 2. R. Cooley.
- U-12 girls: 3. Vivian Romond.
- U-12 boys: 3. Enli Parrillo.
- U-14 girls: 3. Jordan Hutchins.
- U-14 boys: 2. Connor Husk.
- U-18 girls: 2. Ella Bearor.
- U-18 boys: 3. Noah Smits.

**BACKSTROKE**

- U-8 girls: 3. Juliet Kennedy.
- U-8 boys: 3. Norwood.
- U-10 girls: 1. Kress, 16.98.
- U-10 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 19.41.
- U-12 girls: 2. V. Romond.
- U-12 boys: 3. Camron Curtis.
- U-14 girls: 3. Annika Smits.
- U-14 boys: 2. C. Husk.
- U-18 girls: 3. Ellie Brooks.
- U-18 boys: 1. Clark, 26.47.

**BREASTSTROKE**

- U-10 girls: 3. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 2. R. Cooley; 3. Evan Angier.
- U-12 girls: 2. Scarlet Giroux.
- U-12 boys: 3. Parrillo.
- U-14 girls: 2. Hutchins; 2. Cecilia Neffinger.
- U-14 boys: 2. Skyler James.
- U-18 girls: 2. Ellie Eckels.
- U-18 boys: 2. Clark.

**FREESTYLE**

- U-8 girls: 3. Anya Wolfe.
- U-8 boys: 3. Declan Husk.
- U-10 girls: 2. Wallace.
- U-10 boys: 2. Cooley.
- U-12 girls: 3. Gretchen Hill.
- U-12 boys: 3. Parrillo.
- U-14 girls: 3. Annika Smits.
- U-14 boys: 2. C. Husk.
- U-18 girls: 2. Adrienne Smits; 3. Bearor.
- U-18 boys: 1. Clark, 21.24.



CHAMP ZOEY KRESS swims to victory in the girls’ age 9-10 25-yard backstroke race in the Vergennes city pool on Tuesday.

Independent photo/Steve James



VERGENNES SWIMMER JORDAN Hutchins works to a third-place finish in the girls’ 13-14 50-yard butterfly race in the Vergennes city pool on Tuesday.

Independent photo/Steve James

# Foursomes win at Ralph Myhre

MIDDLEBURY — In Thursday Men’s League play at Ralph Myhre Golf Course on June 26 the foursome of Jim Johnston, John Davis, Jim Dunn and Ken Hypes came away with first place. Johnston also shot the day’s best low net score with a 68.

Taking second was the team of Robert Cameron, Steve Maier, Bill Brown and Vince Paradis. Third place went to the quartet of Vaughn Gooding, Tom Maxwell, Matthew Biette and Marsdin Van Order.

In the Friday Mixer the foursome

of Dale White, Jill Jesso White, Alex Kelly and Garvi Jesso-White prevailed.

Ben Cadoret, Karen Holbrook, Jamie Coburn and Jamie Cram teamed up for second place, and the quartet of Brian Dodds, Cindy Dodds, Bryon Emilo and Julia Emilo claimed third place.

On June 24 at a VSWG State Day at Orleans Country Club, Ralph Myhre member Susan Rand finished eighth in net score in the top flight.



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# Marlins

(Continued from Page 2B)

- U-14 girls: 1. M. Poduschnick, 40.32; 2. Eleanor O’Leary.
- U-10 boys: 1. Co. Bellmann, 37.84.
- U-18 girls: 1. Selma Citarella, 34.31; 2. S. Chance.
- U-18 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 37.13.

**FREESTYLE**

- U-8 girls: 1. H. Brooks, 22.52;

2. Alula Remaniak.

- U-8 boys: 1. Vaden Brooks, 23.59; 3. H. Spafford.
- U-10 girls: 1. V. Remaniak, 15.86; 3. R. Phinney.
- U-10 boys: 1. C. Butler, 17.65; 2. L. Hunt; 3. P. Martin.
- U-12 girls: 1. C. O’Leary, 35.62; 2. B. Spafford; 3. W. Hunt.
- U-12 boys: 1. F. Poduschnick, 29.95; 2. B. Phinney; 3. N. Almstrand.
- U-14 girls: 2. E. Almstrand; 3. M. Poduschnick.
- U-14 boys: 3. Co. Bellmann.
- U-18 girls: 1. C. Scott, 27.21; 2. A. Hamilton; 3. S. Citarella.
- U-18 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 27.77.

# Scarborough takes main event at Devil’s Bowl

WEST HAVEN — Brandon’s Joey Scarborough claimed victory in Saturday’s main event at Devil’s Bowl Speedway, the Firecracker 44 for the headline Sunoco Sportsman Modifieds Division.

In other races, Bridport’s Gage Provencher, Middlebury’s Eric Friend and Orwell’s Tim LaDuc also picked up victories.

In the Firecracker 44, Scarborough charged from the 16th starting position to pick up his third win of the season and the \$2,000 winner’s purse. Polesitter Josh LeClaire led until lap 26 of the 44-lap race, when a caution flag flew. Bradford’s Kevin Chafee took the lead after the restart and threatened to pull away, but a pileup in turn four on lap 35 took out several contenders and reshuffled the deck.

Soon after the restart, Scarborough wrestled the top spot away from Chafee and cruised to a win that secured his perch atop the series point standings. New York driver Derrick McGrew Jr. took second, and Chafee finished third. Brandon’s Vince Quenneville and Poultney’s Dave Camara rounded out the top five, and Orwell’s Laduc was ninth.

In the 25-lap O’Reilly Auto Parts Limited Sportsman feature, New Hampshire driver Kamden Duffy took advantage of a late-race melee to capture his second win in the past three weeks. With three laps remaining the caution flag flew. On the restart, the field bunched up coming out of turn two, leading to a multi-car pile-up on the backstretch that ended two leaders’ chances and led to another restart.

Then Duffey and Hydesville’s William Duprey dueled for the lead and finished 1-2 in that order. Whiting’s Logan Denis was fifth, New Haven’s Alex Layn was seventh, and Leicester’s Derrick Counter took 10th.

New York’s Raelin Dunham rolled to her first win of the season in the 20-lap Hoosier Tire Novice Sportsman Feature. Dunham passed second-place finisher Winston Forbes of Brandon on lap 13 and cruised from there. Matthew Cram of Leicester was fifth and Matt Little was seventh in the 16-car races.

Defending series champion Gage Provencher took control early and cruised to the win in the 20-lap Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint feature. Orwell’s Raymond Hanson was third and Brandon’s Quinn Quenneville ran fourth.

Middlebury’s Friend returned to victory lane in the 15-lap 9th State Cannabis Crown Vic feature.

It was Friend’s third win of the season at the track and fifth overall. Monkton’s Elisabeth Dupont battled Friend before settling for second. North Ferrisburgh’s Norm Morrill finished fourth.

The Fisher Auto Parts Mini Stocks ran two 15-lap features with a pair of first-time winners. New York Driver Jeremy Brownell Jr. prevailed in the first feature, in which Whiting’s Bob Wood was sixth.

New York’s Tyler Bell claimed the second Mini Stock feature, outdueling Kaleb Shepard of Vergennes, who led much of the race and settled for second.

Orwell’s Laduc started 23rd in the 50-lap Enduro, but eased to the front in the early stages and was never challenged. Ripton’s Chandler Sumner finished ninth.

Courtesy of the McGee Automotive Family, Saturday’s attendees were also treated to a fireworks display and a Thomas Rhett concert giveaway.

This Saturday at Devil’s Bowl with a 7 p.m. start, the track offers its “Mid-season Championships,” with double features in all divisions and driver autographs at intermission. The 358 Modifieds will make their second appearance of the season.

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## Sixteen tapped for baseball accolades

**ADDISON COUNTY** — Sixteen members of the Mount Abraham, Vergennes, Middlebury and Otter Valley high school baseball teams received postseason recognition from the coaches of either the Lake Division or the Southern Valley League's B Division.

Receiving the highest honor was Mount Abe sophomore third baseman/pitcher Abe Ready, who was named the Lake Division Co-Player of the Year along with Gavin Nichols from the league and Division II champion Missisquoi team.

Four of Ready's Eagle teammates were named Lake First Team All Stars: junior second baseman/pitcher Brody Barnard, sophomore first baseman Cam Castillo, sophomore catcher Clark Crary and senior outfielder/pitcher/first baseman Aricin Griffin.

Three Commodores also made the Lake First Team: junior outfielder/infielder/catcher/pitcher Aiden Fuller, senior infielder/catcher/pitcher Reese Paquette and senior outfielder/infielder/pitcher Gabe Scribner.

Two Tigers joined them on the Lake First team: Pitcher/infielder Tucker Morter and center fielder Alex Sperry.

Two Otter juniors were named to the Southern Valley League B Division First Team: Jackson Howe and Jacob Worrell.

Earning honorable mention from the Lake Division were two Eagles: junior pitcher/shortstop Evan Corrigan and sophomore pitcher/outfielder Stephan Johnson.

Receiving Southern Valley League B Division Honorable Mention from Otter Valley were Max Potter and Nolan Tripp.



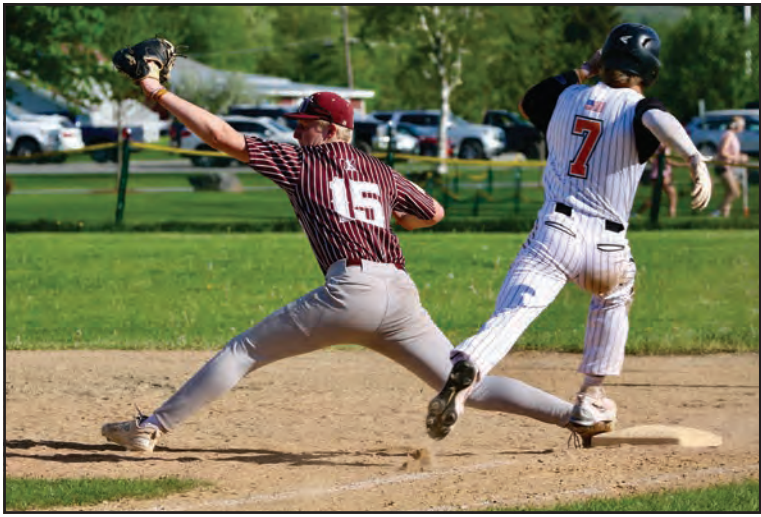
**TIGER SENIOR ALL-STAR Tucker Morter takes a cut during an MUHS home game this spring.**

Independent file photo/Steve James



**MOUNT ABE SOPHOMORE Abe Ready, named the Lake Division Co-Player of the Year, prepares to tag at third base during a home playoff game.**

Independent file photo/Steve James



**SOPHOMORE EAGLE ALL-STAR Cam Castillo stretches for a throw that just nips a fellow Lake Division All-Star, Tiger senior All-Star Alex Sperry, at first base in a game played at Mount Abe this spring.**

Independent file photo/Steve James

## Three youths nabbed for disorderly conduct

**VERGENNES** — Vergennes police on June 28 cited three juveniles and issued them court diversion paperwork for disorderly conduct by phone with intent to harass another Vergennes Union Middle and High School student.

Police allege the students used Chat GPT (an artificial intelligence program) to write a fake letter from the school about the death of one of their classmates, and that one of the juveniles posted the letter to a social media platform.

In other actions between June 23 and 29, Vergennes police conducted 14 traffic stops, four cruiser patrols, one foot patrol and four VIN inspections; responded to a false alarm; processed eight fingerprint

### Vergennes Police Log

requests; and also:

On June 23:

- Helped to remove a large snapping turtle from the intersection of Main and South Water streets.
- Took a report of a purse stolen from the East Street area that was later reported to just have been misplaced.
- Directed traffic around a vehicle that had stopped off the roadway on West Main Street until it could be removed safely.
- Checked the welfare of a

Walker Avenue resident, who was found to be OK.

On June 24:

- Responded along with Vermont State Police to a vehicle fire in the Aubuchon Hardware plaza. Police said the Vergennes Fire Department had already extinguished the fire, which badly damaged the front end of the vehicle. Police helped the driver get a ride to the airport.
- Responded to Shaw's Supermarket to deal with a parking complaint. The offending vehicle was gone on arrival.
- Took a report that a job trailer parked on Green Street had been struck by another vehicle.
- Took a report of a burglary at a Creek View Apartment on Hillside

Drive; police said the investigation remains open.

On June 25:

- Along with EMTs from the Vergennes and Middlebury squads and Vergennes firefighters, helped an individual who had fallen out of a wheelchair and was lying on the side of Main Street.
- Officers responded to a neighbor dispute at Hillside Acres.
- Were told cash was stolen from the city pool during the early morning hours, probably around 4:30 a.m. Police said an investigation is ongoing, and

## Woman cited for DUI

**MIDDLEBURY** — Middlebury police cited Victoria Tellier, 33, of Vergennes for driving under the influence, three counts of reckless endangerment and two counts of cruelty to a child. The charges followed a traffic stop near the intersection of Court Street and Mary Hogan Drive at around 10 p.m. on Sunday, June 29. Police said they measured Tellier's blood-alcohol content at 0.092%; the legal limit for driving is 0.08.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Took into protective custody a drunken man who was found sleeping on a Seymour Street resident's lawn on June 23. Police said the man was taken to Rutland to receive detox services.
- On June 23 helped locate, on behalf of a local family, a Middlebury resident who hadn't returned on a date they had specified.
- Conducted foot patrols downtown on June 23 and 26.
- Arrested Brian Dodds, 38, of Middlebury for two counts of violating his conditions of release and violation of an extreme risk protection order, following a traffic stop on Mill Street on June 24.
- Responded to a report of suspicious activity at an unoccupied home on Halladay Road on June 24.
- Responded to a report of someone smashing a South Pleasant Street resident's window on June 24.
- Investigated a noise disturbance off Burnham Drive in East Middlebury on June 25.
- Responded to Porter Hospital on June 25 to help deal with an out-of-control patient.
- Responded to a report of a deer having been hit by a vehicle during the evening of June 25.
- Received a report of a tip jar being stolen from a Main Street business on June 25.
- Gave a courtesy ride to an elderly man on June 25.
- Forwarded to the local dog warden an animal-related complaint

### Middlebury Police Log

on the Morningside Drive area on June 25.

- Were informed of the theft of a bike from the Mill Street area on June 25.
- Tried to find a runaway juvenile in the Bakery Lane area on June 26.
- Responded to a two-car crash with injuries on Route 7 South on June 26.
- Helped mental health counselors find a missing client on June 27.
- Investigated a report of a pickup truck driver allegedly trying to drive a motorist off Quarry Road on June 27.
- Helped a Route 7 South resident with an unwanted person who had refused to leave their apartment on June 27.
- Responded to a juvenile problem at Mary Hogan Elementary School on June 27.
- Served a no-trespass notice to a man at a North Pleasant Street business on June 27.
- Responded to a report of an injured bear cub on Ossie Road on June 27.
- Gave a courtesy ride to a person who needed to get to the Marriott Hotel on June 27.
- Responded to a noise complaint in the Oak Drive area on June 28.
- Investigated a vehicle crash, with minor injuries, on Court Street on June 28.
- Returned a lost key and bank card to its owner on June 28.
- Responded to a report of a disorderly man at Hannaford supermarket on June 29.
- Checked on the welfare of a man who was sleeping in his vehicle parked off Creek Road on June 29.
- Conducted a police dog demonstration and cruiser display for children at the Mary Johnson Children's Center on June 30.

anyone with information is asked to contact them at 802-877-2201.

Officers investigated an animal complaint on Second Street.

On June 26:

- Handled a two-car crash on West Main Street.
- Contacted the owner of a car blocking a driveway on North Street; the owner said it would be moved.
- Conducted a driving under the influence of drugs assessment for state police in Ferrisburgh.
- On June 27:
  - Following traffic violations

allegedly observed on Basin Harbor Road in Ferrisburgh, cited Shantell M. Billings, 32, of Burlington for DUI-drug criminal refusal, excessive speed, gross negligent operation, providing false information and attempting to elude. Police said more charges could be filed pending further investigation.

Directed traffic on Main Street around a disabled dump truck at the intersection of South Water and Main streets.

Helped a juvenile who was bitten by a dog on West Main Street.

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# Battle of Hubbardton reenactment set July 12

HUBBARDTON — The Revolutionary War Battle of Hubbardton will be commemorated with a full-scale living history weekend on July 12 and 13, at the Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site in Hubbardton. The actual battle took place July 7, 1777, and is the only Revolutionary War battle to be fought entirely on what would become Vermont soil.

Scores of reenactors from around the northeast set up camps to present this history pageant, the largest Revolutionary War living history weekend in northern New England. The main military events will be held (weather-permitting) on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

The weekend’s highlight is Sunday morning’s tribute to the battle. Plan to arrive early to secure your spot near the viewing rope line. Troops begin to form around 7:30 a.m. and the battle begins at 8 a.m. You’ll hear muskets firing in the distance, just before the soldiers emerge over

Monument Hill.

In addition to watching the action on the battlefield, guests can walk through the camps and visit with reenactors. There will be special demonstrations of camp life, stations on colonial cooking and gunsmithing, and presentations by reenactors and historians. There will also be activities for children, a colonial shopping experience, and food available.

Revolutionary Weekend at Hubbardton Battlefield runs Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$1 for ages 6 to 14, and under 6 get in for free.

This annual event is the result of collaboration by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, reenactor groups, and the Hubbardton Historical Society with support from other local organizations and businesses. Call 802-273-2282 for Revolutionary Weekend schedule details.

## ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

The following local students were named to the dean’s list at Saint Michael’s College for the Spring 2025 semester. **Jacob Thomsen** of Bristol, **G Troumbley** of Hancock, **Thomas Bemis** of New Haven,

**Phoebe Hussey** of Ripton and **Raia Bryant** of Vergennes. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the list for that semester.

46th Annual Middlebury Festival on-the-Green July 13-19 2025

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NOON - New Orleans Jazz and Swing presented by the Middlebury Community Music Center faculty





**7:00 Ordinary Elephant**  
Louisiana duo offering rich storytelling & original songs with banjo, guitar & mandolin



**8:30 Honey & Soul**  
VT's own indie/folk/soul songwriting band with three-part harmony.

NOON - No Strings Marionettes present "The Stinky Cheese Man"



**7:00 Ali McGuirk**  
A rocking guitarist and her Bay State band perform a double set.



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Reader Comments

Here's what one reader has to say about us!

A subscriber from Bristol writes:

"I value your editorials and the letters from our fellow citizens. You have an informed readership."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

# community calendar

July 3

THURSDAY

**Find Waldo in Middlebury.** All of July through Saturday, Aug. 2, downtown Middlebury. Pick up a stamp-card at Vermont Book Shop (or print one from their website) and set out to find Waldo in Middlebury businesses this July. This fun, family-oriented event runs all month and will culminate in a celebration — with prizes — under the tent at the Henry Sheldon Museum on Saturday, Aug. 2, at 11:30 a.m.

**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 2 p.m.

**Independence Eve celebration and Fireworks in Bristol.** Thursday, July 3, 6-9 p.m. Bristol Rec Park, Airport Dr. A runner up to July 4th festivities with music by DJ Jam Man, food and craft vendors, games and raffle tickets, with fireworks at dusk.



**Sweet treats of summer**  
SALISBURY WILL HOLD its annual Ice Cream Social at the Salisbury Meeting House on Friday, July 4. Make it part of your July 4 celebrations.  
Photo courtesy of Laurie Cox

July 4

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 7:30 a.m., followed by Bristol's annual outhouse races at 9 a.m. and parade at 10:30 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 St. Rain or shine, enjoy 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.

July 5

SATURDAY

**Historic fundraiser lawn sale in Cornwall.** Saturday, July 5, 9 a.m. intersection Routes 30 and 74. Come and visit our 100-year-old DAR chapter house. Check out antiques, collectibles. Many treasures to be sold. Sale to benefit the restoration of the Samson Memorial Building.

**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 more at ExperienceMiddlebury.com/middle-markets.

**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 tickets required.

**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.

July 9

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 join the band. More information at 802-281-2315.

July 10

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.

July 11

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.

July 12

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.

**Battle of Hubbardton Revolutionary War Encampment in Hubbardton.** Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, Monument Hill Rd. This living history weekend encampment honors the 248th anniversary of the July 7, 1777, Revolutionary War battle fought here. Scores of reenactors portray the American, British and German soldiers. Tactical military and other special demonstrations, camp life activities, guided tours and talks. Admission \$8 adults/\$1 children age 6 – 14/under 6 free.

**Art & Chocolate in Salisbury.** Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Salisbury Meeting House, 853 Maple St. Come for art and craft vendors and lots of chocolate treats. A fundraiser for the Salisbury Free Library.

**Book sale in Middlebury.** Saturday, July 12, 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Middlebury United Methodist Church, 43 N. Pleasant St. Held by The Friends of Ilsley Library. We have summer reading for the whole family at great prices and are located just a hop, skip and a jump from your Saturday errands in town. Proceeds fund Ilsley Library programs for all ages as well as staff development.

**Natural ink art in Shoreham.** Saturday, July 12, 2-3 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 5 and up.

**Takeout Ham and Summer Salad Supper in Vergennes.** Saturday, July 12, Vergennes United Methodist Church, 129 Main St. MENU: Cold Ham, potato salad, broccoli salad, roll and dessert. Order by 7 p.m., Thursday, July 10. Cost: \$12. Call 802-877-3150 to preorder.

**Family Field Trip Day in Ferrisburgh.** Sunday, July 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Activities will focus on archaeology and the Revolutionary War and will include a scavenger hunt in one of our exhibit buildings, interpretation aboard our replica Revolutionary War gunboat, an activity to learn about how boats were built during the 18th century and a hands-on activity to learn about what archaeologists do. All family members welcome. Free. Registration required at [www.cognitofirms.com/lakechamplainmaritimemuseum/2025familyfieldtripdayregistration](http://www.cognitofirms.com/lakechamplainmaritimemuseum/2025familyfieldtripdayregistration).

**“An Uncommon Woman: The Life of Lydia Hamilton Smith” in Ferrisburgh.** Sunday, July 13, from 1-3 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Mark Kelley will discuss Lydia Hamilton Smith, a mixed-race businesswoman in Lancaster, Pa., who, for 25 years, engaged in a committed interracial relationship with abolitionist congressman Thaddeus Stevens. Together, they worked to secure the rights of African Americans, aided freedom seekers on their journeys north, managed two households, and established a real-estate business.

July 14

MONDAY

**Metal detecting with Phil Wagner in Shoreham.** Monday, July 14, 9-10 a.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 5 and up.

**The Art of Historical Writing in Shoreham.** Monday, July 14, 10-11 a.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 7 and up.

**Needle-Felted chick in Shoreham.** Monday, July 14, 6-8 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join local fiber artist and designer Wendy-Ann Durkee to create a cute, needle-felted chick. This workshop by registration only at [plattlib.org/programs-and-events](http://plattlib.org/programs-and-events). Cost \$20.

**Vergennes City Band concert in Vergennes.** Monday, July 14, 7 p.m., City Green. A staple of Vergennes summer. Relax on the green and listen to live band music.

July 16

WEDNESDAY

**Gnome storytime/gnome home slate painting with Ms. Abby and Ms. Kim in Shoreham.** Wednesday, July 16, 3-4 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 5 and up.

**Cosplay workshop with Rachael Peden in Shoreham.** Wednesday, July 16, 5-7 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 9 and up.

**Addison Branch of the Vermont Railroad presentation in Shoreham.** Wednesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m., Old Stone School House, Route 22A. Shoreham Historical Society hosts Ed Barnard, who will speak on this subject and share his thoughts on the creation of a walking trail along this historic route.

**Bristol Town Band in Bristol.** Wednesday, July 16, 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.

July 17

THURSDAY

**Little Cloud hand painting in Shoreham.** Thursday, July 17, 10 a.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Ages 0-5 and their parents or caregivers.

July 18

FRIDAY

**The Summer Party in Ferrisburgh.** Friday, July 18, 5-8 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. An annual celebration, The Summer Party is a chance for our community, neighbors, friends, volunteers, partners and beyond to come together for one special evening to celebrate our unique Museum and raise a glass to our 2025 season. Delicious food and drink, live music and more. Tickets \$50 include one meal and one raffle ticket. More info at [lcmm.org](http://lcmm.org).

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR

CALENDAR ONLINE

[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

July 6

SUNDAY

**Midd Summer Market in 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 7

MONDAY

**Egg tempera workshop in 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](http://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 up.

**Vergennes City Band concert in Vergennes.** Monday, July 7, 7 p.m., City Green. A staple of Vergennes summer. Relax on the green and listen to live band music.

July 13

SUNDAY

**Battle of Hubbardton Revolutionary War Encampment in Hubbardton.** Sunday, July 13, 7:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, Monument Hill Rd. See July 12 listing.





### Girls in charge

ELEVEN DELEGATES FROM Addison County high schools attended the 81st American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State, which was held at Vermont State University at Randolph during the last full week in June. Among the highlights was the fact that Vergennes Union High School's Quincy Sabick won the race for governor, and Middlebury Union High School delegates Esra Anzali and Alixis Williams, along with Amelia Giroux of VUHS, tried a moot court case at the Vermont State Supreme Court. They were accompanied by two staff members from Addison County, Izzy Gogarty of Middlebury and Diana Herasim, a 2024 MUHS grad. Shown at Girls State are, front row, from left, Harper Young from Mount Abraham Union High School, Allegra De Boer (VUHS), Libby Ringer (VUHS), Maris LaPerle (Mt. Abe), Gogarty, Alixis Williams (MUHS) and Herasim; and, back row, from left, Paige Guileabult (Mt. Abe), Scout Jacobson (VUHS), Amelia Giroux (VUHS), Esra Anzali (MUHS), Quincy Sabick (VUHS) and Lou Guilmette (Mt. Abe).

### Vermont Community Immigration History grants are announced

The Vermont Historical Society (VHS) is partnering with the Lost Mural Project to award five grants to organizations presenting research on Vermont's history of immigration.

The Community Immigration History Grants are \$500, and up to two grants will be available for work completed during 2025. Three additional grants will be awarded after Sept. 1, for work completed between 2025 and 2026. VHS is administering the application and selection process for these grants on behalf of the Lost Mural Project.

Recipients of a Lost Mural Project grant must focus on the history of immigration at the state or local level, including activities such as digital collections, exhibits, oral histories, publications, student projects, talks or presentations, videos, or other formats. The project will be published to the Lost Mural Project's website, and priority will be given to projects that focus on art that is representative of Vermont's immigrant history, as well as Vermont's Jewish history.

Nonprofit organizations or municipalities in Vermont are eligible to apply. Applications for the grants are now open through the Vermont Historical Society, with reviews beginning on Aug. 1, and will remain open until all grants have been awarded (grants will be awarded by April 1, 2026.)

To apply and find more details, visit [vermonthistory.org/vermont-community-immigration-history-grants](http://vermonthistory.org/vermont-community-immigration-history-grants).

#### ABOUT THE LOST MURAL PROJECT

The Lost Mural is representative of an art form that was once prevalent in Eastern Europe and is a rare surviving example of a painted wall mural in a synagogue. The Lost Mural Project is dedicated to educating the public about the Lost Mural, the Burlington immigrant Jewish Community, (formerly called "Burlington's Little Jerusalem"), and all immigrant groups who have found a home either in the region or across the state. For more info visit [lostmural.org](http://lostmural.org).

#### ABOUT THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established in 1838, The Vermont Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, the Vermont History Center in Barre, and programming throughout the state. Its purpose is to reach a broad audience through outstanding collections and statewide outreach. The Vermont Historical Society believes that an understanding of the past changes lives and builds better communities. Visit the VHS website at [vermonthistory.org](http://vermonthistory.org).

### Lincoln

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

#### NEWS

LINCOLN — The town's first little free library was created in partnership between the Lincoln Conservation Commission and the Lincoln Library and is located in the pollinator garden along the sidewalk in front of the town office. The vision for this library is to make it so people can get or give books to community members in a central location that would create further engagement in the center of town.

Children from Lincoln Cooperative Preschool drew pollinators and their images were transposed onto the library. It looks beautiful and is a rich way to make our community's children's work visible.

The library, and garden bed extension where it sits, would not have been possible without community members donating concrete, building materials, woodworking consultation, artistry, and compost. Thanks also to Shinleaf Native Plants for discounted plugs to put into this new section of garden. Swing by and get or give a book and enjoy the garden!

Outdoor volleyball on the court behind the firehouse has begun. This session will run every Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

through Aug. 30. New players are always welcome. This is a group that wants to encourage and teach more people to play. In case of inclement weather, volleyball will be held in the Lincoln Community School multi-purpose room.

The Lincoln Library will be closed Friday, July 4, and Saturday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day.

Until next time ... Have A Safe And Happy 4th Of July.

### MULCH

## Hay Bales for Sale

802-377-5455



### Monkton

Have a news tip? Contact Liz Pecor at [rascal0406@gmavt.net](mailto:rascal0406@gmavt.net)

#### NEWS

MONKTON — The Monkton Planning Commission is launching the 2025 Town-Wide Survey in the next week. Please look for a postcard being mailed to your home telling you how to find the survey including links, QR codes and printed copies. The Planning Commission is interested in hearing from Monkton residents and/or landowners as we look forward to planning for the future of Monkton. Questions can be emailed to the Planning Commission at [planningcommission@monktonVT.com](mailto:planningcommission@monktonVT.com).

Coming up on Thursday, July 17, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the Russell Memorial Library, you can join in on the fun of learning or playing Chess. Andrea Gorostiaga, a chess expert and

coach will be there to guide you through the process. All levels of players are welcome.

On Sunday, July 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., you can enjoy the monthly fiber circle, Stitch and Spin with Assistant Librarian Kat. Bring your favorite fiber project to work on and enjoy the camaraderie of other crafters. Share your work or ask for advice while enjoying a beverage. Stitch and Spin will continue on the third Sunday of each month.

You can check the library's website for more info on any event. On July 24 check out Edna Music Night.

Happy Independence Day! I hope everyone stays safe and is able to enjoy the upcoming July Fourth festivities wherever they may go to celebrate.

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## ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

### Make the most of your garden's bounty



Summer's bounty knows no bounds. It pays to have various ways to prepare these ingredients when a garden starts to overflow. This is a moist recipe that is both sweet and subtly tangy. This recipe, courtesy of EatingWell and Pam Lolley, can be either an easy breakfast or a light dessert. It also happens to be vegetarian, nut- and soy-free.

#### Blueberry Zucchini Bread

Makes 1 loaf

##### INGREDIENTS

- Baking spray
- 1 cup shredded zucchini
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter (1 stick), melted
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 1/2 cups whole-wheat pastry flour, plus 1 tablespoon, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup fresh blueberries



##### INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat an 8-by-4-inch loaf pan with baking spray.
- Place shredded zucchini on two layers of paper towels; top with 2 more layers of paper towels and press gently to remove excess moisture.
- Whisk granulated sugar, brown sugar, melted butter, eggs, and lime juice in a large bowl. Stir in the zucchini.
- Whisk 1 1/2 cups flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a medium bowl. Add the flour mixture to the zucchini mixture; stir until well combined. Toss blueberries with the remaining 1 tablespoon flour; gently fold into the batter.
- Spoon the batter into the prepared pan. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes. Let the bread cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Run an offset spatula around the edges of the pan and carefully remove the bread to a wire rack to cool completely, about 1 hour.
- Enjoy!

### 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.





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Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459  
sargentstreeservice.com

WATER DELIVERY



**Wyman's  
Water  
Delivery**

Residential Water delivery for  
Swimming Pools and Wells  
Also offering: Timber Harvesting • Land Clearing  
Brush Hogging • Field Mowing • Driveway Repair  
Rough Sawn Lumber • Sand and Gravel  
**Call (802) 353-6846**  
**Tracy Wyman, Brandon, VT**

WINDOW TREATMENT

Your local source for window treatments  
from the nation's most popular brands.  
**Free in-home consultations!**



**Vermont Window Treatments LLC**  
*Over 20 years experience!*  
M-F: 8am-5pm  
Hours by appointment only  
Visit our Facebook page or  
check us out on Instagram!  
**802-989-1531 | 3333 Case Street, Middlebury**  
 **vermontwindowtreatments.com** 

JACK OF ALL TRADES?

CALL 802-388-4944  
OR EMAIL ADVERTISING@  
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM  
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS.



Advertise your business on these pages for under \$10 per week.  
Call 802-388-4944 or email advertising@addisonindependent.com for details.



# CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

**AL-ANON OFFERS HELP** and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit [vermont.alanonalateen.org](http://vermont.alanonalateen.org) for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

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

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

Public Meetings

**OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS** is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit [www.oavermont.org](http://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.

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

Help Wanted



**Nutrien**  
Ag Solutions  
**NOW HIRING**  
Administrative Coordinator  
for our Addison, VT Branch

This is a full-time opening with excellent pay, retirement, healthcare, and time-off benefits. **Must be computer literate.** *Will train the right individual for the rest.*

Apply online at [nutrienagsolutions.com/careers](http://nutrienagsolutions.com/careers) or in person at **4923 VT Route 22A, Addison, VT. 802-759-2022**

Services

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

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

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

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

Help Wanted

Free

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

Garage Sales

**RAIN OR SHINE** Household items and tools. Starts at 9am for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of July. 23 Brookside Dr in Middlebury

**WHOLE HOUSE SALE** 323 Foote St, Middlebury. Mostly all must go, lots and lots. July 4th, 5th, and 6th, 10am-3pm

Help Wanted

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](mailto:drcongalton@yahoo.com) for more information.



**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](mailto:ellenresnik@gmail.com).

Help Wanted

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: Black-white-gray. Call Art at 802-458-2726

**ENCORE WOOD STOVE** porcelain green with glass door. \$1200 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918.

**FIREWOOD STOVE** in excellent shape. \$1800 or best offer, must sell. Call 802-349-2918

Help Wanted

For Sale

**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.

Vacation Rentals

**ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN** waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, dock, rowboat and canoe included. \$999. weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.


For Rent

**1000 SQUARE FEET OF RETAIL** available with parking on Bakery Lane in downtown Middlebury. 802-349-8544.

**5,000 SQUARE FEET** available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



**Hope**  
Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects

**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](mailto:receptionist@hope-vt.org), or mail to 282 Boardman Street, Suite 1A, Middlebury, Vermont 05753

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the *Addy Indy*.



[addisonindependent.com/help-wanted](http://addisonindependent.com/help-wanted)

ADDISON COUNTY  
**INDEPENDENT**

**We're HIRING!**

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 work with the news and publishing teams to manage all digital content on our websites ([AddisonIndependent.com](http://AddisonIndependent.com) and [MiniBury.com](http://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!

Expected starting range based on \$20 - \$25/hour commensurate with experience.

The Addison Independent is an equal opportunity employer.



Please send a cover letter, resumé and references to: [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)

ADDISON COUNTY  
**INDEPENDENT**

Learn more about us at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

**Volunteer Drivers Needed**



RSVP of Addison County is searching for volunteer drivers to help Tri-Valley Transit. Flexible schedule to fit a busy life. There are both local and long-distance trips.



If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver give us a call today at 802-468-7056



**AmeriCorps Seniors**

## Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT  
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-4944  
[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com) • email: [classifieds@addisonindependent.com](mailto:classifieds@addisonindependent.com)

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

**DEADLINE:** Monday at 5 p.m.

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

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

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

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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of words: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of runs: \_\_\_\_\_

Spotlight Charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Internet Listing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

## For Rent



**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

**COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE** - 2000 sq ft to 7000 sq ft – Tall ceilings, loading docks, plenty of parking. Middlebury – 802-558-6092

**FERRISBURGH:** Share spacious rural home with stunning views with vibrant woman in her 70s who enjoys yoga, book groups, hiking. Seeking housemate who might enjoy walks or occasional meals together! \$650/month plus utilities. Private bath. 6 miles to Vergennes. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

## For Rent

**MIDDLEBURY SUGAR-WOOD APARTMENTS** is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

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

**RUTLAND:** Share home with outdoorsy woman in her 70s who enjoys antiquing and gardening. \$650 plus small utilities share. Private bath. Must be cat/dog-friendly! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

**VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

## For Rent

**WEYBRIDGE:** Private apartment offered in the home of senior woman who enjoys theater and community events. \$650/month plus utilities. Seeking female housemate to share conversation and outings together. Must be dog-friendly! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

## Wood Heat

**DRY OR GREEN** firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

## Att. Farmers

**1ST CUT, SMALL** square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

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

## 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.

**Help Wanted ads** can be found on Page 8B.

# AUCTIONS



Thursday, July 3rd ~ Saturday, July 12th

*In the Brandon Town Hall*

Thu, July 3rd: 11-7:30pm

Fri, July 4: 11-7:30pm

Sat, July 5: 11-9pm- *also Brandon's 4th of July*

*celebration & Parade!*

Sun, July 6: 11-5pm

Mon, July 7 thru Thu, July 10: 11-7pm

Fri, July 11: 11-7:30pm

Sat, July 12: 8am-2pm (Auction Closes!)

Sun, July 13: 10am-2pm (*For pick up of items only*)

**IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND A GREAT AUCTION THIS SUMMER, MAKE IT THIS ONE. The Chamber is in our 3rd year in our beautiful Brandon Town Hall!**

Our great air-conditioned indoor location will be staffed by volunteers for 10 days, and items will be set up for silent auction bidding and eBay style “Buy It Now” format so you can walk out the door with your treasure!

The Auction offers antiques, collectibles, new merchandise, Vermont-made items, and surprises & treasures from attics and barns. Featuring work from many of our famous local artists and lots of gift certificates to local businesses including restaurants, brew pubs, fuel oil, massages, services, and much more!

802-247-6401 info@brandon.org

Go to [www.brandon.org](http://www.brandon.org) for more info and pictures.

## PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

2025 Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P022

**AGENCY:** Department of Public Safety - Division of Fire Safety

**CONCISE SUMMARY:** The 2025 Vermont Fire & Building Safety Code establishes the minimum standards to protect the public from the risks of fire, explosion, hazardous materials, dangerous structural conditions and carbon monoxide poisoning within public buildings. These amended rules provide updates and incorporate more recent editions of the same national codes and standards that are currently adopted. These rules include requirements for the addition of carbon monoxide detection in some occupancies, protection of lithium-ion batteries, building energy storage systems, escape window clarifications, sprinkler system, requirement modifications, and the inclusion of grab bars to prevent slips and falls. These amendments are also intended to provide clarity of the intent of currently adopted codes and standards and to incorporate existing interim operational guidance.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Landon Wheeler, Division of Fire Safety, 45 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-479-7566 Fax: 802-479-7562 E-Mail: [Landon.Wheeler@vermont.gov](mailto:Landon.Wheeler@vermont.gov) URL: <https://firesafety.vermont.gov/>

**FOR COPIES:** Michael Desrochers, Division of Fire Safety, 45 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-479-7566 Fax: 802-479-7562 E-Mail: [landon.wheeler@vermont.gov](mailto:landon.wheeler@vermont.gov)

2023 Vermont Electrical Safety Rules.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P023

**AGENCY:** Electricians Licensing Board

**CONCISE SUMMARY:** The Proposed 2023 Vermont Electrical Safety Rules (VESR) will update the technical codes and standards, including the adoption of the 2023 edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC) also known as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70. This will better coordinate the license examination with the state apprenticeship program, establish an expiration date for a permit and a process for refunding permit fees. These rules also provide requirements for filing an electrical work notice, inspection and energizing procedures, details powers of enforcement and licensing disciplinary procedure.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Dennis Blair, Dept. of Public Safety-Division of Fire Safety, 45 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont 05671 Tel: 802-760-7408 Fax: 802-479-4446 E-Mail: [dennis.blair@vermont.gov](mailto:dennis.blair@vermont.gov) URL: <https://firesafety.vermont.gov/>

**FOR COPIES:** Landon Wheeler, Dept. of Public Safety-Division of Fire Safety, 45 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont 05671 Tel: 802-479-7566 Fax: 802-479-4446 E-Mail: [landon.wheeler@vermont.gov](mailto:landon.wheeler@vermont.gov)

The 2025 Vermont Plumbing Rules.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 25P024

**AGENCY:** Plumbers Examination Board

**CONCISE SUMMARY:** The primary focus of these rules is to update the currently adopted 2021 International Plumbing Code to the 2024 edition. The 2024 International Plumbing Code and updated rules will allow for more current methods and materials to be utilized. Rules are amended to clarify intent of the code and answer frequently asked questions. Some of the new changes include gender neutral/multi user restroom provisions, a clarification of specialist license fields, new definitions, additional clarifications and terminology.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** John A. Hammer, Dept. of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety, 45 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-249-0271 Fax: 802-479-7562 E-Mail: [john.hammer@vermont.gov](mailto:john.hammer@vermont.gov) URL: <https://firesafety.vermont.gov/>

**FOR COPIES:** Landon Wheeler, Dept. of Public Safety-Division of Fire Safety, 45 State Drive, Waterbury, Vermont 05671 Tel: 802-479- 7566 Fax: 802-479-7562 E-Mail: [landon.wheeler@vermont.gov](mailto:landon.wheeler@vermont.gov)

## MARKET REPORT

### ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Please check back next week, and have a great holiday weekend!

BEEF	\$
Iroquois	3.80
Nop E	9.60
Blue S	1.50
J. Allen	2.50
Sunder	4.00
Vorse	4.00
P. Livin	2.00
CALV	\$
Barne	0.00
Elysia	0.50
White	4.00
J. Will	5.00
Sunde	7.60
Wilco	9.00

Total Beef - 155 Total Calves - 212

We value our faithful customers.

Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.  
call 1-802-388-2661

## DON'T MISS OUT!

[www.addisonindependent.com](http://www.addisonindependent.com)

# Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 9B and 10B

116 Self Storage (1)

Addison (1)

Addison County Courthouse (1)

Bristol (1)

Middlebury (2)

Monkton (2)

Orwell (1)

Shoreham (1)

Starksboro (1)

State of Vermont (1)

Vergennes (1)

## TOWN OF MONKTON CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Monkton Selectboard is looking to appoint a Cemetery Administrator to be responsible for overseeing maintenance, enforcing rules and coordinating burials in the Town's active cemeteries. The position is open to Monkton residents only. For additional information regarding this position please contact the Town Administrator at [townadministrator@monktonvt.com](mailto:townadministrator@monktonvt.com).

## 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 Addison Land Records.

**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 the Town of Addison.

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](mailto: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

## STATE OF VERMONT

### SUPERIOR COURT Addison Unit

### CIVIL DIVISION DOCKET NO: 24-CV-03493

CAG NATIONAL FUND I LLC  
PLAINTIFF

VS.

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 AT 498 BURGEY FARM ROAD, ADDISON, VT 05491  
DEFENDANT(S)

## NOTICE OF SALE

In accordance with the Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure by Judicial Sale filed on January 7, 2025, in the above captioned action brought to foreclose that certain mortgage given by 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 mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by virtue of the following Assignments 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 Assignment 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 recorded in Book 119, at Page 43, all of the Town of Addison Land Records, for 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 Burgey Farm Road, Addison, VT 05491 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:

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 conveyed to Philip H. and Harriet N. Livingston by Warranty Deed of Philip T. 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.

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.

CAG National Fund I LLC  
Bozena Wysocki, Esq.  
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC  
23 Messenger Street  
2nd Floor  
Plainville, MA 02762  
[VT\\_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com](mailto:VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com)

Email your Public Notices to [legals@addisonindependent.com](mailto:legals@addisonindependent.com)



Public Notices

can be found on Pages 9B and 10B.

TOWN OF STARKSBORO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS –

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Jerusalem Schoolhouse Renovation & New Fire Station #2

The Town of Starksboro is seeking proposals from qualified firms for construction management services for the renovation of the historic Jerusalem Schoolhouse and construction of a new two-bay Fire Station #2 on the same site. The project includes demolition of two additions, construction of a new ADA-accessible community space, and a freestanding fire station with utilities and site work.

Architectural plans and Town permits are in place. Total project budget: \$1.3 million.

Timeline:

- Optional site visit: 7/15/25 at noon
- Questions due: 7/21/25
- Proposals due: 8/4/25 by 4:30 PM
- Submit via email to: [townadmin@starksborovt.org](mailto:townadmin@starksborovt.org)
- Include technical proposal and a separately emailed sealed fee schedule

Full RFP and attachments available at: <https://www.starksborovt.org/bids>

Minority, women, and locally owned businesses encouraged to apply. EOE.

TOWN OF BRISTOL

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Bristol Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on July 22, 2025, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The hearings will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 1 South Street. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

Permit #25-400: Carter Family Trust of South 116 Road (Parcel #110105-1) requesting final plat review for a 2-lot subdivision subject to Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article IX, Sections 930-939.

Permit #25-301: Livingston Farm Landscape Products LLC of Stoney Hill Rd (Parcel#060245-002) is requesting conditional use review for an Open Air Market to display model accessory dwelling structures, subject to the Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article III, Section 350.

Copies of the zoning permit applications and decisions are available for review at the Bristol Town Office during regular business hours.

Remote Access: via Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87551027651?pwd=mJnqMjM0Rm2lufotvEEBldXOjUjLjI.1>  
Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87551027651?pwd=mJnqMjM0Rm2lufotvEEBldXOjUjLjI.1>  
Phone In: +1 646 931 3860

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](mailto: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

TOWN OF SHOREHAM

INVITATION TO BID: CLEANING SERVICES

The Town of Shoreham is accepting proposals for cleaning services. The scope of work includes cleaning the Town Office and the Firehouse/Town Garage every two weeks. The work must be done outside of regular business and meeting hours (Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM).

The Town Office is approximately 1800 square feet and includes a common meeting space, two back offices, a kitchenette, and a restroom. The area to be cleaned in the firehouse and garage is approximately 2000 square feet, including an office/meeting area, kitchenette, and bathroom. The work is expected to take approximately 15 hours per two-week period. The Town will provide cleaning equipment and supplies.

We invite both companies and qualified individuals to submit proposals. The awardee must be able to provide proof of insurance. The duration of the contract is 2 years with the option to renew.

Bids are due by 4:00 PM on Monday, July 14, 2025.

Mail or deliver proposal to:  
Shoreham Town Office  
297 Main Street  
Shoreham, VT 05770  
Questions? Call (802) 897-5841 or email [shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us](mailto:shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us).

TOWN OF MONKTON

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearing on Monday, July 14, 2025 beginning at 7:30 PM. The hearings will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 92 Monkton Ridge. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

An electronic copy of the application scan be obtained by emailing [zoning@monktonvt.com](mailto:zoning@monktonvt.com). A printed copy of the application is available at Town Hall by appointment. Please call 802-453-3800 to make an appointment.

Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/8024533800>  
Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 • Passcode: 1762 • Phone In: 1-646-558-8656

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**, determine quorum, and review agenda
2. **Public Comment** - Questions and Comments from the Public Not Related to Agenda
3. **New Business**
  - a. **Final Plat Application #3030-04-MAJ Lynne Caulfield**, 3-lot subdivision located at 886 Bristol Rd (Parcel ID 05.103.017.001) in the RA-2/RA-5 Zoning Districts.
  - b. **24-902 Continuance of 5-Lot PUD Jeramy/Brittany Broderick**, 4863 Silver Street. PID 13.101.038.001. Seeking to dissolve parcel boundaries between 2 lots and create new parcel boundaries.
  - c. **2025-09-DRB Jon Binhammer for The Nature Conservancy/Estate of Beverly Latreille Sketch Plan Review**. 785 Rotax Road. PID 02.114.003.001 SPAN 399-124-10458, Seeking to create a 13.2-acre parcel which includes the existing residence from lands consisting of approximately 265.34 acres; thus leaving a remainder of 252.14 acres.
4. **Regular Business**
  - a. Zoning Administrator Update
    - i. Upcoming projects & schedule
    - ii. Other updates
  - b. Review Meeting Minutes
    - iii. Minutes of April 14th, 2025
5. **Old Business**
  - a. Decision Letters
  - b. DRB Recording Secretary
  - c. DRB Clerk Job Description
6. **Adjournment**

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 of the sale.

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 shall be returned to the unit holder.

Contents of the unit may be viewed on 7/22/2025 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 7/22/2025. The highest bidder on the storage unit must remove the entire contents within 48 hours after notification of their successful 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 right to accept or reject bids.

Unit #12 - Kiser

FULL PASSPORT

SERVICE

The Addison County Clerk located in the **Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury** is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

**REGULAR HOURS**  
Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm  
Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm  
Wednesday - **Closed**  
Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm  
Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

**APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED**  
For appointment, go to **[www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com](http://www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com)** or call 802-388-1966.

HEARING NOTICE

TOWN OF ORWELL

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Orwell Development Review Board will meet in person on Wednesday, July 16th, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

By Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88129886127> or phone 1-646-558-8656 use meeting ID: #881 2988 6127 to conduct the following business:

1. Permit #3-11-25: Timothy G LaDuc/Mary & Steven Barnes for a 2 lot Subdivision located at 372 Fisher Road, Orwell, VT.

Information pertaining to this matter may be viewed M, T, Th 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00, W 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:30 & Fri 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-6:00 at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

Daniel Redondo, Vice Chair  
Orwell Development Review Board

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT

PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT

DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-03086

IN RE ESTATE OF: STEVEN C. LEOPOLD

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Dated: 06/26/25

Celia Leopold and Emily Leopold  
% Maple Haven Law, PLLC  
PO Box 32, Waterbury Center, VT 05677  
(802) 477-3434  
[sarah@maplehavenlaw.com](mailto:sarah@maplehavenlaw.com)

Publication: Addison Independent  
Publication Dates: 07/03/25  
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division  
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

REACH THE COUNTY, PLACE YOUR AD HERE. CALL 388-4944

CITY OF VERGENNES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the residents of the City of Vergennes that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 4, 2025, at 6:30 P.M. for discussion of the final draft of the revised City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

This Public Hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting with participation remotely through Zoom or by phone, or in person at One Credit Union Conference Room, 48 Green St. To join the meeting by Computer: Meeting ID: 926 836 0439 Passcode: 907999. To join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099, passcode 907999.

For participants joining by phone:

- To raise your hand during the meeting, press \*9
- To mute/unmute during the meeting, press \*6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing the Zoom meeting, contact David Austin at 802-989-6315.

**Statement of Purpose:** Pursuant to 24 V.S.A Ch.117 §4441, the Planning Commission proposes to Amend Article XVI Section 1603 to allow Retail Store as a Conditional Use within the Historic Neighborhood District; and to Amend Article XVI Section 1607 to allow Dwellings as a Conditional Use within the Commercial District.

**Geographic Area Affected**  
Historic Neighborhood District (HN) Commercial District (C)

**Table of Contents of Proposed Amendments – There is no change in the Table of Contents.**

CHANGES ARE PROPOSED TO: Article XVI Section 1603 Historic Neighborhood District (HN); and Article XVI Section 1607 Commercial District (COM).

A copy of the full text of the final revised version of the Municipal Development Plan is available for public review by contacting David Austin at [zoning@vergennes.org](mailto:zoning@vergennes.org). Copies are also available for review at the office of the City Clerk.

June 30, 2025  
Shannon Haggett, Chair  
Planning Commission  
City of Vergennes



**Fenway fabulous**

MIDDLEBURY'S DAVID BROUGHTON was honored on the field at Boston's Fenway Park during the 4th inning of last Friday's game against the Blue Jays as part of the Red Sox "Hats Off to Heroes" initiative, which honors a veteran on the field during each home game. He was drafted and served in Vietnam. Broughton has also been a member of the Middlebury Fire Department for decades, retiring from active service as captain.

Photo courtesy of Sarah Warner

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in accordance with 32 VSA §4111 that on June 24, 2025 the Abstract of the 2025 Grand List was lodged in the office of the Town Clerk. Owners of properties with value changes were mailed notices. Grievances must be received in writing at the Listers' Office by NOON, July 9, 2025. The Listers will meet at the Town Office at 1:00 p.m. on July 9, 2025 to hear grievances. Contact the listers at [listeners@townofmiddlebury.org](mailto:listeners@townofmiddlebury.org), 802-388-8100 x207, or 77 Main St., Middlebury, VT 05753 if you have questions or would like an appointment for a hearing.

Middlebury Listers: Beth Dow, Gary Baker, Hudson Tilford

STATE OF VERMONT, SUPERIOR COURT

PROBATE DIVISION, ADDISON UNIT

DOCKET NO.: 25-PR-03756

IN RE ESTATE OF: ROGER A. STURTEVANT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

Dated: 06/30/25

Kimberlee J.S. Gordon  
260 Bissonette Lane, Hinesburg, VT 05461  
(802) 989-3733  
[gordon01@gmavt.net](mailto:gordon01@gmavt.net)

Publication: Addison Independent  
Publication Dates: 07/03/25  
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division  
Address of Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

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TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING

ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025 - 7:00 P.M.

**Also available via Zoom:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81206298615>  
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)  
Webinar ID: 812 0629 8615

For those wishing to watch but not participate:  
Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV\\_Vermont](https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV_Vermont)  
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

7:00	1. Call to Order 2. *Approval of Agenda 3. *Approval of Consent Agenda 3a. *Approval of the Minutes of the June 24, 2025 Regular Selectboard Meeting 3b. *Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (if any) 3c. *Approval of Applications - Renewal of State Licenses/Permits (if any) 3d. *Approval of Check Warrants 3e. Consent Agenda Placeholder 3f. **Town Manager's Report
7:05	4. **Citizen Comments (Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda)
7:10	5. **ACEDC - Industrial Park - Engineering Update
7:20	6. *NMREC - Town Reappraisal - Proposed Agreement - Town Assessor 7. Agenda Placeholder 8. Agenda Placeholder 9. Agenda Placeholder
7:30	10. **Board Member Concerns 11. Executive Session - Not Anticipated 12. Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
7:40	13. *Adjourn

\*Possible Decision    \*\*Discussion



# ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

July 3, 2025

## Game On!

CIRCUS SMIRKUS GETS READY TO HAVE SOME FUN IN MIDDLEBURY

The 2025 Big Top Tour: Game On! kicked off the 38th tour for Circus Smirkus on June 28 in Greensboro. Smirkus will bring its traveling show to Middlebury on the green next to Mary Hogan Elementary School for four performances, July 5-6.

PHOTOS / JUSTIN MIEL

**S**hout out to all the middle-aged — ew, scratch that and replace it — “super fly” parents born in the ‘80s-‘90s who are definitely more excited than their kids to get tickets to Circus Smirkus this year. Yep, I see you... I’m one too. So go on, lock down those tickets to one of the Middlebury shows this weekend (July 5-6).

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

Why so *extra*? Well, waaaaay back when we were kids, Circus Smirkus came to town, too.

The year was 1999 (queue sentimental accordion music...). The Big Top Tent was set up on the green between Mary Hogan Elementary and the Memorial Sports Center — the same place the troupe will set up this year. Walking into the tent, life transformed. The impossible seemed possible, gravity paused for acrobats. There was magic, music and so much laughter.

“I was in the ring that year, and can remember looking up at Marcel Marceau perform,” said



Contortionists (above) and a barrel of monkeys (top) are all part of this year's Smirkus show!

Rachel Schiffer musing about her time as a teen performing with Smirkus and the famous French mime, Marceau, in her hometown.

That year marked the fourth season Schiffer performed with the Circus Smirkus Big Top Tour. She continued to round out a decade performing on the wire, and as “flyer” in what’s called “cradle” — an aerial act that’s similar to trapeze work but involves two people, one catcher and one flyer.

Now, Schiffer didn’t run away from home and join the circus. Nah, nothing like that. She counts herself “lucky to have parents who supported the idea.” After graduating from Middlebury College in the class of 2006.5, Schiffer put her degree in her back pocket and went out to the San Francisco Circus Center to train.

This was the start of an impressive stint of training and performing as a circus artist — working in France, Denmark, England, Wales and the United States. Highlights include a four-year tour with Le Cirque Pousiere in France, NoFit State Circus in Wales, and a creative project Laws Of Motion: The Third Law, developed in Denmark and Sweden.

SEE CIRCUS ON PAGE 2



## CIRCUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"For 12-15 years, I was based mostly in Europe," Schiffer said. "I was looking for that new adventure that always stayed fresh. I knew it was

time to move on when I felt like things were fulfilled."

In 2019, Schiffer explored going into academia again and applied and was accepted to a master's program in contemporary circus arts at the Stockholm University of the Arts. She deferred a year, to collect her finances, and then... COVID hit.

"I wasn't interested in doing that sort of program not in person," Schiffer said. "I felt like it was the right time to come home to mom and dad in Vermont; and my brother came home from a show he was on too."

First time the whole Schiffer family was back in Vermont together; there was a "kids house" Schiffer rented with her brother, Ben, in Cornwall, and "mom and dad's house" in Middlebury.

"That was our bubble," Schiffer said. "I got to live with my partner (now husband) for the first time and resolidify my Middlebury relationships... Being in Vermont was very grounding and rewarding."

So when things started opening back up, Schiffer looked for work locally. She pieced together circus arts and her knack for baking (at Vergennes Laundry and with Ben and Sarah Wood former owners



The circus is coming to town, July 5-6! Circus Smirkus will bring its show "Game On!" to Middlebury for two days this weekend. The last time Smirkus toured Middlebury was 1999.

PHOTO / JUSTIN MIEL

hesitation came in. I did feel like I could bring a unique perspective to the table; based on my experiences outside Smirkus."

After a stellar application, Schiffer "tanked the interview," she said laughing. "I knew it and it was OK."

Instead, Schiffer stepped into the Smirkus Camp Director role.

"That was the perfect middle ground for me; where I could feel in my element. Camp was new to me; I hadn't been in camp since the early '90s, but I knew exactly what I wanted to bring to camp," Schiffer said. "Smirkus teaches something unique: care for yourself and care for your company... In the adult professional circus arts world there isn't always the same love and passion — that was instilled in me from Circus Smirkus and made my experiences and interactions that much richer."



The following year, the executive director stepped down, and Schiffer found herself splitting the role with colleague Joshua Shack for a year before being named the sole executive and artistic director for Circus Smirkus in 2024.

Now in her second season as the solo executive and artistic director, Schiffer said she got to see a "limp through" of this year's show "Game On!" directed by Fritz Grobe, and it was "amazing."

"Step inside the Big Top and enter a world where anything can happen," reads the show's description. "The checkerboard bursts with acrobats leaping and tumbling while aerial chess queens plot their next bold moves high above. Contortionists twist into impossible shapes as a barrel of monkeys swings to the trapeze. Chaos and comedy erupts as jugglers race through a candy-colored wonderland — and clowns dodge a life-sized mouse trap. Is something sinister brewing in the library with

the candlestick? Keep your eyes out for the man in the top hat — he's dishing out \$200 every time someone passes GO!"

This year's show marks 38 years for the only traveling "tented" youth circus in the United States. The 2025 Big Top Tour took to the road June 28 and travels through mid-August with a tour caravan that requires some 23-support vehicles and 80 people — including 28 performers ages 12-18, coaches, cooks, tech and tent crew and an original score written specifically for this show. The caravan stops in Middlebury for four shows July 5 and 6.

"I think Fritz Grobe's superpower is seeing something authentic in front of him," Schiffer complimented Grobe, who has a long history with Smirkus. "He can make something look sharp and shine, and simplify things around it so that it's well presented, defined and amazing. I'm excited to see his vision through the kids."

"Any director can direct a show," Schiffer continued. "But Smirkus is asking the director (and everyone) to also live and internalize the Smirkus traditions and values — that's different from other companies. It's also what makes it special and challenging. Those two things (the mud and the magic) that's the love; that's the investment; that's the 'this is why I'm here.'"

These Smirkus values run deep throughout the company and through Schiffer, who has every intention of sticking with the executive role... for now anyway.

"I do love this role. And the role is challenging," said Schiffer from the Greensboro office, where Circus Smirkus is based. "I'm currently feeling very in my element and there are things I'd like to see through with Smirkus still. It's exciting. For as long as I feel I have something to give and it's being received well, I'd like to be a part of this organization."

*Editor's Note: For a full list of shows, tickets and more information about this year's youth performers visit [smirkus.org](https://smirkus.org).*

## "SMIRKUS TEACHES SOMETHING UNIQUE: CARE FOR YOURSELF AND CARE FOR YOUR COMPANY."

— Rachel Schiffer, Circus Smirkus Executive & Artistic Director

of Otter Creek Bakery). And found her way back to Circus Smirkus.

"In 2022, I was coerced (and I mean it) to come back to work for Smirkus," Schiffer said with an audible smile during a phone-interview last week. "Circus Smirkus was going through some leadership changes. They had launched a nationwide search going on for an executive director — at the time I was involved with the alumni committee — but they persuaded me to 'play the game.'"

"I didn't want to do it," Schiffer said honestly. "I didn't feel at the time I had the business chops to carry the company — that's where my



# Brandon artist honored

Burlington City Arts announce the recipient of the 2025 Herb Lockwood Prize in the Arts on June 28. The Brandon artist and teacher Will Kasso Condry received the \$10,000 prize during a reception on Saturday afternoon, at BCA Center in Burlington. This marks the 12th time the Herb Lockwood Prize has been awarded since 2014. In 2022, Kasso Condry was the inaugural recipient of the Vermont Prize for the visual arts.

The Herb Lockwood Prize aims to reward the pinnacle of arts leadership in Vermont by honoring the state's most influential artists. The prize recognizes artists who produce significant work in the areas of visual arts, music, writing, drama, dance, film and fine woodworking — and who encourage other artists to do the same.

The recipient of the 2024 prize was musician, composer and arranger Michael Chorney from Lincoln. Other prior recipients include: (2014) actor and theater director **Steve Small**, (2015) fine artist and typographer **Claire Van Vliet**, (2016) filmmaker

SEE HONOR ON PAGE 4



Brandon artist Will Kasso Condry received the 2025 Herb Lockwood Prize in the Arts last weekend.

PHOTO / JENNIFER HERRERA CONDRY



## Blueberry Hill

### PIZZA BY THE POND

Wood-fired pizza from our outside hearth in the quintessential summer setting!

WALK-INS WELCOME BUT RESERVATIONS STRONGLY SUGGESTED

[www.blueberryhillinn.com/pizza](http://www.blueberryhillinn.com/pizza)

**Next concert:**  
O & Schu



**Thursday July 10, 5-8 PM**

# STORIES BEGIN HERE



## 11TH ANNUAL MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival celebrates its 11th year with more than 100 films and filmmakers from around the world. Join us for film screenings, parties, panels and masterclasses as we celebrate the work of emerging filmmakers.

# AUGUST 20-24



### GET PASSES, TICKETS & INFO

## MIDDFILMFEST.ORG



MIDDFILMFEST

PRESENTING SPONSOR





# Youthful take on ‘Midsummer’

A rollicking festival of fools collide in Shakespeare's beloved comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream." This classic will be realized on Middlebury Town Hall Theatre's newly-built outdoor stage in the Maloney plaza by an ensemble of eight talented young actors, ages 11 to 13, on July 5, 12, 13 and 19. Performances begin at 4:30 p.m. Free and open to all, with a suggested \$5-\$10 donation.

The ensemble fluidly shifts roles throughout the play, with every actor stepping at least once into the worlds of the lovers, the fairies and the mechanicals. Audiences can expect a vibrant, fast-paced show filled with nonstop movement, slapstick comedy and the joyful spirit of youth.

This troupe, formally established as The Young Company in March 2025, includes Til Boyce, Henry Cadoret, Lydia Cheresnick, Bodhi Kenna, Adelynn Leonard, Sara Miranda-Ngaiza, Vivienne Rafferty and Tenlyn Wetzel. They began their training in December 2024 and have since performed in the Winter Solstice and Lunar New Year celebrations at Town Hall Theater. Their work over the past seven months — including vocal intensives, stage combat, and classical acting training — culminates in this physical, abridged 45-minute production.

The production is co-directed by Lindsay Pontius and Keziah Wilde. Pontius, a member and graduate of




The Young Company will perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on the outdoor stage at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater, July 5, 12, 13 and 19, at 4:30 p.m. Free and open to all with donations welcome.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Shakespeare & Company, serves as director of Courageous Stage and leads Shakespeare It's Elementary, an initiative that provides theatrical access to Shakespeare's works for elementary students across Addison County. Wilde, a recent graduate of Middlebury College, brings a fresh and dynamic perspective to the ensemble, drawing from her background in stand-up comedy and film to engage and inspire young performers. Together, they lead Town Hall Theatre's Center for Learning and Engagement.

Two of the upcoming shows (July 5 and 12) will be followed by THT's Summer Sounds concert series. Come out and support these young actors who are helping to raise money for future free programs at the Center for Learning and Engagement.



## FANCY FRIDAYS

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## HONOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

**Nora Jacobson**, (2017) author **Howard Frank Mosher**, (2018) puppeteer and artist **Peter Schumann**, (2019) musician and public radio host **Robert Resnik**, (2020) dancer and

choreographer **Hannah Dennison**, (2021) Latin Jazz musician and teacher **Ray Vega**, (2022) poet **Kerrin McCadden**, (2023) film director and impresario **Jay Craven**.

Kasso Condry was present at the presentation as well as Herb Lockwood's brother Todd R. Lockwood, 2024 Herb Lockwood Prize winner Michael Chorney, Melissa Chesnut-Tangerman who attended Hamilton College with Herb Lockwood (1978-82), and Vermont author Stephen P. Kiernan. Vermont media producer and host Fran Stoddard hosted the event.

"I'm honored to receive this award and recognition," Kasso Condry said in a written response on Monday. "I'm proud of the work I produce with my Juniper Creative family, and the communities we share our creative spirit with. I have a saying I live by: 'Go wherever your art takes you.' My art has brought me to Vermont, and in doing so, has changed my life in ways I could not have imagined. I'm truly honored. The spirit of Herb Lockwood is alive, well, and still bringing people together."

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Originally from Trenton, N.J., Kasso Condry is a renowned visual artist, graffiti scholar, and educator. Growing up in the inner-city of Trenton, Kasso Condry's only escape from the negative influences that plagued his community was art. Painting and drawing became his loyal friends at a time when many of his peers were falling victim to the streets. As he grew up, the need for self-expression empowered him to create in a variety of media, all the while avoiding the violence and conflicts that surrounded him. Kasso Condry's works are characterized by their Afro-futuristic aesthetic, intricate layers, and explosions of color. He speaks through color and composition.

Since relocating to Vermont, Kasso Condry has taught courses at Middlebury College, as well as at the K-12 levels. He has served as the Artist-in-Residence at several higher education institutions, including the University of Vermont, Princeton University, and Middlebury College.

Since 2017 Kasso Condry and his partner Jennifer Herrera Condry have facilitated numerous community mural project through Juniper Creative Arts; they now also work with their daughter Alexa Herrera Condry (assistant mural artist, fine art photographer and massage therapist). To date, Juniper Creative Arts has created close to 40 community murals located in schools and on public buildings across the state of Vermont.

For more info visit [HerbLockwoodPrize.org](https://HerbLockwoodPrize.org) and [junipercreativearts.com/will-kasso-condry](https://junipercreativearts.com/will-kasso-condry)



# ART ON EXHIBIT

## EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call 802-458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto: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.

## JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Visit [townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery](http://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](http://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](http://photoplacegallery.com).

**"Color + Space."** Showcases how color not only enhances composition but also influences depth, perspective, and perception. Whether vibrant or restrained, structured or organic, let color guide the viewer's experience of space. Juror Ann Jastrab selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view July 3 - July 25.

## ROKEBY MUSEUM

4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh

For more info visit [Rokeby.org](http://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.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15

# Cosmic Forecast

**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. Fill your mind with positive and motivational thoughts and you'll be much happier in the long run, Aries. It's easy to focus on negatives, but a change of perspective is liberating.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. It is possible that a lack of energy is affecting your ability to do the things that you normally enjoy, Taurus. Figure out ways to get more rest so you will not lack energy.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. It seems your social skills have been less consistent than in the past, Gemini. Do you have a reason why you have been pulling away from others lately? Get back on track.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Cancer, someone might recommend you for a leadership position and you could be inclined to take it. This is something that is out of your wheelhouse, but you'll make the most of it.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, trusting someone else right now is something you might find challenging. It could be because you don't trust your instincts. You'll have to find a way around these feelings.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, you haven't been available for some key people, and you'll find they've pulled away. You may miss their presence, but you can mend fences if you hope to.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, you have been making excuses for someone in your life in the hopes that the relationship could be salvaged. But the other person must make an effort as well.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, you have been putting your goals aside due to overwhelming circumstances and general procrastination. Now is the time to get things back on schedule.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. It's time to engage with the activities that you are passionate about, Sagittarius. There is never a "right" opportunity to get things started; you just need to take that first step.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Someone who understands you may enter your life, Capricorn. It may feel like you already know and understand this person, even though you have just met.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. It's possible that you might feel stuck with someone in a situation that is not to your liking, Aquarius. You can be a catalyst for

change if you start taking action.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. You are about to have a eureka moment, Pisces. Everything you have been fretting about will then fall into place. It will be some smooth sailing afterwards.

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## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 4 — Calvin Coolidge, U.S. President (d)  
JULY 5 — Chuck Close, artist (d)  
JULY 6 — Frida Kahlo, artist (d)

JULY 7 — Michele Kwan, figure skater (45)  
JULY 8 — Beck, musician and producer (55)  
JULY 9 — Tom Hanks, Actor (69)  
JULY 10 — Mavis Staples, singer (86)



# CALENDAR

JULY 3-10  
2025



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 LCMM.org.

**PHOTOGRAPHY OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.** 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 St. 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.

**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.

**CIRCUS SMIRKUS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, July 5, 1 and 6 p.m., Mary Hogan Elementary Field, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. Come see the only tented traveling youth circus in the United States. Performing under traditional European-style circus tents, the award-winning circus company consists of some 80 people including teen performers, professional circus coaches, tent and technical crew and a live circus band performing an original score each year. Tickets \$40 adults/\$25 children. More info at smirkus.org/tourschedule.

**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.

**"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, July 5, 4:30 p.m., plaza, Town Hall Theater, 72 Merchants Row. A rollicking festival of fools collides in Shakespeare's beloved comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream," realized onstage at Town Hall Theatre's newly built outdoor

plaza by an ensemble of eight talented young actors, ages 11 to 13. The ensemble fluidly shifts roles throughout the play, with every actor stepping at least once into the worlds of the lovers, the fairies and the mechanicals. Suggested donation \$5-\$10 to help raise money for future free programs at the Center for Learning and Engagement.

**CONNOR YOUNG QUARTET IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, July 5, 5:30-7 p.m., Maloney Outdoor Performance Plaza, Town Hall Theater, 72-76 Merchants Row. THT offers its free Summer Sounds Concert Series with Connor Young, 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. More info at townhalltheater.org.

**KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH.** Saturday, July 5, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7. A sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and games. King Pede is challenging in that it involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking!

SUNDAY, JULY 6  
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 802-388-3062.	
<b>Channel 1071</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs, Bulletin Board <b>Friday, July 4</b> 5 a.m. Press Conferences 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 6:30 p.m. Public Affairs <b>Saturday, July 5</b> 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Moments with Melinda 9 p.m. Press Conferences 11 p.m. Energy Week <b>Sunday, July 6</b> 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Selectboard	4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Moments with Melinda <b>Monday, July 7</b> 4:30 a.m. Energy Week 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conferences 10 a.m. Selectboard 12 p.m. Public Affairs 5 p.m. Press Conferences 7:30 p.m. Public Affairs <b>Tuesday, July 8</b> 7 a.m. Press Conferences 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard <b>Wednesday, July 9</b> 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	4 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard 10 p.m. Energy Week <b>Thursday, July 10</b> 5 a.m. Press Conferences 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Selectboard  <b>Channel 1091</b> <b>Friday, July 4</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Yoga 7:30 a.m. Meg Madden - Mushrooms 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 6 p.m. Mary Hogan Kindergarten Orientation 7 p.m. From Our Archives <b>Saturday, July 5</b> 4:30 a.m. Tai Chi 5 a.m. Chair Yoga	6 a.m. Meg Madden - Mushrooms 8 a.m. School Board Meetings 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Mary Hogan Kindergarten 7 p.m. From Our Archives <b>Sunday, July 6</b> 5 a.m. Yoga 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 7 a.m. From Our Archives 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 6:30 p.m. State Board of Education 10 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 11 p.m. From Our Archives <b>Monday, July 7</b> 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:30 a.m. Authors & Poets 12 p.m. Tai Chi 12:30 p.m. Chair Yoga 6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 10 p.m. Author Talk <b>Tuesday, July 8</b> 5:30 a.m. Tai Chi	6 a.m. Yoga 12 p.m. Mary Hogan Kindergarten 1 p.m. Otter Creek Poets 5 p.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. The Story Matters 6 p.m. School Board Meeting/s <b>Wednesday, July 9</b> 5 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Festival On the Green 9 p.m. Authors & Poets <b>Thursday, July 10</b> 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Brain Development - Jody Brakeley 10 a.m. Authors & Poets 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 6 p.m. Festival On the Green 8 p.m. From Our Archives	



**GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB BOUND FOR BRISTOL RIDE.** Sunday, July 6. Meet at 8:45 a.m., Clifford's Lumber, Route 116 in Hinesburg. This 40-mile ride takes low traffic roads from Hinesburg to Bristol. Those doing the short, 27-mile loop can stop at the Minifactory Café / Bakery or Smoke and Lola's on 28 North St. for an out and back, but those on the longer route will add a loop through New Haven and Bristol before earning their pastries. More info contact leader Brian Howard at 802-304-0610 / bjhowd@gmail.com or co-leader Karl Garen at 802-318-0116 / kgaren@gmail.com.

**CIRCUS SMIRKUS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, July 6, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mary Hogan Elementary Field, 201 Mary Hogan Dr. See July 5 listing

**SUNDAY SESSIONS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, July 6, 1 p.m., Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Rd. Join us on the patio for a special Sunday Session with singer-songwriter Bobby Sheehan, whose music is steeped in the folk traditions of New England and shaped by a life surrounded by melody and storytelling. Free and open to the public.

**MONDAY, JULY 7**

**VERGENNES CITY BAND CONCERT IN VERGENNES.** Monday, July 7, 7 p.m., City Green. A staple of Vergennes

summer. Relax on the green and listen to live band music.

**TUESDAY, JULY 8**

**STORIES, ART, AND FREE BOOKS IN NEW HAVEN.** Tuesday, July 8, 10:30 a.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Join us for stories and art with local author and illustrator Amy Huntington! Afterwards each child can choose 2 brand new free books to keep from a great selection. Thanks to the Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) for sponsoring this!

**BIXBY BOOK CLUB IN VERGENNES.** Tuesday, July 8, 6-7 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Come discuss "The Rent Collector" by Camron Wright, the story of Snag Ly, who struggles to survive by picking through garbage in Cambodia's largest municipal dump and is forced on a desperate journey to save her ailing son from a life of ignorance and poverty.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 9**

**THE ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL.** Wednesday, July 9, 5-8 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 North 116 Rd. The Albany Sound is Lowell Thompson, Michael Chorney, Pat Melvin and Jeremy Fredrick. The band honed its sound, a rich combination of American country, folk and rock, with a weekly residency in Bristol. Thompson's songs make up the heart of The Albany

Sound and complement their repertoire with renditions of rarities by Lucinda Williams, John Prine, Bobby Charles, Small Faces and others. Music is free. Food and beverages for purchase.

**TINYUSSMALLUS IN BRANDON.** Wednesday, July 9, 6 p.m., Behind the Brandon Inn. A high energy '90s nostalgia band with tight grooves. Part of Brandon's Music by the Riverbend series. Rain location Brandon Town Hall.

**AUTHOR TALK IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, July 9, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 30 Main St. Julie Parker, author of, "Journey Beyond Despair", will be here for conversation and reading from her new book which takes readers into the abyss of psychosis. Location: NBM meeting room.

**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 join the band. More info at 802-281-2315 for further information.

**THURSDAY, JULY 10**

**BASIN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL IN BRANDON.** Thursday, July 10-Sunday, July 13. 1 Basin Rd. A weekend of bluegrass, food and craft concessions, cover for rain or shine Family-friendly. More

info and full schedule at [basinbluegrassfestival.com/flyer](http://basinbluegrassfestival.com/flyer).

**SHIPWRECK TOUR IN FERRISBURGH.** Thursday, July 10, 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 LCMM.org.

**BOOK DONATION DAY IN VERGENNES.** Thursday, July 10, 3 p.m., Bixby Library, 258 Main St. Donate your summer reads (and anything else) to the Bixby Library Book Sale. Donations accepted in the back parking lot from 3-6 p.m. Fiction should be published after 2014 or written by a popular author, and non-fiction should be current and saleable. Donated books will be featured at the book sale on Saturday, July 12.

**O & SCHU IN GOSHEN.** Thursday, July 10, 5-8 p.m., Blueberry Hill Inn, Ripton Goshen Rd. \$34 per person (age 13 and older), includes

all-you-can-eat pizza, lemonade and live music. Kids 7-12: \$20. Kids 6 and under, free when accompanied by their parent or guardian.

**ART OPENING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, July 10, 5-6:30 p.m., Edgewater Gallery on the Green, 6 Merchants Row. Opening reception with Tracy Burtz.

**TRUE CRIME PODCAST CLUB IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, July 10, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 30 Main St. Join fellow sleuths to discuss this month's podcast. We will be discussing the case of Michael Iver Peterson an American novelist who was convicted in 2003 of murdering his second wife, Kathleen Peterson. Listen to the podcast on your own before the discussion. This program is for participants 18+. Listen to the podcast wherever you get your podcasts or ask Renee for assistance. Location: NBM meeting room.

**SEE MORE CALENDAR LISTINGS ONLINE!**  
[ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM](http://ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM)



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**SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025**

**7:00 - Durham County Poets**  
Canadian band offering blues, folk, soul, country, gospel & New Orleans jazz.



**MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025**



**Noon - Gaëlle, Marc & Mathis**  
Songs, poetry, music



**7:00 - Caitlin Canty**  
Singer/songwriter whose music carves a line through folk, blues & country ballads.



**8:30 - Ray Vega's Afro-Caribbean Jazz Ensemble**  
VT's own jazz, Latin & funk band.

Visit us online for more information  
[festivalonthegreen.org](http://festivalonthegreen.org)



# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

## MILKWEED: NOT A WEED AT ALL

**M**ilkweed may seem like a weed because of its name, but it's actually an incredibly important plant.

The leaves of milkweed are the primary food source for monarch caterpillars. The flowers provide nectar for the adult monarch butterfly and countless other pollinators and insects.

BY **BONNIE KIRN DONAHUE**

The monarch (*Danaus plexippus*), Vermont's state butterfly, is a species at risk with a declining population due to loss of habitat, climate change and other factors. Planting milkweed and protecting existing milkweed can help support this species.

Milkweed can grow in a wide variety of

environments from roadsides and abandoned lots to the edge of fields, meadows and even in manicured gardens. This native, perennial powerhouse is an adaptable plant that should be embraced in almost any landscape.

One easy thing you can do to encourage milkweed to grow is to only mow what you really need to use. Leaving infrequently mowed meadow areas provides an opportunity for milkweed to flourish. Cutting back to mowing once per year, or once every few years, is a great way to do more good by doing less.

Another thing to try when milkweed appears in your garden is just to leave it and let it grow. Try to get used to the idea that even if you didn't plant it, it could be beneficial, so you can leave it in certain sections of the garden.

When milkweed is happy, it tends to grow



Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension Master Gardener and landscape architect from central Vermont.

in colonies, so try to embrace this as well. It is providing many benefits by being there, perhaps more than other common ornamental plants.

Milkweed can also be sown as plants, plugs or even by seed. There are multiple species of milkweed that are adapted to different conditions.

You can buy milkweed plants from local nurseries that sell native plants or order seed online from native plant nurseries. Try to find seed that has been collected as close as possible to your area to support local plant genetics.

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) grows in a variety of conditions from dry to medium-wet soils in full sun. It tolerates poor soil and can grow into large patches by underground rhizomes. This species grows 2- to 3-feet tall, and about 12 inches wide. Its pink-mauve clusters of flowers are fragrant and showy.

True to its name, swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) grows in medium to wet soils, but can tolerate some variation. It grows 3- to 4-feet tall, preferring full sun. This taller milkweed has thinner leaves than common milkweed, and it also likes to naturalize.

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 10



Swamp milkweed, which is taller with thinner leaves than common milkweed, grows best in full sun and medium to wet soils.

PHOTO / BONNIE KIRN DONAHUE



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# PUZZLES

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ACROSS

- 1. Notes
- 6. Long-haired dog breed
- 12. ESPN's nickname
- 16. Spanish be
- 17. Disadvantage
- 18. Of I
- 19. Actor Pacino
- 20. On your way: \_\_ route
- 21. Fifth note of a major scale
- 22. Companies need it
- 23. News agency
- 24. Faces of an organization
- 26. Ponds
- 28. Samoa's capital
- 30. Partner to "Pa"
- 31. Adult male
- 32. Cool!
- 34. Used of a number

- or amount not specified
- 35. No No No
  - 37. Hosts film festival
  - 39. British place to house convicts
  - 40. Made of fermented honey and water
  - 41. Chief
  - 43. College army
  - 44. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
  - 45. Consume
  - 47. One point north of due east
  - 48. For instance
  - 50. Brews
  - 52. Alaskan river
  - 54. Not soft
  - 56. Atomic #22
  - 57. "The Golden State"
  - 59. "The world's most famous arena"
  - 60. Larry and Curly's

- pal
- 61. One billion gigabytes
  - 62. Conducts inspections
  - 63. Malaria mosquitoes
  - 66. Unit to measure width
  - 67. Features
  - 70. Affairs
  - 71. Letter of Semitic abjads

DOWN

- 1. Follower of Islam
- 2. Trauma center
- 3. French young women
- 4. Norse god
- 5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
- 6. Merchant

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	
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## 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

- 7. Peyton's younger brother
- 8. Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
- 9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
- 10. "Pollack" actor Harris
- 11. Stuck around
- 12. Put on
- 13. Influential Norwegian playwright
- 14. Christian \_\_,
- 15. Fulfills a debt

- 25. Style
- 26. More (Spanish)
- 27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 29. Remedy
- 31. Disturbance
- 33. "The Martian" actor Matt
- 36. Express delight
- 38. Brooklyn hoopster
- 39. 1900 lamp
- 41. Motionless
- 42. One's mother (Brit.)
- 43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 46. Compels to act

- 47. Gardening tool
- 49. Ancient country
- 51. Frightening
- 53. Wimbledon champion Arthur
- 54. Popular plant
- 55. Database management system
- 58. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 60. Where soldiers eat
- 64. Tenth month (abbr.)
- 65. Illuminated
- 68. Atomic #18
- 69. Adults need one to travel

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.



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# Pets In Need

## HOMeward BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

### Chloe

**Chloe** is a sweet and chunky girl. Shelter life is stressful for her and she has been very shy with us. After some time, she has slowly come out of her shell but would thrive in a quiet home. She enjoys head pets and munching on some chicken. Chloe has no experience with other animals but may do okay with a calm animal.



### Inky



**Inky** is a super affectionate girl who arrived to us as a stray. Her history is unknown, but she is super friendly and was clearly socialized. Inky has not gotten along with other cats and we are unsure about dogs. Inky is FIV+ and would need to be an in-door-only cat. Positive cats typically have the same life expectancy as those who are negative.

### Mitzy

**Mitzy** is a gentle and sweet old soul. She is both friendly and shy. Mitzy would prefer a quiet home and can live with other cats. She has no experience with dogs. Mitzy is diagnosed with hyperthyroidism and is on a low-cost medication that she takes 2 times a day. Please don't let this stop you from visiting!



### Harley



Hi! I'm **Harley**, a 1-year-old Walker Coonhound with a lot of puppy energy! I'm a happy, wiggly girl ready for a home to call my own. The outdoors is my favorite place to be and I would prefer a yard to roam around in. I must say, I have pretty good recall! I'm not yet leash trained, but very food motivated and willing to learn. I've lived with dogs, cats, and even a bird! I've been around older children, but young children make me nervous. I love to play with tennis balls!

### Sage

Hi! I'm **Sage**, an energetic 1-year-old Walker Coonhound. I'm a happy, playful girl who loves to be outside. I'm still figuring out how to be on a leash, but am very food-motivated and eager to learn. I've previously lived with dogs, cats, birds, and older children.



**Want to learn more?**

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The leaves of the milkweed plant are the primary food source for monarch caterpillars.

PHOTO / BONNIE KIRN DONAHUE

## GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

While lovely and highly attractive to pollinators, gardeners should reconsider planting the orange-flowered butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) in gardens. It has been added to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife's list of "Rare and Uncommon Native Vascular Plants of Vermont," which means that planting butterfly weed with genetics from other parts of the U.S. may interfere with local genetics of this threatened species. However, if this plant is already in your garden, there is no need to pull it up.

Interested in growing milkweed? More information can be found at [monarchwatch.org/](http://monarchwatch.org/) milkweed.

Together, with little changes in landscape maintenance and mindset, we can help protect and build habitat for the monarch and many other important pollinators and insects.



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# THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

## Paradise for the equestrian enthusiast

Vermont horse farm on 116 picturesque acres of rolling hills with stunning views and frontage along Little Otter Creek. Approximately 30 acres are fenced and ready for horses or livestock. The impressive barn features 5 oversized horse stalls built with 2-inch hemlock — strong enough for Clydesdales — plus 5 lean-tos for storage, animals, or garage use, hayloft that holds up to 1,000 bales, and spacious paddock. One stall is specially designed for a mare and foal. Additional outbuildings include a large equipment garage and gardening shed. The updated 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath home offers a brand-new kitchen with butcher block counters and walk-in pantry, renovated bathrooms, new flooring throughout, fresh paint, sunny wrap-around porch, and walkout basement. A seller concession is included for kitchen appliances — move right in and make it your own. A second permitted lot is included within the acreage, offering future building opportunity.

Beautiful country setting located in southern Monkton, only 10 minutes to downtown Vergennes and amenities, about 15 minutes to Middlebury, and 45 minutes to Burlington.



*This property is listed and marketed by Lipkin Audette Team, and managed by Coldwell Banker Hickok & Boardman. For more info, please call 802-846-8800 or visit [hickokandboardman.com](http://hickokandboardman.com).*







**WEYBRIDGE NEW LISTING!**  
**1816 MORGAN HORSE FARM RD**  
MLS #5048666 | \$3,860,000  
4 BD | 6 BA | 5687 SF | 26.10 ACRES

Comprehensive renovation on this handsome heritage estate, offering a pond, formal garden & raised beds, post & beam barn with a handsome 2nd floor accessory dwelling, and a three-bay equipment shed.



**NEW HAVEN NEW LISTING!**  
**3979 RIVER ROAD**  
MLS #5048139 | \$343,000  
2 BD | 1 BA | 1008 SF | 0.64 ACRES

Charming, modern Cape features exposed beams, slate and wood floors, custom cabinets, stainless appliances, a woodstove insert, beautifully renovated bath, and an outdoor wood-fired pizza oven!



**MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!**  
**3 CHIPMAN HEIGHTS**  
MLS #5049067 | \$1,149,000  
4 BD | 4 BA | 2615 SF | 0.72 ACRES

A Chipman Hill beauty with custom cabinetry/woodwork, vaulted ceilings, landscaped gardens, patio, screened porch, 2-car garage with heated workshop, solar and the list goes on—an exceptional in-town home!



**BRISTOL NEW LISTING!**  
**382 HEWITT ROAD**  
MLS #5048852 | \$995,000  
4 BD | 5 BA | 5474 SF | 3.16 ACRES

A total renovation on this 1847 Gothic Revival home making for a residence brimming with elegance and charm. Mature landscaping, expansive front porch, mountain views, two barns—and ask about the opportunities!



**MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!**  
**487 BURNHAM DRIVE**  
MLS #5048366 | \$649,000  
4 BD | 3 BA | 2411 SF | 1.23 ACRES

Delightful Cape-style home with an ideal layout, renovated kitchen, inviting screened-in porch, and bonus space in the basement. You'll have lots of storage, an attached garage, and a large yard to play in!

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## Charming Brandon Village Cape



Charming cape-style home located in the village. Features include hardwood and softwood flooring, a wood burning fireplace in the living room, a 22'x11' deck with a 11.5'x13' foot patio area adjacent. The spacious backyard offers ample gardening space, while the oversized one-car garage provides plenty of storage. This home is ideally situated in the village center, close to shopping, the library, restaurants, and churches. \$330,000



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Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

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## 548 Watch Point Rd, Shoreham

This beautifully maintained 1890s Queen Anne Victorian blends distinctive period architecture, mature landscaping, and pastoral views. A grand foyer opens to spacious living and family rooms, with a central hall leading to an eat-in kitchen and multiple porches. The home includes five bedrooms, two baths, and a finished attic bonus space. Lovingly cared for by the same family for over 45 years, it offers warmth, character, situated on a park like 2.7 acre lot with pond.

MLS No. 5047185 | \$ 725,000



## TBD South Lincoln Rd, Lincoln

62.3-acre wooded parcel with western view potential and Cota Brook along its northern edge, featuring waterfalls and swimming holes. Ideal for recreation or future development. Close to the New Haven River, hiking, skiing, and a vibrant community. This special land offers natural beauty with long-term potential.

MLS No. 4971457 | \$ 475,000



UNDER CONTRACT

## 418 E. Main Street, Middlebury

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath, East Middlebury Village home was tastefully renovated from the studs up in 2016, retaining much of the original charm while benefitting from the convenience and peace of mind that comes with all new systems.

MLS No. 5047066 | \$ 495,000

for more information, contact our office:



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## 640 ORCHARD DRIVE, BRIDPORT

Charming 1888 farmhouse with Adirondack views, updated 3-bed interior, custom kitchen, and original hardwood floors. Features patio, gardens, pond, and multiple outbuildings, including a heated 48' x 78' shop with office and suite. Zoned Commercial & Residential with endless potential.

MLS# 5022374

\$1,499,000



## 2940 ROUTE 30, CASTLETON

Charming 1888 colonial on nearly an acre with deeded lake frontage, dock, and boat lift. This spacious home features a main-floor primary suite, open kitchen/dining/living area with a stone fireplace, plus two bedrooms, office/flex space, and full bath upstairs. Hardwood floors throughout. Relax on the deck or by the firepit and take in the sunsets.

MLS# 5046613

\$529,000



## 1083 LAKE DUNMORE RD, SALISBURY

New 2025 contemporary home on 2 acres in scenic Salisbury, VT. This 4-bed, 3-bath home features a spacious layout with double doors between the kitchen and dining room, and includes full appliances. Ideal as a family or vacation home. New construction, in the process of being built, give the builder your finishing choices. Three additional lots available—bring your design or choose one from the builder!

MLS# 5039318

\$469,000



## VT ROUTE 125, BRIDPORT

17.25 acres with 275 feet of private Lake Champlain frontage and stunning Adirondack views. This rare property offers town water and power at the street, ideal for a future home, retreat, or lakefront estate. Enjoy direct lake access, serene sunrises, and endless potential in a breathtaking Vermont setting.

MLS# 5043604

\$699,00





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**3028 Rote 22A, Shoreham \$285,000 MLS#5048001**  
This rural Vermont-style cape is a diamond in the rough! Conveniently located in the heart of Shoreham Village.....This single-family home offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, with a 2-car detached garage and plenty of open space for gardens. Connected to municipal water & sewer. The house is currently being lived in; however, it needs updating. This is a great opportunity. Call today to schedule a showing.



**71 Maple St, Brandon \$125,000 MLS#5048725**  
This property is in need of a full renovation or a full rebuild and is not livable at this time. This .76 acre lot is conveniently located near the center of town. It is 25 minutes to Rutland or Middlebury. This is a perfect location to create your dream. Sold as is. Buyer and Buyer's agent due diligence is necessary. Cash or rehab loan only.

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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org)  
"Artists in the House: An Exhibit & Silent Auction Fundraiser" brings together contemporary artists in Addison County in this 50/50 fundraiser and summer exhibit, which features over 30 works on display in the Museum's historic kitchen. To bid, visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/artists-in-the-house-fundraiser](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/artists-in-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 treasures in the Sheldon Museum's collection. On view May 21-Oct. 31.

"Slow Seeing: A Close Observation Room." In this room, you're invited to ssslllllloooooowwwwww doooooowwwwnnnnnnnnn 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.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury  
For more info visit [sparrowartsupply.com](http://sparrowartsupply.com)  
"Spotlight @ Sparrow: Mira Veikley Cabrera." This month's exhibit will feature a collection of limited edition, hand-embellished fine



Sparrow Art Supply is launching a new monthly series called "Spotlight @ Sparrow" which will feature local artists. July focuses on the vibrant, rooted work of Mira Veikley Cabrera, the artist behind *Growing In Process*—a fine art and pigment studio devoted to place, process, and connection. Mira blends contemporary abstraction with the ancient art of foraging and crafting her own pigments.

art prints — each uniquely finished with the botanical pigments that inspired the originals, including flowers, berries, and leaves. Find more about Mira on Sparrow's website.

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# July Summer Sounds Concert Series

FREE outdoor weekly live concert series  
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Register at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org)

## Connor Young Quartet

Saturday July 5th 5:30-7:00pm

4:30pm Opening Act: Young Company Presents A Midsummer Night's Dream  
Food by La Chapina Guatemalan

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.



## Julianna Luna & Friends

Saturday July 12th 5:30-7:00pm

4:30pm Opening Act: Young Company Presents A Midsummer Night's Dream  
Food by Mexico in Vermont

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.

## Windborne Community Sing

Sunday July 20th 11am

The internationally acclaimed folk ensemble Windborne will lead a community sing in the new Maloney Plaza. No rehearsals, no spotlight—just the uplifting power of shared voices in a shared space. *Limited spots so register early!*



## The Traveling Middleburys

Saturday July 26th 5:30-7:00pm

Food by Gene's Chili Hut

Four long-time musicians from some of Addison County's favorite bands -- the Doughboys, the Avant-garde Dogs, and The Horse Traders -- join forces to reproduce the acoustic vibe and vocal harmonies of some timeless songs from the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

## What's Coming Up

Jackson Gallery  
**Above Vermont:**  
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Opening July 11 5pm  
Show June 27 – Aug 31

Point CounterPoint  
Presents  
**Summer Faculty**  
**Concert**  
July 11 7:30pm  
\$5-\$10 suggested

The Young Company  
Presents  
**A Midsummer**  
**Night's Dream**  
July 13 & 19 4:30pm  
\$5-\$10 suggested

Otter Creek  
Music Festival  
Presents  
**Windborne**  
July 20 4pm  
\$15-\$35

The Young Company  
Presents  
**Joseph and the Amazing**  
**Technicolor Dreamcoat**  
July 25 7pm | July 26 & 27 2pm  
\$10-\$25

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July 28 6pm  
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