



Art masters

Three artists of long experience share a show at a Weybridge home studio. See Arts + Leisure.



Legion ousted

AC played well enough to make the state tournament, but not to excel in it. See Page 1B.



Profiles!

You've seen the faces, now learn the names at more than 100 county businesses. See our special section.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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PROFESSOR DAVID ALLEN, shown collecting specimens in some local woods, has been studying the deer tick in Addison County since 2016. Since then, he's built a dataset of the tick population in this part of Vermont.

Photo by Todd Balfour

Peak tick season bad; could be worse

Prof., students garner insights into pests

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — It turns out PCR tests can do more than detect COVID. Middlebury College Biology Professor David Allen and his research team use them to test deer ticks for Lyme disease.

Allen has been studying the county's population of these creepy-crawlies since 2016. In permethrin-treated jumpsuits, he and his team of Middlebury College students spend the summers on Snake

Mountain, Chipman Hill and college-owned tracts searching for deer ticks.

Covered just about head to toe in their protective clothing, the team scours the forest floor by dragging a piece of white cloth through an area they want to sample. This reveals the tiny bloodsuckers, known for their small size that makes for highly effective camouflage.

Then it's back to the lab to extract DNA from their samples.



From start to finish, this first part of the process takes just over half a day. It's at this point that the ticks get their PCR tests.

While in some states this year is projected to be a particularly potent tick season, that's not the case for Addison County. Allen called this a "medium to high year" for the area.

Since he first started his research seven years ago, he's observed a relatively steady deer tick population.

(See Ticks, Page 13A)

Quiet space offered to aid people in crisis

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) has launched a new program designed to help people work through mental health crises in an informal, soothing setting.

This would potentially avert the need for involuntary placement in one of the state's small number of psychiatric hospital beds.

The counseling service a few years ago

established a working group to devise a plan for assisting mental health patients in a community setting, according to Sandy Smith, director of Adult Mental Health Services for CSAC.

He explained a hospital or clinical setting can be intimidating for some patients and simply add to their stress level.

"We were thinking about what we could do — particularly in those situations that

become involuntary," Smith said. "Often those can result in adverse side effects. It can become traumatizing, it can be damaging to treatment relationships and to family relationships."

The CSAC working group included not only mental health caregivers, but also former patients now able to reflect upon their experiences recovering from trauma and mental crises. Some patients' family

(See Quiet space, Page 15A)

New pastor in Bristol looks to grow church

Wants to attract young members

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The congregation at the First Baptist Church of Bristol earlier this month welcomed a new pastor to the church community and to Vermont. Isaac Dzomeku and his family recently moved to Addison County from Worcester, Mass., and Dzomeku officially took on the role of leading the Bristol church at the start of this month.

The 44-year-old pastor said he is excited about his new post and hopes to bring more young people into the church's aging congregation.

"If we give ourselves another (See Pastor, Page 16A)



ISAAC DZOMEKU AND his family recently relocated to Bristol, where he has taken over as pastor of the First Baptist Church. Dzomeku is hoping to bring more young churchgoers into the church community, a challenge faced by houses of worship throughout the country.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

Flood maps are being reevaluated

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI

ADDISON COUNTY — For the first time since 1985, Addison County's official federal flood maps are being updated. This comes toward the end of statewide FEMA flood map reevaluations.

Unfortunately for those looking for relief from the recent highwater events, the new maps aren't expected to be completed until 2027.

(See Flood maps, Page 12A)

Birong's food truck offers relief

By AMELIA SEEPERSAUD

VERMONT — In the past few weeks, the excessive rainfall has left parts of Vermont devastated with flood damage. Hundreds of folks from around the state have rushed out to help those most affected by the rainfall, including Mat Birong of Vergennes.

Birong, owner of the Vergennes (See Birong, Page 9A)



By the way

The American Red Cross will hold a blood donation session on Friday, July 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Middlebury Regional EMS headquarters at 55 Collins Drive. To schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS

(See By the way, Page 14A)

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THE NEW INCARNATION of 51 Main is hitting its stride with sit-down dining, catering, philanthropy and plans this fall for a series of automats that will dispense healthy and tasty meal options at several Middlebury locations. The 51 Main crew includes, from left, Loren and Jennifer Urban of Crooked Ladle Catering, and Bethanie Farrell — the driving force behind Everything Nice and the Giving Fridge.

Photo courtesy of Bethanie Farrell

51 Main's latest effort sees success

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Downtown Middlebury's 51 Main St. storefront has in recent years been a tough nut to crack.

It offers one of the most visible and spacious venues, yet tenants have had a tough time staying there. Part of it was the COVID-19 pandemic, while rental rates have been out of reach for some local entrepreneurs. Whatever the reasons, enterprises like the Rough Cut restaurant and a Middlebury College student-led eatery that preceded it weren't able to gain traction and ultimately moved out.

But a new culinary and philanthropic partnership appears poised to stick around for a while. The venue, simply called "51 Main," launched this past spring with "Crooked Ladle Catering" and the "Everything Nice" houseplant and home decor boutique. Everything Nice is a major funding mechanism for the "Giving Fridge," a nonprofit that supplies food to those in need.

"We've rebranded 51 Main as not where restaurants go to die, but as a really vibrant space that two successful enterprises are flourishing in," said Jennifer Urban,

who co-owns Crooked Ladle with her husband, Loren.

"I think Bethanie (Farrell) and I and my husband have created something cool here that's sustainable," she added.

Farrell is the driving force behind Everything Nice and the Giving Fridge, which during the past three years has provided more than 30,000 healthy meals to families and individuals throughout Addison County. Those meals — funded through grants, plant sales and donations — have proved a boon to hungry folks, as well as a financial boost for the local farms and restaurants that have prepared them.

Crooked Ladle and Everything Nice share more than a space. The restaurant's menu offers patrons the option of contributing to Everything Nice. They can buy a plant and/or make an outright donation. And \$3 from each cocktail purchase is donated to the Giving Fridge.

Yet another collaboration will be unfurled sometime this fall. Farrell has used grant money to buy five automat machines that will dispense hot and cold meals in the Middlebury area. The machines are currently in storage, awaiting branding and programming. But this much is clear, according to Farrell:

• Some of the machines will offer heated meals — 19 of them at a time, when fully stocked. The refrigerated machines will be able to hold up to 100 meals. The heated meals will have a "shelf life" of around 12 hours, while the refrigerated ones will keep for around three days, Farrell said.

Meal options are likely to include a garden salad with grilled chicken, frittatas with veggies, cold sesame noodle salad with marinated chicken

and veggies, turkey meatballs with cauliflower mashed potato and broccoli, and vegetarian options. The meals will reflect ingredients in season, Farrell added.

Urban said the automats will allow Crooked Ladle to put more of its food to good use.

"Being able to have another avenue to sell and create food limits our food waste and allows us to be really thoughtful about the farmers we're collaborating with, the meat we're using, and to be really choosy about what we're doing," she said.

• Meal prices are expected to range from \$12-\$15. But low-income clients will be able to access them at a cheaper price, or in some cases for free, through pre-paid Giving Fridge swipe cards. The machines will also accept credit cards.

It should be noted that one of the food automats is destined for the Middlebury Commons elderly housing complex off Buttolph Drive. The Giving Fridge has forged an agreement with the Vermont Food Bank that will allow residents of the Commons to at least initially access the automat meals for free, according to Farrell.

Plans also call for local emergency responders to carry Giving Fridge pre-paid cards to give to people in need who they might encounter during their shifts.

• Aside from the Commons and 51 Main, other potential locations for the Giving Fridge meal automats include Otter Creek Bakery and the Middlebury College campus. The college's student-led Middlebury Consulting Group is working with Farrell on her business plan.

Farrell stressed the automat meals will be prepared with fresh ingredients that will marry good nutrition with great taste. She's contracting with Crooked Ladle, American Flatbread, Otter Creek Bakery, Otter East Bakery & Deli, the Stevens' Farmstead, Frog Hollow Farm and Magdalena's.

"More and more, I've seen people realizing how much food affects their physical and mental state," Farrell said. "It's so important to people's livelihoods and quality of life. My hope is that through doing this, people are learning what they need and learning how they can

(See 51 Main, Page 3A)

Maple Broadband gets \$2.1M in ARPA funds

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vermont Community Broadband Board on July 18 approved \$2.157 million more in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for Maple Broadband, Addison County's nonprofit internet service provider (ISP).

Maple Broadband is under Vermont statutes a quasi-municipal Communications Union District (CUD), one of nine in Vermont, which is dedicated to providing high-speed service to unserved and underserved rural areas. It has 21 member towns in Addison County.

Maple Broadband will use the funding for Phase 2 of its buildout — 88.7 miles of fiber-optic lines strung on existing utility poles to customers in parts of Ferrisburgh, New Haven, Monkton, Waltham and Vergennes.

Those lines will provide speeds of between 50 and 1,000 megabits per second, for both downloads and uploads, to potential customers that included 612 unserved or underserved households, according to the nonprofit ISP's executive director, Ellie de Villiers. Prices for Maple Broadband's internet service begin at \$69.95 per month.

The new grant, technically the release of the remaining balance of \$8.7 million in ARPA funding earmarked for Maple Broadband a year ago, will also allow construction of a communications

hub to support Phase 2 of the ISP's network. That hub will be built on a site on the north end of Vergennes; Steve Huffaker of Maple Broadband asked the paper not to publish the exact address because of the perceived risk of it becoming vulnerable to attack.

The Vergennes Development Review Board on June 19 approved Maple Broadband's application for that roughly \$200,000 hub.

Planned for a small parcel, the hub will be home to a 9.5-foot-high, 240-square-foot electronics building with an exterior transformer and support equipment, all surrounded by a chain-link fence. De Villiers hopes the prefab metal building can be installed by September.

De Villiers said construction on Phase 2 is planned to begin later this year, with service available starting next summer.

"It's fair to say we plan to have all this stuff built over the next 12 months," she said.

Thanks to the Vermont broadband board's initial commitment of most of the \$8.7 million grant to Maple Broadband a year ago, the CUD began work late last year on Phase 1.

Phase 1, when finished, will include 155.6 miles of fiber-optic lines that could reach to up to 1,400 underserved or unserved households in Leicester, Orwell, Shoreham, Whiting, Cornwall, Salisbury and a small portion of

Middlebury.

De Villiers acknowledged Phase 1 was delayed earlier this year because Green Mountain Power, upon which Maple Broadband must rely to move forward, has faced unexpected weather-related challenges.

Since then, Maple Broadband subcontractors have built out 25.7 miles, or almost 17%, of Phase 1.

"Now we have five construction crews working fulltime ... to make up for lost time," de Villiers said.

She also noted 64 out of 305 potential customers along the routes, or 21%, signed up for Maple Broadband service.

"I think it's indicative that there is demand in these underserved areas," de Villiers said.

The nonprofit ISP can eventually use cash flow from its customers to fund its operations, or, since it's a quasi-municipal entity, can float a bond to pay for its expansion. But in the meantime, Maple Broadband and the other eight Vermont Communication Union Districts can continue to seek support from their member towns, or await more government funding.

De Villiers said the next round of federal funding should come this fall, when the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program is expected to come online.

Act 250 surprise stalling city project

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The local company that is developing a nine-unit, two-building condominium and apartment complex in Vergennes next to the Otter Creek bridge halted work on the project in late June when it learned for the first time it needed an Act 250 permit to proceed.

The requirement for a permit was triggered because the project owner, Cornerstone Solutions LLC, had developed three condominiums in the nearby Country Commons project in Vergennes — thus the additional units exceeded a 10-unit Act 250 threshold for units created within a five-mile radius in the past five years.

The owners of the Vergennes company are confident they will receive the permit for what they call the Portage Project early next month and can then restart construction on its five condos and four apartments at 1-3 West Main St.

Cornerstone co-owner Anna Charlebois Ouellette, who handles permitting and marketing for the business, said the firm acknowledges the error.

"We would not want to do anything that would hurt the environment or the community in any way," she said. "We would never do anything that was unethical. We got in the middle of this with kind of an unknown. We had all our permits. We had the blessing from the state. The state had been down there, and the town."

Cornerstone believes work on the Portage Project will resume soon.

"I hope we are back at work in August, and I am going to put them (the five condo units) on the market right off," Ouellette said.

Most of the condo units contain three bedrooms and two bathrooms, and one has two bedrooms. Most of the interior work has been completed on the five-unit condo

building further from the road, and Cornerstone plans to market three-bedroom townhouses in that structure for up to around \$575,000. The apartments in the second building, which Ouellette also describes as "high-end," will have two- or three bedrooms.

Ouellette describes Cornerstone as a family business. Her husband, contractor Randy Ouellette, is also a partner, and contractor Josh Lawton and his family are also Cornerstone co-owners, Ouellette said. They employ about two dozen, including family members.

Cornerstone has drawn praise from city officials for its cooperation in resolving two earlier issues. Its owners agreed to the city's request to split what was to be one larger building into two in order to allow Vergennes to run a new sewer line. The parties are now amicably dealing with the fact that the move accidentally caused one of the buildings to end up 18 inches into the city's road right of way.

"The city of Vergennes has been in support," Ouellette said. "I think that's great."

Despite what Ouellette said was Cornerstone's \$20,000 cost to prepare and apply for an Act 250 permit, she said District 9 Coordinator Josh Donabedian and the district staff (District 9 handles Act 250 business for Addison County) have treated the company well.

"Josh has been great," Ouellette said. "They've all been so kind and nice."

HISTORY

In April 2022 Cornerstone purchased the 1.1-acre property on West Main Street from Leonard Duffy Jr. for \$300,000. The Vergennes Development Review Board had just issued a permit for nine units on the parcel, with 18 onsite parking spots.

The DRB permit also satisfied flood plain concerns and, largely because it is served by city water and sewer, state environmental concerns.

But earlier this summer — and it's not clear exactly how, at least on the record — it came to the attention of District 9 officials that Cornerstone needed the Act 250 permit.

Cornerstone then halted the work late and applied for the permit. By July 20, District 9 advertised this about the project:

"No hearing will be held, and a permit will be issued unless, on or before Wednesday, August 9th, 2023, at 4:30 PM, a party notifies the District 9 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion."

A hearing appears unlikely. The only parties with automatic standing to request one are state agencies, immediate abutters, and the city of Vergennes. State agencies signed off on the project when the city DRB granted its 2022 permit, and abutters would appear to have also had their say during the city process.

City Manager Ron Redmond said he, Mayor Chris Bearor, Deputy Mayor Dickie Austin and Zoning Administrator Peter Garon met to discuss whether the city should take any position. He said none saw a reason to seek an Act 250 hearing on a project that had received DRB approval and could add more than \$4 million to the city's grand list.

Once Cornerstone has its Act 250 permit, Redmond said the company must hurdle one more low bar.

The DRB will meet next month for what he called a "perfunctory local review" of the Act 250 permit that evaluates the development's impact on city services and schools. Redmond said he, the school system and Bearor have already addressed those issues for the DRB.

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Member or Not...Anyone Can Shop at the Co-op!

Bristol DRB delays call on permit

Schedules hearing on Lower Notch contractor's yard for Oct.

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Bristol's development review board has determined it will need more information and to hear expert input before deciding whether to allow a Bristol-based excavation company to operate a contractor's yard — referred to as a "business yard" in town zoning regulations — on Lower Notch Road.

The board on Tuesday held a second hearing on the company's conditional use permit application. The permit request has raised questions and concerns from residents who say that Masterson & Son Excavation has operated a business yard at the property without a permit for upwards of two years, and that the business's operations have brought excessive noise and traffic to the neighborhood.

"We've got an existing condition here that's pretty burdensome on the neighbors, or at least they feel very strongly that it is, and I'm hearing them loud and clear... I'm going to need expert testimony on this."

— DRB member Thomas Wells

In light of residents' concerns and the potential impact of the business yard on the surrounding neighborhood, the DRB decided on Tuesday to continue deliberating on the permit request in the fall, after board members have had a chance to review a traffic study and additional data regarding the noise levels the business yard has and could continue to generate on the site.

"We've got an existing condition here that's pretty burdensome on the neighbors, or at least they feel very strongly that it is, and I'm hearing them loud and clear. I'm going to need some help on that," DRB member Thomas Wells said. "I'll be happy to go out on the site, but that's not going to be enough for me. I'm going to need expert testimony on this."

MAY 30 HEARING

The proposed contractor's yard is located on a 72-acre parcel on Lower Notch Road, purchased by Masterson Development Properties from the A. Johnson Company in 2019. The property is subdivided into three lots; a roughly 57-acre lot owned and lived on by Masterson & Son Excavation owner Josh Masterson, an around six-acre lot containing the business yard, and an undeveloped parcel along Lower Notch Road.

The DRB held an initial hearing on the permit request on May 30, during which Greg McKenney, senior engineer for Masterson & Son's sister company Murray & Masterson Environmental Services, outlined how the property has been used since it was purchased in 2019.

McKenney told the board that Masterson began developing the property in 2020, starting with the improvement of an existing logging road on the parcel.

"Josh developed the road during early onset COVID, as most businesses were at a standstill. He took the time for his personal use, he knew he was going to build a house and eventually a shop and contractor's yard and during those early months of 2020, things were constructed," he said at the May 30 hearing.

In May of 2021, Murray & Masterson Environmental Services submitted an Act 250 permit

application for "the construction of a road, contractor yard, and the development of a single family residence" on the Lower Notch Road property.

During the May 30 hearing, DRB member John Moyers asked McKenney about any unpermitted use that has occurred at the site. McKenney told the board that unpermitted stockpiling of soils has occurred at the property to some degree since the business began its Act 250 permitting process.

NEIGHBORS' CONCERNS

A dozen neighbors of the business yard site attended the May 30 hearing, sharing with the board how the excavation company's operations and other use of the property has impacted the neighborhood. In particular, residents expressed concern over the noise created at the site,

such as tailgates slamming and vehicles beeping when going in reverse, as well as the impact increased traffic could have on the road.

"When I purchased the house 10 years ago with my wife, the general area was a very calm, quiet, wooded atmosphere. Two years since development of the property the excessive noise, excessive operation in the area, lots more trucks using the road, the road use seems to have doubled or tripled from what it was a few years ago," Lower Notch Road resident Eric Fifield told the board.

Neighbors of the business yard again voiced their concerns at two selectboard meetings last month. At a June 26 selectboard meeting, Lower Notch Road resident Thomas Fox asked that town officials fine the excavation business for operating at the site without a permit.

"To not fine the applicant for plan violation or imposing a (weak) penalty invites the applicant and others to violate the plan now and in the future. This is an issue for the current and future development of Bristol," Fox said.

During that meeting, selectboard member Michelle Perlee noted that the excavation business had recently been told to cease and desist and had moved all operation off of the Lower Notch Road property.

Perlee added that the town is unable to retroactively fine the excavation business for operating the contractor's yard without a permit.

"The statute requires that you have to do a notice of violation, that he would have seven days to correct that violation. Right now, he doesn't have a violation because he's in the process of getting all of the permits, he's not operating a business there right now," she explained.

Bristol Zoning Administrator Kris Perlee told the *Independent* that the town's current fee structure for an after-the-fact permit is four times the permit fee, or a total of \$600 in this case. He said that Masterson has paid that fee.

Concerned residents have asked town officials why the excavation business was allowed to previously operate without a permit. During

the June 26 selectboard meeting, Fox cited a 2020 instance in which a Bristol resident complained to town officials about the noise created by the excavation business shortly after it began operating at the Lower Notch Road site.

Bristol Town Administrator Valerie Capels said that complaint had been investigated by the town's zoning administrator, who determined the operations at the site at that time did not warrant a permit.

Capels said that information was shared with the individual, as well as information on how to appeal the zoning administrator's decision if they chose to do so.

"I'm not aware that they chose to do that, but that was an option that existed at that time," she said.

Kris Perlee told the *Independent* he has not received any other complaints or concerns about the excavation business operating at that site over the past couple of years.

TUESDAY'S HEARING

At Tuesday's hearing, DRB members again acknowledged that unpermitted stockpiling has occurred at the property and discussed how to move forward with determining whether to issue a permit for continued use of the business yard.

McKenney provided updated approximations of the traffic volumes that the business yard would generate, estimating a combined average of 11 one-way trips made to the site each day, 2.5 of which being made by larger vehicles like dump trucks and semi-trucks. McKenney also noted that Masterson has been working to minimize noise volumes, such as by eliminating back-up alarms when possible.

Following 90 minutes of questioning, including a lengthy questioning by Bristol attorney James Dumont on behalf of several neighbors, DRB members determined that additional data regarding the noise and traffic levels created by the business yard are needed to make their decision.

Wells said he'd like to have qualified experts compile that data.

"I feel like we have to be comfortable that we're not putting excessive noise off this site as a result of this use," he said. "As a board member, I'm concerned about the amount of noise coming from this use of this site. I don't think I can judge that personally by standing out there, I don't think I'm qualified to do that."

He added that Bristol's current zoning regulations are ambiguous, as the document omits a numerical standard for acceptable noise levels for the zoning district in question. Wells said an expert's input could help the board determine a reasonable noise level for this and other uses.

"Somebody has to tell us a reasonable commercial standard is 'X' decibels, we've got to do it," he said. "We're going to make an evaluation about it is he over or under it, we've got to hit that point."

The DRB set a tentative date of Oct. 24 to continue its hearing on the conditional use permit request. The board also asked that the applicant have traffic and noise studies conducted at the site and submit the resulting reports to the DRB ahead of the next hearing.

51 Main

(Continued from Page 2A)

access it. "I want to help people feel well enough to live the lives they feel fulfilled living."

Farrell has paused Giving Fridge's meals program for July and August to focus on fundraising and long-range planning for the program. The state's Everyone Eats program provided a key subsidy for the Giving Fridge meals during the pandemic. But Everyone Eats ended this past spring, so Farrell needs to find new funding streams that she hopes will lead to a \$350,000 annual operating budget that would allow the service to maintain its weekly meal volume and underwrite — for the first time ever — a small paid staff.

Farrell currently volunteers 40-60 hours per week to keep the charitable effort (and Everything

Nice) running.

"With pandemic relief grant opportunities ending, there is a large hole to fill, while need is persisting," she explained. "We really need to start tapping into individual donors, which is not something I've directly done yet."

Meanwhile, the Urbans and Farrell are pleased with how 51 Main is establishing itself as a go-to establishment. Crooked Ladle is open Wednesday through Friday, 4:30-8:30 p.m.; catering gigs and special events keep the Urbans busy for the balance of the week. While the Giving Fridge is on "pause" right now, its usual hours are Wednesday through Friday, 2-8 p.m., and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. For more info, check out 51mainvt.com and givingfridge.com.

The space has also been hosting live music sessions with local talent

every Wednesday.

The 51 Main crew has said the business hours could evolve based on public demand and the catering season. Customers thus far have seemed impressed with the space and its offerings, according to Jennifer Urban.

"Everyone who walks into this space loves it," Urban said. "It feels very urban and modern, but relaxing and approachable."

Eventually, the Urbans and Farrell would like to offer pop-up opportunities to local chefs, who could use the 51 Main St. kitchen to periodically showcase their culinary wares.

"The goal, really, is for it to be a community space where everyone feels welcome and proud," Urban said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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Editorial

Ilsley drawings must be seen to understand project's potential

Next year, in 2024, the stately Ilsley Library building — adjacent to Middlebury's newly built town hall — will celebrate its 100th year. And it shows. Take a tour through the 1924 building and you quickly understand it's in serious need of an overhaul.

The question has been: how much needs to be done? And that led to other questions: what's the right approach, how expensive will it be, and is it worth it?

The Ilsley's 100 Project Team has been probing these questions for several years. In that process they've asked Middlebury residents for extensive feedback on what they want in a community library, where it should be located, and whether the current site should be renovated as is, built anew somewhere else, or rehabbed on site with expansions to meet the community's needs.

The most important question — renovating onsite or anew somewhere else — was determined quickly: the original building is too beloved to abandon, and it's almost twice as expensive to build new elsewhere.

Other answers came through a thorough study of the library's services, community feedback, and a cost-conscience assessment of meeting the community's need.

That extensive process has the community and the Ilsley Library board and building committee at the threshold of action: choosing an architectural firm to help them crystallize ideas into a building design the community will support and love.

The next step in this process happens on Wednesday, Aug. 9 starting at 6:30 p.m. at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater. At that meeting, three architectural-design firms will present their designs and concepts to the community and answer questions.

The genius behind this approach is that the building committee gave the firms a basic set of parameters and then asked them to use their expertise to meet the library's mission. The parameters included: renovating and expanding the existing building on site; designing to about 24,000-square-feet at a cost of about \$14.8 million, and staying relatively within the building's current site. The result is three imaginative plans that are bold and unique. Inspecting such drawings and architectural renderings show us all how ill equipped the current facility is, and how much greater a community asset the library could become.

Words fail to tell that story. Without seeing what experienced architects can illustrate, residents can't fully understand how such transformations can add so much more in value than the cost. That's why the Aug. 9 meeting is so important to attend. It's not just a choice between the three firms, it's understanding how a redesign creates new opportunities for the library and the community.

To get an inkling of what those possibilities are, don't miss the front-page story that jumps inside to pages 10-11 for a sneak peak of just some of the drawings. (Each firm has multiple pages of drawings to review, so know these show the bare basics.)

For some residents worried about the cost, such excitement may be jumping the gun. And it's natural for many to linger on the question of why, or if, an extensive renovation is needed.

Granted the oil furnace is 30 years old, terribly inefficient, and spews carbon dioxide at a sinful rate. True, the basement takes on water during rainy days, smells of mildew and mold, and requires frequent attention to eradicate both. True, the children's space in the basement is cramped, dank and insufficient — and, perhaps most concerning, has a side entrance to the outside, and to a public bathroom, that can't effectively be monitored by staff.

The building, lovely and historic as it is, is almost 100 — and it needs more than a facial.

But \$14 million, you say? That's a lot of books! But, of course, it's not the books. It's the imaginative use of community space that makes such a renovation uplifting. It's understanding how youth use the library after school and before parents can pick them up; it's understanding how childcare centers use the library's programs as part of their daily routines; it's understanding the need for everyone to have public access to high speed internet and computers; it's understanding how public spaces help build togetherness, attract new families and businesses, and enhance our quality of life.

A final consideration is to imagine how the Ilsley renovation could help jumpstart a resurgence of what is the one downtown area that is sorely lacking. Currently the space behind the library to the Otter Creek is a split-level, inefficient parking lot. The riverfront is an unattractive weed bed that discourages people from enjoying what should be one of the downtown's most attractive assets.

A few years ago, plans for an EDI (Economic Development Initiative) building sited on 1.42 acres beside and below the Cross Street Bridge raised the prospect of making this area a dynamic hub for commercial and retail space, along with residential units. Any similar project would mesh nicely with plans of a renovated Ilsley with its current backside presenting a modern entranceway and a more extensive use of the parking area facing the river. The library, and this area of downtown, is one of the last pieces of public infrastructure in Middlebury that desperately needs a do-over, and if done with just half the imagination as shown in these architectural drawings, it'll create a dynamism (along with the improvements projected at THT) that could further enliven the downtown in ways we all have dreamed of but haven't seen for decades.

The hard work has mostly been done. It's now up to the community to understand the initiative and hopefully see it through. Supporters and doubters alike can start with a thorough review of the plans to be presented Aug. 9. We hope to see you there.

Angelo Lynn

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**On the job**

HIGH ABOVE NORTH Pleasant Street in Middlebury on Monday, Kelley Connor of Bridport's Connor Restoration works in a cherry picker at the Middlebury United Methodist Church. He is painting and repointing some of the brickwork of the 1892 church.

Independent photo/Steve James

Trip puts priorities in perspective

It begins with a nail. I'm trying to stay calm and focused and mindful. I know I leave for Mongolia in two weeks, and I haven't been there in four years. Packing seems monumental, though I want to avoid getting stressed. Friends ask me if I'm packing or if I'm getting ready or if I'm excited. I'm just trying to stay calm and be in the moment. That's why I haven't gotten inspired to begin packing, although I love that process. So far, my large purple duffle bag is open, waiting to be packed, as it has been for weeks.

I need a nail to move a calendar higher on the wall. I had just discontinued my landline and want to cover the phone bracket that had been there. In the back of my head, I know I need to start packing for my month-long trip to Mongolia, but I have yet to be motivated to do it. A small picture-hanging nail is buried in the same room as my duffle. Today is a day with no special appointments or responsibilities. Perfect for packing. Still, I don't plunge into it.

This need for a nail slides me into my non-linear method of making something happen. Like the way I rake leaves. Others may rake in straight lines which make it easy to see the difference after the first row. The way I do it is start around the edges, raking toward the center, raking toward the center, raking toward the center. It is a slow process, hard to notice anything happening, until there is a big pile.

Today it's not leaves but the small things that need to get packed.

I peek into my duffle and see a few loose objects,

like toiletries and vitamins. This grabs my attention. I move just one bottle and, like changing a game piece, it opens up a new view. I begin to strategize what liquids I need for visits to herders in the Gobi Desert and the taiga. I place these in my carry-on. I focus on the little things — ones I could get stressed about later if I don't have. I could get frustrated, for instance, if I am in the countryside in Mongolia and need a Band-aid, but don't have one. Yet, I can't take anything extraneous, because of the 12 copies of my new book "Marrying Mongolia" — 20 pounds worth — for a book launch with a movie screening in Ulaanbaatar. After I pack the books, I will have only 30 pounds left in my checked baggage for everything else.

I think I can do it, but it requires that I pay attention.

I find myself in a zone, a rhythm, on a peaceful, calm, unhurried journey of packing for hours. While procrastinating about hanging the calendar, I am doing the more important job of gathering all the items I need for the trip. It is easier to figure out my clothes and electronics now that I have started.

While moving around the house to find that nail, packing progress has snuck up on me. Finally, the calendar is hanging on the nail and the duffle looks fuller.

Sas Carey, author and filmmaker, is in Mongolia for the month of July. Hopefully, she has everything she needs for screening her movie and doing the book launch — in addition to catching up with her nomadic herder friends.

Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey



Knitwear designers like a mystery

It's too warm and humid to knit right now. But that hasn't stopped me from browsing for knitting patterns online. I'm looking ahead to fall, when the thought of a pile of wool in my lap won't make me break out in a spontaneous heat rash.

Last week, I began going through cardigan patterns. It was tricky. Thanks to the bold artistic vision of certain designers, the pattern search became more of a mystery game in which I had to piece together the concept of a cardigan rather than see a complete picture of one.

To be fair, most designers don't make a point of obscuring the very products they are trying to sell. Their models are smiling. Their photos are well lit and give a full view of their patterns, which are knitted in light colors to show off the stitches. I can see at a glance whether these designs sport raglan sleeves or drop shoulders and whether the body is fitted or boxy.

But the cool designers seem to feel that using clear images to sell a pattern reeks of desperation. From their models, all I can deduce is that a pattern will be suitable for practicing an extreme yoga pose or sitting on a flight of stone steps, hugging my knees and staring into the far distance with a look of existential dread.

As annoying as that is, I admire the audacity of a business model that says I'm not entitled to know what

I'm buying. One of the cardigan patterns I clicked on, for instance, showed a model crouched behind a tree in the woods, presumably hiding from a bear. To that designer, please accept my slow clap of admiration.

Let other designers take the easy way out, using photos that highlight the pockets or the cable detail that travels up the sleeve. Not you. You sneer at such manufactured compositions, and rightfully so. "In real life, no one just stands there facing the camera," you say. "In real life, there are bears. And one must dress accordingly."

I ran into the same disdainful marketing approach this spring, when I was searching for a knitted linen tank top pattern. I didn't have anything specific in mind; I just wanted the shoulders to be wide enough to cover my bra straps.

The most avant-garde designers, however, outsmarted me: They made sure the pouting models all had their long hair pulled forward over their chests, covering not only the garments' shoulders but sometimes even the necklines.

Aspiring designers should take note. Instead of presenting a knitted item from multiple angles, they should emulate the pros and show their models twirling in blurry circles, peeking out from behind (See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

Around the bend

By Jessie Raymond



Letters to the Editor

New healthcare will help many

Throughout U.S. history, we've had to solve big problems. Last year showed us what's possible when elected leaders joined everyday people to fight Big Oil and Big Pharma, and deliver what our families need to thrive, like the freedom to use clean energy, create good-paying jobs, and lower our healthcare costs.

The Biden Administration has made historic investments to lower everyday healthcare costs. Everyone who gets their insulin through Medicare will see a \$35 cap on monthly insulin costs.

The Inflation Reduction Act will reduce health insurance premiums by up to \$800 for people who buy insurance on their own. This is thanks to the extension of tax credits for Affordable Care Act health plans. Millions more people will be able to get coverage.

This is a huge achievement! Let's make sure our communities are aware of these benefits and how they became possible.

Sally Roth
Bristol**There's more to the carbon story**

I am writing to request clarification to a sentence in the article written by Marin Howell and published on June 22, 2023, under the headline "Efforts to decarbonize local homes faces hurdles."

Howell writes: "Decarbonizing the energy use of county homes is one of the recommendations included in CEAC's (Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County) Climate Energy Plan for Addison County. The Plan, published this past July, identifies the three major contributors of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Addison County in 2017: agriculture and forestry, transportation, and buildings and energy."

The second sentence suggests that agricultural and forestry use of our private and public lands result is a net source of carbon emissions. This is not so on our forest land, certainly not over a typical average harvest cycle in an uneven-aged forest management strategy — the most commonly used silvicultural practice in Addison County and in Vermont.

Keeping forest land forested using science-based silvicultural methods allows and promotes continued carbon sequestration on those lands. The silvicultural techniques used are intended to increase growth rates (aka carbon sequestration) while also attempting to satisfy a myriad of other landowner (and public) objectives — forest age class structural diversity, wildlife habitat development and maintenance, invasive plant control, aesthetics, recreational use, forest product income from the sale of sap, residential firewood, sawtimber used to manufacture boards for flooring and furniture, and a myriad of other products ... just look around wherever you are reading this fine paper! And, yes, this newspaper.

There are fluctuations in carbon sequestration rates across tree age classes similar to there being variation in "productivity" in human age classes. Former Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Michael Snyder was heard to say wisely: "We need to keep forestland forested." Period.

Seedling and sapling-sized trees growing so densely together you can't see through them to run, pole-sized trees competing valiantly for space, mature trees standing tall and pretty and valiantly through all sorts of Vermont weather.

Too bad that the CEAC Plan lumps agricultural and forestry use together and then the Plan — and then your article — suggests that science-based use of our forest land has a net increase in carbon emissions. Just not correct.

Certainly other uses of each of the agricultural or forestry acres will likely have an even greater (See *Olson letter*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

We're swimming in money, but could we drown?

The pandemic stimulus provided by the federal government and The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have injected close to \$6.7 trillion into the U.S. economy over a three-year period. This is on top of the annual budget spending by the federal government. Wow! Adjusting for inflation, this exceeds what this country spent in World War II by \$2.7 trillion. What are the consequences of the government's largesse?

Some of the positive things that came out of these cash injections from the federal government are: we avoided the severe economic recession that easily could have developed during the peak of the covid pandemic, the pandemic stimulus money also fed many kids, kept mortgages afloat, preserved many peoples decent credit ratings, accelerated the delivery of vaccines, and saved thousands of small businesses. States used dollars for projects like water conservation, prison infrastructure, expand broad band internet services, and to rescue beleaguered health care providers. Much of the IRA money will go towards green energy subsidies and many infrastructure projects around the U.S.

The size and broad scope of the pandemic funding also opens it up to fraud and questionable allocations. For example, with a population of about 42,000 people the city of Burlington received almost 19 million in relief dollars. That's about \$440

per person, which is four times the allocation (\$105 per person) dedicated to most Vermont communities. According to economist Michael Dalton from the federal government's Bureau of Labor Statistics, every \$1.00 in wages that would have been lost during COVID cost us \$4.13 in the Paycheck Protection Plan. This was due to fraud, and eligible entities receiving dollars even though they had ongoing revenue to cover payroll.

A major unintended consequence of the pandemic relief and the Inflation Reduction Act, which was forecasted by some early on, is that the \$6.7 trillion pumped into the economy and into Americans' hands, is a major factor towards causing the inflationary pressures we have been experiencing for almost two years. Demand for goods and services has remained steady with many households and businesses having financial cushions. These financial benefits exist even though the Federal Reserve is trying to put the brakes on price pressures through aggressive interest rate hikes over the last 16 months. With some of two programs' money yet to be spent, the Fed will have a hard time meeting its inflation number target until the tap runs dry.

Higher interest rates are credited for slowing inflation, but the 5% rise in the Fed rate in a little over one year has also had many negative consequences like several

banks failing, in part, due to the Fed's interest rate increases and its effect on banks' government bond holdings. Treasury Bond market prices are negatively impacted in a rising interest rate environment. Millions of Americans with variable rate loans outstanding are also feeling the pain.

The tremendous increase in federal government spending has also occurred with virtually no change in tax policy to pay for the \$6.7 trillion. As a result, our government is borrowing more money to pay the bills. As of February, of this year, our debt was \$31.46 trillion. This equals 121% of the nation's total Gross Domestic Product, (the value of all goods and services produced in America). It is also about six times our 2023 federal budget figure approved by Congress. Close to 7% of the nation's budget goes to pay the interest on our debt (Pew Research). With the rising interest rate situation, the cost of paying for the country's debt increases. And let's not forget the government runs a deficit every year.

So, it seems Congress is happy to spend money, ostensibly, to help us all, but doesn't have the fiscal prudence to levy fees, or raise taxes to pay the bills. This approach, assuming it is a conscious choice by our elected officials, only works if there is strong economic growth that brings in enough money from

(See Baser letter, Page 8A)

Aristotle's metaphysics

13th in a series

Aristotle's universe consisted of an ordered collection of individuals of various kinds: animal, vegetable and mineral, among them mammals, birds, trees, flowering plants, boulders and grains of sand and more. Natural Science or Physics, as it was then called, was to his mind a corresponding set of enquiries into the nature of things, their origin, growth and decay, and other pertinent activities.



The History of Philosophy
by Victor Nuovo
Middlebury College professor emeritus of philosophy

He proposed that each kind of thing should be made an object of study, with its own principles and methods, and from this he expected would emerge a system of sciences that represented the world.

But this system, if it were to adequately represent the world, required its own unifying principle. And it became evident to him that there was only one principle comprehensive enough to serve this purpose: the principle of being itself. Thus, Aristotle invented the science of metaphysics. I should note that Aristotle didn't call it by that name; he called it "the science of being as being." He put it this way: "There is a science that enquires into the nature of that which is as something that simply is, of what it means for anything to be." It is the most universal science, for it should be evident to all that everything is. Even things that are not may be said to be in certain ways, for example, figures in fairy tales or

in novels, which exist only on the pages of a book and in our imaginations. And, to that extent, they have a certain reality and can be said to be.

Metaphysics, then, stands at the head of the system of sciences by virtue of its generality. Everything is. There are several ways in which things can be said to be. There is nothing mysterious or mystical involved in this. It's just plain common sense, refined by reflection. For example, everything that is, of a certain kind, is somewhere, at some time, so that we know that no two things of the same kind can be at the same place at the same time. And so on.

But Aristotle had another concern. He wondered whether there might be a single cosmological principle that not only gave unity to the whole of nature, but was the cause of its existence. He gave it a name: the Unmoved Mover. And how did he suppose that the Unmoved Mover caused the universe to be? Aristotle did not imagine that it was a sort of creator god, for creation is an activity, and involves motion. The Unmoved Mover, a.k.a, the Prime Mover, is supposed to set the natural world in motion without itself moving. It has such a power of moving things without moving itself. Magnets have this sort of power. And there are those persons who by their mere presence cause others to move; we say they have magnetic personalities.

Aristotle imagined that the Unmoved Mover is a sort of intelligence that sets the universe in motion by its very presence. He imagined it to be alive and intelligent. He imagined that it had an affinity with human nature; that it lived an ideal life, "a life, such as ours is in its best moments." Those moments when we are conscious, wide awake and thinking intelligible thoughts, when passion is firmly subordinate to reason, when our minds are clear and untroubled, when we are perfectly content, carefree even fancy free, when we feel as though our whole being has been infused with inexhaustible vitality, free of anxiety or ennui. For Aristotle, such a form of life is a state of ultimate delight.

The prime being and origin of everything is always at its best. All its actions are joyous, "even as we, too, most enjoy being awake, conscious and thinking." It follows that living and thinking converge and are eternally united in the principle of all being, "for life is the activity of mind." The Greek word translated "activity" is *energeia*, which is ancestor to our English word "energy," which in a modern physical sense is the source of everything. *Energeia* is also translated "actuality," a state of existence that a thing attains when it is fully developed, when it reaches perfection. So, it could be said, "The energy, actuality, or consummation of life, is thinking." For us mortals, the search for truth is our means of this delight. We should make it our prime mover.

Postscript: Penguin Classics has published an edition of Aristotle's "Metaphysics." It is very readable and small enough to carry around in your pocket. Visit your local bookshop.

Olson letter

(Continued from Page 4A) impact on the increase of GHG emissions.

Chris Olson
Middlebury

Editor's note: Mr. Olson was formerly the Addison County

Forester and currently works with A. Johnson Lumber Company in Bristol and sent this letter in late June. Unfortunately, it was lost in an email shuffle, and just found. While the reporter's reference to carbon emissions in

the county's energy plan does lump agriculture and forestry together as one of three primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions, Mr. Olson is right to point out the unique role for forestry and forest land silvicultural management.

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A) walls or wearing sandwich boards. Ideally, the photos should reveal only 15 percent of the sweater, knitted in detail-swallowing black yarn. Such counterintuitive choices really pique a buyer's interest.

A stylish, view-hindering pose I come across a lot involves a model crossing her arms in front of her body and half-squatting, as though she's about to get splattered with a paintball. That — not a closeup of the stitch texture — conveys the mood of the sweater, which is all that matters.

I shouldn't, however, give all the credit to the knitwear designers. They no doubt work with equally visionary photographers, who stage these striking and entirely

unhelpful shots. And I can just imagine how it goes.

Photographer: "Hm. Let's have the model holding a tall stack of books, so potential pattern buyers can't see what the front of her cardigan looks like."

Designer: "I like that. But won't the distinctive collar still be visible?"

Photographer: "No problem. We'll just pull her hair forward over her shoulders. I do it all the time with tank tops."

Designer: "You're a damn

genius."

The hard work of these dedicated artistes turned my most recent search for a cardigan pattern into a guessing game that went on for several evenings. At last, after many hours of shaking my fist at the computer — in admiration — I found a cardigan I think is going to work.

I won't tell you what it looks like (since I don't quite know myself yet), but let's just say that if I run into a bear in the woods this fall, I'll be dressed for it.

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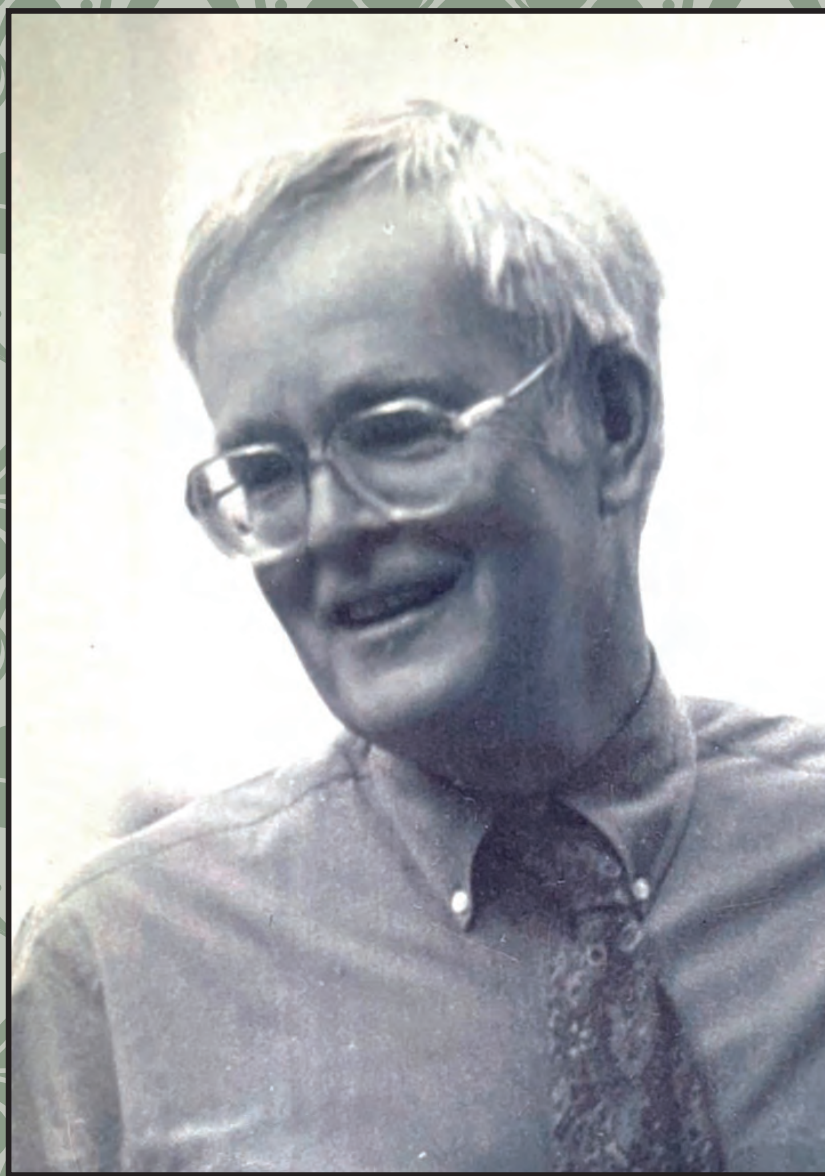
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Letters to the Editor can be found on Pages 4A, 5A and 8A



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John Probasco McWilliams, Jr.
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ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Barbara Brown, 92, of Bristol

BRISTOL — On July 18, 2023, Barbara Brown passed away peacefully in her sleep surrounded by family.

Barbara was born in Boston, Mass., on May 7, 1931, to Frederick C. Laite and Helen B. Wieck. Barbara's family moved to Burlington, Vt., in 1936.

Music was always a big part of Barbara's life. She learned to play the trumpet from her father, who performed in Vaudeville. During her high school years, Barbara was a member of the Burlington High School band, the All-State Orchestra and the All-State Band. During the summer months, Barbara was the camp bugler for Ecole Champlain, a French summer camp for girls.

After graduation from B.H.S., Barbara attended Mary Fletcher Hospital School of Nursing where she earned an R.N. degree. It was during this time that Barbara met her future husband, Dewees Brown, whom she married on June 28, 1952.

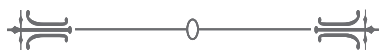
Barbara provided loving, at-home support for her husband as he completed medical school, internship and active duty in the U.S. Air Force. After residency, they moved to Bristol, Vt., in



BARBARA BROWN

1959, where they set up a local medical practice. In 1975, they moved to Portland, Conn., where he directed the Family Practice residency program, where she continued her supportive role. After retirement in 1992, they moved back to Bristol. They spent their retirement years restoring their Victorian house, directing a bell choir, and many church and civic activities.

Barbara was predeceased by her husband, Dewees. She is survived by her children, Craig (and Paula Brown) of Portland, Conn.;

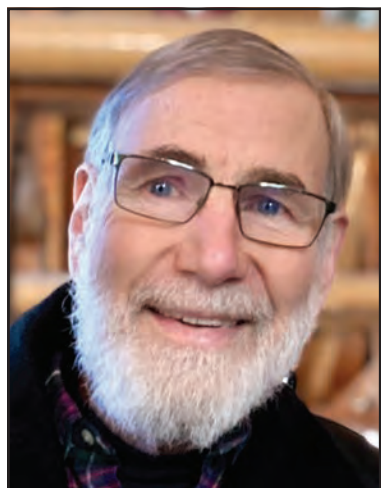


Karl Hummel, 77, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Karl Hummel, 77, of Bristol, Vt., passed peacefully at home surrounded by family on July 23 after a long battle with Primary Progressive Aphasia.

Born to Ruth and Fritz Hummel in 1945, Karl grew up in New Jersey. He graduated Princeton as a Chemist and began his career at Dupont. Finding corporate life of the 1970s ill-fitting and uptight, he left Dupont to open a motorcycle shop and race motocross. Years later he moved to Vermont to work at Digital Equipment. After the plant closed, he and several Digital cohorts opened The Change Factory. From there he joined CVPS (GMP), and then Reading Plus, where he worked until retirement.

Karl married the love of his life in 1984, Abby Smith. They had two daughters, Ruth and Helen. Their homes in Richmond, Charlotte, Middlebury, or Bristol, were



KARL HUMMEL

gathering places for friends and family.

He loved doing anything outdoors! He also enjoyed "coaching" anyone on anything, whether they wanted it or not. Even croquet would bring out his

competitive spirit. Karl liked to build, create, and fix things. Working alongside his wife Abby, they built decks, repaired roofs, and cleared trails through the woods with gusto.

Karl had an infectious sense of humor. Aphasia was especially cruel for a man who loved to read, theorize, and debate about new ideas.

Karl survived by his loving wife Abby, and their daughters Ruth and Helen. He is also survived by his daughter from his first marriage, Kari (Suiter) Hancock, and her son Sawyer; Karl's siblings Suzanne Hummel and Sylvia Hummel; his nieces Gabriella and Katy; and great nieces Ciara, Sinead, and Eimear. Karl leaves behind many in-laws, neighbors, and friends whom he loved as family.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Karl's name to Addison County Home Health and Hospice. ♦



John P. McWilliams Jr., 83, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — John Probasco McWilliams Junior, 83, of Middlebury, Vt., passed away peacefully at his home on July 23, 2023. He was surrounded by family on a beautifully clear Sunday.

John was born on July 22, 1940, in Shaker Heights, Ohio. He is preceded in death by his daughter Suzannah McWilliams, his brother Barlow McWilliams, and parents John P. McWilliams and Brooks B. McWilliams. John is survived by his wife Mireille B. McWilliams, children Andrew (Emily Givens), Kirsten (Scott Whited), Elizabeth, Christopher, and Isabel McWilliams, and sisters Suzanne M. Murray and Marianne M. Romaine. He was known affectionately as "Mac" by his six surviving grandchildren: Lucca, Emmons, Teo, Gus, Barlow and Willa.

John received an A.B. (Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude) from Princeton University in 1962, an A.M. from Harvard University in 1963, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1968 in English and American Literature. John's academic career includes Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley from 1968-1974, Associate Professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago from 1975-1977, Abernethy Professor of American Literature at Middlebury College from 1978 to 2003, and College Professor from 2004-2016 at Middlebury College.

John was a prolific author of several published academic



JOHN P. MCWILLIAMS JR.

books, articles, and book reviews throughout his distinguished career, many of them with Cambridge University Press. He was a recipient of numerous fellowships, grants, and honors, including four National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowships, and served on several editorial and governing boards. Right before his passing, he was working on a last review for the *Phi Beta Kappa Key Reporter*, to which he frequently contributed his enduring insights and reflections on American history, literature and culture.

The ever-loving parent and provider, John's belief in education could not be overstated. He fostered and expected excellence from his children, students, friends, faculty and colleagues. John was an unwavering proponent of

handwritten correspondence, an avid stamp collector, masterful bridge and chess player, an accomplished piano player, and a devotee of classical composition and opera. He passed his love for piano on to son Christopher, who is a professional pianist and organist in Montpelier.

John taught his six children how to ski at the Middlebury Snowbowl, loved his long walks with family and friends on South Street, and had a love for racquet sports tennis and squash in earlier years.

John was a long-standing member of the St. Stephens congregation and loved his years as member of the St. Stephens choir and vestry. He was committed to charitable giving including to Porter Hospital, Planned Parenthood, Vermont Food Bank, Addison County Parent/Child Center, UVM Cancer Center, MGH Fund, United Way and numerous organizations advocating for protecting our climate and natural environment.

The McWilliams family is deeply grateful to Addison County Home Health and Hospice for their outstanding support.

John will be deeply missed for his commitment to community and undying love for family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of the above listed organizations.

A memorial service will be held in October at St Stephens Church In Middlebury, Vt., for those who wish to attend. ♦

Aime Rene Page, 67, formerly of Whiting

STERLING, Va. — Aime Rene Page, 67, passed away Sunday, July 9, 2023, in Sterling, Va. He was born in Middlebury, Vt., on Feb. 16, 1956, the son of Marcel and FleurAnge Page, and was raised on a farm in Whiting, Vt.

Aime was a hard-working farmer, business owner, and finally, a large equipment operator working for the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 77 JATC. He retired in 2021.

Aime was a creative inventor and a true friend in times of need. He overcame every obstacle that life set before him, leaving a beautiful example to his loved ones.

Surviving are his three children, Aime Page Jr. and his wife Hope Page of Rutland, Rene Page of Castleton, and Destinie Lima of Massachusetts; and his four grandchildren, Koltan, Jayda, and Lacy Page and Landyn Lima. He is also survived by six siblings. He is pre-deceased by his parents and sister, Monita Lynn Page.

There will be a celebration of life at the Fair Haven American Legion on Sept. 3, 2023, at 1 p.m., at 72 South Main Street, Fair Haven, Vt. Donations, in lieu of flowers, can be made to the ASPCA at www.aspc.org or to the 4H Foundation center at www.vermont4hfoundation.com. ♦



AIME RENE PAGE

Tracy (Wilber) Sargent, 62, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Tracy (Wilber) Sargent of Bristol, Vt. passed away peacefully on July 24 with loving family at her side. She was born March 10, 1961, at Mary Fletcher Allen Hospital in Burlington, Vt.

She was predeceased by her father, Charles Allen Wilber of Saint Albans, Vt., and her mother, Jacquelyn Ann Brown of Burlington, Vt. She leaves behind her brother, Scott Wilber of Ferrisburgh, Vt.; her loving partner of 13 years, Jeffrey Shepard of Bristol, Vt.; three sons, Joshua Sorrell of Springfield, Vt.; Wade

Farr of Fairfax Vt., and his girlfriend Alicia Mossey; and Trevor Farr of Bristol, Vt., and daughter-in-law Melissa Farr; three grandchildren, Deklen, Brayden and Brooke Farr; three stepchildren, Jeffrey Sargent of Farmville, Va.; John Sargent Jr. of Sunderland, Vt.; and Melody Sargent of Essex, Vt., along with her son Walter.

Tracy grew up in Ferrisburgh and went to Vergennes Union High school. She worked at Drake and Smith furniture; waitressed at the Main Street Diner, Squirrels Nest and the Sugar House; worked at



TRACY (WILBER) SARGENT

Merchants Bank and Addison County Home Health and Hospice; and spent several years cleaning houses. She enjoyed snowmobiling and playing pool back in the day, going to concerts and amusement parks, driving her Ford Mustang, swimming, and tanning in the sun. She also loved her Rock 'n' Roll music and dancing.

She was a personable, gentle, and kindhearted soul to everyone she met. She was very active and energetic. She developed many friendship circles over the years, especially her American Legion family. She wishes to have a celebration of her life in the near future at the Bristol American Legion with family and friends. ♦

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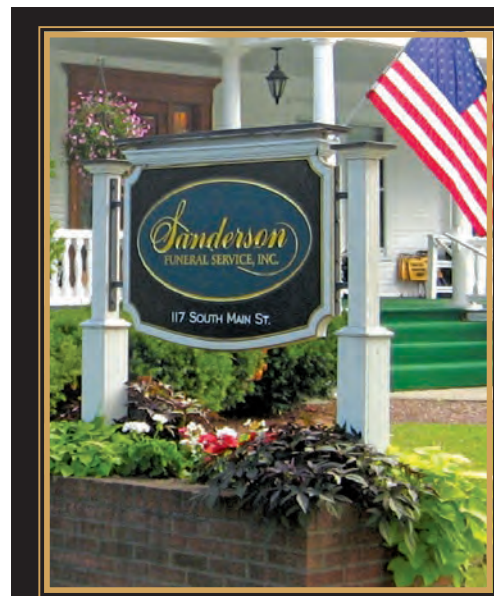
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Jeff Valley celebration of life

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ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Paul Audet, 69, of Cornwall

CORNWALL — Paul Audet passed away on July 24, 2023, after an unexpected cardiac event. He was born Nov. 30, 1953, to Henry and Joan (Dubois) Audet. You could hear him coming to join a group of friends before you saw the 6'4" tall red Audet's trucking shirt and blue dickie pants coming through the crowd. He was the second of six siblings, a proud lifetime resident of Cornwall, Vt.



PAULAUDET

He was raised on his family dairy farm, where he learned and honed his true love of anything mechanical. If it had an engine, and had the potential for some fun, you could hear 'yup, we can do that' followed by some shuffling of some tools, and two of the largest, kindest hands you will ever see grab a hold of that rusty bolt, or grease covered pin.

He made lifelong friends just living life the way he wanted, helping others as best he could and always being ready to go for a ride or meet up with friends and family at a moment's notice.

He was predeceased by both parents and his older brother, Louis Audet. He is survived by his brother Rene and wife Donna Audet of North Carolina; his sister Jean and husband Larry Rheaume of Orwell; his brother Leo and wife Sara Audet of Cornwall; and his sister Lena and husband Eric Steele of Addison.

He is also survived by nine nieces and nephews, Erin Lewis, Jared Audet, Renee Carpenter, Jennifer Rheaume, Michelle Pope, Cody Steele, Wade Steele, Bridget Audet, and Olivia Audet; and nine great-nieces and nephews he cherished. He will be fondly remembered by his large extended family and family friends.

Friends and Family are welcome to celebrate Paul's life through a Catholic Mass at St. Mary's Church in Middlebury on Wednesday, Aug. 2, at 10 a.m., followed by a burial at the St. Mary's Cemetery.

Paul's heart was even bigger than his stature. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Shard Villa in memory of his mom; he was forever grateful for the home they provided her and continue to provide his aunt.

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

Baser letter

(Continued from Page 5A)
existing levies to cover spending, and remember the Federal Reserve wants to slow economic activity. These factors have me scratching my head as to the course of events in the future.

In recent years there seems to be a bi-partisan willingness to expand government's role in the social fiber of our country, at least in areas they have access.

\$6.7 trillion is an unprecedented amount of government spending. Many have been helped. However, unlike many other nations that are democracies, free, and have a capitalistic-based economy, Congress seem to lack the fiscal foresight to take actions that will allow us to pay the bills.

Expanding government's role in all our lives is a choice. When a legislative body makes that

choice, they will be judged by the electorate. If the government that makes the choice does not make plans to pay for it, there will be severe consequences.

As an aside, the Vermont Legislature added several new social benefits for Vermonters this last session and they did raise taxes to cover those programs.

Fred Baser
Bristol

Betty Nuovo remembered for her green thumb

This is a message that I sent to the Middlebury Garden Club.

"You may have already heard that Betty Nuovo passed away on July 4.

Betty contributed greatly to Vermont and the town of Middlebury.

You might not remember however that Betty was also an active member of the Middlebury Garden Club for many years. I first heard of the Garden Club from Betty when she used to head to the Sheldon Garden to do her volunteer duty on the weekly maintenance crews. I think she even got me to join her there a

couple of times before I was a member.

I was very friendly with Betty. She was my neighbor on Halpin Road where her house sat on 11 acres. She had lovely perennial gardens and opened them to MGC members for tours. She also added annuals and especially loved her morning glories, which she trained to climb up the side of her house on strings.

During the times when Betty was not in Montpelier, she and I walked Halpin Road every morning.

Often she directed us to do chores on our walks. We had "trash

walks" when we picked up debris along the roadside, and we also had walks with sickles when we chopped down the wild parsnip.

At 80 years old Betty was still attacking the parsnip!

Betty also planted patches of the common orange lilies along the road and they are still growing today. I think of her when I see them.

We will miss you Betty but we will always remember you. Thanks for all you did!"

Marilyn Needham
President,
Middlebury Garden Club
Middlebury

Obituary Guidelines

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

with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to obits@addisonindependent.com.

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

RESEARCH STUDY

August 2023 www.nenpa.com/screener

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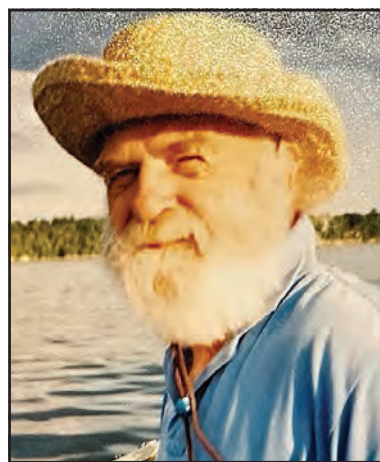
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EDWARD WHITE SR.

Edward White Sr. celebration of life

BRISTOL — The family of Edward White Sr., of Bristol, Vt., who died July 9, 2023, will be gathering to celebrate his life, and they'd be honored if you'd join them on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Hogback Mountain Brewery at 372 Rockydale Road, Bristol, Vermont.

Please bring your fondest memories of Ed to share with family and friends. ♦

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Hit and run exemplifies lack of care for others

On Feb. 3, 2023, I experienced an extremely traumatic and tragic situation; my dog was hit and run, left in a pool of her own blood, unable to cry for help. I believe the driver made no efforts to knock on doors or any other attempt to locate the owners of this poor injured creature.

We are thankful to have neighbors who were able to capture video footage of the incident. Sadly, the driver decided to leave my dog alone, unable to move, on the side of the road profusely bleeding. I believe the driver lied to the cops and they still maintain they "tried to find help."

My faith in our justice system and human decency has been destroyed. We wonder why people in this society snap and go on

rages when there is no justice for the innocent. It has been almost five months and there has been no settlement of charges against said person who had total disregard for an innocent animal. They chose to plead not guilty to all charges; leaving the scene of an accident with property damage and careless/negligent vehicle operation. My dog is property?! She was not considered a "being?" What happened to consequences for your actions?

All this does is show people that cruelty to animals, leaving the scene of an accident, driving carelessly is an acceptable action. What a shame we do not have laws that better protect animals. What has happened in this world that we stopped caring for all beings? This is the very reason

that more tragedies are happening, such as mass shootings in our schools, our churches, and even just walking down the street.

Where have common sense, respect, ethics, human decency, manners and caring about one another gone? I grew up with parents who taught me to accept and treat everyone with love and respect regarding the uniqueness of their ways. Why is this so hard for others to wrap their heads around? Why can't we all work together, show respect for all beings, and stop the violence? Why can't we have stronger laws protecting animals' rights, too? Remember, for some people, their animals are the only loved ones they will ever have.

Sadie Messenger
Middlebury

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While the sun shines

ALL THE RAIN has made haying difficult this year. But a Lincoln farmer did manage, between showers, to get this Mt. Abraham meadow cut and rolled.

Photo by Dale Cockrell

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VERGENNES RESTAURATEUR MATT Birong along with other volunteers serve food out of Birong's 3 Squares Café food truck in Johnson last week. World Central Kitchen elicited the help of many Vermonters to help provide nourishing food to those impacted by the floods this month.

Photo courtesy of Matt Birong

Birong

(Continued from Page 1A) restaurant 3 Squares Café, offered up his eatery's food truck to assist in any way possible with Vermont's relief efforts. World Central Kitchen, an international relief agency, arrived in Vermont after the floods as soon as it was safe to do so to provide food for those overwhelmed by the disaster.

In order to make it happen, the organization reached out to local folks for help. Upon seeing the aftermath of the floods, Birong, who also happens to be a state representative for Northwest Addison County, had reached out to different organizations to offer them his food truck as a resource if it was needed. World Central Kitchen then reached out to him and his team and agreed to run the food truck for three nights in the town of Johnson, one of the heavily impacted areas.

Birong showed up in Johnson

with his truck three days last week — Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (July 18, 19 and 21).

"We basically prepped everything at the restaurant," Birong said. "We took the catering trailer up to Johnson. They rotated dinner and lunch shifts in six or seven different locations throughout the state, one of them was the church in Johnson that we went to."

World Central Kitchen's main goal is to be an immediate response effort to natural disasters. It tends to arrive immediately in the wake of a natural disaster and provide food for those in need.

Birong was among several other state legislators who got involved in relief efforts, and one of hundreds of Vermonters who got involved. Birong's Democratic colleague Rep. Daniel Noyes of Johnson volunteered to serve food in his hometown. Addison

County State Sen. Ruth Hardy also helped serve food in Johnson and with clean up in areas outside of Montpelier. And World Central Kitchen garnered the aid of 20 restaurant, catering and food truck partners across the state, and was able to provide 9,100 meals total to residents affected by the floods.

In terms of long term resources and aid there is still much to be done.

"There's gonna be a lot of work needed to get those things back into shape," Birong said. "There was piles of trash everywhere (in Johnson). Every day we came, it was different. People were ripping out the walls to prevent mold."

He explained that repairing the damage is going to be a long process and it's important to continue providing support to the Vermonters who need it.

"Our job now is to make sure these resources are sustained for people who need it," he said.

ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

Tufts University student **Abby Johnson** of Starksboro, Class of 2026, was named to the dean's list for the spring 2023 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts require a semester grade-point average of 3.4 or greater.

Catherine Schmitt of Middlebury, a rising senior Neuroscience and Philosophy major, has been named to the dean's list at Hamilton College for the spring 2023 semester. Schmitt is a graduate of Middlebury Union High School.

Emma Jackman of Vergennes was one of 696 SUNY Cortland students who earned president's list honors for the spring 2023 semester. Jackman is studying Early Childhood Education. To qualify for the list, students must earn a grade of A- or better in each of their classes while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

Liam Seaton of Weybridge has been named to the dean's list at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., for the Spring 2023 semester. Seaton, the son of Michael Seaton and Elizabeth McCracken, is majoring in Psychology.

Three local residents received their bachelor's degrees from Rochester Institute of Technology at its commencement exercises in May. They include: **Nik Kaufmann**, Bridport, B.S., Mechanical Engineering; **Daniel Wisell**, Middlebury, B.S., Mechanical Engineering Technology; and **Gabrial Nichols**, Orwell, B.S., Electrical Engineering.

With GPAs of 3.5 or better, **Mallory Lufkin** of Brandon and **Patience Hanley** of Middlebury were named to the dean's list at the University of Maine for the spring 2023 semester.

ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

Champlain College announces spring honors list

ADDISON COUNTY — Champlain College has released its honors lists for the spring 2023 semester. With GPAs of 4.0 for the semester local students named to the president's list include: Antonia Cavalier of Addison; Stephanie Menotti of Bristol; Brenna Cook of Middlebury; Tyler Chasse of Monkton; Connor Winnay of New Haven; Maeve McGuinness and Antonio Socinski of North Ferrisburgh; and Isaiah River of Vergennes.

With 4.0 GPAs for at least two consecutive semesters, the following student were named to the trustee's list: Stephanie Menotti of Bristol; Tyler Chasse of Monkton; and Maeve McGuinness and Antonio Socinski of North Ferrisburgh.

The following students have been named to the Champlain College dean's list for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or

higher in the Spring 2023 semester: Sean Goodell and Peter Landing of Addison; Michael Bedard of Brandon; Wisdom Edwards, Cole Kouwenhoven, Cole Manchester, Ezekiel Savage, Michael St. Louis and Noble Westbrook of Bristol; Brianna Billings of Ferrisburgh; Afshin Belar of Middlebury; Neo Weaver of North Ferrisburgh; and Lydia Kimball and Mabel River of Vergennes.

Margaret Krause of Middlebury and **Brianna Cotroneo** of Weybridge both

received their degrees from St. Michael's College at its May Commencement exercises. Both

Krause and Cotroneo were also named to the dean's list for the spring 2023 semester.

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gbA Architecture and Planning

These images were submitted by gbA Architecture and Planning of Montpelier and show a four-story front of the updated Ilsley Library. To the left is the front (Main Street) view of the Ilsley, which offers a ground-level entrance into the library. At top left is a rear view (bordering the municipal parking lot), and the drawing above offers an interior view.



Wiemann-Lamphere Architects and ReArch Co.

These images of a reimagined Ilsley Library were submitted by the architectural team of Wiemann-Lamphere Architects of Colchester and ReArch Company of South Burlington (WLA-ReArch). Top-left is an image of the rear of what would be a two-story building, with an interior depiction at top-right, and a Main Street view of the structure to the left. Note the Main Street view shows an addition that extends up to the sidewalk.

Ilsley Library

(Continued from Page 1A)

for the Ilsley Library's proposed renovation and expansion at its current 75 Main St. site. Those firms are gbA Architecture and Planning of Montpelier, Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA) of Middlebury, and a collaboration of Wiemann-Lamphere Architects of Colchester and ReArch Company of South Burlington.

All three received a \$5,000 stipend for their work in devising conceptual images of how the Ilsley Library's growing programming could be accommodated within roughly 24,000 square feet, at a cost of around \$14.8 million. These and other big-picture parameters — such as the decision to keep the library at its present location — were previously endorsed by both the Ilsley board and the town selectboard.

The *Independent* in this edition offers a nine images (three each) from the three competing architectural teams. Those images and related materials are also now on display at the Ilsley.

Ilsley officials contend the current library building affords inadequate and poorly configured space that isn't meeting the community's expectations. It has low ceilings and support columns; has a poorly lit and under-sized children's area that suffers from ground water leaks, mold and a broken wastewater system that causes offensive odors; has line-of-sight safety issues for people entering the building from the south side; needs better amenities for teens and 'tweens; and has areas and resources that aren't accessible to some folks who are physically challenged.

Renovation/expansion was one of four scenarios the Ilsley Library 100 Project Team had been considering correcting the aforementioned deficiencies plaguing the 99-year-old building, onto which additions to the north and south of the building were installed in 1977 and 1988.

The other three paths forward included simply renovating the current building, renovating it while complementing it with an annex somewhere nearby, or building a new structure. Price tags for those options ranged from \$5.5 million (to simply renovate on site), to \$23 million for building a new structure off Bakery Lane.

McVeigh said the competing architects were given detailed instructions as they set to work reimagining an Ilsley Library that could satisfy Middlebury's needs for the next 100 years.

"We're looking for a building that's welcoming, accessible, safe," he said, alluding to comments received from hundreds of library users who've chimed in during scores of public meetings. "We want a community hub with the flexibility to expand into the future with more sustainability than we have now."

Each team was also asked to consider library staffing, renewable energy options and ease-of-maintenance in their designs. All within the prescribed budget and square-footage allowance.

"The issue is that we say we need 24,000 square feet," he explained. "How do you get there? You can go up, or you can go out."

McVeigh and Ilsley Director Dana Hart said they're very impressed with how representatives from all three architectural firms envisioned how the library could grow — and do so in utilitarian and beautiful ways. They also stressed the ultimate library depiction might look completely different from any of the nine images that are part of the design competition. The selected architect will essentially start with a clean slate in working with Ilsley stakeholders.

DIFFERENT DESIGNS

The three competing architectural teams are all recommending preserving the original 1924 Ilsley building and removing the library's '77 and '88 additions to make way for new construction.

But beyond that, there are a lot of differences in the teams' designs for a beefed-up Ilsley.

The three plans depict an Ilsley in two, three or four stories, with views from the front (from Main Street), behind (from Bakery Lane) and an interior image for each.

There's roughly a 5,000-square-foot difference between the smallest and largest design offering.

Two depictions have an at-grade entrance to the front of the library from Main Street to the north of the front steps where the 1988 addition will be replaced, and one of those options starts at the sidewalk in line with the front of the other Main Street businesses.

Another design proposal juts into the parking lot behind the Ilsley with imaginative intentions to use the parking area as working outdoor spaces. Another has a three-story atrium in the center of the redesigned building to add much-needed natural light into the structure. Each have exciting ways to reimagine the children's and youth areas of the library.

Ilsley officials were unable to provide the architectural teams' narratives for the design concepts as the *Independent* went to press. But the images speak volumes, in terms of how the architects chose to mass new construction while keeping the stately 1924 building a visual centerpiece.

An ad hoc advisory committee made up of architects is helping Ilsley leaders judge and interpret the competition designs.

That panel's early reviews of the submissions have been encouraging.

"One of the (committee members) said any one of these firms could build us a new library," McVeigh said.

Hart agreed, adding the teams all lent their own flourishes to the designs.

"The professional advisory group said none of the additions were imitative of the 1924 style, and they thought that was a good thing," Hart said.

That said, Hart and McVeigh urged library stakeholders not to fall in love with any of the conceptual designs.

"We're somewhat concerned that people will see a picture and say, 'Oh, it's going to look like this.' It won't," McVeigh said. "This is really the beginning of the process. What we get once we've selected a design firm to work with is a team of people we can work with to go back again to the community and get more detailed impressions of people's needs, issues and concerns."



Vermont Integrated Architecture

Here we see the three images submitted by Middlebury's Vermont Integrated Architecture. It's a conceptual design calling for a three-story addition to Ilsley Library, with views from Main Street (below), the municipal parking lot (upper-most photo), and an interior seating area (directly above). Note the atrium inviting light into the center of the building. Representatives from all three companies will discuss their plans at public meeting at Town Hall Theater on Aug. 9 at 6:30 p.m.



The three teams will publicly make their pitches at the Aug. 9 THT gathering, which starts at 6:30 p.m. Ilsley officials will invite, and consider, more public input prior to recommending a

design competition winner to the selectboard on Aug. 22.

A tentative timetable calls for presenting voters with a library project bond proposal next March, on Town Meeting Day.

In the meantime, Ilsley officials will intensify their search for donations, grants and other revenue sources to minimize the impact on Middlebury taxpayers. Hart is hoping to see a lot of

people at the Aug. 9 meeting. "It's their chance to see themselves in this building," she said. Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Addison County awaits disaster designation for July floods

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials continue to inspect flood-related damage in our area in a process that could lead to Addison County being added to the list of Vermont counties covered by the federal disaster declaration announced by President Joe Biden on July 14.

As of Wednesday, local officials were still unclear on whether a flood disaster declaration would be extended to Addison County.

The president's declaration has made federal funding available to affected individuals in Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland, Washington, Windham, Orange, Caledonia and Windsor counties. This assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Jason Maulucci, spokesman for Gov. Phil Scott, said Vermont's

damage reports are currently being evaluated by FEMA leaders. Scott is looking for the federal assistance net to be cast as far as possible across the state, according to Maulucci.

"From the start, the governor's request has been for all 14 counties to be designated," he told the *Independent*. "FEMA and the president wanted to issue the original approval as soon as possible, so the declaration included counties for which they had visual aerial assessments that

met the threshold. The governor's office continues to push additional counties being added as soon as possible."

A list of benefits available to property owners in counties under a federal disaster declaration can be found at tinyurl.com/bk8pz9wv.

"Although for individual assistance, the president's declaration initially only included six (counties), we fully anticipate others will become eligible," he reiterated.

With that in mind, state Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, stressed that Addison County residents in need of assistance should report their flood-related damage as soon as possible to Vermont 211, at vermont211.org.

FEMA officials said federal funding is also now available to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the flooding in all

14-counties. FEMA officials have already inspected flood-related damage to properties in Ripton, Middlebury, Lincoln, Salisbury and Bristol. As previously reported by the *Independent*, heavy rainfall during the second and third weeks of July damaged roads, culverts and bridges; destroyed crops; flooded basements; and caused other hardships for residents, municipalities, farms and businesses in Addison County.

Flood maps

(Continued from Page 1A)

The updates will not only reflect geographical changes since the 1980s, but also technological strides in the field of geography. Currently, the maps exist as PDFs online, but the next iteration will be digital and interactive.

Flood maps show how likely it is for an area to flood, which is important in land use planning and in flood insurance programs, according to Middlebury College Assistant Professor of Geography Joseph Holler.

“For land use planning, the flood risk map is often used to restrict development in high-risk areas,” he said.

They’re a tool meant for mitigation, rather than relief, according to Andrew L’Roe, Addison County Regional Planning Commission Emergency Management Planner.

“It’s more on the front end,” L’Roe said. “If there’s a big flood or something, it’s not like they go in and say, Oh, you were in or you’re out. Like, it’s, it’s not an after-the-fact thing. It’s definitely a planning device, and it’s supposed to help us make better decisions,” he said.

Holler enumerated three ways the current maps are inaccurate:

“First, extreme weather events are changing along with the changing baseline of a warming climate,” he said.

“Second, the FIRM maps (Flood Insurance Rate Maps) represent the risk of flooding from inundation caused by rising seas, lakes, rivers and streams with a faulty assumption that river and stream channels do not change. In fact, much of the flood damage in Vermont is caused by stream bank erosion and stream or river channel migration. In other words, the shapes and paths of streams and rivers naturally

change over time, and these changes can undermine housing and infrastructure.

“Third, the FIRM maps do not account for new land use change or development, or flood mitigation efforts over the past 30 years.”

From a first-response perspective, security is compromised with inaccurate maps.

“It definitely increases our sort of insecurity as first responders ... I would rather have less people to evacuate and have to worry about when there’s big rains coming,” Holler said.

Although the process is just beginning, L’Roe and Ned Swanberg, regional flood plain manager for the Department of Environmental Conservation, both said that for years their respective organizations have been urging the national organization to reevaluate Vermont’s maps.

“We’ve been ... advocating for updates for a while, because we knew they were out of date,” L’Roe said.

In 2011, FEMA completed digitizing some Vermont counties’ flood maps.

“The Vermont rivers program has been begging FEMA to come back and finish digitizing the rest of the state,” said Swanberg.

Funding has been the source of a slow return since 1985. But, more recently, there’s been more funding available and more data.

Swanberg said the program was not initiated with the assumption that 38 years would pass with no updates.

“In the original concept for the insurance program, they absolutely had the intention of having updated maps within each decade,” he said.

“I think it is both unsurprising and unfortunate that the FIRMs have not been updated frequently,” said Holler.

Their reevaluation coincidentally comes amid one of Vermont’s most severe flooding events since Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. However, the new maps will not reflect this most recent event because data collection began prior to it.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Additionally, the maps do not reflect complications due to climate change.

“They’re not adjusted for what seems to be happening with ... global climate impacts. That simply is not part of the (FEMA) guidelines and specifications,” Swanberg said.

“It’s absolutely a problem,” he added.

“What we really need to do is be thinking about the future and the future is, in many ways, becoming more and more unknowable, we’re going to have probably a lot more drought, and a lot more floods ... we need to be more careful. If we don’t want our friends and family and communities to, you know, go through these kinds of disasters.”

Is the FEMA program outdated?

“There’s a lot of things that are out of date now,” Swanberg said. “Yeah, we need real tools that will actually change development, guide development. And that’s very difficult stuff to get, but real guidance about where are risks that are going forward? And how to create a sustainable outcome? The future that we’re facing? Yeah, we don’t have those yet.”

Dows to take bow for diner stewardship

MIDDLEBURY — The old Diner restaurant served up its last meal in 2018, and next month it’s slated to be removed from its longtime 66 Merchants Row spot in order to make way for an expansion of the adjacent Town Hall Theater.

But THT officials are ensuring that past owners/operators of The Diner get to take a final bow before the old building is removed from

the downtown landscape, if not from our collective memories.

Doug Anderson, THT’s artistic director, announced plans to honor The Diner’s former, longtime owners — Steve

and Beth Dow. The Dows purchased the diner in 1989 and operated it for 25 years. The business gained a very devoted following during the Dows’ stewardship. “Steve’s Park Diner” became a melting pot, serving folks of all economic stripes who would share stories over a hearty plate of meatloaf, bacon & eggs, or blueberry pie.

“People gathered there, celebrated there, and ate some really good food,” Anderson said. “You don’t just ignore that history. The building is going, but the memories remain, and we need to thank the Dows for all they did for this community.”

Middlebury’s first diner arrived during the 1930s, originally

sitting on the site of Middlebury’s municipal building, Anderson noted. During the 1940s, it was rolled up the hill to its present location next to Town Hall Theater. The original building was replaced in 1951 with

the structure that served the town for many years.

The celebratory event for the Dows will be held at the diner on Saturday, Aug. 5, at 10 a.m. Diner regulars from past years will share their memories of the place, and the Dows will be on hand. Classic diner coffee mugs, inscribed with the Steve’s Park Diner logo, will be given out for free to the first 75 people who attend.

Photo courtesy of Douglas Anderson



THE FORMER DINER restaurant building will soon be razed from its perch next to Middlebury’s Town Hall Theater. THT leaders have scheduled a Aug. 5 celebration of Steve and Beth Dow, who ran the diner for a quarter century.

“People gathered there, celebrated there, and ate some really good food,” Anderson said. “You don’t just ignore that history. The building is going, but the memories remain, and we need to thank the Dows for all they did for this community.”

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their memories of the place, and the Dows will be on hand. Classic diner coffee mugs, inscribed with the Steve’s Park Diner logo, will be given out for free to the first 75 people who attend.

In exile: The essential sadness of home?

Note: This is the second part in a series by Hector Vila, Middlebury College Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Writing.

Driving into Kigali, Rwanda, from the airport evening had settled. Maybe it was the sweet smell of grilled meat; maybe it was the people walking the streets, couples holding hands, shops and bars busting with people; maybe it was the narrow streets with white-painted curbs and the “mos” carrying passengers or looking for one (the Spanish word for motorcycle; in Kigali meaning *moto taxis*) swerving to avoid cars, trucks and buses. It had to be the hills, maybe, as they are in Córdoba.

I was in two places at once; time had no bearing, perhaps the lingering geographic memory of a hundred million years ago, before the tectonic shift, when Africa and the Americas were a single landmass. I was in Kigali and Córdoba, Argentina, a moment of unexpected arrival when a door opens and you must pass through.

If this is what life is like for so many, what then is home? I wondered if Middlebury’s Afghan students had this same experience—where is home? *what* is home?—as they found their way from Afghanistan to Qatar to Rwanda to the U.S.? Does the “essential sadness” of exile, as

Edward Said describes it, become the *essential sadness of home?*

To begin to get at these questions, I turned to the writing of one of my Middlebury students, Samimah Naiemi, her final assignment for a course I taught this past spring, Writing and Experience, *Where is my home?*

“I left Afghanistan, the country I was born and raised in, and the home where my family is located, although I did not choose to,” Samimah tells us. “War and the threat of violence forced me and thousands more, out. Now that I cannot return to the place I was born and raised, does that mean I have no home?”

In 1897, Germany colonized Rwanda as part of German East Africa, followed by Belgium, which took control in 1916 during World War

I. Colonization displaces notions of home; oppression in the name of imperialism, a modernization strategy, redefines, and confuses home.

Before colonization made its mark, the Kingdom of Rwanda dominated from the mid-18th century, with the Tutsi kings conquering others militarily, centralizing power, and enacting anti-Hutu policies. Tutsi dominance displaced the homes of the Twa, a forest-dwelling pygmy people often considered descendants

of Rwanda’s earliest inhabitants. The Twa lost much of their habitat and moved to the mountain slopes. Their numbers have persistently dwindled as a direct consequence of being forcefully displaced from their homes. Germany and Belgium ruled through the Rwandan king and perpetuated a pro-Tutsi policy.

The first Hutu uprising was in 1959. They massacred the Tutsi and ultimately established an independent, Hutu-dominated republic in 1962 led by President Grégoire Kayibanda. A 1973 military coup overthrew Kayibanda and brought Juvénal Habyarimana to power, who retained the pro-Hutu policy. Habyarimana’s plane was shot down by the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and thus began a civil war in 1990.

My first encounter with Rwanda was in 2007 when Paul Rusesabagina delivered a lecture titled “Hotel Rwanda: A Story Yet To Be Learned” to a packed Mead Chapel audience at Middlebury College. In 1994, as Rwanda descended into 100 days of brutal genocide, almost one million people were killed. During that time, hotel manager Rusesabagina made a promise to protect his family and ended up helping to save more than 1,200 people—so the story goes, though it’s been questioned... The film “Hotel Rwanda,” nominated for three Academy Awards in 2004, tells the story of how Rusesabagina, portrayed in the film by Don Cheadle, sheltered over 1,000 refugees. In the face of violence and brutality a place of leisure and fantasy becomes a safe haven, a temporary home, another dream, another unexpected

door opening. But as Abdi Latif Dahir reported in the *New York Times* recently, Rusesabagina was also displaced, his home a jail; he “was captured in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, in August 2020, [and] began two and half years of imprisonment that brought international scrutiny to the landlocked nation in Central Africa. Mr. Rusesabagina was tortured and denied medication, he said, then charged with terrorism and sentenced to 25 years in prison in a trial that drew global condemnation.”

According to Human Rights Watch, current laws effectively make Rwanda a one-party state, as “under the guise of preventing another genocide, the government displays a marked intolerance of the most basic forms of dissent.”

Amnesty International is also critical. In its 2014/15 report, Amnesty said that laws against inciting insurrection or trouble among the population had been used to imprison people “for the legitimate exercise of their rights to freedom of association or of expression.”

What does this say about how we might define home given that Rwandans currently live in peace, and have a growing economy? There is construction everywhere in Kigali. There is a newfound emphasis on health, too. Afghans are welcome, as are other displaced people. A lightness of being is quite palpable. Post the genocide, many Rwandans that fled have returned.

Perhaps the history of violence and upheaval in Rwanda is

(See Hector Vila, Page 13A)

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Ticks

(Continued from Page 1A)

“I don’t see an overall upward trend since 2016. Just like some years are high, some years are low.”

This surprised him.

“I thought it’d be going up.”

Allen notes the possibility that these results could be attributed to his relatively recent start date.

“If I had started this research 10 or 15 years ago, maybe we would be seeing that increase,” he said.

Although the deer tick is a non-invasive species to North America, it didn’t appear in Vermont until roughly 30 years ago.

In order to understand the population dynamics of the tick population

Allen has been attempting to answer questions about the determinants of tick population size.

“I’m interested in ... teasing apart what are the things that determine why we have a lot of ticks in some places and fewer ticks in other places,” he said.

“Some of it is this role of how much of it is due to climate versus how much of it is due to the host community,” adding that this is made up of the types of animals that the deer ticks inhabit, such as mice, squirrels and their namesake, deer.

In order to get at answers, Allen and his team collect deer ticks at varying elevations in the Green Mountains, and thus at different temperatures.

He explains the patterns he’s observed.

“In the Champlain Valley, like around Chipman Hill, or on the TAM, we find lots and lots of ticks, and then we go up to the Snow Bowl, and there’s ... 50 times fewer ticks.”

He said that this conclusion has been a big one.

“We think that based on our results, it’s a combination of both that it’s colder up there, and

that there are differences in the animal communities that live up there. So some of that is that in the Champlain Valley, the valley forests are just very different than the Green Mountains,” Allen said.

Now he wants to figure out what makes for a particularly bad tick year.

“One of the things I’m really interested in now is what explains why some years we have lots of ticks, and some years, we have fewer ticks.”

This requires slightly different data.

“And so what we’ve been doing to address that is trapping mice ... we ... count the mice and count the ticks on the mice.”

“Generally what we see is that when we have a big year with lots of mice, then the next year, we have a lot of ticks.”

Allen explained the seasonal dynamics.

“Those (tick) larvae are feeding on mice. So when you have a lot of mice, a lot of those larvae feed, and then next year, those larvae grow up to become nymphs and adults.”

This makes for a larger population with the capability to bite humans.

“So that’s where my research is going now,” Allen said. “Getting a large enough data set of both the number of mice and the number of ticks so that we can ... show this relationship between mouse populations and tick populations.”

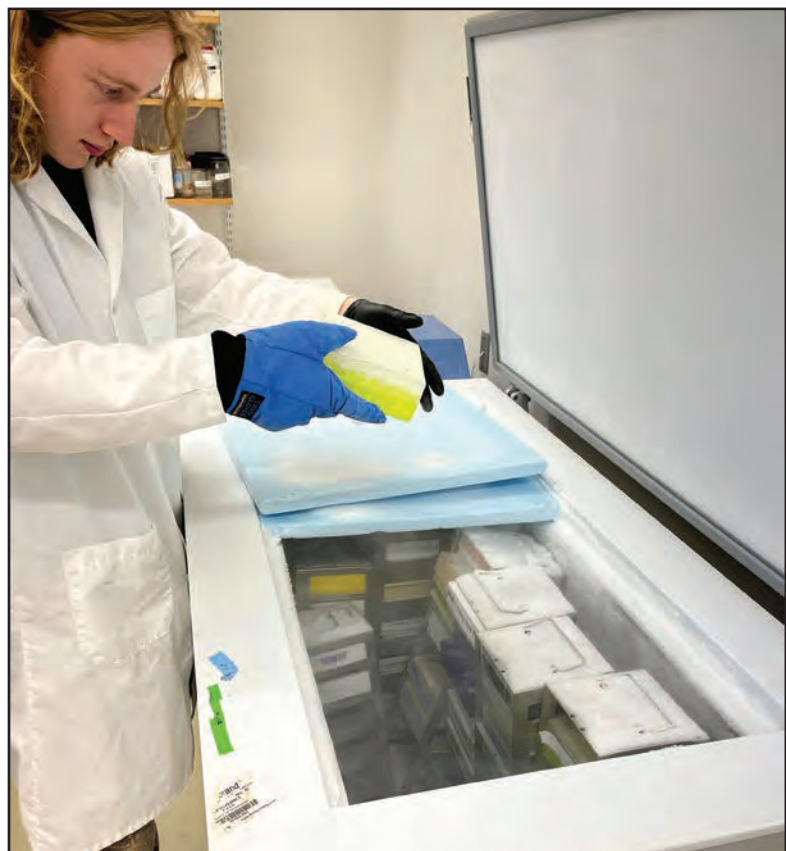
Then it’s back to gathering ticks using the drag cloth.

Of ticks he’s collected he said the infection rates are 25% for nymphs, which are the most dangerous stage because of their small size and greater ability to go unnoticed, and 50% for adults.

Although the nymphs are infected with Lyme disease at half the rate of adults, Allen said the nymph stage is still the one to be most wary of.

“Around Chipman Hill, or on the TAM, we find lots and lots of ticks, and then we go up to the Snow Bowl, and there’s ... 50 times fewer ticks.”

— Biology Professor David Allen



AFTER COLLECTION AND before DNA extraction, Professor Allen’s crew freezes ticks to minus-80 degrees Celsius in this freezer. Research assistant Luke Van Horn pulls nymph samples from the box and to begin the DNA extraction process.

Independent phot/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri



PROFESSOR ALLEN AND his team don’t hunt for ticks individually but let them come to them. Here an assistant is able to pick up ticks by simply dragging white cloth through an area the research group wants to sample.

Photo by Todd Balfour

“(The adults) are much bigger, they’re so much easier to find, versus the nymphs, even though only 25% of them have it ... there are so many of them out there.”

IN THE LAB

During a visit to Professor Allen’s lab, research assistant and Middlebury College senior Biology major Luke Van Horn pulled a set of nymph samples from 2021 from the freezer in which samples are stored at negative-80 degrees Celsius. He began the process of extracting their DNA.

The lab still has ticks from two years ago because it was such a bad tick year. Allen said samples from 2022 were either gone or close to it.

Held in little test tubes and wrapped in paper with an ID number, the vessels were more than spacious enough for the tiny nymphs. A single one was just a speck on the white plastic container it sat in under the microscope.

And, although tick season is extending because of climate change, it’s not changing things for ticks in the most dangerous stage of their life cycle.

“The nymph is most active from, like, May to August. The adult on the other hand can be found any time when it’s above freezing ... so that’s where we have this really, really long tick season,” Allen said.

But unfortunately, the nymphs are currently at their most active: “So this is the dangerous time.”

In order to stay safe, Allen urged people to wear long socks and pants, since from the ankle to the knee is the most common place to pick them up. Additionally, he notes that you can purchase repellents, such as permethrin or DEET, or even get clothing treated with the former.

It may also prove beneficial to hike at higher elevations.

“The colder it is up there at higher elevations ... it’s generally a safer place to hike. So if you’re hiking, at Bread Loaf, generally, there’s less risk than if you’re hiking on the TAM.”

He said other spots at higher elevations include the Green Mountains, Camel’s Hump, Mount



THE CHARACTERISTICS OF the nymph-stage tick are clear under a microscope in Professor Allen’s lab. Allen notes that their small size, even smaller than a mature tick, can make them particularly dangerous.

Independent phot/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri



ALTHOUGH NYMPHS ARE harder to spot if you pick one up, Professor Allen notes that ticks such as this one at the adult stage produce a higher rate of Lyme-infection when they attach themselves to human beings.

Independent phot/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

Abe, the Long Trail and Bread Loaf.

“There’s going to be a lot fewer ticks at those types of places,” he said.

Allen also debunked some tick-killing myths.

“If the tick’s crawling on you, then you’re totally fine, because it hasn’t started feeding. And so it can’t transmit anything.”

Some methods for tick-killing he suggested included flushing it down the toilet or placing it between two pieces of duct tape.

If the tick has bitten and is attached, he said “some people burn it (the tick) or put salt on it ... don’t do any of those things.” Additionally, Allen cautioned against putting Vaseline over the site.

“Because anything that disrupts the tick will actually make it start regurgitating, and then it’s an even higher chance that it infects you.”

TRANSMISSION

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that can give humans headaches, a high fever, joint pain, muscle aches, numbness in extremities, memory problems and

other troublesome symptoms.

Ticks themselves pick up Lyme disease when tick larvae feed on an infected mouse. These future nymphs then have the ability to pass Lyme onto humans once they reach that stage.

Allen explained the transmission process.

“The bacteria actually lives in the stomach of the tick. And then once the tick starts eating, (the bacteria) senses the blood and then swims up to the salivary glands of the tick. And then the tick shoots that bacteria in with its saliva. So it’s sucking your blood and it’s also shooting in saliva.”

He suggested using a twist-off tool or dull tweezers if you are bitten.

“You want to use more like blunt tweezers than pointy tweezers, and then get right at the base of the neck of the tick and do a slow steady pull. If you have like sharp tweezers, or you sort of jerk, then the tick can break. And then the head is left inside you. And then again, it could still ... increase the chance of transmission,” he said.

He also noted the importance of

tick checks: “The longer the tick is feeding on you, the higher the chance you get infected ... And that process takes maybe, like, 24 hours. So there’s a general thought that if you get it off within that first 24 hours you have a really, really low chance of getting infected.”

In addition to pursuing his own research questions, Allen’s summer research assistants have developed one of their own.

“We’re spending some time right now looking at whether the wildlife trails that animals will use to move around in the woods, if there’s any difference in prevalence of ticks ... versus just like, any random spot in the woods,” said senior Conservation Biology major Max Zeltsar.

Additionally, Zeltsar, Van Horn and Allen’s third summer assistant, Middlebury College junior Owen McCarthy, will be presenting their results twice; once at the Vermont Disease Ecology Conference at Saint Michael’s College and again at the end of July at the Middlebury College Summer Research Symposium.

Hector Vila

(Continued from Page 12A)

realized a moment of little change, or no drastic change, and an always present narrative suggesting that peace and tranquility coupled to economic growth is how one defines home—progress and modernization.

Samimah tells us that “I have finally developed the ability to embrace whatever changes life throws my way. I have learned not to tie my happiness to one thing, person, or place. I do not tie the sense of home to one physical location, one thing or one person or one family.”

I believe Samimah is saying that we need stories to define home. It’s Rwanda’s native story overrun by colonialization until civil war and violence ushered in different narratives, and eventually we end up with a hybrid—remnants of colonialization and civil war conflating with modernism.

This fusion, a pluralism perhaps, gives us a reality best articulated by Yuval Noah Harari in *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow*: “As

bureaucracies accumulate power they become immune to their own mistakes. Instead of changing their stories to fit reality, they change reality to fit their stories. In the end external reality matches their bureaucratic fantasies, but only because they forced reality to do so.”

Rwandan President Paul Kagame is crafting a magnificent story of hope, and home. It’s about possibilities creatively articulated in a narrative of a gleaming future, something yet to be that Rwandans are asked to embrace.

But Samimah’s logic, her story, lingers: “I have developed the ability to create a family and a home wherever I go.” If we can educate towards Samimah’s reality, work towards it peacefully, collaborating and in dialog, we would be better off. This is the coming cosmopolitanism.

Home, after all, is where an imagination is free to express hope creatively; we build it together, organically—it could be a classroom. It is for me.

Whiskey maker brews up bottling plan

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — WhistlePig Whiskey this fall is scheduled to fire up its new bottling operation in the former Otter Creek Brewing headquarters at 373 Exchange St., a Middlebury property the nationally renowned rye whiskey maker acquired last year for \$1.6 million.

WhistlePig currently distills and bottles its whiskey at the company’s Shoreham headquarters, a 500-acre farm at 2139 Quiet Valley Road. The company has been growing steadily since its birth in 2007. It now employs more than 100 people, some of whom work on the farm — where rye, barley and other WhistlePig ingredients are grown — while its sales and marketing workforce toils remotely.

“I think of the bottling facility as another chance to upgrade from a technical standpoint and a quality side. Because now we’re shipping whiskey all around the world.”

— Jeff Kozak

The company’s initial offering was a 100% rye, 10-year-whiskey sourced from Alberta, Canada. In the fall of 2015, WhistlePig opened its own distillery, and in 2017 released what it called its first single estate, Triple Terroir whiskey, FarmStock Rye Crop 001, following it up with Rye Crops 002 and 003 in 2018 and 2019.

More recently, the company’s “HomeStock” offered a blend of 4-year-old, 100% WhistlePig Rye with 5-year-old sourced barley and wheat whiskeys.

WhistlePig CEO Jeff Kozak said the company’s products are developing a wider following. WhistlePig can currently be found in most states and is making forays into the international market.

“It’s been steady growth,” Kozak told the *Independent* during

a recent phone interview.

This has prompted WhistlePig to invest in new infrastructure to meet demand. Bottling was an area in which the company felt it needed to improve. So when the Mass. Bay Brewing Company (makers of Harpoon beer)

purchased Otter Creek Brewing and put the latter’s Middlebury property on the market last year, WhistlePig saw an opportunity to quickly fill a need close to home.

“Middlebury is just another chance for us to take that next

(See *WhistlePig*, Page 16A)



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Midd alums' woodworking business blossoming in county

By MARIN HOWELL

MONKTON — It's fair to say that Treeline Terrains has deep roots in Addison County.

The wooden mapmaking company's three co-founders first met as students at Middlebury College while working at the Snow Bowl in Hancock. The team began carving the 3-D, topographic maps they sell today in part as a way to commemorate their time on the slopes.

"The business all started because we love being outside, and we wanted a way to capture the ski area that we all loved and adored. So, the first mountain we ever carved was the Middlebury Snow Bowl," said Alex Gemme, who started Treeline Terrains in 2021 with friends Nathaniel Klein and Jacob Freedman.

Treeline Terrains has remained tethered to the region throughout the past few years, even as the scope of its products and the company's customer base has expanded far beyond county lines. The business recently upgraded to a 5,000-square-foot workshop at 1599 Monkton Road, with ample room to meet increasing demand for Treeline's maps.

Gemme said the trio is excited to continue growing their company in the county that has encouraged them from the start.

"We've felt so much support as young people and being a business in Vermont. That's one of the major reasons we are here, because the state and our local Addison County community has supported us every single step of the way," he said.

MAPMAKING PROCESS

Treeline Terrains transforms well-loved landscapes into wood-carved topographic maps. Customers can browse premade pieces on the company's Etsy page or request a customized 3-D model of their favorite state park, ski area or other spot through Treeline Terrains's website, treelineterrains.com.

All of the company's maps are made by Freedman, Gemme and Klein. To create each product, Geographic Information System technology is used to develop a 3-D topographic model of a specific landscape. That model is then sent to a CNC (computer numerical control) Router that

carves the wood.

The cherry, maple and walnut wood used for Treeline Terrains products is purchased from the A. Johnson Company, based in Bristol. Every piece is hand-sanded, oiled and completed with finishing touches like a blue epoxy Lake Champlain. Prices for the pieces range from \$199 for a 6-by-9-inch 3-D wall hanging to upwards of \$1,600 for an 18-by-24-inch tabletop piece that includes lakes, rivers and trails.

When Gemme and his fellow founders started experimenting with the wooden models in 2018, they weren't expecting to make a career of it. Their first map of the Snow Bowl was made as a gift for the trio's supervisor at the ski area, who had helped the friends develop a scholarship fund to assist Middlebury College students in purchasing ski lessons, passes and lift tickets.

"We continued to give the maps for years as gifts to folks, and every time we gave a landscape to someone they'd ask if we could sell them," Gemme said.

The team turned down those early requests but began more seriously considering the business venture as they neared graduation.

"As COVID was happening, we were looking for a way to stay in Vermont, how we could find jobs that allow us to stay in a place where after work we could go swimming or on snow days we could go skiing. We wanted to be able to stay in this beautiful place," Gemme said. "We said you know what, a guaranteed way to get hired is to start your own company."

They officially launched Treeline Terrains a few months before graduation, and shortly after set up shop in Klein's grandfather's woodworking shop in Massachusetts for the summer of 2021. The team didn't stay out of state for long.

"As soon as we could afford to start renting space here, we came back to Vermont," Gemme said.

SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Treeline Terrains got the opportunity to return to Addison County later that year, when they heard of a friend of a friend's workshop available for use on Middlebury's South Street Extension.



TREELINE TERRAINS FOUNDERS Alex Gemme (left), Nathaniel Klein and Jacob Freedman began carving wooden maps as students at Middlebury College. They've continued to grow their 3-D mapmaking business in the county, though their customer base has begun branching far outside it.

Photo courtesy of Alex Gemme



TREELINE TERRAIN CO-FOUNDER Alex Gemme points to where the team's workshop is located on one of the company's 3-D maps. The business creates wood-carved, topographic maps of ski areas, state parks and other places as requested.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

EXCITED TO GROW

Treeline Terrains's new Monkton workshop will provide ample room for the company's large machinery as well as enable the team to build up their inventory.

"It's a tenfold increase, so now we arguably have too much space, which is a really good problem to have," Gemme said.

The additional space will also help meet demand for Treeline Terrains maps, which has increased substantially since the company launched in 2021. The team started out selling a few maps throughout their first summer of operation and now sell thousands of products each year.

Their customer base has also expanded far outside the state. The team travels to art shows throughout New England each summer, which helps bring in requests from out of state. Treeline Terrains will also later this year represent Vermont at the Big E trade show in Massachusetts, a multi-state fair with vendors from throughout New England.

Gemme said the company's social media pages have also helped attract customers from other parts of the country and beyond.

"Last summer we had one of our posts, an (Instagram) Reel of Lake Garda in Italy, blow up. It had like 35 million views, and we started getting all of these orders in Italian," he said.

The co-founder added that the team is looking forward to continuing to grow into their new space on Monkton Road. Treeline Terrains's team is still made up of the company's three founders, though Gemme said they hire students at Middlebury College for internships throughout the year.

Later this year, the team might look to hire part-time help during the busy holiday season. Eventually, the trio hopes to further expand the Treeline Terrains team.

"We're excited to grow, and we want to keep growing," Gemme said. "Our long-term goal is to make this a business where we can hire people to help us make these maps and run a company where people get to make really cool works of art that they're excited about, while supporting themselves and making a living."

County residents have helped the Treeline Terrains team relocate twice since then, first to a 400-square-foot workshop in Bristol and again to the company's new space in Monkton, which officially hosted an open house this month.

Gemme said the help Treeline Terrains received in finding needed workspace is one of the many ways the company has felt supported by the surrounding community.

"We had a whole crew of folks in the community looking out for us and trying to help us succeed in finding a workshop," he recalled.

Gemme added that other Addison County organizations have supported Treeline Terrains throughout the years. Middlebury College has featured the company at various alumni events and purchased custom keychains for a February graduation celebration.

A \$6,500 grant the team received through the Addison County Economic Development Corp. this past fall also helped Treeline Terrains purchase needed equipment.

"That was pivotal last year for us to buy more machinery. We then had enough CNC Routers to deal with the holiday rush," Gemme said.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
(1-800-733-2767).

The Bristol Fire Department — like many other volunteer firefighting agencies throughout the state — continues to recruit new members. Bristol Fire Chief Brett LaRose said his department is actively recruiting candidates for the next Fire Academy class. If you live in Bristol and want to learn more about what's involved, please contact LaRose at bristolfiredepartment@gmail.com, or call 802-453-3201. As

Chief LaRose says, "Volunteer firefighting is about neighbors helping neighbors. It's about a commitment to your community. It is a way to pass on one's good fortune by helping others. When you become a volunteer firefighter, you immediately feel empowered. You have the training — and now the responsibility — to help others in emergencies."

The Middlebury area's unemployment was 2% in June, up from the 1.5% recorded in May, according to information

from the Vermont Department of Labor. That month we saw 380 looking for work out of a labor force of 18,563. The county's jobless rate was 2.9% in June of 2022. The June 2023 unemployment rates for Vermont's 17 labor markets ranged from 1.7% in White River Junction to 3.3% in Derby. The state jobless rate for June was 1.9% — a decline of two-tenths of a percent from May. Meanwhile, the comparable U.S. unemployment rate in June was 3.6%, a decrease of

one-tenth of a percent.

Want to have some fun at a local show and help Vermonters dealing with flood-related damage? The Bristol Gateway Players will again offer "Theater 1, 2, 3" — a collection of fun and funny one act plays, along with some whacky improv — at Bristol's Holley Hall on Aug. 4 & 5 at 7 p.m., and on Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. The shows are free, but all donations will help fuel a flood relief fund created by the Vermont Community Foundation. Plays to be presented include,

"What's in Store for Denis," by Paige Guilbeault; "Ten Pages," by Bruce Kane; and "The Spot," by Steven Dietz.

Grief Support Group through Porter Medical Center will offer a Grief Support Group at its Palliative Care Department on Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 5 through Oct. 24. The sessions — from 7-8:30 p.m., via Zoom — will be hosted by Louella Richer, manager of Palliative Support Services at Porter Medical Center. The sessions will be facilitated by Taylor Zak, LCSW, and Laurie Borden, who has a long history of working on the hospice care field. Advanced registration is required. Please email Louella Richer at lricher@portermedical.org.

community, and compete for prizes, in the Foods, Flower Show, Garden Products, Art & Photography, and Handicrafts categories. There's also an opportunity to win a prize in the Wanda Goodyear Memorial Baked Beans Contest on the fair's Saturday. Organizers are hoping to receive many entries from across the county and beyond. So dig out those handmade creations, art projects or photos, recipes, and poke around in your garden to see what you might contribute to the exhibit. For more information contact Megan Sutton at 802-545-2475 or visit tinyurl.com/7p7wse28.

The average gasoline price in Vermont has risen 0.9 cents per gallon during the past week to \$3.60, according to GasBuddy's survey of 626 stations. Prices in Vermont are 0.6 cents lower than a month ago and 92.3 cents lower than a year ago. The cheapest gas in Vermont was \$3.37, the most expensive was \$3.79. The national average price rose 2.1 to \$3.55.

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Quiet space

(Continued from Page 1A) members also provided input. “That work group has been thinking for a while that if we could find a funding opportunity, what could we do?” Smith said. Well, CSAC has found a funding source to launch the work group’s vision: The Interlude program, a new mental health urgent-care service located in the Middlebury’s Marble Works complex. It offers a daytime and evening space for adults experiencing mental health crises; it is part of a pilot program supported by a Congressional earmark from Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and the Department of Mental Health.

Interlude offers patients a more casual, intimate setting in which to work out problems than a clinic or hospital setting. Stationed in space behind the Vermont Adult Learning headquarters, Interlude is a voluntary program that hosts a “home-like, trauma-sensitive space” that includes a living room, kitchen, bathroom, private comfort relaxation room, and a spot for music, movement and more, according to CSAC officials.

Interlude is staffed by a mix of peers and clinical staff focused on providing individuals and the community an “alternative way of being with one another during crisis, and to meet people during challenging experiences with compassionate and humanistic care,” according to a CSAC description of the program.

At this point, Interlude is looking to accommodate one patient at a time and attendees must be referred to the program through CSAC. But Smith hopes the program can eventually be accessible without referral.

“We are optimistic that this approachable, relaxing environment, staffed by individuals who empathize, listen, and share similar experiences, can make a significant difference,” Smith said. “We believe that offering an opportunity to slow down the crisis decision-making process and engage personal support networks, where feasible, will make a big difference for people coping with



THE COUNSELING SERVICE of Addison County has launched Interlude, a program that allows people to work through mental health crises in a casual setting, and potentially avert the need for a residential placement. Pictured in the Interlude space are, from left, Sandy Smith, CSAC director of Adult Mental Health Services; along with his staff of Nate Bamberg-Johnson, Bunny Lavallee, Jessica Hodder, Sean Ross and Mary Price.

Independent photo/John Flowers

mental health crises.” “We want to be effective, if we can, with situations that might otherwise be moving into more of an involuntary direction at the (Porter) Emergency Department,” Smith said.

Vermont’s mental health system is already short on residential placement options.

VT Digger reported earlier this year that Vermont’s care system currently has 142 general inpatient beds for adults at seven different hospitals and 30 beds for children and youth at the Brattleboro Retreat only. There are currently 57 acute psychiatric hospital beds in the state, VT Digger reported this past April, quoting Vermont Mental Health Commissioner Emily Hawes.

Porter Medical Center currently has no beds reserved for mental health patients, but still receives patients “experiencing acute or chronic mental health issues,” according to hospital spokesperson Christopher Morris. Porter uses

Emergency Department beds for acute mental health patients while they await transfer to another facility, he noted. The hospital had one such patient in its ED on a recent morning.

“Patients with chronic mental health illnesses are mostly referred by CSAC when they need more intensive support,” Morris added. “These patients stay on Porter’s main Med/Surg unit for up to a few months while awaiting transfer to another facility. We currently have one of these patients as well.” It should also be noted that the Counseling Service runs a crisis bed program with one- to two-bed capacity, “but that generally is for a little lower level of acuity and is usually full,” Smith said.

PEER SUPPORT Jessica Hodder, Nate Bamberg-Johnson, Mary Price and Sean Ross are part of a team of peer support specialists who work with Interlude attendees. They’re all fans of the

intentionally low-key ambiance of the new space.

“It’s really slowing things down, not having heart-rate monitors, other patients separated by a curtain who are going through incredible physical pain — all of the stressors that go with a clinical environment,” said Bamberg-Johnson. “We’re trying to open up a space where people can be comfortable receiving and sharing in a way that they’re being worked with, rather than on.”

Dialing back the pace of life is a critical first step for people in crisis, Ross noted.

“A lot of the mental struggles people are going through (stem from) they can’t keep up the pace of life and the stress and the demands,” he said. “We want this space to be a place where people can slow down, take a deep breath. We believe in the power of human connection and that’s one of the main methods we’re using.”

Hodder said visitors will notice a lot of plants and artwork in the Interlude HQ. And that’s on purpose.

“Another theme was to bring life

into this space as much as possible, because in a lot of the more clinical environments, it feels very still and not a lot of life going on,” she said. Hodder sees Interlude’s small kitchen as a ticket to breaking down barriers.

“A kitchen space is a beautiful thing for being with people — cooking together and the natural conversations that arise,” she said.

Price sees Interlude as an important new trend in the way mental health services can be delivered.

“The old-school way of dealing with a mental health crisis was ‘containment,’ and also ‘compliance.’ That person was ‘done to,’ and the crisis could be intensified that way because they felt like a trapped soul. Our approach now is connection, collaboration and validation of the experience — ‘what’s happening to you?’ and not, ‘What’s your diagnosis?’”

CSAC will host an open house at the new Interlude space next Thursday, Aug. 3, from 4-7 p.m.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Free Speech talk set Aug. 16

MIDDLEBURY — According to Meg Mott, former Marlboro College professor and self-proclaimed Constitution Wrangler, the debate over free speech is itself a good thing. Mott will be speaking at the Ilsley Public Library on Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 6 p.m. The talk is entitled, “Must Free Speech Endure Hate Speech?”

Everyone loves free speech in theory. The trouble comes when someone else’s speech disturbs our perceptions of social norms. Why should Nazis be given permission to march through a predominantly Jewish neighborhood? Why should anti-gay zealots be allowed to protest military funerals? The short answer to these actual Supreme Court cases is that the First Amendment protects the right to express outrageous things in public. It even protects a person’s ability to say harmful things: When municipalities have tried to criminalize hate speech, the Supreme Court has called foul.

“We should all be concerned about the effects speech has on the social fabric and we should all be concerned about giving the state the power to punish people for things they say.”

Mott has been speaking about the Bill of Rights as an antidote to political divisions in Vermont since the 2016 election. “When people feel as if their rights are under attack, they may be tempted to strike back in any way possible, even if that means undermining our fundamental freedoms,” she says. The First Amendment, she explains, is the first guardrail in our constitutional democracy. “Once we start fearing our enemies, more than we love our freedoms, the temptation to silence them with the law can be overpowering. Luckily, the First Amendment prevents us from ceding to our worse angels. We have to come up with another way.”

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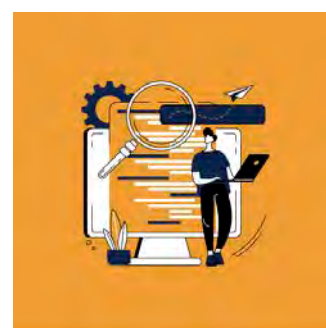
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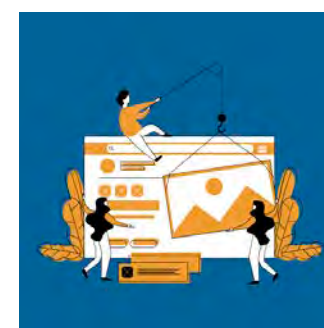
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Pastor

(Continued from Page 1A)

100 years, all of the 65-year-olds will be gone, but we need the church to be functional," Dzomeku said during a recent interview. "My goal is 'how can I get young people to join the church and keep the fire going,' so that when our generation and the older generation is gone, we can still have the fire of God burning and people joining (the church)."

Dzomeku himself began going to church as a young adult. At 18, he began attending, and working at, a church in his hometown of Koforidua, Ghana. He spent most days and nights at the house of worship, both practicing his faith and patrolling the building as a security guard.

Dzomeku said the church also provided him with a place to sleep during a time when he did not have anywhere else to stay.

"I used to go to church seven days a week, because I would sleep in the church. If women are having fellowship, I'm there. If the men are having a meeting, I'm there because I have to lock the church and sleep there," he recalled.

Dzomeku found that his connection to the church during those years helped attract other young people in town to the house of worship.

"Right after school, I would come back to the church. That's how I would do my studies. As a result of that, a lot of my friends began to come to church, because if you want Isaac to talk to you, you have to find him in church," he said.

In 2003, Dzomeku decided to further his work in ministry in the United States. At 25, he moved to Massachusetts and began serving under the pastor at the Redemption Christian Center in Worcester. He obtained a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Worcester State University and went on to achieve a Master of Divinity degree from Liberty University.

Upon receiving his Master of Divinity, Dzomeku said he was faced with a decision about where to go next with his work in ministry. At the time, Dzomeku recalled a conversation he'd had while



PASTOR ISAAC DZOMEKU was recently appointed to lead the First Baptist Church of Bristol. He's hoping to grow the church community and attract younger members to the aging congregation. *Independent photo/Marin Howell*

attending a send-off service for a friend in Worcester a couple of years prior.

At that service he'd been introduced to Dale Edwards, the region minister for the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire, a network of Baptist churches in the two states.

"Dale said 'Isaac, this is my card, after you finish Bible school and you want a place to become a pastor, give me a call,'" he said. "As I kept praying, the Lord kept bringing Dale to me."

Edwards helped direct Dzomeku to the First Baptist Church of Bristol, which had a congregation in the process of searching for a part-time minister since interim pastor Todd Goodyear announced in early 2022 that he would step down from the role.

Dzomeku made his first visit to the Green Mountain State last year, meeting with Greg Orvis, a member of the church's board of deacons, and other members of the congregation.

"When I met Greg and the other team, I knew in my heart that I needed to come (to Bristol),"

Dzomeku said.

The church's congregation agreed.

"Isaac just blew us away," Orvis recalled. "We had a wonderful interview, and he was always very direct with us about where we were as a church, as an aging congregation."

Orvis said the congregation is excited to have Dzomeku take on the role of leading the church and is optimistic about the pastor's goal of filling more of the pews with children and young adults. The Bristol church currently has around 35 regular attendees, only a couple of which are young children.

Retaining younger members is an ongoing challenge for churches and other houses of worship throughout the country. Gallup reported this past December that over a third of Americans have tapered off from attending regularly religious services throughout their lifetime.

The 2022 survey found that while 67% of respondents said they frequently attended religious services while growing up, only 31% reported attending a church, synagogue, mosque or temple

weekly or nearly weekly today. The survey's findings are in line with previous Gallup research that highlights a steep decline in U.S. religiosity in recent decades.

Dzomeku is hoping to address that trend at the Bristol church, both by attracting younger members to the church community and encouraging them to stay.

"We need to preach a message of love. That is what the world is lacking right now," he said. "I'm hoping that we can get our youth around and preach love to them, and through them, they can bring their friends."

Outside of his work in the church, Dzomeku said is also looking forward to becoming a part of the Bristol community. He noted that Addison County reminds him a lot of Koforidua, despite being nearly 5,000 miles and an ocean away from his hometown.

"I like the country life. I was raised up in the country. The only time you would come to the city is when you wanted to come and have city life," Dzomeku said. "I grew up going to farm, I grew up in the village. I see that life over here."

WhistlePig

(Continued from Page 13A)

step and have a more appropriate bottling facility as we continue to expand," Kozak said.

Along with paying \$1.6 million for the former brewery, WhistlePig is pouring money into equipment. He explained the existing bottling apparatus didn't meet WhistlePig's needs, so the company sold it.

"Everything was moved out of there late last year and early this year," Kozak said. "It was basically starting with a clean slate. We put in our own equipment."

There are currently 12-15 people working in WhistlePig's bottling department in Shoreham.

"We'll move some of our staff from Shoreham to Middlebury," Kozak said. "We'll probably have to hire a couple of positions (to the bottling team)."

New hires are expected to include multiple brewers, production assistants, marketing and sales associates, delivery and warehouse workers, according to company officials.

At this point, there are no plans to install a bistro or tasting room at 393 Exchange St., like Otter Creek Brewing had, Kozak said.

"It'll start out strictly as a bottling facility," he said. "We're considering, down the road, maybe reopening the brewery and potentially adding distillage, but that's a couple years down the road."

Kozak was asked whether the new bottling equipment would allow WhistlePig to substantially ramp up its whiskey output. He replied the company doesn't publicly share production numbers, but he said acquisition of the brewery isn't about mass production.

"It's more about having a facility that's clean, close to truck traffic and everything else," he said. "I think of the bottling facility as another chance to upgrade from a technical standpoint and a quality side. Because now we're shipping whiskey all around the world."

He explained WhistlePig exports to 20 countries now, and

some of them have even more stringent quality control standards than the U.S. As such, it didn't make sense for the company to continue bottling in a farm barn.

WASTEWATER OUTPUT

Middlebury's wastewater treatment plant was another reason to buy the brewery for bottling, according to WhistlePig officials. Middlebury has agreed to apply — on behalf of WhistlePig — for an American Rescue Plan Act Pre-Treatment Grant to design and install a pH adjustment and monitoring system at the former brewery.

Total cost of that project: \$153,700.

"The goal of this system is to keep (WhistlePig's) variable pH wastewater neutral in order to allow for safe discharge to the town of Middlebury's collection and dispersal system and to the town's" wastewater treatment plant, reads WhistlePig's grant application.

"WhistlePig inherited a dilapidated pH adjustment system from Otter Creek Brewing that is out of date, difficult to manage, and relies on manual dumping of caustic and acid chemicals into an open lift station in order to ensure their wastewater is neutralized," the application further states.

Once the former brewery is fully renovated, WhistlePig expects to generate around 2,000 gallons of wastewater daily. Company officials estimate that daily discharge could jump to 20,000 gallons per day within 10 years, based on WhistlePig's projected boosts in production, bottling and barrel storage.

This could be an atypical year for WhistlePig and other companies that depend on Vermont agricultural products. Kozak late last week was still assessing flood-related damage to WhistlePig's rye and barley crops. "I know our barley crop is kind of written off, and we'll try to pick the rye up off the ground and see what happens," he said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Technical basics

AT THE TOWN pool on Monday, Middlebury Marlins swim team coach Colleen Rueppel gives diving tips to some of the youngest members of the swim club — those age 8 and younger.

Independent photo/Steve James

Champs wrap up at 5-1

By ANDY KIRKALDY
VERGENNES

The Vergennes Champs swim team in the past week posted two big wins over the Burlington Country Club and Town of Essex Swim teams to conclude their regular Champlain Valley Swim League season with a 5-1 record.

VST (Vergennes Swim Team) will join the other six CVSL teams in St. Albans this Friday and Saturday for the league's championship meet. The Champs won the league meet in 2021, while Burlington Tennis Club, undefeated this season, is the defending champion.

The Vermont summer championship meet will be held at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in White River Junction the following weekend.

CHAMPS VS. BCC

On July 20 the Champs cruised past host Burlington Country Club, 302 to 143, prevailing in 14 of 17 relays and winning 24 individual races. For VST, Noah Smits won three times, and Lauren Husk, Acadia Clark, Emry Mosehauer and Connor Husk each touched the wall first time.

Champs scoring points with top-three finishes were:

BUTTERFLY

- U-8 boys: 2. Riker Cooley.
- U-10 girls: 1. Vivian Romond, 21.91; 2. Juliette Angier.
- U-10 boys: 2. Tobin Howell; 3.

Brantley Cooke.

- U-12 girls: 1. L. Husk, 34.75; 2. Jordan Hutchins.
- U-12 boys: 2. Skyler James.
- U-14 girls: 2. Ella Bearor; 3. Sophia James.
- U-14 boys: 1. N. Smits, 28.85; 2. Khanlen Ouimette.
- U-18 girls: 1. A. Clarke, 29.69; 3. Nola Roberts.

BACKSTROKE

- U-8 girls: 1. Zoey Kress, 27.4; 3. Kendall Matton.
- U-8 boys: 1. Rhett Cooke, 23.4; 2. R. Cooley.
- U-10 girls: 1. E. Mosehauer, 19.78; 2. J. Angier.
- U-10 boys: 2. Brantley Cooke; 3. Enli Parrillo.
- U-12 girls: 1. L. Husk, 37.59; 2. Reese Muzzy.
- U-12 boys: 1. C. Husk, 40.59; 2. Adrien Ralph.
- U-14 girls: 2. Ella Romond; 3. Ellie Brooks.
- U-14 boys: 1. N. Smits, 32.68; 2. Cohen Howell.

BREASTSTROKE

- U-18 girls: 2. A. Clark.
- U-8 girls: 1. K. Matton, 30.0.
- U-8 boys: 2. Evan Angier.
- U-10 girls: 1. E. Mosehauer, 22.23; 3. Lydia Bearor.
- U-10 boys: 3. E. Parrillo.
- U-12 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 42.69; 1. Annika Smits.
- U-12 boys: 3. Skyler James.
- U-14 girls: 1. Ellie Eckels, 38.75; 3. Sophia James.
- U-14 boys: 1. N. Smits, 33.6; 2. C. Howell.
- U-18 girls: 1. Carlyn Rapoport,

(See Champs, Page 3B)

Marlins split final two dual meets of season

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BURLINGTON — The Middlebury Marlins swim team dropped an away meet back on July 20 and had two wins in five Champlain Valley Swim League outings heading into their final regular season meet, held at home on Tuesday vs. Winooski.

Full results from that meet were not available before Wednesday morning's deadline, and the *Independent* plans to add them at addisonindependent.com. The Marlins did edge Winooski for their third win in a 3-3 season.

The Marlins will join the other six CVSL teams in St. Albans this Friday and Saturday for the league's championship meet.

The Vermont summer championship meet will be held at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in White River Junction the following weekend.

ST. A TOPS MARLINS

On July 20 at St. Albans, a shorthanded Marlins team won two of 20 relays and 18 individual races as St. A prevailed, 343-128. Middlebury's Aidan Chance won four of those events, Sadie Chance prevailed three times, and Cassandra Bellman, Felix Poduschnick, Mitzi Poduschnick, Constanstin Bellman and Jorgen Pirrung picked up two victories apiece.

Marlins scoring points with top-three individual finishes were:

BUTTERFLY

- U-8 girls: 2. Louise Wiker.
- U-10 girls: 1. Ca. Bellman, 18.18.
- U-10 boys: 1. F. Poduschnick, 17.45.
- U-12 girls: 1. M. Poduschnick, 35.35.
- U-12 boys: 1. Co. Bellman, 40.32.
- U-14 girls: 1. S. Chance, 31.67; 3. Louisa Orten.
- U-14 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 33.76.
- U-18 boys: 1. A. Chance, 29.03.

BACKSTROKE

- U-8 girls: 3. Betsy Ausiejus.
- U-8 boys: 3. Lincoln Hunt.
- U-10 girls: 3. Willow Hunt.
- U-12 girls: 2. Camry Miner; 3. Elise Almstrand.
- U-12 boys: 3. Ben Phinney.
- U-18 boys: 1. A. Chance, 27.66.

BREASTSTROKE

- U-10 girls: 1. Ca. Bellman, 22.14.
 - U-10 boys: 2. F. Poduschnick.
 - U-12 girls: 1. M. Poduschnick, 41.07.
 - U-12 boys: 1. Co. Bellman, 41.3.
 - U-14 girls: 1. S. Chance, 35.79.
- (See Marlins, Page 2B)

Legion nine finishes strong for playoff berth

Two wins to end regular season put AC in tournament, but two setbacks there end AC surge

By ANDY KIRKALDY

CASTLETON — The Addison County American Legion baseball team finished the regular season with a flourish to earn a berth in this past weekend's state tournament at Castleton University.

But the local nine was unable to make much noise in the double-elimination postseason, picking up a forfeit win sandwiched between a pair of losses to finish the season with an overall record of 7-14.

As the regular season wound down AC defeated visiting Montpelier on July 19, 10-0, and host Franklin, 8-3, on July 20 to finish the regular season at 6-12 and clinch a playoff berth. AC earned the No. 4 seed from the Legion's Northern Division by winning three of its final four regular season games last week, including two victories over Franklin, its closest rival for the final Northern Division playoff berth.

But earning the No. 4 seed from the North meant an opening playoff game against Southern No. 1 seed Brattleboro, owner of a 16-2 regular season record, at noon this past Saturday.

And Brattleboro cruised, 16-6 in six innings. AC won on Sunday when South No. 2 seed Manchester, which lost to Colchester, 13-0, on Saturday, could not muster enough players and forfeited.

That sent AC to another elimination game on Monday morning vs. South No. 3 Lakes Region, based in Fair Haven. Lakes Region, which upset South Burlington on Saturday, 3-0, had fallen to Brattleboro, on Sunday, 12-8. On Monday, Lakes Region ousted AC, 11-1.

AC, 10-0

On July 19, AC moved a step closer to the postseason by blanking last-place Montpelier, 10-0, in five innings in a game that saw visiting Montpelier's starting pitcher ejected for arguing a second-inning balk call and then throwing at an AC batter, and umpires then toss Montpelier's manager for arguing both the balk and the ejection.

Tucker Morter tossed a four-hit shutout for AC, striking out four and walking none. After working out of a bases-loaded jam in the first inning, Morter allowed just two hits the rest of the way.

Alex Sperry manufactured a run for AC in the bottom of the first by singling, stealing two bases, and scoring on a wild pitch.

AC added three runs in the contentious second inning. Mike Dunbar singled, stole second, and scored on a Tyler Kimball single.

Kimball stole second, and Sperry singled him home. Sperry moved to third on the balk that started the arguing, and the home plate umpire ejected the pitcher and manager

when the hurler hit Carter Paquette with his next pitch. An error then scored Sperry, and it was 4-0 after two innings.

The home team added two more

in the third on a Xavier DeBlois single, an error, a walk and Cole Warren's two-run, bases-loaded single.

AC reached 10 runs by scoring

four more in the fourth. Paquette singled, and Morter doubled him home. Dunbar, Kimball and Nate Muzzy all walked, and Warren was hit by a pitch to plate another run. A two-run Sperry hit capped the rally.

AC, 8-3

AC entered its July 20 game vs. Franklin in St. Albans with a one-game lead, and the local nine clinched its playoff berth with its 8-3 victory. Cole Cudney earned the pitching win, allowing three earned runs, all in the sixth inning.

By then AC already led Franklin, 7-0, and Franklin pitcher Eli Calhoun had hit Cudney with a pitch in his pitching elbow during the top of the inning. Calhoun struggled with his control and hit a half-dozen AC batters during the game. Paquette tossed a scoreless seventh for AC to nail down the win.

Paquette also gave AC the lead in the first inning, singling, stealing second and third, and scoring on a passed ball.

AC continued to run wild on the bases in the second inning. Sperry doubled and stole third, and Cudney was hit by a pitch for the first time and stole second. Eyon Tembreull then doubled them both home, and Kimball's RBI single made it 4-0.

AC put three more runs on the board in the fifth. Calhoun hit Paquette with a pitch, and after he stole second he scored on a Cudney single. An error and a Ben Fuller hit plated two more runs and made it 7-0.

In the seventh AC added its final run. After walks to Kimball and Morter, Kimball stole third and scored on a passed ball.

BRATT, 16-6

In Saturday's tournament opener, South top seed Brattleboro scored the game's final 10 runs to snap a 6-6 tie and prevail, 16-6, in six innings.

AC took a short-lived lead in the top of the first. Paquette reached on an error, Cudney was hit by a pitch, and Tembreull doubled home Paquette.

Brattleboro answered with a pair of runs off Kimball in the bottom of the inning on an Alex Bingham single, a walk, and Turner Clews' two-run double.

Brattleboro made it 6-1 with four unearned runs in the second on singles by Aidan Davis and Sam Bogart, two AC errors, and two sacrifice flies.

AC rallied to tie the game with three runs in the third and two in

(See Baseball, Page 3B)



TUCKER MORTER TOSSED a four-hit, five-inning shutout to help the county Legion baseball team defeat visiting Montpelier on July 19, a key win as AC qualified for postseason play.

Independent photo/Steve James



ALEX SPERRY SLIDES safely into third in the AC Legion baseball team's home win over Montpelier on July 19. Sperry's baserunning was a major factor as AC won its final two games to qualify for the state tournament.

Independent photo/Steve James

Vermont's Habitat Stamp has significant impact

Thanks in large part to the public's purchases of Vermont Habitat Stamps, the Blake Higgins Dam on Vermont's Saxtons River — a tributary of the Connecticut River in southeastern Vermont — is scheduled to be taken down in 2024. The river will again flow free, opening up important habitat to migration of native fish species. And that's good news.



MATTHEW DICKERSON

For those of us living in Vermont, it can be easy to take for granted our wildlife habitat whether for songbirds, migrating waterfowl, amphibians, large mammals, or — in the case of Saxtons River — native fish species including freshwater fish, anadromous fish (which spawn in freshwater and migrate to saltwater to spend their adult lives) and catadromous fish (which spawn in the ocean and migrate to fresh water as adults). But over the past four centuries a tremendous amount of habitat has been lost across the continent: forests, wetlands, estuaries, prairies and wild rivers to name some. And much more is facing threats including from development, resource extraction, climate change, invasive species and pollution. Of course, we could add floods to that list of threats (though the increased impact of flooding might fall under a mix of climate change and development).



Vermont is no exception. Although in many ways Vermont is in better shape than many places — it is much better forested than it was a century ago — it has not escaped past impacts nor is it immune to current threats. Climate change, continued development, and invasive species continue to impact our habitat. Vermont has approximately 1,200 dams on its rivers and streams. These not only destroy important spawning habitat and block fish migration, they also change flow regimes and typically alter water temperatures. So it's exciting to hear about work being done to conserve and even restore important habitat. If you have purchased a Vermont Habitat Stamp when you bought your Vermont hunting or fishing licenses — or perhaps made a contribution through the Habitat Stamp donation website — then you helped with some of the projects.

In 2022, Vermont's Habitat Stamp helped fund the addition of over 140 acres to the Malletts Creek WMA in Colchester, as

well as two other properties to the Kesick Swamp WMA (an important wetlands complex) in Sunderland. Funds also went to invasive plant removal on the Clyde River, and removal of the derelict Pelletier Dam on North Berton Brook in Castleton.

Here in Addison County, funds were used to help create golden-winged warbler habitat along Lewis Creek. These are just a few of the projects. Megan Duni, outreach coordinator with Vermont Fish and Wildlife, said that in 2022 public donations totaled \$214,699, which in turn opened up matching federal funds more than doubling the impact. Although the Habitat Stamp program was initially created about a decade ago with a vision to allow the general public to contribute to wildlife habitat projects with benefit to non-game species, Fish and Wildlife Aquatic Habitat Biologist Will Eldridge (who oversaw that Pelletier Dam removal project) notes that over 90% of the voluntary donations have come from hunters and anglers during license or tag sales. Duni said there were 15,000 donations in 2022, representing about 9% of those purchasing licenses.

There are also numerous projects on tap for 2023 making use of the Habitat Stamp funds, including: work on some forests in Chittenden County to benefit long-eared bats, warblers, native pollinators, ruffed grouse, beaver, and white-tailed deer; a young forest project in Hinesburg; and (in collaboration with Audubon Vermont) some migratory songbird habitat projects in WMAs in the Champlain Valley.

The project that most got my attention, though, was farther away: removal of the Blake Higgins Dam. This project is being managed by the Connecticut River Conservancy, with support from Habitat Stamp funds. For several years, I've had a particular interest in river habitat, and have become increasingly aware of the negative impacts of dams and culverts. The impact of dams may be obvious for anadromous species such as salmon (which used to spawn all the way up the Connecticut to the White River, but have been extirpated by dams) and catadromous species, but it impacts even freshwater species such as trout, which can require dozens of miles of connected habitat for genetic diversity and to connect



FISH SPAWNING HABITAT will be greatly improved next year when the Blake Higgins Dam on Saxton River in North Westminster, shown at low flow in June 2021, is removed. Purchase of Vermont Habitat Stamps pays for habitat improvements like this.

Photo courtesy of Jessica Louissos SLR Consulting

winter habitat, spawning habitat, summer habitat and different types of habitats needed at different points in their life cycle.

MORE SPAWNING HABITAT

I had a chance to talk a little more with Eldridge about Saxtons River. The dam sits about 600 feet up from the confluence with the Connecticut, and currently blocks migration of many fish species. Although the dam removal will open up only about two more miles of connected habitat (up to a waterfall that is believed to be impassable to migrating fish), those two miles increase the amount of spawning habitat to 18 times what it currently is, which is significant.

Eldridge waxed poetically for some time about two particular non-game species that are both very cool and also important to New England river ecology: the American eel (the only known catadromous species on the east coast), and the sea lamprey (an anadromous species like Atlantic salmon, shad, alewives and Atlantic sturgeon that are particularly affected by dams). In Addison County, we may have a negative opinion of lampreys because they are believed to be invasive in Lake Champlain (having entered the lake through the Champlain Canal in the 1800s) and have harmed the fisheries here. But in the Connecticut River, they are a native part of the ecosystem. Yet because of the large number of dams on the drainage, they are not doing well. Removal of Blake Higgins could be an important step in helping the population survive and be more resilient.

That resiliency is really the goal behind all of their habitat conservation efforts, Eldridge states, whether it's the control of invasive species, removal of dams, or just acquiring conservation land.

"We manage with the goal of restoring and conserving natural conditions and assume those conditions will be self-sustaining

for both habitat and wildlife," he said.

Vermonters (or others) looking to contribute to the habitat conservation efforts can do so at the donation page (appengine.egov.com/apps/vt/vtfdw_habitatdonation) or through the voluntary purchase of a Habitat Stamp next time you are buying a fishing or hunting license or tag. Most contributions end up having more than double the impact through matching funds. It would be great to get the participation level of Vermont outdoors people well over 9%.

Marlins

(Continued from Page 1B)

- U-14 boys: 3. J. Pirrung.
 - U-18 boys: 1. A. Chance, 36.45.
- FREESTYLE**
- U-8 girls: 3. L. Wiker.
 - U-8 boys: 3. L. Hunt.
 - U-10 girls: 3. Ca. Bellman.
 - U-10 boys: 1. F. Poduschnick,

- 15.18.
- U-12 girls: 2. M. Poduschnick, 3. C. Miner.
- U-12 boys: 1. Henry Cadoret, 31.73; 3. Co. Bellman.
- U-14 girls: 1. S. Chance, 27.86.
- U-14 boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 28.15.
- U-18 boys: 1. A. Chance, 23.9.

Fallon takes state youth title; OV golfers vie at U.S. tourney

MIDDLEBURY — Younger members of the Ralph Myhre Golf Course have grabbed most of the recent headlines. On July 20, Brady Fallon won the Vermont Golf Association Boys' 10-14 Match Play Championship at the Kwiniaska course.

On July 18, the Division II Vermont high school champion Otter Valley team, three of which are Ralph Myhre members, completed the final day of the Boys' High School Golf National Invitational in Frisco, Texas, finishing 44th.

Lucas Politano shot one under par on the final day to finish five over for the tournament, good for a 19th-place finish. Also competing were his teammates Thomas Politano, (38 over), Matt Bryant (71 over) and Jackson Howe (89

over). Three course members competed in a VSWG State Day at Rutland Country Club on July 18. Nicole Laberge tied for ninth for low gross in the second flight, Eva Mastalos had the fifth-best gross score in the third flight, and Giselle Lafèche shot the second-best net score in the fourth flight.

In regular Thursday Men's League play, the threesome of Joe Thilbour, John Myhre and Ken Roth prevailed, with Myhre shooting the day's low net score at 67.

Mike Battaglia, Nick Causton and Allen Smith took second, and Chris Prickett, Gary Wright and Tom McGinn were third.

The "Closest to the Pin" winners were Matt Biette and Jim Dunn.

Two locals win at Devil's Bowl

Miner, Alger prevail; Fisher claims headline feature

WEST HAVEN — Monkton's Pat Miner and Orwell's Ronnie Alger were Saturday's only Addison County victors on Devil's Bowl Speedway's dirt track. Miner prevailed in a 20-lap Novice Sportsman race, while Alger took first in an eight-lap Mini-Stock feature.

Castleton's Mike Fisher won the main event, a 30-lap Sportsman Modified feature, claiming his first victory in Devil's Bowl's headline series since he competed in it in 2016.

Fisher has had close calls and podium finishes, but he had yet to seal the deal until this past Saturday night. He took the lead from polesitter Allan Hammond on the third lap and survived three restarts during the 30-lap feature, including the final one with a dozen circuits left.

Fisher became the 11th driver to win a Sportsman Modified feature race in as many races at Devil's Bowl this summer. Shoreham's Anthony Warren took second, and Brandon's

Vince Quenneville finished ninth. The Limited Sportsman division ran two 25-lap features, the first being a makeup from a June 25 rainout. New Hampshire driver Kamden Duffy claimed that race. Orwell's Randy Ryan and New Haven's Steve Miller ran 4-5.

In the regularly scheduled Limited Sportsman race, Hydeville's William Duprey — a four-time champion of the former Super Stock division — earned his first Limited Sportsman win and his 53rd overall victory at Devil's Bowl. Duprey led wire-to-wire. Series point leader Ryan of Orwell took second, followed by Gary English in third. Miller scored his second fifth-place showing of the night.

Miner, Miller's nephew, was a first-time winner in the Novice Sportsman division. The Monkton driver took the lead from polesitter Russ Farr on the second lap and sped away for the 20-lap victory. Miner's victory gives the Novice Sportsman class 11 winners in 11 races this season.

County racers dotted the top 10: Orwell's Randy Edson, Ripton's Donald Williams, Starksboro's Adam LaFountain, and Salisbury drivers Nick Austin-Neil and Derrick Counter ran 4-5-6-7-8 in the race.

Poultney's John Smith earned his second 500cc Mini Sprint win of the year, leading every one of 15 laps. Orwell's Ray Hanson took third, and Whiting's Logan Denis was fifth.

Adam Mahoney of Whitehall, N.Y., won the 15-lap Mini Stock feature, with Cornwall's Jake Barrows in second. The winner's cousin, Mark Mahoney of Brandon, finished sixth.

Alger cruised to victory in the eight-lap Mini feature. Fellow Orwell resident Jakobee Alger finished sixth.

Zach Wood made it back-to-back wins in the Crown Vic division. The Georgia driver grabbed the early lead from Chad Merrill and was gone in a caution-free, 15-lap race. Ferrisburgh's Norman Morrill was fourth.

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Bristol police probing two thefts

BRISTOL — Bristol police are investigating two thefts that took place earlier this month.

On July 12 police took a report that someone shoplifted around \$14 worth of chips and soda from a Prince Lane establishment. That same day, police were told that a pack of cigarettes and a lighter were taken from a vehicle on Taylor Avenue. Bristol police are still investigating both incidents.

Between July 9 and 15, Bristol police completed one foot patrol, conducted one traffic stop and checked the security at Mount Abraham Union High School six times, at Bristol Elementary School six times and at local businesses four times.

Police also processed seven fingerprint requests, helped a resident get into a locked vehicle, conducted a welfare check,

verified a vehicle identification number and facilitated the return of a lost wallet.

In other recent activity, Bristol police also:

- On July 10 put traffic cones on Route 116 south of the village to alert motorists to water covering and flowing over the roadway.

Bristol Police Log

- On July 10 helped a juvenile in need of a ride from Mountain Street.
- On July 11 received a vehicle key that was found on Lincoln Road, which police placed in the department lost and found.
- On July 12 received a report

of an animal possibly being neglected on North Street. An investigation is ongoing.

- On July 12 investigated a citizen dispute on West Street and found that at the time no action rose to the level of an offense. Police planned to issue a notice against trespass.

- On July 12 responded to a report of a vehicle that was broken into on West Street. An investigation is ongoing.

- On July 13 helped a volunteer with the Bristol Have-a-Heart Community Food Shelf deliver food to a client.

- On July 14 investigated the fraudulent opening of credit accounts in the name of a South Street resident.

- On July 15 served a relief from abuse order on North Street.

Baseball

(Continued from Page 1B)

the fourth. In the third the runs came when Warren was hit by a pitch, Sperry and Paquette each doubled, and an error allowed Paquette to score.

In the fourth, Zeke Dubois was hit by a pitch and Reese Paquette reached on an error. A double play erased Paquette before consecutive singles by Sperry and Cudney produced runs.

Brattleboro responded with three runs in the fourth to make it 9-6, scoring on a walk, two singles, two errors and a sacrifice fly. In the fifth, a walk, a throwing error and a Harper Cutler single allowed Brattleboro to add a run, and in the sixth the winners added six more on five walks, a hit batsman and a Bingham base hit.

For AC, Sperry finished with three hits and two runs; Paquette with two hits, two runs and two RBIs; and Cudney had two hits and an RBI. Muzzy and Dunbar threw in relief of Kimball.

LAKES REGION, 11-1

On Monday, Tembreull started and held Lakes Region to one run in the first three innings, on a Caleb Nelson single, an error and two walks in the opening inning. Tembreull went three-plus innings, and Morter and Warren threw in relief.

AC tied the game in the top of



FIRST BASEMAN XAVIER DeBlois starts his successful slide into home plate during the AC Legion baseball team's 10-0 win over Montpelier in Bristol on July 19. AC won games on July 19 and 20 to qualify for the state tournament.

Independent photo/Steve James

the fourth, when Muzzy reached on a fielder's choice, DeBlois singled and Morter plated Muzzy with a sacrifice fly.

DeBlois's single was one of just three AC hits. Carter Paquette knocked out the other two off LR pitcher Jackson Howe, son of Otter Valley Union High School Coach Mike Howe. Howe struck out just one and walked three, but kept the AC hitters off balance.

LR took the lead in the bottom of the fourth, scoring three times on Max Kyhill's two-run double,

two walks, and a Sawyer Ramey sac fly.

LR broke the game open in the fifth inning with six runs. The key hits were a Joe Buxton RBI triple and Lee's two-run RBI single, and Ramey walked with the bases-loaded as AC pitchers walked two batters and hit two more.

LR ended the game and AC's season in the bottom of the sixth, when Kyle James came home on a Noah Woodbury sacrifice fly.

VSP seeks witnesses to road death

ADDISON COUNTY — A Shoreham man was killed in a motorcycle crash in Orwell last week.

Vermont State Police report that Michael Mattison, 62, was driving a 2001 Kawasaki Vulcan southbound on Route 22A at around 8:45 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18, when he lost control of the cycle. The motorcycle veered from the lane and into the shoulder on the east side of the road, according to police. Mattison and his Kawasaki then re-entered Route 22A, where it slid on its side, caught fire and then came to rest in the northbound lane. Mattison, who was wearing a helmet, sustained fatal injuries, police said.

Police said the weather was overcast, but the roadway was dry.

State police said their on-scene investigation suggested there were other motorists in the area at the time of the crash and troopers would like to hear from those drivers. Anyone who saw the crash or has other information on this incident is asked to contact Trooper Brandon Slaney at Brandon.Slaney@Vermont.gov, or call 802-388-4919.

State police were assisted by Middlebury Regional EMS and the Orwell Volunteer Fire Department.

During the past fortnight, state police also responded to three other motor vehicle crashes — one also involving a motorcycle.

On July 13 at a little before 9:30 p.m., troopers looked into a report of a motor vehicle crash on Lake Dunmore Road in Leicester. State police report that Ethan Poploski, 22, of Ripton was driving a 1985 GMC truck northbound on Lake Dunmore Road, crossed the centerline, overcorrected, left the wet roadway, and struck a tree head-on. Poploski's passenger, 24-year-old Alexander Sheldrick of Salisbury, sustained suspected serious injuries as a result of the crash.

Police suspect that Poploski sustained minor injuries. Neither man was wearing a seatbelt.

The truck was totaled.

While speaking with Poploski, troopers detected indicators of impairment. They took him to the New Haven barracks for processing, cited Poploski driving

under the influence and negligent driving, and released him.

State police also are looking into a separate incident on July 14 in which a car struck a parked UPS truck and then fled the scene. Troopers report that on that Friday at around 7:30 p.m., when the roads were wet, a 2017 GMC Denali HD rounded a corner headed west on Hollow Road near Monkton Road, crossed the center line, partially went off the road, and struck the parked UPS truck. UPS driver Levi Vincent, 32, of Swanton was standing in the truck when the impact occurred, and was taken to UVM Medical Center for suspected minor injuries.

The UPS truck sustained damage to the front driver's side and was considered a total loss.

Vt. State Police Log

The driver of the Denali fled the scene.

Anyone with information regarding this crash is encouraged to contact the New Haven state police barracks at 802-388-4919, or leave an anonymous tip online a vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit.

Finally, on July 24 at about 1 p.m., troopers rushed to a motorcycle crash at the intersection of Route 7 and Dakin Road in Ferrisburgh. Police said Travis M. Brigham, 40, of Grand Isle, was driving a 2010 Harley Davidson Street Glide southbound on Route 7 when he lost control of cycle while trying to stop for traffic in the road. The Harley left its lane of travel, crossed into the southbound shoulder, and crashed on the southbound shoulder of Route 7. The Vergennes Area Rescue Squad took Brigham, who was wearing a helmet, to University of Vermont Medical Center for suspected minor injuries.

Troopers were assisted on scene by members of the Ferrisburgh Fire Department and VARS.

Separately, troopers dealt with various road closures brought on by flooding. For instance, state police closed Route 7 in Middlebury near Three Mile Bridge Road at around noon on

July 15 because of water on the state highway. Police alerted the public that Smead Road in Salisbury was closed earlier that day.

In other recent activity, state police troopers:

- On July 12, at 11:59 p.m., stopped a vehicle on Monkton Road near Route 7 in Ferrisburgh, identified the driver as Valerie Howe, 51, of Huntington, and discovered she had an extraditable warrant from New Hampshire stemming from a charge in 2019. Police said they arrested Howe, took her to the barracks for processing, and released her with a citation to appear in Addison County Superior Court, Criminal Division.

- On July 15 at 8:45 a.m., were notified of a road-rage incident related to a minor motor vehicle crash occurred on Route 7 in Leicester. Police investigated and determined that David Gale, 56, of Leicester and Seth Decelle, 41, of Salisbury "recklessly engaged in violent and tumultuous behavior" while in their vehicles on a public highway.

Police said they cited both men for disorderly conduct.

- On July 17, saw brewing trouble in in the Meehan Road area of Bristol come to a head. On July 16 and 17, troopers received numerous complaints involving incidents stemming from the presence of Dana L. Lavallee, 63, of Bristol. A police investigation into these complaints showed Lavallee had allegedly driven a vehicle in a negligent manner on a public highway and had threatened to cause harm to others. during the early evening of July 17, they cited her for negligent driving and criminal threatening.

- On July 19 at around 8 p.m., stopped a driver after spotting a motor vehicle on Route 7, near the intersection of West Salisbury Road in Salisbury. Police ended up citing David Thorne, 46, of Rutland, for driving under the influence of drugs. Vergennes and Middlebury police assisted in this case.

- On July 23 at around 8 p.m., stopped a vehicle being driven in Rutland by Fletcher Johnston, 28, of Middlebury. State police cited Johnston for driving under the influence, third offense.

Champs

(Continued from Page 1B)

- U-8 girls: 1. M. Fidalgo, 26.19; 2. S. Wallace.
- U-8 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 24.62.
- U-10 girls: 1. Scarlet Giroux, 21.56; 2. V. Romond.
- U-10 boys: 1. E. Parrillo, 21.62; 3. T. Howell.
- U-12 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 34.85; 2. L. Husk.
- U-12 boys: 1. C. Husk, 33.81; 2. Flint Cray.
- U-14 girls: 1. Sophia James, 31.94; 2. E. Bearor.
- U-14 boys: 1. W. Clark, 27.68; 2. N. Smits.
- U-18 girls: 1. A. Clark, 30.03; 2. C. Rapoport.
- U-18 boys: 3. Calder Rakowski.

BREASTSTROKE

- U-8 girls: 1. S. Wallace, 29.28; 2. K. Matton.
- U-8 boys: 1. E. Angier, 32.38.
- U-10 girls: 1. E. Mosehauer, 22.78; 2. S. Giroux.
- U-10 boys: 1. Martin Gee, 23.53.
- U-12 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 42.47; 2. Ayla Kittredge.
- U-12 boys: 1. Skyler James, 52.04.
- U-14 girls: 1. Sophia James, 37.15; 2. E. Eckels.
- U-14 boys: 1. Clark Cray, 32.60; 2. N. Smits.
- U-18 girls: 1. C. Rapoport, 35.37.
- U-18 boys: 3. A. Henley.

FREESTYLE

- U-8 girls: 1. S. Wallace, 19.1; 2. M. Fidalgo.
- U-8 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 20.15; 3. E. Angier.
- U-10 girls: 1. Kendall Kittredge, 17.47; 2. S. Giroux.
- U-10 boys: 1. M. Wesley, 17.28; 2. E. Parrillo.
- U-12 girls: 1. J. Hutchins, 31.53; 2. L. Husk.
- U-12 boys: 1. F. Cray, 29.59; 2. C. Husk.
- U-14 girls: 1. E. Bearor, 28.53; 2. E. Romond.
- U-14 boys: 1. W. Clark, 23.32; 2. C. Howell.
- U-18 girls: 1. A. Clark, 27.88; 2. N. Roberts.
- U-18 boys: 3. C. Rakowski.

BACKSTROKE

- U-8 girls: 1. M. Fidalgo, 23.03; 2. M. Smits.
- U-8 boys: 1. R. Cooley, 23.12; 2. E. Angier.
- U-10 girls: 1. J. Angier, 20.66; 2. E. Mosehauer.
- U-10 boys: 1. E. Parrillo, 22.03; 3. Wesley Morgan.
- U-12 girls: 1. L. Husk, 36.56; 3. R. Muzzy.
- U-12 boys: 1. C. Husk, 39.06; 2. Skyler James.
- U-14 girls: 1. E. Romond, 33.94; 2. Ellie Brooks.
- U-14 boys: 1. W. Clark, 28.37; 2. K. Ouimette.
- U-18 girls: 1. A. Clark, 33.06.
- U-18 boys: 2. C. Rakowski.

BUTTERFLY

Champs scoring points with top-three finishes were:

CHAMPS VS. ESSEX

On Tuesday the Champs swamped visiting Essex, 367-127, winning 15 of 20 relays and 36 of 40 individual races. Riker Cooley, Jordan Hutchins, Will Clark and Acadia Clark led the way with three wins apiece, and Mabelle Fidalgo, Riker Cooley, Enli Parrillo, Connor Husk, Sophia James and Savannah Wallace picked up two victories each.

Champs scoring points with top-three finishes were:

BUTTERFLY

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BUTTERFLY

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Champs scoring points with top-three finishes were:

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community calendar

THURSDAY

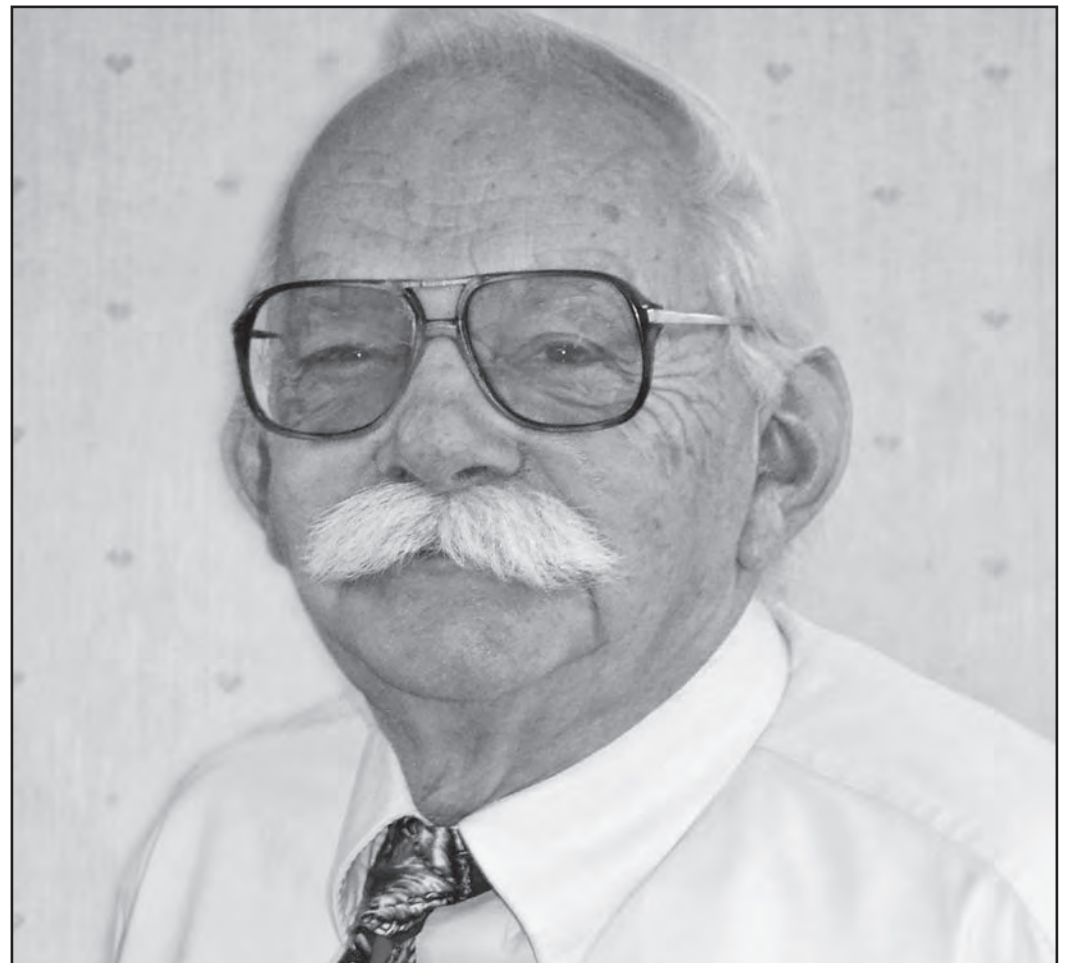
July 27 **Carnival in Brandon.** Thursday, July 27-Sunday, July 30, Estabrook Park, Grove St. Four days of rides, fair food, excitement, games and the best entertainment east of the mountain. Join us for the Aaron Audet Band, PAC Wrestling, Rock n Roll Art Show, Brandon Idol Singers and Karaoke, Beyond the Barn Petting Zoo plus so much more. Free admission. Free parking. Free entertainment.

Friendship bracelets in Orwell. Thursday, July 27, 10:30 a.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Learn how to make friendship bracelets. All supplies provided. Bring you creative mind.

Block party in Middlebury. Thursday, July 27, noon-4 p.m., downtown. Celebrate our community with a block party downtown Middlebury. Live music, food, games, activities, raffles and sod in the street.

Famous Vermonters storytime in Shoreham. Thursday, July 27, 2 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join the Platt for stories from its collection of Vermonters from history, followed a walk to visit local memorials and state historic marker.

HOPE Food Truck returns to Shoreham. Thursday, July 27, 2-3 p.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. The HOPE Food Truck will be in the parking lot of the Shoreham Congregational Church to offer free non-perishable items as well as available fresh produce on a first-come first-served basis. No paperwork is required. If you have a neighbor who is unable to come during this time, you may pick up food for them. HOPE is trying to help people get enough food during these trying times. Please bring your own bags.



A sports-writing legend

ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY in Middlebury will host a presentation on "The Morse Code: Legacy of a Vermont Sportswriter" on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. This biography chronicles the life of veteran sports editor Dave Morse, whose contributions to the youth of a small community echo across the Green Mountains today.

Courtesy photo

FRIDAY

July 28 **Carnival in Brandon.** Friday, July 28, Estabrook Park, Grove St. See July 27 listing.

American Red Cross blood donation in Middlebury. Friday, July 28, 9:30 a.m. 1 p.m., Middlebury EMS Building, 55 Collins Dr. To schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Surf and turf dinner in Middlebury. Friday, July 28, 5-7 p.m. VFW, 530 Exchange St. Delicious steak, shrimp, baked potato and green beans. Eat in or take out. Steak dinner \$16/Shrimp dinner \$16/Combo dinner \$18. Open to the public. All proceeds benefit Veterans' programs. More info at 802-388-9468.

It's a Hardbacked Life teen book discussion in Middlebury. Friday, July 28, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Come discuss "How To Be a Young Antiracist" by Ibram X. Kendi and Nic Stone in the Children's Room. Free copies of the selected title will be provided two weeks prior to each discussion. Supplies limited.

SATURDAY

July 29 **Carnival in Brandon.** Saturday, July 29, Estabrook Park, Grove St. See July 27 listing.

Block party and Tiger Day in Middlebury. Saturday, July 29, noon-4 p.m., downtown. Celebrate our community and our MUHS alum through the years with a block party downtown Middlebury. Live music, food, games, activities, raffles and sod in the street.

The Museum of Shoreham in Shoreham. Saturday, July 29, 1 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Bring an object to the library that might be part of a future museum exhibit about life in 2023. We'll write labels and take photos of our future museum exhibits. We'll also create a time capsule for the library — bring something you might be willing to add to our time capsule.

Family movie matinee in Shoreham. Saturday, July 29, 3 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join us in the cool air-conditioning of the library for popcorn and a G-rated movie.

MUHS All Class Reunion Teacher, Staff and Coach Recognition in Middlebury. Saturday, July 29, 3 p.m., cafeteria, Middlebury Union High School. They will honor and recognize teachers, coaches and staff who have supported the students past and present. Teachers, coaches, and staff past and present invited to join in.

MUHS All-Class Reunion in Middlebury. Saturday, July 29, 3-9 p.m., Memorial Sports Center, 296 Buttolph Dr. Host MUHS Class of '83 invites everyone with a history at MUHS: Alumni, teachers, coaches, staff, boosters... anyone who wants to join in a day of wicked fun. Net proceeds generated through sponsorships and from the sale of commemorative wooden "Tiger Nickels," which will be donated to the MUHS Alumni Association and the World Wildlife Fund. More info and link to tickets at www.middleburytigers.com.

Global Healing Celebration in Lincoln. Saturday, July 29, 6 p.m., Sunray Peace Village, 2202 Downingsville Rd. All are invited to this Sunray Meditation Society free event. Prepare for an evening outdoors, seated on ground or bring low lawn chairs. The Healing Celebration is a practice taught by Venerable Dhyani Ywahoo, taught to her by her ancestors, Nellie Ywahoo, Yona Fisher and Eli Ywahoo.

SUNDAY

July 30 **Carnival in Brandon.** Sunday, July 30, Estabrook Park, Grove St. See July 27 listing.

A Day on the Farm in Addison. Sunday, July 30, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Whispering Willow Farm, 3857 Route 22A. Join us on this small educational farm, retreat and event center for all ages. Fun for all ages: live music, farm fresh food, luau, ice cream, local artisan vendors, interactive beekeeping workshops, face painting, games, fun with bubbles, trail hike, yoga and of course, viewing the farm and farm animals. Tickets \$20 adults/\$15 ages 10-16/\$5 under 10. To pre-order text 802-375-7298 for QR Code for more info and payment. All proceeds go to support the farm.

Blast from the Past: Historic Clock and Watches Afternoon in Addison. Sunday, July 30, Chimney Point State Historic Site. **POSTPONED.**

MONDAY

July 31 **Escape Room in Shoreham.** Monday, July 31, 6 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Bring your wits and your friends to our library escape room. Work together to solve the clues and unlock the locks. Are you up for the challenge? Ages 9 and up.

TUESDAY

Aug 1 **Reasons To Be Cheerful discussion series "The Idea That Still Unites Us" in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Aug. 1, 11:30 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Using articles from Reasons To Be Cheerful's project, We Are Not Divided, folks will gather together to discuss and celebrate these uplifting stories. Stop in to pick up a hard copy of this week's article or read it on the Reasons To Be Cheerful website.

Our Wild Community in Shoreham. Tuesday, Aug. 1, 3:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Southern Vermont Natural History Museum will be presenting their talk on our wild animal neighbors. This live animal presentation will be sure to delight the animal lover in your family.

The Morse Code: Legacy of a Vermont Sportswriter in Middlebury. Tuesday, Aug. 1, 7 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. This biography, with full-color photos and a foreword by Ross Connelly, editor and co-publisher of the *Hardwick Gazette* (1986 to 2017), chronicles the life of veteran sports editor Dave Morse, whose contributions to the youth of a small community echo across the Green Mountains today. This event is a hybrid event. You may attend in person or virtually on Zoom. More info at ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

SATURDAY

Aug 5 **Town-wide yard sale in Brandon.** Saturday, Aug. 5, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Locations around town, including Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Vendors will be upstairs in the Town Hall. Stop in for some great bargains, a cool drink and snack or just sit down and relax. Bathrooms available downstairs. 8 x 10 spaces and one 6' table are available for \$20 per space. Interested in reserving a space? contact Dennis Marden at denniswarden@gmail.com or 802-247-5420.

Vermont Breakfast on the Farm in Bridport. Saturday, Aug. 5, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunderland Farm, 3023 Crown Point Rd. Come to the Sunderland Farm and enjoy breakfast featuring yogurt, cheese, milk, sausage, granola and fresh fruit, plus doughnuts, maple syrup and other locally-sourced products. Following breakfast, visitors can take a self-guided walking tour of the farm. Learn more about how farmers care for their animals, protect the environment, and produce nutritious food. Free. Registration required. Tickets and more info at VermontBreakfastontheFarm.com. Rain or shine.

"Raise A Child in Haiti" walk-a-thon in Bristol. Saturday, Aug. 5, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Bristol Baptist Church, Park St. The children at L'Orphelinat Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours are lucky to get one meal a day, sometimes two. They go to school and church. They are loved by a small staff at the orphanage, and they need our support. Check in on the church lawn at 9:30 a.m. Choose from a 2-3 mile walk on downtown Bristol sidewalks or a 2-3 mile easy hike on the Bristol Trail Network. Prizes for the most money raised as well as door prizes and refreshments after the walk. More info and registration at raiseaorforhaiti@gmail.com.

Art on the Trail in Bristol. Saturday, Aug. 5, 10 a.m.-noon, Bristol Trail Network. Explore the world of nature and art journaling with BTN Artist-in-Residence Charon Henning. Bring a sketchbook with pens and/or pencils to begin your journal. Free, but registration is required. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Email oddangellc@gmail.com to register and for workshop location.

Friends of the Ilsley Library used book sale in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Town Office Plaza, 77 Main St. Rain location,

Community Room at Ilsley. Current members of the Friends organization can begin shopping at 9:45 a.m.

"Northern Vermont in the Revolutionary War" in Orwell. Saturday, Aug. 5, 1-2:30 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd. Historian, author educator Jason Barney will talk about the activities of the American Revolution in northern Vermont and shine the light on some lesser-known actions.

SUNDAY

Aug 6 **Hike into History in Orwell.** Sunday, Aug. 6, noon-3 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, 472 Mt. Independence Rd. Walk in the footsteps of Revolutionary War soldiers. Stephen Zeoli guides this walk while recounting events that led up to Revolution. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather.

TUESDAY

Aug 8 **Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven.** Tuesday, Aug. 8, Field Days Rd. Addison County's agricultural celebration. Exhibits, rides, fair food, Demo Derby, tractor pulls, livestock competitions and more. Aug. 8-12, 2023.

Reasons To Be Cheerful discussion series "You Cannot Use Force To Change Minds" in Middlebury. Tuesday, Aug. 8, 11:30 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Using articles from Reasons To Be Cheerful's project, We Are Not Divided, folks discuss and celebrate these uplifting stories. Stop in to pick up a hard copy of this week's article or read it on the Reasons To Be Cheerful website.

WEDNESDAY

Aug 9 **Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven.** Wednesday, Aug. 9, Field Days Rd.

"The Story of a 1957 Army Airplane Crash on Brandon Gap" in Salisbury. Wednesday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m., Salisbury Meeting House, 853 Maple St. The Salisbury Historical Society presents the story of a 1957 Army airplane crash about 9 miles south of Lake Dunmore that claimed the lives of four Army officers. Bill Powers and Brian Lindner will give first-hand accounts from 1957 and the remarkable "unconventional" rediscovery of the crash site over 50 years later. Learn about a crash victim's family and the father they never knew.

THURSDAY

Aug 10 **Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven.** Thursday, Aug. 10, Field Days Rd.

FRIDAY

Aug 11 **Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven.** Friday, Aug. 11, Field Days Rd.

SATURDAY

Aug 12 **Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven.** Saturday, Aug. 12, Field Days Rd. The fair winds up with fireworks at dusk.

Comedy in Color in Charlotte. Saturday, Aug. 12, 6 p.m., Clemmons Family Farm, 2213 Greenbush Rd. Town Hall Theater presents this BIPOC Comedy Showcase at Clemmons Family Farm. Burlington comedian Max Higgins and friends bring the laughs to the outdoor amphitheater. Tickets free with registration, part of THT's all-access series. More info at townhalltheater.org.

Vt. coverts cooperator training offered Sept. 8-10

VERGENNES — Maintaining and connecting habitat is important for the movement of wildlife across the landscape. For this reason Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife announces their 2023 Cooperator Training, a weekend retreat that provides an opportunity for those who care about woodlands and wildlife to learn about the resources available to help them define and reach their land management goals.

The mission of Vermont Coverts is to maintain and enhance diverse wildlife habitat and healthy ecosystems. Cooperators are those individuals that have attended the training and work together to share what they have learned through local programs and outreach. Vermont Coverts want to ensure that wildlife have a place on the landscape.

Over the weekend information is shared on how to improve habitat for wildlife, maintain connected landscapes and improve forest health. The Cooperator Training workshop is being offered Sept. 8-10 at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp on the shores of Lake Bomoseen.

The intensive two-and-a-half-day session features presentations by state and local experts in wildlife and forest management and Coverts alumni from past sessions. In

lectures, demonstrations and field tours, participants learn about topics such as wildlife and forest ecology, habitat management, invasive control and land conservation. "Vermont Coverts opened my eyes to a whole set of really interesting things happening on our land," former participant Tig Tillinghast says. "The basic premise makes sense. Managing land deliberately is often better for species diversity and long-term forest health."

Once trained, Coverts Cooperators become part of a statewide network connected through newsletters, field trips, reunions and workshops. Through their outreach efforts they are part of a team working to spread the land stewardship ethic. Past participants have become or more active in their woods, made changes to their woodland management plan, hosted a workshop on their land, served on their conservation commission, or just talked to neighbors about wildlife habitat.

If you own, manage, are involved in land management decisions, and want to learn how a healthy forest can enhance wildlife habitat as well as provide recreational and timber benefits then this Coverts Training is for you. Visit www.vtcoverts.org to download an application or contact Lisa Sausville at info@vtcoverts.org or call (802) 877-2777.



Wind damage

AFTER DRENCHING RAIN during the second week of July, and just before last week's deluge, Addison County residents endured high winds, hail and a tornado warning on July 13 that left their marks on the landscape. Bottom right, a Maureen Conrad photo shows the top of a utility pole on Middlebury's Boardman Steet near Homeward Bound that snapped off during the high winds that Thursday night. Electricity in the area went out at around 6:30 p.m., but crews worked all night and power was restored at around 4 a.m. Above and right, Steve James' photos show workers cutting up and removing a large willow tree that toppled onto a Buttolph Drive home in Middlebury, and a maple on North Pleasant Street in Middlebury, as a result of the high winds.



Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — Origami with Gail Martin is the next Pop-Up People activity session at the Lincoln Library on Wednesday, Aug. 2, from 3 to 5 p.m. Learn how to make some creative designs with origami. Refreshments will be served.

The Front Porch Book Sale at the library is ongoing with new titles being added. A new wave of children's books has just been added. Stop by to browse! \$1 for hardcover, 50 cents for paperbacks.

While browsing the book sale, make sure to go inside the library to view the beautiful Vera Ryersbach art show featured in the community room. The art collection will be on display through August. "These pieces of art, mostly landscapes, are a combination of my painting (acrylic on canvas) and embroidery, melding the two things I learned early in life, and in a sense, an homage to my mother" — Vera Ryersbach

FROM THE TOWN

If you've had to make repairs or clean up your property due to these heavy rains and flooding, please go to the 211 Vermont website at vermont211.org and report your expenses. Even if you don't plan to apply for FEMA assistance, by reporting your damages you can help others who have experienced severe losses. FEMA needs this data to inform a decision on which counties receive a disaster declaration for assistance

to individuals. If you don't have access to a computer, you can also dial 211 or the local number 802-652-4636 to report by phone.

The types of damage that can be reported include: driveways/private roads washed out and inaccessible to emergency vehicles, major damage such as water on the first floor of homes or finished basement living space, flooding affecting furnaces/electrical panels, major tree falls onto/through residential roof and water in the basement is good to report as well, even if it's minor.

FROM TINA SCHARF

Thanks to all parsnip pullers/bio diversifiers, both official and unofficial, for all the work you have done so far. Parsnip flowers are starting to go to seed, so special care is advised. If you see flower heads that are going brown, bag them and burn them if you can. It will not be necessary to cut or pull the entire plant. So look before you pull plants to leave by the roadside.

SAVE THE DATE

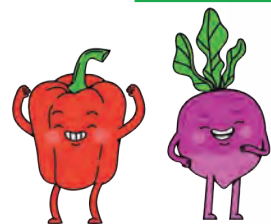
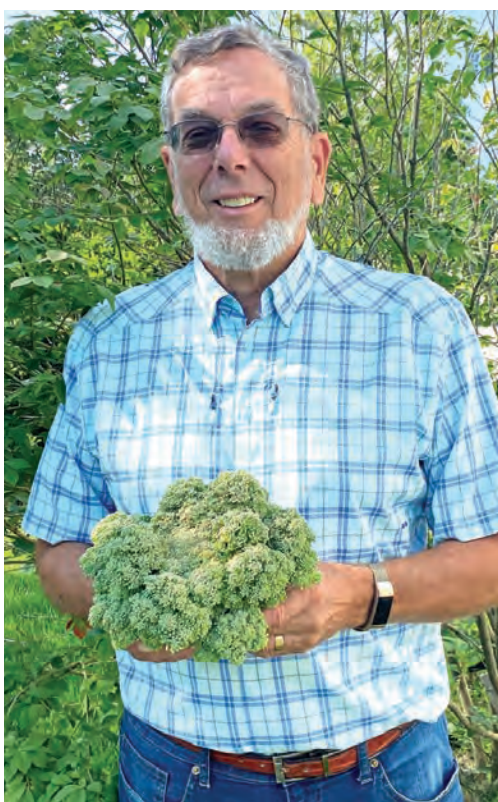
The next senior meal will be held on Thursday, Aug. 17, at Burnham Hall. Music will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Cost of the meal is by donation.

Until next time ... Happiness Is Not By Chance, But By Choice. A Certain Darkness Is Needed To See The Stars. Never Give Up Because Great Things Take Time.



2023 Garden Game

The Game is ON!



Ted Foster of New Haven brought in the first broccoli of the season. This big green Brassica measured 11.5" in diameter and takes the lead!

Don't forget to check out the Addison County Fair & Field Days Official Program in next week's paper for even more fruit & veg fun!

Play the Garden Game!

Do you have veggies to share in our pages? We welcome entries from any of the below categories. Bring your entry into our office between 9am and 4pm Monday-Friday and we'll measure it and snap a photo. Each week we'll publish new entries and update our frontrunners for each category in the contest. At the end of the season, each category winner* will be eligible to receive a gift certificate from our Garden Game sponsor, Middlebury Agway.

*Please note: Each individual is eligible to win one gift certificate, even if they win multiple categories.

CATEGORIES & FRONT-RUNNERS:

- Asparagus (length x circumference) - Matt Vogel & Raissa Venables, 45" x 2"
- Beet (circumference)
- Broccoli (diameter) - Ted Foster, 11.5"
- Cabbage (circumference)
- Cantaloupe (circumference)
- Carrot (length x circumference)
- Cauliflower (diameter)
- Corn (length x circumference)
- Cucumber (length x circumference)
- Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Gary Miller, 21" x 7.25"
- Eggplant (circumference x circumference)
- Fennel (length x circumference)
- Green Bean (length)
- Kohlrabi (circumference)
- Leek (length x circumference)
- Melon (circumference)
- Onion (circumference)
- Parsnip (circumference)
- Potato (length x circumference)
- Pepper (circumference x circumference) - Gary Miller, 11.75" x 13.75"
- Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
- Radish (circumference)
- Rhubarb (length) - Barbara Pelton, 27.75"
- Rutabaga (circumference)
- Summer Squash (length x circumference)
- Sunflower (diameter)
- Tomato (circumference)
- Turnip (circumference)
- Winter Squash (length x circumference)
- Zucchini (length x circumference)



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Cow show

AT THE 2023 Multi-County 4-H Dairy Show held July 15 in New Haven, judge Elizabeth Menard (left) poses with the Junior Fitting and Showmanship Champions at the July 15 event in New Haven. Capturing championships were (left to right): Junior Champion Showman Taryn Burns of Whiting, Reserve Junior Champion Showman Caroline Allen of Ferrisburgh, and Honorable Mention Junior Showman Champion Colin Chamberlin of Addison.

Photo by Martha Seifert/UVM Extension 4-H

Luis earns spot on dairy judging team

BURLINGTON — Samuel Luis of Whiting is one of the four Vermont teens to earn a spot on the 2023 State 4-H Dairy Judging Team for their high overall placements at this year's State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest, held June 30 at Blue Spruce Farm in Bridport. Luis placed fourth in the senior division (ages 14-18). The team will compete this fall

at Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass., and in national competition in either Harrisburg, Pa., or Madison, Wis. Emma Deering, of Middlebury placed eighth in the same competition. Morgan White of Whiting placed ninth, Chyanna Stone of Brandon placed 12th, and Gabby Ellis of Shoreham placed 14th in the senior division.

The state contest was open to 4-H dairy members, ages 8-18, who were split into groups, according to age. All participants judged five classes of cattle: Ayrshire winter calves, Ayrshire fall calves, Ayrshire two-year-olds, Holstein two-year-olds and Holstein four-year-olds, providing rankings for each class. The seniors also were required to

provide oral reasons.

Collin Chamberlin of Addison placed fourth in the Juniors (ages 8-13)

In the Juniors (ages 8-9), Rowdy Pope of Bridport placed first, Ella Pope of Shoreham took second, Paige Chamberlin of Addison placed third, and Peyton Anderson of Whiting placed seventh.

Relief funding available to Vt. organic dairy farmers

MONTPELIER — Vermont Organic Dairy farmers are encouraged to apply for relief funding. This grant funding is designed to mitigate the extreme market challenges in 2022, including high feed and input costs. \$6.9 million dollars was made available in the Vermont state budget which began on July 1.

Eligible dairy farmers who apply will receive a single payment of \$5 per hundredweight of organic milk produced in 2022. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) is responsible for the application process and distribution of funds.

The application is now available on-line.

All qualifying applications will be processed in the order they are received. Agency staff will be verifying information submitted for this program with established records. All documents must be correct and complete before payment can be issued. This includes receipt of your 2022 production information, a W-9, and a submitted application.

The application period for this relief program closes at noon, Friday, Oct. 20. Any unallocated funds will be diverted to other programs on Dec. 31.

More program information can be found on the VAAFAM website at: agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vermont-organic-dairy-relief-program.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News

Students earn their degrees from Castleton University

CASTLETON — The following local students recently graduated from Castleton University and were recognized during the 236th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 13:

Addison: Justin Connor, B.A., History.

Brandon: Molly Fisher, B.S., cum laude, Nursing; Timothy Kittler, B.S., magna cum laude, Biology; Julia Lee, B.S., cum laude, Nursing; and Miranda Stoutes, B.S., summa cum laude, Nursing.

Bridport: Mikayla Robinson,

B.S., magna cum laude, Nursing.

Bristol: Jessalyn Murray, B.A., summa cum laude, Multidisciplinary Studies; Molly Murray, B.A., summa cum laude, Multidisciplinary Studies; Richmond Rathbun, B.A., Graphic Design, Media & Communication; and Marah Orvis, B.S.W., Social Work.

Cornwall: Brian Paquette, B.S. Nursing.

Middlebury: Lacey Greenamyre, B.S., Exercise & Sport Science; and Walker Whittemore, B.S., Nursing.

Whiting: Brandi Leno, B.S., cum laude, Nursing; and Jocelyn Noble, B.A., summa cum laude, Music Education.

Kelsey Lafaso of Brandon was named to the dean's list at Coastal Carolina University for the spring 2023 semester.

Spittlebugs hide in plain sight

By LIZ DENGATE

Spittlebugs are the color of a new spring leaf, their bodies both tiny and so fat that you hardly notice their six miniature legs underneath. This plumpness makes them an appetizing snack for various insect predators — or would, anyway, if spittlebugs didn't have an elaborate adaptation to keep them safe.

Spittlebugs live in a variety of habitats throughout North America. They are especially noticeable in open, sunny meadows and along the edges of forests — every few feet, sometimes every few inches: a blob of white froth clinging to a stem.

When I guided visitor hikes during my three summers as an interpretive park ranger on Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, I'd see these characteristic dollops of foam on the stems of thimbleberry bushes, tall asters, and all manner of other shrubs and wildflowers along the trails. I often stopped and swiped a finger through the foam, then held it up for visitors to see — a hapless creature clinging there in the remnants of its cover. I could have fit 10 of them on the pad of my index finger. "I thought someone was just spitting on the plants!" one of my program attendees said.

Spittlebugs are the nymphs of froghoppers, insects in the order Hemiptera and the superfamily Cercopoidea. These nymphs hatch from their eggs in the spring and progress through a series of molts through the summer, growing larger and sometimes changing color. Spittlebugs spend their

days sucking the juices of plant stems. In order to do this without becoming food themselves, they urinate a whopping amount, blow bubbles into this foul-smelling substance to create the world's grossest bubble bath, and bury themselves within it. No wonder no one eats them! If people urinated the same quantity proportionate to our body size, it would translate to about 2,700 gallons a day.

Like many other insects, spittlebugs can respire through microscopic openings in their exoskeleton called spiracles. These pores on their abdomens allow spittlebugs to breathe even through their protective foam. Researchers have found that spittlebugs use their abdomens like snorkels to break the surface of the foam. The insects can also retreat deeper into the foam and pause breathing when frightened. In especially dire situations — perhaps a spider looming nearby — spittlebugs can pop several of the tiny bubbles in their froth and breathe the oxygen trapped within until the threat passes.

On my ranger walks, after revealing the tiny bug to my impressed and vaguely disgusted audience, I'd gently deposit it back on a stem in what was left of its froth,



and wipe my hands on my green ranger pants. As we walked on, the nymph would remain, emerging as an adult froghopper in late summer to mate. If it was female, it would lay its eggs on a nearby stem. Either way, it would perish before winter hit, the tiny eggs its legacy.

Although they are ubiquitous, spittlebugs don't play an outside role in any ecosystem. They suck dilute sap from plants' xylem, but not enough to really damage a plant. They are no animal's primary food source. As adults, their most notable trait is what gives them their "froghopper" name — they can hop farther, relative to body size, than even fleas, leaping as high as 70 cm: wild, when you consider they're

less than a centimeter tall. Froghoppers' legs contain structures shaped like archery bows, and they are constantly ready to launch. Whether as young or adults, these critters are not often caught by predators.

There is something to be said about a curiosity hidden in plain sight. On my walks through what seemed like ordinary scenery — a swath of green shrubbery — I was able to reveal something surprising. When someone has a moment of discovery or surprise in the wild, it often provokes delight — and then a desire to continue exploring. I couldn't guarantee a sighting of a moose or even a loon on my ranger walks, but I could always guarantee a spittlebug encounter.

I encourage readers to pass on that moment of discovery on their own nature walks with friends: dive in, swipe a finger into the mess of nature, and discover what tiny treasures lie within.

Liz Dengate is an environmental science teacher at a public high school in Minnesota. She loves to travel throughout the U.S. with her husband and toddler, who is learning to camp. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: www.nhcf.org.

The Outside Story

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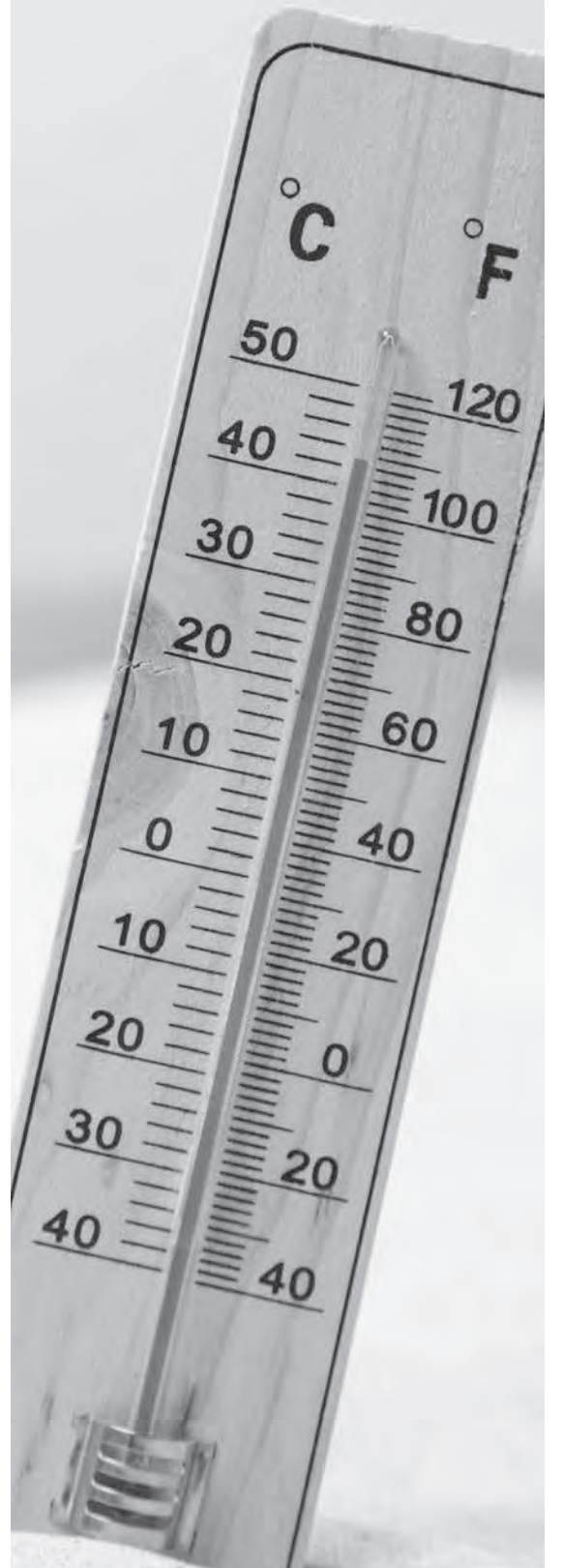
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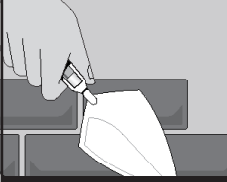


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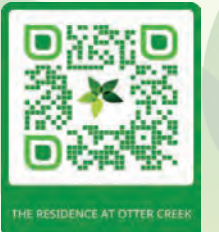
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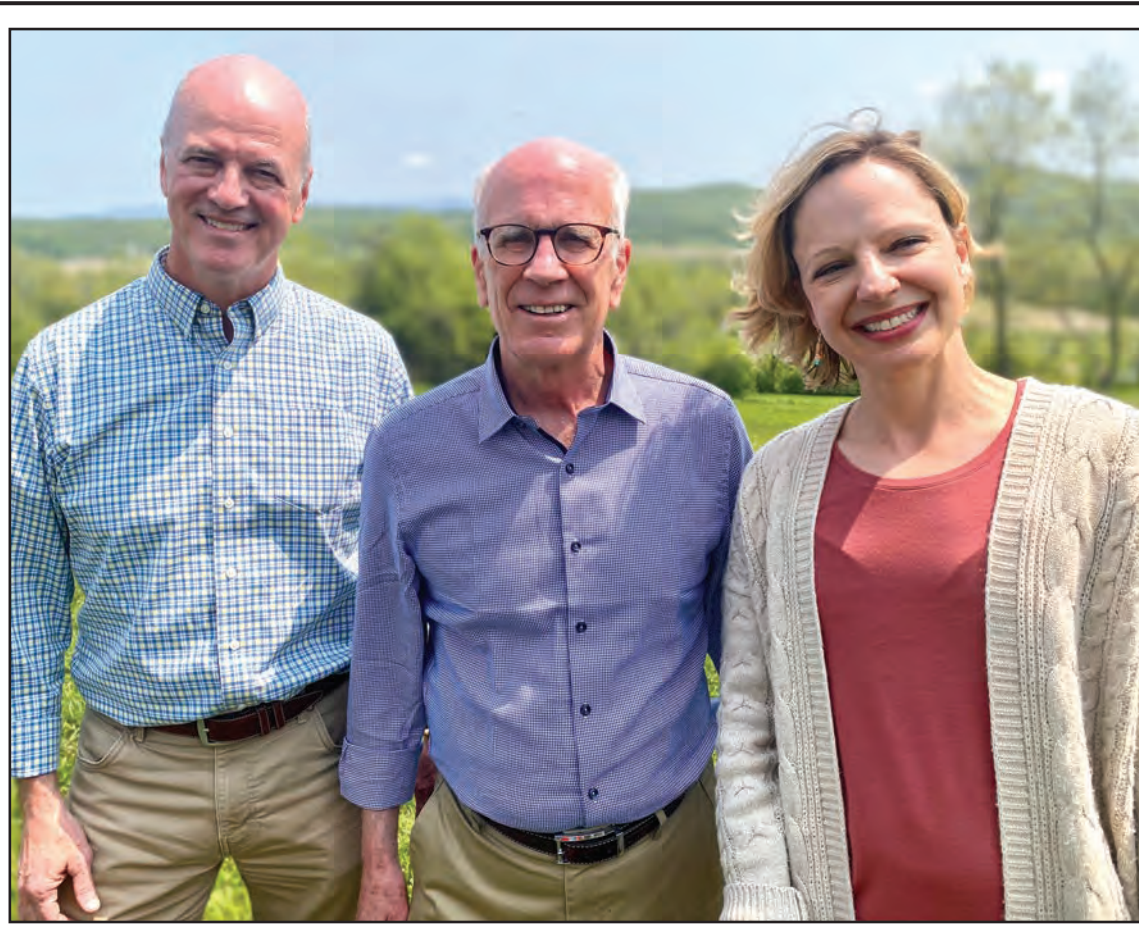
Middlebury Police Log

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Were informed that a chair was stolen from outside Shaw's Supermarket on July 17.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services (MREMS) with a patient who had been experiencing a mental health crisis in the Court Street area on July 17.
- Investigated a report of an alleged assault in the Route 7 South area on July 17.
- Took to the Charter House Emergency Shelter a man who needed food and the use of a phone on July 17.
- Noticed a vehicle parked behind the McDonald's Restaurant for several hours with its lights on during the early hours of July 17. Police determined the people in the vehicle were sleeping.
- Assisted a person who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the North Pleasant Street area on July 17.
- Investigated an alleged hit-and-run incident involving two vehicles at the intersection of Charles Avenue and Court Street on July 18.
- Investigated a trespassing complaint at a Route 7 South business on July 19.
- Assisted a South Village Green resident with a fraud-related complaint on July 19.
- Went to Boardman Street on July 19 to deal with a report of a truck and its trailer that had struck communication wires.
- Followed up on July 20 on a report about an elderly woman who had been sleeping on a bench off Boardman Street.
- Responded to a report of a mental health patient acting in a disorderly manner at Porter Hospital on July 20. Also on that date, police helped return to Porter a patient who was being held for a psychological evaluation.
- Received a request on July 20 for help from the Vermont Sex Offender Registry in finding a man in the Middlebury area.
- Received a July 20 report about a tractor-trailer truck that was allegedly being driven erratically on Route 7 South.
- Assisted MREMS on a medical

call in the Dow Farm Lane area on July 20.

- Reunited a man with his lost wallet on July 21.
- Checked on a report of downed wires in the Bakery Lane area on July 21.
- Helped a Court Street resident who had gotten locked out of their home on July 21.
- Helped a woman who had been experiencing a mental health crisis in the Case Street area on July 21.
- Served a temporary restraining order on a man in the Seminary Street area on July 21.
- Helped an Old College Farm Road resident free a dog who had become stuck in a fence, injuring itself in the process, on July 21.
- Received information on July 21 about a possible embezzlement case at an Ossie Road business
- On July 21, helped a Munger Street resident whose vehicle had not been returned promptly by the person who had borrowed it.
- Received a report on July 21 about a pedestrian being hit by a plastic water bottle thrown from a moving vehicle on Main Street on July 21.
- Responded to a noise complaint at 38 Washington St. on July 22.
- Helped a drunken man who had been struggling in the Court Square area on July 22.
- Helped defuse a property-related dispute in the Valley View area on July 23.
- Investigated a noise complaint in the South Pleasant Street area on July 23.
- Responded to a report of a woman asking for assistance outside the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel off Court Street Extension on July 23.
- Assisted a person who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the Buttolph Drive area on July 23.
- Investigated a possible attempted burglary at the Hillcrest Environmental Center on Middlebury College campus on July 24.
- Responded to a vandalism complaint on Main Street on July 24.



Hands-on broadband

U.S. SEN. PETER Welch of Vermont meets with Tom Morgan and Irena Pavlin at their home in Panton this past spring while high-speed internet was being installed there. Welch had introduced his ReConnecting Rural America Act to support broadband deployment in Vermont and across the United State. Left, the Senator gets a hands-on feel for network installation with a technician from Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom, which is performing some of the installations for the Maple Broadband Communications Union District, which is filling holes in broadband service in 21 Addison County towns.

Auctions



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 7/20/23 & 7/24/23

COST			
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Champlainside	1295	1.16	\$1502.20
Gosliga Farm	1680	1.13	\$1898.40
M+L Quesnel	1975	1.12	\$2212.00
Vorsteveld Farm	1710	1.10	\$1881.00
Barnes Bros	1630	1.07	\$1744.10
Tudhope Farm LLC	975	1.05	\$1023.75
Blue Spruce Farm	1555	1.00	\$1555.00

COST			
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
K. Gray	109	5.50	\$599.50
Barnes Bros.	85	5.20	\$442.00
Mancini Livestock	82	5.00	\$410.00
Champlainside	117	4.50	\$526.50

Total Beef - 153 Total Calves - 273
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

NOTICE

Annual Meeting of the Whiting Cemetery Association will be held August 21st, 2023 at 7PM at the Whiting Town Hall. For more information, call Peg Allen at 802-623-6211.

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Page 11B.

- Addison County Regional Planning Commission (1)
 - Middlebury (1)
 - Monkton (1)
 - Salisbury (1)
- Slate Valley Unified School District (1)
 - Vergennes (1)
- Whiting Cemetery Association (1)

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS

This is to inform students who last attended school in the Slate Valley Unified Union School District in 2015-2016, that special education records will be destroyed in accordance with state and federal law beginning in October 2020. Individuals (or their legal guardians) interested in obtaining their records must call the Slate Valley Unified Union School District office at (802)265-4905 prior to September 4, 2023. Former students should be prepared to show ID, and legal guardians should be prepared to show proof of guardianship, prior to release of records to their possession.

CITY OF VERGENNES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on August 21, 2023, at 7:00 PM for the following purpose:

To consider Local Act 250 review for application #2023-35 by Cornerstone Solutions LLC related to the project at 1-3 West Main Street. Reviews will consider Article XI.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by ZOOM, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.

Join by computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85906470948>, meeting password: 656417.

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; Meeting ID: 859 0647 0948; Meeting Passcode: 656417.

For participants joining by phone:

To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9.

To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6

If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact Zoning Administrator Peter Garon at 802-377-9527.

You must participate in the public hearing either in person or in writing, in order to take any subsequent appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" appeal municipality with regard to appeals to Environmental Court from Development Review Board decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider testimony or information provided during public hearings on the application. Interested parties should therefore assure that their participation in the public hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their desired considerations.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middlebury Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 14, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room at the Town Offices, 77 Main Street, to consider the following application(s).

- Application (file #2023-24:232.010 PUD amend) request by Town Hall Theater, Inc. for amended Planned Unit Development (PUD), conditional use and site plan approval for the addition of the "Town Hall Theater Annex". The "Annex" building addition will add 3300 +/- sq. ft to Town Hall Theater. The Town Hall Theater PUD is located at 68 South Pleasant Street in the Central Business District and includes abutting parcels ID# 024232.010 and 024231.000.

The hearing will also be available to participants via Zoom video link. The link will be provided on the meeting agenda posted on the Town's website. Plans and additional information regarding these application(s) may be viewed at the Planning and Zoning Office in the Town Offices or by calling 388-8100, Ext 226. Participation in this public hearing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

David Wetmore
DRB Coordinator, AZA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CORNWALL PLANNING COMMISSION CORNWALL TOWN PLAN UPDATE

The Cornwall Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM remotely and at the Cornwall Town Office, 2629 Rt. 30, Cornwall, Vermont. This hearing is held pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4441. This notice is issued pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4444(b). At this meeting, the ACRPC will also conduct a consultation with the municipality in regards to its planning efforts. ACRPC's Local Government Committee shall review Cornwall's Town Plan to determine whether the Plan:

- (1) is consistent with the goals established in 24 V.S.A. §4302;
- (2) is compatible with its regional plan;
- (3) is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region;
- (4) contains all the elements included in 24 V.S.A. §4382;

The following list highlights the Sections and other topics substantially amended in the proposed document. Other minor changes were also proposed.

- (1) Addition of a flood resiliency element
- (2) Addition of Forest Block and habitat connectivity inventory and mapping
- (3) Substantial updates to the Economy, Education, Housing and Transportation Sections.

Copies of the Cornwall Town Plan can be viewed at the Cornwall Town office, the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Office, located at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury or on Cornwall's website: <https://cornwallvt.com/>

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86715530273?pwd=R1NuWjVjZHRNjdZVZ2R2BazhKQy9SUT09>

Meeting ID: 867 1553 0273

Passcode: 968361

Join meeting by phone:

+16469313860,,86715530273#,,,,*968361# US

+16465588656,,86715530273#,,,,*968361# US (New York)

Questions, please call either:

Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Community Planner
Addison County Regional Planning Commission, 802 388-3141

or

Conor Stinson
Cornwall Planning Commission, 802 462-2775

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold Public Hearings in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, to consider the following:

- Application 2023-10**
An application from Property Owner Moosalamoo Club Inc./Applicant Trixie and Chris Zeno, (Parcel ID #13XQ153), for a Waiver and Site Plan Review, in connection with a proposed permit to raze and reconstruct Cottage C-5, located at 5 Moosalamoo Road, in Lake Shore District 2,(LS2), in which the proposed reconstruction is considered an increase to a non-conforming structure. This application is pursuant to §2.4.4, §3.7, §3.8, and 4.0.5 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations
- Application 2023-11**
An application from Property Owner Moosalamoo Club Inc./Applicant Fran Davis, (Parcel ID #13XQ153), for a Waiver and Site Plan Review, in connection with a proposed permit to raze and reconstruct Cottage C-6, located at 6 Moosalamoo Road, in Lake Shore District 2,(LS2), in which the proposed reconstruction is considered an increase to a non-conforming structure. This application is pursuant to §2.4.4, §3.7, §3.8, and 4.0.5 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations
- Application 2023-12**
An application from Mason West (parcel ID #0753012) in connection with a proposed (Major) (6) lot subdivision, from the referenced parcel, creating a total of 6 lots, located at 87 Upper Plains Road in Salisbury. This property is located in the Low Density Residential District, (LDR). This application is pursuant to §2.4.3, §6.1, §6.0.1(4), & §6.5.2 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

Participation (either oral or written) is a prerequisite to an interested person's right to take any subsequent appeal from the DRB's decision. See 24 V.S.A. §4465(b) and §4471.

These hearings will be conducted with in-person and remote access. Those wishing to participate remotely must obtain the necessary remote access codes. Access codes (for on-line or phone) are available by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk during regular business hours prior to 3:00 PM on August 15, 2023. The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

Anna Scheck, DRB Clerk

TOWN OF MONKTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on Monday, August 14, 2023, beginning at 7:30 P.M. 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.

1. Preliminary Plat Application #2023-02-MIN of Andrea Kerin and Lisabeth Sewell for a 2-lot subdivision located at 1387 Monkton Rd. (Parcel ID 14.101.124.000) in the RA-1V/RA-5 Zoning District(s).
2. Final Plat Application #2023-01-MIN of Peter Norris for a 3-lot subdivision located at 7 Windy Ridge (Parcel ID 02.216.022.002) in the RA-2/RA-5 Zoning Districts.

An electronic copy of the applications 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/8024533800> * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762

Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 22-PR-03957 IN RE ESTATE OF: MEREDITH ANDERSON

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Meredith Anderson, late of Bridport, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 07/24/23

Executor/Administrator:

Timothy Anderson
1675 Snake Mountain Road
Bridport, VT 05734
802-377-0928

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 07/27/23

Address of Probate Court:
Addison Unit, Probate Court:
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT 05753

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 23-PR-03804 IN RE ESTATE OF: HEIDI HOLLIGER

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Heidi Holliger, late of 30 Hillside Acres, Vergennes, VT 05491. 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 not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 07/18/23

Executor/Administrator:

Corinne Kehoe
1351B Quaker Village Road
Weybridge, VT 05753
802-545-2688

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 07/27/23

Address of Probate Court:
Addison Unit, Probate Court:
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT 05753

ANWSD hires new leadership

By ANDY KIRKALDY
VERGENNES — The Addison Northwest School District has filled several key leadership positions, including a middle school principal at Vergennes Union High School, an assistant principal at Vergennes Union Elementary School, and a new district-wide Coordinator of Equity & Inclusion.

The district has also made other hires or moves this summer, but is still seeking to fill several vacancies before the school year begins.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The new Vergennes Union Middle School principal is Colden Golann, who according to a biography provided by ANWSD, grew up in Hinesburg, graduated from Champlain Valley Union High School, and earned a bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University and a master's degree in school administration from the University of Maine. He had been the principal of Oceanside Middle School in Thomaston, Maine.

Before becoming a principal he taught computer technology, English and Social Studies at the middle-school level at a small Maine school, as well as served as its athletic director and a coach. He then served as an assistant principal at a larger Maine school.

In his ANWSD bio, he wrote, "I have great respect for my current position but my wife and



KIMBERLY HUNT

I are looking for an opportunity to come home to Vermont to raise our 10-month-old daughter, our chickens, and three pigs. I am excited about the opportunity to help establish the Vergennes Union Middle School and to become a part of the Vergennes community."

In March, Golann was a finalist for the Middlebury Union High School principal's position, but Caitlin Steele won the job.

VUES ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The new VUES assistant principal is a familiar face to many in the Vergennes community. Beth Bearor, a Vergennes resident, is ascending to the position after teaching kindergarten at VUES for eight years. Before coming to VUES, Bearor taught kindergarten and pre-K at the Bridport Central School for seven years.

Bearor, who has two young daughters in city schools, received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Champlain College and went on to earn her master's in education from Southern New Hampshire University. Bearor has served on an ANWSD



BETH BEAROR

district leadership team, and her husband, Chris, is also a community leader: He was elected the city mayor in March and is a longtime member of the Vergennes-Panton Water District Board.

ANWSD COORDINATOR

The new ANWSD Coordinator for Equity & Inclusion is Kimberly Hunt, replacing Monica Desrochers, who left for a position elsewhere. Hunt earned a master's in Education Policy from Harvard University and has worked in the Burlington school system as a math coach/interventionist.

According to her bio supplied by ANWSD, Hunt has "coached principals, entrepreneurs and nonprofit executives pursuing graduate degrees on their leadership skills" and "evaluated student performance on assignments to find areas for improvement." She has also won high-profile awards for her teaching ability.

District officials also noted a pair of significant moves at VUHS, one a job change, and the other a new hire. Social Emotional Learning Coordinator Melissa Wellikoff



COLDEN GOLANN

has been moved into the newly created post of Dean of Student Engagement, which is essentially replacing the VUHS assistant principal position from which Ed Cook resigned late in the past academic year.

And VUHS graduate and former Walden Project science teacher Emily Rossier has been brought aboard as the school's Student Health & Safety Coordinator.

Rossier's résumé also includes a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and work with Up for Learning as a program director, Northlands Job Corps as a career transitions services specialist, and a North Greenbush, N.Y., school as a middle school math teacher. She has training in the fields of restorative practices and youth mental health.

The district is still looking to fill other positions: a director for a new alternative program at VUHS called the Beacon Program, which officials said is replacing the Mosaic Program that closed in Burlington; a VUHS special educator; a grants administration specialist; a math teaching support post at the elementary level; an anticipated high school social studies opening; and several paraeducation jobs.

City Council looks to to fill open positions

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vergennes City Council at its July 11 meeting made plans to fill the opening on the council created by Zoe Kaslow's recent announcement she would step down. Councilors will also fill the roster of the new Community Engagement Committee, which will be charged with working with the city manager and police chief on strengthening links between the community and its police force.

The council hopes to review letters of interest for a new councilor at its Aug. 8 meeting and members of the new police-community committee at its first meeting in September.

Those interested in serving either on the council or the Community Engagement Committee should email both Mayor Chris Bearor (mayor@vergenne.org) and City Manager Ron Redmond (manager@vergenne.org) explaining their interest and qualifications, Bearor said.

Kaslow, who was elected in March 2022, announced at the council's June 27 meeting that she had been accepted to an out-of-state graduate school program that requires her to at least temporarily leave Vergennes.

The council will pick someone to serve the rest of Kaslow's term, which expires next March. The appointee at that time could then run for the seat in the municipal elections.

POLICE COMMITTEE

The roster of the Community Engagement Committee could run anywhere from five to nine, according to the committee charter the council approved on July 11.

The purpose of the committee, per its charter, is "To provide community input to a sounding board for the city manager and the chief of police regarding community needs and concerns," and "To serve as a resource for the city manager and police chief to assist in the formation of strategies for community policing programs, increasing public awareness about public safety, and furthering engagement and transparency."

Its initial duties will include to "Develop mission and vision statements," and "Implement a strategic plan for the Vergennes

Police Department ... with actionable items and scope of services (using) a strategic planning process that includes the department, city officials, and members of the community"

The engagement committee is also charged with establishing "a plan to remain engaged in providing review and advice to the City Manager and Chief of Police on the implementation of all 14 recommendations in the IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) report" prepared for the city in 2022.

Those recommendations include expanding Project Vision North, which formalizes the department's cooperation with social service agencies; developing a mission and vision statements and strategic plan; analyzing calls for service and using the data to develop a patrol plan; developing a clear and user-friendly complaint policy; formalizing relationships with other agencies; and making the department "more accessible to the community."

APPOINTMENTS

The council also on July 11 made a series of appointments, returning Mike Winslow and Ryan Adreon to the planning commission, and Brent Rakowski, Don Peabody and Steve Rapoport to the development review board, all for two-year terms beginning on Aug. 1.

The council appointed City Manager Ron Redmond to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Regional Emergency Management Committee, and Vergennes Fire Chief David DiBiase as the city's Emergency Services Representative.

As required by the city charter on an annual basis at the beginning of a new fiscal year, the council also reappointed City Clerk Pennie Austin, City Treasurer Angela Bolduc, and Redmond as city manager.

Meanwhile, a number of vacancies remain on city panels. Bearor noted there are open spots on the boards of listers and auditors, the planning commission, and the parks and recreation and energy committees.

"We're going to try to put it out there and fill those slots," he said.

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Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — Vergennes police reported on July 21 that two handguns had been stolen from vehicles. One gun was taken from a vehicle believed to have been unlocked while parked on Green Street, and the other was taken from a vehicle that had a window rolled down while parked in Maple Manor.

Police said they don't necessarily believe the thief or thieves were targeting the weapons, but rather the guns just happened to be in vehicles that they were casing for valuables. Police noted that on the

same day, allergy medications were reported stolen from a third vehicle parked on nearby Victory Street.

Police reported the make, model and serial numbers of the stolen handguns to the Vermont Crime Information Center, and also reminded gun owners to be careful about securing their weapons.

In other actions between July 17 and 23, Vergennes police conducted a dozen patrols in cruisers and four on foot, 14 traffic stops and two property watches; responded to two false alarms; fingerprinted one job applicant; and also:

- On July 17:
 - On behalf of the Counseling Service of Addison County, checked on the welfare of a Hillside Drive resident who had not responded to a knock on the door. Police said the resident in question declined to open the door, told them she was OK, and that they should leave.

- Told a houseless person she couldn't stay in a tent in Falls Park; police said she cooperated and left.

- On July 18, began investigating a report from a parent whose young child told his parents he'd been sexually abused by another juvenile.

- On July 19:
 - Accepted a debit and AAA card found by a citizen and contacted their owner, who told them it was OK to shred them because they had expired.

- Assigned the department's Drug Recognition Expert to help Vermont State Police evaluate a driving-under-the-influence suspect at the city station.

- On a hot July 20, freed a dog locked in a hot car on Main Street.

CORRECTION: In our July 20 Vergennes police log, we reported that two bags of redeemable bottles had been stolen from a donation bin on July 10, but we misidentified the nonprofit that benefited from that donation bin: The bottles in the bin were earmarked for the local Boy Scout troop. We apologize for the mix-up.

VERGENNES

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Jessen@addisonindependent.com

ARTS + LEISURE

July 27, 2023

The Addison Independent



Rena Diana, Mary Lynn O'Shea and Judith Rey will have their artwork on display at O'Shea's newly renovated home-studio at 140 Hamilton Road in Weybridge on Friday, July 28, and Saturday, July 29, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Come meet the artists, shop the art sale and admire the craftsmanship of O'Shea's partner Steve Smith and daughter Molly Smith, who completed the majority of the renovations.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

This trio has mastered the art of art

Mastering a skill takes time. Yeah, like 10,000 hours! Break that down for a second: If you worked at one skill for 8 hours a day, it would take you 1,250 days, a little over 178 weeks, and nearly three and a half years until you "mastered" that one skill.

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

So when you meet, an artist who's been practicing art for more than four decades... well, you can safely say, you've met a master.

In fact, you have the chance to meet three

masters — Mary Lynn O'Shea, Judith Rey and Rena Diana — this Friday, July 28, and Saturday, July 29, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at O'Shea's newly renovated home-studio at 140 Hamilton Road in Weybridge. Everyone is welcome to come see the space and peruse artwork from all three artists that will be available for sale.

"If you do something for 50 years, it's easy," O'Shea said last week sitting at her kitchen table with Rey and Diana. "It's a long road to becoming a successful artist."

"Anyone can be an artist," Diana mused. "It's about how you put things together."

"It does help to have some teaching," Rey added. "We all did have some kind of formal training."

Either way, all three agree that they are at a great stage to be creating art.

MARY LYNN O'SHEA

O'Shea has had a distinguished career as a fiber artist, crafting luxury jackets, scarves, vests, accessories and home decor. She exhibits primarily at prestigious craft shows like the American Craft Council Show in Baltimore, the Smithsonian Craft Show in Washington, D.C., and the American Craft Exposition at the botanical gardens in

SEE MASTERS ON PAGE 8-9

FILM SCREENING

TICKETS: Series passes are \$60. Individual advance tickets: \$13; walk up tickets on the night of the show: \$15. Passes and advance tickets are available through the Town Hall Theater at townhalltheater.org, by phone 802-382-9222, or in person Monday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. Seating is limited, so reserve your passes and advance tickets early.

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL SUNSET SERIES HOSTS 5 NIGHTS WITH BARRY LEVINSON

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival will once again host its Sunset Series under the tent at the Swift House Inn in Middlebury, from Aug. 1-5. Enjoy five nights of marvelous films from Oscar winning director Barry Levinson. All films start at 7:30 p.m.

Swift House Inn will be offering grab-and-go picnic dinners along with a well-stocked cash bar at the tent each evening during these five nights with Barry Levinson. All are welcome to make themselves at home on the lovely lawn adjacent to the tent preceding the screenings.

Note that parking is not permitted on Stewart Lane or in the Swift House lot, but can be found on nearby streets a short distance away.

THE FILMS:

TUESDAY, AUG. 1 — *DINER*

In his feature directing debut, Barry Levinson stakes out the ground that would be central to several of his films, his home town of Baltimore in the late '50s. This humorous and effervescent film follows the a close-knit circle of friends who reunite at a Baltimore diner when one of them prepares to get married.

Starring: Steve Guttenberg, Kevin Bacon, Paul Reiser, Mickey O'Rourke, Daniel Stern, Ellen Barkin

Length: 110m

Rated R

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2 — *TIN MEN*

Barry Levinson returns to the fertile soil of Baltimore with the 1987 release of the uproarious dark comedy "Tin Men." Ernest Tilley and Bill "BB" Babowsky are rival door-to-door aluminum siding salesmen in 1963 Baltimore, an era when "tin men," as they were called, will do almost anything — legal or illegal — to close a sale. BB is a smooth-talking con-artist who scams naive and comely young women with his sales pitches,



THE DINER



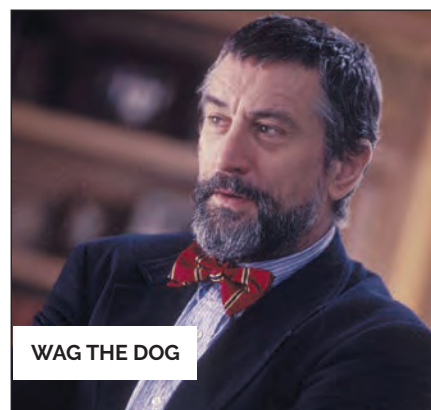
BUGSY



THE NATURAL



TIN MEN



WAG THE DOG

while Tilley is a hapless loser. They first meet when BB, driving his new Cadillac off the lot, backs into Tilley's own Cadillac. Though Tilley had the right of way, each man blames the other and an escalating feud erupts between them.

Starring: Richard Dreyfuss, Danny DeVito, Barbara Hershey

Length: 112m

Rated R

THURSDAY, AUG. 3 *WAG THE DOG*

Released in 1997, during the tumultuous second term of President Bill Clinton, "Wag the Dog"

is a much loved and highly praised political and satirical black comedy starring Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Niro. The film centers on a spin doctor and a Hollywood producer who fabricate a war in Albania to distract voters from a presidential sex scandal. Hoffman was nominated for the Best Actor Oscar and screenwriters David Mamet and Hillary Henkin were both nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Robert De Niro, Anne Heche, Dennis Leary, Andrea Martin

Length: 97m

Rated R

FRIDAY, AUG. 4 — *BUGSY*

Released in 1991 and subsequently nominated for 10 Academy Awards (winning two), "Bugsy" is Barry Levinson's epic biography of the life of American mobster Bugsy Siegel, his fraught relationship with wife and Hollywood starlet, Virginia Hill, and the birth of Las Vegas. Warren Beatty gives a virtuoso, Oscar-nominated performance as Siegel and Annette Bening is sensational as Hill.

Starring: Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Ben Kingsley, Harvey Keitel, Elliott Gould

Length: 136m

Rated R

SATURDAY, AUG. 5 *THE NATURAL*

Released in 1984 and nominated for four Academy Awards, "The Natural," based on the 1952 novel of the same name by Bernard Malamud, is Barry Levinson's beautiful embrace of magical reality filmmaking. The film, featuring Robert Redford, Robert Duvall and Glenn Close (Oscar nominated), recounts the experiences of the mythical Roy Hobbs, an individual with great "natural" baseball talent, and spans the several decades of Roy's career.

Starring: Robert Redford, Robert Duvall, Glenn Close, Kim Basinger

Length: 138m

Rated R

UPCOMING MUSIC

Lookin' for live music?

Check out these free shows July 28, Aug. 2 & Aug. 4

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Friday, July 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Town Hall Theater

Free but donations appreciated

Enjoy Point CounterPoint's faculty concert featuring selections of chamber music.

CHAMPLAIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Sunday, Aug. 2, at 6 p.m.

Lincoln Peak Vineyard

Tickets: Free with registration, part of THT's all-access series

Bring your picnic basket, blankets and chairs and enjoy a Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) Concert.

featuring 40 orchestra members. Local wine available for purchase.

WOMEN IN MUSIC SERIES: KERUBO

Friday, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m.

Lincoln Peak Vineyard / rain venue:

Town Hall Theater

Tickets: Free with registration, part of THT's all-access series

KeruBo is a singer/songwriter and Afro-Jazz artist, originally from Kenya. Accompanied by a nine-piece band, she sings African folk music, Afro Pop and Afro jazz – from African laments to more modern arrangements. Available for purchase: Rollin' Rooster and local wine.



KeruBo will perform a free concert (with registration) at Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven, on Aug. 4, at 6 p.m.



Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra and KeruBo will perform at Lincoln Peak Vineyard in New Haven next week. BYO-picnic, blanket and chair; buy your wine. Free with all-access series tickets from Town Hall Theater.



Point CounterPoint 2023 Summer Faculty Concert Series

Concert times are 7:30pm. Admission is free:

Each concert differs in repertoire, instrumentation, and faculty performers.

Friday, July 28th –

Middlebury Town Hall Theater, Constance Holden Memorial Concert

Friday, August 11th –

Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St, Salisbury

Thursday, August 24th –

Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St, Salisbury

Friday, September 1st –

Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Crt. Middlebury

Friday, September 29th –

PCP Alumni Celebration Concert - Salisbury Congregational Church



Partnering with the Otter Creek Music Festival

Wheelchair Accessible

www.pointcp.com

ART ON EXHIBIT

Northern Daughters opens 'Weathering'

Weathering, a solo exhibit from artist Bonnie Baird, was named far prior to the recent weather events in Vermont. Her show addresses the ways in which we endure and move through the challenges we face, emotional, logistical and other to weather the lives we have carved out in the world. What better teacher than the land to show us how to exquisitely weather the elements of this life, how to hold on, when to let go, the cycle of decay and rebirth and the beauty of every phase.

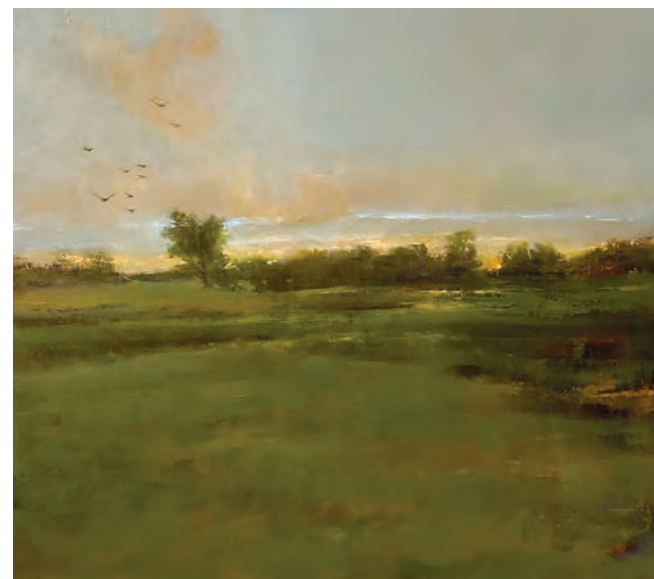
Eleven new works will be included in the exhibit, oil paintings that pay homage to the beautiful land that has surrounded the artist her whole life. The pieces are rich in texture, landscapes softened and warmed by the nuance of memory. Baird works solely from memory, but for a few moments where she pauses in her work to see what the light might be doing out her window, she integrates much of herself in the landscapes she paints. If you see the paintings, exquisitely abstracted up close

and beautifully realistic from a distance, this is hard to believe.

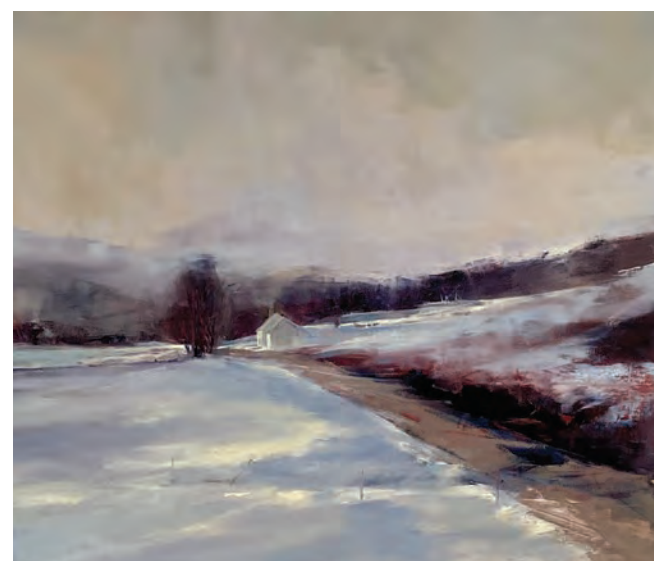
Raised on a 730-acre dairy farm in Vermont, she and her husband Robert are the third generation to own and work their dairy/maple farm. In this way she has weathered much alongside the land she paints.

There will be an interview and Q&A with Bonnie Baird, at 6 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 4. Baird will be discussing what "Weather" means to her, her process, both the challenges and joys of her work, and other important topics. Join us on Friday and feel free to bring a question of your own for the artist.

Weathering is on view at the gallery's 221 Main St. location in Vergennes, from Aug. 4-Sept. 15, with an opening reception on Aug. 4, from 5-7 p.m. For further information contact info@northerndaughters.com or 802-877-2173.



"Drums of Thunder" by Bonnie Baird.



"Last Year" by Bonnie Baird.

Applications now open for traditional arts apprenticeship programs

Vermont Folklife has announced the 32nd year of its Vermont Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program (VTAAP). With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts through a partnership with the Vermont Arts Council, this program supports the continued vitality of Vermont's living cultural heritage.

VTAAP provides stipends of up to \$2,000 to mentor artist and apprentice pairs to cover time, materials and travel expenses. Under the auspices of the program, traditional arts including Burundian women's dancing, American hand-weaving, blacksmithing, New England style fiddling and Nepali sarangi playing have received support.

A traditional arts apprenticeship brings teachers and learners together who share a commitment to sustaining these art forms. It provides support to community-recognized mentor artists who have achieved high levels of expertise in their art forms and less-experienced apprentices. The mentor artist

and apprentice apply together and jointly plan when, where and what they expect to accomplish during the apprenticeship.

Apprenticeship schedules reflect the time constraints of both mentor and apprentice, and range from short-term, intensive sessions to meetings spread over a year. This program supports mentor artists and apprentices who have already decided to work together. Vermont Folklife staff do not match apprentices and mentor artists.

VTAAP PROVIDES STIPENDS OF UP TO \$2,000 TO MENTOR ARTIST AND APPRENTICE PAIRS TO COVER TIME, MATERIALS AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.

The purpose of Vermont Folklife Center's traditional arts apprenticeship program is to provide funding to help compensate mentor artists for their time and to cover the cost of travel and of materials used during the apprenticeship.

The almost 400 apprenticeships supported since the program's inception in 1992 represent a broad spectrum, including the arts and cultural practices of Abenaki, Yankee and Franco-American regional cultures, and the arts of Somali Bantu, Tibetan, Bosnian, Bhutanese Nepali and other communities from immigrant and refugee backgrounds.

Information about the program is available in 14 languages on the Vermont Folklife website at vtfolklife.org/apprenticeship-program or by contacting Kate Haughey at khaughey@vtfolklife.org or 802-388-4964.

The deadline for applications for the 2023-24 program is Aug. 11.

ART ON EXHIBIT

ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

Call 802-453-4032, email aom@gmavt.net or visit artonmainvt.com for more info.

"Summer Wear" featuring colorful dyed, hand printed and woven natural fiber attire by Ellen Howard, Carol Crawford and Ellen Spring. On view July 11-29.

DAVIS FAMILY LIBRARY

110 Storrs Ave, Middlebury

Call 802-443-5494 for more info.

"Pop-Up Books." A new exhibit of pop-up books has been installed in the Davis Family Library atrium at Middlebury College. This exhibit was curated by Middlebury College student Anne Lofgren, class of 2023. On view through the summer.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more info.

"Rejoicing in Color." This solo exhibition of paintings by Philip Frey, continues his exploration of the landscape, coastal Maine and interior spaces that resemble the summer houses that Frey remembers from childhood. Frey has established himself as a leader amongst Maine landscape painters, known for his bold approach to color, dynamic and intentional brushwork and the interplay he creates between representation and the abstract. On view July 22-Sept. 5, with an artist reception Thursday, July 27, from 5- 6:30 p.m.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more info.

"Rhythms of the Landscape" is Larry Horowitz's first solo exhibition at Edgewater Gallery. This American landscape painter is known for his vivid palette, the energetic, physical nature of his painting and bold brush strokes and texture in his interpretations of the landscape. On view through Aug. 15.

LITTLE SEED COFFEE

24 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit littleseed.coffee

"Photography show" featuring photography work from the islands of Hydra and Poros, Greece, by local artists Steven and Kyle Querrey. Work will be on view through September. Hostel Tevere will be serving fresh Mount Holly beer and wine for purchase during an opening reception on Thursday, July 20, 5-8 p.m.,

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Rd, Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, someone in your life says they're making changes, but when you look closely it seems like much of the same. A little encouragement on your part can help this person along.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Tread lightly if you broach a difficult conversation with someone close to you, Taurus. These are tricky waters you are navigating and you want to maintain the relationship.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Problems may seem to you to be bigger than they really are, Gemini. Step back, take a few breaths and then look at things from another perspective. Ask for a second opinion as well.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Look for the double meanings in conversations you're having with coworkers this week, Cancer. They could be trying to tell you something, so read between the lines.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, you are typically good at reading others' moods, so use that skill this week when placed in a sensitive situation. It will help guide you on what to say and what to keep quiet for now.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. There is a lot of socializing going on in your life right now, Virgo. Enjoy the excitement while it lasts and maximize all of the events you can attend. Things may start to slow in a few weeks.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. It's probably best to keep your head down for the next few days and just go about your normal routine, Libra. Don't get pulled into anyone's drama or offer your take on things.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, it is time to be more proactive about getting what you want. Make a list of the things that most interest you right now, and then devise a plan to make things happen.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Figure out which stance you want to take right now, Sagittarius. Are you seeing the glass half full or half empty? Perception can affect your daily life in many ways.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Good news is on the way, Capricorn. This will leave you floating on air for some time afterwards. Surround yourself with the people you love this week so that they can share the good fortune.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. There is a lot that you have been juggling for some time, Aquarius. Unless you take a break or ask for help, one of those balls are going to fall and that could have a domino effect.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March

20. Pisces, you have every right to express your opinions. Others will just have to accept what you say even if they don't agree with it.

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Fri 11-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm
Sun 12-4pm • Closed Mon



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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 27 — Maya Rudolph, actor and comedian (51)

JULY 28 — Harry Kane, soccer player (30)

JULY 29 — Geddy Lee, musician (70)

JULY 30 — Emily Bronte, author (d)

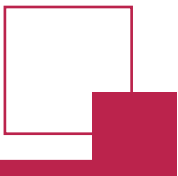
JULY 31 — J. K. Rowling, author (58)

AUG. 1 — Jerry Garcia, musician (d)

AUG. 2 — James Baldwin, author (d)

CALENDAR

JULY 27-AUG. 5
2023



THURSDAY, JULY 27

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MENDON.

Thursday, July 27, Bald Mountain. A moderate 3.3-mile loop with an elevation gain of 850 feet located near Rutland. Four vistas located at rock promontories along the trail offer panoramic views of the Coolidge range and the Otter Creek and Cold River valley. Mostly moderate grades with a few steep descents on the West Loop and the end of the East Loop. Contact Ken Corey at kencorey53@gmail.com or at 802-349-3733. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

RUG HOOKING DEMONSTRATION IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, July 27, 1-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Suzanne Douglas, an experienced rug hooker, will demonstrate traditional rug hooking with wool and the punch needle method using yarn. In connection with the current exhibition "Variety Sew: A Sampling of Textile Tools and Devices." Free with museum admission. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org or 802-388-2117.

ART OPENING IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 27, 5-7 p.m., Edgewater on the Falls, the Mill St. An opening reception for "Rejoicing in Color," a solo exhibition of paintings by Philip Frey. Frey's continues his exploration of the landscape, coastal Maine and interior spaces reminiscent of summer houses from his childhood.

ELLIE BRYANT AUTHOR TALK IN LINCOLN. Thursday, July 27, 6:30 p.m., Lincoln Library, 222 W. River Rd. Lincoln resident and author Ellie Bryant will be discussing her book "Sheltering Angel: A Novel Based on a True Story of the Titanic." The story is told from different points of view of two Titanic survivors, first-class travelers steward, Andrew Cunningham and passenger, Florence Cumings and comes through the discovery that the author's husband is Florence's great-grandson.

PATRICK FITZSIMMONS IN NEW HAVEN. Thursday, July 27, 7 p.m., Tourterelle, 3629 Ethan Allen Hwy (Route 7). Vermont singer-songwriter Patrick Fitzsimmons will be performing with his trio in the barn at Tourterelle, accompanied by Geoff Doubleday on lead guitar and backing vocals and Paul Kuzik on bass. Admission \$15. Cash bar.

CANTATA SINGERS IN SALISBURY. Thursday, July 27, 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Boston-based Cantata Singers embark on their first tour since their founding 60 years ago performing the works of Arvo Pärt and Giovanni Pergolesi. An Otter Creek Music Festival performance. More info at OtterCreekMusicFestival.com.

FRIDAY, JULY 28

STUDIO OPEN HOUSE AND EXHIBIT IN WEYBRIDGE. Friday, July 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 140 Hamilton Rd. Come see Mary Lynn O'Shea and Steve Smith's new studio. Open house coincides with the opening of an art exhibit featuring O'Shea's clothing and accessories, as well as two local artists: Judith Rey, a representational and abstract artist, and Rena Diana, an abstract mixed media artist.

SIMONE BROWNE, CARILLONNEUR, IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 28, 6 p.m., Middlebury College Chapel. Browne, Assistant Carillonneur at the Riverside Church, in New York City will perform in the Middlebury Chapel's bell tower, soaring high above the College campus. The melodic sounds of the carillon bells are a staple of summer life on the Middlebury College campus. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket! Free.

GUITARIST AND COMPOSER HIROYA TSUKAMOTO IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 28, 7 p.m., Gather, 48 Merchants Row. Hiroya Tsukamoto is an innovative guitarist and composer who fuses together folk, jazz, and world music. Born and raised in Japan,

he received a scholarship to Berklee College. Tsukamoto's instrumental abilities are breathtaking, but his performances are so much more than that. Free, but all are invited to make a contribution to support Hiroya and his music. More info at breadloafmountainzen.org/event/concert-featuring-hiroya-tzukamoto.

TWANGTOWN PARAMOURS IN SALISBURY. Friday, July 28, 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Returning to Salisbury is the Nashville-based husband and wife duo, the Twangtown Paramours. Mike and MaryBeth will present their original, award-winning Americana, blues, and folk. An Otter Creek Music Festival performance. More info at OtterCreekMusicFestival.com.

POINT COUNTERPOINT IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 28, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Enjoy Point CounterPoint's faculty concert featuring selections of chamber music. Free but donations appreciated.

"THERE ONCE WAS — 23 TALES OF THE STEPPES" IN ROCHESTER. Friday, July 28, 7:30 p.m., Spice Studio, 482 S. Main St. Come enjoy our creative actor-based staging with colorful fabric, vibrant stories celebrating society's underdogs, creative music by Jake Wildwood, and a sprinkling over it all of a lovely sense of wonder. More info at baldmountaintheater.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

STUDIO OPEN HOUSE AND EXHIBIT IN WEYBRIDGE. Saturday, July 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 140 Hamilton Rd. See July 28 listing.

BLOCK PARTY AND TIGER DAY IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 29, noon-4 p.m., downtown. Celebrate our community and our MUHS alumni through the years with a block party downtown Middlebury. Live *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, July 28 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Governor's Press Conference 6:30 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Saturday, July 29 Through the Night: Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Gov. Scott 8:30 p.m. Select Board 10:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell, Public Affairs Sunday, July 30 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs 7 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Energy Week	11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 1 p.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell 8 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Addiction Recovery Channel Monday, July 31 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. The Talk 9 a.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8 p.m. Dr. John Campbell 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs Tuesday, August 1 Through the Night: Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs 8:30 a.m. Energy Week 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6 p.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Wednesday, August 2 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs	6:30 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 5 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Thursday, August 3 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Dr. John Campbell 8 a.m. Congregational Service 11 a.m. Energy Week 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Green Mountain Care Board MCTV Channel 1091 Friday, July 28 5 a.m. All Things LGTQ 6 a.m. Author Talk: Jack Mayer - Life In a Jar 8 a.m. School Board Meeting 12 p.m. Festival On the Green 2023 6 p.m. Festival On the Green 2023 8 p.m. St Johnsburys Athenaem Poetry Series 10 p.m. Make Music Day: Larry & Joe at the Chandler Center for	the Arts Saturday, July 29 6 a.m. All Things LGTQ 7 a.m. Make Music Day 8 a.m. Festival On the Green 2023 12:15 a.m. Kindergarten Parent Orientation 1 p.m. Vermont Young Playwrights Staged Readings 5:30 p.m. Vermont Youth Orchestra 7 p.m. Make Music Day 8 p.m. School Board Meeting Sunday, July 30 5 a.m. Vermont Young Playwrights 8 a.m. Vermont Youth Orchestra 9:30 a.m. Vermont Young Playwrights 12 p.m. Festival On the Green 2023 3 p.m. Kindergarten Parent Orientation 3:45 p.m. Festival On the Green 2023 5 p.m. Make Music Day 6 p.m. All Things LGTQ 7 p.m. Author Talk: Jack Mayer Monday, July 31 5 a.m. State Board of Education 8 a.m. School Board Meeting(s) 12 p.m. Festival On the Green 2023 6 p.m. All Things LGTQ 7 p.m. Make Music Day	8:34 p.m. Author Talk: Jack Mayer Tuesday, August 1 5 a.m. Author Talk: Jack Mayer 12 p.m. Festival On the Green 2023 1:30 p.m. Vermont Youth Orchestra 3 p.m. Author Talk: Jack Mayer 7 p.m. Vermont Young Playwrights 10 p.m. Festival On the Green 2023 Wednesday, August 2 6:30 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7:30 a.m. Author Talk: Jack Mayer 12 p.m. Make Music Day 5:30 p.m. Vermont Youth Orchestra 7 p.m. Festival On the Green 2023 10 p.m. Make Music Day Thursday, August 3 7 a.m. Author Talks and Interviews 9 a.m. Yoga 10 a.m. Food & Cooking Programs 12 p.m. Author Talk: Jack Mayer 5 p.m. Yoga 6 p.m. Make Music Day 9 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 10 p.m. Festival On the Green 2023	

music, food, games, activities, raffles and sod in the street.

L.C. JAZZ DANCE BAND IN BRANDON. Saturday, July 29, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Come hear this 17-piece volunteer Big Swing Band favorite. Music, singing and dancing. They play fantastic music, support music education through scholarships and have a good time. Come dance the night away or just sit back, tap your feet, and listen to the music. Tickets \$8 adults/\$7 seniors and students/\$14 couples.

"THERE ONCE WAS - 23 TALES OF THE STEPPES" IN ROCHESTER. Saturday, July 29, 7:30 p.m., Spice Studio, 482 S. Main St. See July 28 listing.

ROSE HEGELE, SOPRANO AND SAKURAKO KANEMITSU, PIANO IN BRANDON. Saturday, July 29, 7:30 p.m., Barn Opera House, 1386 Pearl St. Sakurako Kanemitsu returns to Otter Creek Music Festival with first-timer Rose Hegele to present classic and contemporary art songs with an evening-themed program. More info at OtterCreekMusicFestival.com.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

"THERE ONCE WAS — 23 TALES OF THE STEPPES" IN ROCHESTER. Sunday, July 30, TBD, Spice Studio, 482 S. Main St. See July 28 listing.

PACO ÁLVAREZ IN BRANDON. Sunday, July 30, 3 p.m., Barn Opera House, 1386 Pearl St. Pianist Paco Álvarez closes out Otter Creek Music Festival's first weekend with a program featuring Spanish composers Albéniz, Granados, and de Falla.

VIVA EL SABOR THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER FIESTA IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, July 30, 3-8 p.m., Marble Works. Join Viva el Sabor for an evening of delicious Mexican and Guatemalan food, children's activities and a cash bar run by American Flatbread in the Marbleworks. Bring cash, a photo ID, picnic blankets, lawn chairs, reusable dishes and a big appetite.

TUESDAY, AUG. 1

"THE MORSE CODE: LEGACY OF A VERMONT SPORTSWRITER" IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Aug. 1, 7 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Triumph over hardship. Pay it forward. The power of community. These were the moral codes of Dave Morse, a beloved Vermont Sports Hall of Fame journalist who spent 20 years at the Hardwick Gazette writing "The Morse Code," an all-sports, all-ages column. The Vermont Book Shop and Ilsley Library welcome Middlebury College alumnus and retired Hardwick physician Brendan Buckley, who will read from and discuss his new book about Morse.

"DINER" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m., Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. MNFF's Sunset Series, "Five Nights with Barry

Levinson" opens with "Diner." This humorous and effervescent film follows a close-knit circle of friends who reunite at a Baltimore diner when one of them prepares to get married. Series pass \$60, Single film tickets in advance \$13, \$15 at the door. More info at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest.org/sunset-series.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 2

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Aug. 2, 9 a.m., Bristol Trail Network. Plan for 2.5-3 hours for the 3.4-mile section around Bristol's historic areas. Total elevation gain is under 100 feet. Excellent options for snacks/lunch in Bristol before or afterward. More info contact Porter Knight at knight@gmavt.net or 802-343-3920. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"TIN MEN" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m., Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. MNFF Sunset Series 2023 continues with "Tin Men," a dark comedy about rival door-to-door aluminum siding salesmen in 1963 Baltimore, an era when "tin men," as they were called, would do almost anything — legal or illegal — to close a sale. Series pass \$60, Single film tickets in advance \$13, \$15 at the door. More info at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest.org/sunset-series.

HELIAND IN SALISBURY. Wednesday, Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Otter Creek Music Festival continues with local wind trio Heliand, performing the music of Padma Newsome, Florence Price, and Astor. More info at OtterCreekMusicFestival.com.

THURSDAY, AUG. 3

UNRULY ALLIES AND PIZZA IN GOSHEN. Thursday, Aug. 3, 5-7:30 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Community Pizza night features pizza, soft drinks and live music \$37 per person/\$27 for kids 11 and under/kids 5 and under free. Advanced reservations appreciated. Blueberryhillinn.com/pizza.

"WAG THE DOG" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m., Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. MNFF Sunset Series 2023 continues with "Wag the Dog." Released in 1997, during the tumultuous second term of President Bill Clinton, The film centers on a spin doctor and a Hollywood producer who fabricate a war in Albania to distract voters from a presidential sex scandal. Series pass \$60, Single film tickets in advance \$13, \$15 at the door. More info at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest.org/sunset-series.

MANOUCHE URBAIN IN BRANDON. Thursday, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m., Barn Opera House, 1386 Pearl St. Otter Creek Music

Festival presents Boston-based Manouche Urbain will present an evening of classic gypsy jazz standards. More info at OtterCreekMusicFestival.com.

FRIDAY, AUG. 4

JADED RAVINS AND PIZZA IN GOSHEN. Friday, Aug. 4, 5-7:30 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Community Pizza night features pizza, soft drinks and live music \$37 per person/\$27 for kids 11 and under/kids 5 and under free. Advanced reservations appreciated. Blueberryhillinn.com/pizza.

ARTIST RECEPTION IN VERGENNES. Friday, Aug. 4, 5-7 p.m. Northern Daughters Gallery, 221 Main St. Meet Bonnie Baird and see her oil paintings, which possess a subtle drama, depth and detail that pay homage to her relationship with the land — one that has developed throughout her life as a dairy farmer.

KERUBO IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 4, 6 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. KeruBo is a singer/songwriter and Afro-Jazz artist, originally from Kenya who now lives in the Burlington area. Accompanied by a nine-piece band, she sings African folk music, Afro Pop and Afro jazz — from African laments to more modern arrangements. Part of THT and Lincoln Peak's Women in Music Series. Free with registration. Food from Rollin' Rooster available for purchase. Rain location Town Hall Theater.

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 11



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TOP PICK

THEATRE 1, 2, 3 WILL PRESENT FUN AND FUNNY ONE ACTS AND SOME IMPROV IN BEAUTIFUL HOLLEY HALL. PERFORMANCES OF "WHAT'S IN STORE FOR DENIS" BY PAIGE GUILBEAULT, "TEN PAGES" BY BRUCE KANE, AND "THE SPOT" BY STEVEN DIETZ, WILL BE HELD ON AUG. 4 AND 5, AT 7 P.M., AND AUG. 6, AT 2 P.M. FREE. ANY DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS FLOOD RELIEF THROUGH VERMONT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION.

MASTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chicago.

"I've traveled every year for 48 years to go to these craft shows," O'Shea said, adding that

these days she only attends two or three of the best opportunities each year. "It's all direct retail sales at these shows... We typically do well at the shows because there's nothing like it."

But success didn't come overnight. As a child, O'Shea was discouraged from attending college, but she persevered and managed to secure a spot at Southern Illinois University.

"By sheer chance they had an excellent art department," reads O'Shea's artist statement on her website. "I majored in art education and it was only in my senior year that I discovered my true passion. I had to take a weaving and textile class as part of my course requirements and fell instantly in love. I loved everything about the medium, the tactility, the physicality of the process and most of all the sheer volume of color choices and combinations."

O'Shea continued on for a Master of Fine Arts degree at Southern Illinois and taught for one year in the art education department before moving to the east coast.

"During a trip to New York I walked into the office



"Bethel" jacket by Mary Lynn O'Shea.

of the American Craft Museum and left my slides with a resume," O'Shea remembers. "A few months later, I received a call from Goddard College looking for a new professor to head their growing weaving program."

She took the position, moved to Vermont and after three years of teaching moved to Weybridge to establish her own studio and business.

With a great appreciation for nature, flowers and gardening, O'Shea began her career weaving large-scale floral tapestries. But finding it difficult to make a living doing that, she shifted into the fashion industry.

"People buy clothes," O'Shea figured. "So I'll make clothes."

She started with triangular shawls then progressed into hand-woven jackets, jacquard fabrics, and developed her own line of hand-woven clothing, accessories and upholstery. O'Shea sold the majority of her wares in the '90s and 2000s.

"My career and my success have been founded on experimentation, risk and change," O'Shea says, concluding her artist statement.

But change can sometimes be difficult.

O'Shea and her daughter Molly Smith (who also helped her father do much of the renovation at 140 Hamilton Road) work together, and every time

"I LOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT THE MEDIUM, THE TACTILITY, THE PHYSICALITY OF THE PROCESS AND MOST OF ALL THE SHEER VOLUME OF COLOR CHOICES AND COMBINATIONS."

— Mary Lynn O'Shea



"I PAINT BECAUSE IT TAKES ME TO ANOTHER PLACE, WHERE TIME CEASES TO EXIST AND WHERE I AM NOT CONSCIOUS OF ALL THE CONCERNS OF DAILY LIFE."

— Judith Rey



Judith Rey is a

they're at a show in the cities, they search high and low for "beautiful fabric." But that beautiful fabric is getting harder and harder to find.

"Fabric and clothing are getting cheaper and simpler," O'Shea explained. "A lot is coming from overseas... But there will always be people out there who want to buy beautiful, hand-crafted things."

JUDITH REY

Judith Rey lives in Vergennes, where she now takes pleasure going into her studio to "paint for a while."

For nearly two decades, Rey has been exhibiting her work all around Vermont, New England and Florida.

Rey earned her degree in art from the State University of New York at New Paltz, where she met her husband, Dennis Versweyvel. "My husband got a job teaching art at UVM; that's what brought us here to Vermont."



"I've had a variety of different jobs in the Middlebury area over the years," she explained, highlighting her time as CEO and manager of Danforth Pewter from the early 1990s to early 2000s, as well as the director of the Frog Hollow Craft Center. "But I didn't paint for 30 years."

It wasn't until Rey retired that she returned to painting.

"I have a beautiful garden and I couldn't stop drawing flowers, then painting flowers," she said. "I wanted to make things."

"The subject matter of my paintings tends toward abstracted representation of landscapes and iconic images, particularly houses and barns, no doubt a reflection of New England, where I have



often inspired by the colors of her garden in Vergennes.



Mary Lynn O'Shea, Judith Rey and Rena Diana prepare O'Shea's newly renovated home-studio for their art show and open house on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES

lived most of my life," reads Rey's artist statement. "My primary interest is in how paint is applied and the colors that I use to create a mood."

Rey grew up in New York City and is constantly amazed by the million shades of green she finds out her window.

"I paint because it takes me to another place, where time ceases to exist and where I am not conscious of all the concerns of daily life," she added. "It is such a joy to spend these last years working and doing what I want to do."

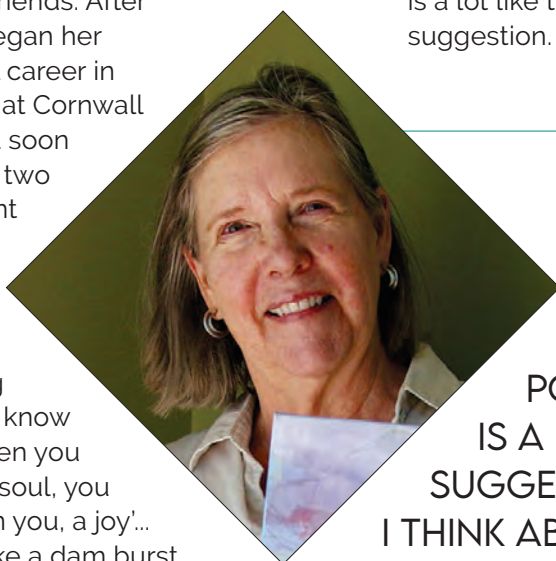
RENA DIANA

Rena Diana was an English major when she graduated with the class of 1970 at Middlebury College, where she and Steve Smith met and became long-time friends. After graduating, Diana began her "long and wonderful career in education" teaching at Cornwall Elementary. But that soon gave way to leading two different independent schools in Baltimore.

"When I retired in 2008, I started doing art," Diana said. "You know the Rumi quote 'When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy'... well for me, it was like a dam burst."

"Art was always in my soul and spirit," Diana continued. "But the skills had been pushed out of me."

So she dove 150% into art, took courses and joined the Art Students League while living in New York City.



"I LOVE HOW POETRY IS A SUGGESTION. I THINK ABSTRACT PAINTING IS A LOT LIKE THAT — **IT'S A SUGGESTION.**"

— Rena Diana

"For me, it was a big moment to say, 'I'm an artist.'" Diana explained. "But when an opportunity comes along, you say yes!"

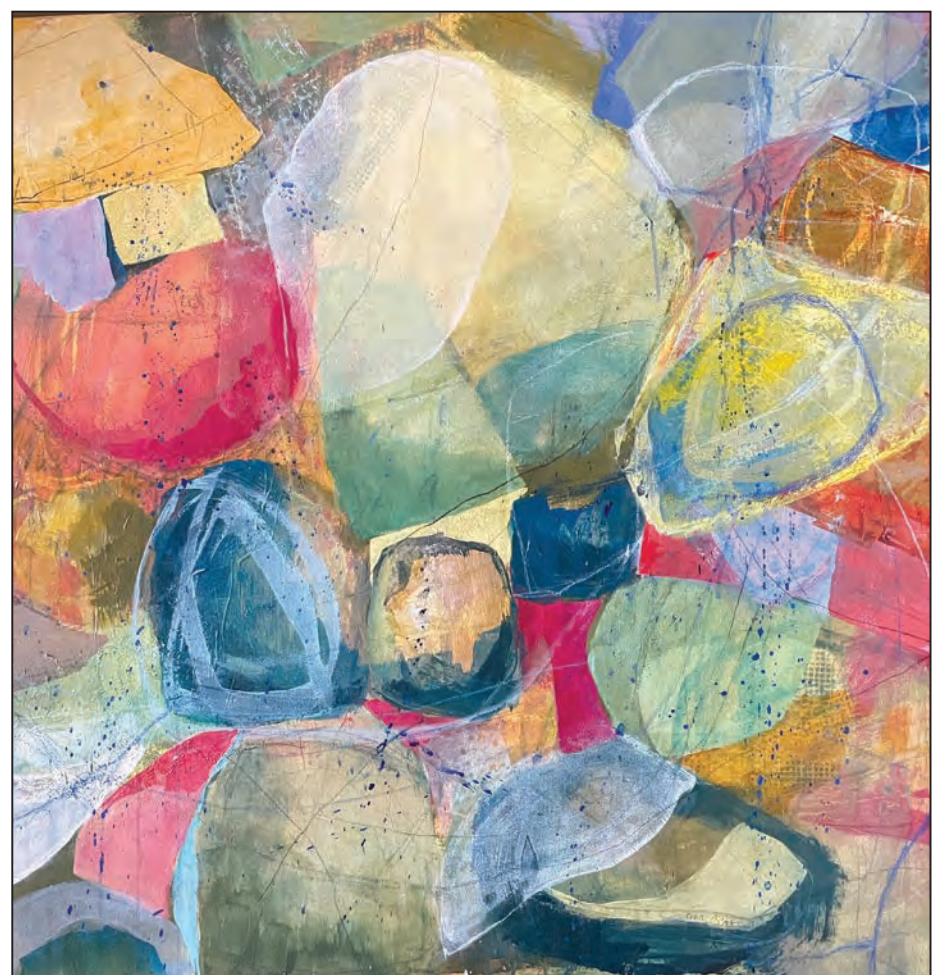
Diana has kept a journal for as long as she can remember. These notebooks chronicle her "observations and experiences" and have gradually become "art journals, filled with sketches and collages, along with personal narrative and remarks about the creative process."

She began exhibiting her abstract acrylic and mixed media paintings in 2015, and has paintings in private collections throughout the USA and UK.

"I love how poetry is a suggestion," Diana said. "I think abstract painting is a lot like that — it's a suggestion."

"Each of my paintings is a poem of thanks and praise," reads Diana's artist statement. "I hope to poke wonder, reverence, reverie and a sense of infinite possibility... There is a deep well of desire within me to embrace, express and share my observations and delights. Every single day. To connect with myself, others, the universe."

Diana's painting range from "calm, carefully sculpted" to "fresh, loose and lively." What "delights and intrigues" Diana is the "state of consideration — what is working here? What isn't? The creative process feels like a dance."



"Abundance" by Rena Diana.

PUZZLES

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ACROSS

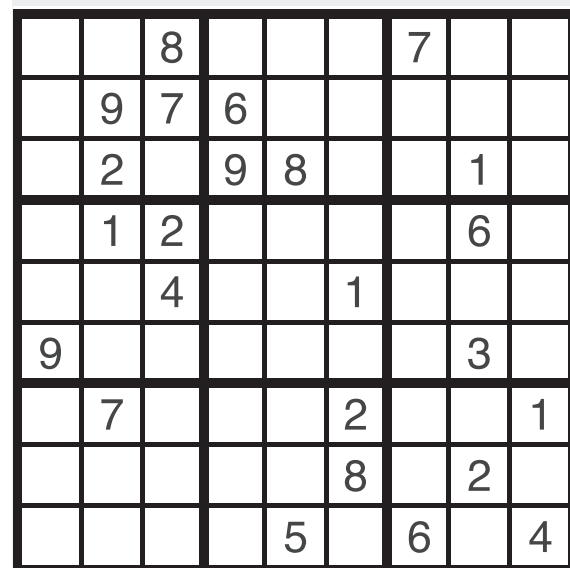
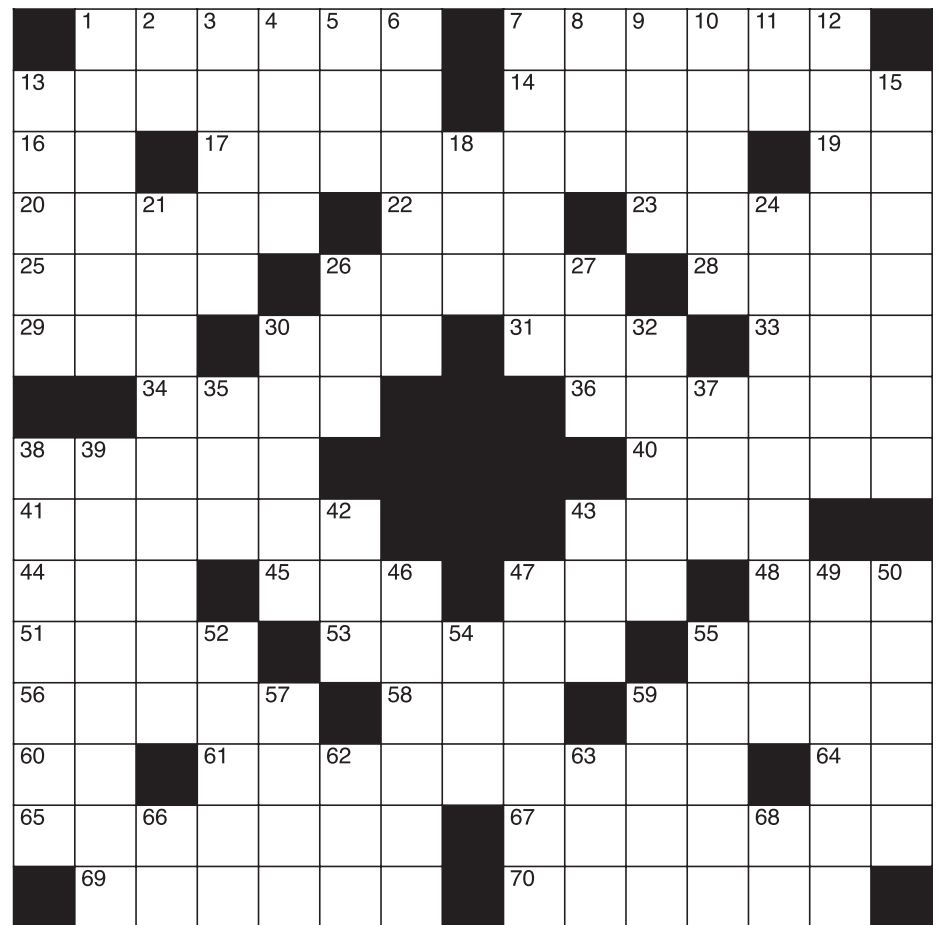
- 1. Bonus materials
- 7. Formal names
- 13. Free from restraints
- 14. One who scrapes away
- 16. Type of device
- 17. Skin cancers
- 19. The Show Me State
- 20. Plate glasses
- 22. Red-brown sea bream
- 23. Small (Fr.)
- 25. Flightless Australian birds
- 26. High IQ group
- 28. Stiff structures
- 29. Revolutions per minute
- 30. Where a bachelor lives

- 31. Licensed for Wall Street
- 33. A place to park
- 34. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 36. An important creed in Catholic Church
- 38. 18-year astronomical period
- 40. Furies
- 41. Removes from the record
- 43. Noted child psychiatrist
- 44. Feline
- 45. High schoolers' test
- 47. Not happy
- 48. They __
- 51. On top
- 53. Precious stones unit of weight
- 55. Moved quickly

- 56. Seagulls
- 58. A seed with hooks or teeth
- 59. Partner to "oohed"
- 60. Exclamation of surprise
- 61. Most unpleasant
- 64. Organization help service members
- 65. Type of cockatoo
- 67. Humorous criticisms
- 69. Went through and organized
- 70. Wakes up

DOWN

- 1. Settle in tents
- 2. Big
- 3. Books
- 4. Masses of eggs in fish
- 5. Language



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

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

- 6. Not standing
- 7. Chinese philosophy
- 8. Computer giant
- 9. A device to catch
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. Actor O'Neill
- 12. Smallest interval in western music
- 13. Not lower
- 15. Revolves
- 18. Leavened bread
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Cable
- 26. Adult male
- 27. Airborne (abbr.)
- 30. Bullfighting maneuvers
- 32. Broadcast
- 35. __ Angeles
- 37. Vehicle
- 38. Not religious
- 39. North American peoples
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Body art (slang)
- 46. Picked for a role
- 47. Actress Tomei
- 49. Former hoopster
- "Big Country"
- 50. Icelandic poems
- 52. More pleasant
- 54. It can add flavor to meat
- 55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
- 57. Expression of annoyance
- 59. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Body part
- 66. Thus
- 68. In reply (abbr.)

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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

AMY HEEBNER CARILLONNEUR, IN

MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug 4, 6 p.m., Middlebury College Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. City Carillonneur, Albany, N.Y., Amy Heebner will perform in the Middlebury Chapel's bell tower, soaring high above the College campus. The melodic sounds of the carillon bells are a staple of summer life on the Middlebury College campus. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket! Free.

"BUGSY" ON SCREEN IN

MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m., Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. MNFF Sunset Series 2023 continues with "Bugsy," Barry Levinson's epic biography of the life of American mobster Bugsy Siegel, his fraught relationship with wife and Hollywood starlet, Virginia Hill, and the birth of Las Vegas. Series pass \$60, Single film tickets in advance \$13, \$15 at the door. More info at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest.org/sunset-series.

ATLANTIC CROSSING IN

SALISBURY. Friday, Aug. 4, 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Otter

Creek Music Festival continues with dear friends and longtime OCMF performers Atlantic Crossing, who will perform folk tunes from New England, Quebec, and abroad. More info at OtterCreekMusicFestival.com.

"THE NATURAL" ON SCREEN

IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m., Swift House Inn, 25 Stewart Ln. MNFF Sunset Series 2023 wraps up with "The Natural," based on the 1952 novel of the same name by Bernard Malamud. The film recounts the experiences of the mythical Roy Hobbs, an individual with great "natural" baseball talent. Series pass \$60, Single film tickets in advance \$13, \$15 at the door. More info at townhalltheater.org or middfilmfest.org/sunset-series.

SATURDAY, AUG. 5

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE

IN WAITSFIELD. Saturday, Aug. 5, Mad River Glen. Hike 4 miles round trip to Stark's Nest. Steep walking up ski trails, 2,000-foot elevation gain. Beautiful views throughout. Contact Morris Earle at morrisearle@gmail.com or 802-734-0984 with questions or to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

MORGAN HORSE FARM

VERMONT DAY IN WEYBRIDGE. Saturday, Aug. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., University

of Vermont Morgan Horse Farm, 74 Battell Dr. This event features demonstrations of the Morgan horse's versatility, utility and training progression. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the spacious grounds and watch the mares and foals frolic in the outdoor arena noon-2 p.m. Lots of kids' activities. Free, rain or shine.

CLAIRE BLACK IN BRANDON.

Saturday, Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m., Barn Opera House, 1386 Pearl St. Pianist Claire Black dazzles with her program featuring works by John Field, Béla Bartók, and Clara Schumann. More info at OtterCreekMusicFestival.com.

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Brego

Brego is a very handsome German Shepherd mix who has asked for a break from the shelter. This 85-pound gentleman is a smart, active, loving dog who is hoping to find a person or family that is willing to step up and foster him. A good fit would be a home that could give him lots of play and snuggle time, he really is a sweet boy. He gets along with dogs similar to his size but he has requested not to live with cats or small dogs as he admits he can't always resist the urge to chase. If you aren't looking to adopt but would be willing to foster Brego, please email Lauren at volunteer@homewardboundanimals.org.



Magic

Magic came to us as a stray with a younger cat, Voodoo, who we believe might be her daughter. Magic is estimated to be 2 years old. She's very friendly and ready for a home. She and Voodoo can be adopted together or separately.

Tessitura

Tessitura ("Tessi") is the sweetest 1-year-old ever! She loves people and shows her affection by wanting to be right next to you or on you. She gives frequent cheek rubs and purrs when being pet or even just talked to, along with rubbing noses with you. Tessi was a great mother and now that her kittens have been weaned, she is ready to be adopted and treated like a queen!



Victoria

Victoria is a 2.5-year-old Fancy Rat who is looking to settle down with one or more of her pups (what young rats are called) in a cozy, quiet home. Rats are social animals and need other rat friends to live a happy life. She could also either live with another rat looking for a companion. Victoria is super affectionate and loves to ride on your shoulder. She is playful and curious. Victoria has not lived with other animals other than her rat family but with her gentle and nurturing personality, she could most likely fit in with other rat-savvy critters and kids. She is afraid of loud noises, so it's important to be soft and mellow with her.

Samuel

Samuel is a 5-year-old Teddy Bear Guinea Pig. He enjoys solving puzzles and mazes filled with hay and veggies. He's a smart little pig! Samuel is described as sweet and vocal, whose favorite treat is his daily vitamin C chews. Living with guinea pig-tolerant cats is a possibility as he has lived with 4 cat siblings and peacefully coexisted. Samuel would most likely do well living with any other pets who are guinea pig savvy, other than another guinea pig. He is easy to handle as long as you handle him gently, and have slow introductions to new people.



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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

WHY ATTRACT BIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN

One of the great joys and challenges of gardening is seeing creatures inhabit and eat from our gardens. However, in some cases, animals and insects are unwelcome visitors.

Woodchucks, deer and cabbage worms can be relentless and

frustrating to manage. Protecting a summer berry crop from hungry birds

can make you question whether it is worth all of the work to defend it in the first place.

However, attracting birds to your garden can be incredibly satisfying.

Why attract birds to your garden?

Birds are fascinating to watch. They offer hours of entertainment and connect us to the natural world. They also need food to feed their babies and store up for long migrations. Growing native plants that provide nourishment and shelter for birds also can bring a great deal of joy and

purpose to your garden.

To grow a bird-friendly garden or landscape, you don't need a ton of space. Enough space for a shrub or two could be just enough to start. Shrubs that grow berries tend to need sun, so select an area that gets at least six hours of sun a day.

Pick native shrubs that produce berries or seeds or even attract caterpillars and other insects that birds will be drawn to for food. Shrubs with attractive berries include red twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*), nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), common elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) and highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*).

Many of these native shrubs tend to naturalize, so plant them in an area where you don't mind them spreading a bit. Some prefer moist soils, so be sure to look into the characteristics of each to match it with your site conditions.

Red oak (*Quercus rubra*), white oak (*Quercus*



Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension Master Gardener and landscape designer from central Vermont.

alba) and swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) host countless caterpillars and insects as well as grow nutritious acorns. Although these species grow slowly, they offer exceptional long-term ecosystem services.

Birds also need shelter. Native evergreen trees including white spruce (*Picea glauca*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*) can provide protection from predators. Deciduous trees such as oaks (*Quercus spp.*), walnut (*Juglans nigra*), cherry (*Prunus serotina*) or willows (*Salix spp.*) offer shelter and food sources.

Interested in attracting or supporting a particular bird species in your landscape?

Use the Bird Guide from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (allaboutbirds.org) to learn more about their habitat and food preferences. Ask your local nursery about the native plants that they offer that would be suitable for your site.

Shrubs can be expensive to plant. A more affordable way to include them in your landscape is to plant them in small containers or as bare-root. Bare-root means that the young shrubs come without soil and must be kept moist and planted right away.

Although it will take time for a small shrub to grow, it is worth the wait to see birds and insects enjoy them.

If you are looking for quicker results, try perennial and annual plants that grow seeds that attract birds. Sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia spp.*) and purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) all have tasty seeds.

The trick is to leave the seed heads of these plants up through the fall and winter. This is the time of year that birds will visit these plants. The plants can be cut back in the spring once the soil dries out.

Birds also need water. Consider offering a simple water source like a bird bath or shallow dish of water in your garden. Replace the water frequently.

Spring is a great time to plan for a bird-friendly garden. The birds will thank you year-round.



To attract birds to the garden, plant black-eyed Susans and purple coneflowers and leave the seed heads of these plants up through fall and winter, so birds can snack on their tasty seeds.

PHOTO / BONNIE KIRN DONAHUE



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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"Tossed: Art from Discarded, Found and Re-purposed Materials." "Tossed" brings together — both

from Middlebury's collection and from other private and public collections — nearly 20 works that make use of discarded materials. On view through Dec. 10.

"Recent Acquisitions: 2016-2023." Featuring more than 30 recent additions to the museum's permanent collection, this exhibit includes work by Veronica Ryan, Sean Scully, Joan Snyder, John Steuart Curry, Fidelia Bridges and James McNeil Whistler, among others. On view through Aug. 6.

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221 Main Street, Vergennes

Visit northerndaughters.com or call 802-877-2173

"Maria Flores Galindo & Peter Wallis: The Past is Fighting Itself Again / Las Cuentas De Mi Abuela." This duo exhibition features collage and paintings that bring the viewer into places and moments that push past the boundaries of what we take for granted. On view June 21-July 31.

"Weathering" a solo exhibit by Bonnie Baird. Her show addresses the ways in which we endure and move through the challenges

we face, emotional, logistical and other to weather the lives we have carved out in the world. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Aug. 4, from 5-7 p.m., with an artist interview and Q&A at 6 p.m. On view Aug. 4-Sept. 15.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Capturing the Light," is a juried photo exhibit featuring images whose success rests in the quality of the light — natural or artificial, harsh or diffuse, bright or dim — their subjects made extraordinary by the light that falls on them. Juror Ann M. Jastrab selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 35 more for the online gallery. On view July 14-Aug. 11.

SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org

"Artists in the Archives: Unseen Neighbors: Community, History & Collage." Digital collages and three analog format collages by 23 artists from seven countries that reflect upon the idea of community in the 21st-century world are on view. The exhibit also includes displays of recently-discovered and acquired materials highlighting the presence of Native American, African American, and Asian peoples in the Middlebury area. On view May 13-Aug. 26.

"Variety Sew: A Sampling of Textile Tools and Devices." From the collections of the Sheldon Museum comes a plethora of sewing machines, a surfeit of spinning wheels, and a myriad of sewing paraphernalia to discover. Many of these items have not been on exhibit for decades and have Middlebury and Addison County histories. On view May 13-Sept. 30.

"Stellar Stitching: 19th Century Vermont Samplers." Features textiles as a learning tool through needlework samplers made exclusively by young girls in the 19th-century depicting alphabets, numerals and decorative elements. On view May 13-Jan. 13, 2024.

"Recent Acquisitions." Recent Acquisitions will feature some new items in the museum's collections including two stunning pieces of furniture by Vermont cabinetmaker Norman Jones, recently donated by Cherie Roberts, along with supporting objects and archival materials. On view May 13-Jan. 13, 2024.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

52 Main Street, Middlebury

Visit sparrowartsupply.com or call 802-989-7225 for more info.

"Faces & Places" featuring artwork by over 50 local artists. Come by to see painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and more. On view July 20-Sept. 2.

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PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING VERMONT FLOOD VICTIMS



Many Vermont families, individuals and businesses have been hit hard by the recent flooding. Donations can be made through the Vermont Community Foundation or your favorite local flood relief agency. **802-388-3355 opt. 5**
<https://www.vermontcf.org/our-impact/programs-and-funds/vt-flood-response/>

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PHOTO ©Jason Duquette-Hoffman

A NOTE TO OUR FLOOD-AFFECTED NEIGHBORS:

Vermont Association of Realtors and the local Addison County board are coordinating efforts to raise funds for those in need due to recent flooding. If you have sustained damage/hardship/loss, please reach out to your local realtor or visit **Vermont211.org** for help.

PHOTO ©2023 erickillorin.com

Missing something?

After seven days of wonderful music on Middlebury's green, a host of lost and found items were recovered during the week of July 9-15 at the annual Festival on the Green. If you recognize anything on the list, you can retrieve it at the Middlebury Parks & Recreation Office on Creek Road on or before July 31, with thanks to Pat Boera and the festival team.

LOST & FOUND LIST FROM THE FESTIVAL ON-THE-GREEN

Here's the list:

- Old Friends Farm mesh ballcap
- Carter's Kid 8/8A maroon zip hoodie
- Two braided chairpad "rugs"
- Mustard-colored wool shawl
- Purple umbrella
- Simply Vera Monat sleeveless black dress size XL
- Eddie Bauer lightweight zip jacket with hood size XL
- Black T-shirt with One Punch Man logo
- UVM Health Network small notepad with pencil
- Pacifier with wooden clip
- Master padlock
- Two pair of glasses — one plastic framed, one metal framed
- Woven zip bag with tassel
- Patterned case for eyeglasses
- Multi-color Pop-it toy
- Matchbox-type car
- Crystal
- Suction dart
- Blue folding camp chair
- Camelbak water bottle.

Lake Dunmore Condo

DUNMORE CONDO (Above): A Sunset Hill condo. Excellent views of Moosalamoo & Dunmore. Delightful camp for Summer liv.: swimming, paddle boarding, fishing, kayaking, boating, biking & hiking. Open liv/din area, remodeled kit & shower Bath Parlor stove. 2 BRs & screened porch completes 444 sq.ft. of liv. space. The seasonal assoc. includes a great sandy beach and lake side patio and a playground area. **\$230,000.**

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CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE