



Puzzlers

On Jan. 29 some locals will honor their brain-challenging calling. Read about it in Arts+Leisure.



On the beam

The MUHS gymnastics team enjoyed a win at its Monday home meet. See Sports, Page 1B.



Heating up

Despite some obstacles, the Snow Bowl has seen an uptick in skiers so far. See Page 3A.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Races shape up for town meeting

Middlebury area readies for municipal, school elections

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury voters on March 1 will decide a four-person race for three, three-year terms on the local selectboard, and they'll also help decide two contested spots on the Addison Central School District board.

Candidates for various municipal and school board positions had

until the end of the business day on Monday, Jan. 24, to declare their intentions to their local town clerks. The state of Vermont this year waived the usual signature gathering requirement for petition papers, owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Confirmed candidates for the (See Middlebury, Page 9A)

No contests, but Vergennes area to see new faces in office

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Barring write-in candidacies, there will be no races for major offices in Vergennes and its four surrounding towns, but four of the five communities will see new faces in office after the Town Meeting Day elections, while some long-serving officeholders have decided to step down.

Vergennes will see a new city

councilor and Vergennes-Panton Water District board member; Ferrisburgh will have a new Addison Northwest School Board member and will have to appoint another; Waltham will elect new selectboard and ANWSD board members; and Addison will either elect or appoint a new town clerk.

The longest-tenured public (See Vergennes area, Page 12A)

Ballots set in 5-Town area

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

ADDISON COUNTY — All 10 members of selectboards in Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro whose terms are set to expire on Town Meeting Day will be running to keep their seats. All but one are running unopposed.

Meanwhile, the Mount Abraham Unified School District is likely to see some new faces in the coming year, after two of four incumbents decided not to seek reelection.

Here's who will be running on the March 1 ballot:

Bristol selectboard incumbents Ian Albinston (3-year term) and Darla Senecal (2-year term) are running unopposed to keep their seats.

MAUSD's newest board member from Bristol, Erin Jipner, who was appointed last fall, will be running to keep her seat, and she will face a challenge from fellow resident (See Bristol area, Page 12A)



Beating the cold

ELLIOTT HENDY RACES ahead of Harper Hendy, left, and Meredith Prouty to get back up a sledding hill at the Ralph Myhre Golf Course in Middlebury Sunday afternoon. The snow was fast, the temps were relatively mild, and the smiles spilled out in abundance. See more sledding photos on Page 9A.

Independent photo/Steve James

ANWSD budget up; tax drop is predicted

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Addison Northwest School District Board has adopted a \$22,327,585 spending plan for the next school year. If backed on Town Meeting Day, it would increase spending by 3.35% over the currently approved level.

But in spite of the proposed higher spending, the latest estimates indicate property tax rates would drop in all five ANWSD communities by a range of between about 1.7 and 7 cents if voters support the budget on March 1.

The board on Jan. 19 also voted to ask residents to back a plan to use \$1.5 million of the district's \$1.86 million audit-confirmed surplus for repairs and upgrades at Vergennes Union Elementary and High schools.

The board also favored using \$337,763 of that surplus to help keep district taxes in check, and voted to place the remaining surplus balance — \$28,935 — into the ANWSD Education Stabilization Fund. Voters have pre-approved the board to put a small amount annually into that rainy day fund.

ANWSD residents will weigh in on the budget, capital fund request and a number of housekeeping items — such as approval of board salaries and a request for permission to distribute the district's annual report electronically — by Australian balloting at community polling places on March 1.

ANWSD ballots will be available by mail if requested by individual (See ANWSD, Page 12A)

Snowmobile trail needs state's OK

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

STARKSBORO — Snowmobilers hoping to travel between existing trails in Starksboro and Lincoln are unlikely to get all the permissions they need before this winter season is over.

On Jan. 10 the Mt. Abe Snow Sports/Snowmobiling Club (MASSSC) submitted to the Starksboro selectboard a formal

request to use portions of Ireland and Conway roads for a proposed connector trail between the Lewis Creek Wildlife Management Area and a trail behind the Jerusalem Corners Store that leads to Lincoln.

State law prohibits snowmobiling on plowed roads without permission from the municipality responsible for maintaining those roads.

The selectboard determined the

proposal was incomplete and issued guidance on what further items would be needed before it could consider the request.

MASSSC, which is one of more than 100 member clubs of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), has since filed an amended request

Whether or not the Starksboro (See Trails, Page 11A)

\$5M in fixes pitched for affordable housing

Units targeted in three county towns

By JOHN FLOWERS

VERGENNES — John Graham Housing & Services (JGH&S) is planning a \$5 million overhaul of several of its affordable housing projects in Vergennes, Middlebury and Bristol, a project that will result in better accommodations for the low-income families and individuals who live in those 18 units.

"While there's a lot of work associated with putting this together in a rather short turnaround time, it's well worth the effort," said Susan Whitmore, executive director of JGH&S. "And I think it's also our responsibility as one of the primary affordable housing agencies in Addison County to do this on behalf of the people we're serving."

Specifically, the repairs —

ranging from the replacement of flooring, to reconfiguration of floor plans to allow for better access — will be made to JGH&S-owned buildings at:

- 3-5 East St. and 74-76 Green St., Vergennes.
- 42 North Pleasant St., Middlebury.
- 24 Mountain St., Bristol.

In most cases, these apartments have bathrooms, kitchens and flooring in need of rehab, according to Whitmore. In other cases, it's wiring and/or plumbing. Some of the buildings need exterior roof work and/or siding. JGH&S is working with Jon Saccoccio of JA Saccoccio Architectural Workshop on the architectural schematics for each structure, and is reviewing (See Shelter, Page 11A)

"We feel a huge responsibility to stick with people for as long as they'll continue to work with us."

— Susan Whitmore



By the way

A big shout-out to local filmmaker Andy Mitchell, who recently learned that "The Secrets of the Whales" — a documentary that he co-directed and helped produce — won a 2021 Emmy Award for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series. Mitchell is (See By the way, Page 12A)

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MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY PLAYERS volunteer Tom Noble assesses the condition of a Town Hall Theater chair that spends its offstage time in the MCP workshop and storage unit off Route 7 South in Middlebury. MCP was recently asked to make way for an expanding business and is now looking to relocate all of the furniture and set construction materials it maintains and makes available to local theater companies.

Independent photo/Christopher Ross

Theater workshop needs new home

Many local productions depend on its props & stage sets

By CHRISTOPHER ROSS

MIDDLEBURY — Over the past 13 years — and especially during the pandemic — Tom Noble of the Middlebury Community Players (MCP) has developed an almost encyclopedic knowledge of the materials that have been used and reused in dozens and dozens of productions at Town Hall Theater and elsewhere.

During a recent visit to the company's storage space and workshop off Route 7 South, Noble dumped a jar of screws on a table, picked one up and held it up. Square drive, 2.5 inches, a bit of off-white paint on the head. Based on that information alone, he was able to identify the first theater set it helped build.

(See Theater, Page 10A)



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Ripton readies for new education future as independent district

Relatively new school board is putting together a plan

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — Ripton school officials said they'll try to make the best of what they believe was in incorrect decision by the Vermont State Board of Education (VSBE) on Jan. 19 to designate the town its own supervisory district. The designation means that Ripton will have to plan and administer its elementary school special education, K-12 transportation and central office services without the greater resources of a consolidated school district.

Directors of the Ripton School District said they will now work feverishly to get the community ready to run its own preK-12 system by July 1, 2023.

In the short-term, that work will include engaging consultants to help Ripton set up that new school system, which could ultimately include Lincoln, and bringing the community up to speed on the latest developments at a March 16 informational meeting. In a normal year, Ripton could have such a townwide conversation at town meeting on Feb. 28, but Ripton's annual gathering was postponed to May 9, primarily due to the pandemic.

Along with discussing the ramifications of Ripton's supervisory district designation, the March 16 gathering will allow the school board to make a case for growing its ranks from the current three members to five, according to Steve Cash, who chairs the panel.

Cash and his colleagues hope to have more details to share with residents on March 16 — including about a potential partnership with Lincoln. Lincoln has already voted to withdraw from the Mount Abraham Unified School District, and a majority of voters in each of the four other MAUSD towns

— Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro — must endorse Lincoln's departure on March 1 in order for its independence drive to continue.

"The talks with Lincoln are hopeful," Cash told the *Independent*. "We are excited to collaborate and explore the potential partnerships that we may be able to develop, and perhaps we can find a place where small schools have more relevance in the evolving educational landscape."

Ripton and Lincoln residents see independence from their school districts as a way to safeguard their small, local elementary schools. The MAUSD is considering a proposal to repurpose three of its five elementary schools (including Lincoln's) in wake of declining enrollment and rising education costs. Meanwhile, the Addison Central School District board has studied various merger scenarios that reflect a district with three or four elementary schools, instead of the current seven.

Ripton residents last January voted to leave the ACSO, a move subsequently affirmed by voters in the other district towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge. Then Ripton took its go-it-alone bid to the VSBE.

While the VSBE on Jan. 19 voted unanimously to cut Ripton's umbilical cord to the ACSO 17 months from now, it didn't set the baby up with a path to success, Ripton officials would argue. The town had hoped to assume control of its preK-5 school and tuition its older students to area middle and high schools. But Ripton couldn't find a supervisory union willing to provide the special education, transportation and central office services the town would need to

run its school district, and the VSBE declined to force an SU to provide those services.

INFRASTRUCTURE
Few Vermont municipalities could afford to establish their own central office infrastructure, and Ripton isn't one of them.

So where does the small town go from here? Ripton officials are still figuring that out, and they said it's a complicated proposition.

"Because there are no other examples of supervisory districts as small as ours, it is hard to be certain about particular outcomes," Cash said. "Certainly, a small school operating as a stand-alone supervisory district presents challenges that we will have to navigate. We believe there are opportunities for collaboration and sub-contracting that may result from our supervisory district assignment, and which aren't feasible in other situations where supervisory services are provided. While I am not certain about the particulars of the system that will be in place by July 1, 2023, I am confident the Ripton School Board will secure the best outcomes available for Ripton's students."

Ripton school officials said they'll engage consultants to help them lay the groundwork for their supervisory district. Among those on the town's radar: Jeff Vallance, former principal/superintendent of the Lyme School in Lyme, N.H.

"I think he can help put forth a really interesting take on a unique supervisory structure," said Ripton School board member Molly Witters.

At the same time, Witters acknowledged Vallance doesn't have experience with the Vermont public education system. So she and her colleagues have asked the Vermont School Boards

Association for help finding additional consultant support.

Asked how Ripton will pay for consultants and other independence prep work, Witters replied, "That's a very good question."

The Ripton School Board was only elected last July — long after the customary March elections, and without a budget. Ripton will continue to be served by the ACSO through the 2022-2023 academic year.

"We're in the process of coming up with a line item for our fiscal year 2022 budget," Witters said.

So in the meantime, the three Ripton school directors are putting in a lot of their own time to steer the ship. Witters is an accomplished veterinarian who's been working part-time of late. She's investing that extra time in her town's school system.

"I'm purposely making choices around leaving myself time to do this work, unpaid," she said. "I have the opportunity to pick up a lot more work in my profession, but if I go back fulltime as a veterinarian right now, I won't be able to do this."

She said her colleagues — Cash and Joanna Doria — are also dedicated.

"We're going to keep working because we don't want to let our community and our children down," Witters said.

She anticipates much of the board's work in the short term will be to determine whether Ripton can realistically create an excellent preK-12 school system that meets state approval and that's affordable to local taxpayers in a town of 739 residents.

It's a tall task, but Witters said Ripton has become accustomed to its David versus Goliath battle.

"I hope there's a way we can use all of our resilience, ingenuity and drive to find a way to support small towns that think the 'spoke-and-wheel' model — having their youngest children close to home and their older children moving toward the consolidated system — makes sense," she said.

OTHER SMALL SCHOOLS
Ripton officials said they hope the VSBE takes another look at Vermont Education Secretary

Daniel French's take on the Ripton situation, as described in his letter of Aug. 24, 2021, to the VSBE.

"It seems likely that in the near future, the board will want to revisit whatever choice it makes to provide for the immediate needs of the Ripton School District," French wrote.

"There are many schools throughout the region that are located within unified union school districts. Some of these unified school districts have begun to discuss the possibility of school closures and of future mergers, which has led residents in some small towns to consider withdrawal from the union school districts. It may be most prudent to designate the Ripton School District and any other withdrawing town as its own SD for at least the next few years, in case other changes in the region necessitate either the need for a new multi-district SU, or some other configuration that cannot yet be contemplated with any specificity."

"In essence, we are contemplating that other entity right now, and we're going to go forward with modeling it and looking at its feasibility and thinking about how it might provide services for our own community, our neighboring communities and communities down the line in the state," Witters said.

Oliver Olsen, chair of the VSBE, has cautioned Ripton and other communities about proceeding with independence bids at a time when Title 16 of the state statutes governing that process is in flux. For example, Rep. Butch Shaw, R-Pittsford, is sponsoring bill H.493, which among other things would require the "VSBE, in deciding whether to approve applications for withdrawal from a unified union or union school district, to take into account whether the goals of Act 46 are satisfied."

The VSBE may soon be asked to weigh in on Stowe's effort to withdraw from the Lamoyille South Unified Union School District. But it's unclear whether Stowe is legally entitled to go through the withdrawal process, because that community was involuntarily

merged into the LSUUSD through Act 46. Olsen has asked for a legal opinion from the Vermont Attorney General's Office on this issue.

Olsen has publicly emphasized that communities should put a lot of study into an independence bid before launching one. And now is not the optimum time, he noted.

"There are so many risks with the unknowns and the complications of moving forward during this period of uncertainty," he told the *Independent*. "It would be extremely unwise for anyone to proceed further until the Legislature has had a chance to resolve these statutes."

When there's a lack of clarity in the process, that's where communities can get into trouble pretty quickly."

"I've said it before and I'll say it again, Ripton is a cautionary tale," he added.

Olsen said he's pleased the ACSO board has gone on record stating Ripton would be welcomed back into the fold should it find its independence effort unattainable.

"The state board has been very clear all along that that's really where we think this should ultimately go," he said.

But the ACSO and Ripton boards have failed to reach consensus on terms of a reconciliation. Ripton presented the district with several requests, including changes to the ACSO charter that would give member-communities more power in electing their board representatives and a final say on whether their own elementary schools should close.

A majority of the ACSO board rejected the proposed charter changes, arguing among other things that voters in all of its district towns had OK'd the charter back in 2016.

Witters acknowledged the comfort of having the ACSO as a reliable backstop, but that's not at the forefront of her mind right now.

"In my most idealistic sense of it, if we can create a model whereby small community schools can be supported in this state, then everybody wins," Witter said. "Whether this is feasible or not remains to be seen."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

"Because there are no other examples of supervisory districts as small as ours, it is hard to be certain about particular outcomes."

— Ripton School board Chair Steve Cash

"We're going to keep working because we don't want to let our community and our children down."

— Ripton School board member Molly Witters

Congratulations to Daniel Gutierrez & Grace Futral on their purchase of Bud's Beans



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—Leah Keller & Brian Carter

Local man found dead in East Midd Gorge

Rescue teams brave ice on top of river to retrieve body

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police are investigating the untimely death of a Middlebury man found deceased on the ice of the Middlebury River in East Middlebury on Sunday evening.

Police responded to a report from East Main Street of a missing man at around 10 minutes before 6 p.m. on Jan. 23. Several people in cars stopped near the Route 125 bridge over The Gorge to watch Middlebury Fire and Technical Rescue recover the body of 55-year-old Gregory Danyow of Middlebury, which was found on an icy stretch of the river.

Police on Monday morning were not speculating on how Danyow got on the ice. They told the *Independent* that Danyow's death is not considered suspicious, and

that an impending autopsy could reveal more about the circumstances surrounding his death.

After police identified Danyow's body on the ice, members of Middlebury Fire and Technical Rescue, aided by Vergennes firefighters, used ropes to descend into the gorge because of the steep and icy gorge walls. Then the firefighters had to carefully make their way up the frozen waterway, being careful not to fall through any ice shelves into the cold river underneath.

"It was sketchy at best," said Middlebury Fire Chief David Shaw, who noted that his members had undergone many hours of training.

There were 23 people involved in the recovery effort, which took about three hours.

CORRECTION: In the Richard Butz letter to the editor that appeared in our Jan. 6 edition, we mistakenly changed the spelling of a word that didn't

need it. The first word in the header for item 3 of that letter should have been "Additionality," which is a technical term used by the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change to describe new renewable energy production or emissions reductions in a specific context.

The *Independent* regrets the error.

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Member or Not...ANYONE CAN SHOP at THE CO-OP!



FOUR-YEAR-OLD Henry Landenberger of Weybridge gets a tow from mom Emily Landenberger during a family trip to the Snow Bowl this week.

Independent photo/Steve James

Snow Bowl ski season off to good start

By FLORENCE WU

HANCOCK — Contending with a warmish start to the ski season and the kind of staff shortages that many businesses are feeling nowadays, the Middlebury Snow Bowl still has seen a good early season with a jump in the number of guests. It has even managed to hire a new Snow School director.

Mike Hussey, manager at the

Snow Bowl and the nearby Rikert Nordic Center, attributes at least some of the improved ticket sales to people opting for more outdoor recreation because COVID-19 is driving them away from indoor activities.

“COVID seems to have brought about an increased interest in outdoor recreational activities from which skiing and golf are benefiting,”

Hussey said. “Numbers were up last year, and up again this year.”

Although we saw a higher number of warm days before the New Year, the Bowl opened on “the very reasonable” date of Dec. 1 for the Middlebury College ski team, and three days later for the public, Hussey said. It welcomed 50% more season pass holders with approximately 2,400 this season compared to 1,600 last season.

“We are also experiencing a similar percentage increase in day ticket sales through the holidays,” Hussey said.

The number of skiers at the Bowl each day fluctuates depending on weather and other factors. Last season it varied widely, from 950 to as low as 75, according to Hussey. The Bowl does not have any daily numbers tallied for this year.

The less-than-stellar ski conditions in December were no surprise. Weather forecasters had already said New England would see a warmer winter with less snowfall.

Meteorologists at the University of Winnipeg and the University of New Hampshire predict more wild swings between extremely cold days and warm winter days as a result of climate change. They described the phenomenon as “whiplash.” Data from the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation show that parts of northeastern North America have consistently seen less snowfall, warmer temperatures, and shorter winters in the past 100 years.

Burlington saw an average yearly snowfall of 63.1 inches last winter, compared to the 81.56 inches average from the past 10 years, according to the National Weather Service. While Addison County

saw three heavy snowstorms in November and December, warmer days in between melted most of the snow and made maintaining snow coverage on ski trails difficult for ski areas like the Snow Bowl.

“We had a couple of 30-, 40-degree days which makes (snow making) challenging. While my goal is always to try and open in November, Dec. 4 is no later than what we’ve done normally in the past,” Hussey said.

So far this season, the Bowl has made snow on 26.5 acres of its 35 acres, or 76%, of its skiable terrain. Though the possibility of installing more snow guns is discussed frequently, the college is not currently planning any expansions. According to Hussey, the bulk of their efforts is focused on increasing snowmaking efficiencies.

Even with more people on the slopes, low snow coverage and icy conditions, accident rates on the mountain have not increased, according to Ski Patrol Director Sean Grzyb. However, Grzyb emphasized, skiers and riders should “see the trail level not just as an indication of terrain difficulty, but also how you should ski through the trail,” especially when the number of trails open is limited due to low coverage.

“You should not be racing down Lang, which is a green trail, even if it is the only one open,” Grzyb said. “You also should not be going to Allen if you are a beginner or taking your kids there, because it is an advanced trail and people do go down it very fast.”

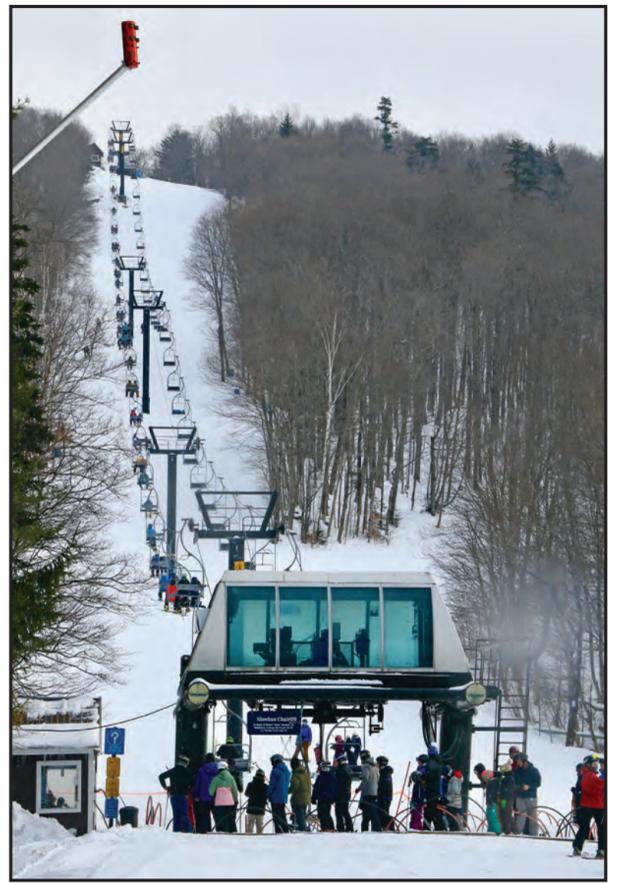
PANDEMIC AND STAFF

Compared to last year, the Bowl has less strict COVID-19 restrictions that allow visitors to stay indoors as long as they are masked at all times; they still must eat outside. Overall, Hussey is satisfied with visitor compliance.

“I think people understand, and they generally follow the signs,” he said.

Middlebury College senior John Vaaler, who was skiing at the Snow Bowl early this week, said he is not bothered by the dining restrictions.

“I’ve discovered the power of hand warmers (for eating outside). They keep me warm and, usually,



DESPITE THE COLD temperatures the lift lines at the Middlebury College Snow Bowl in Hancock did a swift business on Sunday.

Independent photo/Steve James

the food stays warm too, so it doesn’t bother me too much,” Vaaler said.

Following the retirement of former Snow School Director Daphne Diego, the Snow Bowl welcomed Carrie Herzog as the new co-director, who started on Christmas week. She will be working alongside Co-director Brett Rubright.

The Snow Bowl has not been spared from the nationwide labor shortage, which Hussey describes as “challenging but not problematic.” To attract more hires the Bowl increased its minimum wage from \$13.16 per hour to \$15. Nevertheless, it has not been easy to fill every open job.

“I’m not gonna lie — it’s hard to find people who want to come and make snow at night,” Hussey said.

However, the Snow Bowl manager believes the staff shortage trend affects his ski area less than larger resorts with a constant flow of guests. And he expects the Snow Bowl will be able to offer a fun experience to anyone who comes to ski or ride.

“We are not exactly Vail, you know,” Hussey said. “We are a small family resort and things run at a nice and easy pace here.”

Editor’s note: When not interning at the Independent, Florence Wu is a ski and snowboard instructor at the Snow Bowl.



SAM HURLBURT OF Middlebury stops to catch his breath with son Wyatt, 6, and daughter Aliza, 9, during a day at the Snow Bowl this past weekend.

Independent photo/Steve James



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Editorials

Small towns vs. state board: Only one's on target

Ripton's Molly Witters is right on target; State Board of Education Chair Oliver Olsen is not.

The target Witters is aiming for is to create a viable school district for one or more small schools, and perhaps a bevy of them — all dissatisfied with consolidation decisions that would close their schools.

Olsen, on the other hand, maintains that while Act 46 states towns have the right to withdraw from their districts to keep their schools open — even if that meant clearing high obstacles — there is no viable way to do so. Moreover, rather than try to make a system work for all of the state's schools, he, as state school board chair, has maintained that the state's target is to force consolidation whether smaller schools like it or not.

This reality came to a point last week when the state board of education told Ripton that it could exist as its own K-12 supervisory district, but it would be without the assistance of any other supervisory district's network. (See story on Page 1A.) The state board had the option of pairing Ripton with a neighboring or fitting supervisory union, but chose not to. Why? It appears that decision was because Olsen wanted to warn other towns to avoid the path Ripton has chosen.

"It would be extremely unwise for anyone to proceed further until the Legislature has had a chance to resolve these statutes. When there's a lack of clarity in the process, that's where communities can get into trouble pretty quickly... I've said it before and I'll say it again, Ripton is a cautionary tale."

It didn't have to be so.

The state board of education could have reviewed Act 46, understood that Ripton's withdrawal followed the letter of the law, and seeing that the law didn't provide for a viable process forward, they could have helped craft a way for Ripton and similar towns to be successful.

Rather, the board punted the problem back to the Legislature, acknowledging the bill needs more clarity for towns like Ripton.

Vermont Secretary of Education Dan French hints that other towns would be joining Ripton's desire to remain open and that a potential new model could be conceived.

"It seems likely that in the near future, the (state) board will want to revisit whatever choice it makes to provide for the immediate needs of the Ripton School District," French said. "There are many schools throughout the region that are located within larger unified union school districts. Some of these unified school districts have begun to discuss the possibility of school closures and of future mergers, which has led residents in some small towns to consider withdrawal from the union school districts. It may be most prudent to designate the Ripton School District and any other withdrawing town as its own SD for at least the next few years, in case other changes in the region necessitate either the need for a new multi-district SU, or some other configuration that cannot yet be contemplated with any specificity."

Meanwhile, Witters and other members of Ripton's school board and school community are determined to create practical and effective solutions.

"In essence, we are contemplating that other entity right now, and we're going to go forward with modeling it and looking at its feasibility and thinking about how it might provide services for our own community, our neighboring communities and communities down the line in the state," Witters said.

It's a tall task for a small town. They are modeling a state solution, something one might think the state board of education should do. But no matter, Ripton's board and Witters are looking ahead: "In my most idealistic sense of it, if we can create a model whereby small community schools can be supported in this state, then everybody wins," she said. "Whether this is feasible or not remains to be seen."

Angelo Lynn

Our deep thanks to Eric

After 21 years of writing his column Politically Thinking every other week for the Addison Independent, Eric Davis, professor emeritus of political science at Middlebury College, pens his final column for us in today's issue.

As a newspaper, the Addison Independent is so fortunate to be able to tap into expert and informed commentary when news items of state or national importance arise, usually by contacting an expert in the field at Middlebury College. We're also fortunate to have a bevy of columnists who are not only articulate, but thoughtful and engaging on a wide variety of topics — some serious, others funny, some that touch the soul.

But we've been doubly blessed to have Eric contribute consistently to our editorial pages with a political knowledge that has made him one of the top authorities on Vermont politics for the past several decades.

Eric's columns have zeroed in on state and national politics with a deft nonpartisan approach and a keen eye to pick up on what is often overlooked. He identifies an issue and explains, educating readers as opposed to trying to persuade them. In this era of political extremes, that lack of partisanship in his columns has been refreshing and always informative.

Readers should also know that Eric's contribution was exactly that; made in service to the community to help our readers be better informed. We'll miss his insights and his wisdom, and we extend our deepest gratitude.

Angelo Lynn

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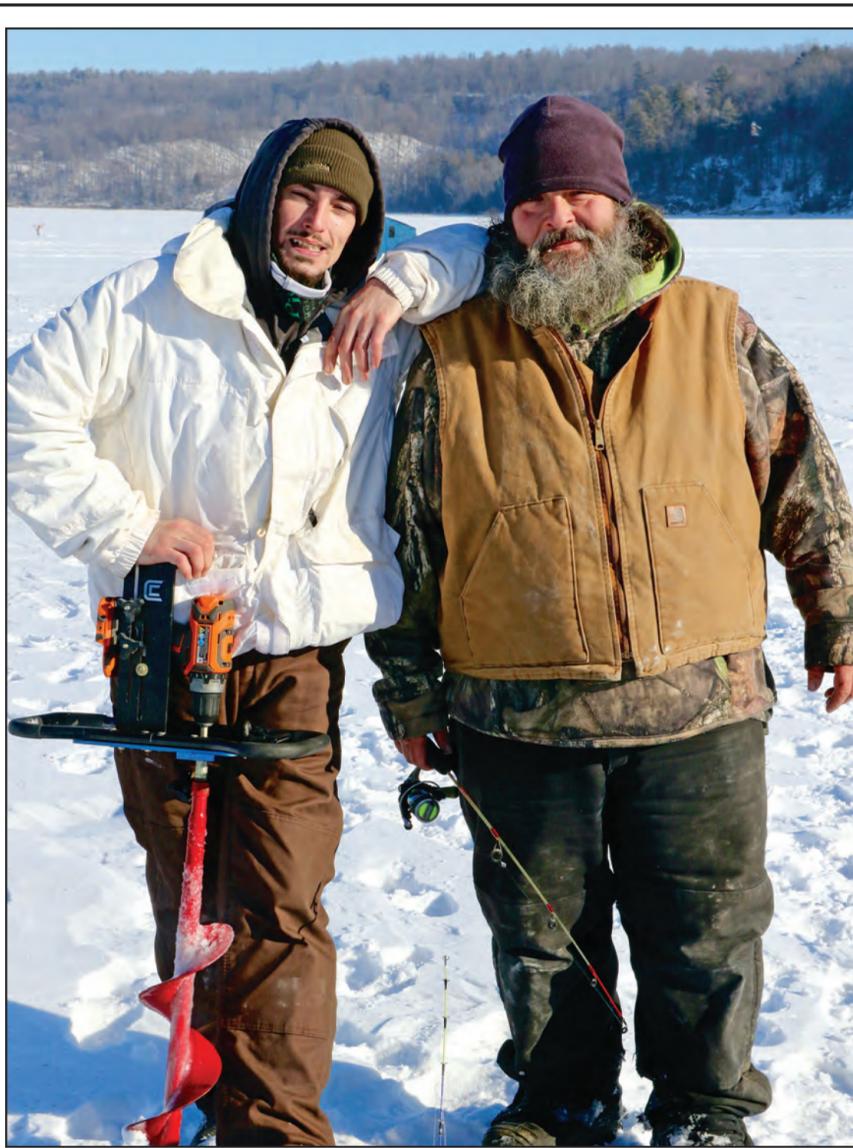






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What, no gloves?

ICE FISHERMEN AJ Green, left, and Ron Real were up at dawn on Saturday and out on Lake Champlain with ice auger and fishing rods in hand to set their lines for a day of ice fishing. They drilled holes through the ice surface with the auger, baited their hooks and settled into the warmth of their tent as the temperature outside registered minus-13 by 9 a.m. "I live for this cold!" declared Real, who has lived in Orwell all his life. "I'm down here as soon as it freezes in November."

This Saturday, Jan. 29, Vermont Fish and Wildlife declared that anyone may ice fish on any Vermont body of water that is open to ice fishing without a fishing license on this day only.

Independent photo/Steve James

Gentle heat provides pleasing winter thaw

During the beginning of the month, when it wasn't below zero, I lost heat. Sitting at my computer, not moving around the house or yard, my hands were icy.

Last year and the year before I had heat pumps installed (two each year) and thought it was brilliant to have one blow right on me as I sit at the computer. And the room temperature was plenty warm last year. This year I couldn't tell what was happening. The remote for the heat pump said 72 degrees, but the room temperature was 64 degrees. Sixty-four is not warm enough to for me to type. And the heat was inconsistent. Sometimes I could feel a little heat. Other times I couldn't. I played with the remote. It seemed to turn on but the temperature did not budge from 64 degrees. I tried using a remote from another room. Nothing changed.

I made tea and held my hands around it. Turned the living room heat pump off so that it wouldn't blow on the oil burner thermostat. Turned the temperature on the thermostat up so the furnace would come on. After the gentle and consistent air of the heat pump, the air from my registers became too hot and too cold. I could smell a faint noxious petroleum smell, even though the oil company had recently checked the tank.

One space heater was left in a spare room even after the heat pump installations, but I never needed to use it last year. This year I brought it out and set it beside my feet, but the temperature also was inconsistent — too hot and too cold. I was spoiled by those heat pumps.

Sometimes when wrapped up in writing, I ignore the

practical aspects of winter in Vermont. My thoughts emerged from my writing enough to become clear that I needed to do something — and then even what I could do. Call the heat pump company and ask for help. I spoke to an office person who called the original installer, Tom, and he called right back and was here early the next morning. He opened the top of the heat pump inside unit and politely mentioned that I could wash the filters. I looked at them for the first time.

There were two coin-sized spaces.

I asked, "What are those holes?"

He said, again politely, "Those are the spaces where there is no dust."

I washed both of the filters. They were plastic and easy to clean. Meanwhile, Tom pressed the ON button on the remote and heat poured out. I dried the filters and he watched to make sure I put them in

right. It was so easy. I felt ridiculous. We talked for a few minutes. When finished, I asked, "What can I give you?"

Tom, with an angelic look on his face, answered, "You don't owe us anything. I should have done a better job explaining about keeping those air filters clean." My shoulders relaxed as he put his shoes back on and opened the door to leave.

What a difference having even, gentle heat makes in a winter.

Sas Carey keeps her connection with Mongolia by writing about it when she is warm enough and answering the phone when calls come through FaceTime from her reindeer herding friends.

Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey



Vt's Aug. 9 primary deserves higher turnout

The Aug. 9 Democratic primary among Sen. Becca Balint, Lt. Gov. Molly Gray, and Sen. Keshia Ram Hinsdale for Vermont's open congressional seat will be one of the most important elections in the state's recent history. The winner of the Democratic primary will be a strong favorite to be elected to the U.S. House in November as Vermont's first-ever woman in Congress.

With the exception of Republicans Peter Smith, who served one term in the House before losing to Bernie Sanders in 1990, and Dick Mallary, who lost a Senate race to Patrick Leahy in 1974, every one of Vermont's U.S. House members in the last half century — Bob Stafford, Jim Jeffords and Sanders — has gone on to be elected to the U.S. Senate. Rep. Peter Welch is likely to join that group when he is elected to the Senate in November.

Welch would be 75 years old when sworn in to the Senate, the oldest person in U.S. history ever to be elected by vote of the people to a full six-year Senate term. Considering the ages of Welch and Sanders, who is now 80, whoever wins the August Democratic primary for the U.S. House is rather likely to be elected to the U.S. Senate sometime within the next eight to 12 years.

Such an important election should be decided by a larger number of voters than is likely to be the case

under current law. In 2020, the Secretary of State's office mailed all Vermont registered voters postcards inviting them to apply for mail ballots for the primary. Turnout was 101,000 in the Democratic primary and 58,000 in the Republican primary. While higher than primary turnout in many recent years, the August 2020 turnout was low compared with the 367,000 voters who voted in the November 2020 General Election, when every registered voter was mailed a ballot.

The 2021 Legislature passed, and Gov. Scott signed, a bill making permanent the practice of mailing a General Election ballot to every registered voter in Vermont. Vermont is one of eight states that will mail ballots to all voters for the 2022 General Election.

Last week, Gov. Scott urged the Legislature to expand the vote-by-mail law by extending it to primary elections, municipal elections, and school budget votes. In the past, some party leaders have been opposed to sending ballots to all voters for the primary, claiming that the primary is a party function. In my opinion, this argument is not a strong one, since it is state law, not party rules, that governs candidates' eligibility, the format of the open primary ballot, and other aspects of the conduct of the primary election.

(See Davis, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

A cautionary tale for the future

A long time from now a small organism will emerge from the mud on the ocean floor, and millenniums later will teach itself to read a history book found in the rubble. The last two lines will say, "In the year 2022, Putin and his equally mad rivals killed each other in a fit of shortsightedness. And that's the end of our story."

You might argue global insanity is not local news ... should the fallout be kept out of town.

Alexander Lyall
Middlebury

Press must deal in more facts

No other president has had to deal with a defeated president who not only tried to reverse the election, but has promoted the "Big Lie." The 2020 elections were fair and honestly held, yet the opposite is believed by large numbers of our citizens because they did not like the outcome.

President Biden, and our democracy, have been undermined and opposed by a large percentage of the public, yet he has achieved much for the American people, not just for the already rich and powerful. Even the liberal media talks of his "failures" and the Democrats' inability to get things done despite obstruction at every turn, including from two in his own party. The media should be continuously reporting the truth and the threats to our democracy. Biden's calmness is much appreciated by this citizen, and to be applauded. He is trying very hard to re-stabilize our nation with great courage. He deserves our support and gratitude.

Why does the press seem to believe that its readers only want negative news and opinions? If our democracy is to survive, the press must change their reporting from solely negative to positive when it is due. It must be reported with more fact and less opinion. We all have our opinions, what we need is facts.

Sally Roth
Bristol

Why Lincoln wants to leave

In December of 2020, Superintendent Patrick Reen introduced a proposal to the Mount Abe Unified School District school board to repurpose three community schools. If implemented, this would have the effect of closing the schools as well as preventing town members of those community schools from voting on such a proposal — a vote that is guaranteed in the district unification agreement.

I believe that all, including Superintendent Reen and the MAUSD, have been working incredibly hard to address the challenges we currently face in managing education costs while maintaining high levels of excellence and equity in our schools. To be clear, the biggest costs in education are those we have little control over, such as providing health insurance to our amazing educators and staff.

But towns still do and should have local control over their schools. After extensive, sustained, inclusive and fair community engagement and impact assessment, Lincoln community members voted decisively in August 2021 to become an independent public school district by a vote of 525 to 172.

The next step in this process is for the other towns of MAUSD — Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro — to ratify Lincoln's decision by a simple majority vote. This vote will take place in each town on Town Meeting Day this coming March.

Because this is a very local decision, my role as a legislator, until now, has been intentionally to not take a public position, to support the process, communicate with community members about their positions on the matter, and continue to engage in education policies at the state level, such as

(See Cordes letter, Page 5A)

Politically Thinking

By Eric L. Davis



Letters to the Editor

Current Use program should reflect climate change

When it comes to Vermont's Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA), often referred to as Current Use, forest landowners face a stark choice: cut and remove trees from their forest and receive an enormous tax benefit from the state, or let trees grow and pay exorbitantly high property taxes on their forestland. We, the members of Wild Forests Vermont, think this is unfair. In light of the urgent ecological crises we face today, this must change.

While not every Vermonter is in a position to own forestland, all Vermonters benefit from keeping our forests as forests. Forests are the beating heart of the Green Mountain State — for good reason.

Forests managed for timber provide us with the raw material that frames our homes and makes our furniture; they also offer locally sourced warmth for many. Those are all good things when done well, and no reasonable person would argue against them.

Forests are also home to countless wild species with whom we share the Vermont landscape. We need to do a better job sharing the landscape with all species who call Vermont home.

Wild forests sequester and store more carbon than forests where roads are built and trees are cut and removed. We need to do a better job keeping carbon in the landscape and out of the atmosphere.

Wild forests provide cleaner water, and the health of Lake Champlain asks us to do a better job on that front.

Wild forests also decrease erosion and provide superior flood resilience. In the face of the next Hurricane Irene, more is asked of us here, too.

Today, only 3% of Vermont is protected in a way that promotes healthy, intact, wild, future old forests. "Vermont Conservation Design" (a 2018 report produced

by the Agency of Natural Resources to protect and restore Vermont's biodiversity) and the recently released "Climate Action Plan" call for managing at least 9% of Vermont's forests to become old forests. 79% of Vermont's 4.5 million acres of forest is privately owned, and, according to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, about 70% of all qualifying privately owned forestland is enrolled in UVA. We simply cannot achieve the goals of Vermont Conservation Design and the Climate Action Plan without modernizing Use Value Appraisal.

We are strong supporters of UVA, but that doesn't mean it's perfect. After 40 years, it needs to reflect the urgency of climate change and the extinction crisis by taking a more holistic view of forest values and by adding a Reserve Wildlands Forest Use option that will allow Vermont to fully embrace ecology, economics and equity. That's why the new Climate Action Plan also recommends amendments to UVA to create a wildlands category and to allow forever-wild easements into the program.

Wild Forests Vermont supports a Current Use program that places the importance of wild forests at least equal to the importance of harvested forests, and creates tax equity for landowners. All landowners who are currently eligible for forest current-use tax reductions should be allowed to choose to manage their forest under a wildlands category, regardless of geographic location or other criteria.

This is a matter of equity and private property rights, in addition to being a positive choice for the land, biodiversity and atmosphere. Such a change would also align with the original intent behind UVA's creation. Listed in the law are its original purposes, including: "to achieve more equitable

taxation for undeveloped lands," "to encourage and assist in the preservation and enhancement of Vermont's scenic natural resources," and "to enable the citizens of Vermont to plan its orderly growth in the face of increasing development pressures in the interests of the public health, safety and welfare." Allowing landowners to choose freely between logged and wild forests within current use supports all of those goals.

Why does the state continue to give preferential treatment to landowners who harvest trees on their property versus those who want to focus their exemplary management on carbon storage, wildlife habitat, water quality enhancement, flood resilience and suitable recreation? Additionally, how many landowners enrolled in Current Use are being forced to cut their forests because they can't afford their property taxes otherwise? Changing this state of affairs is a matter of justice for forest landowners, and for forests themselves.

On Jan. 25, the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife approved a bill that would only allow a minority of forests and landowners into a new reserve category of Current Use. Please share your support for making wild forests available to all landowners eligible for the Current Use Program by sending comments to the House Committee on Ways and Means, your local representative, and to the Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives, Jill Krowinski.

David Brynn Lincoln

Editor's note: David Brynn, executive director of Vermont Family Forests, submitted this on behalf of Wild Forests Vermont, a coalition working to increase the amount of wild forests in Vermont on private lands.

Davis

(Continued from Page 4A)

Lt. Gov. Gray, Sen. Balint, and Sen. Ram Hinsdale are all leading participants in the legislative process. One of the best things they could do before the end of this year's session would be to convince their colleagues to pass a law that would authorize the Secretary of State's office to mail ballots to all of Vermont's registered voters for the Aug. 9 primary. Gov. Scott will certainly sign that bill.

In October of 2000, editor and publisher Angelo Lynn invited me to start writing a column on politics for the *Addison Independent*. Over the last 21-plus years, I have written more than 500 biweekly op-eds on

national and Vermont politics. As I enter my seventh decade, I have decided that it is now time for me to retire as a columnist. Thus, this is my final "Politically Thinking" column.

I would like to thank Angelo for maintaining the *Addison Independent* as a viable and engaging locally owned community newspaper for nearly four decades. I would also like to thank news editor John McCright for overseeing the production of this column, and the newspaper and website more generally, since 2004. Locally owned community newspapers are becoming a rarity in American journalism, and I hope the *Independent* and weeklies like

it throughout Vermont continue to thrive for many years to come.

Eric L. Davis is professor emeritus of political science at Middlebury College.

Editors' note: The Addison Independent and its readers have been enriched by the regular insight that Professor Davis has shared through his columns. He used his unique perspective at the intersection of the academic world and the rough-and-tumble world of politics to enlighten us all about the real-world consequences of the decisions made in Montpelier, Washington and indeed right here in Addison County. We wish Eric and his wife, Kitty, the best of luck in all things.

Creating the fundamental questions of the meaning of life

2nd in a series

"Why is there anything at all? Why not Nothing?" The German philosopher Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646–1716) took this to be the fundamental question of philosophy, and prescribed that the primary task of philosophers is to search for reasons — reasons why things are; for he was certain that there is a reason for everything.



The Meaning of Life
by Victor Nuovo
Middlebury College
professor emeritus
of philosophy

Leibniz was an optimist. Voltaire (1694–1778) mocked his optimism in his comic novel "Candide," in the character of Dr. Pangloss, a fictional Leibnizian philosopher, who supposed he could explain every misfortune by confidently asserting that "everything is for the best, in the best of all possible worlds." But this is a caricature, not a fair account of Leibniz the philosopher.

In any case, we mustn't ignore Leibniz's question, for if life has meaning, then it must have a reason, for without a reason, human life, collectively or individually, has no purpose, and life without purpose is meaningless.

Leibniz did not suppose that every thing has its own special reason (he was not a narcissist), rather he affirmed that there is one reason for everything: God is the ultimate reason for all things, and because God is supremely good and infinitely wise, all of God's actions are perfect. From which it follows that, since God is the creator and omnipotent cause of everything, "everything happens for the best, in the best of all possible worlds."

However ridiculous, horrendous, irrational this may seem on the face of it, we must plumb its depths to see if there is any wisdom in it.

Besides, Leibniz was neither fool nor dabbler. He was a polymath, learned in many fields, a universal genius. Among his

achievements was the invention of the Calculus, a distinction he shared with Isaac Newton (1643–1727), his contemporary. It was an instance of simultaneous discovery at the beginning of the Scientific Revolution.

The traditional approach to this question has been theological; Leibniz followed suit. He argued that there was never nothing. There was God, who exists from eternity, who always was and always will be. Moreover, in eternity there is no passage of time, God is always the same, and that whatever else exists is a product of divine creation. So, the answer to the fundamental question begins with a narrative or myth of creation.

Imagine God creating the world. Before the world began, there was nothing but God. However, it is God's nature to create and so he or she or they decided to create a world, an all-encompassing domain, a universe. She or he or they considered how best to proceed, and adopted as a principle, a maxi/min rule, that is a rule that prescribed the greatest outcome from the least effort or cost. And so God considered every possible world, and fixed upon the one that produced the greatest good for the least cost.

Now it seems inconsistent with the divine nature to suppose that creating the world would cost God anything, certainly not materially or physically, for God is an infinite spirit, and, indeed, according to tradition, it is said that God created the world from nothing. Rather the cost of creating the world must be considered in terms of value. The product of divine creation is something less good or wise than God, something capable of cruelty, wickedness, folly and accident.

To finish the narrative: God surveyed all possible worlds, and

considered the ratio of good and evil in each, and chose to create the best of all possible worlds, the one that would produce the greatest good for the least cost of evil; the divine idea of best of all possible worlds became the model of creation; and having accomplished this work of the world, God surveyed what they had made declared it good.

The narrative of creation that Leibniz espoused led him to this question: Why couldn't God have created a world without any evil, physical or moral? His answer was that it isn't possible; if it were, then this world, which God created, would not be the best of all possible worlds.

And so, the fundamental problem of philosophy gave rise to a second fundamental problem, the problem of evil.

Leibniz's contemporary, John Locke (1632–1704) added a third problem, the problem of knowledge: What is knowledge and how do we attain it? He addressed this in his classic work, "An Essay concerning Human Understanding." Leibniz read it and wrote a lengthy critique of it, which he entitled "New Essays concerning Human Understanding." Locke paid no attention to it, which is a pity. Leibniz would have liked to visit him or at least correspond with him; but Locke spurned his approaches. Nevertheless, it should be noted that these three — Leibniz, Locke and Newton — established the modern intellectual tradition; they were giants, and any serious thinker must stand on their shoulders.

But to return to the theme of this series, the meaning of life, I'm certain that these three questions or problems — the ultimate origin of things, the problem of evil, and the problem of knowledge — relates each in its special way to life's meaning. No one who has a concern about their life's meaning can ignore them.

Leibniz worried over the problem throughout his life, and wrote much about it. This brief and superficial account is not enough; so I shall return to it in future essays. *To be continued.*

Cordes letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

my bill H.388: an act relating to income-based education funding, as well as pupil weighting, COVID resources, and spending threshold adjustments.

At this time I am stepping forward with my own position in support of Lincoln becoming an independent public school district, and to respectfully ask for your YES vote at your town meeting deliberations. I also support each town in MAUSD having that same right, knowing that the Starksboro community is engaging in a similar process.

You can find more information at Save Community Schools — www.savecommunityschools.org

(Lincoln) and www.saveourschoolsvt.org (Starksboro) — and at MAUSD.org. There was a virtual informational meeting about the Lincoln decision on Jan. 26. This meeting will be archived

and viewable online; to see it go online to wilsondow.zoom.us/j/96287454123?from=addon Meeting ID: 962 8745 4123.

Rep. Mari Cordes Lincoln

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Addison, VT

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ADDISON
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Obituaries

Nancy Means Wright, 94, of Middlebury

Vermont is my primary writing landscape. I love its mountains, valleys, autumn leaves, winter snows — even mud season.

— N.M.W.

MIDDLEBURY — Nancy Means Wright, partner, mentor, wordsmith extraordinaire, passed away on Jan. 19, 2022, in the 95th year of her life. Born in Glen Ridge, N.J., to Jessie Thomson and Robert Means, Nancy was an adventurer, teacher, actor, theater director, activist, a fierce advocate for the underdog, and mother bear to her four children. But above all, she was a storyteller.

Her first novel, written at the age of nine, was a mystery about the kidnapping of an obnoxious older brother. Her Scottish mother found it, though she had a budding delinquent in the house, and tore it up. "That was my first rejection."

Undaunted, Nancy continued to write poems, stories, and the "opening chapters of depressing novels" while attending Miss Beard's Boarding School and Vassar College on scholarship. She sang with the altos (as she would for the next seventy years), caught pneumonia while sneaking onto a snowy roof with wet hair, and completed assignments days before they were due. (A habit she tried, without success, to instill in her offspring.)

She cut her teeth teaching English at Garrison Forest in Maryland and Boys Home in Virginia, but when her Vermont husband landed a job in the early '50s at Proctor Academy, an all-male boarding school, the headmaster gently informed her that "teaching English is a man's job." Despite a hard-won M.A. from the Bread Loaf School of English, she was routed into the Remedial Reading Dept.

In response, she enrolled in Middlebury's French Language School, completed her degree



NANCY MEANS WRIGHT

at the Sorbonne, and returned to head up Proctor's first French Department. During her 20 years on campus, she bonded deeply with her students (she had a soft spot for the rebels) and together they staged provocative plays like Heller's "We Bombed in New Haven."

Summers at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference nourished Nancy's writing habit, and a conference scholarship helped launch her first published novel. From there, a taut morning writing schedule — the lifeboat she clung to through home renovations and plumbing repairs, three life-partners, community plays, countless writing workshops, an adjunct professorship at Marist College, years as a Vermont Humanities Scholar, and an infamous run as curator of Cornwall Crafts (all of which she mined for her craft) — produced a legacy of poems, literary novels, nonfiction, mystery novels, YA novels, plays and short stories. In all, she published twenty books.

And while she shape-shifted (*I've always loved putting myself into the minds and hearts of other people*), channeling hardscrabble farmers, female Spitfire pilots in wartime London, and early feminist Mary Wollstonecraft, her loving memoir, "Make Your Own Change," about life along Route 30 in Cornwall, and "The Shady Sisters," a string of irreverent poems about her alter-ego, Fay, were fan favorites.

While Nancy joked about letting her offspring "bleed outside her door" when she was working, in truth she was a Mother Tree, buoying up friends and family at a cellular level. Newsy letters arrived at your destination before

you did. Emails materialized in your inbox after midnight, thanking you profusely for the smallest gesture. You were too kind. Brilliant, even. Stray critters were taken in. Lilacs relished. And while she loved stormy weather, the sky fell if she thought you were driving somewhere in it. No one exalted more when your puck entered the net or your bat caught the ball, and no one suffered more acutely when you were shut out. Her editing/crafting services were available 24/7; she sat front and center through your performances. And while it must be said that her children's school lunches weren't the heartiest (a slice of bologna on white bread), she instead fed them a rich profusion of books: "Girl of the Limberlost," Dickens, the entire Brontë canon, Walker, Atwood, Morrison. The home she shared with her longtime partner, Llyn Rice, was a warm haven of local art, tea, and edgy novels from the Vermont Book Shop.

And always her refrain: *Please don't worry about me.*

Nancy will be missed by her partner, Llyn Rice, her four children, Gary Wright; Lesley Wright and husband James Ellefson; Donald Wright and partner Denise Viscomi; Catharine Wright and partner Karen Grimm; her stepchildren, Laurel and Shanti Rice; her seven grandchildren, Zoe (and fiancé Nuno); Spencer (and wife Ursula); Alex; Zelig (and husband Alex); Rosalie (and partner Brad); Connor; and Forrest; her step grandson, Austin Grimm; her great-grandson, Archer; and three cats, Gabby, Quincy, and Sheba. Other survivors include a treasured network of writing peers, Unitarian Universalist friends, former students, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her children's dad, Spencer Wright; her college flame (and second husband) Dennis Hannon; and three siblings: Grace Arnold, Donald Means, and Jack Means.

A celebration of Nancy's life will be held this summer at the Wright's Lake Dunmore cottage, date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in her memory to a nonprofit addressing social equity or climate change. Donations may also be made to Addison County Elderly Services College. ◊

Thomas Joseph Cousino, 80, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Thomas Joseph Cousino, 80, of Vergennes, Vt., unexpectedly took flight on the afternoon of Jan. 21, 2022.

He was born on May 7, 1941, to Peter and Bernadette Cousino of Bristol, Vt. He was longing to be with the family members who went before him and eager to meet our Lord.

Tom was a feisty, talkative, opinionated and very loving man. In his younger years, he spent time working in Florida and at Basin Harbor in Vermont. He worked at the Brown/McClay Funeral Home when it was still Gordon Brown, but his main occupation throughout life was a painter. After his retirement, he went to work on a farm in Addison, Vt. He was well trained for this job after growing up on the family farm in Bristol.

Tom loved to travel, and after he enlisted in the United States Air Force, he was stationed for a time in Greenland as well around the U.S. He visited Europe several times and was very proud of meeting the Pope when he was in Rome. Recently, he realized two dreams. He turned 80 and he visited Disneyland while on a vacation at his brother Charlie's in Florida.

Tom was a deeply religious man. The most important thing in his life was his strong Catholic faith. He spent countless hours learning about the Saints and the ways of the church. He prayed incessantly for everyone he knew and really, he could have been a preacher because he was pretty good at that too! He visited Medjugorje seven times. It



THOMAS JOSEPH COUSINO

was his crowning glory to visit that shrine in Venezuela, and he wanted everyone to go. He will be pleased to see Sister Isolene so soon. They had a special bond and he delighted in delivering boxes and boxes of chocolates to her nursing home at Christmas.

With the help of his siblings, Tom cared for his mother for the last eight years of her life. He was completely devoted to her. He delighted in telling jokes, some of them totally inappropriate for the company he was in. He adored children and did anything to get a laugh out of them, including turning his eyelids inside out.

Tom leaves behind eight siblings, but he is joining seven others in heaven. He was predeceased by his parents, Peter and Bernadette Cousino as well as five brothers: Eugene, Joseph, Lucius, and Ambrose Cousino, all of Bristol, Guy Cousino (Pauline)

of Vergennes; and two sisters, Marjorie Paquette (Emile) and Veronica Mayer (Raymond), both of Bristol.

Tom leaves eight siblings: Yvonne Morgan (Ray) of Middlebury, Roger Cousino (Denise) of Bristol and S.C., Charles Cousino (Susan) of New Haven and Fla., Anne Myrick of Bridport, Patricia Atkins (Victor) of Lincoln, Linda Roscoe (Kirk), Mary Bingham (Robert) and Peter Cousino (Gail) all of Bristol. He leaves behind sixty nieces and nephews and more greats than we could count, as well as numerous cousins and friends. He also leaves behind Garry and Cindy Cousino and their sons who were precious family to him.

A very special thanks to Pat Wager who drove Tom to church every Sunday and took him on outings or shopping, and to his neighbors Cookie and Racheal Steponaitis, who looked after Tom and often kept him company. His belief in the power of prayer was total. Please say a prayer that Tom is zooming right into heaven.

There will be calling hours on Friday, Jan. 28, from 5 to 8 p.m., at the Brown/McClay Funeral Home in Bristol. A Mass of Christian burial will take place at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Bristol at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29. Because of the COVID spikes, there will not be a gathering at this time. Perhaps a picnic this summer. To send online condolences to his family please visit www.brownmcclyfuneralhomes.com. ◊

Arthur Everett Danyow Jr., 91, of Addison

ADDISON — Arthur E. Danyow Jr., 91, passed peacefully to the next world on Jan. 17, 2022, at Helen Porter in Middlebury, Vt.

Arthur was born on Aug. 16, 1930, in Burlington, Vt., to Arthur Danyow Sr. and Bertha Palmer Danyow. He was a lifelong resident of Addison County, graduating from Vergennes High School. On Jan. 13, 1951, he married Patricia Drouin from Laconia, N.H.

Together, Art and Pat raised their family while dairy farming in Ferrisburgh, then moving to Snake Mountain Road Farm in 1965. Art was very involved with the Addison community — a lifelong member of the Addison Volunteer Fire Department, served on the school board, drove a school bus for many years, and hosted the Snake Mt. Snow Roamers Club. After retiring from farming, he continued working for the elementary school, Shelburne Museum and as a volunteer driver for Project Independence.

Art enjoyed bowling and was a team member on several leagues. He enjoyed anything outdoors, from snowmobiling to boating to hunting and in retirement, motorcycling. He was a big fan of NASCAR and local racing, following the Devil's Bowl and Loudon Speedway, even attending the Daytona 500. He was



ARTHUR EVERETT DANYOW JR.

a voracious reader of history and westerns. He and Pat cherished family get-togethers and holidays. Extended family and friends were often at the farm enjoying backyard camping and swimming in the summer and snowmobile riding in the winter. Later years were enjoyed spending much time with their grandchildren and summertime on Lake Winnisquam in N.H.

Arthur was predeceased by Patricia in 2013 and leaves behind his children: Arthur III and wife Cathy, Blynn "Bill" and wife Debra, Michael and wife Karen,

and daughter Lori Counter and husband Ronald; grandchildren Stacy Counter DiPerna and husband Gary, Christine Danyow Rivers and husband Louis, Ryan Counter and wife Kristin, Jared Danyow and wife Margaret, Sean Danyow and Aidan Danyow; great-granddaughters Charlotte DiPerna and Quinn Counter; grandchildren Julie, Michael and Spencer Adams; Jeffrey, Autumn, Elena and Cormac Spencer; sisters, Ramona Swenor and Donald, Joyce Charbonneau and Norbert; sister-in-law Deanna Drouin Danahy, and many loved nieces and nephews.

A graveside service and celebration of life will be held early summer at the Addison Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions would be appreciated for Addison County Home Health and Hospice, P.O. Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753 or Addison Respite Care, P.O. Box 953, Middlebury, VT 05753.

The family would like to extend our immense thanks and gratitude to all the staff at Helen Porter Nursing; from the Acute Care, Memory Care, the many wonderful nurses and aides, therapists, case workers, Dr. Karen Fromhold and Laura Dame of Hospice. The care, love and support that was provided these last few months have been a blessing. ◊

Candace Vincent, 80, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Candace (Candy) Keith Vincent, loving wife and mother, passed away in the presence of her family on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022. She was 80 years old.

Candy was born in Torrington, Conn. As an adult, she lived in many different places, including Massachusetts, New York, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Candy raised her family in Trumbull and Shelton, Conn., until she retired to Ferrisburgh, Vt., in 2006.

Candy loved life and was friendly and kind to everyone she met. Always looking for ways to help others, she was an avid volunteer for various community, church, and school causes. Most recently, Candy volunteered donating food and writing supportive postcards for the Vergennes Food Shelf. She won a statewide volunteer of the year award given by the United Way in Connecticut. Candy was proud to be a lifelong member of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Candy enjoyed flowers, gardening, animals, and bird-watching. She had a passion for water and swam whenever she could. In Vermont, she enjoyed swimming at the Clarendon Gorge,



CANDACE VINCENT

attending services at the Weston Priory, and eating maple coffee twist creamees. She loved traveling and had fond memories of childhood trips to Rhode Island and Cape Cod. As an adult, Candy toured cathedrals in England, rafted down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon, and cruised in Alaska.

She was very engaged and active in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Huntington, Conn., serving on the vestry, outreach, and hospitality committees. Wanting to learn more about her religious tradition

and deepen her spirituality, Candy earned a Leadership Certificate in Theology from the Hartford Seminary and a Certificate in Education for Ministry from the University of the South.

Candy was preceded in death by her father, Henry, mother, Ethel, and sister, Carolyn.

She is survived by her husband, Timothy Vincent; her son, Jeffrey Doolittle; and daughters, Deborah Day, Susan Gausepohl, Michelle Villeneuve and stepdaughter, Pamela Bosch and their spouses — Elizabeth, Steven, Steven, Wayne, and Gareth. Candy loved being a grandmother and was devoted to her eleven grandchildren including, Benjamin, Sean, Claire, Elijah, Rebecca, Annabeth, Andrew, Jacob, Catherine, Alexander, and Elowyn. Also surviving her are nephews, George Baldwin, Guy Baldwin and niece Cindy Blazek.

A gathering to remember and honor Candy will be held on Saturday, Jan. 29, at 1 p.m. at The Strong House Inn at 94 W Main Street in Vergennes, Vt.

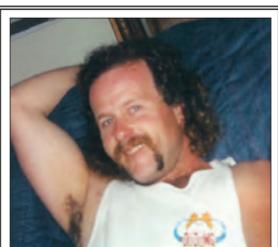
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Candy's name to the Vergennes Community Foodshelf. ◊

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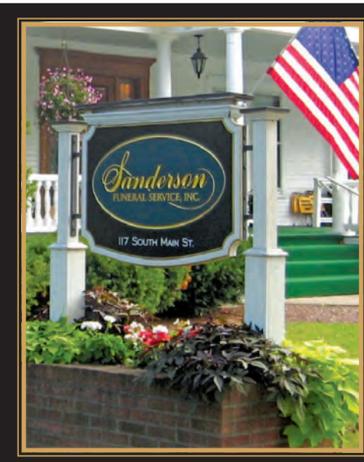
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Obituary Guidelines

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

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

ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Terrence Rooney, 54, of Chelsea

CHELSEA — Terrence Rooney died unexpectedly at his home on Monday, Jan. 17. He was the fifth of six children born to Terrence and Grace (Nuttall) Rooney on June 29, 1967 in Norwood, Mass.

To say Terry was the best, while true, seems so trite, like that isn't enough. The best dad, the best brother, the best son, best husband. When I look at the words my kids wrote down to describe their dad, that's what they wrote: The Best Dad Ever. I could give a million examples, but at the end of the day it would all boil down to he was just that: The Best. He was a family man. We were his priority. Never a day went by that any one of us questioned his love for us. Ever. If he loved you it was undeniable, you knew it.

Terry loved to read, anything really. He'd have a book about some ancient civilization, religion or culture and I would ask him "Why are you reading that?" He'd answer "I don't know, seems interesting." He loved a good podcast, and you always knew if he was enjoying it because you could hear his loud laughter through the house — his laugh, his big, boisterous laugh, uniquely his own. We heard it often during the day. If Terry wasn't laughing he was singing, usually loudly while he was in the kitchen: Led Zeppelin, AC/DC, Ozzy, Jimi. I will miss hearing, "Alexa, play classic rock."

Terry had a love/hate relationship with his garden. Every spring he would prepare his veggie beds with excitement. By late summer, after being thwarted by pests, fungus or critters he vowed not to invest his time again next year. But spring would roll around and he would be out there digging in the dirt.

Terry loved watching sports, particularly The Pats. There was many a Sunday night when I willed them to win so our Monday wouldn't be so somber. Tom Brady, the G.O.A.T. as he referred to, was revered in our house. Tennis was a passion of Terry's. On a summer night you'd often find him working on his serve with his trusty dog by his side to retrieve them.

He was funny! We were always laughing in this house. He was quick-witted, always ready to make a joke. Usually they were well received. Occasionally they would have to be followed up by "I was only joking." He was an extraordinary storyteller on long car rides. The kids would beg him to tell them a story, which usually included a leprechaun or wizard and always a little potty humor.

He would tell you his kids are his biggest achievements. He adored them. He was a great listener and had the patience of a saint. They were his priority and they knew it. He encouraged them to follow their dreams, whatever they were. They knew they had their dad's support. Anything went with Terry. I can't count the times I came home and found the kitchen and kids covered in food coloring from some experiment. Or him letting them ride in laundry baskets on the treadmill at full speed. He was an extraordinary dad to his kids and there will be a huge gaping hole in their lives.

Terry grew up in Walpole, Mass. with his parents and five siblings: Mary, Maura, Kathleen, Paul and Ellen. Terry graduated



TERRENCE ROONEY

from Walpole High School in 1985. He went on to graduate from Bridgewater State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. He served the Vermont Department of Corrections for 20 years with integrity and compassion.

In 1994 he met Dori (Pomainville). We were married on May 13, 2000. He was a devoted husband. We were a team, we counted on each other, but mostly our love for each other was undying. He was my love story that, unfortunately, ended way too early without a happy ending.

We have three of the bravest kids, who adored their dad: Kealin Grace, Maddy Ann and Crosby Flynn. He will forever be missed by his mother, Grace Nuttall Rooney of Framingham, Mass.; and his siblings, Mary (Ken) Carson of Framingham, Mass., Maura (Josh) Rooney of Arlington, Mass., Kathleen (Chris) Rooney of Bethany, Conn., Paul (Jodi) Rooney of Needham, Mass., and Ellen (Gary) Rooney of Penitcton, B.C. Terry was predeceased by his father Terrence in 1989. Terry is also beloved by his marriage family of Ann Pomainville, Deb and Bob Hillman and Maurice Pomainville (all of Salisbury, Vt.), Delise (Lars) Robarts of Burke, Vt., and Steven and Paul Pomainville of Deerfield, N.H., as well as many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles.

Terrence Rooney, you embodied the essence of life. As your sister Ellen said, "There's no hole in the world like a Terry-shaped hole in the world." We will miss you and love you forever.

The family is planning a memorial for spring. In lieu of flowers you may send contributions in memory of Terry to the college fund for Kealin, Maddy and Crosby at Mascoma Bank P.O. Box 218, Chelsea, VT 05038.

A private message of sympathy for the family can be shared at www.boardwayandciley.com. The Boardway and Ciley Funeral Home, Chelsea, Vt., is in charge of arrangements. ♦

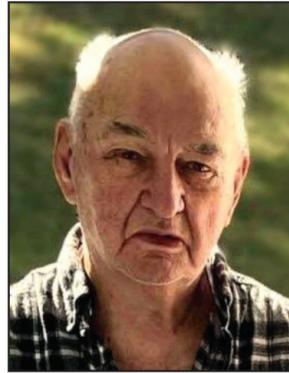
Vernon Alfred Dwire, 80, originally of Middlebury

UPATIO, Ga. — Vernon Alfred Dwire, 80, better known as Butch Dwire, originally of Middlebury, Vt., died peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 23, 2022, at the Columbus Hospice House in Georgia.

Butch was a father of four, an avid outdoorsman, and was happiest when he was working the land or caring for his animals. He will be missed by his wife of 60 years, Shirley (Bagley) Dwire, and their children Mark, Sherry, Israel and Sarah; his brother Victor and sisters Vivian, Vonda and Virginia; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews. Butch was predeceased by his parents, Russell and Amy Dwire, and his sister Velma.

Butch spent much of his life as the owner/operator of Dwire Construction, which he founded in 1973, until his retirement from day-to-day work in 1997. He loved working side by side with his boys building a number of different projects that still stand today at Middlebury College and in the town of Middlebury. Even in retirement, though, Butch stayed busy with his passion for working the land, and had a large garden at his home in Sheffield, Vt.

He loved to share his knowledge,



VERNON ALFRED DWIRE

and love of the land and animals, with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was very happy to be able to give his newly born great grandson his first rifle.

Over the past 10 years Butch and Shirley spent much of their time in Georgia; a short visit turned into an extended stay as a result of declining health. However, his heart was always and will always be in Vermont.

Celebration of life and services will be held in Middlebury in the spring of 2022 on a date yet to be determined. ♦

Dennis John Jackman, 70, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Dennis John Jackman 70, died Thursday evening, Jan. 20, 2022, at Porter Medical Center after a lengthy illness.

He was born Feb. 24, 1951, in Burlington, Vt., the son of Glenn and Barbara (Lavoie) Jackman. Dennis was a graduate of Mount Abe High School class of 1969. He married Patricia Benjamin on Nov. 3, 1972.

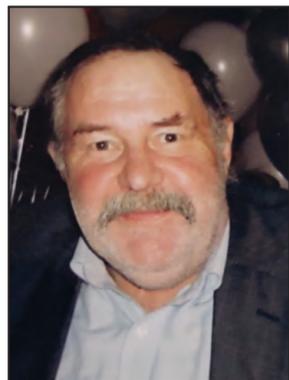
Dennis was an avid golfer, reader and skier and enjoyed spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Jackman of Vergennes; by his two sons, Cam Jackman, of Lincoln and Chad Jackman (Ashley), of Starksboro; by his two grandchildren, Ashley and McLayla Jackman, both of Las Vegas, Nev.; by his brother-in-law, Stephen Halnon, of Lincoln; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by his parents and by his sister Andrea Halnon, who died in 2020.

A memorial reading will be celebrated at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Bristol on Jan. 30, at 4 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Homeward Bound



DENNIS JOHN JACKMAN

Addison County Humane Society at 236 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home. Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com. ♦



POLICE ARE LOOKING for this maroon SUV, which was spotted in Brandon the night of the attempted pharmacy break-in there.

Suspects sought in break-ins at three drug stores in the area

VERGENNES — Police in Vergennes, Bristol and Brandon are seeking the public's help as they probe two recent attempted break-ins into area pharmacies and a burglary at Kinney Drug Store in Vergennes in which authorities said thieves made off with regulated prescription drugs.

Police said they believe the crimes are related.

The first attempted break-in occurred at about 11:40 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 17, at the Walgreens Pharmacy at 1 Union St. in Brandon. Police said two men attempted to enter the store's pharmacy area, but were unable to do so and left before police arrived.

At about 3 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20, police said two men broke into the Walgreens Store at 1 Prince Lane in Bristol and again attempted to force entry

into the pharmacy, but again were unsuccessful and drove off before police arrived on scene.

Two hours later on the same morning, two men forced entry into the Kinney Drug Store at 115 Monkton Road in Vergennes and this time were able to force their way into the pharmacy area. Police said the men took regulated drugs and drove off before police could respond.

Police believe the same two men were involved in each break-in. They have photos of the men and a small maroon-colored SUV they might have been driving during each incident.

Anyone who has any information about the identity of the men or about the incidents is asked to contact Brandon police at 802-247-0222, Bristol police at 802-453-2533, or Vergennes police at 802-877-2201.



ABOVE: THIS IS ONE of the two suspects caught on surveillance video at the Vergennes drugstore break-in.

RIGHT: THE MAN in a tan jacket seen in a surveillance camera image is a suspect in the Jan. 17 Brandon pharmacy break-in.



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ADDISON COUNTY

School Briefs

Kyla Dodge-Goshea, a Lasell University student from Brandon, was named to the dean's list for her academic performance in the fall 2021 semester. Students who receive this honor have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Jedidiah Danforth of Salisbury, a member of the Class of 2023, has been named to the fall 2021 dean's list at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass.

Four local students earned dean's list honors at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill.: Emma Franklin and Caroline Kimble of Middlebury, and brothers Benjamin and Gabriel Praamsma of Vergennes. They did so by carrying 12 or more credit hours while maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or higher on the 4.0 scale.

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These volunteer opportunities are open to everyone: young adults, older adults, and everyone in between. People looking to volunteer full-time, part-time, or whenever they have time. Connect with us to learn more about giving back to Addison County. Please contact Heather Barry at 802-388-7259 or email hmbarry@achhh.org.

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Audubon Xmas bird count IDs 72 species

By JIM ANDREWS

In December 37 field birders and 23 observers at feeders identified 18,290 birds of 72 species during the Middlebury Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 19.

Local naturalists survey a 15-mile-diameter count circle centered on the Lemon Fair in eastern Bridport and covering from the A&W Root Beer stand on the east to New York state on the west and from Snake Mountain on the north to Richville Dam on the south. The Middlebury count is one of over 2,400 held throughout North and Central America.

Due to the continuing pandemic, the National Audubon Society issued safety guidelines that needed to be met before any count could be held. All in-person compilation gatherings needed to be cancelled or outside. Social distancing and/or masking were required at all times in the field. Carpooling could only occur within existing familiar or social "pod" groups and activities had to comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.

For our Middlebury count, we once again sent some of our volunteers out on birding routes on foot or divided up territories so that birders in cars could bird alone or with a family member. We had solo birders covering portions of the Trail Around Middlebury, bushwhacking on their own private land, or scouring public land within our count circle.

All arrangements for territory coverage and team make up needed to be take place via e-mail prior to the count, since we had to skip the usual 6 a.m. organizational breakfast at Rosie's Restaurant. Owlars started the day in the predawn blackness and field birders headed out at dawn or shortly thereafter for a full day of birding.

We once again skipped our usual compilation dinner after the count. Instead we met via Zoom to share stories and our preliminary data. Report forms from feeder-watchers and field teams came in over the next few days. Final results of our count were then compiled and entered online and made available for casual browsing or scientific study at the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) website. Those results can be accessed at www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count.

Due to the warm fall weather, the southern end of Lake Champlain and moving water in our count circle were still open, allowing us to find more water-related birds during our survey. As a result, we located 15 of the 44 water-related species found during our count over its history. This compares to our average of 11.8 water-related



THIS PEREGRINE FALCON was among the more than 18,000 birds spotted in the Middlebury Area Christmas Bird Count last month.

Photo by Kris Andrews

species located over the 33 years of our count.

On the open waters of Lake Champlain, Ian Worley located our count's first ever Red-throated Loon, and Paul Wieczorek and Kate Kelly's team located a dozen Northern Pintails. The Northern Pintail is an elegant duck that has only been found once before during our count. Pintails pass through our area every spring and fall, but they are usually gone by the date of our count. Very large mixed flocks of Greater and Lesser Scaup could be seen about a mile south of the Lake Champlain Bridge. Three flocks accounted for most of the combined total of 1,048 scaup located in our portion of Lake Champlain. Many thanks to land owners Karan Cutler and Scott & Beverly Darling for allowing us to access important viewing spots along Lake Champlain.

Although Eastern Bluebirds are a year-round resident in the Lake Champlain Basin, the 206 that we located sets a new high record for this species during our count. Their exceptional numbers are probably the result of an abundant crop of juniper berries, crab apples, and other fruits this fall. The dynamic trio of Chris & Preston Turner and Lyn DuMoulin located a group of five Chipping Sparrows in Weybridge. This is only the third time during our count that this species has been located and all previous sightings of this species during our count were of single birds.

The team of Birch and Kris Andrews and Erin Talmage were joined by newcomer Andrea Scott this year. They managed to find a lingering red-shouldered hawk for only the third time in our count's history. They also identified three American Pipits in Bridport. This is only the third time during our count that this species has been found.

The numbers of American ravens, red-bellied woodpeckers and white-throated sparrows found during our count have been increasing dramatically over the 33 years of our count (see the attached graph). The American ravens are a returning species but the red-bellied



AN AMERICAN KESTREL hangs out on an Addison County wire during the local bird county in December.

Photo by Jenn Megyesi

woodpeckers are a newcomer moving north. Both of these species are year-round residents. The white-throated sparrows are a common mountain resident during the summer here, but they are staying later and in greater numbers than they used to. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers may mimic this trend. A single sapsucker was first seen during our count in 2007 and five were found this year. Many people don't realize that northern cardinals, tufted titmice, and even ring-billed gulls moved into Vermont from points south. The first northern cardinal was documented in Vermont in 1958 and the first ring-billed gull was documented in Vermont in 1939.

Professional ornithologist Dave Hof located a ruby-crowned kinglet in Middlebury. This is only the second time this species has been located during our count. In contrast, its close relative, the golden-crowned kinglet has been found during 24 of our counts. On the other hand, once again not a single Ruffed Grouse was found. These birds were found every year for the first 23 years of the count with 26 reported in 1994 but they have only been found five of the last nine years. This appears to be the result of a loss of the dense, shrubby, early-successional habitat that this species prefers.

Only a single great-horned owl was found this year. This is only the third time in our 33 count history that only a single bird of this species was located. There is no evidence of a trend though. Owling conditions were difficult (a morning snow storm) and we had

fewer owling teams out this year. Two of our remaining teams went out again in the evening to try to get owls to respond to recorded calls, but all owl species were reluctant to respond.

Although our total of 160 Tree Sparrows is our lowest tally since 1992, there is no evidence of a decline in this species. It is more likely that they had plenty of food further north and did not need to come south yet.

Over the last 33 years of our count we have located an amazing total of 133 different bird species. Our annual average is 66.8 species. Of these, only 27 species have been found during every count and 30 species have been found in only a single count.

A Christmas Bird Count is a team effort between field teams and feeder watchers. In reviewing our count history, one feeder watcher stands out for being particularly helpful. Barb Kivlin of Shoreham has participated in our count 21 times beginning in 1993. This is more times than any other feeder observer. We really appreciate regular contributors like Barb. In the field observer category, Barb Brosnan and John Chamberlain have walked the woods and driven the roads of Weybridge every year since the count started back in 1989. John was one of the original founders of the count. It was started as an effort to monitor the birds of Weybridge. As a result, the town of Weybridge is entirely enclosed within the count circle but only a portion of Middlebury is actually included.

We are always looking for additional people who live within the count circle, can identify the birds they are seeing, and who are interested in reporting what they see at their feeders. We would also love to have some young birders join our field teams. Anyone under 40 looks young to most of us. If you are interested in reporting your feeder birds or participating on a field team next year, contact Jim or Kris Andrews at 802-352-4734. Thanks again to all the volunteers and landowners.

MAUSD study offers first look at options

BY CHRISTOPHER ROSS

BRISTOL — "Here's the good news," educational consultant Nate Levenson told the Mount Abraham Unified School District board Tuesday night. "You have a number of very good options to think about. None are perfect ... but I've been in a number of situations like this — a lot of work with districts and areas with declining enrollment — and often we have bad and less-bad choices ... I don't think you're in that place."

Levenson's firm, New Solutions K12, was hired by the MAUSD board in May to develop criteria for comparing a number of community-authored long-range facilities proposals, as well as the one offered by Superintendent Patrick Reen in December 2020. Eight months later, the team has released a draft of its report, "Evaluation of Options to Address Declining Enrollment While Improving and Expanding Services for Students," which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/MAUSDk12>.

The team was not tasked with choosing the "best" solution or recommending a particular path forward — only to engage with the community, develop apples-to-apples criteria, and "ultimately, (provide) the MAUSD Board with a sound, broadly accepted fact base and foundation for making decisions about the best course forward."

Two of the key "either/or" decisions the district faces, as Levenson described it, include:

- whether to go with its current configuration of five elementary schools — but with a "cost effectiveness mindset" — or to consolidate those elementary schools, as Reen has proposed.
- whether or not to merge with the Addison Northwest School District.

After working with the MAUSD's Community Input Community, building principals, proposal authors, and others, New Solutions concluded there are some scenarios that meet nearly all of the criteria set forth by the school board, including:

- A merger with the ANWSD that preserves a town's right to vote

to close an elementary school.

- Moving the sixth grade from the elementary to the middle school level.

The merger "came closer to meeting the criteria than almost anything else we saw," Levenson said.

So the work of the ANWSD-MAUSD Merger Study Committee "is very important," he said, "so important that there is a lot of benefit to (carrying) forward the commitment that exists (in the MAUSD) that no school in a town would be closed or repurposed without a vote in the town."

New Solutions K12 considers itself neutral on the "five vs. consolidated elementary schools" question, Levenson continued, and has tried to steer clear of making recommendations, but it has seen that many in the MAUSD community "absolutely value" a town's right to vote on closure.

"And if the merger is perceived as — or in fact is — a way to remove that protection,

"You have a number of very good options ... A lot of districts and areas with declining enrollment often have bad and less-bad choices ... I don't think you're in that place."

— consultant Nate Levenson

it would seem to us that the chance of the merger actually going forward is greatly reduced, and that would be a shame."

Later, in response to a question from a community member, Levenson predicted that, should Lincoln succeed in its bid to withdraw from the MAUSD, a process already under way, it would likely have little effect on the most pressing issues facing the district, which exist at the middle and high school levels.

New Solutions K12 plans to incorporate board and community input on its report and issue a final draft in a few weeks.

There will be a lot to sort through, Levenson said, and it will take the district some time to develop a path forward that ensures the community has been, and has felt, heard, but he hopes the report will provide a broader understanding of what's possible and of just how complicated things are.

Northeast Addison Television recorded the meeting and will make the video available on its website, neabristol.com.

Brandon Congregational Church names new pastor

BRANDON — The Reverend Sara Ann Rossigg has been selected as the new pastor at The Brandon Congregational Church and will begin her full-time duties in mid-January.

Reverend Rossigg is a graduate of Chicago Theological Seminary and is an ordained United Church of Christ minister. She has served churches in New Hampshire, Connecticut, Cleveland, Ohio, and Chicago. She also holds a degree in Biological Science from Michigan State University and previously worked in the conservation science field in her home state of Michigan.

Rossigg enjoys spending time with her family and engaging in the wonders of the woods, vegetable gardening and playing the mandolin.

Some of her ministerial outreach experiences focus on neighborhood engagement, homeless youth advocacy,



REVEREND SARA ANN ROSSIG

and food security justice. Her priorities center around building relationships with people — learning from and sharing with others from all walks of life — and becoming involved in the Brandon community.

Reverend Rossigg presided over her first official church service on Sunday, Jan. 23.

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Middlebury

(Continued from Page 1A)

Middlebury selectboard this year are incumbents Esther Thomas and Heather Seeley, and residents Andy Hooper and Matthew Delia-Lobo.

Seeley was first elected to the selectboard on March 1, 2016. She currently leads Middlebury's Infrastructure Committee. She and her husband John manage several businesses in Middlebury, most notably Seeley Earthmoving Inc.

Thomas, a residence director at Middlebury College, was elected

to the selectboard last March to fill out the balance of a term vacated by incumbent Victor Nuovo. A first-generation Haitian-American, she promises through her campaign website that "I will work for Middlebury's families, support inclusion within our community, and help make sure that your voice is being heard in town government."

This is Hooper's second bid for the Middlebury selectboard, having finished second to Thomas during the 2021 election. He's a former Montpelier city councilor and currently works for Agri-Mark/Cabot. The *Independent* last week published a profile of him and his candidacy, and will be interviewing the other candidates in the weeks leading up to the Town Meeting Day elections.

This will be Delia-Lobo's first run for the Middlebury selectboard. He's a local entrepreneur, co-owner of the Lost Monarch Coffee Bar and Royal Oak Coffee, both in Middlebury. He has been assisting the town of Middlebury on diversity issues, of late.

ACSD BOARD
Meanwhile, five three-year seats are up for grabs this March on the 13-member ACSD board. Three of those seats belong to Middlebury, and they've attracted three takers: incumbent James "Chip" Malcolm, former ACSD board member Steve Orzech, and resident Brian Bauer.

Middlebury incumbents Lorraine Morse and Betty Kafumbe have decided not to run for re-election.

The ACSD board presides over preK-12 education for students in Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

While there's no race for the ACSD board's Middlebury seats, there will be competition for the other two seats in play, one of which belongs to Ripton, the other to Weybridge.

Perhaps most intriguing will be the race for Ripton's seat, currently held by Amy McGlashan. She's being challenged by Joanna Doria —

"I do not anticipate any conflict between the work I am doing with the Ripton School District Board and the work I hope to do with the ACSD Board,"

— Joanna Doria

currently a member of the recently formed Ripton School District board. She's been a frequent critic of the ACSD panel's approach to Ripton's impending withdrawal from the ACSD — an effort that she and her Ripton colleagues are pursuing in large part to preserve the town's small elementary school.

Since Ripton is slated to operate its own school district beginning July 1, 2023 (see related story on Page 2A), the candidate who wins the post won't serve

the entire three-year term — unless Ripton ultimately elects to reverse course and stay within the ACSD fold.

The *Independent* reached out to Doria, asking if she perceived any conflict or difficulty in potentially serving on both boards, which have been at loggerheads since the birth of the Ripton School Board this past July.

"I do not anticipate any conflict between the work I am doing with the Ripton School District Board and the work I hope to do with the ACSD Board," Doria wrote in an emailed response. "Advocacy for all ACSD students and families is something I would take seriously were I to be elected. In fact, I have formed many strong connections across the district and those are among the top reasons why I am running. I have been considering my candidacy for the ACSD Board for the last three-plus years, so the idea of running is not new for me — I just had to wait for the appropriate time. I have followed the conversations, movements, and decisions of the ACSD Board closely, and

I believe I would be a good addition, as I hope to bring more critical and creative thinking to their processes. I have said this before, and I will reiterate it here: I believe trust, cooperation, and rich deliberation can be agents for positive change — my work on both boards will share that same foundation."

McGlashan was elected to the ACSD board in 2019. Prior to that, she served on the Ripton and Addison Central Supervisory Union school boards from 2008-2013.

McGlashan has voted with the majority of the ACSD board on issues pertaining to Ripton's status within the district. She provided the following statement regarding Doria's candidacy:

"I would say that it's healthy for our democracy to have more than one person on the ballot, and would welcome another resident challenging me for the Ripton seat on the ACSD School Board. I do wonder if Joanna being that candidate is a conflict of interest while she is serving on the newly formed Ripton Supervisory District Board that is working to operationally, legally, and in all other ways separate from ACSD by July 1, 2023."

WEYBRIDGE RACE

The race for the Weybridge seat will involve incumbent Mary Cullinane — who chairs the ACSD board — and challenger Jamie McCallum.

Cullinane has served on the ACSD Board since 2017, and is a member of the panel's Facilities Committee. She is currently a partner in Community Barn Ventures in Middlebury, and owns and operates The Stone Mill with business partner Stacey Rainey.

McCallum is an associate professor of sociology at Middlebury College. He's also a published author, and his latest book, "Worked Over: How Round-the-Clock-Work Is Killing the American Dream," examines the amount of time people work in the U.S. and "the worker struggles necessary to build a socialist movement for shorter hours," according to his Middlebury College profile page.

It should be noted that all ACSD candidates run at-large, meaning voters in all seven member-towns get to cast ballots in all of the races.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



Zoomtime

SUNDAY WAS A classic Vermont winter day — perfect for sledding on the Middlebury golf course. Displaying their colorful sleds in the top photo are, from left, Elliott Hendy, Ruben Scott, Harper Hendy, Meredith Prouty and Miles Prouty, all of Weybridge. Above, Miles Prouty bombs headfirst down a hill. Left, Conor Stinson of Cornwall takes his 1-year-old son, Sam, for a ride. Below, 6-year-old Evie Stinson shows off her sled skills.

Independent photos/Steve James



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Theater

(Continued from Page 1A)

“That would be from ‘Music Man,’” he said, referring to a show Doug Anderson directed for MCP in 2009.

It was the same with the used lumber, sheet goods, steps, signs, doors still in their frames, arches, columns, benches, chairs, tables, shelving (and stuff made to look like shelving) he was surrounded by, with a motorized hospital bed thrown in for good measure. Items that once belonged to a grand story and sometimes had stories of their own.

This is Tom Noble’s domain. Since 2009, as an MCP volunteer, he has managed what comes in or goes out of this roughly 2,700-square-foot building, broken it down, labeled it, stored it, retrieved it upon request. MCP has stored materials in that building for 16 years in all.

And he has organized or participated in set-building projects for MCP and other local theater companies, often here onsite.

This isn’t stuff that gets romanticized in show programs or planned for when productions are being developed, but for those 16 years, 13 with Noble’s aid, it has helped keep local theater financially viable by cutting down on materials costs.

As Noble pointed out, “a \$35 package of screws used three times becomes a \$12 package of screws.”

As MCP’s treasurer Noble also writes the checks that pay the rent to Addison Residential, which owns the building and has been giving MCP — and by extension Town Hall Theater and the Middlebury Acting Company, who provide MCP with small annual stipends — a generous deal.

But that’s about to come to an end. Addison Residential needs the space so it can expand its business, and it has given MCP notice that it must move out by July 1.

Since its founding in 1959, MCP has pursued a simple mission: “to further the interest of theater

in Addison County.” According to a recent media release by the group, it has produced 171 shows over the past 62 years, often giving young and old alike their first opportunities to experience the magic of participating in live theater.

MCP has also helped further local theater by making its stock of carefully managed set pieces, furniture, building materials and costumes available to Town Hall Theater, Opera Company of Middlebury, Middlebury College’s J-Term musical program, Middlebury Acting Company, Bristol Gateway Players, Little City Players and school theater programs around Addison County, the release said.

Some companies have also used the space for set construction.

“Thanks to the generosity of the landlords, the Middlebury Community Players could afford to maintain (the space) and give everyone free access to all they had,” the group wrote, though in recent years MCP has needed to charge small fees to help defray its operating costs.

SEARCH FOR NEW HOME

Searching for a new home in the next couple of months has become a collaborative effort among local theater groups, Noble said. Earlier this month they met to discuss a way forward.

“The group agrees the long-term goal is to establish a permanent solution to storage and building space needs for the entire local theater endeavor, which is substantial,” wrote Middlebury artist Kate Tilton, who has worked professionally for a number of groups based at Town Hall Theater, in her notes for that meeting.

Ultimately, the organizations would like to purchase space rather than lease it, but finances, as is always the case in the theater world, are complicated.

On Monday, Noble expressed gratitude for the ongoing support of an anonymous donor who pays the



A BOOKCASE THAT looks like it is full of books is a prop that has been used on sets in several Addison County theater productions. Middlebury Community Players, which houses this and many other props, must soon find a new space for its theater backdrops.

Independent photo/Christopher Ross

rent for MCP’s costume shop, which is located in the HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects) complex on Boardman Street in Middlebury. Those materials, thankfully, do not need to be moved.

Regarding theater-set storage, though, Noble doubted all of the local theater companies combined could afford a commercial lease for the kind of space that’s needed.

They’ve made do in the past, however — the current space has relatively low ceilings and lacks heat

and running water, which has made things challenging in the winter. They can make do again.

They’re also asking the community for help.

“If someone has a building that needs work to be usable, the Players would like to see it,” they noted in their media release. “MCP cannot afford full commercial rates, but would certainly provide other benefits and recognition to the owner.”

It’s not just for MCP, they

emphasized. It’s for all local theater groups.

For more information about how to help — whether it’s an idea, a lead, material support or the name of someone who might be able to help — email Noble at tmoble@gmavt.net.

Editor’s note: Christopher Ross is a member of the Middlebury Community Players and has performed numerous times at Town Hall Theater — though not in “Music Man.”

ACED approves new members

MIDDLEBURY — At the Annual Meeting of the Addison County Economic Development Corporation on Nov. 12, the membership approved four new members to the Board of Directors and at the Dec. 16 board meeting, a new executive team was elected for the 2022-2023 term.

The executive team for 2022 and 2023 are: Susan Evans McClure, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, President; Chris Wilson, Collins Aerospace, Vice President; Matthew Curran, Middlebury College, Treasurer (2022 only); Jason Larocque, Otter Creek Engineering, Secretary; and David Castle, Mechanical Advantage, At-Large.

ACEDC welcomed four new members to its Board of Directors: Darcy Tarte, TD Bank; Christopher Lapierre, National Bank of Middlebury; Gina Larrow, Co-op Insurance Companies; and Jason Robart, Seae Ventures.

Continuing to serve on the ACEDC Board are the following Directors: Joseph Andriano, Attorney, designated by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission; Valerie Capels, Bristol Town Administrator; designated by the Town of Bristol;

Jeff Olson, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services and Addison County Real Estate, designated by the Town of Middlebury; Renny Perry, representing the City of Vergennes and the Addison County Chamber of Commerce; John Roberts, Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition; Thomas Thompson, UVM medical Center/Porter Hospital; Bill Townsend, JP Carrara & Sons/Vermont Industrial Parks

“With the addition of these talented community members to our board, ACEDC looks forward to continuing to meet our important mission of advancing economic and community development in Addison County,” stated incoming ACEDC President Susan Evans McClure.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Trails

(Continued from Page 1A)

selectboard will grant MASSSC's request remains to be seen — nearly every resident along the proposed trail over Ireland and Conway roads is opposed to it, but some are vehemently opposed, citing noise, nuisance, safety and other concerns.

But even a favorable decision from the selectboard is unlikely to make snowmobile travel possible on Ireland and Conway roads this winter.

In addition to the selectboard's permission, MASSSC must also obtain permission from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, or ANR, for another part of their proposed trail.

VAST already has permission to travel northwest through the wildlife management area (WMA) and on to the town of Huntington, but it does not have permission to connect the existing VAST trail to Ireland Road, which starts about 0.4 mile to the southwest.

"The last I heard from (VAST Trails Administrator) Matt Tetreault was that (the request) may not come this winter," said John Gobeille, a wildlife biologist who manages habitat and reviews permits for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

Lack of permission did not stop MASSSC from performing trail work there, however.

During a visit to the area on Dec. 17, the *Independent* observed VAST trail signage not only on Ireland Road, which was posted without permission or knowledge of the selectboard, but also extending northeast into the Lewis Creek Wildlife Management Area.



IN DECEMBER, WITHOUT permission from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, a member of the Mt. Abe Snow Sports/Snowmobiling Club used a tractor to remove this boulder from the Ireland Road entrance to the Lewis Creek Wildlife Management Area in Starksboro. The boulder had been placed there by F&W to prevent the passage of motorized vehicles.

Two days later, local residents discovered that a heavy boulder at the entrance to the WMA, which ANR had put there for the express purpose of blocking motorized vehicles, had been moved aside.

"The local (snowmobile) club did not have permission to remove the barrier at the end of Ireland Road nor did they consult with us first," Gobeille said in an email to a concerned Starksboro resident.

Gobeille called MASSSC and told them to replace the barrier, he said. The group did.

The WMA trail in question used to be a part of Hillsboro Road, but it was formally discontinued in the 1960s, at ANR's request, Gobeille explained to the Starksboro resident.

"These are now logging roads for public foot traffic only and owned exclusively by (F&W)," he wrote. "Neither the town nor VAST or anyone else has any legal right-of-way or authority over this road on the WMA."

Motorized vehicles are prohibited,

except by F&W for forest and wildlife management.

"Unfortunately (the barrier) doesn't completely stop the illegal use by ATVs and 4wd vehicles," Gobeille continued. "We have had many problems with trespassing ATVs and 4x4s and vandalism of our road gates and signs ever since the road was discontinued."

Game wardens have been doing their best to enforce the trespass problem, but it appears to be "widespread in this remote area of Starksboro."

Gobeille said F&W has seen evidence of illegal snowmobile use in the area this winter.

F&W is very concerned about the impacts illegal motorized vehicles and other trespassing are having on water quality and aquatic organisms in the area, Gobeille told the Starksboro resident.

"This needs to be assessed before permission could be given for another VAST trail at Lewis Creek WMA."

The *Independent* reached out to five supporters of the Starksboro VAST trail proposal, but they declined to comment for this story.

As the *Independent* was going to press, the Starksboro selectboard posted to their website a new version of the MASSSC trail permission request.

The document, which is dated Jan. 23, states that "The ANR has been asked to specifically re-approve trail use at the LCWMA, and that approval is pending."

But it's not clear what trail is being referred to.

The updated request also contains a 1999 agreement between VAST and ANR, but it makes no mention of Starksboro or the LCWMA.

Late on Wednesday the *Independent* reached out again to Gobeille, but he did not respond in time for inclusion in this story.

Documents related to the VAST request in Starksboro can be found on the town's website, tinyurl.com/StarkVAST.

Shelter

(Continued from Page 1A)

proposals to hire a construction manager.

Of the 18 units to be repaired, 12 are family apartments and six are classified as "single-resident occupancy (SRO)" rooms for individuals, according to Whitmore. All of those SROs are located at 74/76 Green St., Vergennes.

And the JGH&S renovations won't end there. The nonprofit is queuing up a separate project that will see major fixes for the John W. Graham Emergency Shelter at 69 North Main St., Vergennes. This undertaking will require tapping different funding sources than can be accessed for rental housing, Whitmore explained.

The Addison County Community Trust (ACCT), which manages JGH&S properties, will be the other major player in bringing the planned renovations to completion. Whitmore noted JGH&S has long enjoyed a productive, symbiotic relationship with ACCT — the largest affordable housing provider in the county. John Graham officials often work with ACCT clients, and vice versa.

"The beauty of a community partnership (with ACCT) is none of us exist in a vacuum; we all share the people we're serving," Whitmore said. "Our missions are really in alignment."

JGH&S officials have already approached Middlebury, Bristol and Vergennes officials to get

their support for project funding applications. Here's how the organization hopes to bankroll the renovations:

- The sale of Federal Low-Income Housing and Federal Historic Tax Credits, expected to generate around \$2.6 million in equity.
- The sale of Vermont Low Income Housing Tax Credits, to generate another \$490,000.
- A request for \$2.3 million in financing through the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.

This would come from a to-be-determined mix of VHC Trust Funds, National Housing Trust Funds, HOME funds, and/or American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money.

Whitmore said the availability of ARPA grants has been a godsend for those assisting the homeless.

"The gift of the federal dollars coming in to the state is an excellent opportunity for affordable housing organizations to really try to move the needle in a tangible way, in a relatively short period of time," she said.

How short?

With a lot of hard work and some luck, Whitmore believes the renovations could be completed within two years. That timetable calls for all funding to be in place by the end of this June, with construction starting in August or September.

"I don't anticipate any barriers

to being able to stick to our plan," Whitmore said.

She believes the project team will be able to respond to any funding challenges along the way.

"I know nothing is ever guaranteed until you sign the contract, but I also have a lot of expertise in looking at funding vehicles if we get to that point," Whitmore said. "We're committed to making this happen."

Adding to her confidence is that consultant David Pride of Pride Development LLC is on the project team.

"He has been successful in many other affordable housing rehabilitation and development projects where the financing and funding vehicles he's recommended were successful. "We feel good about the planning that's going into this and have the expectation we're going to be able to do it."

No tenants are in immediate danger of displacement as a result of the work, according to Whitmore.

"Both ACCT and JGH&S would like to be proactive to address the need before anyone is displaced," she said. "That's why the project is essential to the continuity of services for those in need of affordable housing in Addison County."

Whitmore noted JGH&S has a history of sticking with clients even after they've moved into an apartment. John Graham service coordinators work with tenants on an ongoing basis to ensure they can sustain their housing and hopefully

transition to more permanent accommodations. The housing voucher that tenants receive is conditioned on their willingness to receive such counsel.

And tenants have typically traveled a rough road to homelessness, one strewn with such setbacks as mental health issues, domestic violence or substance use disorders.

"Anyone coming into a shelter has had traumatic experiences," Whitmore said. "The healing work that goes into being able to address whatever it was the led to their housing instability in the first place, really takes time. We feel a huge responsibility to stick with people for as long as they'll continue to work with us."

One of those people is a man named Bryan (who agreed to be quoted using only his first name), who lives at one of the JGH&S units slated for renovation. He transitioned to that unit from the John Graham Shelter, where he resided from the fall of 2020 to the summer of 2021.

Bryan's short-term goal is to remain a tenant in good standing for the one-year duration of his lease, which he said would qualify him for a portable housing voucher that would give him more of a choice of where to live.

He called the repairs "definitely something to look forward to. We (tenants) know there are plans in the pipeline."

To voters of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro, we need your help.

During your town meeting, please **vote yes** to ratify Lincoln's decision to withdraw from the Mount Abe Unified School District (MAUSD).

Last August by a 3 to 1 margin, Lincoln overwhelmingly voted in favor of withdrawing from the MAUSD district. Like many Vermonters, we appreciate the importance of local control and see community schools as essential to the well-being of rural towns and their students.

By voting yes, you will allow us to re-establish the Lincoln school board. We believe a school board of community leaders is best equipped to provide the appropriate and affordable resources to educate and support our children.



MAUSD's financial analysis shows **no essential tax impact on your towns** when Lincoln withdraws. Under one scenario, the calculation showed a one cent decrease, under another a one cent increase.

We are currently working with Rip-ton and a team of professionals to design a supervisory union appropriate for our schools. Our intent is to design a sustainable model for use by us and other small towns and schools in Vermont.

We ask you to support local control and our decision to withdraw from the school district.

Please vote yes on town meeting day to allow Lincoln to complete the task of withdrawing from MAUSD.

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March 8 - Apr 14; Tue & Thu; 5:30-8:00P; 30 Hrs; \$600 includes materials and safety protection; 8 student limit. Prerequisite: Intro to Welding or instructor pre-approval. *Designed to enhance SMAW welding skills for those who have completed Intro to Welding or have equivalent experience.*

The Makery at Hannaford Career Center

The Makery is a member-based makerspace collaborative for people to imagine, experiment, network, collaborate and create for personal and professional growth. Currently, we offer access to labs in Woodworking and Sewing. \$7.50 per visit, \$50 for a 10-visit punch card for \$50, \$100 for an unlimited annual membership, or choose a no-charge option. Tours on Thursday nights or email Makery Coordinator, Dan Callahan at coordinator@makeryatpahcc.org.

Are you interested in enrolling in the following classes? Classes will be scheduled according to interest. Call (802) 382-1004 for further information.

Intro to Glowforge Laser Cutter

5 Hrs; 2 evenings from 4:30P-7:00P; \$100 includes materials; 4 student limit per class. *Each student receives 2 free passes to our Thursday night Makery space for additional use of the laser cutter.*

Forklift Operator Safety Training

4 Hrs; \$100. Designed for all powered "lift truck" operators in manufacturing, construction and retail. *The course will cover an overview of the regulations (29 CFR 1910.178), training requirements, forklift basics and characteristics, operating rules of the road, truck inspection (hands-on), dock safety, parking, and the stability triangle.*

Intro to CNC Wood Router

18 Hrs; 6 classes; \$360 includes materials; 4 student limit per class. *Each student receives 2 free passes to our Thursday night Makery space for additional use of the CNC Router.*

Intro to Basic Woodworking

12.5 Hrs; 5 classes; \$250 includes materials; 6 student limit per class. *Designed for those interested in learning the basics of woodworking.*

Tractor Safety

10 Hrs; 5 classes; 4:30-6:30P; \$250; must be 18 or older; limit 6 students per class. *Students will learn tractor safety protocols, tractor controls and operation, preventive maintenance and upkeep.*

For full course descriptions and registration, please visit <https://www.hannafordcareercenter.org/all-course-offerings>

ANWSD

(Continued from Page 1A)
voters, but will not be mailed out to all residents, officials said.

The board has scheduled a hybrid online/in-person informational meeting for Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. at the VUHS library.

TAX IMPACTS

Superintendent Sheila Soule and Director of Operations and Finances Elizabeth Jennings told the board on Jan. 19 that state education and tax officials have set statewide calculations that affect local tax rates favorably.

Using figures currently recommended by the state, Jennings is estimating the ANWSD district-wide rate would drop by more than 12 cents, from \$1.6944 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.57.

But ANWSD towns would not see the full benefit of that decrease due to rapidly rising property values.

Communities locally and around the state now have unfavorably low Common Levels of Appraisal (CLAs). CLAs measure how towns' assessed values compare to true market value. The state tax department uses CLAs to adjust towns' school tax rates in an attempt to make sure all Vermont property owners are paying based on a level playing field.

Towns with CLAs below 100% of fair market value, as determined by a state market analysis, see school tax rates rise, and towns with CLAs higher than 100% see school tax rates drop.

Because Vermont real estate has been increasing in value during the pandemic, CLAs in almost all towns are low. ANWSD officials said that's one reason the state has tweaked the numbers used to calculate statewide rates.

Fortunately for ANWSD taxpayers, district officials said

that action by state officials, when combined with the \$337,763 surplus the board will use to keep taxes in check, will be more than enough to offset the combined effects of low CLAs, the proposed modest spending increase, and the district's lost revenue from declining enrollment.

The bottom line: School tax rate decreases in ANWSD communities are estimated to range from almost 1.7 cents to just over 7 cents.

The ANWSD homestead tax rate estimates are as follows, with every penny equaling \$10 per \$100,000 of assessed value for homeowners paying on the full value of their property:

- In Addison, a decrease of about 2 cents, from \$1.6929 to \$1.6722.

- In Ferrisburgh, a decrease of about 5 cents, from \$1.7047 to \$1.6539.

- In Panton, a decrease of about 7.2 cents, from \$1.7219 to \$1.6495.

- In Vergennes, a decrease of about 1.68 cents, from \$1.8220 to \$1.8052

- In Waltham, a decrease of almost 5.3 cents, from \$1.7257 to \$1.6731.

Soule told the board some uncertainty remains about the exact number of students the district will be credited with, and thus the revenue that comes with those students, but added the fluctuation would not change the larger picture.

"We always know these numbers are going to change before we get to print, even though we try to get it as close as possible," Soule said. "(All scenarios) basically still show ranges of a decrease in tax rates for all towns."

BUDGET DETAILS

The proposed budget of roughly \$22.3 million is about \$200,000 higher than the largest prior ANWSD spending plan, which came in the 2019-2020 school

year. Budgets were lower during the past two years.

The current proposal keeps all existing programs, according to district officials, but adds a number of paraeducators at the three district schools, as well as two VUHS employees: a psychologist and a new member of the school's Response Resource Center, which works with students with disciplinary and other issues.

ANWSD Board Chair John Stroup told the *Independent* that items such as rising salaries and health care cost and other typical budget drivers are driving much of the higher spending, but district administrators and board are also trying to support students.

"This budget maintains every program and makes some strategic investments in personnel to meet increased student needs," Stroup said. "We know that there are some increased needs as a result of the pandemic, and we need to invest in support for these kids."

Soule also told the board to expect a fund balance at the end of the current fiscal year, but not one that will match the \$1.86 million confirmed by an audit at the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year that concluded this past June.

Officials said the \$1.5 million will be spent on work that includes replacing rotting windows at VUHS; replacing the VUES gym roof; heating/air conditioning systems upgrades; work on the VUES boiler and the foundation of the boiler room, including adding an exterior door; bathroom upgrades at VUES; science lab upgrades at VUHS; and new asphalt and roof repair at VUHS.

All are projects identified by the board's facilities committee as necessary in the next one-to-five years, they said.

Stroup praised the work of ANWSD staff and board members.

"I think as a general matter the district is doing what it has to do to overcome enormous difficulties," he said. "We know the people in the schools are doing an awesome job, working hard to do well by kids."

Vergennes area

(Continued from Page 1A)
servant who will call it a day on March 1 is from Addison — current Town Clerk and Treasurer Marilla Webb. Webb has held those titles for about nine years, since she took over from former long-serving Town Clerk Jane Grace.

But before then, Webb spent more than 26 years as Grace's assistant clerk, giving her more than 35 years in all behind the counter in Addison's tiny municipal office.

Webb, who acknowledged recently turning 67, laughed and said, "It's kind of an age thing," when asked why she had decided to step down.

Webb talked a bit about the increasing challenges of being a town clerk, but more about her grandchildren and the family camp in Maine.

"I've got stuff I'd like to do. I've got four grandkids I don't ever see, and I'd like to be able to take off for vacation and not take my phone with me and be checking every five minutes," Webb said. "I'm just ready."

Webb said a serious candidate has emerged to replace her, but that person is still considering whether to withdraw from electoral consideration, with a late Wednesday deadline to do so. That candidate would run unopposed on March 1 unless withdrawal is the choice. If not, Webb said it would be up to the selectboard to appoint a clerk/treasurer.

Assistant clerk/treasurer Billie Jo Fougues has said she would like to stay on only in that capacity, said Webb, who will help with any transition.

Also in Addison, selectboard members Roger Waterman (two-year term) and Steve Torrey (three years) filed paperwork to be on the March 1 ballot, with no opposition.

VERGENNES

In Vergennes, there are three candidates for three city council seats: Incumbents Dickie Austin, the deputy mayor; Jill Murray-Killon; and council newcomer Zoe Caswell, who has over the past two years been a regular attendee and commenter at civic meetings.

Incumbent Councilor David Austin won't appear on the ballot. Austin has served a dozen years on the council, but not consecutively. He returned to the council four years ago after serving four terms

that started in the early 2000s, near the end of his eight-year run on the city planning commission, which included a stint as its chairman.

Austin, 56, said he'll keep Vergennes as a home base, but wants to travel to pursue business and charitable opportunities in such far-flung locations as Florida and the Philippines. He doesn't believe he can do so and devote himself to serving on the council at the same time, and thus chose not to run.

"I didn't want to make a commitment I couldn't keep," Austin said. "It was a very difficult decision."

On the council he cited, among other accomplishments, working with Police Chief George Merkel and former City Manager Dan Hofman to improve relations with the Northlands Job Corps and get a contract to pay the city for police work.

He might be most proud of working with fellow planners to introduce concepts that he said the current planning commission is still working with, to halt a proposed VELCO power line through the Otter Creek basin area, and to separate planning and zoning functions by creating the city's development review board, thus allowing planners more time to do their job.

"Potentially my work on the planning commission paved the way for Vergennes to be where it is today," he said.

The Vergennes-Panton board sees Commissioner Chris Bearor running unopposed for another three years, but there's a shuffle for another seat on the board.

Chris Robinson, who was appointed to replace John DeGraaf as a city representative on the board when DeGraaf moved to Panton last year, is stepping away. Bruce McIntire is alone on the ballot for the one year left on DeGraaf's term to replace Robinson.

The city contingent on the ANWSD board will see status quo, as three incumbents are running unopposed: elected board members John Stroup and Keith Morrill are each seeking another three years, while Mary Sullivan, appointed to replace Martha DeGraaf, is seeking a one-year term.

FERRISBURGH

In Ferrisburgh, the selectboard also appears stable, as two

incumbents are running without opposition — Chris Campbell for two years and Clark Hinsdale for three years.

Two multi-term board members have stepped away or are stepping away. Bill Clark resigned earlier this month after about three years on the ANWSD board due to a work conflict of interest, and had in the past served six years on the Ferrisburgh Central School board.

George Gardner chose not to run again after his six years on the ANWSD board. Before then, he spent two years serving simultaneously on the Ferrisburgh Central and Vergennes Union High school boards.

Newcomer Nichole Bearor is seeking to replace Gardner on the board; town officials said Bearor has children in district schools.

Meanwhile, they said, no one has stepped up to replace Clark, and it will be up to the selectboard to choose a candidate for that position, officials said.

PANTON

Panton is holding a vote to eliminate some elected positions — that of elected auditors. The town selectboard believes the annual professional audit the town pays to have performed makes the position unnecessary, and also cites the difficulty finding candidates for the posts, which are going begging in almost every town.

There is no competition for major elective office in Panton. Selectboard member Howard Hall, currently the board chair, is unopposed for a three-year term, as is incumbent Vergennes-Panton Water District board member Chris Cook.

WALTHAM

In Waltham, two multi-term incumbents are stepping down: Tim Ryan from the selectboard and Tom Borchert from the ANWSD board.

Borchert, like Gardner, was a founding member of the ANWSD board. He also served briefly on the VUHS board.

Candidates have lined up to replace them. Brent Newton will be unopposed on the ballot for the selectboard, though officials said there's some talk of opposition in the form of a write-in campaign.

Mimi Clark will be unopposed on the March 1 ballot for Waltham's lone seat on the ANWSD board.

Bristol area

(Continued from Page 1A)
William Mount.

Bristol will also elect a town moderator to replace the recently retired Fred Baser, who served in that role for decades. Gary Russell and Jennifer Wager are running for that office.

For Lincoln selectboard, incumbent Bay Jackson is running unopposed for another two-year term, while incumbent Will Sipsey, who's finishing a three-year term, will face a challenge from Alan Schmidt in the only contested selectboard race across the 5-Town Area.

The Monkton Town Meeting Day ballot will feature two selectboard members. Incumbents Marikate Kelley (3-year term) and Paul Low (2-year term) are running unopposed.

Also in Monkton, Kristin Blanchette, a veteran of multiple school boards, has decided not to run again for the MAUSD board. Fellow Monkton resident Bailey Layn will run unopposed to fill her seat for a three-year term.

New Haven selectboard incumbents Kathy Barrett (3-year term) and John Roleau (2-year term) are running unopposed.

One of the town's two representatives to the MAUSD board, Andrew Morton, has decided not to run for reelection. Because no one has come forward by the filing deadline, the school board portion of the ballot will be blank.

The town could still elect a new school board member if a write-in candidate gets enough votes to qualify. If not, the MAUSD board will appoint a New Haven resident to fill the seat in March.

The *Independent* will provide in-depth previews of Addison County Town Meeting Day issues in late February.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
Middlebury resident; his spouse of Lisa Mitchell, executive director of Middlebury's Town Hall Theater. "Secrets of the Whales" is a four-part Disney+ series that Chicago Sun Times film critic Richard Roeper described as being "among the finest nature documentaries I've ever experienced ... Directed with award-level skill by Brian Armstrong and Andy Mitchell

... This Earth Day offering is an astonishingly well-photographed deep dive into the worlds of orcas, belugas, sperm whales, narwhals and humpbacks — essentially disparate species with their own communities and friend groups, their own unique languages and culture, their own unique family dynamics and their own special histories. The Disney+/National Geographic crews take us to the far ends of the waters of the Earth to capture these beautiful and intelligent creatures, with visuals so stunning and locales so exotic, it's almost as if we're on another planet — or we've traveled back in time."

The financial aid program is being funded by \$50 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and will provide grants of up to \$30,000 per household toward overdue mortgage payments, utility bills, property taxes, and property association charges. The program is available to any Vermont homeowner who meets the eligibility criteria, and it is not just for VHFA mortgage borrowers. More information and application materials are available at vermonthap.vhfa.org. A Homeowner Assistance Program information hotline is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 833-221-4208.

The Addison County unemployment rate was 2% in December, representing an increase of 0.4% compared to November. By comparison, the county's jobless rate was 3% in December of 2020. Meanwhile, Vermont's unemployment rate declined to 2.5% in December, down slightly from 2.6% in November. The comparable U.S. rate in December was 3.9%, which was a decrease of 0.3% from the revised November estimate. The seasonally adjusted Vermont data for December shows Vermont's civilian labor force decreased by 248 from the prior month's revised estimate. The December unemployment rates for Vermont's 17 labor market areas ranged from 1.6% in White River Junction to 3.9% in Derby. Early data on the Vermont economy shows that during the past 12 months, businesses have added 10,000 jobs (or 3.5%), bringing the statewide estimate to 296,100 filled positions. While this is welcome news, Vermont remains below pre-pandemic employment levels by nearly 19,000 jobs, according to state officials.

The Department of Housing and Community Development is accepting grant applications from Vermont homeowners facing financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The annual statewide Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is under way in Vermont. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invites students from pre-K to grade 12 to create designs featuring ducks, swans, or geese in their natural habitats. Designs are judged in four age categories, with awards for first, second and third places and honorable mentions. Entries must be received by March 15. The Vermont Best of Show entry will compete with contest winners from other states in a national competition in Washington, D.C. The first-place national winning design is used to create the Federal Junior Duck Stamp. Proceeds from the sale of Junior Duck Stamps support conservation education by providing awards and scholarships for students, teachers, and schools. Contest rules and entry forms are currently available for download at tinyurl.com/yckurxjh. For more information on the contest, call the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge at (802) 962-5240, ext. 112. Businesses or organizations who would like to sponsor this program are encouraged to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



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SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs

— MATT DICKERSON —

The delight of one outdoor chore

The temperature is in the low teens. My chainsaw hums smoothly. The machine likes this temperature. I stand in six inches of snow next to a huge old maple that got toppled by a strong wind a few weeks ago. It made quite a thump when it hit the ground (whether anybody was there to hear it or not). On its way down, it took out a pine tree and a black birch. The pine was a foot and a half in diameter and the birch almost that big. Both looked



as though they'd been healthy prior to their untimely demise. Collateral damage, I guess. They won't go to

waste, though. I've already cut them into firewood for 2023 — the birch destined for a wood stove and the pine for a fireplace.

Now I'm working on the maple. A big tree, many of its limbs are fat enough to need splitting. I'm working on those limbs first, saving the main trunk for later. My fingers are still cold. They don't appreciate the teen temperatures as much as the chainsaw does. But I know they will warm soon enough. If running the chainsaw doesn't get me hot and sweaty, then chucking the wood into a pile will.

I enjoy all aspects of harvesting firewood: cutting, splitting, hauling it out of the woods, and stacking. Although I can explain this enjoyment, I'm not sure it's completely rational or consistent. For example, part of my enjoyment comes from the fact that it's an outdoor activity. At least part of the work of harvesting firewood takes place in the woods, because — well — that's where trees live. And all of the work takes place outside. I'm sure that's part of why I enjoy it.

But I certainly don't enjoy all outdoor chores. I rather dislike raking leaves, which seems futile. I'm barely across my lawn when a puff of wind rattles the branches above me. I look over my shoulder to find the big patch I just raked is covered in leaves again. Maybe I also dislike raking because it was a required childhood chore, and my childhood house was surrounded by trees. There was no clear distinction between the woods and

(See Dickerson, Page 3B)



COMMODORE FORWARD FELICIA Poirier eyes the basket after nabbing a rebound, while MUHS forward Ele Sellers tries to defend during Tuesday's girls' basketball game at VUHS. The Tigers prevailed as Sellers scored 16 points.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger girls' fast start sinks Commodores

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Defense has been a constant for Coach Chris Altemose's Middlebury Union High School girls' basketball team this winter, but the Tigers have not always shot the ball well.

Unfortunately for host Vergennes, the Tigers were more on target on Tuesday, especially in the first quarter.

That's when MUHS juniors Cady Pitner and Ele Sellers set the tone with three-pointers in the first two minutes, and five Tigers scored as their team bolted to a 19-4 lead after eight minutes.

The Commodores fell behind further before rallying to within 12 points early in the third period, but the Tigers surged again on the way to a 53-24 victory.

The win pushed the Tigers' record to 6-5 heading into a game at 7-3 Mount Abraham on Saturday.

Altemose was pleased to

see more shots start to fall on Tuesday, as five players scored at least four points and several more contributed baskets.

"It was fun to see it when they do go through the hoop," Altemose said. "The balance is nice, and the collective effort is nice."

Conversely, VUHS Coach Billy Waller, whose team dipped to 4-6 with its fifth straight setback, acknowledged the Commodores could not afford Tuesday's slow start.

"They outthusted us in the first quarter, and we don't have the type of team that can do a great job of coming from behind," he said. "The games that we have won, we've played better in the first quarter."

Waller's team entered a rebuilding season after nine players graduated from the group that reached the Division III final in 2021, but he said his squad is not playing to its potential at the



TIGER GUARD CADY Pitner works against the defense of Commodore guard Jazz Little during Tuesday's girls' basketball game at VUHS. Pitner scored 10 points as MUHS won, while Little led VUHS with nine points.

Independent photo/Steve James

moment.

For example, one of the losses came by a point to Colchester, which recently defeated North Country, which in turn has knocked off MUHS and Mt. Abe — the teams that just handled VUHS.

"Even the times we ran plays correctly we didn't score," Waller said. "The girls that were strong

for us earlier in the year, they're just not getting buckets for us right now."

Certainly, the Tigers played well, although Altemose said he would still like to see fewer turnovers — even in the big first quarter the Tigers coughed up the ball seven times.

But they also controlled the (See Girls' Hoop, Page 3B)

Big first quarter propels VUHS boys past Tigers

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — For eight minutes on Friday night, the Vergennes Union High School boys' basketball team could do almost nothing wrong, and those eight minutes ultimately proved decisive.

That was the first quarter of the Commodores' Friday home game vs. Middlebury, during which they outrebounded MUHS, 13-4; forced five turnovers and turned the ball over just once; and, most importantly, took a 22-6 lead.

The teams duelled on even terms the rest of the way. The Tigers battled and made a couple of runs, but never came closer than seven points late in the second quarter as the Commodores prevailed, 56-39, to improve to 5-1 heading into this week.

VUHS Coach Josh Carter was pleased with the Commodores' effort.

"The boys came out ready to play. We shot the ball really well, and we ran our sets. We executed awesome," Carter said.

He acknowledged their play the rest of the game probably didn't match the first quarter, but still saw overall progress.

"We got better from the last game, I felt. We turned the ball over a little bit less, although we're still struggling with that, and we really boxed out and rebounded," Carter said. "Overall, I was really happy."

Coach John Howe's Tigers dropped to 2-6, with four straight losses since starting senior point guard Niko Luksch went down with an injury that Howe said threatens to sideline him for the



COMMODORE GUARD ELIJAH Duprey tries to get around the defense of MUHS guard Fynn Whitlock during Friday's boys' hoop game at VUHS. Duprey scored 13 points for the winning Commodores.

Independent photo/Steve James

remainder of the winter.

That leaves the Tigers with only two players with significant varsity experience, Howe said. But he's encouraged because he sees them putting in the effort needed to improve.

"Getting them to learn a little bit every game is just a huge bonus for us. If we can keep them together and have a solid core going into next year, then I'm happy," Howe said. "These guys are working, they're learning. I'm definitely not disappointed in them."

Six Commodores scored in the first quarter. Guard Abram Francis opened with a three-pointer, and guard Elijah Duprey closed the period with another three after forward Adam Clark grabbed an offensive board.

In between Clark and swingman Tyler Bergmans each converted offensive rebounds, Bergmans and center Ian Henderson assisted each other's layups, Bergmans drove for a bucket, Henderson chipped in a free throw, Duprey pulled up for a short shot in the lane, and guard Tim Ashley nailed a three.

In the period, the Tigers managed only a jumper by guard Jack Trudeau and a three and a free throw from guard Graham Matrick.

The second quarter was a different story. The Tigers dug in on defense and outscored the Commodores by 12-3 over the first 6:25 to cut the lead to 25-18.

Center Penn Riney hit a pair of three throws and drove for a hoop to start the surge, forward Willem Berry grabbed an offensive

board and drilled a three, Trudeau hit another jumper, and forward Jeremiah Tinker capped the run with a three-pointer at 2:20.

Then came a pivotal play. The Tigers forced a turnover and got out in transition. A whistle blew as Matrick collided with Ashley while taking a shot and the ball dropped in. But it was not a potential three-point play — Ashley had drawn a charge.

The Commodores then went on a 9-3 run in the half's final 1:35 to take a 34-21 halftime lead into the locker room. Bergmans scored twice in the paint, Abram hit a putback, and Ashley swished a three after Duprey grabbed an offensive board.

Tinker beat the buzzer with a three for MUHS, but the lead was back to 13.

After the break, two buckets from Duprey and one from Bergmans pushed the lead to 40-21. The Tigers kept plugging, however, and answered with a 10-0 run to make it a nine-point game midway through the period. In that stretch, Riney scored five points inside, Berry hit a transition three, and Asher Rubright added a fast-break layup.

Henderson keyed a 6-0 Commodore response in the final 2:35 that restored order. He assisted three straight layups with inside passes, two by forward Oakley Francis and one by Bergmans. VUHS led by 46-31 after three periods, and MUHS came no closer than 13 the rest of the way.

Carter credited the Tigers for continuing to keep the pressure on his team.

(See Boys' Hoop, Page 2B)

Sports BRIEFS

Panther women's teams sweep weekend foes

MIDDLEBURY — Weekend NESCAC sweeps for the Panther women's hockey and basketball teams highlighted recent Middlebury College athletics action.

Elsewhere, the Middlebury ski team was third at the St. Michael's Winter Carnival, the men's hoop team saw its winning streak snapped, and the men's hockey team picked up a win and a tie in three outings.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The women's hockey team swept a weekend series from Colby to improve to 13-0 overall, 8-0 in NESCAC play. They remain the top-ranked team in NCAA Division III and will host Hamilton for two games this weekend. The Mules, who entered the series ranked No. 10, dropped to 8-3, 4-3.

On Friday the Panthers edged the Mules, 3-2. Middlebury outshot Colby, 49-23, as Mule goalie Nina Prunster stopped 46 shots.

The Panthers broke through at 9:22 of the second period on a power play. Cat Appleyard netted her own rebound of a shot from the slot. At 15:55 another power play goal made it 2-0, this time when Kylie Quinlan converted during a goal-front scramble.

Madie Leidt made it 3-0 five minutes into the third period, with assists from Katie Hargrave and Appleyard after another scrum in front of Prunster.

Colby's Meg Rittenhouse, at 7:04, and Jillian Mozzocca, with 1:29 to go, scored to bring Colby close. Sophie Merageas made 21 saves for the Panthers.

On Saturday Colby outshot the (See College sports, Page 3B)

Middlebury gymnasts vault over Harwood

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — With all four members of the team scoring top-four finishes, the Middlebury Union High School gymnastics squad breezed to its first win of the winter, 86.7-51.95, at the Middlebury Union Middle School gymnasium.

Harwood's Janelle Hoskins won all five disciplines, but the Tigers went 2-3-4 on the vault and bars and 2-3 in the all-around in a meet that had been twice postponed.

Alzya Alger led the Tigers with two second-place finishes and three thirds, and Mary Johnson earned one second-place finish, two thirds and a fourth.

Kaya Wright earned two fourths for MUHS, and Kylee Ellis earned (See Gymnastics, Page 4B)



MUHS GYMNAST ALZYA Alger works her routine on the beam during the Tigers' win over visiting Harwood on Monday. Alger was the team's top scorer in the victory.

Independent photo/Steve James

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey

1/19 MUHS vs Missisquoi.....7-6
1/22 Brattleboro vs MUHS.....4-3
1/26 BBA at MUHS.....Late

Boys' Hockey

1/19 Harwood vs MUHS.....3-1
1/22 Hartford vs MUHS.....4-1
1/26 MUHS at Burr & Burton.....Late

Boys' Basketball

1/21 Hartford vs OV.....54-45
1/21 Mt. Abe vs Enosburg.....41-40
1/21 VUHS vs MUHS.....38-39
1/24 Fair Haven vs OV.....72-48
1/24 VUHS vs Stowe.....57-32
1/24 Spaulding vs MUHS.....85-35
1/26 Milton at MUHS.....Late
1/26 Enosburg at VUHS.....Late
1/26 Mt. Abe at Missisquoi.....Late

Girls' Basketball

1/19 Enosburg vs VUHS.....43-31
1/19 Missisquoi vs Mt. Abe.....36-35
1/19 MUHS vs Colchester.....32-21
1/19 Windsor vs OV.....84-31
1/20 OV vs. Burr & Burton.....35-33
1/22 Mt. Abe vs VUHS.....48-29
1/22 North Country vs MUHS.....38-33
1/24 Mt. Abe vs Colchester.....38-36
1/25 MUHS vs VUHS.....53-24
1/25 OV at Woodstock.....58-40

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Hockey

1/21 Midd vs Colby.....3-2
1/22 Midd vs Colby.....2-1

Men's Hockey

1/21 Bowdoin vs Midd.....2-2
1/22 Colby vs Midd.....3-1
1/25 Midd vs Hamilton.....3-2

Men's Basketball

1/22 Williams vs Midd.....78-53

Women's Basketball

1/22 Midd vs Williams.....67-62
1/23 Midd vs Hamilton.....70-61

Girls' hoop

(Continued from Page 1B)

boards and dominated defensively. After the opening two three-pointers, Sellers converted a putback, and Gennie Dora hit back-to-back layups assisted by Pitner and Zoe Noble.

Jazz Little hit a jumper at 3:30, set up by Kyra Bradford, to break the ice for VUHS and make it 12-2, but MUHS closed the quarter with a 7-2 run. Noble, Pitner and Sellers all scored in the paint against the VUHS player-to-player defense, and Ivy Doran tacked on a free throw.

Felicia Poirier converted from the lane for the VUHS hoop, but it would prove to be one of only two baskets for the Commodore leading scorer as the Tigers doubled her quickly out of their man defense.

Sellers scored four points as the Tigers opened the second quarter with an 8-2 run in the first 4:40. The Commodores came alive to score the final nine points of the half. Bradford hit a jumper and two free throws, Poirier contributed a putback after a Kaelin Sullivan steal, and Little hit a jumper set up by Ryley Dubois.

Little opened the second-half scoring with a jumper at 5:20 of the third, and the Tiger lead was down to 29-17.

The Tigers regained control with a Doran drive to the hoop and a Sellers putback. Little hit again at 4:40, but Pitner drove and dished to Dora for a layup, and Doran went coast-to-coast for a bucket that made it 37-19 at 3:15 of the third. It was clear the Tigers would not allow a comeback.

Sellers led MUHS with 16 points, followed by Pitner (10), Dora (nine), Doran (five) and Fairley Olson (four). The Tigers were without



VUHS GUARD KYRA Bradford bolts down the court with MUHS guard Ivy Doran in hot pursuit during Tuesday's girls' basketball game in Vergennes. The Tigers prevailed to improve to 6-5.

Independent photos/Steve James

starting forward Hannah Turner, who suffered a knock late in a recent game and is expected to miss the Mount Abe game as well, but return next week.

Altemose continues to be pleased with his team's defense, and foresees positives if the offense continues to develop.

"If we can get the pieces going together and finish strong here, I think there's lots of good things coming for them," he said.

Little (nine points) and Bradford (eight) led the Commodores offensively, and as a group they held their own on the boards after the first quarter.

Waller hopes the Commodores

can reconnect on defense, noting the lack of help on a number of Tiger layups, and begin to make shots again.

But he said the cold streak is not for lack of effort, and said maybe he needs to go deeper into his bench to give his top seven in the rotation more rest.

"We work hard in practice. We're trying to fix things. But we just haven't been able to get any rhythm," Waller said.

Maybe a confidence boost will help.

"We play Colchester on Friday," Waller said. "Hopefully it will be seeing a familiar face that we know we can play with well."



VUHS FORWARD GENEVA Verburg looks to pass out of the post as MUHS forwards Ele Sellers (No. 22) and Alex Bonavita defend during the Tigers' win over the host Commodores on Tuesday.

Dickerson

(Continued from Page 1B)

the "yard," so raking the "yard" always felt like I was raking the woods.

You could argue that cutting firewood is also futile. I spend all winter and summer cutting, splitting, hauling and stacking, and then a few months later it's all gone. Literally, all my work goes up in smoke. As soon as I'm done with one winter's wood, I'm already starting over for the next winter. Yet I still find it satisfying. Maybe because I can appreciate the result. For 16 years we have heated our house primarily with wood. I cut wood, and therefore I am warmed. Sitting by the fire burning wood that I split and stacked is satisfying in the same way that eating vegetables I grew in my garden is. Or dining on venison I harvested myself. Or holding in my hand a physical copy of a book I wrote. One of Aldo Leopold's better-known quotes references what he refers to as "two spiritual dangers": "One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace." I'm sure there are many spiritual dangers that afflict me, but cutting my own firewood helps protect me from at least one of them.

I have a friend who cuts firewood professionally. I think he cuts between 250 and 300 cords a year. That's about a cord a day, cut and split, five days a week, all year long. I'm not sure he enjoys it as much as I do. Although he's been at it for a couple decades, so maybe he does. I only cut about 1/50th

what he cuts. Roughly five cords a year, not five a week, is enough to keep our house warm. That's a lot less pressure.

Then there's the smell. Not the smell of chainsaw gas. I could do without that. The smell of the freshly cut wood itself, especially black birch, is wonderful. Splitting a big log is also satisfying — watching it fall into several smaller pieces that will dry more quickly, and fit in the stove more easily. Stacking the split wood is perhaps most satisfying of all: searching through the split pieces for well-matched pairs that I can turn into a tower like a game of Jenga. Although I doubt they would admit this, I think my adult sons are so proficient at building with Lego because of the years they spent helping me stack firewood.

The last aspect that I find enjoyable is maybe the least obvious of all: cutting firewood is one of the ways I get to know trees better. Or, perhaps more accurately, it's a way of getting to know the forest.

To explain this, I should point out that I don't cut healthy trees for firewood; I'm not trying to get to know something by killing it. I think it was J.R.R. Tolkien's character Aragorn who pointed out that one who destroys something in order to know it has left the path of wisdom. I agree. The vast majority of my firewood comes from already fallen trees, like the maple I'm working on now, and the pine and the birch that came down with it. I will also take down trees that are still standing, but already dead. On rare occasions

I'll cut down a living tree, but only if it's badly diseased or storm damaged, and by taking it down I'm making space in the canopy for younger, healthier trees.

All of those cases, though, are opportunities to get to know the trees better, and to see how each tree is a part of the forest. Standing in the forest, paying attention to the trees and making mental note of where I need to harvest next, I begin to notice things. What creatures make homes in the dying trees, or the husks of trees on the ground? How do different birds make uses of different types of trees, and what little wild flowers grow in what patches of soil? Somebody could describe to me how the grain of an ash differs from the grain of an American hophornbeam, but I doubt I would have fully grasped or remembered that if I hadn't swung a maul into an ash and watched it fall apart along a wonderfully flat (and very stackable) plane with the slightest bit of effort — and then spent 20 minutes trying to get a piece of hophornbeam half as big to fall apart into two halves.

I wonder if one reason so many people have lost connections with the natural world is that so much of our modern work is so far removed from the natural world. Not everybody has the opportunity to restore those connections through outdoor labor. Vermonters are more fortunate in that regard. I hope I can keep on heating by wood for many years to come.

But if you want to come over and rake my lawn for me, that's also OK.

Local wrestlers reach podium at Vergennes

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Second-place finishes by Mount Abe's Devan Hemingway at 120 pounds and Vergennes's Taylor Stearns at 152 highlighted local wrestlers' efforts on Saturday at a tournament hosted by Vergennes Union High School.

Three other Commodores also finished in the top six in their weight classes as VUHS finished eighth with 64 points in the 24-team event.

Perennial Vermont power Mount Anthony edged Essex for first place, 194-186.5, and Saranac,

one of many New York teams competing, was right behind at 179.5. Mount Abraham Union High School finished 18th with 26 points.

Hemingway only had two matches after receiving a first-round bye in a sparsely populated weight class. After winning by pin he came up just short vs. Saranac's Ryan Devins in the final, 5-4.

Stearns pinned two opponents before losing to another Saranac wrestler, Hunter Davis, in his final, 12-3.

Commodore Eli Brace had the

next best result, compiling a 4-1 record in taking third place at 126. Brace lost his semifinal match to the eventual champion, 6-4, before prevailing in the consolation final.

Commodore Caden Howell went 3-2 in finishing fourth at 195 pounds, and Commodore Isaac Preston went 3-3 and took sixth at 182.

Also winning matches were Eagles Logan Pierro at 113 and Matt Conant at 138; both won once and lost twice. Eagle Lucas Phillips at 160 and Commodore Jamison Couture at 220 each dropped a pair of matches.

Tiger girls' Nordic wins classic event

HUNTINGTON — The Middlebury Union High School girls' Nordic skiing team on Jan. 19 prevailed in a five-team, 5-kilometer classic race hosted by Champlain Valley Union High School at the Sleepy Hollow Ski and Bike Center. The Tiger boys were third.

With MUHS ninth-graders Beth McIntosh and Ava Schneider finishing fourth and fifth, respectively, the Tiger girls were able to edge second-place Mount Mansfield Union, 35-37, followed

by Harwood (47), CVU (50) and BFA-St. Albans (115).

In the boys' race, Tigers Eliot Schneider and Baxter Harrington cracked the top 10, won by CVU in a tiebreaker with MMU, each with 29 points. MUHS was next at 64, with Harwood (87) and BFA (147) trailing.

Harwood's Ava Thurston won the girls' race in 15:40.8. North Branch School freshman Estella Laird also competed and finished 12th in 19:31.1.

The Tiger scorers in the girls'

race and their times were: 4. McIntosh, 16:52.7; 5. Schneider, 17:10.6; 13. Astrid Olsen, 19:31.3; and 14. Lia Robinson, 22:00.

MMU's Brody Morigeau prevailed in the boys' 5K in 14:55.9.

The Tiger scorers in the boys' race and their times were: 5. Schneider, 15:30.4; 10. Harrington, 16:21.1; 19. Trey Bosworth, 17:18.9; and 32. Matthew Berg, 18:26.5.

The MUHS teams will next compete at U-32 on Saturday.

College sports

(Continued from Page 1B)

Panthers, but Middlebury prevailed, 2-1, as Merageas made 32 saves. Middlebury took a 1-0 lead early in the first on a Hargrave rebound on a power play.

Colby's Abby Wick equalized early in the second period from close range during a scramble in which Merageas lost her stick.

Jenna Letterie netted Middlebury's game-winner with 20 seconds left in the second period, wristing home a feed from Leidt.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women's hoop team won once at home and once on the road this past weekend to improve to 9-7, 3-1 NESCAC. The Panthers

will play at Connecticut College on Saturday.

On this past Saturday the Panthers edged visiting Williams, 67-62. The Ephs dropped to 7-10, 2-3 in the league.

Williams led early in the third period, 46-42. The Panthers responded with a 10-2 run and still led after three periods, 52-51.

The Panthers increased their lead to 58-53 on treys by Alexa Mustafaj and Reagan McDonald. The Ephs answered to tie the game at 62-62 with 2:03 left. Middlebury's Bethany Lucey nailed a go-ahead three at 1:25, and Mustafaj and Lucey each hit a free throw in the final 10 seconds to seal the victory. Mustafaj scored 23 points, while

Lucey contributed 10 points and 10 rebounds. Emily Downer scored 13 points, grabbed six boards and blocked two shots, while Gianna Palli added nine points and seven rebounds for the Panthers.

On Sunday the Panthers picked up a 70-61 victory at Hamilton (8-8, 3-3). The Panthers opened the game with a 13-3 run and never trailed, although Hamilton was within 32-28 at the half.

Three-pointers played a big role as the Panthers took control in the second half. Back-to-back treys from McDonald and Lucey gave the Panthers a 45-37 lead with 4:04 left in the quarter, and they led by 52-46 entering the fourth.

(See Sports, Page 4B)

WELLNESS Directory

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Practitioner of the Week

Georgia Dune is the owner and sole practitioner of DuneSpa in Middlebury. She has been a dedicated bodyworker since 2005 and she opened DuneSpa in 2020. Her peaceful space is located in between Otter Creek Used Books and Otter Creek Yoga in Marble Works and all sessions and services are by appointment only. Her passion is to help people have less pain, not only the day of and after their sessions, but every day. The bodywork she offers; cupping and foot massage is deeply relaxing and makes lasting changes in the whole body.

Georgia has been a Licensed Esthetician since 2018. Body waxing and brow design are her current specialties and she may resume facials once the pandemic is over. View her DuneSpa Google Listing to see her brow work and read customer reviews.

Visit Dunespavt.com to see her full menu of services and client testimonials. Follow DuneSpa at: [Facebook.com/dunespavt](https://www.facebook.com/dunespavt) [Instagram.com/dunespavt](https://www.instagram.com/dunespavt)

Contact Georgia at:
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Gymnastics

(Continued from Page 1B)

one fourth.
 Harwood's Oliva Bloom supported Hoskins with two seconds and a fourth.
 The athletes' placings and scores in individual events were:
VAULT:
 1. Hoskins, HUHS, 8.0.
 2. Johnson, MUHS, 7.1.
 3. Alger, MUHS, 6.8.
 4. Ellis, MUHS, 6.7.
BEAM:
 1. Hoskins, HUHS, 8.0.
 2. Bloom (HUHS) 7.4.
 3. Alger, MUHS, 7.3.
 4. Johnson, MUHS, 6.4.
FLOOR:
 1. Hoskins, HUHS, 6.85.
 2. Bloom, HUHS, 6.8.
 3. Alger, MUHS, 6.7.
 4. Wright, MUHS, 6.1.
ALL AROUND:
 1. Hoskins, HUHS, 28.35.
 2. Alger, MUHS, 25.80.
 3. Johnson, MUHS, 24.4.
 4. Bloom, HUHS, 23.60.



TIGER GYMNAST ALYZA Alger leaps during her floor routine on Monday, when the MUHS team defeated visiting Harwood. Alger was third on the floor and beam and second in the all-around and bars. Independent photo/Steve James

PUBLIC NOTICES can be found on pages 4, 11 and 12B

WARNING ANNUAL MEETING
SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
 (Towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell, West Haven)
FEBRUARY 28, 2022

The legal voters of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD) consisting of the towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell and West Haven are hereby warned and notified to meet at Fair Haven Union High School Band Room on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 5:30 PM to conduct the following business:

VIRTUALLY CONNECT BY GOING TO <https://meet.google.com/ixc-bfdi-ptv>
OR BY CALLING (US) +1 617-675-4444 PIN: 815 518 313 0854#

Article 1: To hear the Board of School Directors of the SVUUSD present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.
 The meeting shall then be recessed to Tuesday, March 1, 2022 for the purpose of voting on the following articles at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to Fair Haven Union High School Library following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

Town of Benson	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Benson Community Hall
Town of Castleton	8:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Castleton Fire Station
Town of Fair Haven	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	American Legion Post 49
Town of Hubbardton	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Hubbardton Town Hall
Town of Orwell	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Orwell Town Hall
Town of West Haven	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	West Haven Town Hall

Article 2: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until March following the election and qualification of their successors:
 A. School Director, Benson for a term of three (3) years
 B. School Director, Castleton for a term of three (3) years
 C. School Director, Fair Haven for a term of three (3) years
 D. School Director, Hubbardton for a term of three (3) years
 E. School Director, Orwell for a term of three (3) years
 F. School Director, West Haven for a term of three (3) years
 G. School Director, Benson for a term of one (1) year of three (3) years
 H. School Director, Hubbardton for a term of one (1) year of three (3) years
 I. School Director, West Haven for a term of two (2) years of three (3) years

Article 3: To elect the following officers to serve for a term of one (1) year:
 A. Moderator
 B. Clerk
 C. Treasurer

Article 4: Shall the voters approve the following compensation to be paid to Slate Valley Unified Union School District Officers?
 A. School Directors - \$1,200 per person per year
 B. School Board Chair - \$1,500 per year
 C. Treasurer - \$1,200 per year

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize the Slate Valley Unified Union School District to borrow money pending receipt of payments from the State Education Fund or Town Tax Funds by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date provided, however, that the Slate Valley Unified Union School District is authorized by Vermont Statutes to borrow sufficient funds to meet pending obligations?

Article 6: Shall the voters of the School District authorize a transfer from the general fund surplus balance in the amount of \$820,000 to the capital improvements and repairs reserve fund?

Article 7: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-Six Million Two Hundred Seventy Thousand Forty-Seven Dollars \$26,270,047.00 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,983.43 per equalized pupil. This This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.94% greater than spending for the current year.

Dated at Fair Haven, Vermont
 January 24, 2022

Received and Recorded
 January 24, 2022

Timothy Smith
 Timothy Smith, Chairman
 Slate Valley Unified Union School

Elisabeth MacKay
 Elisabeth MacKay, Clerk
 Slate Valley Unified Union School

Police search finds man dead on ice

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police participated in a search for a missing person in East Middlebury during the early evening of Sunday, Jan. 23. It ended in the discovery of a deceased local man on an icy stretch of the Middlebury River off Route 125 in The Gorge.
 Police on Monday identified the man as 55-year-old Gregory Danyow of Middlebury.
 Police told the *Independent* that Danyow's death is not considered suspicious, and that an impending autopsy could reveal more about the circumstances surrounding his death.
 In other action last week, Middlebury police:
 • Responded to a report that a dog had attacked a woman in parking lot of The Centre shopping plaza off Court Street Extension on Jan. 17.
 • Responded to a report of pedestrian hit by car in a Weybridge Street crosswalk on Jan. 18 at around 5:15 p.m. Police said the pedestrian was taken to Porter Hospital with injuries. The collision remains under investigation, according to police.
 • Cited Peter Trautwein, 61, for retail theft following their investigation of a larceny complaint

Middlebury Police Log

at Hannaford's Supermarket on Court Street Extension on Jan. 18.
 • Received a report that construction tools had been stolen from a job site off Merchants Row on Jan. 18.
 • Served a final relief from abuse order on a local person in the Court Street area on Jan. 19.
 • Investigated a Jan. 19 complaint from Agway that one of its company checks has been stolen from the mail and that someone had tried to cash it in Williston. Middlebury police said Williston police have taken over the investigation.
 • Investigated a report of one student threatening another at Middlebury Union Middle School on Jan. 20.
 • Ticketed and towed three vehicles in violation of the town's winter parking ordinance in the downtown on Jan. 20.
 • Assisted Vermont State Police in their search for a missing snowmobiler in the Three Mile Bridge Road area during the early

evening of Jan. 21. Police said the individual was later found safe.
 • Helped a woman who had locked herself out of her Court Street home on Jan. 21.
 • Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a mental health call at a South Village Green residence on Jan. 21.
 • Received a report about trash escaping from the back of a truck traveling down Case Street on Jan. 21. Police found the driver, who agreed to pick up the trash.
 • Assisted Vergennes police in their investigation of a burglary at Kinney Drugs on Monkton Road on Jan. 21.
 • Responded to a report of a man acting unruly at the Middlebury Inn on Jan. 21. Police said the man was gone upon their arrival.
 • Backed up Bristol police during their investigation of a burglary at a closed business off Prince Lane on Jan. 21.
 • Ticketed vehicles that were in violation of the town's winter parking ordinance in the downtown on Jan. 21.
 • Responded, in support of MREMS, to a medical emergency in the Seymour Street area on Jan. 22.

• Assisted a local resident in accessing emergency mental health services on Jan. 22.
 • Assisted a local woman who had been experiencing mental health issues and who was feeling threatened on Jan. 22.
 • Responded to a report of a man in cardiac arrest at the Middlebury College fitness center on Jan. 22. Police said MREMS responded first to the scene and took care of the matter.
 • Helped a woman who had locked herself out of her Colonial Drive apartment on Jan. 22.
 • Assisted a driver whose vehicle had slipped off Route 7 North on Jan. 23 at 12:24 a.m.
 • Informed Counseling Service of Addison County officials on Jan. 23 about a man in the East Middlebury area who had been experiencing mental health issues.
 • Heard from a driver who alleged a vehicle had been following him near the intersection of East Main Street and North Branch Road on Jan. 23.
 • Checked the welfare of a resident of the Residence of Otter Creek who on Jan. 24 alleged "small animals living in her bathroom" and other suspicious activity in her apartment.

Sports

(Continued from Page 3B)
 Threes by Mustafaj, Palli and McDonald helped Middlebury lead by as many as 12 down the stretch.
 Mustafaj scored 24, Lucey recorded 16 points and 11 rebounds, McDonald scored 19, and Palli chipped in 10 points and nine rebounds.
 Kelci Zarle scored 26 points for the Continentals.
MEN'S HOCKEY
 The men's hockey team stands at 2-8-2, 1-7-1, after a busy recent stretch. The team is on the road for two league games this weekend.
 On this past Friday the Panthers overcame a pair of one-goal deficits to earn a 2-2 tie against visiting Bowdoin.

The Polar Bears opened the scoring on a power play at 14:29 of the first period, with Joe Alexander doing the damage.
 The Panthers pulled even at 1:06 of the second, when Jack Clarner's shot from the left point deflected in off Zach Shapiro. Alexander restored the Polar Bears' lead about five minutes later on another power play.
 Middlebury knotted the score at 2-2 at 7:38 of the third period, when Clarner's shot through traffic from the left point found its way home.
 The Panthers outshot the Polar Bears, with Middlebury Jake Horoho making 19 stops and Bowdoin's Alex Kozic making 36 saves.
 On Saturday visiting Colby (9-3-0, 6-2-0) topped the Panthers, 3-1,

despite being outshot by 29-21. The Mules scored twice in the second and once in the third.
 The Panthers pulled goalie Adam Wisco with 4:45 remaining, and they scored with 1:31 to go, when Andrej Hromic wristed home Jin Lee's cross-ice pass.
 Mule goalie Andy Beran made 28 saves, including three tough stops early in the third period with the score still just 2-0. Wisco stopped 18 shots.
 On Tuesday the Panthers knocked off visiting Hamilton, 3-2, when Chris Garbe scored the game-winning goal 2:22 into overtime. The Continentals dropped to 5-6, 4-5 NESCAC.
 Middlebury took the lead at 10:27

of the first, when Nolan Moore converted a Lee feed from the left circle. Hamilton's William Neault equalized at 5:42 of the second period, and the Continentals took the lead five minutes later, when Jordi Jefferson converted a shorthanded breakaway. Garbe tied the game at 14:20 of the third with a shot from the right point.
 The Panthers had a great chance to knot the game with 8:41 expired in the third period when Alex Lee took a shot from point blank range that goaltender Sean Storr stopped. The rebound trickled behind Storr, but a Continental defender got there just in time to clear the puck. Middlebury found the equalizer at the 14:20 mark when Garbe's shot from the right point slipped past Storr, making it 2-2 and sending the contest into overtime.
 Two minutes into overtime Horoho made two big saves for the Panthers. Garbe's game-winner goal came with 2:22 left. He intercepted a clearing attempt, carried the puck into the slot and lifted it home. But Horoho and Hamilton goalie Sean Storr finished with 24 saves.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL
 The men's basketball squad saw its 12-game winning streak end with a 78-53 loss at No. 20 Williams on Saturday. The Panthers dropped to 14-3, 4-1 NESCAC, while the Ephs moved to 14-1, 4-1 NESCAC.
 The Panthers committed 10 first-half turnovers in falling behind by 35-24 in the first 20 minutes, and Williams opened the second half with a 10-2 run to take firm control.
 Alex Sobel led the Panthers with his 11th double-double of the winter, scoring 17 points and grabbing 13 rebounds in addition to two blocks and two steals. Noah Osher scored 13 points, and Sam Stevens contributed 10 points and six rebounds and two assists.
 The Panthers look to bounce back when they host NESCAC rivals Trinity and Connecticut this weekend.
SKIING
 The Middlebury ski team placed third at this past weekend's Saint Michael's Carnival with 712 points, trailing Vermont (984) and Dartmouth (760).
 On Saturday Lucia Bailey won the women's slalom with a two-run time of 1:42.05.
 Bradshaw Underhill led the men's team in the slalom, placing eighth with a combined time of 1:34.74.
 On the Nordic side, Kate Oldham paced the women's team by finishing the 5K freestyle in fifth place in 14:56.3.
 For the men, Logan Moore led the men in the 5K in 10th (13:14). Cornwall's Sam Hodges was 11th in 13:16.3.
 On Friday the Panther women won the giant slalom as Bailey finished second in 1:44.06 and Alexandra Cossette took third with a two-run time of 1:44.10.
 Axel Bailey led the men in the GS by finishing in a tie for fifth place with a time of 1:40.89.
 On the Nordic side, Oldham led the way for the women's team by finishing the 10K freestyle in fourth in 27:53.5.
 Hodges led the Panther men by taking 19th in 25:25.

community calendar

THURSDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Vergennes. Thursday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Chicken cordon bleu, yams, green beans, roll, fruit crisp and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Sunday, Jan 23. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires a 48-hour notice.

Puzzle exchange in Middlebury. Thursday, Jan. 27, 3-4:30 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Looking for a new puzzle to do? Bring your completed puzzles to the Jessica Swift Community Room. Leave them for others while you peruse puzzles left by fellow puzzle devotees to take home. Please bring puzzles to leave with all the pieces.

Addison County 4-H Foundation Annual Meeting — virtual. Thursday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m. To receive an invitation to participate, contact Martha Seifert, UVM Extension 4-H Educator, at martha.seifert@uvm.edu.

FRIDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Starksboro. Friday, Jan. 28, 3:30 p.m., Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Chicken cordon bleu, yams, green beans, roll, fruit crisp and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Sunday, Jan. 23. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

SATURDAY

Green Mountain Club hike in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, Jan. 29, Kingsland Bay State Park, 787 Kingsland Bay Park Rd. Easy hike, 2-3 miles, minimal elevation gain. Depending on conditions snowshoes, microspikes and poles recommended. Contact leader David Andrews at vtredda@yahoo.com, 802-388-4894, to get details and register.

TUESDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Bridport. Tuesday, Feb. 1, 11 a.m., Bridport Congregational Church, 54 Middle Rd. Pot roast au jus, mashed potatoes, cabbage and carrots, roll, apple pie, and milk. Call Michelle to reserve by Thursday, Jan. 27. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires a 48-hour notice.

WEDNESDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Middlebury. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 11:30 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Pot roast au jus, mashed potatoes, cabbage & carrots, roll, apple pie, and milk. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Call Michelle to reserve by Thursday, Jan 27. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires a 48-hour notice.

Ice Skating Party in Vergennes. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 1-3 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park Ice Rink. Music, games, prizes, hot chocolate (by donation), and more. The warming hut will be open, and a limited number of skates are available to borrow. Children under age 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

"Sermon from the Studio: Marvin Gaye's 'What's Going On'" virtual presentation. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., Zoom. Join Reuben Jackson, archivist with the Smithsonian Institution's Duke Ellington Collection and former host of VPR's "Friday Night Jazz" for this discussion of Gaye's iconic song. A Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesday presentation. Sponsored by Ilsley Public Library. Register at tinyurl.com/rjackson-whatsgoingon.

FRIDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Starksboro. Friday, Feb. 4, 3:30 p.m., Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. Pot roast au jus, mashed potatoes, cabbage & carrots, roll, apple pie, and milk. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Call Michelle to reserve by Thursday, Jan 27. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

SATURDAY

Green Mountain Club hike in Middlebury. Saturday, Feb. 5, Wright Park. Easy to moderate hike in Wright Park, 3-4 miles maximum, minimal elevation gain. Depending on conditions snowshoes, microspikes and poles recommended. Contact leader Liana Merrill at merrill.liana@gmail.com to get details and register.

Hill Country Holiday in Lincoln. Saturday, Feb. 5, locations around town. Lincoln's annual celebration starts with an Olympic-themed parade at 11:30 a.m. Participants and spectators welcome. Stop by the library at noon for a tasty luncheon on the porch. Enjoy a bonfire and ice skating as well. Proceeds benefit the library. Family snowshoe and cross-country skiing at Willard's Woods at 1 p.m. (limited parking — please carpool, drop off or park and walk from the mill). Ongoing snow sculpture contest. Variety Show at 7 p.m. live at Burnham Hall or live-stream at neatbristol.com/live-stream.

WEDNESDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Shoreham. Wednesday, Feb. 9, 11 a.m.-noon, Halfway House Route 22A. Spaghetti and meatballs, vegetable, coleslaw and dessert. Pick up at back door, meals will be brought out. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires a 48-hour notice. Call the restaurant to reserve at least 24-hours in advance. 802-897-5160.

"The Elephant in the Room" virtual lecture series in Middlebury. Wednesday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m., Zoom. In "Old Maps, New Pathways: Cartography, Museum Collections, and Decolonial Possibilities," Williams College professor Christine DeLucia revisits maps and material culture collections in local museums, historical societies, and archives across the Northeast to explore two intertwined threads: how these sources can illuminate histories of Euro-colonial impacts across Indigenous homelands; and how they may convey vital Indigenous critiques, resistances, and ongoing relationships with homelands and sovereignties. Info and zoom link at henrysheldonmuseum.org/events.

Ferrisburgh water quality virtual discussion. Wednesday, Feb. 9, 7-7:30 p.m., Zoom. Join Lewis Creek Association at a Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission meeting to learn about water quality in Ferrisburgh and how it affects Lake



Dragons and dumplings

JOIN MAY PODUSCHNICK at Middlebury's Ilsley Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 2-4 p.m. to learn the traditions and meaning of the Chinese Lunar New Year. May will teach participants how to cook dumplings and other delicious traditional treats. Space is limited.

Champlain's health: what causes poor water quality, what landowners can do to help improve water quality, how to coordinate for the lake's future. More info contact Matt at 802-989-0531. Visit www.ferrisburghvt.org for Zoom link.

THURSDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Vergennes. Thursday, Feb. 10, 11 a.m., St. Peter's Parish, 85 S. Maple St. Ham and cheese stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, beets, roll, applesauce cake and milk. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Call Michelle to reserve by Sunday, Feb. 6. 802-377-1419. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires a 48-hour notice.

FRIDAY

Age Well grab and go meal in Starksboro. Friday, Feb. 11, 3:30 p.m., Starksboro Baptist Church, Route 116. Ham and cheese stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, beets, roll, applesauce cake and milk. Please stay in your car. Drive up, check-in, contact free pick up. Call Michelle to reserve by Sunday, Feb. 6. 802-377-1419. Advanced reservations only. Open to anyone age 60 and up and their spouse of any age. Free ride or pick-up and delivery may be provided. Call TVT at 802-388-2287 to inquire. TVT requires 48-hour notice.

SATURDAY

Chinese Lunar New Year presentation in Middlebury. Saturday, Feb. 12, 2-4 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join May Poduschnick in the community room for a lesson on the traditions and meaning of the Chinese Lunar New Year. May will teach us how to cook dumplings and other delicious traditional treats. Limited to 12 people (or households). Each person will take home a few treats to share with loved ones. Masks required. Registration at ilsleypubliclibrary.org/library-event-1/7f1_builder.

LC Jazz Winter Thaw in Vergennes. Saturday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. Postponed until April 30.

SUNDAY

Green Mountain Club hike in Ripton. Sunday, Feb. 13, Water Tower and Catamount Trails. A more difficult, 3- or 4-mile trek with 350-foot elevation change. Hike will include Water Tower trails and the Catamount Trail. Requires car spot. Be prepared for ice and snow. Contact leader Ruth Penfield at ruthpenfield@gmail.com or 802-388-5407 for details.

Take-out Chili/Pizza/Wings dinner in Bristol and Vergennes. Sunday, Feb. 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish, 11 School St. and St. Peter's Parish, 85 S. Maple St. Cheese Pizza, \$15; Pepperoni Pizza, \$17, Chili (Mild), 1 pint \$8; Buffalo Wings (Mild), 12 pieces, \$15; Canned Soda \$1. Place orders in advance at tinyurl.com/StAmbrose-StPeters-Pizza. To benefit the Youth ministry 2023 pilgrimage to Rome.

ONGOING EVENTS

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Al-Anon meetings in Middlebury. For a list of online meetings visit vermontalananon.com. Online Sundays, 7-15 p.m. and Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m. 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.

Beginner Tai Chi for Fall Prevention (Parts 1&2) in Vergennes. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 7-Oct. 28, 9:30-10:30 a.m., St. Peter's Catholic Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Contact: Dan Bagley at bagzs@yahoo.com and Lee Francis lhfrancis839@gmail.com and Beverly Blakeney beverlyblakeney@gmail.com.

In-Depth Tai Chi for Fall Prevention in Vergennes. Thursdays, Sept. 9-Oct. 28, 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m., St. Peter's Catholic Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Contact: Dan Bagley at bagzs@yahoo.com and Lee Francis lhfrancis839@gmail.com and Beverly Blakeney beverlyblakeney@gmail.com.

Sun Style 73 Tai Chi in Middlebury. Wednesdays, Sept. 15-Dec. 8, 10-11:30 a.m., Middlebury Rec Center, 154 Creek Rd. To sign up contact instructors Doreen Peterson at doreenvermont@gmail.com, or Beverly Blakeney at beverlyblakeney@gmail.com.

Sun Style 73 Tai Chi in Vergennes. Tuesdays, Sept. 7-Oct. 26, 10:45 a.m.-noon, St. Peter's Catholic Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Contact: Dan Bagley at bagzs@yahoo.com and Lee Francis lhfrancis839@gmail.com and Beverly Blakeney beverlyblakeney@gmail.com.

Yoga Philosophy virtual discussion with Prem Prakash. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Zoom. Go to Ilsley Public Library website to register: ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

ARTS, CRAFTS & IDEAS

The Makery Sewing Lab. Thursdays, 5-9 p.m., The Makery at Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Get your

questions answered and learn new skills from our kind and talented Mentors. All levels are welcome from never used a sewing machine to advanced pattern making. Limit of 4 participants. Registration required. Free, \$5 Drop-In Fee or Membership Cards. Select what works best for you. More info at hannafordcareercenter.org/the-makery.

The Makery Woodworking lab. Thursdays, 5-9 p.m., The Makery at Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Use Makery tools and equipment to work on projects. Get your questions answered or learn new skills from our kind and talented Mentors. Tool Training pre-requirement required. Limit of 5. Pre-registration is required. Free, \$5 Drop-In Fee or Membership Cards. Select what works best for you. More info at hannafordcareercenter.org/the-makery.

Undercover Quilters and Crafters (formerly the Undercover Quilt Guild), 1st Mondays at 7 p.m., 3rd Mondays at 10 a.m., St. Ambrose Church, 11 School St. Bristol. All crafters welcome. More info contact Marian Baser (ladybaser@mac.com) or Stacie A. at 802-453-7709 or show up at a meeting. Bring along some handwork to do while we meet something for show and tell.

KIDS AND FAMILY

Kids Cafe Free Movie in Middlebury. Saturdays, 12:30-2 p.m. Marquis Theater, 65 Main St., 802-388-4841.

La Leche League Virtual Meeting. First Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Breast-feeding support group led by Breastfeeding Peer Counselor and Middlebury mom Angela Scavo. For more info and Zoom link call Angela at 802-349-9084.

New Moms Connection Group. Thursdays, noon, Zoom. Chat with other local moms who are in their first year postpartum. Hosted by Alison Underwood, counselor and social worker at Porter Women's Health. Call her for consent forms and the Zoom link. 802-388-5608. For parents only.

Storytime in Brandon. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Brandon Free Public Library, 4 Franklin St. Little ones (age 0-5) and their caregivers gather for stories.

Storytime in Bristol. Thursdays 10:30 a.m. Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St., 802-453-2366. Infants, toddlers and preschool age (0-5). Find Marita, her ukulele and friends by the library garden for stories, songs and activities.

Storytime in Lincoln. Fridays 10:30 a.m., Lincoln Library, 222 West River Road, 802-453-2665. Infants, toddlers and preschool age (0-5). Little ones and their caregivers get together for stories and songs. Masks required indoors.

Virtual Mama Group. Last Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m., Zoom. Meet other mamas in this virtual gathering led by Middlebury mom Angela Scavo. Free. Contact Angela at 802-349-9084.

ATHLETICS

Drop-in Street/Ice Hockey in Bristol. Mondays, 5-7 p.m., Bristol Rec Park Rink, Airport Road. Free. Hockey players ages 13 and up join a pick-up game — on the street until the ice is laid down, than skates. All abilities welcome. Masks recommended; helmets required.

CLUBS & GROUPS

Book Club for adults in Vergennes. 2nd Tuesdays, 6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St., 802-877-2211.

Bristol Historical Society. Thursdays, 7 p.m., Howden Hall, 19 West St.

Champlain Valley Fiddlers in Brandon. Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., March 20, May 15, July 17, Sept. 18 and Nov. 20. Brandon American Legion, Route 7 S.

Champlain Valley Fiddlers in Middlebury. Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 20, April 24, June 26, Aug. 21, Oct. 16. VFW 530 Exchange St.

Cribbage in Middlebury. Fridays, 1-3 p.m., Sept. 17-Dec. 17, Ilsley Public Library. Anyone can play, no experience required.

Drop-in Bridge in Middlebury. Tuesdays, 3-5 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, Jessica Swift Community Meeting Room. Join fellow bridge enthusiasts for a game. All skill levels welcome.

Mom's Hiking Group in Middlebury. First Sundays, 8 a.m., Battell Woods, Seminary Street Ext. Free. All moms invited to join in on a Sunday morning hike. More info contact Davida Murray at 802-851-7707.

Students of Color group in Middlebury. Thursdays, 4-5 p.m. Addison Central Teens. This group will meet virtually on Google Hangouts until it is safe to meet in person. The link to each session will be made available on the Teen Center's Discord Server, and will be emailed to any participant without a Discord account. Registration form at forms.gle/2ypt9abMwCwCjD9N6.

Writers group in Vergennes. Begins Thursday, Jan. 13, Bixby Memorial Library, 11 a.m.-noon, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Facilitated by local author Lottie Wilds, the group will meet on the second Thursday of the month. Sessions will include writing exercises, critiques, prompts, homework, etymology, and other skill building techniques. For those 18 years and older.

FUNDRAISERS & SALES

Book sale in Middlebury. First Saturdays, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Meeting Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Accessed via the garden ramp or through the Children's room. Masks required.

Governor's Institutes opens summer program applications

VERMONT — The Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) has just opened applications for its nine in-person, residential summer programs. Passionate Vermont 9th-11th grade students are invited to apply.

Each Institute takes place on a Vermont college campus, and gives its attendees the opportunity to dive deep into a topic of interest for an intensive 1-2 weeks. Subjects include Arts, Astronomy, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Science & Technology, Global Issues & Youth Action, Health & Medicine, Mathematical Sciences, and Technology & Design.

At GIV, students learn from industry professionals, participate in hands-on projects and research, and explore career options — all while having fun and making friends. These programs are designed to be affordable to all Vermont families, and tuition is based on a sliding scale to ensure that. Students can pay as little as \$10 to attend.

"(Experiences) like GIV can change a person's life," said one recent Entrepreneurship student. "I learned so much about people, and changed the way I think about

things thanks to the new friends I made. I gained skills that I know will really be helpful down the road in my career, and I can pass them on just like how they were passed on to me."

This summer will mark the first time GIV has hosted in-person Institutes since the winter of 2020. For the past two years, all of its programming pivoted to an online format, encouraging students to engage in hands-on learning from their own homes.

"We're immensely proud of what GIV and its students have accomplished in an online environment," says Program Coordinator Ross Cagenello. "Honestly, it's made us all the more excited to return to in-person programming. After all, if our students can coordinate and submit a bill to the Vermont legislature over Zoom, there's no telling what amazing things they'll make happen when we're all together again."

To learn more about GIV's 2022 summer Institutes, visit www.giv.org, or email hello@giv.org with any questions. Students can visit www.giv.org/apply to fill out a simple application.



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Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Middlebury writes:

"After 42 years of living in the NE Kingdom, I moved to Middlebury. The Addy Indy has helped me create community."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



BRISTOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Student Council members await the bus so they can deliver the food they'd collected to Bristol's Have A Heart Food Shelf and food shelf volunteer Cathy Burritt last month. Pictured, from left, are Ila Corrigan, Delia Park, Norah Wisell, Sarah Zelonis, Enzi VanNosdeln, advisor Andrea Murnane, Tharon Sheppard, Penny Verner, Grant Rossier, Clem Briggs, Kai Ludka and Bradley LaVangie.

Bristol students help put a dent in hunger

BRISTOL — In early December, the Bristol Elementary School Student Council members decided they wanted to do something to feed the hungry in our community. This heartfelt sentiment led to the group's most recent endeavor, to organize and run a food drive.

Working during their Wednesday lunch meetings and after hours, the fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students collected cardboard boxes and decorated them for each classroom. They made posters and encouraged participation by sharing updates on the morning

announcements. Friendly competition was encouraged and the fifth- and sixth-grade Math classes collected weekly data and graphed the contributions.

When all was said and done, this dynamic group of individuals encouraged the BES community to collect more than 400 food items. On Jan. 19, Council members delivered the 15-plus boxes of food to the Have A Heart Food Shelf, hauling canned goods into the basement space at Saint Ambrose Church in Bristol.

"Being a part of Student Council

and running the food drive was fun and meaningful," said sixth-grade council member Kai Ludka. "I've never been a part of something like this before, it was a unique experience."

"It felt really good to help out our community and help people in need," added fifth-grader Enzi VanNosdeln.

The Student Council's purpose as defined in its constitution is to strive for good citizenship, help students work together for a common cause, and to help citizens or groups in our community. The group is advised

by second-grade teacher Andrea Murnane. They meet weekly to plan activities and brainstorm ideas to improve the BES building and its community. In addition to the responsibilities of the meeting and related activities, Student Council members also work a weekly shift or two at the lunch time School Store.

Council members, if they might add anything:

"It felt really good to help people in our community who need food and a helping hand," said Norah Wisell, a fifth-grader.

4-Hers compete in the annual Hippology Contest

WEYBRIDGE — January 15 may have been a cold and blustery day, but inside the barn at the University of Vermont (UVM) Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge, the scene was warm and inviting as 16 local 4-H'ers gathered for the Addison County 4-H Hippology Contest.

The competition, organized by Addison County 4-H, tested participants on their knowledge of the horse industry through placing of a class of four horses, four identification stations and a written knowledge test. The stations covered a range of topics including breeds, forages and feeds, animal nutrition, tack and equipment, horse health and care and other equine-related topics. Questions for the exam and stations were prepared by 4-H adult volunteers Kathy and Cassie Kennett, Vergennes.

Weybridge (first); Tom Allen, Vergennes (second); and Savannah Whitney, Middlebury (third).

10 and 11 year olds: Caroline Allen, Vergennes (first); Maeve Newton, Middlebury (second); and Lillian Kozloski, Leicester (third).

12 and 13 year olds: Binit Bangoura, New Haven (first); Alexis Whipple, Bridport (second); Randy Cameron, Shoreham (third); Hannah Gendreau, Shoreham (fourth).

14 year olds and up: Katherine Whipple, Bridport (first); Katherine Heath, Bristol (second); Emma Reen, Lincoln (third); Brailey Livingston, New Haven (fourth); Erin Whipple, Bridport (fifth); Shyanne Wedge, Shoreham (sixth).

For information about the 4-H horse project or Addison County 4-H, contact UVM Extension 4-H educator Martha Seifert at (802) 388-4969, ext. 355, or martha.seifert@uvm.edu.

Placements were as follows:

8 and 9 year-olds: John Murphy,

Tree Steward nominations sought

BURLINGTON — Nominations are now open for the 2022 Vermont Tree Steward Awards. DO you know an individual or community group that has demonstrated a strong commitment to conserving, restoring or celebrating Vermont's forests and trees? If so, consider nominating them.

The awards are presented annually by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program (VT UCF) to promote the importance of forests and acknowledge those who work hard to care for and protect them. Winners will be announced in April and will be recognized at the 2022 Vermont Arbor Day conference and through VT UCF's website and social media platforms.

Categories include:

- Hamilton:** This award, created in 2017, honors the late Dr. Larry Hamilton, a long-serving tree warden in Charlotte. It is given to a deserving tree warden who has significantly advanced the goals of urban and community forestry through effective conservation planning, successful forestry

practices, increased citizen engagement and public education.

- Leader:** Nominees may be any individual who demonstrates strong leadership and dedication to organizing and carrying out an urban or community forestry project through service to a community or organization.
- Unsung Hero:** The award honors an individual and/or group for sustained efforts that go above and beyond to make a difference in a community's urban and community forest.
- Volunteer Group/Community:** Any organization, team, ad/hoc group or community that has demonstrated a strong commitment to introducing or sustaining an urban and community forestry project in their community is eligible to be nominated for this award.

Nominations will be accepted until March 31. Go to go.uvm.edu/tsa for details and the nomination form or to view a list of past award winners. Contact Gwen Kozlowski at gwen.kozlowski@uvm.edu or (802) 651-8343, ext. 506, with any questions.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — It's cold and it's almost February, so that must mean one thing, it's Hill Country Holiday time! The Lincoln Sports festivities will be held on Saturday, Feb. 5. This year's parade theme is the Olympics. Help celebrate our local essential workers Olympic team. There will be gold medals for all. The parade starts at 11:30 a.m. Participants and spectators are welcome!

Stop by the library at noon for a tasty luncheon on the porch. Enjoy a bonfire and ice skating as well. Proceeds benefit the library.

At 1 p.m. there will be family snowshoe and cross-country skiing at Willard's Woods (off of East River Road between the mill and Truchon bridge). Parking is very limited, so please carpool, drop off or park and

walk from the mill.

There will also be an ongoing snow sculpture contest. Please submit your sculpture photos to Christie at luvskatr@yahoo.com and they will be shared as part of the Variety Show.

The world-famous Variety Show will take place at 7 p.m. You can check out all the amazing talent live at Burnham Hall or tune in to the live-stream at neatbristol.com/live-stream to watch from the comfort of your own home.

The Variety Show is looking for acts to perform during the show. You can sing a song, tell a story, act out a skit, play an instrument or dance. The possibilities are endless. If you're ready to show off your amazing talent, please email Nate Gusakov at

nategusakov@gmail.com by Friday, Jan. 28.

FROM THE TOWN

There will be no in-person town meeting this year. All voting will be by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 1, at Burnham Hall. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Ballots will not be automatically mailed to every voter like was done for the General Election. An informational hearing will be held remotely via Zoom on Monday, Feb. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to vote absentee, for the safety of our community and poll workers during the pandemic. Please request your ballots early so we have time to mail them and for you to get them back to us.

Voted ballots may be returned via U.S. mail, deposited in the secure drop box outside the town office, or brought to the polling place on Election Day. All voted ballots must be received by the close of polls at 7 p.m. on March 1 in order to be counted. Be sure to read and follow all instructions when voting absentee, or your vote may not count!

If you prefer to vote at the polls on Election Day, please wear a mask and bring your own black or blue pen when you come. We ask voters to maintain six feet of distance from people at the polling place, and do not come to the polling place if you are ill or caring for someone with COVID-19. Instead, call the Town Clerk for assistance.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mt. Abraham Union High School

Annika Funke

Annika (Anni) Funke is Mount Abraham Union High School's Student of the Week. Anni lives in Monkton with her parents, Kristin Blanchette and Otto Funke and her younger brother, Ian, who is in 10th grade at Mt. Abe. Her sister Cora (a 2019 Student of the Week) is a junior at Boston University.

Anni is an excellent student, receiving highest honors every semester of high school. She has done so while taking a challenging course load, including AP Biology, AP U.S. History and AP Language and Composition. She has also taken advantage of the dual enrollment option with a Criminal Justice class through CCV. In addition to working hard in the classroom, Anni has also played lacrosse all four years at Mt. Abe. She also played field hockey in grades 9 and 10, joined the chess club in grade 10, and participated in the Eagle Challenge throughout high school.

Anni has held down a summer job at Bristol's Village Creemee Stand for the past two years. In the summer of 2019 she volunteered as a counselor in training at The Audubon Center's outdoor camp for children in Huntington. She also keeps busy throughout the year helping her mother make meals for the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes.

A pet person, in her spare time Anni likes to spend time with her dog, Ooodles, and her two cats, Maggie and Kerm. She also has a creative bent, and enjoys crafting. Like so many of her peers, she also values hanging out with her friends, listening to music, and going to the gym.

She says if high school has taught her anything, it is that it's okay to ask for help.

Anni has plans to attend UVM in the fall of 2022, though she hasn't settled on a focus as of yet. Everyone at Mt. Abraham wishes Anni the best in her future.



Annika Funke
MAUHS

Otter Valley Union High School

Nick Parker

Nick Parker is Otter Valley Union High School's Student of the Week. Nick is the son of Ashlie Parker of Pittsford and Adam Parker of Brandon. He has two sisters, Madison, 21 and Sophie, 13, who is at Otter Valley.

Nick has made frequent appearances on Otter Valley's honor roll and principal's list, and done so while taking challenging classes such as Trigonometry and Advanced American Studies. He achieved academic excellence in Literature 10. Sophomore year he also took advanced American History and BSCS Biology. He also attends classes at Stafford Technical Center in Rutland in the electrical/plumbing program.

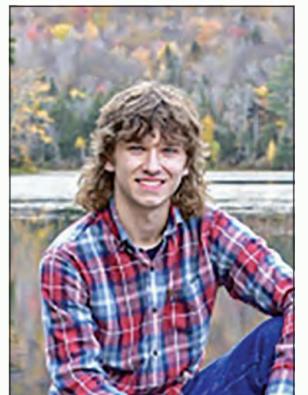
Nick has played soccer, basketball and lacrosse during his time at OVUHS. He has been playing varsity lacrosse since his freshman year, and varsity soccer since his sophomore year, barring seasons cancelled due to COVID. He is looking forward to his final lacrosse season in the spring.

Patrons of Otter East Bakery may recognize Nick. He has been working there for almost a year and says he really enjoys it. Through his program at Stafford he has been helping construct houses for people to then buy from the school. The program has done all the plumbing and wiring, and also helped with other things like drywall.

Nick has a passion for the outdoors, and often can be found outside hunting and fishing in his spare time. He says "I fish pretty much all the time I can in the summer and hunt in the fall." He also really enjoys hanging out with his friends and just having a good time.

Nick says high school has taught him that working hard pays off, no matter what. "There were times where I did struggle," he says, "but I learned perseverance and after putting in the work, then I started to see the fruits of my labor, and it's an indescribable feeling when you can see what you're capable of accomplishing."

Nick has plans to attend college in the fall and study mechanical engineering. We at Otter Valley wish him all the best.



Nick Parker
OVUHS

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Students of the Week from all area high schools will receive a gift certificate from Vermont Book Shop and a mug from Otter Creek Bakery. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.
Best of Luck to All Addison County Students!
If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact advertising@addisonindependent.com

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Spotlight on Vergennes

But, taxes could decrease

Ferrisburgh spending up

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**
FERRISBURGH — If Ferrisburgh residents approve all nonprofit donations and a capital fund request on Town Meeting Day, town spending could rise by almost 6%, or about \$133,000, to about \$2.366 million.

But the overall tax impact of that increase, if any, is up in the air, because of possibly lower school taxes and the chance the selectboard could use a surplus to offset a tax hike.

What is sure is that the selectboard on Jan. 18 approved \$2,308,976 in spending to be considered by voters by Australian ballot on March 1. Alone, that would be an increase of roughly \$76,000 over total town spending for the current fiscal year.

Voters are also being asked to support \$37,195 in donations to nonprofits and \$20,000 more for an increase in the town's annual donation to the highway department's contingency fund, from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Treasurer Deb Healy said voter backing of that latter measure would also mean future annual line items for the highway contingency would be set at \$60,000. The town uses that fund to lower the amount it needs to borrow to buy new highway department equipment.

The likely approval of the capital fund increase and the nonprofit requests would bring total proposed spending for the coming 2022-23 fiscal year (FY23) to \$2,366,171.

Depending on ongoing discussions between Vergennes and Ferrisburgh about how much the town should pay the city for fire

protection, that spending number could change down the road.

The selectboard budget allocates \$66,900 for fire protection from the Vergennes Fire Department to serve as the first responder for West Ferrisburgh and much of the town's south end.

“Depending upon how the tax rate shakes out, the board may decide to use up to \$110,000 of the undesignated fund balance to offset the tax rate.”

— *Treasurer Pam Cousino*

That amount is far less than the roughly \$92,000 the city billed Ferrisburgh for fire protection this year, an amount the selectboard has balked at paying. Officials on the two sides currently disagree on the current payment and a new contract.

GOOD NEWS ON RATES?

Meanwhile, according to town officials, a penny on the town's municipal tax rate raises about \$58,000. If spending were to increase by \$133,000, a tax-rate increase of about 2.3 cents would cover it.

But the two other factors come into play when projecting Ferrisburgh's tax rates. One is that Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer Pam Cousino in an email said the selectboard could decide this summer to use part of a projected FY22 surplus to offset a tax increase.

“Depending upon how the tax rate shakes out, the board may decide to use up to \$110,000 of the undesignated fund balance to offset the tax rate,” Cousino wrote.

The other is that according to Addison Northwest School District projections, Ferrisburgh's homestead tax rate could drop by about 5 cents.

Selectboard Chair Jessica James said the board would want to wait and see how it plays out, but if the school rate did drop it might be an option for the board to save the entire surplus for a rainy day, especially if the overall rate would decrease without applying any of the surplus.

“We're going to have to think it over carefully,” James said. “We haven't really discussed what it could look like yet.”

BUDGET DETAILS

Within the budget a couple of increases stand out. Officials said they were having difficulty finding a part-time replacement for soon-to-retire zoning administrator Bonnie Barnes.

As a result, the selectboard voted to increase the job's hours to full-time, a major part of an overall administrative payroll hike of \$55,000. Employee benefits are projected to rise proportionately by \$31,000.

New computer equipment for the town office also contributes \$17,650 to higher spending, as does a \$26,000 increase in debt service due to the first year of payments for a new highway department truck.

Projected savings in highway department maintenance (\$10,000) and the fire contract (\$20,000) would offset those increases, at least in part.

Voters on Town Meeting Day will also be asked to approve borrowing up to \$120,000 over five years to buy a new backhoe/loader for the highway department.

If they back that proposal, however, there would be no impact on the 2022-23 budget, officials said, because the first annual payment would not be due until the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Police look into recent scams

VERGENNES — Vergennes police received two complaints last week from city residents about Facebook Messenger scams, and said they have heard anecdotally of other county residents being victimized by similar frauds.

Reports in Vergennes came on Jan. 19 from East Street and Armory Lane residents. Police said the person or persons contacting residents threatened their arrest if they did not comply.

City police are warning residents not to respond to claims sent over social media that they, or their relatives, are in legal jeopardy unless payments are made to the person contacting them.

In Vergennes, any questions or reports about such contacts may be directed to city police at 802-877-2201.

Between Jan. 17 and 23, Vergennes police also conducted six patrols by cruiser and one on foot, fingerprinted a job applicant for a

Vergennes Police Log

third party, ticketed two vehicles in violation of the city's overnight wintertime parking ban and ticketed a third and ordered it to be towed, and also:

- On Jan. 18:
 - Worked with the Department for Children and Families on a truancy case.
 - Investigated a case of retail theft at Kinney Drug Store.

- On Jan. 19 dealt with a minor one-car accident in an Armory Lane parking lot.

- On Jan. 20 began investigation of a break-in and theft of pharmaceuticals from Kinney Drug Store, which appear to be related to similar incidents last week in Bristol and Brandon. See story in this edition.

On Jan. 21:

- Began investigating a report that someone had used a false ID to try to open a bank account in the name of a Green Street resident.

- Checked a report of a truck with flashers on in the middle of West Main Street, but found nothing.

- Responded to a report of a fight between two Valley Vista clients at One Alden Place and cited two people for disorderly conduct: Brittany Moore, 35, of Castleton, N.Y., and Krisse Ward-Arnold, 21, of Colchester.

- On Jan. 22 dealt with a complaint of a fuel truck driving on a West Main Street lawn.

- On Jan. 23 responded along with the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad to a Walker Avenue apartment, where an apparently drunken resident had fallen. Police said she refused transport to Porter Hospital, and they and other first responders decided she was well enough to be left at her apartment.

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Thank You for Contributing to the Fran Allo Memory Tree



The Vergennes Lions and Rotary Clubs would like to extend a huge “thank you” to all the community members who donated money to add snowflakes to the **Fran Allo Memory Tree** in the City Park, recognizing loved ones who they wish to have remembered. We were able to provide some wonderful gifts for youth in the community who wanted to “shop” for their parents and caretakers at the Boys and Girls Club Christmas shop at no cost to them. The kids were excited to be able to do this as a surprise to their families.

The loved ones remembered are:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Allo, John | Delisle, Lester | Hodgman, Bruce | Plummer, Leroy “Red” |
| Allo, Sam | Donnelly, Chuck | Holway, Bill | Preston, Robert |
| Aunt Virginia | Donnelly, Joyce (2) | Jackman, Ralph (2) | Preston, Roberta |
| Big Grandma | Farnsworth, Carol (2) | Jackman, Myrie (2) | Sears, Margaret |
| Bodette, Dorothy | Fisher, Barbara McNulla | Jackson, Eric (2) | Shepard, George |
| Brace, Dennis | Fitzpatrick, Joel | Jennings, Edward | Shepard, Norma |
| Brace, Wayland | Forand, Brian | Johnson, Robert | Shepard, Sandra |
| Budso and Bix | Forand, Leonard | Kirby, Bernard | Shorey, Phil |
| Burdick, Clyde Sr. | Forand, Ramona | Kuehn, Walter | Stearns, Deb |
| Burdick, Jeanne Eva | Forand, Sandra | Lomax, Jim | Steckley, Brian |
| Bushey, Flora Tucker | Gaines, Allen | Loudin, Michelle Delisle | Sullivan, Ann (2) |
| Case, Olive | Gaines, Matthew | Lynk, Gail | Sullivan, Joe |
| Case, Warren | Gaines, Ruby | Lynk, Grace | Sullivan, Mary |
| Chamberlain, Eleanor | Gibson, Jessica | McKinnon, Thomas | Sullivan, Mike |
| Chamberlain, Raymond Jr. | Gordon, JoAnne Plummer | McNulla, Pat | Swinton, Raymond “Pa” |
| Chamberlain, Raymond Sr. | Gordon, Roberta | McNulla, Kathleen | Tucker, Roy “Tommy” |
| Chaulk, Sally | Grammy Peggy | McNulla, James | Tucker, Roy Sr. |
| Choiniere, Sherry | Grandma Riena | Merrill, Bertha | Usher, Marian |
| Clark, Eileen | Guemette, Louis | Nani, Norma | Vincent, Joyce (2) |
| Cowan, Frank | Hayes, Andree | O’Daniel, Jim | Walker, Mary |
| Davidson, Bill | Hayes, Roger | Panton, T & J | Wendel, Harold E. |
| Davidson, Candace | Hayes, William | Plummer, Alma Barrows | |

The Rotary Club wishes to remember **Richard Burke** and **Walter Kuehn** as members who passed away this year.

The Lions Club remembers the following Lions who passed while active members over the years:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Bill Andrews | Robert Fuller | Brad Howe | Jim McNulla |
| Bob Barrows | Albert Gebo | Lester Jaquith | Larry Myott, PDG |
| Olive Douglas | Don Gee | Earl Johnson | Dick Poquette |
| Lester Fleming, Sr | Bill Grant | John Kipp | Ed Smith |
| Paul Fuller | Roger Hayes | Liz Lowry | |

This ad is made possible with support of the Addison Independent.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News

Caitlin Walsh of Vergennes was named to Montclair State University's fall 2021 dean's list. Walsh is a Musical Theatre major at the New Jersey university.

Erich Reitz of Ferrisburgh took advantage of the University of Alabama's Cooperative Education Program during the spring 2022 semester. He worked for the Adtran, a digital communications company, alternating full-time work with full-time study.

Continuing the hard work, Reitz was named to the dean's list for the fall 2021 semester.

In a commencement ceremony held on Dec. 17, **Jared C. North** of Ferrisburgh received the Doctor of Chiropractic degree from National University of Health Sciences in Lombard, Ill.

Samuel Kuhns of North Ferrisburgh, a senior at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, received highest honors for the fall 2022 semester. He did so with a grade point average between 3.9 and 4.0 — straight A's.

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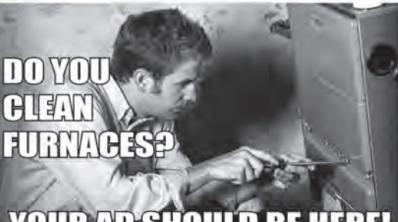
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Public Meetings

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is temporarily closed. Due to COVID-19 we are now holding our meetings online. For up-to-date information on how to access recovery services remotely please visit <https://turningpointaddisonvt.org/covid-19-page-2/>.

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Looking for work in your hometown?
We offer medical, dental, paid vacation, personal time, sick time and 401K for full time positions.
ALL ADDISON COUNTY LOCATIONS CURRENTLY HIRING!
For openings and to apply, visit Maplefields.com

Town of Monkton Vacant Office for Lister
The Town of Monkton is looking for local candidates to serve on the Board of Listers. This is a paid part-time position for approximately 5-10 hours per week depending on workload.
This is an opportunity to fill an important role in town government and acquire skills that include tax mapping, processing zoning permits, deed references, data entry and generating the Grand List (which forms the basis of our property taxes). Training will be provided by the current Listers with assistance from the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC). Being a Lister is a great chance to be a vital part of Town government while earning extra income and adding to your resume.
Interested candidates should send a letter of interest to the Selectboard at Selectboard@monktonvt.com, speak to any member of the Selectboard or Listers, or call 802-453-3800.

Help Wanted

DOWNSTREET HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT is seeking a dynamic and experienced leader to guide this respected regional housing organization as its next CEO. Downstreet is Central Vermont's premier housing advocacy organization, with a primary focus on affordable housing, homebuyer education and assistance as well as the nationally recognized SASH (Supports and Services at Home) program. For more info, visit: <https://eotransitions.applicantpool.com/job/>. Downstreet is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer and actively seeks a diverse pool of candidates for this position.

Help Wanted

For Sale

SNOW-THROWER Craftsman 9HP, 2 stage, 28" snow-thrower with storm cab. Great Condition. \$300. Contact John: 802-324-0422.

Help Wanted

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CUSTODIAN
Addison Central School District is seeking full and part time Custodians, Monday through Friday second shift. Experience is a plus, but not required.
Apply through Schoolspring or by sending a letter of interest, resume, and three current letters of reference to:
Dr. Peter Burrows, Superintendent
Addison Central School District
49 Charles Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753
Applications will be accepted until the position has been filled.
E.O.E.

Addison County Solid Waste Management District Public Outreach Coordinator wanted for immediate hire.
Are you the outgoing, creative type? Do you have a passion for waste reduction and helping others reduce their impact on the environment?
Then ACSWMD in Middlebury, VT wants you to join our passionate and dedicated team as a Public Outreach Coordinator!
This community-facing position promotes the understanding and value of waste reduction and diversion programs, including recycling, organics management, household hazardous waste and source reduction.
Work for this position is located in the field and/or virtually online, with the administrative work performed in the Middlebury office, Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.. Occasional nights and weekends for meetings, presentations or special events are required.
This is a full-time, exempt position, with a competitive salary. We offer excellent benefits, including: paid leave; health, vision, dental and life insurance; and a retirement savings plan.
To apply: Please submit a cover letter, resume and 1-2 pg. writing sample either via mail to: ACSWMD, Attn: District Manager, 1223 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753, or e-mail to teri@acswwd.org.

For Rent

DRY, WINTER/SUMMER STORAGE SPACE in Addison. Available storage space in my barn for summer/winter storage. The barn is structurally sound and weather-tight with electricity. No heat or running water. The barn is also available for lease. The entrance door measurements are 8' wide by 7' high. For more info: 802-363-3403 or rochon_m@yahoo.com.

Public Meetings

Nursery and Greenhouse Sales and Care Associate
Middlebury Agway is seeking a highly motivated individual to assist in our Nursery and Greenhouse during our busy season. The main focus of this position will be on sales, customer service, care and display of all plant material inventory. Knowledge of Trees, Shrubs, a wide variety of plants and garden/landscape design. We're looking for someone to pleasantly and confidently interact with customers in a demanding, fast paced environment. Full Time or Part Time candidates will be considered but weekend availability is required. Multiple positions available.
• Ability to lift and assist in loading and unloading of plant material and in the store.
• Knowledge of Growing/Caring for/Harvesting: Vegetables, Annuals, Perennials, Trees and Shrubs
• Excellent Customer Service Skills a must plus ability to recommend and sell plant material as well as complementary products
• Must be available to work weekends
• Team oriented, co-operative and a positive attitude required.
Please send Resumes to info@middleburyagway.com or fill out Application at Middlebury Agway, 338 Exchange Street, Middlebury.
Middlebury Agway • 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Begin a career in 2022, don't start a job.
Spend your time doing work that makes a real difference. We need great people who want to help great people.
Are you compassionate, kind, resilient, and adaptable? Specialized Community Care is seeking unique individuals who will act as mentors, coaches, and friends to provide support for adults in Addison, Rutland, Franklin and Chittenden Counties with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This is a fun and rewarding career spent "Off the Couch." We provide extensive training, support, professional growth and advancement opportunities in a family work environment. We offer pay increases after a probationary period and further advancement and pay for self-paced skill building. We want to hire your values and train the skills that will help make you successful.
Let's talk!
Please contact us at 802-388-6388
Web: www.sccvt.org | Email: denise.smith@sccvt.org

Full-Time Cook
Do you love the fast pace of a kitchen? Do you produce high-quality meals and take pride in your work? Elderwood at Ticonderoga is looking for a FT Cook to work in their kitchen, cooking meals for their Senior population.
This position is located in Ticonderoga, N.Y.
Cook Qualifications:
• Minimum 18 yrs. age required. High school diploma or equivalent preferred.
• Previous food preparation experience required.
• Ability to understand and organize food preparation activities required.
• Ability to carry out cooking tasks at a safe and efficient level of performance required.
• Knowledge of food preparation and production process necessary.
• Pride in quality of food and service necessary.
• High degree of personal cleanliness and good hygiene; health status suitable for service of food required.
• Respect for residents' privacy and rights; respectful and dignified treatment of residents required.
Apply at <https://www.elderwoodcareers.com>.
Elderwood expects all current and new employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19. If hired, you will be required to provide proof of vaccination. Employees may request a medical exemption from vaccination.

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Volunteer at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum this spring
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is looking for volunteers to help with gardening needs for the spring season. Regular help weeding and maintaining established flower beds and an overgrown rose garden would be greatly appreciated.
Please reach out to Elisa Nelson at Elisacn@lcomm.org if interested.
United Way of Addison County

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
www.addisonindependent.com • email: 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 (Mondays & Thursdays) is run 4th time free!
Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
DEADLINES: Thurs. noon for Mon. paper
Mon. 5 p.m. for Thurs. paper
RATES
• 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
• \$2 internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

- Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted
- Notices
 - Card of Thanks
 - Personals
 - Services
 - Free**
 - Lost 'N Found**
 - Garage Sales
 - Lawn & Garden
 - Opportunities
 - Adoption
 - Work Wanted
 - Help Wanted
 - For Sale
 - Public Meetings**
 - For Rent
 - Want to Rent
 - Wood Heat
 - Real Estate
 - Animals
 - Att. Farmers
 - Motorcycles
 - Cars
 - Trucks
 - SUVs
 - Snowmobiles
 - Boats
 - Wanted
 - Real Estate Wanted
 - Vacation Rentals
- ** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$2

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____
Cost: _____
of runs: _____
Spotlight Charge: _____
Internet Listing: **\$2.00**
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

MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking wait-list applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com.

For Rent

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com.

Att. Farmers

HORSE BLANKET WASH and repair. Accepting non-leather (for now) horsewear of all kinds for cleaning and repairing at my Weybridge location. Call or text Sue Miller at 802-377-5945 or email svdmiller@icloud.com with "horse" in the subject line for more information.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available.

802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

Want to Rent

WANTED TO RENT seeking a summer rental on Lake Dunmore to accommodate 4 adults and 2 teens the week of July 30th-August 6th. We are visiting for a family reunion. Please contact Nancy 617.645-7690.

Real Estate

RANCH FOR SALE 2 bed 1 1/2 bath Ranch for sale at 301 Quaker Village Rd, Weybridge, VT. See details at MLS

4895449. Call 802-545-2477. email: barryd@gmavt.net

Help Wanted

Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 10B and 11B.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

MAUSD
BRISTOL • LINCOLN • MONKTON • NEW HAVEN • STARKSBORO

Custodian & Maintenance/Utility
Mount Abraham Unified School District in Bristol, Vermont is seeking individuals to join our custodial/maintenance team to help create a clean, safe and healthy learning environment for our students and staff.

MAUSD offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Apply at schoolspring.com or in person at 72 Munsill Avenue, Suite 601, Bristol, VT 05443

Equal Opportunity Employer

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LONG-TERM ELEMENTARY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER VACANCY - 2021-2022

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
needed for April 2022 through the end of the school year. Providing daily instruction to 4th grade. Licensed teacher preferred.

For additional information, contact Kim Prehoda at kprehoda@svvut.org

All applicants must apply on www.SchoolSpring.com.
Position will remain open until filled - EOE



Auctions

PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION

Bid Online or In Person
Saturday, January 29 @ 9AM
Register & Inspect from 7:30AM

298 J. Brown Drive, Williston, VT

No Dealer's License Required to BUY or SELL:

- Cars & SUVs
- Trucks
- Motorcycles
- ATVs & UTVs
- RVs & Boats
- Tractors
- Trailers

Upcoming Auto Auctions:
Fridays: February 4, 11 & 18
Saturday: February 26



NAA THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 800-474-6132

TOWN OF MONKTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on February 14th beginning at 7:30PM. 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.

Preliminary Plat Application #2021-02-MAJ of Miranda Fisk for a 2-lot subdivision located at 315 Roscoe Road (Parcel ID 01.228.001.002) in the RA-2/RA-5 Zoning Districts

An electronic copy of the application can be obtained by emailing zoning@monktonvt.com. A hard 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/82116839768> • Meeting ID: 821 1683 9768 • Passcode: 679652
Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 • Meeting ID: 821 1683 9768 • Passcode: 679652

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).

Reportable and Communicable Diseases Rule.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 22P001

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services, Department of Health

CONCISE SUMMARY: This rulemaking does the following: 1) Adds COVID-19 and multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children to the list of reportable diseases; 2) Adds SARS-CoV-2 to the list of reportable laboratory findings and requires that all results be reported including positive, negative, and indeterminate. 3) Adds race and ethnicity data as required reporting content; 4) Adds the definition of electronic reporting to clarify approved methods of reporting and establishes a basis to share data between the Department and Vermont Information Technology Leaders (VITL); 5) Adds standardization procedures for administrative specimen collection; 6) Clarifies the timeframe for reporting laboratory findings to the Department; 7) Removes certain animal diseases from the list of reportable diseases; 8) Reorganizes sections for clarity.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Natalie Weill, Department of Health, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT 05401 Tel: 802-863-7260 Fax: 802-951-1275 Email: ahs.vdhrules@vermont.gov URL: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/about-us/laws-regulations/public-comment>.

FOR COPIES: David Englander, Department of Health, 108 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT 05401 Tel: 802-826-7280 Fax: 802-951-1275 Email: ahs.vdhrules@vermont.gov.

Note: The two rules below have been promulgated by Vermont's Cannabis Control Board who has requested the notices be combined to facilitate a savings for the agency. When contacting the agency about these rules please note the title and rule number of the rule(s) you are interested in.

- Rule 3: Medical Cannabis. – 22P002
- Rule 4: Compliance and Enforcement. – 22P003

AGENCY: Cannabis Control Board

CONCISE SUMMARY: Rule 3 regulates the use of therapeutic cannabis in Vermont. The rule will regulate patient access to cannabis and cannabis products and will regulate the dispensaries that provide cannabis and cannabis products to patients. These activities are currently regulated by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). They will come under the purview of the Cannabis Control Board in accordance with Act 164(2020) and Act 62(2021). Rule 4 regulates the enforcement mechanisms, procedures, and penalties for the Cannabis Control Board's Rules 1 through 3, which govern the licensing and regulation of commercial cannabis businesses and patient access to therapeutic cannabis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: David Scherr, Cannabis Control Board, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-7001 Tel: 802-558-6022 Email: david.scherr@vermont.gov URL: <https://ccb.vermont.gov>.

FOR COPIES: Kimberley Lashua, Cannabis Control Board, 89 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-7001 Tel: 802-836-7708 Email: kimberley.lashua@vermont.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE

Full Passport Service
Addison County Courthouse
The Addison County Clerk located in Frank Mahady Courthouse is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9am to 1pm
Wednesday 12:30pm to 4:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED.
FACE MASKS REQUIRED.
(even if vaccinated)

802-388-1966
addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com

MARKET REPORT
ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 1/20 & 1/24, 2022

BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Vorsteveld Farm	1305	.92	1200.60
McLaughlin Farm	1860	.80	1488.00
Blue Spruce Farm	1820	.795	1446.90
J. Fifield	1800	.79	1422.00
Champlainside	1585	.78	1236.30
Gosliga Farm	1745	.775	1352.38
Woodnotch Farm	1700	.775	1317.50

CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
H. Sunderland	109	2.65	288.85
A. Brisson	100	2.60	260.00
H. Degraaf	104	2.50	260.00
Barnes Brox.	104	2.25	234.00
UVM	92	2.50	230.00

Total # Beef: 182 • Total # Calves: 338
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 4B, 11B and 12B.

Addison County Courthouse (1)	Poultney (1)
Addison Northwest Supervisory District (1)	Slate Valley Unified School District (1)
Bristol (1)	Starksboro (1)
Monkton (1)	Vermont (1)
Orwell (1)	Vermont Electric Power Company (1)

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Town of Starksboro has submitted an application (22-500) for a site plan review and waiver request for property located at 397 Jerusalem Road in the Town of Starksboro. The proposed project for removal of existing fire station and construction of new station.

Autumn Prim has submitted an application (22-300) for a conditional use for property located at 1417 VT Rte. 116 in the Town of Starksboro. The proposed project is for a snack bar.

The Town of Starksboro Development Review Board will hold hearings on these applications on February 10, 2022, at 7:00pm at the Starksboro Town Offices. Remote access information provided below. A copy of the application and additional information may be obtained at Starksboro Town office.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Remote Access via Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/87884166793> • Passcode: ^\$nLY2A2
Phone In: 1-929-436-2866 • Passcode: 52006007
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87884166793?pwd=dGtuNHZAzenM0Uj3ZSDZ0L1ZoQktadz09>

Zoning Administrator
Town of Starksboro, Vermont

ADDISON NORTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE TO ALL STUDENTS IN GRADES 8-11 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE

Vergennes Union High School, along with all other Vermont public high schools, participates in a statewide system of public high school choice. Under this system, students from VUHS may apply to transfer to any other public high school in the state. For the 2022-2023 school year, the maximum number of students eligible to transfer is limited to fifteen (15). The actual number will depend on the number of students selected in prior years to continue their enrollment at other area high schools.

To apply to participate in the program for the 2022-2023 school year (grades 9-12):

- Complete an application available from the VUHS School Counseling Office;
- All applications must be signed by a parent or guardian;
- File the application with the School Counseling Office no later than **March 1, 2022.**

Notification of decisions to all students who have applied to participate will be provided no later than **April 1, 2022.**

Additional school choice information, including a timeline, is available from the School Counseling Office.

A student's enrollment application may be denied by another receiving school if the student has been expelled or received an extended suspension for violation of Vergennes Union High School's alcohol, substance abuse, or weapons-in-schools policies during the year prior to enrollment in that regional partnership school. Upon enrollment in the receiving school, students are subject to the disciplinary policies and procedures of the receiving school. If selected to attend another high school in the regional partnership, students shall be guaranteed enrollment in that receiving school until graduation as long as they remain residents of the Addison Northwest School District and are not subject to expulsion as a result of the receiving school's policy and federal and state law.

IMPORTANT ANNUAL NOTICE REGARDING HERBICIDE USE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRIC UTILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

The Vermont Public Utility Commission has set forth rules under PUC Rule 3.600 pertaining to the use of herbicides in the maintenance of electric utility rights-of-way (ROW). Each spring, herbicide applications may begin on or after April 1st. These rules afford you important rights and duties. Vermont electric utilities maintain electric line rights-of-way with several methods, including the selective use of herbicides on trees and brush. They also encourage low-growing shrubs and trees which will crowd tall-growing species and, thus, minimize the use of herbicides. Methods of herbicide applications may include stump, stem injection, basal, soil, and foliar. **Only electric utility rights-of-way that have tall-growing tree species with the potential of threatening the electric utility system are treated.**

If you reside on or own property in Vermont within 1000' of an electric utility right-of-way:

1. **Sign up to receive written notification** from your local electric utility of plans to apply herbicide on any ROW within 1000' of your property or the property where you reside. Check nearby poles for tags identifying the utility and/or pole number, complete the form below and submit it to your local electric utility by mail before February 15th, 2022 to be added to the notification list. If determined to be qualified, you will receive notification from the utility at least 30 days prior to scheduled herbicide application.
2. **You are responsible to make your local electric utility aware** of the location of any potentially affected water supply, and of any other environmentally sensitive area where herbicide application ought to be avoided.
3. **Watch and listen for public service announcements** in newspapers and radio ads noting upcoming herbicide applications.
4. **Check with your local electric utility** regarding the vegetation management cycle near your particular line.
5. **You have the right** to request, in writing, that the utility refrain from applying herbicides in the process of clearing the right-of-way, and the utility may offer alternatives such as herbicide stump treatment or herbicide stem injections.
6. **You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever at no cost to you if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **distribution lines**, bringing electric service directly to individual customers.
7. **You have the right** to refuse, in writing, the use of herbicides whatsoever by paying a \$30 administration fee if the type of lines in the right-of-way are **transmission lines** or **sub-transmission lines**, bringing electricity to or between substations.

For more details, or to ask additional questions, please contact your local electric utility, or one of the following:

Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO) 366 Pinnacle Ridge Rd. Rutland, VT 05701 Attn: Scott Carlson (802) 353 3584	Agency of Agriculture Public Health & Ag. Resource Mgmt 116 State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 1-802-828-2431	Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs & Public Information 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620 1-800-622-4496
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Based on the information above, if you believe you qualify to be notified in advance of pending herbicide applications in the rights-of-way, mail the request below to your local electric company before February 15th, 2022.

Resident/Property Owner Request to be Added to Herbicide Treatment Notification Mailing List

Name	Town/City of Affected Property		
Street Address	Home Phone Number		
Town	Work Phone Number		
State	Zip Code	OK to use work number? (circle one)	Yes No
Electric Utility Account Number	Best time to contact you		
Affected Property (Check all that apply):	Year-Round Residence	Summer Residence	Commercial Property
Water Supply	Organic Farm	Land	Other
Line/Pole Identification:	Utility Initials	Pole Numbers	

Please fill out this request completely to help us determine if you qualify for herbicide treatment notification.
MAIL THIS REQUEST TO YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE BEFORE FEBRUARY 15TH, 2022

Public Notices can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 4B, 11B and 12B.

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Bristol Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on February 8, 2022 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 #21-409: Bristol Works! LLC at 62 Pine Street (Parcel #205151) is requesting final approval for a 2-lot subdivision per Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article IX, Sec. 930

Copies of the complete zoning applications are available for review at the Bristol Town Office during regular business hours.

Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/85786761083 • Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823
 Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 • Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823

**TOWN OF ORWELL
 HEARING NOTICE
 DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Orwell Development Review Board will meet in person on Wednesday, February 16th, 2022 at 7:00pm at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

By Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81063995383 or phone 1-929-205-6099 use meeting ID: # 810 6399 5383 to conduct the following business:

1. Permit #01-01-22: Chance Hall/Hall's Welding LLC for a Permit for a Variance for setback for a Pumphouse located at 274 Fisher Road.
2. Permit #01-02-22: Wayne and Jeannine Partridge for a Subdivision Permit located at 471 Vermont Route 22A.
3. Permit #01-03-22: Devon Duquette/Orwell Summit Farmstead for a Conditional Use Permit for a Homebased Business (Farmstead) located at 44 Knox Hill Road.
4. Permit #01-04-22: Paul A and Frances L Stone/Stonewood Farm for a Conditional Use Permit for Labor Housing located at 107 Griswold Lane.

Information pertaining to this matter may be viewed M, T, Th & Fr. 9:30-12:00 and 1:00-3:30 at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

Joseph Andriano, Chair
 Orwell Development Review Board

Prescott tapped at MNFC general manager

MIDDLEBURY — Greg Prescott will take over as general manager of Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op in late March. The grocery store's board of directors recently announced that Prescott will replace Glenn Lower, who announced his intention to retire last year.

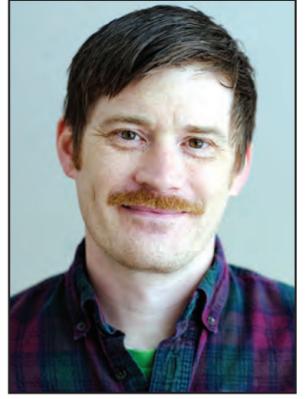
Board members said they were thrilled to select Prescott in a unanimous decision after a six-

month process and a competitive national search.

Prescott began his career in the café at Harvest Co-op in Cambridge, Mass., and he comes to the GM position with comprehensive experience in managing retail grocery operations, and in particular, a career devoted to promoting and selling nourishing, artisanal and local food. For the last five years, he has been MNFC's first store operations manager. During this time, the store said he has brought innovation and humility to his leadership role.

"Greg is a visionary and sees a bright future where the co-op increasingly benefits the community," an MNFC colleague noted in a store press release. "Greg (has been) innovative in finding ways to move products through the store while at the same time minimizing congestion to maintain social distancing as much as possible.... Greg is always about rolling up his sleeves and often taking the most undesirable jobs himself."

In his work at MNFC, Prescott has demonstrated a deep commitment to the community, to the co-op's mission, and to the long-term success of the co-op, officials said. He pioneered creative, forward-thinking programs such as reusable containers in the salad



GREG PRESCOTT

bar (unfortunately on hiatus due to the pandemic) and reducing plastic water bottles sold in the store — both of which make MNFC stand out not only among retail grocery stores at large but among food co-ops.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Prescott's strategic and calm leadership has been essential in keeping the co-op's entire community — MNFC staff, member-owners, producers and shoppers — safe and fed, board members said. His decision-making in the face of supply chain shortages and constantly evolving public health recommendations were described as "bold and thoughtful."

**ADDISON COUNTY
 Business News**

**LEGAL NOTICE
 CLOSING OF DEBONIS, WRIGHT & CARRIS,
 PC LAW PRACTICE
 W. TRACY CARRIS LAW PRACTICE
 ARBOR TITLE & ABSTRACT CO INC.**

Notice is hereby given that the following law practices and providers of legal services located at 177 Main Street in Poultney, Vermont are now closed:
 DeBonis, Wright & Carris, PC Law Practice
 W. Tracy Carris Law Practice
 Arbor Title & Abstract Co Inc.

Any and all other known client files still held by these law practices remain in its offices located at 177 Main Street, Poultney, Vermont 05764. Any person or entity who seeks to obtain a file and is authorized to do so may pick up the file(s) at the 177 Main Street, Poultney offices between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on February 7, 2022 through February 11, 2022. Please make an appointment to do so, as provided below, if possible.

Note that the Rutland District Probate Court is in the process of assuming custody of all original estate documents, including wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and advance directives previously stored in this office. The Rutland District Probate Court is located at 83 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont.

Finally, by Order of the Vermont Supreme Court, any files, documents and other materials currently stored or located at the 177 Main Street, Poultney, Vermont premises that are not retrieved or deposited with the Rutland District Probate Court as provided and within the time frames set forth above, will be destroyed starting no later than March 14, 2022.

Please contact me, the court-appointed Trustee for the above law practices and providers of legal services, if you have questions or wish to arrange for an appointment to pick up a file or other documents at the 177 Main Street Poultney office during the February 7, 2022-February 11, 2022 period.

F. Rendol Barlow, Court Appointed Trustee
 Langrock Sperry & Wool, LLP
 P.O. Drawer 351
 111 South Pleasant Street
 Middlebury, Vermont 05753
 802 388-6356
 frbarlow@langrock.com

2022
WINTER FUN

Break out those markers and let your creativity flow!

1. Color and decorate this picture any way you wish (you can use this one, photocopy it, or go to addisonindependent.com/contests for a printable version).
2. Then submit your masterpiece:
 - Online at addisonindependent.com/contests
 - By Email to contests@addisonindependent.com
 - By Mail to Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Entries will be accepted through Thursday, Feb. 24th.

Two winners from each age group will win gift certificates from local businesses. All prizes will be mailed. Winners will be announced in the March 3rd edition of the *Addison Independent*.



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 Parent/Guardian's name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Age Group: under 5 5-6 7-8 9-11 12-15 16-Adult

**UVM presents
 Animal Scoops
 to help kids
 learn about
 farm animals**

BURLINGTON — Kids ages 8-18 can gain a better appreciation of different farm animals through a virtual learning opportunity offered by the University of Vermont Extension 4-H program this winter.

Animal Scoops will be presented via Zoom on four consecutive Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m., beginning Feb. 22. Enrollment in 4-H is not required to participate.

UVM Extension 4-H educators will teach the sessions, sharing information on the animal of the day through fun activities such as videos, trivia, recipes and hands-on exercises. Dates and topics are "Delve into Dairy" (Feb. 22), "Horsin' Around" (March 1), "Got Your Goat" (March 8) and "Don't be Sheepish" (March 15).

Preregistration is required by the day before each session to receive the link. To register head online to go.uvm.edu/animalscoops. Kids may choose to attend any or all sessions.

If requiring a disability-related accommodation to participate, please contact UVM Extension 4-H livestock educator Wendy Sorrell at wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu or (802) 651-8343, ext. 513, by Feb. 1.

**STATE OF VERMONT
 SUPERIOR COURT
 PROBATE DIVISION
 ADDISON UNIT
 DOCKET NO. 21-PR-05895
 IN RE THE ESTATE OF
 MEGAN W. BATTEY**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the creditors of the estate of Megan W. Battey late of Middlebury. 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: January 19, 2022
 Robert Battey
 3810 Milan Dr., #5
 Alexandria, VA 22305
 202-491-4211
 rbattey@gmx.com
 Publication: Addison Independent
 Publication Date: 01/27/22
 Address of Probate Court:
 Addison Probate Court,
 7 Mahady Court,
 Middlebury VT 05753

ADDY WEBSITE
addisonindependent.com

ARTS & LEISURE

The Addison Independent

January 27, 2022



Brie and Doug Patterson of Shoreham met at the Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury (where Brie works) to work on a puzzle together. At home they've completed 29 jigsaw puzzles since the pandemic began.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

Local puzzlers find a way to complete the picture

Did you know that Jan. 29 is National Puzzle Day?

Yes? Well then, you're probably one of Addison County's master puzzlers. Good for you.

"Whether it's a crossword, jigsaw or Sudoku, puzzles engage our brain in more ways than one," reads

the Puzzle Day page on Nationaltoday.com.

"Scientists have discovered that when we work on a jigsaw puzzle, we use both sides of the brain, improving memory, cognitive function and problem solving skills in the process."

They're also just plain fun. We rounded up a few local puzzlers to tell us more about their

love of puzzles.

MEET THE PATTERSONS

"We've done 29 jigsaw puzzles since the pandemic hit," said Doug and Brie Patterson in a call earlier this week. "We've always liked puzzles."

The Pattersons were accustomed to a life where Doug wouldn't be at their Shoreham home for longer than four weeks because of his work.

"I am the CEO/President/chief coffee maker of Renewable Strategies Inc., which controls my other company — Forest Products Certification Group LLC," Doug explained. "I do Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) chain of custody (COC) certifications for small businesses. We currently have 160 companies in 40 U.S.

states... I used to have to do on-site audits, but with the pandemic I don't have to be on site anymore."

"We had a couple of weeks where I was getting used to having this person in the house with me all the time," Brie jabbed, lovingly.

That's when the couple got really into puzzling. Mostly they do 1,000 piecers and it takes them about two to three days to complete one.

"Well, that really depends on if we make ourselves do other things," clarified Brie, who also works at Middlebury's Ilsley Public Library and Shoreham's Platt Memorial Library. "We're a team. I focus on the colors and the picture and he really looks at the shapes."

SEE PUZZLERS ON PAGE 3

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

THE MONTH IN POETRY

AN ODD BEAUTIFUL WORLD



Susan Jefts is a poet and editor from the Adirondacks and Vermont, whose poems have been published in numerous journals, most recently "Quiet Diamonds" by Orchard Street Press and "Poems in the Time of Covid" by Small Pond Press in Brattleboro. She runs workshops using poetry to deepen our experiences in nature, and of what we find sacred.

This poem by Mary Ruefle ushers us into a kind of praise poem with the recurring phrase of thank you: *thank you for drawing the crow outside my window... thank you for drawing the stump, the mound...* It could be a painting the speaker is standing before, it could be a scene outside a window. It feels like a moment of praise for all that is, delivered in an unusual and whimsical way. The things mentioned are not the typically beautiful images of nature like sunflowers and lush green trees, but are less likely ones — the blighted ash and the dog with a broken hip — and they get our attention. Yet there are also the bittersweet berries that brighten that blighted ash, a striking image. Beauty and vibrancy alongside disease.

Later in the poem is a shift. The birds in their tangerine drift notice it first: a sound, the first one in the poem. Here is also the first significant movement and the first color. Off fly the birds toward the sounding harp—who wouldn't? This is where, for me, the poem becomes something I feel instead of just see. Something stirs in me,

and I feel certain something significant has just happened, not just in me, but in the poem. And although I'm not completely sure what that is, I don't mind. The feeling is what's important — and what I feel is suddenly more awake, more alive to the odd beauty and wonder of this world, in all its strangeness.

As we approach the final lines, the poem has moved beyond the idea of a painting, beyond a scene outside the window, beyond one moment. It suddenly feels like all the moments of a day morphing into something greater. We sense the speaker standing in the center of it all, or maybe flying off with the tangerine birds towards all that music.

THANKS

*Thank you for drawing the crow
outside my window.
Thank you for drawing the wrinkled bittersweet berries
brightening the blighted ash.
Thank you for drawing the stump, the mound
and the dog with a broken hip.
Thank you for drawing the horizon like that.
Thank you for drawing the woman standing.
She isn't saying anything. I like that.
Thank you for drawing the dry lightning.
Thank you for drawing the grass
crawling out from under the iron ball.
Thank you for drawing the open skies.
Thank you for adding color
in the form of a tangerine drift of birds
moving away toward the sound of a harp
that embodies a heaven I can only imagine.
I love this picture.
I look at it every day.
Thank you for not making a film instead.*

— Mary Ruefle

Mary Ruefle is the author of many books, including "Dunce" (Wave Books, 2019), which was a finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize, long-listed for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics' Circle Award, as well as a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize. She is also the recipient of numerous honors, including the Robert Creeley Award, an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, and a Whiting Award. She lives in Bennington, Vt., where she serves as the state's poet laureate.

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Escape to a world of love and light

Are Covid worries, nose swabs and vaccines taking over your life? Take time to get away from it all and join A.R.T. for performances of 10-minute plays written by Vermont playwrights and presented by Vermont directors and actors. Vermont Actors' Repertory Theater is presenting a winter virtual play festival called "Universal Love & Light," which will play live on Zoom Feb. 5, at 2 and 6 p.m.

There will be several short plays woven together in the theme of

humanity's greatest potentials: Radiating love and light to a disjointed and disconnected world. Come laugh, love, and ignite the flame of positivity with some lighthearted Vermont storytelling.

This event will be recorded and a link will be made available. To attend the live performance, tickets are \$10 and available at evvnt.com (tickets.evvnt.com/organizations/vermont-actors-repertory-theatre). A zoom link will be provided with purchase.

PUZZLERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The puzzles with interesting shapes or a variety of colors are the best ones," Doug added.

"Yeah," Brie agreed. "My favorite puzzle that we've done recently is one we got for Christmas that has bunnies with doughnuts. They aren't cutesy bunnies... they're really interesting."

The puzzling bug has rubbed off on the Patterson's 25-year-old daughter Piper too, and they "invariably get out a puzzle when she comes down from Essex to visit."

MEET MOLLY

Molly Saunders speculated in an email to the Addison Independent that she might be one of the "biggest puzzle lovers in Addison County."

And do you know what? She just might be!

"I complete up to seven puzzles a week," she said. "I do one every one or two days — 500-1,000 pieces each."

Wow.

Saunders's cat Tessa sits with her while this



Tessa, Molly Saunders' cat, rests proudly on a puzzle completed by her owner. Tessa and Molly tackle up to seven puzzles every week.

30-something does her puzzling work.

"I started doing puzzles in my early-mid 20s when I was frequently in hospitals for long periods of time," she explained, clarifying that the hospital stays were due to her battle with "chronic suicidal thoughts." "I initially got hooked on completing puzzles because I found that it helped my anxiety, putting the pieces into place. Now it has become a major hobby of mine. I like to look for beautiful puzzles, put them together, and then pass them on to others. I am unemployed, so I make some extra money by

buying puzzles second hand and reselling the nicer completed ones for \$5 each."

During her time in the hospitals, Saunders also found the power of art therapy.

"I can draw the world I want with paper, pencils, markers and my own imagination," she writes on her website mollysbloomingart.com. "I can inspire and uplift those around me. I can share a little bit of the love I feel, with my community. I can connect with others around me."

Saunders hasn't yet been able to solve the employment puzzle, and said that thinking about her future can feel "overwhelming and frightening."

"But when I am putting together puzzles everything feels simple," she said. "Every piece has its place and the outcome is clearly defined by the image on the box."

Inspired to crack open a puzzle? You're in luck. The Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury is having a puzzle swap today, Thursday, Jan. 27, from 3-4:30 p.m. Bring your complete puzzles — make sure they have all the pieces — to the Jessica Swift Community Room. Leave them for others and peruse puzzles left by fellow puzzle devotees to take home. Need to reach the Ilsley? Call (802) 388-4095.

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival goes on tour Feb. 3-6

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF) will resume its statewide Vermont tour, following a two year hiatus. Two top films from its 2021 7th Annual Festival will screen in six towns across the state on the expanded weekend of Feb. 3-6.

The two feature documentaries that will screen on tour are the award-winning "Storm Lake" and the acclaimed "The Ants & The Grasshopper."

"Storm Lake," directed by Beth Levison and Jerry Risius, was the celebrated Opening Night film at the 7th Annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival this past August. "The Ants & The Grasshopper," directed by Raj Patel and Zak Piper, was the popular Closing Night film at the Festival, where it was introduced by environmental activist Bill McKibben,

"Storm Lake" tells the compelling story of 63-year-old Pulitzer-prize winning

editor Art Cullen and his family-run newspaper, *The Storm Lake Times*, in Storm Lake, Iowa. Twice weekly, week-in and week-out, the Cullens deliver local news and biting editorials on a shoestring budget for their 3,000 readers. In the face of significant long-term economic challenges in western Iowa and the added stress of the pandemic, the paper fights to preserve its editorial integrity, shore up its finances and bolster the quiet community the Cullens call home. An intimate and revealing chronicle of local journalism in rural America, featuring the charismatic Art Cullen, his brother and publisher John, Art's wife, Dolores and Art's son, Tom, "Storm Lake" is a living and breathing documentary that lets its central characters tell their essential story.

Director Levison, multiple Emmy Award winner and a graduate of Middlebury College, will accompany the film and participate in Q&A sessions at several

SEE FILMS ON PAGE 14



MIDDLEBURY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES



Zoë Keating, Cello

Friday, January 28 ■ 7:30 PM

Virtual Presentation • 48-hour playback available
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UPCOMING MUSIC

AVANT-CELLIST ZOË KEATING GIVES VIRTUAL CONCERT JAN. 28 AT MAC'S ROBISON HALL

Extraordinary Vermont-based cellist and composer Zoë Keating will lend a contemporary sound to the Middlebury Performing Arts Series' yearlong cello celebration with an exclusive virtual concert on Jan. 28. A self-described "avant cellist," she performs like a one-woman orchestra, using her cello and a foot-controlled laptop to record layer upon layer of cello, creating intricate, haunting, and compelling music.

Keating will perform this virtual concert from the stage of the Mahaney Arts Center's Robison Hall. The concert will premiere on Friday, Jan. 28, at 7:30 p.m., and will remain available for 48 hours.

Streaming tickets (\$15 regular, or \$5 for Middlebury College students) are available now.

Keating has spent the last 20 years exploring the landscape of sounds a string instrument can make. She coaxes sounds out of the very edges of her cello, adeptly layering them into "swoon inducing" (*San Francisco Weekly*) music that is unclassifiable yet "a distinctive mix of old and new" (National Public Radio). She is known for her use of technology — which she uses to record and sample her cello on stage and in the studio — and for her DIY approach. She composes, records, *SEE MUSIC ON PAGE 24*

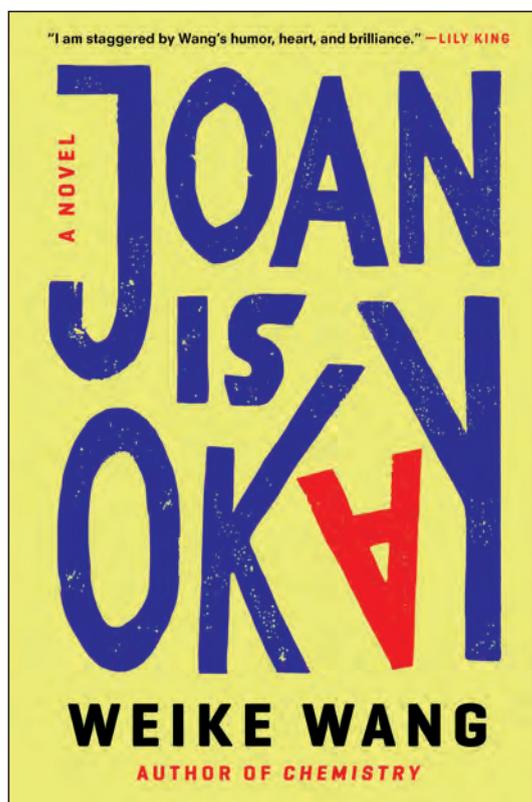


The Middlebury Performing Arts Series will present avant-cellist Zoë Keating in a virtual concert on Friday, Jan. 28.

PHOTO / JO TREK

REVIEW BOOK

JOAN IS OKAY — BY WEIKE WANG
(Random House)



Is Joan okay? That seems to be the question on everyone's mind, except for Joan. She's very comfortable with who she is, and will not easily succumb to outside pressure. A child of Chinese immigrants, she was born in the United States — she hilariously describes how she had to be the English-speaker in the household, called on to order takeout and talk to banks. But people are concerned; her brother can't understand her reluctance to move to the suburbs and give up her job as head in intensive care at a hospital. He doesn't know how Joan feels about the ICU, and about the machines in the ICU, she "liked the purity of it, the total sense of control." When her mother comes for a visit that turns protracted when the current pandemic begins to shut down travel to China, and her boss forces a "wellness" leave of almost two months for her own good, and her gregarious neighbor furnishes her apartment because she never has, and her brother, ups his pressure because he has bestowed upon himself the title of patriarch after the death of her dear, sweet father, it seems as though the mystery of Joan must be revealed. Tender, biting, moving, real. A great novel.

— Reviewed by Jenny Lyons. Connect with her on Instagram @jennysbookshop to find more great book reviews and recommendations. Look for these titles and more at your local bookstore.

NEW ASIAN NOVELS

The School for Good Mothers,
by Jessamine Chan

Honor,
by Thrity Umrigar

Fiona and Jane,
by Jean Chen Ho

Daughter of the Moon Goddess,
by Sue Lynn Tan

The Family Chao,
by Lan Samantha Chang

The Swimmers,
by Julie Otsuka

Beasts of a Little Land,
by Juhea Kim

Biblelepsy,
by Gina Apostol

Tell Me How to Be,
by Neel Patel

ART ON EXHIBIT

EDGEWATER GALLERY AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more information.

"Time and Memory," featuring work by Alexis Serio. Serio uses a horizon line as a foothold to suggest the landscape but from there she describes her abstract compositions as visual perceptions of time, and memory. On view for the month of February.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART.

72 Porter Field Road, Middlebury.

Visit museum.middlebury.edu/exhibitions or call (802) 443-5007 to make your free reservations.

"Contemporary to Classical: Highlights from the New Collection Handbook," featuring more than 40 works from the museum's new permanent collection handbook. Objects range from modern to ancient and include prints, photographs, paintings, and sculpture. Among the artists represented are Derrick Adams, Banksy, Judy Chicago, Robert Gober, Fairfield Porter, Medardo Rosso, Anna Stanichi, Paul Strand, Edmund de Waal, and William Zorach. On view Jan. 28-Aug. 7.

"Into the Screen: Digital Art from teamLab." Founded in 2001 by Toshiyuki Inoko, teamLab is a Tokyo-based collaboration of more than 500 designers, engineers, and technologists with a shared mission to integrate art, technology, and nature. This exhibition highlights a singular immersive digital experience by teamLab and the traditional 17th- to 20th-century screens and prints that inspired it. On view Jan. 28-Aug. 7.

JACKSON GALLERY AT TOWN HALL THEATER.

68 S Pleasant St., Middlebury.

Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call (802) 382-9222 for more info.

"Winter Sun." A colorful exhibit to warm the winter with pastels by Cristine Kossow and Judy Albright, turned wood by Justin Morande, Bridport Hill Pottery and Elinor Steele Tapestries. On view through Jan. 30.

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center Street, Brandon.

Visit brandonartistsguild.org or call (802) 247-4956 for more info.

"From Hands to Hearts." BAG's holiday shop-within-a-shop is chock-full of beautifully crafted handmade gifts large and small. Shop the main gallery for paintings, photography, prints and more in a multitude of styles and mediums from 30+ Vermont artists. On view through Jan. 30.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 16



ARIES: March 21-April 20. Your affection for someone could affect your impression of a certain situation, Aries. You need to take a step back or remove yourself from the situation.

TAURUS: April 21-May 21. Someone in a position of authority may want to invest in your future, Taurus. Even though you may be flattered by the interest, you have to weigh all of your options.

GEMINI: May 22-June 21. You may learn something about a person if you're willing to get involved in deep conversation, Gemini. Have a talk with someone you're eager to get to know.

CANCER: June 22-July 22. Cancer, a heavy load at work is manageable. Challenges keep you engaged and you thrive on the pressure. Enjoy the responsibility and all that comes with it.

LEO: July 23-Aug. 23. Sometimes you need to put passion ahead of stability, Leo. That means explore all possibilities when it comes to relationships. You may connect with someone unexpected.

VIRGO: Aug. 24-Sept. 22. Virgo, you may be able to move through chores and other things on your to-do list quite quickly this week. That opens up opportunities for some rest and relaxation.

LIBRA: Sept. 23-Oct. 23. Libra, a chance to take a leadership role in your community is on the horizon. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and give it your all.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24-Nov. 22. Scorpio, this week you may be pulled in two directions, but it's nothing you haven't handled in the past. Look to trusted confidantes for advice and even a little help, if necessary.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23-Dec. 21. Sagittarius, find some time to delve into your passions. Figure out what piques your interests and pursue it with your customary energy. Others will admire your enthusiasm.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Getting romance off the ground this week may seem like climbing Mount Everest, Capricorn. Mixed messages may cloud the waters. Keep finding a way to connect.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Aquarius, think about what you can bring to the table at work, and then promote your strengths to the higher-ups. They may be slow to come around but you'll catch their attention.

PISCES: Feb. 19-March 20. Pisces, if you are feeling overworked, you may have to ask others to pitch in and take on a bigger share of the tasks at hand.

Join us this weekend for the Bristol January Thaw!

15% off select items.

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Fri.-Sat. 10am-5pm



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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 27 — Mikhail Baryshnikov dancer, choreographer (73)
JAN. 28 — Colette, novelist (d)
JAN. 29 — Anton Chekov, playwright (d)

JAN. 30 — Thomas Tallis, composer (d)
JAN. 31 — Ernie Banks, baseball player (d)
FEB. 1 — Frederick Douglass, abolitionist (d)
FEB. 2 — James Joyce, writer (d)

CALENDAR

JAN. 27-
FEB. 28 | 22

THURSDAY, JAN. 27

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S "COMPANY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Come see the annual joint production of Town Hall Theater and the Middlebury College Department of Music. In "Company," Sondheim presented, for the first time, a musical where marriages are complicated and difficult. Tickets: \$20/Middlebury College ID Holders \$15/Middlebury College Students \$6, available at townhalltheater.org, by calling 802-382-9222, or by visiting the THT box office (Monday through Friday, noon to 5 p.m.) Town Hall Theater observes strict Covid protocols, requiring proof of vaccination and a booster, if eligible, or proof of negative PCR test, as well as a photo ID. Masks must always be worn inside the theater.

FRIDAY, JAN. 28

ZOË KEATING, CELLO, VIRTUAL CONCERT. Friday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., middlebury.edu/arts. A visionary evening of contemporary cello. Streaming tickets: \$15/5; 48-hour playback available. More info at middlebury.edu/college/arts/performing-arts-series.

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S "COMPANY" ON STAGE

IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Jan. 27 listing.

SATURDAY, JAN. 29

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, Jan. 29, Kingsland Bay State Park, 787 Kingsland Bay Park Rd. Easy hike, 2-3 miles, minimal elevation gain. Depending on conditions snowshoes, microspikes and poles recommended. Contact leader David Andrews at vtrevda@yahoo.com, 802-388-4894, to get details and register.

RUSTY DEWEES IN VERGENNES. Saturday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. Postponed until March 19.

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S "COMPANY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Jan. 27 listing.

SUNDAY, JAN. 30

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S "COMPANY" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Jan. 30, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Jan. 27 listing.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2

"SERMON FROM THE STUDIO: MARVIN GAYE'S 'WHAT'S GOING ON'" VIRTUAL PRESENTATION. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.,

Zoom. Join Reuben Jackson, archivist with the Smithsonian Institution's Duke Ellington Collection and former host of VPR's "Friday Night Jazz" for this discussion of Gaye's iconic song. A Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesday presentation. Sponsored by Ilsley Public Library. Register at tinyurl.com/rjackson-whatsgoingon.

"THE FUTURE OF LOCAL JOURNALISM: WHY YOUR LOCAL PAPER MATTERS" ZOOM DISCUSSION. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m. Vermont publishers/editors and Pulitzer Prize editor of *Storm Lake Times* featured in award-winning documentary, "Storm Lake," discuss the future of local journalism and how publishers and editors are dedicated to keeping newspapers alive.

SATURDAY, FEB. 5

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Feb. 5, Wright Park. Easy to moderate hike in Wright Park, 3-4 miles maximum, minimal elevation gain. Depending on conditions snowshoes, microspikes and poles recommended. Contact leader Liana Merrill at merrill.liana@gmail.com to get details and register.

HILL COUNTRY HOLIDAY IN LINCOLN. Saturday, Feb. 5, locations around town. Lincoln's annual celebration stars with an Olympic-themed parade at 11:30 a.m. Participants and spectators welcome.

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 388-3062.	
MCTV Channel 1071 Friday, Jan. 28 5 a.m. Cannabis Control Board (CCB) 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 8 p.m. Gov. Scott Weekly Update Saturday, Jan. 29 5 a.m. Vermont State House 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 3:30 p.m. Middlebury Edition 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 8:30 p.m. Vermont State House Sunday, Jan. 30 5 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. Las Promesas 10 a.m. Energy Week 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 1 p.m. Gov. Scott Weekly Update 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar	7:00 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 a.m. Abled & On-Air, Public Affairs 10 p.m. Middlebury Edition Monday, Jan. 31 12 a.m. CCB 6 a.m. Middlebury Edition 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Gov. Scott Weekly Update 6 p.m. Green Mountain Care Board 10 p.m. Energy Week 11 p.m. Vote for Vermont Tuesday, Feb. 1 12 a.m. Vermont State House 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 3 p.m. Energy Week 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6 p.m. Middlebury Edition 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Wednesday, Feb. 2 4:30 a.m. CCB 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9 a.m. Middlebury Edition 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, State House 5 p.m. Energy Week 6 p.m. Vote for Vermont 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Thursday, Feb. 3	5 a.m. Selectboard 7:30 a.m. Middlebury Edition 8 a.m. Congregational Service 10 a.m. Gov. Scott Weekly Update 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Middlebury Edition 8 p.m. Energy Week 10:30 p.m. Eckankar MCTV Channel 1091 Friday, Jan. 28 5 a.m. Festival on the Green 7 a.m. Current Topics in Science 8:15 a.m. Wintering Birds 9 a.m. North Branch Nature Center 10:05 a.m. Vermont Master Naturalist 12 p.m. The Story Matters 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Local School Board Meetings 10:01 p.m. Current Topics in Science Saturday, Jan. 29 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. ACSD Board Meeting 8:30 a.m. Current Topics in Science 9:45 a.m. Wintering Birds 10:30 a.m. North Branch Nature Center 11:35 a.m. Vermont Master Naturalist 12 p.m. Manchester Community	Library Holiday Concert 1 p.m. Kids Yoga 1:30 p.m. Yoga 3:45 p.m. Current Topics in Science 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. The Story Matters Sunday, Jan. 30 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Wintering Birds 6:45 a.m. Current Topics in Science 8 a.m. North Branch Nature Ctr 9:05 a.m. Vermont Master Naturalist 9:30 a.m. Bark, Buds, & Branches 10:38 a.m. Seed-Starting Indoors 11:15 a.m. Wintering Birds 12 p.m. Manchester Community Library Poetry Salon 4 p.m. Manchester Lib. Holiday Concert 5 p.m. Local School Board Meetings Monday, Jan. 31 4 a.m. Poets & Authors 11 a.m. Chair Yoga 12 p.m. State Board of Education 5 p.m. OCAS - Bird-Friendly Maple 6 p.m. Dr. Campbell 7 p.m. Local School Board Meetings Tuesday, Feb. 1	6 a.m. Authors & Poets 9 a.m. Dr. Campbell 12 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 1 p.m. School Board Meetings 5:30 p.m. Bark, Buds, & Branches 6:40 p.m. Seed-Starting Indoors 7:30 p.m. Gardening in Vermont 8:30 p.m. Manchester Lib. Holiday Concert Wednesday, Feb. 2 12 a.m. Dr. Campbell 7 a.m. Yoga 10 a.m. Authors & Poets 12 p.m. The Story Matters 3 p.m. Dr. Campbell 3:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 4:30 p.m. Gardening in Vermont 5:30 p.m. The Story Matters 7 p.m. School Board Meetings Thursday, Feb. 3 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Yoga 10:30 a.m. Bark, Buds, & Branches 11:38 a.m. Seed-Starting Indoors 12:30 p.m. Gardening in Vermont 1:30 p.m. Dr. Campbell 4:50 p.m. Seed-Starting Indoors 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6:30 p.m. Dr. Campbell 7 p.m. Local School Board Meetings	

Stop by the library at noon for a tasty luncheon on the porch. Enjoy a bonfire and ice skating as well. Proceeds benefit the library. Family snowshoe and cross-country skiing at Willard's Woods at 1 p.m. (limited parking — please carpool, drop off or park and walk from the mill). Ongoing snow sculpture contest. Variety Show at 7 p.m. live at Burnham Hall or live-stream at neatbristol.com/live-stream.

SUNDAY, FEB. 13

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN RIPTON.

Sunday, Feb. 13, Water Tower and Catamount Trails. A more difficult, 3- or 4-mile trek with 350 elevation change. Hike will include Water Tower trails and the Catamount Trail. Requires car spot. Be prepared for ice and snow. Contact leader Ruth Penfield at ruthpenfield@gmail.com or 802-388-5407 for details.

THURSDAY, FEB. 17

"12 ANGRY MEN" ZOOM DISCUSSION. Thursday, Feb. 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m., via Zoom and Ilsley Public Library. Watch the film in your own time (available through Kanopy at your local library) then join The Middlebury Community Classic Film Club for their spring film series "A Higher Loyalty and the Test of Character." The trial is over. The jury has adjourned. Everyone is ready to convict a young man of a terrible crime, except one man. Under heavy pressure to relent to the will of the group, this man presses forward methodically with a quiet passion to uncover the truth.

DADDYLONGLEGS VIRTUAL CONCERT.

Thursday, Feb. 17, 7:30-8:30 p.m., NEAT TV. Part of the monthly winter concerts organized by the 5 Town Friends of the Arts, Lawrence Memorial Library and NEAT TV. The concerts will be filmed and broadcast from the library with no in-person

audience and broadcast live on NEAT TV. The shows will also be streamed live through the NEAT TV website neatbristol.com. For those unable to see the original broadcasts, the show can be seen afterwards on the NEAT archives.

SATURDAY, FEB. 19

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB WALK IN SHELBURNE.

Saturday, Feb. 19, Shelburne Farms. Walk or snowshoe the Farm Trail from the Welcome Center. Moderately difficult; 5 miles. Bring a snack or lunch, water, and dress to the weather in thermal layers. Ankle gaiters and hiking poles are recommended. Be prepared for ice and snow. Contact leader Ruth Penfield for information, meeting time and possible carpooling from Middlebury area at 802.388.5407 or ruthpenfield@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, FEB. 20

"DUMA" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. An orphaned cheetah becomes the best friend and pet of a young boy living in South Africa. Winner of the Humane Society's 2006 Genesis Award for Family Feature Film, and inspired by a true story, "Duma" offers audiences a blend of excitement, adventure and compassion with a beautiful and grand landscape as its backdrop. Part of the MNFF Selects series. More info and tickets at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest.org.

THURSDAY, FEB. 24

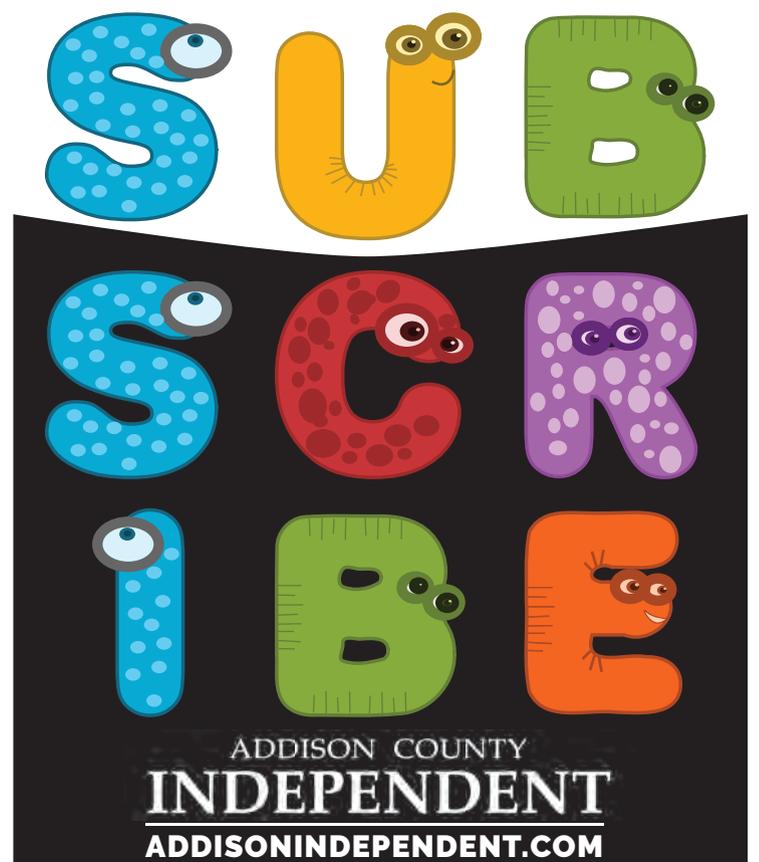
GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB SNOWSHOE

IN HANCOCK. Thursday, Feb. 24, Worth Mountain from Middlebury Gap. Strenuous, about 2 miles each way. Will go to top of Middlebury Snowbowl and explore forgotten ski trails. Contact Morris Earle at morrisearle@gmail.com with questions or to register.

SATURDAY, FEB. 28

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN KEENE VALLEY, N.Y.

Saturday, Feb. 26, Giant's Nubble. Moderate to difficult 1.5-mile hike one-way with an elevation gain of 1150 ft. Views of the west face of Giant Mountain, the Chapel Pond valley and on to the Dix Range. Microspikes and/or snowshoes required depending on conditions. Contact leader Barry Francis for information, meeting time and possible carpooling from the Crown Point Bridge at 802-349-9207 or barryfrancis@gmavt.net.



the River PUB & GRILL

Located in historic downtown Brandon, Vermont, you'll find The River Pub & Grill on the banks of the winding Neshobe River. We bring creative American pub fare to life while supporting our local growers and producers. Join us for an elevated, yet approachable dining experience!

Visit our website at rivervt.com for our most up-to-date menu and sign up for specials.

— MENU FAVORITES — — SPECIALS —

<p>SALADS KALE SALAD CAESAR SALAD</p> <p>LIGHTER FARE VT BEEF BURGER TURKEY CHEESE STEAK</p> <p>APPS VT PORK BELLY "WINGS"</p> <p>ENTREES CIDER GLAZED SALMON VT RIBEYE</p>	<p><i>monday</i> all day \$3 DRAFT BEERS \$5 NACHOS</p> <p><i>thursday</i> all day BUY ONE FOOD ITEM RECEIVE THE SECOND @ 50% OFF</p> <p>25% OFF BOTTLES OF WINE</p>
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18 Center Street, Brandon VT
(802) 465-8112 • rivervt.com

Thursday–Monday: 12pm - Close
Tuesday & Wednesday: CLOSED

IN PROVENCE, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ROMANCE

CAFÉ PROVENCE
VALENTINE'S DINNER

Saturday February 12th,
Sunday, February 13th, &
Monday, February 14

\$75/person
(plus tax & gratuity)
Menu will also be available
a la carte and take out

FEATURING

- Oyster Chowder
- Red Beet Salad with Ginger Balsamic Dressing
- Maine Lobster on Red Beet Risotto
- Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberry Coulis

for a full Valentines menu go to www.cafeprovincevt.com

802-247-9997

11 CENTER STREET, BRANDON, VERMONT



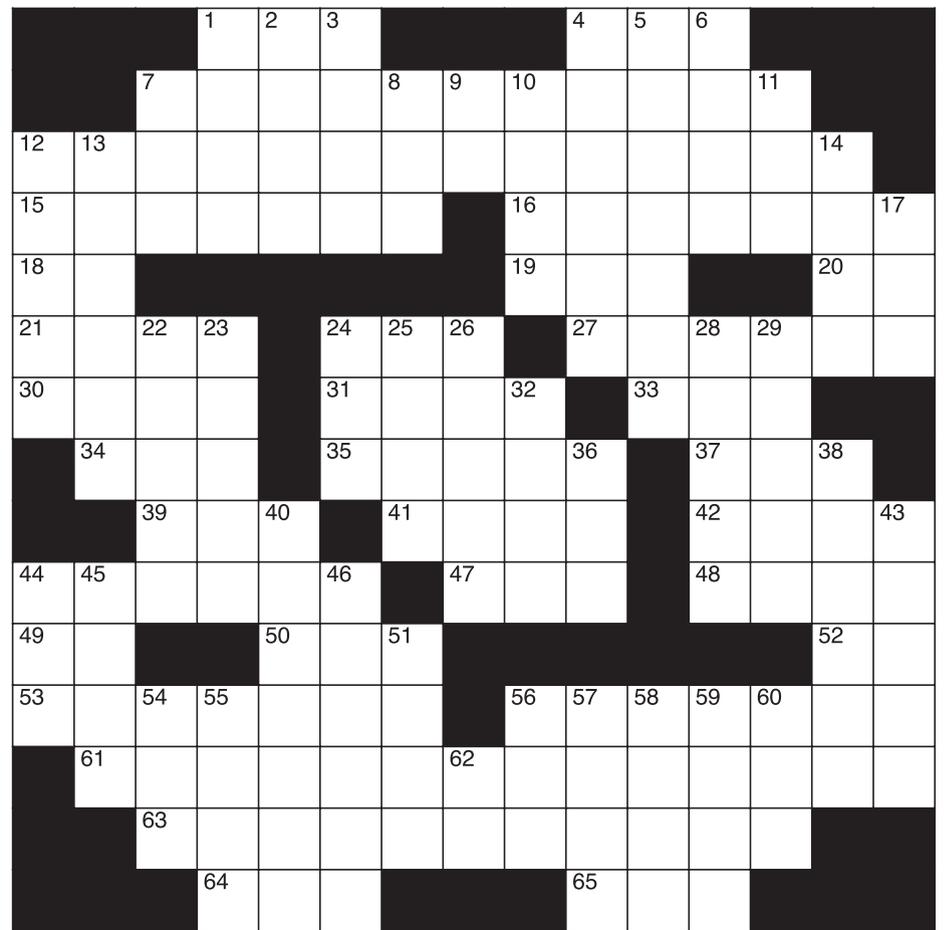
ACROSS

- 1. Brew
- 4. NY ballplayer
- 7. Rigid external covering in some animals
- 12. Promotional materials
- 15. More high-pitched
- 16. Widely cultivated cereal
- 18. Dormitory employee
- 19. Bad act
- 20. One's mother
- 21. Scored perfectly
- 24. Space station
- 27. Exchange for money
- 30. Edible seaweed
- 31. Iranian city
- 33. Lakers' crosstown rivals
- 34. Nothing
- 35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 37. __ student, learns healing
- 39. Military official (abbr.)
- 41. Matchstick games
- 42. Gasteyer and De Armas are two
- 44. Distant planet
- 47. A type of residue
- 48. Punk art icon Jimmy De__

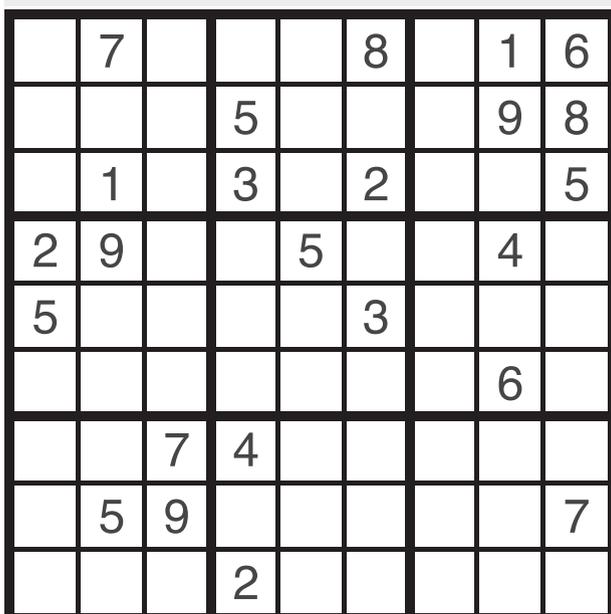
- 49. Millihenry
- 50. Canadian media firm
- 52. Type of withdrawal
- 53. Spicy
- 56. Dish of minced meat or fish
- 61. Noted previously
- 63. Happily
- 64. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 65. Not present

DOWN

- 1. In a way, brought to an end
- 2. Scandalized actress Loughlin
- 3. This (Spanish)
- 4. Essay
- 5. Continuing indefinitely
- 6. Tool for lifting food
- 7. Partner to Adam
- 8. Dry white wine drink
- 9. Spanish be
- 10. Smaller quantity
- 11. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
- 12. (Scottish) island
- 13. Church officer



- 14. Large wrestler
- 17. Polite address for women
- 22. Famed Susan Lucci character "__ Kane"
- 23. Mason __ Line
- 24. Disfigure
- 25. Asian nation
- 26. Rage (Span.)
- 28. Khoikhoi peoples
- 29. Opera solo
- 32. Database management system
- 36. Similar
- 38. Move up and down playfully
- 40. Alfalfa
- 43. Satisfied
- 44. Baseball official
- 45. Large, flightless bird of S. America
- 46. Money given in support
- 51. Flower cluster
- 54. Beginning military rank
- 55. Russian weight measurement
- 56. Explosive
- 57. An individual unit
- 58. Midskirt
- 59. Weapon featuring balls
- 60. Used of a number or amount not specified
- 62. Unit of measurement



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



Add your piece!

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THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW



Issue 43 Winter 2022

INTERNS OFFER NEW FACES IN ENGLISH, SCIENCE AND MATH

By Dustin Lavigne

Mt. Abe is home to 6 interns, all enrolled in UVM's full-year internship program for graduate students interested in earning a Master's degree in Education.

Jonah Francke works with Team Apex's science teacher, Jocelyn Foran. He currently assists Foran with lessons, and sometimes leads his own. He's really enjoying his time interning for Foran, because of the students' enthusiasm. He loves so many different facets of this community, and explained, "I know this year has been hard, but so far, everyone has been so positive and I'm really loving it." There are always challenging aspects of teaching, and Francke has realized that his "biggest challenge so far has been learning how to manage a classroom, and wanting to keep it fun and exciting without it being

too chaotic." He's also learned how to be more patient with middle school students.

Sara Davis is interning with Emily Rinquist, a middle school math teacher. She works with students one-on-one, creates fun lessons, and helps Rinquist. When she becomes a teacher, she would prefer to work with middle schoolers, but is open to the idea of teaching high schoolers. Davis has been enjoying being a student teacher, and her favorite part of teaching has been "building relationships



Francke on a sunny day & Davis' school photo

with the students." She loves the MAUSD environment, because "everyone is very kind to each other." Davis has also had some challenges, mostly with the behavior of some students, and building her patience.

Jen Stein, a postgraduate student at UVM, is interning with English teacher Addie Thompson, and her goal is to become a high school teacher. Stein's job this fall included assisting Thompson in the classroom, and creating lessons to teach. "I really enjoy working with Thompson, because of her fun lessons," said Stein. She's had a lot of ups and downs while at Mount Abe, but what has made her time here worthwhile so far was

"hanging out with incredible teachers and awesome students." Stein looks forward to her days at Mount Abe, because of the incredible students, but not everything is rainbows and fairies. "One of the biggest challenges for me this year is seeing how much both teachers and students are struggling. Being back in school has been challenging for many students, and there have been a lot of behaviors that make students and teachers feel unsafe."

Check out the other three interns that were featured in our Fall 2021 issue:

sites.google.com/alanesu.org/birds-eye-view/

DIESEL AT HCC IS GOOD FOR MANY REASONS

By Hunter Collins

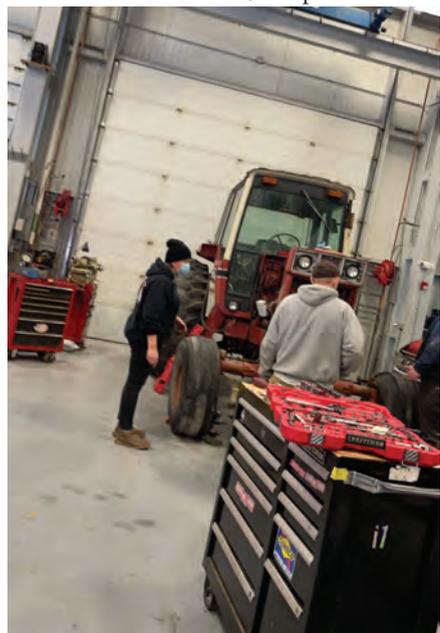
Diesel Power Technology is one of the many programs offered at the Hannaford Career Center, serving about 16 students from various Addison county high schools.

Gretchen Cotell is the instructor of "diesel" at HCC's North Campus. When asked what made her want to teach diesel, she said, "I was the diesel teaching assistant for the year prior to becoming the instructor, which gave me experience and familiarity with the program. My first car was a diesel Peugeot station wagon, so I have always appreciated the unique workings of a diesel engine. I really admire diesel mechanic careers because they keep our supplies moving by land, rail, or sea, and help our farmers produce the food that we eat. As a teacher, I hope to teach

the skills and career readiness that students need to become awesome humans, no matter which career they choose!"

She likes working at Hannaford, explaining, "Our mission statement promotes lifelong learning. I feel that everyday as I teach, I learn. What I enjoy most is that I am actively learning alongside the students." Cotell couldn't come up with anything she doesn't like about teaching diesel, but added, "At first, it was a bit intimidating, being a female in a male-dominated career, but I have never once felt as if I were not competent. My teaching plans sometimes change the moment I pull into the parking lot and suddenly there is a tractor for repair that was not there the night before. I'm much better now at adjusting!" If she had to teach diesel somewhere else, it would be in the marine diesel field in Maine. Cotell's favorite thing about teaching diesel is the Mack truck that the program owns. "I also really enjoy hearing about past students' successes and their journeys through life," she explained.

(See Diesel, Page 5)



Cotell advises students working on a tractor

WORK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL REQUIRES FLEXIBILITY

By Essence Calderon-Melendez

Mt. Abe has had many schedule changes that have affected everyone, not only the students, but the teachers as well. Two middle school teachers and a guidance counselor shared their thoughts on how these changes impacted them.

Ann Fisher became a middle school guidance counselor, because she "studied activity-based counseling in college. I've always learned a lot from young people and being able to spend my 'work' life around interesting young people was an amazing opportunity." Due to COVID-19, the middle school has had a slight schedule change, although Fisher said it hasn't really affected her. Fisher is very good at adapting to different learning abilities because she has a lot of experience with kids and loves to meet new people. Fisher also mentioned that she loves to see the way that

new people learn in new surroundings. Everyone has good and bad days. Fisher's favorite part of being a counselor is "being with kids! I have to stay on my toes, and I'm amazed at the smart, funny, and thoughtful things students say." Fisher said the hardest part of her job so far has been the pandemic. When asked what she likes and dislikes about the school year so far, Fisher responded, "Being able to interact with students 100% of the time is something I enjoy a lot." She added, "I dislike masks, though I know they are necessary!"

Emiko Chrusciel teaches art, and she

(See Middle School, Page 6)



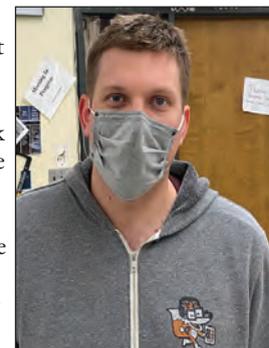
NOT DOING THEIR DREAM JOB, BUT STILL VERY SATISFIED

By Nolan Valkyrie

When people are young, they often dream about their perfect job. The reality is often very different, as seen in the cases of educators Braden Murray and Eric Decker, and counselor John Wermer.

Murray is a special educator at a Mt. Abe who dreamed about being a writer for magazines when he was younger. He said, "I wanted to write Bojack Horseman and if I had created a show, it would be something like that." When asked if he thought he would actually get into this job when he

got older, he said, "No, I learned pretty quickly that to be a writer, it's a lot to go through and at some point, being practical took over." Murray did not take any other jobs in order to pursue his dream job. He said waiting tables until he was able to snag a deal as a writer was not a struggle he wanted to go through. For his current job, he



Special educator Murray

went to college, getting both of his two degrees at UVM. "The steps I took to get my current job also included working as a para-educator and then as a student teacher." Murray's dream job has changed and now he just wants to chill. He is happy with his current job, even though there are highs and lows. While he would like to make more money, he realizes that as a young teacher,

(See Dream Job, Page 3)

OPINIONS

COVID-19's IMPACT ON SCHOOLING

By **Dakota Catella**

When COVID first started, everyone, including me, thought that it wouldn't last very long, so we tried our best to work around it.

No one ever expected COVID would evolve so much, that everyone would be forced to wear masks, but it did. Soon enough, the government shut down schools and "non-essential" workplaces. Wearing masks and shutting down schools was the start of the Coronavirus's impact on students and schooling. I felt like I wasn't impacted by Coronavirus like some of my peers were, and that's probably due to the fact that we didn't have to go to school and that relieved me of the stress.

COVID majorly affected schooling because, during the lockdown, students weren't able to participate in sports, and students that were in 12th grade didn't get the chance to show colleges that they excel at a sport. Also, because of online teaching, students that needed extra help weren't able to get that help as easily, so they had more difficulties than in previous years.

During the summer of 2021, people that had the COVID vaccine began to stop wearing masks because of the low rates of COVID-19. Now there's a new wave of the virus, and it has begun to affect people more than it did in the last wave. In December 2020, the first COVID-19 vaccine came out, but a lot of people still caught COVID, and some even died. Now some COVID shots, like the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, are now fully approved by the FDA, and there's even a booster shot to make them more effective.

COVID-19 was a disaster that messed up a lot of things for a lot of people, but some good things came from the Coronavirus, such as fewer sicknesses because of everyone wearing masks and disinfecting.

SCHOOLS NEED SUPPORT, NOT CRITICISM IN CURRENT SITUATIONS

By **Dustin Lavigne**

Similar to many other schools, MAUSD schools have seen better days. Students have been causing a ruckus in the classroom, and parents are a big reason this is happening, yet they are blaming staff members.

If you live in one of the five towns (Lincoln, Bristol, Monkton, New Haven or Starksboro) you've probably heard what's happening in the schools. According to an October 13th report on WCAX, an elementary school student tore apart a classroom. On December 3rd, Mt. Abe principal Shannon Warden informed families that a student threatened to bring a gun to school.

Teachers and staff members have been doing all they can to subdue these situations, following every rule in place to the best of their ability, and still it's been hard to control these situations. Superintendent



Digital Photo by **Dakota Catella '23**

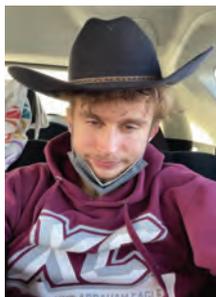
MORE PEOPLE SHOULD BE LIKE SUPERGIRL, MY HERO

By **Jazzlynn Senecal**

Supergirl is my hero because she is brave, honest, kind, and helpful. If more people tried to be like Supergirl, the world would be a better place.

Supergirl's real name is Kara, and I want to be brave like her. For example, when she was in danger, she stayed calm. I want to be more brave in the dark, and I know there are others people who feel the same. People should be more brave like Supergirl because they could learn more things.

It is important to be honest with others like Supergirl, who was honest with her boss, Cat Grant. Honesty is an important part of HEART at Mt. Abe, and people should be honest because it is important to tell the truth to people.



Patrick Reen has been at the center of all this. In my opinion, he's doing an amazing job. According to Bristol Elementary alumni and parents, there used to be a padded room at Bristol Elementary. If a student was violent or causing trouble, they were sent to that room. When parents found out, they were furious. Parents emailed, called, and blamed Reen for this situation. That's when everything went downhill, because students were ripping apart classrooms, and teachers couldn't put them in that padded room, so the teacher would have to remove the other students, and try to calm down the one student throwing a temper tantrum. While the teacher is trying to calm down that one student, the other students are not learning, and schools are supposed to be a learning environment. Reen is being made out to be a bad guy,

ADVICE WITH A SIDE OF HUMOR

By **George Collette**

I'm back, so don't say I never do anything for you. Without further ado, let's get into the advice. *What's the easiest class to pass?*

Failing Junior

Before I say anything, just because it's the easiest to pass does not mean that it's not hard. You're still going to have to do the work and be attentive. That said, the easiest class to pass has got to be Music and Media. Basically, you sit in the band room for a semester and watch movies. You have to write a paragraph after each movie about the music and plot, and you rinse and repeat that cycle for 20 weeks. If I had a nickel for every time I've just sat in Music and Media and thought, "Man, this class is disturbingly easy," I could buy a Tootsie Roll. The end of the unit project is a blast, and the teacher is chill and doesn't really mind if you zone out in class. As long as your analysis is on his desk by the deadline, it's all good. Before you say I'm throwing this teacher under the bus, I'm doing the opposite. I honestly loved this class for the simple reason that the teacher doesn't care how you figure out the movie's content, as long as you get it through your head.

How do I get other students to wear their mask properly?

Infuriated Senior

I would first like to give a shout-out to the unofficial mask patrol members, Annika Funke and Illia Dennison, who do God's work by telling some of our community's more rebellious members to pull up their masks and suck it up. With that taken care of, if you see a student not wearing their mask, simply ask them to put it on and say this, "I don't like it either. Just help us get back to normal." The fact of the matter is that the graduation years of 2020, 2021 and 2022 haven't experienced a COVID-free senior year. This isn't due to the work of a singular 14-year-old who doesn't want to get poked with a miracle of modern science, but instead, a collective effort to mess up every graduating class that isn't their class. If you see someone not wearing their mask, be respectful yet firm, and don't take no for an answer. This is a disease, not a matter of comfort or style.

Where's the best place to nap at school?

Sleepy Sophomore

Alright, I know very well none of you students read the paper, but for the one kid who does, I'm going to let you in on a little secret. In the high school math hall, in Mrs. Mayo's room, in the corner on the left hand side, there is a door that leads to a 3D printer room. In that room, there is another door. Behind that door is the old darkroom, which, if you were born after 1995, is a room where you develop photos, so it has to be almost pitch black for the chemicals to work and develop the pictures. If you can smuggle a sleeping pad into that room and slide in underneath one of the shelves, you're golden. It's pin-drop quiet, totally secluded, and has a decent amount of space for a darkroom. My only warning: don't use it too often. If you get caught sneaking in or out of the darkroom, it will look fishy.

parents don't step up their game, and make sure their kids are given the proper care at home, they will not become better citizens.

Following an incident in December where a student wore a Trump 2020 flag as a cape, another student threatened to bring a gun to school to exercise his Second Amendment Rights. The student who wore the flag gained attention, good and bad, as some supported him and walked with him through the halls, while other students berated him. Where were the parents in these situations? It should've been a red flag when their kid was wearing a Trump flag to school, because people

(See **Support, Page 8**)



because parents are worried for their children, but some of those same parents were the ones who told Reen to get rid of the padded room. I believe he should put that room in place again, because it seemed to have caused fewer problems. Thank you teachers, staff members, and Supt. Reen for trying their best in these situations.

In my opinion, parents are not handling this situation well. During quarantine, a lot of kids stayed home, so they missed a whole year of school. That's not the parents' fault, but unfortunately during this time, some parents neglected their child's education. The outcome of this neglect is that children are acting up, and not listening to their teachers. These kids were not taught proper manners, and probably need more attention at home. Kids look up to their parents, and if they see them doing something inappropriate, they may copy that behavior, because their prefrontal cortex is still forming. If

The **CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS** on this page came from a class called “U.S. Government and purpose of the Civic Action Project (C.A.P.) is to have students explore or express their values by taking a position on a public policy issue they care about. Having taken a position, students then find a way to influence public policy by communicating with their elected representatives, or publicizing their issue through letters to the editor of newspapers, a social media campaign, or starting petitions. The C.A.P. promotes the ethic of active citizenship: the idea that ‘We the People’ means we are empowered and expected to take responsibility for our government and its policies.”

Lack of Access to BIPOC Therapists Needs to be Remedied

In the United States, only 3.8% of therapists are Black. In Vermont, the second whitest state in the country, it can be assumed that the percentage of non-white therapists is also exceedingly low. Additionally, there is an extreme lack of Black therapists in our district. Vermont is a majority white state, and our community here at Mt. Abraham Union High School is predominately white as well. For BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students who live here locally and go to school, there are almost no counselors/mentors who are people of color. This is a huge problem, because when non-white patients are counseled by white therapists, there is an underlying lack of understanding as a result of the racial divide. Due to this inadequacy, I believe there should be a policy put in place in Vermont that allocates more money to the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) to help specifically hire more BIPOC counselors for specialized programs centered around therapy for BIPOC people. The representatives and senators of Addison County should take action by presenting this policy to the Vermont Legislature, in hopes of being able to extend funds to organizations like CSAC so they can create these programs.

CSAC plays a vital role in serving our community here in Addison County, both in schools and across the general public. They serve on a non-discriminatory basis, have created internal board committees around anti-racism for over a year, and are open to extending help to every resident in this county. In addition, they were more than willing to extend their services to the Mt. Abraham community following the events that took place during the week of December 2, 2021, as well. However, there were a limited number of staff members that could actively support BIPOC students with their personal experiences regarding these events and their overall time at Mt. Abe.

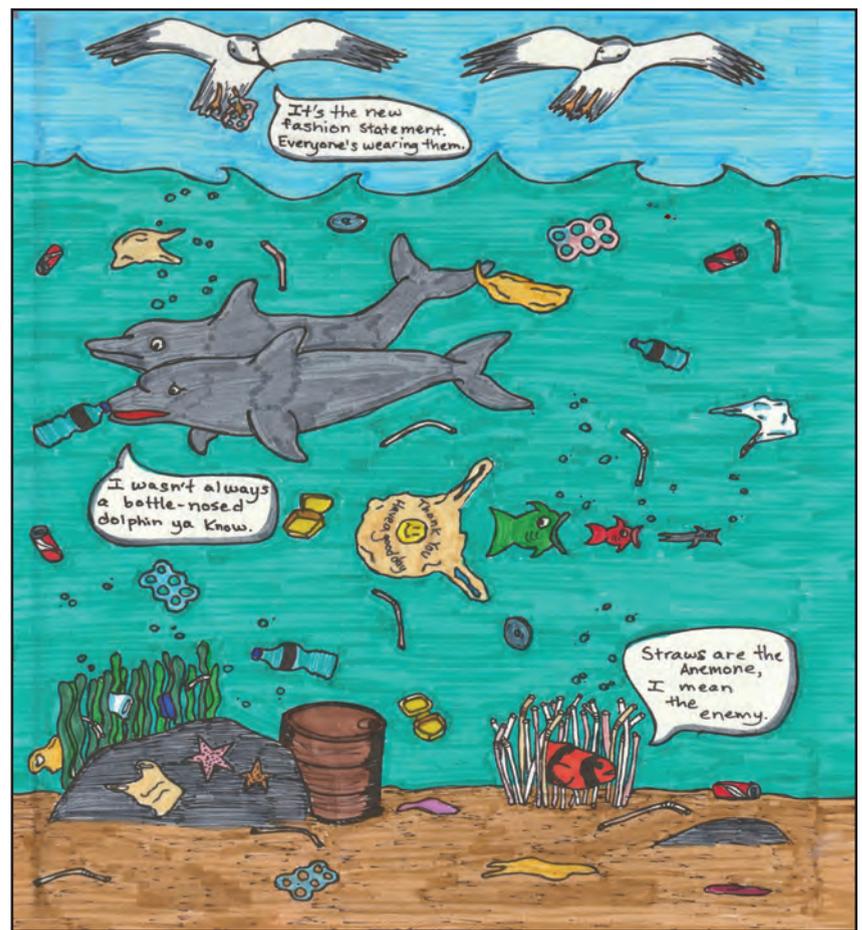
There are too many barriers that BIPOC people have to face in order to actually receive therapy in our county. White therapists will never share BIPOC people's racial experiences, and so there is a fundamental lack of understanding between white therapists and non-white patients when it comes to the patient's experience regarding race. Processing and dealing with layers of trauma that is unique to the individual person on top of new mass traumas from Covid-19, police brutality, and divisive political rhetoric add on baggage that is way too complex for individuals to manage responsibly by themselves. BIPOC people (especially young Black people) are unable to get the help they need, which can lead to substance abuse such as binge drinking, illicit drug use, and prescription pain reliever misuse. According to a study conducted by Ward, Wiltshire, Detry, and Brown in 2011, Black people and African Americans hold beliefs related to stigma around psychological openness and the ability to ask for help, which in turn affects their coping behaviors. The participants in this study were not very open to acknowledging psychological problems, but they were more open to seeking mental health services. Further, the lack of access to BIPOC therapists forces Black people to get white therapists that will never understand the extent of their experiences. This has strong potential to reinforce the idea that Black trauma and pain is exaggerated and can further traumatize the Black person seeking help.

From July 2020 to June 2021, the money allocated to CSAC that was being spent towards adult mental health was 5.68% of the total expenses for that period, which was \$1.3 million out of \$23.7 million. CSAC gets 80.08% of their funds from Medicaid, which is a federal program, and a small amount of their funding comes from grants and emergency funds. Right now, there is not currently a specific program directly for BIPOC-related mental health counseling. A member of the CSAC staff stated that in an ideal world with more staff and funds available, they would absolutely want to take part in creating these specialized programs for BIPOC people to be counseled by adults who understand and can personally relate to the social and racialized world they live in.

Starting this conversation is important, but there needs to be action taken. I absolutely believe that there needs to be more money put towards programs like these. The senators and representatives of Addison County should bring this issue to their fellow legislators and request that adequate funds be extended to CSAC in order for these BIPOC-centered counseling programs to be possible. Especially as a majority white community, it is essential that we provide the appropriate and accessible mental health services to BIPOC residents who are in need.

Olivia Campbell '23

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Political Cartoon by Elena Bronson '22, whose CAP was about single-use plastics

Finding Ways to Support its Veterans

As a senior from Mt. Abraham Union High School, I am doing a project on ways to support the veterans in our state. During my research, I learned about an organization called Supportive Services for Veteran Families, which is located at the University of Vermont in Burlington. Its mission is to help low income families and homeless veterans. In the past year, there were 36,988 veterans in the state. Supportive Services for Veteran Families has provided services to approximately 146 veteran families yearly, since they got funded in 2013. Approximately 71 Vermont veterans are homeless and about 6,951 Vermont veterans live in homes with one or more major problems of quality, crowding, or cost. Housing affordability is the greatest housing problem among veterans. Roughly 30 percent of Vermont veterans pay too much for their housing. Now that's when Supportive services for veteran families come in. On their website, they show quarterly services of how many people they've helped. In the last quarter of this past year, they helped out 191 veterans who were homeless or had very low incomes. We should help more veterans connect with this organization. That way, we could do more for veterans in our state. Please consider giving donations of money, clothes, and food, and for more information, check out Supportive Services for Veteran Families at ssvf-uvvm.com

Hunter Gorton '22

DREAM JOB

(Continued from Page 1)

you need to put the time in. He isn't living paycheck to paycheck, but he knows there is a better salary in his future. He also recognizes that his dream job of being a writer “would probably not have paid any better.”

Eric Decker is a special educator at Mt. Abe who said the following about his dream job: “As a kid, I always envisioned myself being a soldier in the army, getting to go overseas and having adventures. As I moved into high school, what I started pursuing was business, because I wanted to be in marketing.” He thought he would actually get into this job, adding, “I saw a path to go to business



Special Educator Decker

school and it was very doable and I did internships in college that could have led me there.” When asked about jobs he did for his future, Decker said, “I did some internships, got an initial placement at a job, but didn't like the culture or the expectations that came along with that job. I started looking at other interests I had in sciences, so I went back to college, pursued an environmental science degree and that ultimately led me into teaching through substituting.” Now he's in a job that he really decided he wanted to be in, even if it's not his dream job. He explained, “Like any job, I'm enjoying it. I enjoy what I do, but I wish I made more money doing what I do,

so there's an imbalance there.” While he might have made more money in marketing, he added, “My pay scales are increasing, so it's becoming more comfortable, but I feel like I'm working more.”

John Wermer is a school-based clinician who dreamed of being an archaeologist because he loved dinosaurs. When asked if he thought he would actually get into this job, Wermer replied, “I thought I would. I wanted to be one for a few years.” He became interested in his dream job by watching “Dinosaurs TV show, where people rode dinosaurs around and I thought that was awesome.” Wermer needed to go to college for his current job, but did not do any other jobs to try to get into his dream job. He is happy with his current job, but he doesn't make enough money. He doesn't know if his dream job would pay more, but said, “It might have given me more opportunities for travel.”

REVIEWS

HISTORIAN TELLS ALL ABOUT ETHAN ALLEN

By George Collette

Author, professor, and historian, Willard Sterne Randall recently visited Mt. Abe and in the course of less than an hour, explained the life and actions of Ethan Allen and dove deep into Vermont's history.

Randall spoke with conviction and wisdom, leaving no historiographical stone unturned. He started out with a funny anecdote, saying, "All I ever heard about Ethan Allen when I came to Vermont some 30 years ago, was, 'Oh, Ethan, all he did was drink!' So I thought he might be interesting." When he published his book, *Ethan Allen: His Life and Times*, a reviewer from the *Wall Street Journal* attempted to sum up the book, saying, "Ethan Allen was the founding father of Vermont." Randall felt this constituted a vast understatement. He then gave an entertaining yet lengthy monologue on how Allen came here on the run, kicked out of 2 colonies before coming to the Green Mountain State because he spoke his mind and experimented scientifically.

Randall explained how Allen learned how to build a township from his father, Joseph Allen. The Allens, with 19 other families, moved from Litchfield, Connecticut, to the Northeastern corner of Massachusetts, to a town called Cornwall. Ethan Allen would eventually find himself in what today is Bennington, having purchased land from Benning Wentworth, a wealthy land tycoon in New Hampshire. It was here that New York pumped the brakes on the whole operation, claim-



Randall pauses for a picture on a nice VT day they had owned the land since 1664. The settlers of Bennington sent Allen to battle it out in the courts. New York officials tried to bribe Allen by offering him a horse, which he took, but did not capitulate to the demands. They offered him money, but he turned it down. At this point, Allen formed the Green Mountain Boys. Randall spoke clearly and slowly, and just as it started to get monotonous, Randall would switch up to a different topic, and often added little bits of humor.

Randall went on to show what Allen looked like, and how he tried to dress his best, stating, "This often led to him being indebted to someone for a hat or a coat he couldn't afford." After that, he talked about how Allen made himself a colonel, in charge of 300 soldiers from 29 different towns which challenged the name, Green Mountain Boys. Randall spoke with an inspired tone and had prepared another

(See *Historian*, Page 7)

FILM *DUNE* FAILS TO LIVE UP TO CULTURAL IMPACT MADE BY BOOK

By Txuxa Konczal

Dune is a visual cinematic masterpiece directed by Denis Villeneuve, yet many important political statements made in Frank Herbert's 1965 book are missing in the movie.

Dune boasts an impressive cast, with Timothee Chalamet, Zendaya, Jason Momoa and other notable actors assuming roles in the film. The story is set 2500 years in the future. The book explores cultural roots and makes political statements; the movie, not so much.

Both portray how the colonization of a location for its resources leads to the oppression of indigenous people, which serves as a critique of our society. The audience sees the Fremen (the Indigenous group on the planet) being oppressed and their land being exploited in both the book and film. The book spends more time on this, but for the time allotted, the movie captures the essence. As the audience questions the treatment of the Fremen, they are forced to question the treatment of colonized people in our world.

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH TRANSCENDS IN *POWER OF THE DOG*

By Aidan Harris

Netflix has loads to offer and recently, the streaming service released a new movie titled *Power of the Dog*, a Netflix original and it is definitely worth the watch.

Power of the Dog is a Neo-Western based on the book by Thomas Savage. It is similar to movies such as *No Country for Old Men* (2007) or *Cry Macho* (2021). Neo-Westerns are thematically and atmospherically westerns, but tend to be more relatable, and are set in a modern setting. *Power of the Dog* is the latest of this subgenre, and stars Benedict Cumberbatch, Jesse Plemons and Kirsten Dunst. Set in Montana in 1925, Phil (Cumberbatch) and George (Plemons) own a cattle ranch and have been partners for 25 years. When George meets a local widow named Rose (Dunst), they end up getting married and move into the ranch. Phil feels betrayed and jealous of his brother and begins to intimidate Rose and her son, Peter, played by Kodi Smit-McPhee.

The acting in this movie is phenomenal. Dunst's performance as an

NEW DIESEL TRUCKS NOT NECESSARILY BETTER THAN PRE-2007 TRUCKS

By Evan Oberle

There are so many new features on new trucks these days, but that does not mean new trucks are better than old ones.

Although new trucks have many more features that are great, in reality, it does not make them better. In some cases, it actually makes them less reliable than older trucks. For example, new trucks have something called a Diesel Particle Filter or DPF system, which is needed to pass the Environmental Protection Agency laws because of the smoke they produce, but what most people don't understand is how they actually work. A DPF system collects all of the soot that the engine produces until it gets full. This causes you to perform a regen which burns it all to ash and still



in this case, the Fremen. This is a classic narrative, played out time and again in the media. Both Villeneuve and Herbert successfully critique Paul's character in his role as a white savior.

Science fiction often avoids religion as a whole, but if sci-fi does include religion, it is almost always Eurocentric. The book explores this concept by placing many religions into futuristic storytelling. Islam is a primary religion in the book, drawing analogies to the history of Islam, and in doing so, places Islam in the future. The book uses Koranic axioms, and the Bible in *Dune's* universe reflects the Shiite Bible. Both of these connections to Islam are missing in the movie. Paul's mission is referred to as Jihad in the book. The film

The concept of the white savior is also explored. European nations colonized the world for hundreds of years, oppressing the indigenous people of the lands they assumed control over. Those with power in *Dune* exploit and oppress the Fremen. Paul (Chalamet) is your classic white savior, coming to save people of color,

calls his journey a "Holy War" instead of employing the language Herbert used in the novel. Jihad has a modern connotation of Islamic terrorism, so Villeneuve seems to generally avoid this in the film. However, in doing so, he also misses Herbert's positive message of Jihad as a struggle against colonialism. The film does the bare minimum and leaves much more to be desired in terms of cultural connections.

The language in the book, while not discernibly one modern language, has strong references to colloquial Arabic. Herbert's son, in a biography of his father, reasoned Arabic would "likely survive centuries in the desert." The film, however, completely abandons that concept. The movie opts for different linguistic origins, so there are few Arabic references, and when they do appear, they do so with poor pronunciation, appearing to have a nearly Americanized accent.

Dune is an excellent book, and the movie captures the story successfully, but it leaves behind some cultural and political aspects that made the book so revolutionary. If you are going to watch the movie, you should read the book first.

emotionally-challenged alcoholic struggling with the circumstances brought upon her is gripping. Plemons delivers the perfect amount of awkwardness as George, the younger brother to Phil, and the same can be said for Smit-McPhee. Cumberbatch steals the show as the older brother. His ability to shift gears from one emotion to another make him an intriguing



and terrifying presence, making this film quite possibly his magnum opus. The cinematography is incredible and the camera definitely captures the vast emptiness and grandeur of the Montana wilderness, while adding to the key ideas of loneliness and endlessness. The 2-hour runtime is filled with a mix of beautiful shots of both Montana and New Zealand, which actually bears resemblance to the Montana Rockies. The movie was directed by a woman named Jane Campion, which is notable in a genre dominated by male directors.

Speaking of gender roles, the movie's themes are unique for a western. *Power of the Dog* features two queer characters, Peter and Phil. Peter is introduced early

on in the movie as socially awkward and the people around him know he is gay. Phil, on the other hand, is volatile, shrewd, emotionally manipulative and is a downright despicable character. The story breaks the stereotype of the "sensitive gay man" because early on, Phil is rough around the edges. Deep down, Phil has a soft side to him despite his rugged exterior, shown through his relationship with Bronco Henry. We also see another side of Phil in his relationship with his brother George. While Phil doesn't treat George with any decency in the story, it is clear that when George settles down with Rose, Phil gets jealous. Although Phil has the ranch hands and his brother around, there is a sense of loneliness that surrounds him. George and Rose's marriage threatens the dynamic between the brothers, so even though he's intimidating, it's hard not to feel bad for Phil at certain moments in the film.

In 2019, renowned director Martin Scorsese argued that modern mainstream movies have become empty and hollow, with little emotional depth and simple action. *Power of the Dog* is emotionally and thematically complex, and that is exactly what movies need more of nowadays.

releases it out into the air. If they are not regenerated properly, it can cause poor engine performance and sometimes puts the truck in limp mode. If that happens, the owner would then have to put even more money into a \$60,000+ truck.

Before all of the emission laws came into effect, older trucks were much more reliable than the trucks they are making now. Most people hate seeing trucks producing black smoke, but don't understand that whether or not it's producing smoke, it's all going to go into the air, whether it has a DPF system or



1999 Ford Powerstroke diesel truck

not. Yes, diesel trucks smoke, but without them, this world would not be the way it is. In my opinion, all the EPA is doing is forcing truck manufacturers to make their trucks less reliable with all the emission laws. In most cases, older trucks are better when it comes to buying parts, because they are cheaper than new truck parts. Although

new truck parts are more expensive, they are easier to find, because as the years go by, there are fewer old trucks on the road.

They started producing the DPF systems on pickups in 2008, so if you are (See *Trucks*, Page 7)

KNIVES OUT A GREAT MYSTERY FILM DESPITE AN EARLY REVEAL

By Sam Schoendorf

The award-winning film, *Knives Out*, released in 2019, follows private detective Benoit Blanc as he investigates the mystery surrounding the death of multimillionaire mystery writer Harlen Thrombey, played by Christopher Plummer.

Set in Thrombey manor, the movie opens with a caretaker walking into Harlen's room to discover he is dead, his throat slit. The following week, the police and Blanc (Daniel Craig) interview everyone who had attended a party held at the manor the night before. Each person has a different and sometimes contradicting perspective. After we see the events of the night in the first



third of the movie, we learn who killed Harlen Thrombey.

Probably the best part of this movie, or at least what sets it apart from other mysteries, is the reveal of the killer so early on. Around a third of the way in, at the 40-minute mark, we see the true events of the night leading up to Thrombey's death.

The entire movie switches to a thriller, where we are wondering if the killer will get away with it, not because we want them to get caught, but because we want them to get away with it. Of course, there are more twists later on, but the movie maintains the suspense given by this reveal.

For most of the movie, the eccentric

color pallet of the manor gives the film an appealing feeling and pop, but towards the last third of the movie, the colors change as we are forced outside of the manor for a significant amount of time. The vibrant colors of the clothing and the mansion are gone, replaced with the grays of a downtown city in Massachusetts in late fall, and the drab outside world hits us. Even in a car chase, the tone was disappointing, like the whole movie had suddenly lost all emotion. Similarly, the death of a character in this part of the movie ironically fits the tone. Their death was disappointing and the character as a whole was underdeveloped, so their death only stood to set up the ending, which, to be fair, was fantastic.

The cast was filled with great actors, all of whom worked together to make the

MORE REVIEWS

movie as good as it was. The casting of Chris Evans as Ransom Drysdale fit incredibly well. Evans, who has been known as Captain America for over a decade, plays an entirely different character: an arrogant bum liked by no one. The other actors work together to create a dysfunctional family, all accurately portrayed as being spoiled their whole lives.

As private detective Blanc uncovers the mystery, we learn about a dependent family who will never be the same. The movie's twist sets it apart from other murder mysteries, and after seeing it in theaters in 2019, the movie stuck with me as one of my favorites. I will definitely be seeing *Knives Out 2* when it releases!

LIGHTNING THIEF BOOK AND FILM BOTH ENJOYABLE, DESPITE DIFFERENCES

By Joane Kapanaga

The Lightning Thief is a 2005 American fantasy-adventure novel based on Greek mythology and the first book in the *Percy Jackson* series that Rick Riordan wrote for young adults. In 2010, the book was converted into a movie directed by Chris Columbus and starring Logan Lerman, Brandon T. Jackson, Alexandra Daddario and Jake Abel.

The book and the movie both tell the story of Percy Jackson (Lerman) who doesn't know that his dad is Poseidon, which makes him a demigod. When Zeus' lightning bolt is stolen, Zeus thinks Poseidon used Percy to steal it and he wants it back before the summer solstice, or there will be a war between gods. When Percy is attacked by a Fury on a school trip, Percy's best friend, Grover Underwood (Jackson) and his Latin teacher, Mr. Brunner (Pierce Brosnan) help Percy defeat him, and they



instruct Percy and his mom to flee to Camp Half-Blood on Long Island, a safe place for demigods like Percy to train and live. At camp, he meets Annabeth Chase (Daddario), daughter of Athena, and Luke Castellan (Abel) son of Hermes, among other demigods, and realizes Grover is a satyr and Mr. Brunner is a centaur. When he finds out that his mother was kidnapped by Hades, Percy goes on a quest with Annabeth and Grover to find the lightning bolt thief and save his mother.

The main difference between the movie and the book is that in the book, Percy and Annabeth are 12 years old, and in the movie, they are 16 years old. This changes their transportation options, because in the movie version, they are allowed to drive, but in the book, they constantly have to use public transportation. Another big difference is that when he arrives at Camp Half-Blood in the movie, everyone except

Percy knows he is Poseidon's son, while in the book, nobody knows until Poseidon gives a sign. In the book, Annabeth and Percy try to work together and be friends by avoiding their parent's rivalry, but in the movie, they seem quite attracted to each other. Additionally, Percy has some arguments with Ares' demigod son and daughters in the book, especially with Clarisee, but she isn't even in the *Lightning Thief* movie, but appears in the film's sequel. The book's series fans say that for the movie, certain elements of Clarrise's character were combined with Annabeth's personality in the books. In the book, Ares has an antagonist role and even has a fight with Percy, but in the movie, he just appears at the end in Olympus and doesn't have an antagonist role. Finally, Annabeth's

family is not even mentioned in the film.

Many people that read the books were disappointed by the movie, because of all the changes and omissions and because the movie characters didn't look like the book described them, but some say they might have enjoyed the movie if they hadn't read the book first. Others say that important scenes were lost in the conversion. I saw the movie before I read the book, and I really enjoyed both of them, but I liked the book more, because there was more action and more references to Greek mythology.

Last May, it was announced that an adaptation of author Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* novels will be coming to Disney+ as a live-action series, reportedly out in 2023, so hopefully this series will be more similar to the books and book fans will enjoy it more.

EVEN NON-FOOTBALL FANS WILL ENJOY ALL-AMERICAN

By Hayden Barrows

All-American is a TV series that is filled with emotion and incorporates real life events and emotions, creating a show that is so relatable that any audience can really enjoy it.

Spencer James (Daniel Ezra) is the main character of the show who tries to balance football and real life.

He lives in Crenshaw, California, with his mom Grace (Karimah Westbrook) and his brother Dillon (Jalyn Hall). His dad left him at a young age to go coach football in Nevada, so Spencer grew up angry because of his father's departure.

Spencer uses football as a path to help his family in the future. He is the star of the show, every time he steps on the field. In his sophomore year, he decided to transfer from his hometown high school to Beverly High to have a better chance to get recognition from colleges. He was able to do that with the help of Beverly High School coach Billy Baker (Taye Diggs) who was also a former NFL player and friend of Spencer's dad.

The transition is rough for Spencer because the Beverly High players have a



hard time accepting a superstar player coming in and taking the spot of Asher Adams (Cody Christian) who was already the greatest wide receiver ever at their school. Because Spencer grew up poor, seeing people his age having all this money makes him think they are spoiled and unfeeling which he learns is untrue.

After his sophomore year, a lot happened. For example, he went to a cotillion with Olivia Baker (Samantha Logan) who is the daughter of his coach. After the cotillion, he got shot in a drive-by shooting because he moved in front of the bullets that were heading toward Olivia and the bullets ended up hitting him in his shoulders. After being rushed to the hospital, the doctors tell him that he has two options: leave the bullet in his shoulder which would end his football career, or have surgery which has the risk of paralyzing his whole left side, but if successful, he could resume his football career.

All-American is a show that is filled with tons of action and I recommend it to anyone to watch. It's really inspiring the way every character in the show goes through their own adversity.

DIESEL (Continued from Page 1)

When asked how she got into diesel, Cotell answered, "I grew up in a very small town in Massachusetts on top of a mountain. My childhood was spent outdoors with my brother and neighbor friends, driving trucks through the woods. My dad had an old Dodge Power Wagon that we used for hauling firewood off our land. I was driving when I was able to reach the pedals. We always had some mechanical project that needed repair of some sort. As I grew older, I was passionate about my own cars and always enjoyed driving. Although I spent most of my thirties raising babies, I was self-sufficient on a small wooded parcel of land with a log cabin and small barn in Rochester. My first tractor was a Bolens 3-cylinder diesel tractor with a belly mower and bucket. When I was offered the opportunity to teach diesel, it just seemed a very natural fit."

Cotell would be willing to teach a subject other than diesel, explaining, "I love movement and changes, and any new learning opportunity. I always feel ready to teach something else or support students in a new way. At some point in time, I hope that I am able to pursue the position as co-op coordinator. I would like the opportunity to build upon relationships with our industry partners and our students." If she could have a job not diesel-related, she said, "I'd like to think that I have potential to do any job well, but I think I'd really

miss the diesel students and program opportunities. Addison County is a very special place to live. I enjoy being part of the farming and trucking community and its people. Diesel has far reaching attributes that impact the lives of many every day. It is a very meaningful career."

Mt. Abe junior Evan Oberle joined the diesel program at HCC because "it's better than the auto program." His long term plan after completion is to become a diesel technician. The only thing he dislikes about diesel is that "it's more complicated than auto." When asked about the learning environment, Oberle said, "It's good. The people are nice, and the shop is big." He has never considered dropping diesel, because he needs to learn the skills to become a diesel technician. The most interesting thing he has learned is "everything. The trucks, the engines, how stuff works. It's all interesting to me."

Kasey Cavoretto is also a Mt. Abe junior who likes the diesel program because "I can learn something there." He joined the diesel program so he doesn't have to be at school. His long term plan after diesel is work. Cavoretto dislikes being in the classroom at the program, but added, "It's good when we are in the shop." Like Oberle, he has never considered dropping diesel. He has a job that relates to diesel, working for Acker Excavation. The most interesting thing he has learned in diesel is how to use a crane to lift the engines and various things around the shop.

SURVEYS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Continued from Page 1)

decided to become a middle school teacher because she “liked art growing up and began to help in a pottery class.” When asked how she adapted to the schedule changes, Chrusciel explained that she had to shorten her lessons to fit into the 45-minute blocks and adjust to students' learning abilities. She handles these situations by focusing more on the process and less on the outcome.” For Chrusciel, the hardest part of teaching is “providing enough instruction and individual instruction for everyone.



Being in middle school is a lot to handle for the kids and teachers.” Change is necessary to create better outcomes, and if she could change anything, Chrusciel said, “Make the classes longer and add the resources to do bigger and longer projects.” When asked if COVID-19 had any effect on the way she taught, Chrusciel responded, “Yes, I continue to use Google Classroom as a hub for materials and rubrics, just in case we ever go back into remote learning.”

Many students say that P.E. teacher Jordan Vickers is one of the best teachers at Mt. Abe. He was also asked how the new schedule affected him, and he responded, “I teach both middle and high school, so it is challenging to switch between schedules each day. It's harder for me to know what class is happening.” P.E. is different than other learning environments, and can be harder to deal with various learning abilities. Vickers handles these situations by “finding the best way to teach all my students. I like to keep students engaged and active.” When asked about his favorite part of teaching, he responded, “I am passionate about physical activity, sport and outdoor recreation. Getting to share that with others is why I became a P.E. teacher.” Through his



class, many students are able to express themselves in a way they aren't able to in their normal, everyday classroom. “Along with physical activity comes new bonds that you and your classmates make along the way,” he added. Vickers talked about the effects of the pandemic on how teaches, saying, “It has been the most difficult time of my life as a professional and in general. COVID-19 put a lot of people in difficult positions and because of that, we all need to work together now more than ever.”

All three teachers comments should be a reminder that although we might not be prepared for everything that comes our way, if we work together, we can make it through as one united school.

EDUCATORS REFLECT ON TEACHING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Txuxa Konczal

COVID-19 has impacted the education system immensely. A survey was sent to individuals working in the Mt. Abraham Unified School District, and 39 educators responded to questions about working in schools during the pandemic.

While students, families, and community members have struggled with the global pandemic, teachers have taken the brunt of many significant challenges. They have been challenged with reintegrating students into a structured environment, including students who have lived without normalcy for almost 2 years. This challenge is causing great duress. The results suggested that the majority of staff in Mt. Abe's learning community do not feel properly supported in the classroom, COVID has forced teachers to change classroom practices and curriculums, and teachers' emotional well-being is suffering.

When asked whether they felt that they were receiving the support necessary for a successful classroom, about 2/3 of respondents said they did not feel properly supported. The consensus was that there are not enough adults in classrooms to assist students and support an efficient learning environment. Nearly 68% of teachers stated that they have noticed a change in post-pandemic behavior. “Students' needs for meaningful interactions and nurturing care is greatly increased with the pressures on families and individuals coping in a pandemic,” stated one respondent. Poor behavior has caused problems in the classroom, yet there are not enough staff to address this issue. One teacher said the following about what is needed: “More one-on-one support for individual students, and smaller classes would be better for all. This has not been addressed successfully.”

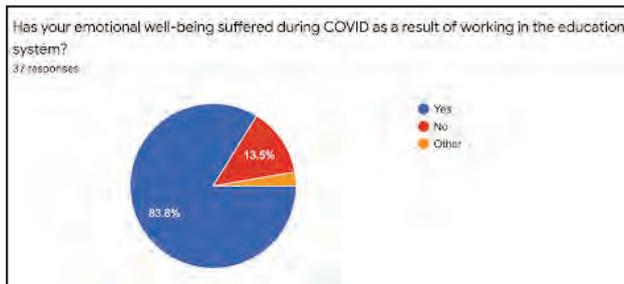
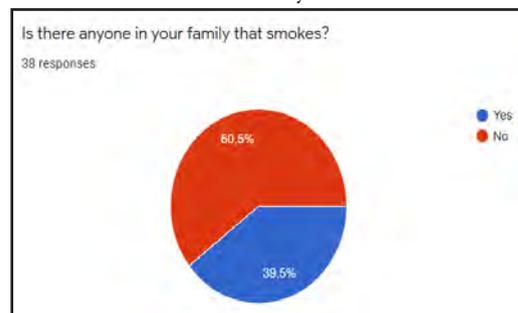
From pre-pandemic schooling to now, teachers observed the most changes in social interaction, engagement, work ethic, and behavior. A whopping 80.2% of teachers said they have had to make changes in their classrooms and curriculum due to these shifts. The most significant focus has been social-emotional learning. About 60% of teachers noted a change in social interaction amongst stu-

RESPONDENTS HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO SMOKE, SOME TRYING TO QUIT

By Dakota Catella

There are a handful of people that smoke nowadays, but out of the 38 responses in this survey, it was clear that more people don't smoke than those that do. According to cdc.gov, “Nearly 14 out of every 100 U.S. adults aged 18 or older currently smoke cigarettes.”

This study invited all students and staff members at Mt. Abe to participate, and results showed how many families out



dents, forcing teachers, specifically those in the elementary schools, to “re-teach students how to interact appropriately in larger groups.” Another massive shift from pre-COVID to now was that 51.4% of respondents saw changes in work ethic, and 64.9% saw changes in focus and engagement. One respondent said, “I try to use a variety of strategies in my lesson to engage students.” Multiple teachers noted that they have had to lighten work loads. Nearly 68% of respondents noted changes in behavior. “This year I have had students swear at me and be violent in my room, and I have never seen students be so mean to each other,” said one middle school teacher. Teachers are forced to ensure that classrooms remain safe and are productive learning spaces. Many teachers are adding more structure in attempts to quell poor behavior. “I'm saddened to see how much the past two years have harmed our students,” added a high school teacher.

Because teachers are expected to constantly adapt to this turbulent time, without sufficient support, many are struggling. A staggering 83.3% of teachers stated that their mental health has suffered due to their position as an educator. Because teachers are expected to keep students healthy, and engaged, and ensure that progress is being made, while also handling poor behavior, they are feeling much more stressed. “There's more on our plates than ever before and we're still expected to make academic gains for students. Data is being pushed as the most important, when really all our students just need to know that they're safe and loved,” said one respondent. High school teacher Lisa Gryzb stated simply, “There's just so much stress.” These added layers of struggle for educators is dampening the passion

many had for teaching. “I have become depressed and no longer feel the love of teaching like I did before,” stated one teacher.

While this year has posed many challenges for educators, 68.8% of educators said that at least some good has come from post-pandemic learning. One highlight was the more

efficient use of technology. “It has forced us to come up with new ways of learning, mostly how to develop digital learning opportunities” stated one teacher. Zoom meetings are also being used efficiently. Several respondents noted that masks are keeping people healthier, with a greater focus on hygiene. After spending a year at home with students, families have a new lens on what it is like to educate. One respondent captured it perfectly, saying, “Remote learning created a lot of gratitude around the teaching profession and the work that we do for kiddos. Open House, parent conferences, and all of those interactions this year have been a THANK YOU. FEST!” Another consistently noted positive aspect was that “Admin has made itself very available.”

The pandemic has caused hardship for many, but changes must be made. “I am starting to feel like I can't continue with this profession unless changes are made to better support students and staff,” stated one teacher and it is clear that, “we absolutely will lose talented educators who would have stayed, but now will leave because it just isn't a good job anymore.”



of 38 responses had or still have a family member that smokes. There were several questions related to smoking that the respondents had the choice to answer, and many had good advice for the people who wanted to stop smoking.

The results of the study revealed that 39.5% of families have someone who smokes, and 60.5% do not. In addition, 33.3% of those who smoke are trying to quit, while 24% are not, and another 40% was not sure if they were trying. Junior Dustin Lavigne said, “My family doesn't have any smokers, so we haven't suffered any problems from smoke inhalation.” When asked about who in their family smokes, freshman Shaylee Briggs said, “My dad's mother, aka Grandma, and my mom's mom, aka Nanny.” Briggs had some ideas

for helping them quit, saying, “Just be supportive...help them out with the emotional aspects and check in with them.”

At over 70%, the most popular method for quitting was chewing gum and having lollipops instead of cigarettes, and the second most popular at 57% were nicotine patches. When asked about some ways that people can try to quit smoking, 7th grader Bella Osborne said, “Exercise and eating healthy,” and one anonymous respondent said, “Help them make healthier choices in their daily life and help them feel better about themselves.”

Nearly 40% of respondents had someone in their family who smoked, but quit. One anonymous respondent said they were relieved when their father quit, and what motivated him to quit was that “he had a heart attack, and greatly altered his lifestyle to a more healthy one.”

SURVEY DRAWS FEW RESPONSES BUT STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION PROPOSALS

By Sam Schoendorf

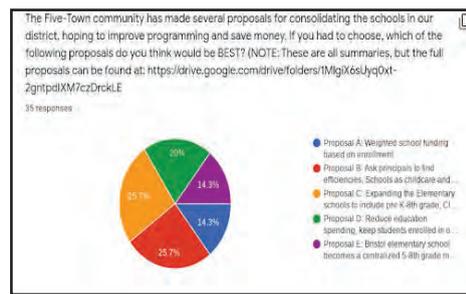
In a recent survey, 35 students in grades 7-12 answered questions about certain school consolidation proposals and which they thought were the best.

The most popular proposals were B and C, with 9 people for each. Proposal B included: asking the principals to find efficiencies, using the schools as childcare and early learning centers, using COVID federal funding, and cutting superintendent's office expenses. Proposal C included expanding elementary schools to include 7th and 8th grades, closing Mt. Abe, and paying the tuition of high school students to go to Middlebury, CVU, or Vergennes. An anonymous respondent chose proposal B because it, "seems like the method with the least negative impact."

Of the people who responded to the

question about closing schools, 41.2% of the responses were in favor of closing some of the elementary schools, while only 14.7% of the respondents were in favor of closing Mt. Abe. When asked why they weren't in favor of closing Mt. Abe, sophomore Joann Toy said, "We would lose so much in terms of community. Teachers, sports, music and theatre, and all of the connections people have made through things they love to do here."

A little over half believed that consolidation, or any of the proposals were a good idea, 29% said that none were, and 19.2% wrote in answers other than yes or no. When asked why they thought none of the proposals were a good idea, Sophomore Lexi Keith said, "Mt Abe is a great school, it should stay open." Of the 16 respondents whose elementary school was facing



possible closure, 11 were opposed to closing some of the elementary schools. Eighth grader Dylan Wells said, "People need to make their money, if you shut them down you are taking away some people's jobs."

Respondents were also asked how they felt about merging with Vergennes, and only 8 people were in favor of joining with Vergennes, with 11 saying maybe,

and 15 said no. Eighth grader Addison Wright added, "Last year, a proposal was mentioned about having one of the two schools (Mt. Abe and Vergennes) be middle school and one be high school and I think that would be a good idea. That proposal would benefit everyone, while still offering the ease of travel to students and parents."

The general consensus seems to be negative towards proposals. Students don't want much to change within the district and if change is needed, it seems that these respondents preferred it to come from the elementary schools. They enjoy Mt. Abe and don't want to have to switch to a new school with new people. Wright later summed it up by saying, "I don't think closing Mt. Abe would be beneficial to the community."

SOME STUDENTS NEED MORE SUPPORT FROM TEACHERS AND STAFF TO FEEL COMFORTABLE

By Essence Calderon-Melendez

Mt. Abe recently experienced a rough patch, causing a divide in our school and leaving people feeling unheard, or like they aren't getting the support they need. A recent survey attempted to get the students' perspective about what could be improved, and 45 students responded.

Students were asked if they felt their emotional and educational needs were being met in school. More than half of the students who responded said sometimes, while only 33.3% said all the time. Around 4 percent felt unsupported. Eighth grader Dylan Wells said sometimes, and

responded, "It feels like we are doing our best, and we are doing good and I don't want us to push ourselves over the edge." Junior Addison Mayhew feels supported most of the time and explained, "I have a good support system in the building and wonderful teachers. My classes are enjoyable, but sometimes I feel overwhelmed by the amount of work I receive."

Over half of the students who took the survey felt as though they get the same amount of support as other students, while over 25% of the students felt like they get less support. Only 7% feel as though they get more support than other students.

Freshman Bella Hartwell stated, "I think teachers favor a lot of students (including me) and it's a really weird feeling."

When asked if teachers could do more to support students, three-fourths of respon-

dents said they don't need more support from teachers, but 25% feel they need more support to be successful. Junior Vivian Siegfried thought it might be helpful if teachers were "learning and being trained to deal with kids suffering from chronic diseases that aren't well understood by society, let alone the medical community."

More than half of respondents felt they had a place or belonged at Mt. Abe, but sadly, 22 percent feel like they don't belong here. "I just feel like some teachers seem to care more about other students, and in general, it just feels like I don't belong," seventh grader Maisa Allen said.

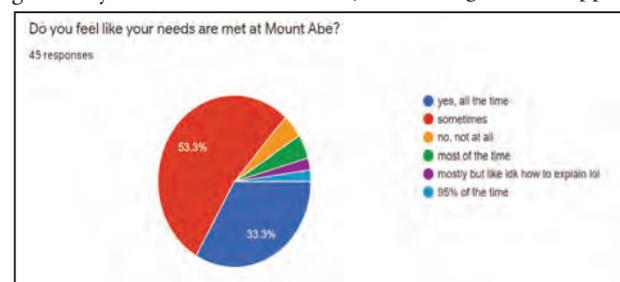
Students were asked to rate how anxious or uncomfortable they were at school on a scale of 1-5. Around 27% picked 3, suggesting they sometimes feel anxious or uncomfortable when at school, while 7% said they felt anxious or uncomfortable almost all of the time they were at school, and only 18% said they rarely felt anxious or uncomfortable.

Students were asked what teachers

could do to make them feel more comfortable at school, and 54% of students said there was nothing they could do, while 35% said that teachers and staff could do something. Siegfried suggested, "Express an abundance of support and don't be shy about checking in."

Students had different answers regarding what they would change at Mount Abe if they had the chance. Hartwell said, "I wish that students had more basic respect for each other." Freshman Hayden Lutz added, "Maybe we should be more mature about our beliefs." Junior Dustin Lavigne said, "I would want the school to start doing more fun activities before each break, so that when kids get back they feel less stressed. For example, making cookies for everyone." Eighth grader Gretchen Toy responded, "I would make it so the only thing that matters is that everyone feels safe and welcome." Ninth grader Hazel Stoddard said, "More counselors."

It's clear that everyone just wants a fresh start and for our voices to be heard by one another.



MAJORITY OF MT. ABE RESPONDENTS WANT TO RELOCATE WHEN OLDER

By Joane Kapanaga

There's nothing like home, but at some point, birds want to leave the nest. A recent survey asked Mt. Abe students and staff if they wanted to live in their hometown for the rest of their lives, and nearly 100 people responded.

Of the people that responded, 82% were born in Vermont, while 16 of 100 were born in another state in the U.S. and one respondent was born in a different country. Most people responded that the favorite thing about their town is being close to their friends and family, or being surrounded by mountains and forests. Freshman Hazel Bee Stoddard said, "My favorite thing about Bristol is the way I can walk everywhere and make plans, then do them, not having to get a ride home." Social Studies teacher Jessica Little said, "My favorite thing is the beauty of the place and sense of community."

People from the Mt. Abe community either love or hate the winter temperatures. A lot of people said that the cold is the worst part of living here, while for other people, it is their favorite

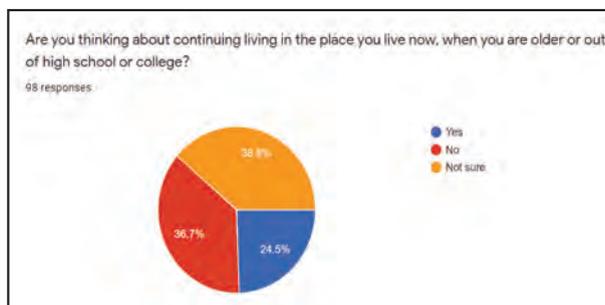
part. Some don't like the lack of diversity. Senior Anna Doucet said, "I struggle with the fact that our town lacks diversity, and we often have a hard time calling out our own biases and problems."

Nearly 40% of the respondents don't know if they want to continue living here when they grow up. Almost 37% were sure they don't want to live here, and 24.2% are certain that they want to stay. Most that said they don't want to stay would like to live in bigger cities near the coast, such as New York and Boston. Some want to travel and visit different places, but were unsure if they would come back home after. Sophomore Hannah Gallivan said, "I'd live in a city. I've always been drawn to places with lots going on. I like feeling like

something's bigger than myself."

When asked to imagine that they had to move to another country, and asked what they'd miss the most about the place they live in now, sophomore Joanna Toy said, "I would miss our Mt. Abe family and the connection I've made through sports and classes and the music department." Junior Olivia Devino added, "All of the beautiful scenery and nature like mountains and all of the foliage."

Finally, the survey asked why they would miss the five-town area if they had to leave. "It's a feeling. It has been my home for most of my life, and I don't think I could leave it very easily," said middle schooler Ezaias Herben, and P.E. teacher Dustin Corrigan explained, "I would mostly miss being close to family. We wouldn't see them very frequently if we didn't live so close. For example, my parents and in-laws come to most of my kids' sporting events. They wouldn't be there for those games if we lived elsewhere. I really like that my kids have a strong relationship with their grandparents and we get to see them often with all of us living in the 5 town area."



TRUCKS

(Continued from Page 4)

looking to buy a truck, I would recommend something pre-2007, or I would highly recommend doing a DPF delete on a DPF-equipped truck to get the most life out of the truck with fewer problems.

HISTORIAN

(Continued from Page 4)

monologue about May 8, 1775, when Allen sent two Green Mountain Boys into Fort Ticonderoga to get haircuts and do reconnaissance on the fort's defenses. He also dissected the famous sketch of the fort's commander surrendering to Ethan Allen, critiquing the clothing and even the way the commander surrendered. After this, the enthused attending students and the wise Randall went their separate ways.

Students at Mt. Abe were incredibly fortunate to be presented with such an opportunity. To say that Willard Randall was a fountain of knowledge is as much of an understatement as saying that Ethan Allen was the founder of Vermont.

FRENCH CORNER: VISAGES VILLAGES PROJECT



Carol Roscoe et L'équipe Déjeuner Par Carly Rougier

Madame Roscoe (Carol) est une déjeuneuse et elle travaille à Mt. Abe depuis 1984, pour 37 ans. Elle est née dans l'Ohio mais elle a déménagé à Bristol quand elle avait 10 ans. Depuis, elle vit dans la région Bristol-Lincoln. Avant de travailler à Mt Abe, elle s'occupait de ses enfants et sa famille. Elle a aussi travaillé dans une usine de meubles à Bristol. Maintenant, elle "fait partie de l'équipe," c'est pourquoi elles ont pris une photo tous ensemble. Elle dit que les enfants sont la partie la plus heureuse de son travail et elle aime que tout le monde retourne à la cafétéria. Même si les enfants sont la partie la plus heureuse, elle dit que leurs sourires lui manquent.



Carol Roscoe & the Lunch Team By Carly Rougier

Mrs. Roscoe (Carol) is a lunch lady and has worked at Mt. Abe since 1984, for 37 years. She was born in Ohio but moved to Bristol when she was 10 years old. Since then, she has lived in the Bristol-Lincoln area. Before working at Mt. Abe, she cared for her children and family. She also worked in a furniture factory in Bristol. Now she "is part of the team," which is why they took a picture all together. She says the kids are the happiest part of her job, and she loves that everyone is back in the cafeteria. Even though the kids are the happiest part, she says she misses their smiles.

Le Club d'Action Environnemental By Laura Bonar

Le club d'action environnemental existe à Mt. Abe depuis 2007. La mission du club est de répandre l'amour de la terre, de sensibiliser aux menaces pesant sur l'aide de notre planète et de prendre des mesures pour protéger notre monde naturel. Ils ont mis en place du compostage scolaire, acheté des coquillages réutilisables et fait des collectes de nourriture. Ils ont fabriqué des masques réutilisables, assisté à des rassemblements et vendu de l'artisanat durable. Ils ont organisé des ateliers végétaliens, organisé des échanges de bal de fin d'année, organisé des déchets le jour de la pelouse et des activités le jour de verdure. Le message qu'ils veulent envoyer est que chaque petit geste aide et rester engagé sur le plan environnemental fait vraiment une différence! Nous devrions tous nous soucier de notre planète et faire tout ce qu'il faut pour assurer un avenir durable. Le club d'action environnemental veut que vous les rejoigniez pour en faire une réalité!

The Environmental Action Club

The Environmental Action Club has existed at Mt. Abe since 2007. The club's mission is to spread the love of the earth, to raise awareness of the threats to the health of our planet, and to take measures to protect our natural world. They have put in place compost stations around the school, bought reusable clamshells, and held food drives. They have made reusable masks, attended rallies, and sold sustainable crafts. They have organized vegan workshops, prom swaps, Trash on the Lawn Day, and Green Up Day activities. The message that they want to send is that each small action helps and that people need to stay engaged environmentally to truly make a difference. We should all care about our planet and do everything necessary to ensure a sustainable future. The Environmental Action Club wants you to join them in making this a reality!



SUPPORT

(Continued from Page 2)

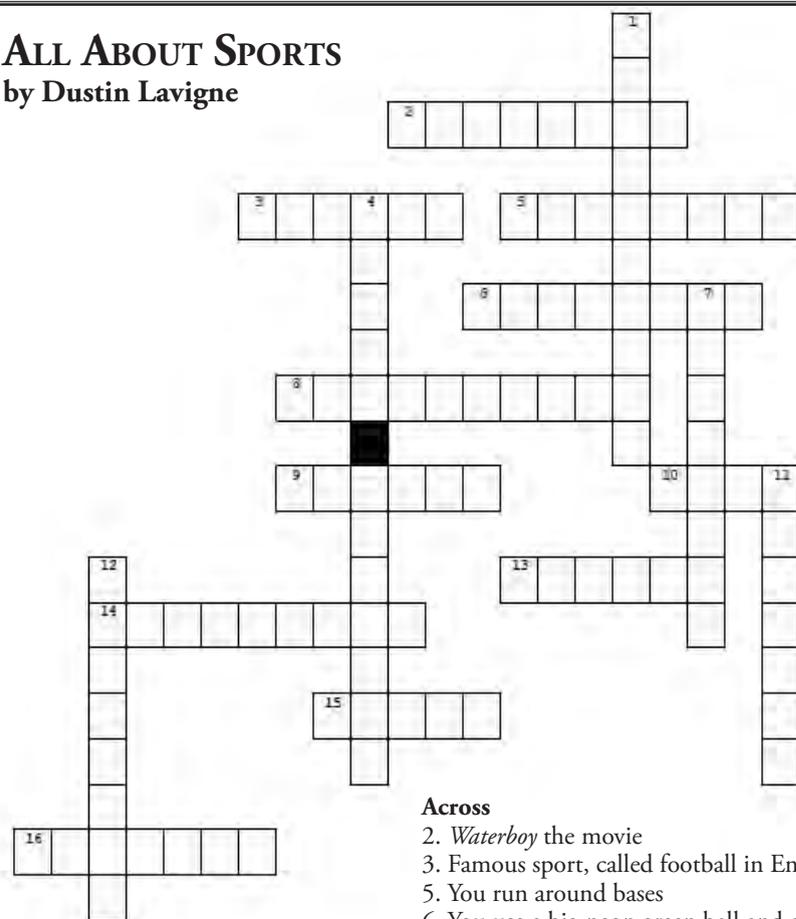
should know that school is for learning, and not politics. It's not entirely the parents' fault, because this student was a high schooler, so they should know right from wrong. The student who threatened to bring a gun should have thought before

they spoke, because even though it was just words, a threat is a threat, especially given recent events in Michigan.

I'm looking forward to next year, because after a year of a 'normal' school curriculum, maybe we will get back on track. Hopefully parents take more responsibility when their child disrupts the classroom, and criticize staff members less.

ALL ABOUT SPORTS

by Dustin Lavigne



Across

2. *Waterboy* the movie
3. Famous sport, called football in England
5. You run around bases
6. You use a big neon green ball and a bat
8. Michael Jordan was best player in this
9. The Mighty Ducks play _____
10. Time to tee off
13. A racket is used to play this
14. Grown men grappling each other
15. 100 meter dash is run on a _____
16. Deer Season

Down

1. William G. Morgan created this sport
4. Run Run Run 5K or 10K
7. Sticks with baskets
11. You go out on a boat and use a rod
12. Michael Phelps

PEOPLE PREFER WATCHING MOVIES TO READING

By Jazzlynn Senecal

In a recent survey, 47 students, teachers and staff answered questions about books and films, and which they like best.

When asked if they like to read, 76% said yes, and almost 20% said no, and 4% said maybe. They were also asked about their favorite books and 40 different books were listed. Two said *Harry Potter* and two others liked *Wonder*, but the other 36 responses had nothing in common. A larger majority like to watch movies. In fact, 91% said yes, 4% said no, and 4% said maybe. When asked about their favorite movie, 40 different movies were listed, but two people said *Pulp Fiction*.

Only 43% said they like it when books are turned into movies, while 10% did not like it, and almost 46% said maybe. Seventh grader Oliver Zelonis did not like it because "sometimes when it is turned into a movie, it is nothing like you imagined it, and I don't like that." More than half think the book is better than the movie, but 31% said the movie is better and the rest said other. The movie "is more interactive... you have snacks and family time," said 7th grader Bella Osborne. Social studies teacher Al Zaccor said, "Even if the movie is really good, it is difficult to capture all of the good parts of the book in a movie. For example, many books include the private thoughts of the characters, which is difficult to show in a movie."

When asked about their favorite book that was turned into a movie, meaning both were equally good, the *Harry Potter*

films were most popular with 6 respondents, followed by *The Hunger Games* and *Wonder* which each got 4 responses. "I read the book and I thought it was super good and then I watched the movie and they left out a few parts that made it just as good if not a little better," said an anonymous respondent about the *Hunger Games*.

Star Wars came up twice as a favorite movie that was **better** than the book, but that is not surprising, because the movies came out before the books. Once again, *Harry Potter* also came up multiple times. Garrett Duell '27 said, "The *Harry Potter* movies were just so much better. They captured the whole wizard thing, and you know what everything looked like. I always hate it when I read a book...picture the characters, then I see the movies, and I am disappointed. I like seeing movies first." In terms of ruining the book, 4 people said the *Harry Potter* films and 4 said *Percy Jackson*. "The movie was so much different than the book and the book was wayyy better," said Zelonis about *Percy Jackson*.

There were many books that people would like to see made into a movie, and 3 people said *The Selection* series. "The movies would be hard to mess up, given the storylines and complexity levels of the books," said one anonymous responder.

I created this survey because I love reading and watching movies. My favorite book is *Shadows after Dark Falls*. My favorite movie is *Harry Potter: Deathly Hallows part I*. My favorite book that was turned into a movie was *Mockingjay*.

Check out more articles at: <https://sites.google.com/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/>



Graphic by Bruce Babbitt

The Bird's Eye View

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Pet of the Week



Hi Huckleberry!

This is my dog Huckleberry; he is 2 years old and loves to use his brain and body for at-home agility. He gets the zoomys quite often and loves chewing on sticks.

Willa Kaeck
New Haven

Pet of the WEEK

Send us your pet!



news@addisonindependent.com

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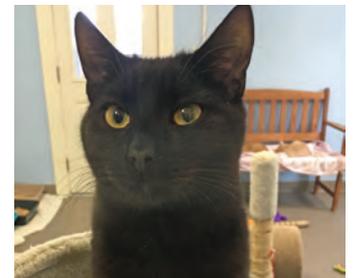
Addison County's Humane Society

Dude is a sweet, playful, 3-year old who walks well on a leash, loves his people (once he gets to know you), and will wear doggy clothes with style. He's goofy that way! **Dude** has some quirks that are important to emphasize for anyone interested in him. He does not like kids, cats, or other dogs and needs to be the only pet in the home. He will, however, thrive and provide loyal canine companionship in a quiet home with little to no visitors as he does not warm up to others without a controlled and patient introduction.



James is a 7-year old dorky guy who likes to wander around the Catland Room at the shelter until he tires himself out. He is a very laid back cat until he gets into the catnip and then he changes into a rambunctious kitten. He is affectionate and loves to explore. **James** would do best in a home without other pets where he can be adventurous on his own.

Van has grown into a lovely young cat since he came to us in July of 2021. He has become less skittish with patience and care from the shelter staff and volunteers and has proven that he is lovable and playful. He needs a patient family who is willing to allow him time to adjust to a new environment. Being with another cat friend would help him gain his confidence, but he has not warmed up to dogs.



Yang is frisky and loves to play all day. She has boundless affection for people, but she absolutely hates dogs. She has decided that being friends with other cats does not interest her and she would prefer to be the only pet to get all the attention!

Hello! My name is **Miffy!** I am a 1-1/2 year old spayed female rabbit who loves attention, exploring and I'm housetrained! I love people and do well being pet and picked up. My small size makes me perfect as a lap bunny and a cuddle companion. I came in with my litter of 5 babies and am friendly with other bunnies after proper introductions!



Max is an un-neutered dwarf rabbit. He has been around other bunnies and did well with them. He will let you hold him but can be a bit skittish at first. He loves chewing on chew sticks for bunnies. He doesn't have experience with cats or dogs. **Max** is part of Homeward Bound's 3rd Party adoption program.

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you.
388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT



SLEEPING BEAUTY

PART 2

Some cultivars of crab apples, such as this one which is "Donald Wyman" have fruit that remains on the tree most of the winter.

PHOTOS / DICK CONRAD

It's mid- January as I write this article. My garden, and most likely yours too, is sleeping under a light covering of snow.

Also, after unseasonably warm weather in December and early January, we have now entered a cold stretch. Indeed, a few nights ago the temperature here in Goshen dropped to -17 F.

BY **JUDITH IRVEN**

WITH PHOTOS BY

DICK CONRAD

But, even so, as I gaze out of the window in my study, there is still plenty to catch my eye and hold my interest.

First I notice the structure and shapes — sometimes called "bones of the garden" — that I described in my previous article ("Sleeping Beauty: Part 1" that published in the *Addison Independent* on Jan. 6), including the gazebo and arbor, as well as groups of trees and shrubs, as well as the walls and steps.

My eye is especially drawn to a delightful small tree with intriguing exfoliating bark, that grows right outside my window. It goes by the unusual name of Seven-Son Flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*) and in late September it is covered

with fragrant white flowers that are abuzz with bees. So the sight this little tree in mid-winter, with its sculptured shape and peeling bark against a snowy backdrop, is a second treat at this time of year.

In this article, "Sleeping Beauty: Part 2," I will introduce many other plants which can enliven our gardens in every month of the year — including winter.

Of course, as we know, occasionally it can get very cold in Vermont. So, as we choose plants for our gardens, we need to select those that will survive the coldest temperatures we can expect to encounter at our particular location. This important concept is known as "plant hardiness" and I will start by discussing its meaning and how it can influence our choices.

HOW COLD IS "COLD" FOR PLANTS?

The answer is that it all depends on the particular plant!

Some, like tomatoes and begonias, will die as soon as the temperatures drop below freezing.

But many kinds of plants thrive outdoors all year

round, both in our forests and in our gardens. And the strategy they use to combat the cold depends on the type of plant.

With plants that we call perennials, the stalks and leaves die back each fall. But below ground, especially when thick snow creates an insulating blanket, the temperatures often remain actually slightly warmer than the air above. This helps their roots remain viable throughout the coldest weather, and it is one reason why we gardeners love a snowy winter.

By contrast woody plants — trees and shrubs — survive above ground all year long. But each fall — triggered by the ever-shortening days



Judith waits until spring before cutting back many of her perennials, like these purple cone flowers. They look great in the snow and also provide food for the birds.

and cooler temperatures — they cease their active growth. In addition, to conserve valuable moisture, deciduous species will also drop their leaves.

At this point they then enter a state of dormancy, where the concentration of sugars in each cell markedly increases. This actually lowers the temperature at which the cell fluid will freeze (which would destroy the cell's walls). It is like "nature's antifreeze."

But — most important of all — the actual temperature at which the cell fluids begin to freeze and cause the plant to die, is heavily dependent on the particular kind of plant. Thus, as gardeners, we need to know, for each type of plant, the minimum temperature it can tolerate.

This critical piece of information is designated the plant's "hardiness rating." (For instance, a rating of 3 means it can tolerate temperatures between -30 and -40 F).

But we also know that the coldest it is likely to get varies widely with location. Where I live I know that, for a few nights in any one winter, I can anticipate the temperature could drop below -20 F, meaning I live in hardiness zone 4B.

However, up in the northeastern part of Vermont, the temperatures may go as low as -30 F, which is designated as zone 3B.

But you live further out near Lake Champlain, you will probably only encounter to occasional night when the temperature drops to -10 F (zone 5B).

The USDA publishes a detailed map for every state showing the hardiness zones at each location. Check it to find the exact hardiness zone where you live, and then only select plants classified as hardy in your zone or lower. Thus I will buy plants designated for zone 4B or lower, but avoid any shown as only hardy in zone 5.

SMALL TREES

I love to see a few small trees planted to complement a house, perhaps a crab apple at the corner diagonal. (Just be sure to plant it far enough out so that it will have sufficient room to grow to maturity without the need for pruning). This really useful listing of crab apple cultivars (www.jfschmidt.com/pdfs/JFS_CRAB_CHART.pdf) shows the sizes and other characteristics of many different cultivars, including those that keep their fruit into the winter months.

The various species of serviceberries (*Amelanchier*) are all delicate small trees that, again, are perfectly sized to complement the house. And they too look lovely in the snow.

EVERGREEN SHRUBS

When we think about dressing up the garden for winter our thoughts quickly turn to evergreens.

Most garden-sized evergreen shrubs are

specialized cultivars derived from genetic mutations of full-sized coniferous trees — primarily pine, spruce, hemlock and fir — all of which bear cones and have needle-shaped leaves. And today there are literally hundreds of hardy coniferous cultivars available for gardeners.

Garden-sized conifers are classified according to their growth rate and their growth pattern. Expect the smallest, those designated as "miniatures," to grow less than three feet in 10 years, and those classified as "dwarf" to grow between 3-6 inches in 10 years. By contrast, in a decade those designated as "intermediate" will likely grow between 6-12 feet, whereas "large" cultivars will grow 12 feet or higher.

Furthermore some cultivars primarily grow outwards to create a wide mass, whereas others grow upwards as a single focal point.

So, to narrow down your choices as you consider which conifers you might use in your own garden, I suggest you consult with a specialty nursery such as Rockydale Gardens in Bristol, which offers a vast collection that you can see on their website.

Boxwoods are also delightful low-growing shrubs that have very small rounded leaves which remain green all winter long. They are extremely versatile in the garden since they can be readily pruned into particular shapes. For instance, I used a group of three boxwoods to create a four-foot high backdrop for an elegant metal bench that sits towards the front of one of my flowerbeds.

I have also planted pairs of boxwoods, pruned as rounded balls, to emphasize the top of a couple of stone stairways, plus a row to create a low hedge alongside the path up to our barn.

Two boxwood cultivars in particular are designated as hardy in Vermont. "Green Mountain" grows naturally as a pyramid and can make an accent, whereas "Green Velvet," which forms a rounded shape, is excellent for creating a knee-high hedge.

I am also very partial to rhododendrons with their large shiny leaves and huge flowers in springtime. However, be warned! Especially during the winter months hungry deer may seek out available rhododendrons. So, if you do decide to plant a couple of bushes, plan on taking appropriate precautions, such as applying deer repellent spray and installing some fencing during the winter months.

FRUITS AND SEEDS

And finally, many plants keep their fruits or seeds into the winter, creating beautiful pictures for people, as well as tasty treats for birds and other wildlife during the coldest months of the year.

Many years ago I planted six female winterberry bushes (plus one compatible male for fertilization) around the back corner of our driveway. Winterberries, our native holly, drop their leaves in the fall. But their red fruit, which usually remains

for much of the winter, not only makes a stunning picture in the snow, but also provides food for hungry birds.

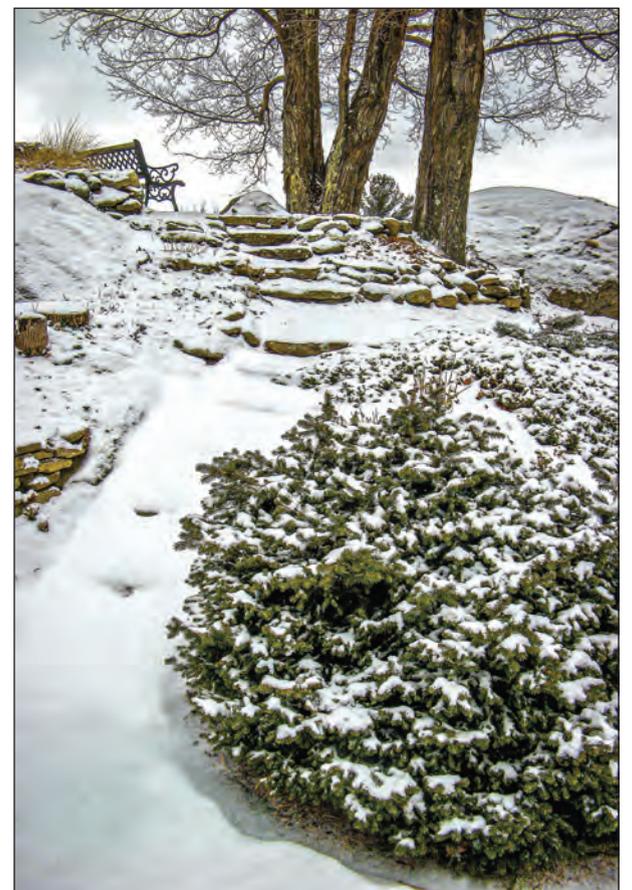
Similarly the native Smooth Rose, (*Rosa blanda*), which also keeps its hips until late winter, is a wonderful addition to a wild hedgerow.

And, as I mentioned earlier, several crab apple cultivars also maintain their fruit into the winter.

And finally, I wait until spring before I cut back any perennials and grasses which have attractive seed-heads and strong stalks. Black-eyed Susans and purple cone flowers, which are also enjoyed by the chickadees and goldfinch, are among my favorites for their contributions to my winter garden scene.

Judith Irvén and Dick Conrad live in Goshen where together they nurture a large garden. Judith is a Vermont Certified Horticulturist and teaches Sustainable Home Landscaping for the Vermont Master Gardener program. You can subscribe to her blog about her Vermont gardening life at northcountryreflections.com. Dick is a landscape and garden photographer; you can see more of his photographs at northcountryimpressions.com.

If you missed reading "Sleeping Beauty Part 1" published on Jan. 6, you can find it on Judith's North Country Reflections blog or addisonindependent.com.



*A dwarf Norway Spruce cultivar called *Picea abies* "Pumila," which marks the lower corner of some stone steps, looks especially striking in the winter garden.*



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From this property's building site on the southwest side of the parcel you'll enjoy panoramic mountain views, with views of Mount Abe to the east and a few peaks of the Adirondacks through Bristol Notch to the west! With most of the remaining property classified as wetlands, you'll enjoy glimpses of the abundant wildlife.

MLS No. 4890820 | \$ 165,000



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BACK ON THE MARKET!

Previously a Bed and Breakfast, this property has the location and bedrooms to get you up and running. Green Mountain views from the front and Adirondack views out the back. Separate owner's quarters. Barn with storage and plenty of potential. Minutes to Middlebury, Vergennes and Bristol.



What you need to know...

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The market right now is a lot to manage! Working with the right real estate professional is important to: prepare your home for sale; choose the appropriate price to maximize your investment; and to guide you through an often complex process, start to finish.

1) Your home may sell quickly, or it might take a while—plan for every scenario. Talk with your Realtor about your preferences. How long would you like to stay in the home? Is there a way to take advantage of a hot market now, but not have to move for several months? You may be able to negotiate for more time as many of today's buyers are willing to compromise.

2) Allow your Realtor to help you price your property. A full time, experienced agent is best positioned to understand the variables at play, industry data, and the many nuances of the current market. They'll help you find a price that will not only attract buyers but also maximize your outcome.

3) Managing the offer process in a hot market can be daunting so let your Realtor prepare you on potential outcomes before you put the home on the market. Multiple offer situations have become much more common in recent months—with preparation you'll be able to leverage whatever comes your way.

Taking the time to talk with your real estate professional about all of these items prior to listing the home is imperative! As a Seller, without the proper guidance, you run the risk of missing out on the benefits of an active market. Give us a call today. We'd love to have the opportunity to speak with you!

~ Sarah Peluso, Broker, IPJRE



ipjrealestate.com

34 Main Street, downtown Middlebury
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FILMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

tour stops.

"The Ants & The Grasshopper" focuses on Anita Chitaya, an extraordinary woman from Malawi, who has a marvelous gift: she

can help bring abundant food from dead soil, she can make men fight for gender equality and she can end child hunger in her village. Now, to save her home from extreme weather, she faces her greatest challenge: persuading Americans that climate change is real. Traveling from Malawi to California to the White House, she meets climate skeptics and despairing farmers. Her journey takes her across all the divisions shaping the United States, from the rural-urban divide, to schisms of race, class and gender, to the thinking that allows Americans to believe that we live on a different planet from everyone else. It will take all her skill and experience to persuade us that we are all in this together. "The Ants & The Grasshopper," a documentary 10 years in the making, weaves together the most urgent themes of our times: climate change, gender and racial inequality, the gaps between the rich and the poor and the ideas that groups around the world have generated in order to save the planet.

Directed by Raj Patel, *New York Times* best-selling author and currently teaching at the University of Texas, and Zak Piper, Emmy Award-winning producer and director, "The Ants & The Grasshopper" has often been described as a film that genuinely embodies the impact of social activism.

The MNFF Vermont Tour will kick off at **Burlington's Main Street Landing Film House on Thursday, Feb. 3.** Presented and hosted by the Vermont International Film Festival and introduced by VTIFF Executive Director Orly Yadin, this special event will feature a screening of "Storm Lake" at 4 p.m., and "The Ants & The Grasshopper" at 7 p.m. Levison will attend and participate in a Q&A session following the screening. Angelo Lynn, publisher and editor of *The Addison Independent* in Middlebury, will moderate the Q&A.

Other Vermont Tour venues and dates include:

Friday, Feb. 4 — Putney's Next Stage Arts

Saturday, Feb. 5 — Rutland's Paramount Theatre and Woodstock's Billings Farm and Museum

Sunday, Feb. 6 — Randolph's Playhouse Theatre and Dover's MHCA Dover Cinema and Arts.

The films and screening times will vary at each venue. Complete MNFF Vermont Tour information, including film trailers, can be found at middfilmfest.org/vermonttour-2022. COVID-19 protocols for each venue can be found on their individual websites.



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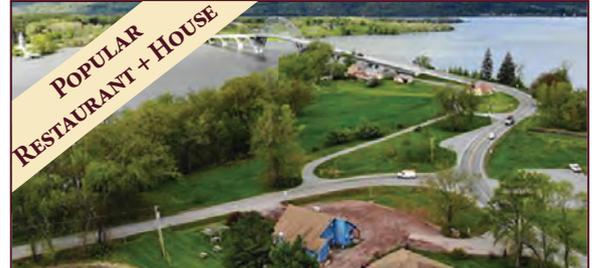
FERRISBURGH, VT

Protected by mature tree lines to the north and south, this is an ideal lot on which to build your dream home. Ideally located at the Northern end of Addison Co. for easy commute to the Greater Burlington Area as well as just a few minutes away from downtown Vergennes. **MLS# 4893178** **\$114,000**



BRISTOL, VT

This property includes three units. The main unit has 3 BDR, a full bath, and a grand front porch made of Brazilian cherry hardwood. The second unit is attached and expandable to the main building. The third unit is a converted carriage barn finished with antique planking. **MLS# 4881801** **\$449,000**



ADDISON, VT

The Bridge Restaurant—an established, 40 seat, family style, turn key restaurant—is for sale. Included with the purchase is the adjacent 2 BDR, 2BA home with an attached two car garage. **MLS# 4863525** **\$575,000**



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MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

records, and produces works on her own terms, without the help of a record label.

Born in Canada to British and American parents, Keating started playing the cello when she was eight and went on to pursue electronic music and contemporary composition as part of her Liberal Arts studies at Sarah Lawrence College. After graduation she moved to San Francisco and built a career as an information architect and data analyst while moonlighting as a cellist in rock bands. Keating eventually combined her love of music and technology, using a computer to live-layer her cello and performing for late-night parties in the San Francisco warehouse in which she lived.

Keating's recorded works have achieved a surprising degree of popular ubiquity for a DIY artist. Her self-produced albums have several times reached No. 1 on the iTunes classical charts and spent many months on the Billboard classical charts. Her recordings are used on NPR and CBS programs, in countless documentaries,

and in tens of thousands of online videos of everything from professional and amateur dance performances to rock climbing and gaming videos. Keating also composes for TV, theater, film and dance. She co-composed, along with Jeff Russo, the score for the HBO movie "Oslo," which earned them an Emmy Nomination in 2021 for Outstanding Music for a Television Movie.

Keating's husband Jeffrey Rusch, who founded the arts warehouse where they lived and where she started her music career, was diagnosed with stage IV cancer in 2014. While she halted her music career to care for him and their then four-year-old son, their struggles with health care and insurance became a new subject of her blog. Following Rusch's death in 2015, Keating continued to advocate for patients, data portability, and the simplification of medical insurance, culminating in a meeting with President Obama in October of 2016.

Keating lives in Burlington, Vt., and is working on a new album.

Don't miss this virtual concert on Friday evening. For tickets and information, call (802) 443-MIDD (6433) or visit middlebury.edu/arts.

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

NORTHERN DAUGHTERS FINE ART GALLERY

221 Main St., Vergennes
Visit northerndaughters.com or call (802) 877-2173 for more info and to make an appointment.

"Knowing Darkness," featuring work by Christina Atkinson, Bonnie Baird, Charlotte Dworshak, Julia Jensen, Hannah Morris, Hannah Sessions, Pamela Smith and Susanne Strater. On view through Jan. 31.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury.

Visit photos@photoplacegallery.com or call (802) 388-4500 for more info.

"Rites and Rituals." This exhibit was juried and curated by Douglas Beasley. Artists responded to the call for images of various forms of praise, celebration, recognition and remembrance around the world. Thirty-five images were selected for exhibition in the gallery and 40 more for the digital gallery. On view through Jan. 29.

COMPASS MUSIC AND ART CENTER

333 Jones Dr., Brandon.

Visit cmacvt.org or call (802) 247-4295 for more info.

"Holiday Collections," featuring art work by Fran Bull, Joan Curtis, Robert Black, Tecari Shuman, Robin Kent, Stephanie Stouffer, Carolyn Shattuck, Judith Reilly, Linda Durkee, Mary Crowley Roger Book, Liza Myers and Ruth Hamilton.

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