



Sewing it up

A Bridport 17-year-old is crafting all the costumes for an ART play. See Arts + Leisure.



Mat champs!

Three local wrestlers earned Vt. titles this past Saturday at the state meet at OV. See Page 1B.



Spring fun

Spring is just around the corner. Middlebury's Rec. Dept. Guide inside can help you plan for it.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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\$1.50

VARS seeks hike in town charges

Per capita rate would be typical in Vt.

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — One reason for the higher proposed municipal spending that Vergennes-area towns will consider this Town Meeting Day is an increase in the funding requests to those communities from the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, or VARS.

VARS has for years asked the communities it serves as the primary ambulance and emergency medical services provider to fund the agency based on their populations. Those communities include Vergennes, Addison, Panton, Waltham, Ferrisburgh, and parts of New Haven and Monkton.

In recent years those communities have been paying \$8 for each resident, or per capita, for the services of VARS, which is based

on Panton Road in Vergennes, next to Collins Aerospace.

But in the meantime VARS has increasingly been struggling to meet its chartered goal of providing 24/7 services to those communities. Thus, this winter VARS officials have been meeting with selectboards and explaining why — and successfully lobbying for — an increase to \$15 per capita to help.

The higher costs are reflected in towns' proposed general fund budgets — one exception is Waltham, where town officials said the budget was already warned before VARS met with the selectboard.

Most recently, on Feb. 13, VARS Treasurer Brian Goodyear (See VARS, Page 20A)

Read our Town Meeting previews on Pages 11A-17A

Fish & Wildlife bill gets mixed reviews

Sen. Bray asked to defend S.258

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The portend of big increases in education property taxes and proposed changes in the state's wildlife management protocols were the hot topics at Monday's legislative breakfast at the Bristol American Legion Post No. 19.

Addison County voters on Tuesday, March 5, will decide fiscal year 2025 preK-12 spending plans that will, in most cases, reflect a double-digit increase in their education property taxes (though 70% of Vermont residents pay their school bill based on

income).

In Bristol, Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, noted the main culprits: Inflation, spiraling health insurance premiums, deferred maintenance on school buildings and a desire by most districts to retain at least some of the new positions that were created with soon-to-sunset pandemic-era federal funding.

Another major player in the expected school tax increases: Major deviations in the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) calculation that has a direct bearing (See Debate, Page 8A)



Gates ahead!

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE SOPHOMORE Katie Fynn dips and swerves around the gates of the slalom course at the Snowbowl this past Friday on the first day of the Middlebury Winter Carnival. Fynn, who finished 10th in the race, will compete in next week's NCAA skiing championships. See more news and photos from the Carnival on Page 5B.

Independent photo/Steve James

Middlebury struggles with aging water pipes

Rising costs hamper replacement efforts

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury officials are working on a 10-year plan for upgrading the community's 54-mile municipal water system — some of it more than 100 years old — that's been springing an alarming number of leaks in recent months.

The system's condition and shortcomings are drawing more scrutiny in light of last month's sudden water surge that swept through the water mains last month, exposing weaknesses in the network of underground conduits that many take for granted.

It was just last Friday that a few hundred users in the Route 116 corridor got the "all clear" to resume drinking their water following line breaks caused by the surge, which has been (See Water pipes, Page 9A)

Bristol to weigh land purchase at town meeting

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Bristol voters will be asked at the town's annual meeting next week to OK the purchase of land to house a new Public Works Department facility.

The 4.7-acre parcel is located at the corner of Hewitt Road and Route 116. Article 23 on Bristol's Town Meeting Day warning asks for voters' approval to buy the land from Thomas and Pamela Lathrop for the purpose of constructing a new Public Works Department facility.

According to the warning, a down payment of \$17,000 (10% of the \$170,000 purchase price) would be paid at closing from the Capital Building and Maintenance Reserve Fund. The remaining \$153,000 principal balance would be paid over 10 years at a 6% simple interest rate, with annual payments of roughly \$24,000. (See Bristol, Page 20A)

Major Starksboro sugarworks changes hands

By MARIN HOWELL

STARKSBORO — Sugarmaker Dave Folino has spent over four decades tapping trees in the woods of Starksboro's Hillsboro Mountain.

Through the years, his sugaring operation has grown from 80 leaky buckets into Hillsboro

Sugarworks, a year-round business that produces more than 7,000 gallons of syrup annually and that Folino has run with his wife, Sue, for around 20 years.

It's been a sweet run, but Hillsboro Sugarworks is now getting ready to enter a new chapter.

The Folinos have sold the operation to Heffernan Family Sugarworks, a neighboring team of sugarmakers who will merge the maple farm with their own and continue producing syrup under the Hillsboro Sugarworks name for years to come.

"In the past 15 years, the

Heffernan family has built one of the best maple farms in Vermont. They met the Folinos' picky standards. (The Folinos) are very happy that they found the right fit and are confident that it is in the right hands and will be for future generations," the Folinos wrote in (See Folinos, Page 20A)



By the way

Green Mountain Power is alerting customers about a recent surge of scam calls. Dozens of customers have reported a caller threatening immediate power shutoff unless they pay up right away. This is a scam, and GMP is urging customers to be safe and hang up. Customers are urged to not provide payment or personal information, not to engage the caller, and not call back if a call-back number is left at your home. Call GMP Customer Service directly at 888-835-4672 (toll-free) to check the status of your account, report the call and any details about it — like (See By the way, Page 9A)



Furry friends

SKATERS IN THE Middlebury Winter Carnival Ice Show were dressed in all sorts of fun costumes, including these furry ensembles. The Ice Shows at Kenyon Arena on Saturday and Sunday were a smash. See more photos on Page 10A.

Independent photo/Steve James

As pews fill up, Middlebury church needs room to grow

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — While some Addison County congregations are shrinking so quickly that they're turning their churches into community centers, leaders at Middlebury's Memorial Baptist Church are aggressively searching for more space in which to house their popular programs.

Officials at Memorial Baptist Church, or MBC, recently had to

install shorter pews to maximize sanctuary seating within the opulent, historic church building at 97 South Pleasant St.

With a 125-person seating limit for Sunday sermons, Memorial Baptist Pastor Stephanie Allen gets worried when Easter rolls around, facing the prospect of having to turn worshippers away.

Still, those who can't get a (See Church, Page 19A)

Addison Independent debuts All-Stars

Community newspapers foster a sense of caring and genuine curiosity that make communities stronger. Communities, like ours, with a well-supported newspaper share a greater sense of respect for and responsibility to one another.

Every week we hear that the Addy Indy offers a service people love and can't do without.

Today we launch the Addy All-Stars, a way for you to directly support this service. Read all about it in Section C.



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Cornwall Town clerk/treasurer stepping down

By JOHN FLOWERS

CORNWALL — In an era when names rotate quickly on selectboard rosters, it's nice to have a consistent, go-to person fronting your town office.

In Cornwall, that person has been Sue Johnson, the longtime clerk/treasurer.

"From flawlessly managing elections to publishing a regular newsletter to lending a hand in finding a lost pet, nothing has been too big or too small for her attention on our behalf," former Cornwall Selectman Roth "T" Tall said of Johnson. "And she did it all with serenity and a smile."

"We'll miss her." Johnson, 66, will preside over her final Town Meeting Day election on Tuesday after more than two decades as Cornwall's clerk, treasurer and omnipresent troubleshooter.

Tall will be among the many who'll wish Johnson a happy retirement during a send-off party slated for Friday, March 8, from 2-4 p.m. at the Cornwall Town Hall at 2629 Route 30.

"For more than two decades, Sue has embodied Abraham Lincoln's description of government as being 'of the people, by the people and for the people,'" Tall said.

Johnson is originally from York, Penn. She and her family moved to Middlebury in 1965, after her dad got a job with Standard Register.

Johnson completed her studies, got married and decided to buy her parents' Middlebury home after her dad got transferred to a different

Standard Register location. In 1985, she landed a job in the admitting department at Porter Medical Center, beginning what would become a more than 20-year tenure with the county hospital that also saw her perform ambulance dispatching, switchboard and office-support duties.

Her contributions to the local healthcare sector extended to the Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance Association (now known as MREMS), which she joined as an EMT back in 1979.

Life is full of transitions, and Johnson saw her life meet a fork in the road around 40 years ago. He first marriage ended, but she found a new partner in longtime (now former) Cornwall Road Commissioner Stu Johnson. They settled permanently in Cornwall in 1985.

In 1993 Johnson got her first taste of service to her community, and she enjoyed it. She began taking minutes at Cornwall selectboard and planning commission meetings. Her service allowed her to keep track of what was going on in her hometown.

"That's how I got my foot in the door," she said with a smile. "I've been doing things for the town since then."

Johnson wanted to take on a larger role in town government — not as an elected position, but in a support role. Her opportunity came in 2000, when health reasons sadly prompted Town Treasurer Peggy Clark to step down. The selectboard appointed Johnson to

fill the vacancy until the ensuing election. Johnson prevailed in a contested town treasurer election in 2001.

Wanting to increase her weekly town office hours beyond the eight budgeted for the treasurer, Johnson kept tabs on then-Town Clerk Joan Bingham's career plans.

"I didn't want to be a nuisance, but I told her periodically, 'When you get ready to retire, I'm interested in the position,'" said Johnson, who at that point was still working part-time at Porter. "Stu was working for the town, we had a daughter still at the school. The jobs themselves

were something I wanted to do and thought I would be good at them."

Bingham retired in September of 2003. Again, the selectboard picked Johnson to serve until the next election. Johnson ran unopposed for both town clerk and treasurer in 2004, and the rest is history.

While she never had formal training in accounting, Johnson has always had a knack for numbers, making her a good fit for both the clerk and treasurer roles. The selectboard retains the final say on municipal spending plans that are presented to town voters, but the panel has consistently entrusted the budget-building process to Johnson. She pours over the spreadsheets, and, with input from other town employees, plugs in numbers for the following fiscal year.

"I find the process intriguing and fulfilling," she said, adding, "I think we're pretty good at it."

Johnson also crunches grand list and budget numbers each year to produce an estimated property tax rate that's presented to the selectboard.

ALL IN 32 HOURS A WEEK

Her other duties have included processing documents for recording in the municipal land records, maintaining vital records, recording various board minutes, administering oaths of office, doing payroll, maintaining the grand list, running local elections and licensing animals. It's allegedly a 32-hour-a-week job.

She's thoroughly enjoyed her lengthy service to Cornwall, but Johnson's ready to enjoy retirement with Stu, who retired a few years ago. When she last ran (for a three-year term) in 2021, Johnson told the selectboard it'd be the last time her name would appear on the ballot.

"I wanted to have some life left to do other things," Johnson said. "I feel I gave (the town) ample notice. During those three years, pretty much every (town) newsletter said, 'We're looking for somebody.'"

Unfortunately, the overtures failed to attract candidates. In 2022, at Johnson's urging, the selectboard

placed an article on the town meeting warning to make the clerk/treasurers positions appointed, rather than elected posts. Voters OK'd that transition.

Fortunately, two people have stepped up to take on Johnson's duties after she departs. On March 6, Assistant Town Clerk Laura Fetterolf will remove "assistant" from her title, while Nicholas Gill will take over as town treasurer.

Johnson said she's confident both Gill and Fetterolf will be great fits.

While Johnson will no longer be a constant presence at the town office, she and Stu will remain in Cornwall and were something I wanted to do and thought I would be good at them."

active in town affairs. In addition to serving on various Cornwall committees, commissions and boards, Johnson has agreed to become assistant town clerk and treasurer. That doesn't mean she'll be working regular hours; she'll just provide coverage when Gill and/or Fetterolf are unable to serve.

Asked about her thoughts as she nears the end of her Cornwall career, Johnson replied with a chuckle: "It's bittersweet. But I'm really looking forward to getting up, having my cup of coffee and deciding what to do that day — and it won't be 'going to work.'"

There's nothing really exotic on her retirement itinerary, though she and Stu — both longtime Civil War buffs — will attend a conference in Gettysburg this summer that'll include a comprehensive tour of the battlefield.

The couple also tends to a big vegetable garden.

What will she miss most?

"The people," she said without hesitation, placing 99.9% of her Cornwall constituents in the "fantastic" category.

"I've had some folks come in and say, 'It won't be the same without you,'" Johnson said. "That makes you feel good."

Cornwall selectboard Chair Tanya Byker likened Johnson to "a wise and patient professor of local government. She has a wealth of knowledge both about the people and history of Cornwall and the functioning of municipalities in Vermont more broadly."

What will she miss most about Johnson's service?

"Her calm and steady hand at the wheel of the town, but I know everything will be OK for two reasons: She isn't moving out of town, and she promises to continue to lend a helping hand when needed... I believe Sue has a deep feeling of civic responsibility to serve her community. She has done so with wisdom and generosity for over 20 years."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

"I'm really looking forward to getting up, having my cup of coffee and deciding what to do that day — and it won't be 'going to work.'"

— Sue Johnson



LONGTIME CORNWALL TOWN Clerk and Treasurer Sue Johnson will retire next week after more than two decades of service to her community.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Lincoln seeks new principal

Riley to step down at the end of school year

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Lincoln School District officials have begun their search for a new administrator to lead the Lincoln Community School, as longtime principal Tory Riley will step down from the position at the end of this school year.

Riley has helmed the elementary school since 2003, when she first took on a co-principal post alongside Bill Jesdale. Prior to that, she spent 10 years teaching third/fourth-grade at LCS.

"I am full of gratitude for being a part of this exceptional learning community for over three decades," Riley wrote in the principal's message included in this year's Lincoln School District annual report. "I know that LCS will persevere in insisting that students learn to use their minds well in a place where everyone contributes and everyone belongs."

Riley's tenure at the elementary school has more recently included helping the learning community transition into operating as part of an independent supervisory district. The Lincoln School District is in its first year of operation after officially separating from the Mount Abraham Unified School District on July 1, 2023.

While much of the day-to-day operations at LCS have remained similar to in previous school years, the new governance structure has allowed Riley and other educators to explore potential changes in the areas of curriculum and reporting at the elementary school.

The principal position is being advertised on the education employment website SchoolSpring, and the district has formed a principal search committee. Due to the size of the elementary school (around 70 students in grades K-6), Lincoln's principal position is a full-time role that combines administrative responsibilities with a part-time teaching position.

The principal search committee is made up of LCS teachers, staff members, a community member/parent and one school board/community member. Lincoln School District Superintendent Amy Cole is overseeing the search, which kicked off last month.

Cole said the search

committee's work thus far has included reviewing feedback from a principal search survey distributed to the community, as well as conducting interviews. One candidate was set to visit the elementary school on Thursday, Feb. 29, and spend the day with students and staff.

"Parents, community members, and board members are invited to drop-in sessions that day as well and they will be asked to give the search committee feedback," Cole wrote in a recent email to the *Independent*. "The position is a teaching principal position so there is an expectation that the candidate we hire will have additional responsibilities and as you can imagine that is based on both the needs of the school as well as the skills of the candidate."

Cole said the goal is to present the Lincoln School Board with a principal nomination by mid-March.

OTHER OPENINGS

The Lincoln School District is also looking to fill a handful of other positions in the central office and at the Lincoln Community School. Those open positions include a part-time business manager, a part-time kitchen assistant and an administrative assistant to support school and district functions in the front office.

The district is also looking to hire an additional first/second-grade teacher, a position that LSD officials have budgeted for based on current and expected student enrollment at the elementary school.

"This position is in the proposed budget as an additional teaching position due to increased enrollment which we can see as a four-year enrollment increase," Cole explained. "We aren't referring to it as a 'bubble' because we don't have data further forward than that so it's too early to tell if it is a bubble or a trend."

Cole said the teaching position has been posted to SchoolSpring, and a search committee is reviewing applicants with plans to interview candidates in the coming weeks.

The superintendent said the hope is to provide a recommendation to the Lincoln School Board by early April.

Equipment failure causes outage

1,040 customers without power on Tuesday

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — A large portion of Middlebury village and a smaller area in southern New Haven lost power on Tuesday afternoon for between 20 and 110 minutes due to an equipment failure, according to Green Mountain Power Spokesperson Kristin Kelly.

GMP crews believe the equipment that failed "was likely damaged during recent storms this winter," Kelly said in an email to the *Independent*.

The problem was located on Seminary Street near its intersection with North Pleasant Street. Seminary Street was closed to through traffic late on Tuesday afternoon near North Pleasant Street, and a detour was set up. A fire truck and another truck with a cherry-picker attachment

were sent to the scene.

Kelly confirmed that power went out to 590 customers at about 3:50 p.m., and it was restored at 5:40 p.m. Kelly also reported that in order to make repairs, "For safety during their work, (crews) had to turn off a line which affected an additional 1,040 customers for 20 minutes during that time."

Kelly did not specify exactly where the customers were that were affected. Power in the Buttolph Acres area flickered on and off several times before finally shutting off for almost two hours. According to one source Hannafor Career Center also lost power for the longer time span. The *Independent* offices on Maple Street in the Marble Works lost power for the shorter period.

St. Stephen's accepting grant proposals for helping the community

MIDDLEBURY — St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will accept proposals from 501(c)3 organizations that help people in Addison County. Priority will be given to programs or projects that help at-risk populations meet basic needs for food, housing, healthcare, and safety as well as those that curb social isolation and celebrate inclusive communities. Grants will be awarded in amounts from \$500-

\$3,000 with a total disbursement of \$15,000 from 2023 Peasant Market profits.

For more than 75 years the people of St. Stephen's have joined together to offer Peasant Market to the Addison County community. The proceeds from the event are returned to the community in the form of grants to non-profit organizations.

St. Stephen's is especially interested in

proposals that highlight innovative programs and collaborative approaches to program funding. Opportunities for hands-on service partnerships with our parishioners and community members are appreciated, although that is not a requirement for receiving funding.

Applications are available online at www.ststephensmidd.org beginning March 4. Deadline for submissions is April 8.

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Feb 29 - Mar 6



THE SALISBURY FISH Culture Station breeds brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and steelhead trout, which are stocked in rivers and lakes around Vermont.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

Salisbury hatchery closure looms

By EMMA COTTON, VTDigger.org

To the dismay of some anglers, state officials have proposed a plan to close a historic Vermont fish hatchery in Salisbury to cut costs within the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

The hatchery, called the Salisbury Fish Culture Station, breeds large, older fish called “broodstock.” It sends brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and steelhead trout eggs to the state’s four other hatcheries, along with eggs for other state and federal hatcheries. In Vermont, state officials stock lakes and streams with trout for anglers.

The budget for the hatchery, which has been operating since 1931, is not included in the governor’s budget proposal to lawmakers for fiscal year 2025. So lawmakers considering the budget are next in line to weigh in on the state’s proposal, which is not yet final.

Closing the fishery would save the department hundreds of thousands of dollars per year, according to Chris Herrick, commissioner of the Fish & Wildlife Department. This year, the operating and staffing costs of the hatchery are roughly \$600,000, he said.

The anglers that oppose the proposal are worried that the closure would reduce their opportunities to practice the sport and make it harder to catch fish to eat.

“The issues that arise from closing this hatchery are economic, cultural, social,” said Mike Covey, a lobbyist with Vermont Traditions Coalition, an organization that advocates for anglers, hunters and trappers. “We would lose our trout stocking program essentially for two to seven years by species.”

Fishing, Covey said, is an

accessible and affordable form of recreation that can help increase food security for some Vermonters. He’s also concerned that if anglers continue to fish at current rates without stocked fish that the activity could harm native fish populations.

On Tuesday, a group of hunters and anglers gathered at the Statehouse to ask lawmakers questions about the hatchery and S.258, a bill that would make changes to the structure of the Fish & Wildlife Board.

“If there’s changes that need to be occurring in the budget, charge us more money,” said Kevin Lawrence, a Newbury resident who traveled to the Statehouse on Tuesday. “Everybody who is standing over there raised their hand when I asked them, ‘Would you spend five dollars more on a fishing license to keep this thing in motion?’”

In addition to the department’s financial stress, Herrick said the hatchery may not be eligible for a water quality permit in 2027 because of waste discharged from the facility. Despite recent investments in tools to help improve water quality, the hatchery has recently had trouble meeting water quality standards, Herrick said.

If the hatchery closes, three of the facility’s four fulltime staff members would be transferred to other posts within the department, according to Herrick. A federal grant would cover the staff members’ costs, and that federal funding is “only available if we start encumbering it in August,” Herrick said.

The last staff member would remain at the hatchery as a caretaker.

State officials don’t know

yet how they would replace the function of the Salisbury hatchery, if it closes.

“There’s some real advantages to having our own broodstock in that we can manage fish health really well,” said Eric Palmer, director of the department’s Fish Division. “We can keep diseases from coming into the state. We can have the right number of fish to produce the right number of eggs. We can do some things at the hatchery to affect the timing of when the fish spawn.”

The department is considering starting broodlines at other hatcheries in the state, but such an endeavor could be complicated. The state chose Salisbury to be its broodstock station because of its access to groundwater, which protects the fish from disease.

“Many of our other facilities just aren’t suited for holding broodstock,” Palmer said.

Instead, Vermont could hold a smaller number of broodstock and also obtain eggs from other sources, such as buying them commercially, bringing them in from other state programs, or getting eggs from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “which would be much cheaper than holding our own broodstock,” Palmer said.

Those options can be tricky to manage, Palmer said, “as far as having the right strain, the right number, the right timing, and obviously we want to make sure that anything we bring into the state is disease free and very carefully tested.”

Still, Palmer said, the department is looking for any options available to maintain current fish stocking practices with “as few changes as possible.”

Shaun Robinson contributed reporting to this story.

Remick defense objection overruled

Shoreham man sentenced to 80-month prison term

By MIKE DONOGHUE

Vermont News First

BURLINGTON — A former long-term Middlebury College information technology specialist was sentenced on Feb. 22 to almost seven years in federal prison for receipt of child pornography in a sophisticated and significant child sexual abuse material case.

Scott I. Remick, 48, of Shoreham, who also was active in theater productions in schools and local communities in northern Vermont, will be on 14 years of federal supervised release conditions once discharged from his 80-month prison term.

U.S. District Court Judge Christina Reiss overruled a defense objection and said Remick will be subject to polygraph examinations and searches once he is released from prison.

Reiss noted Remick’s background in computers allowed him to set up a buffer that made it hard for federal agents to access all the pornography. She said the lie detector test would help avoid that high-tech problem happening again due to his “very superior computer skills.”

Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara Masterson, who has specialized in prosecuting sex and child pornography cases during a good chunk of her legal career in California and Vermont, said Remick had “one of the most sophisticated computer systems I have seen.”

Reiss also ordered Remick to pay two assessments: \$5,000 under the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, and \$5,000 under the Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018. The judge agreed to waive a court fine.

Reiss also agreed to allow Remick to self-surrender on April 16. Assistant Federal Defender Steven Barth asked that Remick be considered for the federal prison in Danbury, Conn., so he could be close to his family.

U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in South Burlington said the former Bristol man had induced a teenage girl to send him images of her during sex acts, court records show.

While the 2021 investigation was still underway, Homeland Security Investigations later determined from items seized that Remick had possessed child porn as far back as 2012, Masterson said in court papers.

Remick’s initial crime centers on him meeting a 17-year-old girl through an online dating application in December 2011, and they shared an interest in theater, records show. They exchanged images of themselves from theater productions and it escalated into sharing sexually explicit photos of each other, records note.

In one email the girl sent one that had a subject line, “you’re wish is my command .. and then some”; records show. Two sexually explicit pictures of the girl, as described in court papers, were included.

HSI Special Agent Michael McCullagh reported that the court-ordered search uncovered more than 1,000 images of child sexual abuse materials in a thumb cache and over 200,000 images of child

erotica or age-difficult images saved to Remick’s computer.

Middlebury College initially suspended the award-winning employee following the July 7, 2021 raid at his then home on Hardscrabble Road in Bristol. Remick was later terminated from the payroll, according to his defense lawyer, Steven L. Barth.

HSI and Masterson have said the investigation began after a computer researcher said he had accidentally hacked into the private account and found disturbing images on the home computer, court records show.

The private computer security analyst said he captured items on Remick’s computer, but “only had the stomach to open 7 images and they were all child porn,” court records show. The hacker realized he had to report the crime even knowing he might be arrested by hacking into Remick’s computer.

The government eventually provided immunity to the tipster, who had mentioned the sophistication of the encryption system created by Remick to protect against hacks.

The federal sentencing guidelines, which are advisory, calculated a penalty between 11 and 14 years, but a plea agreement was reached that put the possible penalty between a mandatory five years and a maximum 11 years.

Remick, a lifelong Addison County resident, also agreed to forfeit 21 items, including computers, a smartphone, disk drives and other items seized during the raid.

Masterson agreed to drop eight felony charges as part of the plea agreement following the sentencing.

McCullagh, who recently retired from HSI, sat in the courtroom behind Masterson as one of his final investigations came to a close. The former Winooski police officer and St. Michael’s College graduate, had several high-profile investigations, including international cases, while working in Vermont.

Barth said Remick had a “pro-social life,” friends, a good paying job at Middlebury College and a private computer business known as vtgeek.com on the side. All those were lost by the high school graduate after his arrest, including having to sell his house, Barth said.

Remick was hospitalized shortly after his arrest when he attempted self-harm due to depression, officials said. He has since responded to treatment, they said. Remick, whose parents were seated behind him in the courtroom, wants to rebuild his life, Barth said.

Remick told the court that he has

felt guilt, sorrow and remorse. He said he wants to become a good uncle to his nieces and nephews.

The hacker/tipster that alerted officials was a private software developer and security analyst, who is part of a group of individuals involved in analyzing a specific piece of software with a specific security vulnerability, officials said.

He identified a computer with the security vulnerability and also determined it had child pornography, they said. He reported his findings to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and to the Vermont State Police, which called in U.S. Homeland Security Investigations.

The hacker/tipster said he believed he had a duty to come forward even if it caused legal problems for him.

“This is the evidence I have. I apologize if this is not enough,” he said in an email to state police. “I again am just attempting to do the right thing here. What I saw shook me to my core and I honestly could have never imagined being here in this position,” he wrote.

“This is fairly routine and innocuous research I do with a private team that analyzes the impact of security breaches,” he explained about his work.

HSI spoke to the hacker/tipster and conducted additional investigation. Federal agents eventually obtained a warrant to search remotely electronically stored information at Remick’s residence, and a second warrant to search Remick’s residence.

The remote search of Remick’s computer was conducted Saturday, July 3, 2021, and HSI agents continued to work over the holiday weekend gathering evidence before raiding the home on July 7, 2021.

HSI agents determined that a self-built computer at the residence was the same one searched pursuant to the remote search warrant. The agents found additional child porn images on the self-built computer.

Homeland Security Investigations had to dig deep because Remick’s background in IT working at Middlebury College and running his own private consulting business, allowed him to thwart normal investigative avenues.

Cyber Operations Officers with Homeland Security used elaborate state-of-the-art techniques to break through the special encryption and safeguards that Remick had installed on his private computer, a court affidavit noted. It allowed them to exfiltrate, or extract files from the target computer system, court records show.

Winter Vacation

Wallace Stevens said we are old chaos of the sun.

Walking on the trail of the volcanoes on La Palma, all is lava rock and ash, cinder cones and sulfur gas, tumbling down to the sea.

Barely a green thing grows. Some of this land is newer than me.

I am unmoored in distance and time. This could be an epoch long before human civilization or long after.

I am a point in the chaos.

— Morris Earle

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Editorials

At Town Meeting

A few local races, and big questions on school budgets

Across Addison County, the *Addison Independent's* coverage of Town Meeting sees relatively few local races or issues, but big questions concerning higher-than-average school budgets.

The town of **Addison** likely has the highest number of selectboard contestants (nine) for a three-person race. Six challengers will face off against three incumbents. Among the issues facing the town are what to do with the former school building, which was recently sold to the town, and efforts to rehabilitate the former town hall. The town's general fund budget is up just over 12% from the prior year's budget.

In **Middlebury**, there's a competitive three-way race for two three-years seats on the selectboard. Incumbent Farhad Kahn, former longtime Middlebury Town Planner Fred Dunnington, and former selectman Travis Forbes are competing for two open seats. All three are strong candidates.

Farhad Kahn, who owns and manages the One Dollar Market, has a unique perspective as a businessperson and brings valuable insights to the board. He's done an excellent job serving on the board for the past seven years and deserves re-election. We're intrigued with Fred Dunnington's interest in the position and know he would bring a wealth of historical background to the town's decision-making, as well as a can-do attitude addressing the town's future challenges. He has the advantage of knowing the town workings inside and out, as well as understanding its future challenges. Forbes also brings experience and a businessman's perspective to the table. Interviews with all three were published in the *Independent* on Feb. 22 and can be found online.

For condensed overviews of each of the 23 town meetings in the county, see our pre-election coverage on Pages 11A-17A.

SCHOOL BUDGETS

The toughest question this Town Meeting will be whether to approve school budgets. The ACSD budget sees spending jump 9.9% higher than the prior year, ANWSD is 11.6% higher, while Mount Abe's budget (MAUSD) is up 9.2%.

While overall inflation, now at just above 3%, contributes to some of this increase, there's a 16% increase in health care spending, as well as annual increases in teacher and staff pay — both have oversized impacts on the budget. Add in other increases that are out of local control and it's difficult to trim these budgets without major cuts to programs.

The one notable excess is that all three schools have elected to keep most, though not all, of the extra pandemic-related positions (formerly paid by federal funds but now paid mostly through local taxes) to help students who dropped behind or are dealing with behavior issues. It's not that the extra help can't be used (schools can always spend more), but it's also true that school districts didn't have those positions pre-pandemic and continuing to keep them imposes a significant additional cost to taxpayers. Look for taxpayers to demand those positions be culled in the next budget cycle, if not this one.

As for all the hullabaloo over Act 127, House Bill 850 and other legislative noise that pertains to how to raise the funds needed through various tax formulas, that's for the Legislature to decide. Taxpayers rarely have a precise understanding of what tax rates will be by Town Meeting Day, nor is it within their power to change them. The taxpayer's voice is to approve or reject their own school budget based on whether the spending is prudent or excessive. Focus on that question when casting your vote.

And, of course, don't forget to participate in Town Meeting. It's not just a Vermont tradition, it's a wonderful demonstration of democracy in action — which works best when enough residents attend to make it representative.

Angelo Lynn

\$1.50 buys \$25,000 in value!

Inside today's *Addison Independent*, readers will find a four-page EXTRA section announcing the launch of The Addy All-Stars. It's a term recognizing Addy Indy readers who choose to donate in addition to the cost of a yearly subscription. This club, or team or special group of supporters — however you choose to think of it — is needed to sustain the quality journalism the *Independent* has been able to provide for the past 40 years.

It's no secret the revenue model for journalism has been disrupted by the digital revolution, and that revolution has diminished newspapers across the nation. How then, you may ask, has the *Addy Indy* been able to seemingly thrive when other newspapers have not? What magic bubble have we been living in?

The short answer is simple: this newspaper is independently owned, and we have chosen high journalistic standards over the need for profit.

But we can't do that forever. One solution is to build a broader-based revenue stream. That's where the Addy All-Stars come in. If just half of our readership contributed \$2 to \$5 a week on an annual basis, that would go a long way to keeping us sustainable for much of the next decade.

We realize that's no small ask. Not everyone can afford an extra \$100 to \$250 each year, and for those who can't, just being a paid subscriber is a big help and we thank you for being loyal and active readers.

But if you could afford a few bucks more, what do you get in return for that extra contribution?

Glad you asked. We lay out our vision of how the Addy Indy can sustain its high quality in this EXTRA section, and how to broaden our engagement with the county's 23 communities. We also do things like breakdown the cost of a single sports story, which, spoiler alert, tallies over \$175. Add the 20-plus staff written stories each week, opinions, columnists, editing, our advertising team, graphics, layout, distribution, billing and other costs and we spend north of \$25,000 every week to produce the *Addison Independent*.

If I were to write a headline to capture this shocking news, and put it on our newstands, it would scream in bold type: "**\$1.50 BUYS YOU \$25,000 IN VALUE!**" In that context, a contribution of \$2 to \$5 per week somehow seems reasonable.

There's much more to this story told in today's EXTRA! Please spend a few extra moments to read it. Hopefully you'll gain a new appreciation of the cost of quality news, and how, with everyone's help, we can keep that quality in the Addy Indy for many years to come.

Angelo Lynn

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Top dog

MONDAY'S LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST in Bristol drew around 25 humans and one furry quadruped, who set a high bar for fashion. This tutu-attired pup — perhaps a Blue Dog Democrat? — listened patiently as local lawmakers and constituents discussed issues ranging from school taxes to hunting rules.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Curiosity helps during tough times

When I wrote my most recent *Addy Indy* column, I was in a state of psychic shock. It was just days after the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas. Both abroad and at home, the fundamental truths uttered by non-violent visionaries through the ages were playing themselves out before my eyes: hatred breeds more hatred, violence begets violence and dehumanization of "the other" fuels the cycle of war. In both that column and my daily interactions, I called for us to slow down, to listen compassionately to one another, to dare to embrace multiple truths, to pause before making rash statements, to be attentive to complexity and nuance.

Needless to say, in terms of the hopes and values I have been struggling to foster, things have not gone very well. In late November, I looked around the circle of beleaguered faces in my classroom and observed: "I think this is going to be a long haul. We all need to figure out how we will sustain ourselves in these times." We exchanged some good ideas, expressed commitment to the common good and ended the semester on a hopeful, even inspired, note.

But with the dawning of 2024, multiple wars still raging, and election year histrionics already in full force, I am finding myself at something of a loss. How can I address this tenuous and tragic moment in an authentic and helpful-to-others way? To what audience might I offer which kind of perspective? Does my scholarly training or lived experience even matter to someone whose mind is already firmly made up? "You can always write about your sheep," a wise writer

friend suggested.

True. But with everything generally "hitting the fan" these days, it seems more appropriate to start with the intriguing — and seemingly growing — pile of scat that I recently discovered on the shores of our local wetland. So, let me tell you more.

"What is that?" I wondered until I got a little closer. Had I not already seen prior evidence of the source, I might have been totally mystified. But this was the shiniest, most fish-scale filled scat I had ever seen. It was shimmering. Almost beautiful, but then again, not quite. I was fairly sure that our other friends were the ones contributing these particular nutrients to the shoreline.

Last year, we had beavers, but no otters. The year before, some otters, but no beavers. In the preceding years, no otters at all (or so it seemed, but were we paying close enough attention?). On Christmas Day this winter, we woke up to the delightful sight of three otters enjoying a fish-feast on the ice. The youngster in the trio was having a bit of trouble hanging on to a very large and floppy fish. Enter a bald eagle who saw his opportunity, swooped in and nabbed it in a flash. Sir Eagle then perched on the limb of our tallest pine, looking noble and self-satisfied — until he dropped half the fish. Was he hoping that nobody saw?

The fish-feast was a feast for us as well, a feast for the soul and the imagination. It was a somewhat more dramatic version of what is offered to us every day when we forsake the *New York Times* for what used

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

Ways of Seeing

By Rebecca Kneale Gould



When I wrote my most recent *Addy Indy* column, I was in a state of psychic shock. It was just days after the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas. Both abroad and at home, the fundamental truths uttered by non-violent visionaries through the ages were playing themselves out before my eyes: hatred breeds more hatred, violence begets violence and dehumanization of "the other" fuels the cycle of war. In both that column and my daily interactions, I called for us to slow down, to listen compassionately to one another, to dare to embrace multiple truths, to pause before making rash statements, to be attentive to complexity and nuance.

Town meeting takes center stage

This week we'll take a big leap to end sunny February. Next week, Tuesday, March 5, is Vermont Town Meeting Day and the Presidential Primary Election. Town Meeting Week also generally marks the half-way point for the legislative session, and an opportunity for us to take a breather with a week away from Montpelier. I'm looking forward to it!

TOWN MEETING DAY

There are a lot of important races and issues on this year's March ballot. Be sure you're registered to vote; learn about the budgets, candidates, and issues; and have a plan to vote. You can check your My Voter Page to register to vote, request a mail-in ballot, or check the status of your ballot. For young voters, Vermont law allows 17-year-olds who will turn 18 by November's Election Day to vote in the March presidential primary. So register to vote and start to exercise your right to vote!

You are likely hearing a lot about school budgets and property tax increases. This is in part due to an unintended consequence of a provision in Act 127, the legislation that re-balanced the school funding formula to enable very rural school districts and those with more students living in poverty or students who need English language education to access more funding. Last week we passed H.850, which corrects this error and permits school districts to reduce their

already-warned budgets and schedule a later vote on their budgets, if necessary. Many school districts, including most in the Addison District, already reduced their budgets and will have votes on the normal town meeting ballot. Some may schedule later votes.

School districts are under enormous pressure to create budgets that meet the needs of students in the face of rising healthcare costs, a reduction in federal pandemic aid, overall inflation, and substantial student needs. And many Vermonters are not able to afford the education tax increases that may be required to meet these needs. As the legislative session continues, we will be working to ease some of these pressures as best we can. I also encourage you learn more about your school district's budget proposal before you vote on Town Meeting Day. Each school district holds an annual informational meeting and posts information about its budget proposal on its website. Similarly, towns produce detailed annual reports, and hold either annual meetings where they vote on the town budget or informational meetings prior to a ballot vote on March 5. Finally, the *Addison Independent* is featuring articles about many of the contested races for local office. Check out these resources before you vote.

(See *Hardy*, Page 5A)



Legislative Review by Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison County

Letters to the Editor

Thanks given for vigilance

I want to express my gratitude to folks in the Middlebury community, especially to Hannaford's and the Middlebury Policy Department, who caught on that my mother was being scammed and then contacted me. Keep your eyes out for scams involving gift card purchases — my mother was buying gift cards, then sitting in her car and texting pictures of the back of the gift cards with the codes exposed to her scammer, who was promising to deposit thousands of dollars into her bank account.

Hannaford's caught on first. After they cut her off, she bought gift cards at Kinney and Walgreens before the police department was able to alert me to the scheme. It's highly unlikely she'll get her money back, but at least she won't lose more.

Living in a small community where people are connected means a lot! It could have been much worse.

Pam Marsh New Haven

Ilisley project merits support

Because I am not a resident of Middlebury, I do not have a vote on the bond issue for the Ilisley Library renovation and expansion. I hope the bond vote carries, however. The library is an amazing regional resource, used by residents of many towns surrounding Middlebury.

If the bond issue passes, I hope library users from surrounding towns will consider voluntarily supporting the capital campaign which will follow. Areawide support will be an important part of funding this much-needed project.

Spencer Putnam Weybridge

Trappers' video is misleading

For those of you who may know me, you know how non-confrontational I am. I like to focus on honest education only. I have been biting my tongue out of fear of confrontation, but we are way past that now. A recent video put out by the trapper's association, spearheaded by a paid trapping lobbyist, touts themselves as "stewards of our wildlife." It prompted me to respond publicly. Sure, I'm not a trapper, and I could just choose to not watch; however, the video is a pure propaganda stunt and grossly misleads the public.

Despite the fact that VT Fish and Wildlife criticized the video for various overstatements and scare tactics, they still chose to star in it! I wonder if Fish and Wildlife would star in a wildlife protection group's video? Probably not and that's a problem.

Trappers seem to always be playing the victim, including in this video, but it rings hollow. Trappers themselves have threatened, demeaned and engaged in defamation against the public who disagrees with them. The animal advocates I know are compassionate people who are tired of being kicked to the curb. I've personally had trappers, including a trapper in this video, try to sabotage my work partnering with towns to solve beaver conflicts humanely and non-lethally. This trapper has been served with cease-and-desist letters for his continued defamation toward animal advocates.

My beaver work consists of reaching out to communities and road crews and educating them on the benefits of beaver flow devices vs. trapping. I didn't realize saving communities' roads and taxpayer's money was such a horrible thing to do. I come prepared with proof of knowledge via bills from recent trapping sites (can't fake those), and I have a small army of experts who stand with me. I have never met an aggressive animal advocate. I have worked with wonderful

(See *Soychak* letter, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Lawmakers must take action on environmental bills

Anyone paying attention to the relentless stream of “natural” disasters around the world knows that we need to make big changes to how we make and use energy, and we need them yesterday. Right now our legislators have a chance to make some seemingly little but really important changes that will make things better for all Vermonters down the line. They can make room for more local, low-emissions energy; create more affordable community-based heat; and protect electric ratepayers

from inevitable cost increases. And yet given the brevity of our legislative season, the complexity of the law, and the power of big energy lobbyists, even small changes are at risk of being put off for next year or never. People have already done the hard work of writing these bills and researching the costs and impacts, and they’re ready to go, if only our legislators will see to pass them. Some of the most important bills for our energy future are on the table: the

ratepayer protection act (H.289), the new Renewable Energy Standard (with community solar net-metering!) (H.669/S.252), and the thermal energy networks bill (H.668). There’s a lot going on, but we can’t lose sight of the urgency of making change whenever it’s possible. So let’s support our legislators in this important work and urge them to pass these bills this season!

**Carolyn Kuebler
Middlebury**

Armstrong appeals for votes, town meeting turnout

I am appealing to all Addison voters to get out to vote on Tuesday, March 5. I need your votes for Addison selectwoman and please attend the Town Meeting on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at the old school. Vote for your best candidate! But just vote and take a neighbor.

There are many issues in our town government that need addressing; that is why you see so many candidates on the ballot. It is good to see that concerns are going to be dealt with.

Decisions are made out of meetings and then the change is announced when a newly appointed chairman leader is put back into place after having resigned; Peter Briggs. And as a selectman it is your responsibility to know when you are to be re-elected.

The unrest is showing. The selectboard must not interfere with the duties granted specifically to other town officers, boards or entities (committees) to delay progress on voted items by the voters of the town. Example being, there has been a long delay on the Town Hall. That now needs to see progress as voted for the town clerk’s office. In addition no individual selectboard member is

given the authority to serve any roles alone, the full board has to hear the issue, discuss it and vote on it.

Vacancies are not being filled by absentee committee members. I feel this is essential for success. You are making a commitment to serve, if you choose not to, you need to be replaced. brings change. Yes, there are agendas and there need not be any agendas, just correct processing of the laws. Again there is no trust by the voters with no change with complaints. Ideas come out with large group and committee participation, good ideas to create needed changes that have already been voted by the community.

Nepotism is being used, partialism brings distrust. Our very large group of community people are split up deliberately to delay progress, less voting so the selectboard can deny progress, the Facilities Committee fell apart, now only a selectboard member is in charge. There is no insight to see the future!

Transparency is a big issue, of course you cannot be aware of what is not made known. Honesty is a big issue. If you do not attend you never know the dynamics of what is actually happening in your

town. One goal is to have more people at meetings in Addison and West Addison forming large committees for progress.

I feel all issues can be resolved, with committees, and interested community members. Our community is at a time of positive progress, not to be denied by the selectboard. Yes, there are agendas and there need not be any!

All residents of this town need to make our town a success to lower our taxes!

Ideas sprint out with a group!

I look forward to new candidates to be voted on to conduct town business efficiently for progress on the Town Hall and Facility. To be part of the Town Plan. It is an era of change, good change, the town is lagging behind on progress. I want to drive through my town to see restoration, creation and productivity.

We can no longer endure the conflict, anger and refusals we voted for need to happen!

Know what is happening in your town. Vote and come to meetings, it is your tax dollar!

**Elizabeth S. Armstrong
Candidate for Selectwoman
Addison**

Addison candidates say they won’t vote as a block

In response to Tim Buskey’s letter to the editor entitled, “Be wary of candidates who are running as a block”

I had an opportunity to communicate directly with Tim Buskey about his concerns that there were three candidates running as some sort of “voting block.” I thought it might be helpful to also share my thoughts with your readers, as I am one of the three candidates he was concerned about.

While it is true that we have been pooling our resources as we campaign, Eliza Spencer, Levi Barrett and I are not a “voting block” of any sort. It seemed more economical to send out our mailer together, since we are not running against each other, and producing and mailing a card like we did would have been

either financially out of reach, or just wasteful if it was sent by each of us individually. It also seemed prudent when visiting our neighbors and knocking on doors to avoid interrupting anybody’s weekend multiple times (there are nine total Addison selectboard candidates, after all), so we’ve been doing that together too.

Though I personally support both Levi and Eliza, ideologically we are each very much individuals. Though we have no hidden agendas, we each have our own priorities and hopes for our town government, and sometimes they do not exactly align. I think that’s actually beneficial, as a healthy government requires respectful discussion of a diversity of thoughts and ideas. On the contrary, for me it has been troubling to see our current

selectboard almost never has a split vote on anything, and if there are concerns about a “voting block” in our town, that is where mine are focused.

I believe our current selectboard membership is too homogeneous, and is missing representation from key parts of our community. That is one of the main reasons I’m running.

I hope that may go some way to alleviate your worries. I fully agree with Tim’s sentiment when he says, “Let’s vote for the “individuals” who can best lead our town.” My hope is that the voters of Addison will research their candidates and truly understand what they each can offer, and also reach out to them directly if they have questions.

**Michael Hollis
Addison**

Hardy

(Continued from Page 4A)
A FEW BILLS AND UPDATES OF NOTE

The Senate Government Operations Committee, which I chair, is close to finishing work on S.310, a bill aimed at improving the government response to natural disasters. The bill covers many seemingly mundane, but crucially important topics that are necessary to keep Vermonters safe during the next natural disaster, including emergency communications and translation, shelters and evacuation routes, emergency planning and training, storm water utilities, public works employees and first responders, swift water rescue teams, and funding for communities to mitigate future flooding. It’s been great to get feedback and ideas from communities around the state, including during a committee field trip to the hard-hit city of Barre, on how we can do better next time. The committee is also working on a post-COVID update to the Open

Meeting Law for public boards and committees and a bill to investigate how to improve county government in Vermont.

A small bill, H.469, that the Senate Health and Welfare Committee will pass this week updates the process for writing an advance directive, which is a document that outlines your wishes for medical treatment if you are no longer able to make those decisions. Working on H.469 reminded me that I needed to complete my own advance directive, which I did, so now I’m reminding you too! No matter how old you are, it’s really important that your loved ones know what your wishes are if you are injured or ill and unable to communicate. You can learn a lot more about the process and your options from the Vermont Ethics Network.

And, a few things of note: This Thursday, Feb. 29 (Leap Day!), the Vermont Farm to School and Early Childhood Network is hosting a gathering at the Middlebury Union

High School to learn more about farm-to-school efforts and discuss ideas for getting more local foods into school meals. All are welcome — there will be snacks! Earlier this month was Unclaimed Property Day to highlight the state program that helps Vermonters claim funds and property that belong to them. Check out the Vermont State Treasurer’s Unclaimed Property website to see if you might have something coming to you (I found \$37,481!). Finally, I was recently asked why there aren’t more fast chargers for electric vehicles in Addison County. The short answer is that more chargers are on the way, but it’s taking longer than many drivers want! You can check out the VTrans website for details of the EV charging program and fill out this survey if your organization or property could be a potential host for an EV charging station. Thank you!

That’s all for now! Thanks for reading and remember to vote!

Soychak letter

(Continued from Page 4A)
groups, some even offering grant assistance for communities. I was one of those people who thought animal advocates threw red paint on people who wear fur. Nothing could be farther from the truth! I can’t say that about the trappers I have encountered. Every project I have started has been met with interference. One trapper that I spoke to told me “Beavers were nothing but rodents.” Really? Guess the term “keystone species” means nothing to him. I’m flabbergasted by these types of responses. None of these trappers are seeking compromise and they are letting their fear and disdain towards these groups cloud their judgement and reactions to recent legislation.

As far as hounding goes, I’m just floored that the state of Vermont allows this kind of recreational “sport.” It is inhumane and it also puts the public in danger. In a recent interview, a trapping and hounding

lobbyist stated that Vermont needed a leash law for the general public. Well, that’s confusing to me. Vermonters need to leash their dogs while the hounders’ dogs get to run loose causing “havoc” makes no sense. Laws are for all Vermonters, not just ones getting in your way.

So, what have I learned over the last few years? Vermonters need a safe forum to start talking about wildlife challenges where all voices are heard because wildlife belongs to no one group, but only one group has been making all the laws! Bill S.258 gives everyone a seat at the table. It also bans the dangerous and cruel recreation of coyote hounding that is not even grounded in sound science, and also baiting, which is prohibited for most other hunting practices. I’m not stopping advocating for wildlife and trying to work together for the future of conservation. I have my constitutional right to fight for my beliefs, too, and I will continue

to do that with honesty, facts and education. I know I have fought a clean fight. I want Vermonters like me to be able to join a group and see what’s going on without fear of retaliation.

I’m going to face a lot of backlash for my comments. I didn’t want to fan the flames and start another op ed response. So much false information ends up getting thrown at us and it’s so destructive and confusing to Vermonters. I’m just using my constitutional right to speak my truth. I just could not sit back and let the false information go unchallenged.

Let’s debate with facts, not fear mongering, and let’s come from a place of compromise, not defensive rhetoric. That’s what’s best for Vermonters and our wonderful wildlife that everyone enjoys. Equal educated representation!

**Bev Soychak
Monkton**

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)
to be called “the Book of Nature.” When we stop to pay attention, we get curious, we ask questions, we learn something new.

For instance, why do I know that it was Sir Eagle perching on our pine? I didn’t until two days ago when the eagle, to our delight, returned. He was acting slightly bossy toward a group of crows and what appeared to be a red-tailed hawk. But then the two raptors drew themselves aloft at exactly the same time, swooping, gliding and practically sky-dancing together. They were a pair. Our national lore has only ever represented Eagle

to us in male form (should I be surprised?), so it took us neophyte birders a bit of time to figure things out. We stayed curious (and did some research) and were ultimately rewarded with a deeper sense of the “people in our neighborhood.”

Getting curious about every little thing around me has always been one of my trusted make-it-through-the-Long-Haul methods. It’s a reliable antidote to despair — one that I am privileged to be able to access and try never to take for granted. The sheep help me enormously here. Noticing is one of their super-powers. A nose twitch here, a slight ear turn there,

a fixed gaze. We’ve been taught by them to notice their noticings. Their curiosity fuels our own. Oddly enough, the intellectual thrill of not-knowing is somehow a balm for the soul. At least it is for mine.

And then I wonder. Why, in the world, do we war with one another when we could just get really curious instead?

Rebecca Kneale Gould is a writer and Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at Middlebury College, focusing on comparative religion and the environmental humanities to build stronger communities.

**Letters
to the editor
can be found
on Pages 4A,
5A and 8A.**



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Obituaries

Wendy Elizabeth Coughlan, 62, of North Ferrisburgh

NORTH FERRISBURGH — Wendy Elizabeth Coughlan, 62, of North Ferrisburgh, Vt., passed away on Feb. 12, 2024, surrounded by her loving spouse and children.

Wendy was born on Nov. 9, 1961, in Montréal, QC, Canada, to Ian Louis Coughlan and Mary Elizabeth Coughlan (née Newcomb). Wendy grew up in Montréal and attended The Study from grades one to eleven, graduating in 1978. At The Study, Wendy excelled in both academics and the creative arts. Wendy was a member of Kappa Rho house, like her mother and sister before her, and served as the head of the house and treasurer of the student body in her final year. After her time at The Study, Wendy attended Middlebury College in Vermont. She graduated class of 1983 with a degree in Northern Studies and Biology.

Wendy discovered Waldorf education while working at Anore Station in New Zealand in her early twenties. She enrolled at Antioch University and received an M.Ed. in Integrated Learning and a certificate in Waldorf Education in 1989. That fall, Wendy began her teaching career by taking on the first-grade class at the Lake Champlain Waldorf School, and she shepherded those students through their studies from grade one to grade eight. She then became the handwork teacher, and taught every child in the school how to knit, crochet, and sew until she retired in 2020.

Wendy met her spouse, Bet, 25 years ago and they quickly fell in love. Bet and her children Soren and Rosa, as well as their other mother Terri, all moved into Wendy's large farmhouse, where they were soon joined by baby Nicholas. Wendy loved the blended family that she,

WENDY ELIZABETH
COUGHLAN

Bet, and Terri created together, and always took the time to show her love to all those in her life.

Wendy was an active member of the Vergennes Congregational Church, where she served as a deacon for many years. She was a beloved member of the weekly craft group and was admired greatly for her skills in the fiber arts. Her willingness to teach others and her patient guidance were integral to the way she approached the world.

Wendy was a master seamstress, and her hands created endless beauty. She spent hundreds of hours lovingly crafting individual nativity sets for immediate and extended family members, and she kept careful track of her progress on each set. Every Christmas, the newest additions were greatly anticipated, and once unwrapped, everyone would marvel over what Wendy had crafted.

Wendy held a deep appreciation for the world and nature's gifts. She was an avid gardener; every year her garden yielded a vibrant harvest, and it was not uncommon

to receive beautiful homegrown vegetables as gifts. Wendy was also an incredible baker and cook; the chest freezer always overflowed with frozen soups and meals, all ready to prepare for a quick supper, or to send off to a family member or friend in need.

Wendy was incredibly resilient and strong-minded from the moment she was born. She survived infant cancer, wore a scoliosis brace through her teens, and later in her life she survived a devastating car accident that left her with a broken neck. However, despite the numerous challenges she faced, Wendy never failed to find a way to defy odds and expectations, all while loving the beauty of the world. She leaves us with the reminder to treasure the quiet rituals, small details, and simple joys of life: the cycle of the garden, the time it takes to knit one row of a cabled sweater, and the blue of the eastern bluebird.

Wendy is survived by her spouse, Bet Dews of North Ferrisburgh, Vt., their children, Soren Dews (Meg Dews), Rosa Dews, Nicholas Coughlan; and their other mother, Theresa Borden; her brother, Jerry Coughlan and his wife Stephanie of Wellesley Mass., and their children; and Mike Coughlan and his wife Amy of Kennebunk, Maine, and their children. Wendy was predeceased by her father, Ian in 1979, her mother, Mary in 2020, and her sister, Suzie, in 2022.

A service will be held at the Vergennes Congregational Church on March 9, at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Vergennes Community Food Shelf at tinyurl.com/UCCVergennes-food-shelf by selecting "food shelf donation" from the dropdown menu. ♡

John Paul Terry, 62, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — John Paul Terry, 62, of Middlebury, Vt., passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 6, 2024.

John was born on Aug. 10, 1961, in Glens Falls, N.Y., to Thomas A. Terry and Gloria J. (LaMotte) Terry. He grew up in Granville and Hartford, N.Y. He graduated from Hartford Central School in Hartford, N.Y., and went on to join the United States Army and become a water treatment specialist.

John loved the simple things in life — he loved to drive his truck on the backroad, a fresh can of Skoal, and some good tunes on the radio. John was good as gold, always joking and laughing and a friend to all. He will be missed greatly by anyone who was blessed enough to know him.

Calling hours will be at Sanderson Funeral Home in



JOHN PAUL TERRY

Middlebury on Saturday, March 2, from 1-3 p.m., with a celebration of life at the VFW in Middlebury directly following. A burial of his

ashes will come in the spring at the graveside of his father at St. Mary's Cemetery in Fort Edward, N.Y.

John is survived by sons, Jarret (Liz) Knapp and Justin Knapp of New York; his mother, Gloria Terry; brother Jesse Terry and partner Nina; his sister Jeanette Marcum; his favorite cousin and best friend Joseph Smith of Port Henry, N.Y.; hundreds of beloved cousins near and far and nieces and nephews; as well as many good friends at Porter Hospital, where John was employed for many years. John was predeceased by his father, Thomas Terry in 1983, his grandparents and all of his 21 aunts and uncles.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to: HOPE 282 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Goodnight, John Boy. ♡

Obituary Guidelines

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

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

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

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Priscilla Bailey Tully, 103, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Priscilla Bailey Tully let go of this life on Feb. 4, 2024, just shy of her 104th birthday. She was at home, surrounded by family and her beloved cat, Willie.

Priscilla came into this world in the middle of a snowstorm, the doctor trudging three miles uphill, with a sled.

Although she grew up very close with her only sister, Martha, she had an independent spirit that took her far and wide.

She lived on Beacon Hill and worked first in the Freshman Dean's Office at Harvard, and later for Arthur D. Little in the Food and Flavor lab, learning to distinguish cigarette brands by smell, a skill that would later terrify her teenage daughters. She volunteered at Mass General Hospital at night.

When World War II started, she moved to Ellsworth, Maine, where she worked for the Civil Air Patrol as a plotting board operator, watching for enemy planes.

Her wanderlust and sense of duty took her to Hawaii in 1944, working for the Red Cross and living at Schofield Barracks, among many handsome, smitten Navy officers.

Her next adventure was living with three girls in New York City, working for John Price Jones, doing campaign work and raising money for charitable causes.

A blind date set up by her brother-in-law, Jim, introduced her to fellow Navy officer Robert Tully, who was going to officer training school in Rhode Island. They married in 1950 and had two daughters.

Priscilla embraced her new role as Navy wife and mother, raising her daughters on the bases in the



PRISCILLA BAILEY TULLY

East and during a two-year stint in Panama in the early 1960s. Upon retirement from the Navy, they settled on a farm in Plympton, Mass., and later, on full retirement, in Swansboro, N.C.

In her earlier years she was an avid golfer and painter and hosted spirited bridge games with long-time friends. She enjoyed boating and bought her last Boston Whaler when she was well into her 90s. She loved traveling, particularly to her second favorite island of Bermuda, where she spent her 100th birthday with 20 good friends and family, just before the world shut down for the pandemic.

She was always involved in church wherever she moved. In Middlebury, she offered to be overnight person at the Charter House, caring for the homeless. Pastor Andy suggested she bring brownies instead.

She loved gardening and Garden Club and was a longstanding member of the Sewing Circle, as well as a yearly volunteer at the

Islesboro Rummage Sale. She and her sister were widely known as the Linen Ladies. When she first moved to Middlebury she volunteered at Round Robin, an upscale consignment shop, and was active in the gym.

Priscilla moved to Middlebury, Vt., in 2014 after "trying it out" for four years part-time. She continued to spend each summer since she was five months old on her beloved island, Islesboro.

She adored her animals, having raised twelve large and spirited dogs before becoming a cat lover to Wille at the tender age of 96. Friends often said, "When I die, I want to come back as Priscilla Tully's dog." And Priscilla would often quote Will Rogers. "If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I die, I want to go where they went."

Her key to long life was having her beloved dogs to walk, a glass of chardonnay at night, and ice cream to "settle my stomach."

She leaves behind a multitude of beloved friends; her cat, Willie; daughters Ellen and Sarah; favorite son-in-law, Tommy; nephews Jim and Rick and wife Paula; and much-loved Tully relatives, with whom she enjoyed family reunions in Arizona and Maine over the past five years.

As per her wishes, there will be no funeral, but because of her love of good parties, we will celebrate her life on Islesboro in mid-June. For those who would like to honor her, she loved Project Independence in Middlebury, Vt. She was involved with the Congregational Church of Middlebury, and the Islesboro Sewing Circle, on Islesboro, Maine. ♡

Robert Howard Rodgers, 79, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Robert Howard Rodgers, 79, of New Haven passed away suddenly at home on Feb. 20, 2024.

Due to his mother's military service, he was born in Alexandria, La., on May 24, 1944, a fact most embarrassing to this ninth-generation Vermonter. Robert grew up on the family farm in New Haven, where he learned carpentry, plumbing, and how to design and repair almost anything. He also learned where the bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches, and morels grew, where the brook turned into a small waterfall, and where the best hills were for sledding.

Robert attended Beeman Academy before continuing on to Phillips Exeter Academy. He later graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College in 1966, where he was also elected to the national honor society Phi Beta Kappa. He completed his academic training in 1970 with a PhD from Harvard University.

Thus credentialed, Robert went on to a distinguished academic career as a professor of classics. He began teaching at the University of California, Berkeley, where he met the love of his life, Barbara Saylor, whom he married in New Haven in 1973.

While northern California had its charms, such as sunny weather and wine country a short drive away, Vermont was home. When Barbara received a job offer to teach at the University of Vermont, Robert was ecstatic to return to his childhood home and raise two children: Eleanor and Cyrus. Robert joined Barbara in the Classics department of the University of Vermont, retiring in 2017 from his role as Lyman-Roberts Professor of Classical Languages and Literature.

His interests ran far beyond the classics; Robert was also drawn to local history and to genealogy. Over the years, he acquired numerous awards and fellowships, and published a great number of books and articles in the classics, genealogy, and history.

ROBERT HOWARD
RODGERS

His publications include a history of New Haven (New Haven in Vermont, 1761-1983), a family history, and three books on probate records in Middlesex County, Mass. His professional scholarly pursuits were wide-ranging, but included Roman aqueducts and agriculture; understanding the rural agrarian life from centuries past was no doubt of interest to a man who grew up on a farm and saw the nature of farming in Vermont evolve over the course of his lifetime.

Robert was deeply devoted to service, public and professional alike. He served as New Haven town auditor for over a decade, town historian for nearly two decades, and long-time officer of the New Haven Evergreen Cemetery Association. He served on school boards from 1986-1994, was an officer in the church since 1981, and actively participated in countless historical societies and nonprofits. He peer-reviewed papers for prestigious classical journals, held many committee positions at the University of Vermont, served as external tenure evaluator for a number of well-known universities, treasurer for the Classical Association of New England, and trustee of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Robert was a lifelong student of history and genealogy; family, sense of place, quality of work, and serving institutions he cared about were important to Robert. So, too, was good food and wine, along with pure Vermont maple syrup. He never met a dog or a pig he didn't love or a bird that he did.

His unique personality came across in many ways; he had a quirky humor that peeked out on occasion. Whenever he happened upon an interesting name or phrase, he would save it for later use. Luckily for his children, such names were bestowed on pets such as Tesselgrave (a mistaken recollection of the name Tesselshade) and Huptia Zosa (which means "upside down, alive" in Greek).

Robert is survived by his wife, Barbara Saylor Rodgers of New Haven; son, Cyrus Rodgers of Burlington; daughter, Eleanor de Villiers, her husband, Richard de Villiers, and their daughter, Maya de Villiers, all of New Haven; as well as many other close friends, extended family members, and numerous devoted and affectionate former students.

In keeping with Robert's wishes, there will not be any public services. A celebration of life is planned for May 24, his 80th birthday. His family requests that anyone so inclined share written stories of Robert: funny, poignant, or memorable, to make into a keepsake for his granddaughter.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the New Haven Congregational Church. ♡

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Eleanor Dorothy Stokes Ruprecht, 101, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — On Feb. 21, 2024, Eleanor Dorothy Stokes Ruprecht passed away at age 101 after a long and very full life. She was a strong woman, loving wife, exceptional mother, music lover, professional secretary, history lover and a lifelong seeker of knowledge. She started her life in New Jersey then moved to Vermont, where she lived on her Bridport farm for close to 50 years before moving to Shard Villa Residential Care in Salisbury.

Elly was born Dec. 6, 1922, in the house she grew up in, in Little Falls, N.J., the older daughter of Hannah Hamilton and Thomas Stokes. She was enrolled in an "Opportunity Class" in elementary school, which combined two years into one, resulting in her graduation from Montclair High School at age 16. A lifetime learner, Elly enjoyed school, but the highlight for her was taking part in school-based operettas and musicals. She was often chosen for the lead soprano role — Gretel in Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel, the princess in Princess Chrysanthemum, and Cinderella in Cinderella. She took part in the Glee Club in high school and all the school musicals, including The Mikado, and took advantage of numerous school trips into NYC for the Saturday afternoon matinee at the Metropolitan Opera.

She followed in her father's footsteps (an organist and choir director) playing the organ for the church services at St Agnes Church in Little Falls every other Sunday. The organ had two keyboards and foot pedals, which her father taught her to play. As the years went by, she enjoyed attending musicals and performances at local theaters and art centers, sang in the community chorus and loved playing her Steinway. She'd play her favorite hymns around the holidays, especially Easter and Christmas, and would play into the evening as those in the house were falling asleep.

Following high school, Elly enrolled in the two-year program at Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School in NYC, and often recited to us the route of her almost two-hour commute. She took the 7:15 a.m. train from Little Falls to Jersey City, crossed the Hudson river on a ferry (standing outside on the upper deck to observe the river traffic), then walked three city blocks to the subway, traveled uptown on the Lexington Ave. subway to Times Square, took the shuttle subway to Grand Central and then walked one more block to the Katherine Gibbs school by 9 a.m. — wearing her hat and gloves, which were part of the required dress code.

Upon graduation, her first job was as the secretary to the Director of Central Research Laboratories at General Foods Corporation in Hoboken, N.J. She learned a great deal about nutrition in this position, especially "you are what you eat!", which she carried with her (and shared with anyone who would listen) for the rest of her life. At the end of World War II, she remembers all the employees running up to the roof of the General Foods building, which was along the Hudson River, to wave and cheer to the returning troop ships as they slowly made their way up the Hudson. They were escorted by police boats, fire boats sending up plumes of water, tugboats honking their horns, little private boats scooting in and around the other boats with the returning soldiers all hanging over the sides of the big ships, waving, laughing and calling to the crowds on the rooftops along the river. Everyone was overjoyed that the war was over, and the men were returning home.

She married her high school sweetheart, Carl H. W. Ruprecht Jr., in 1944 during the war and



ELEANOR DOROTHY STOKES RUPRECHT

after living briefly with his parents in Montclair, N.J., they built their own home in North Caldwell, N.J. It was a small "farm" on five acres, in the middle of suburbia, growing to include a milking cow, a horse, two sheep, two geese, two pigs, chickens and a goat.

They raised their four children here, Amy (Tom) Rugg of Winooski, Carl (Susan) Ruprecht of East Berkshire, Wendy Ordway of Hinesburg and Jody (Davis) Brakeley of Salisbury. Her family eventually grew to include eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren (so far). While raising her children, Elly held part-time jobs as Clerk to the Magistrate Court, attending court once a month; secretary for the Board of Health in North Caldwell; and as the Registrar for the town — the keeper of all birth, death and marriage records within the town. She worked closely with all the police officers, so Carl was very careful not to get a speeding ticket, as it went directly to her desk.

There was drastic change in 1969, when Carl and Elly packed up everything and moved the family to Bridport, Vt., to a 100-acre farm and a 200-year-old house that needed "renovations." It had no running water (there was a hand pump in the kitchen connected to a cistern), no heat other than two kerosene heaters, and no indoor plumbing (there was a three-holer outhouse in the woodshed). It did have electricity and a 10-party phone line. Elly's New Jersey family couldn't believe she let Carl talk her into this.

Being a family of "do-ers," Carl and Elly moved themselves to Vermont, buying a tractor trailer, and with the help of the children, moved all the household belongings and eventually all the animals to Vermont over several trips from New Jersey to Vermont. In the early 70s, they decided to put the farm to good use and after barn modifications, purchased 20 Black Angus heifers. Within a few years, this number grew to over 40 head of cattle. There were new calves each spring, which Elly adored watching run around in the fields. Two horses, two milk cows, pigs, geese and chickens had a home on the farm as well. Carl then installed the needed amenities (heat, water, insulation, plumbing with indoor bathrooms, etc.) and began the truly never-ending process of renovation. Elly worked alongside Carl through all of this, though eventually returned to the world she preferred, getting a job as the secretary of the History and American Literature departments at Middlebury College. She enjoyed this position for fourteen years, keeping copies of the class syllabuses she typed up so she would know what good books she should read.

She lost her husband to cancer in 1998, but her life on the farm continued and she was in regular contact with her neighbors, Tom Woodward, Paul Connor, Jill Vickers, Joanie and Art Huestis, Art Provencher, Jonas Hastings and David Breen. To quote Jill, "they enjoyed many fine afternoons talking plants, birds,



Bridport, families and politics. She was a wise woman." She hosted regular family "work parties" over the years; she provided the meals and the children and grandchildren all pitched in to help maintain the house and barns so she could continue living there, which she did until age 93. A fall in 2016 necessitated time in rehab and then a move to an assisted living environment, Shard Villa in Salisbury, Vt., which became her home for the next seven years. She was able to have her own little garden every summer, growing vegetables that Lori and the other cooks over the years would incorporate into the meals for her and the other residents. She truly loved it there as the barns, farmland and views of the Adirondacks reminded her of her own farm.

She read the *Wall Street Journal* every day, *The New Yorker* weekly, watched PBS, CNN and MSNBC religiously (and later "NCIS" to the amusement of all), and listened to Brooks and Shields on PBS every Friday evening with her friend Pat Pope. She made the transition from a landline to cell phone at age 93 and never looked back.

Her thirst for knowledge was insatiable and she was on a first name basis with Google. So much so, that around age 99 she gleefully confessed, "Between Googling and my newspaper, I don't have time for anything else! I barely remember to go down and eat!" At which point, another text message arrived from a friend. She giggled and clutched her phone to her chest and exclaimed, "Ha! Another message!!" She played the piano at Shard Villa regularly, playing from memory and not requiring any sheet music, with the other residents often wandering in to sit and listen. This past Christmas, at age 101, she played Christmas carols one evening for the other residents, who sang along as they waited for dinner. Director Lee Ann Goodrich and all the staff provided the most caring, gentle and loving care one could ever hope for. She genuinely touched the hearts of the staff who cared for her there and served as an inspiration to all, more than she will ever know. She is profoundly missed.

The family gives special thanks to everyone at Shard Villa, both past and present; her friends and neighbors who stayed in regular contact while she was at Shard Villa; hospice nurse Laura Dame; her physician Linn Larson; her daughter Jody, for never ending assistance and care; and most especially, Will the cat, who rarely left her side and was a constant companion next to her in bed, curling up at her feet or wherever there was room.

A memorial service is planned for springtime when the flowers are blooming, on Saturday, May 4, at 11 a.m. at St Stephen's Church in Middlebury.

If you would like, Elly would surely be pleased if you would consider making a donation in her memory to Shard Villa to help them build a new side deck for the residents, which will overlook the space where her garden grew each summer. ♦

Charles 'Chuck' Standish Clifford, 71, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Charles "Chuck" Clifford, 71, of Ferrisburgh, Vt., passed away on Feb. 24 surrounded by loved ones, after suffering from a heart attack.

Born on Oct. 18, 1952, to Margaret "Kate" and Ernest "Ernie" Clifford in Burlington, Vt., Chuck was a lifelong resident of Addison County whose presence in the community will be profoundly missed.

Chuck graduated from Vergennes Union High School, and then pursued a five-year-long career in the United States Navy.

Following his tour of duty, Chuck dedicated 46 years to a distinguished career as a calibration technician with Collins Aerospace. Chuck was passionate about this work and loved all of his friends and family he met there.

Chuck pursued life with a sense of wonder and enthusiasm. An avid outdoorsman, Chuck's love for the natural beauty of Vermont was manifested in his hobbies of fishing,



CHARLES "CHUCK" STANDISH CLIFFORD

hiking, skiing, and scavenger hunts. Additionally, his artistic talent was evident in beautiful paintings he created. Most importantly he cherished his time with his family, as he was a wonderful and loving father and proud Grandfather.

Chuck was predeceased by his father Ernie; his sister Sharon Delwig; and his brothers Danny Thompson and Gale "Tweet" Thompson. Survivors in addition to his mother, Kate, include his two sons, Adam Clifford and Shawn Clifford; his three grandchildren, Arianna, Eli and Caitlyn Clifford; his lifelong partner, Judy LaBombard; sisters Pamela Cross, Patricia Neate, and Constance Gilbert; and brother Michael Thompson.

Calling hours will be held at Victory Baptist Church, Vergennes on Friday, March 1, from 1-2:30 p.m., with a memorial service and celebration of life immediately following. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad.

The family of Chuck would like to thank the emergency response team at Collins Aerospace and the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad for supporting our Dad in his time of need. ♦

Anne Marie Baldwin, 91, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Anne Marie Baldwin passed away peacefully on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, a mere two weeks following the death of her beloved niece, Jana Baldwin Avram. Her other beloved niece, Megan Rubman, was by her side at UVM Medical Center as she departed on her next journey.

Anne was born on Oct. 27, 1932, to Ira and Kathryn (Dillon) Baldwin. She often proudly proclaimed that she was one of the first babies to be born in the then-new Porter Hospital. Only three years old when her father passed away and with a brother seven years older, her mother worked full time, and Anne quickly learned to be a "working" part of a functional family. She had her chores of making her bed, folding laundry, setting the table; practical chores every child learned. She was a life-long and devoted member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Middlebury and was a charter member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court Assumption 2009.

She graduated from Middlebury High School Class of 1950. She had a bevy of friends with whom she continued to stay in touch all her life. After graduation, she started work at Middlebury College in

Admissions, followed by work in insurance and financial offices. Her last job was in data entry at Middlebury College.

Never married, her family consisted of her mother — with whom she lived until her mother needed additional care at age 93 — and her brother's family. Once her nieces and nephews started school, every Thursday afternoon was "Nana and Aunt Anne Day" for years, where they lived on North Pleasant Street. Coloring books, card games, and hot chocolate — Thursdays were special treats. Anne was at every birthday gathering, and every major holiday, including Christmas morning brunch, a tradition that continues to this day. In cleaning out Anne's apartment at The Meadows, the coloring books, crayons and playing cards were still in the bottom drawer of her desk.

Anne was always up for a good time. Her sister-in-law Martha was one of nine siblings, so Anne was incorporated into a very large family who accepted and loved her as 'one of us.' She was adored by her nieces and nephews and was treated like a beloved elder by her great nephews and niece, who enjoyed hugging her and noting when they had passed her in height. Everyone was thrilled when she came to a gathering

with her famous homemade jam, caramel corn, Chex mix, and pink applesauce.

Anne was pre-deceased by her parents; her brother, Francis Dillon Baldwin; her niece Jana Avram; and many friends. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Martha Barnes Baldwin; her nephews Patrick (Christine), Paul (Stephanie), and Brian Baldwin; her niece Megan (Andy) Rubman; her nephew-in-law Sean Avram; great niece Morgan (Jacob) Kirchhoff; great nephews Nicholas and Samuel (Montoya) Baldwin, Cody and Jesse Baldwin, Dillon and Max Hamrell, Christopher Fitzpatrick, Cooper and Carson Baldwin, and Jacob, Noah and Isaac Rubman. She is also survived by special friends, Myrdith McKinley, Marianna D'Avino, Susan Cox and Mary Scott. There are so many friends that we hesitate to start naming, however, we would be remiss not to mention Monica and Steve, who often did her grocery shopping and often brought delicious and welcome suppers.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Middlebury on Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m. Arrangements are in the care of Sanderson Funeral Home 117 South Main St. Middlebury, VT 05753. ♦

Sandra Lee (Douville) Naylor, 82, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Sandra Lee (Douville) Naylor of Leicester, Vt., passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024. Sandy was born to EttaMae (O'Bryan) and Charles Douville.

In addition to her parents, Sandy was preceded in death by her four brothers, Larry, Mickey, Brad and Chuck; her former husband, Richard Naylor; and most recently her son, Larry Naylor.

Sandy is survived by her sister,

Lois Douville; beloved children Sheri, Cory (Cathy) and (Debbie); and cherished grandson, Justin Johnson.

Sandy loved her family and friends. She lit up any room with her spirited, sassy, fun-loving demeanor and quick, sunny smile.

She had chosen to donate her body to the UVM Anatomical Gift Program. As per Sandy's request, there will be no services. ♦



SANDRA LEE (DOUVILLE) NAYLOR

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ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

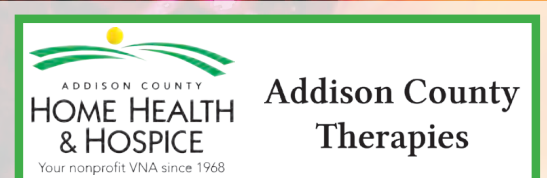
Seina Dowgiewicz of Cornwall and Parker D. Kayhart of North Ferrisburgh received dean's list honors for the Fall 2023 semester at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn.

Andrew Lanthier of Orwell, a senior, has been named captain of the men's baseball team at St. Michael's College. This is the second season Lanthier has served in that role.

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Debate

(Continued from Page 1A)

on each community's education property tax rate. The CLA — as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Vermont Department of Taxes — compare a town's property tax assessment to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upwards or downwards to equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

The state wants municipalities to conduct townwide reappraisals every five years to ensure their CLAs are as close as possible to 100%. But the current CLAs in the seven Addison Central School District towns, for example, range from 68.33% in Salisbury to 77.07% in Weybridge. So while the ACSD's FY'25 budget reflects a per-pupil spending increase of 9.9%, the actual education property tax increase in all seven ACSD towns is expected to be considerably higher, due to low CLA rates.

At press time, lawmakers continued to explore changes in the state's school funding rules to hopefully mitigate the impacts on taxpayers. Some school districts (though none in our area) have elected to delay their school budget votes until this spring in hopes of making more cuts and finding more clarity in the state funding picture.

Asked on Monday to give his assessment of where school taxes might be headed, Sen. Chris Bray, D-Bristol, said, "That's a \$2.4 billion question. People are aware we're talking about huge, potential increases."

But Bray stressed the control communities have over the school spending plans that they field on Town Meeting Day. He said the process calls for communities to approve budgets, and then it's up to the Legislature to raise the state's



BETH MORSE WAS timekeeper at Monday's legislative breakfast in Bristol. It's a task that was performed for many years by her late father, Jim Morse, and Beth is now carrying on the tradition.
Independent photo/John Flowers

contribution to those spending plans. The individual school spending increases ranged from 6% to 54%.

He said Vermont's proposed FY'25 public school budgets are a combined \$250 million higher than this year's total.

"The bottom line is ... it's an average 15% increase, and that's why there's so much upward pressure on tax bills," he noted. "That's the pressure. There's a lot more spending, and the state is now in a position of, 'How are we going to raise that money?'"

SENATE BILL S.258

Local hunting and trapping enthusiasts grilled Bray on bill S.258, which proposes to transfer the authority to adopt rules for the taking of fish, wildlife and furbearing animals from the Fish & Wildlife Board to the Department of Fish & Wildlife. The bill would also amend the authority of the Fish & Wildlife Board so that it serves in an advisory capacity to the department. In addition, the bill would prohibit the hunting of

coyote with dogs.

Bill S.258 also adjusts some of the recently passed provisions in the Fish & Wildlife fur bearing rules. Among those adjustments is a proposal that would confine trapping to at least 50 feet away from public trails.

Some of the commenters at Monday's gathering said they're concerned the change would place important wildlife and fisheries management decisions in the hands of folks who might not be connected to outdoor pursuits. Moreover, they objected to the concept of a suddenly advisory, 15-member Fish & Wildlife Board that they fear could be stacked with anti-hunting activists.

The board is to be made up of Vermonters ... "[with] a history of involvement with and dedication to fish and wildlife, including a knowledge of fish and wildlife biology, ecology and the ethics of fish and wildlife management," according to S.258.

Those who spoke against S.258 included Middlebury resident Gary

Baker. He warned lawmakers that the hunting community donates a lot of money to environmental and fish & game causes, and that hunting brings in visitors who contribute greatly to the state economy.

Baker noted the state bringing in around \$8 million annually in hunting and fishing license fees alone. Those who oppose hunting and fishing don't buy licenses, he noted. Baker and others warned that more hunters could begin posting their land and refusing public trails based on S.258's provisions.

Leon Smith, also of Middlebury, said S.258 — along with legislation seeking to reduce gun ownership "and all the other activist garbage that's put out in the echo chamber up there" — is abridging the Constitutional rights of a minority of multi-generational Vermonters who are seeing hunting and other traditions dissipate under the weight of new laws.

"I'm asking you, will you withdraw your support in sponsorship of S.258 bills such as that?" he asked Bray.

Bray said he continues to believe S.258 is a sound proposal. He said the state's public lands and wildlife are held in trust for all Vermonters.

Bray pointed to statistics showing that currently, approximately one in nine Vermonters hunts, and claimed "the only people appointed to the Fish & Wildlife Board right now are generally members of the fishing, hunting and trapping community — as opposed to the public at large."

He maintained "reformulating the board with voices representing everyone in the state" is a move in the right direction.

"The idea is to let everyone have a voice at the table," he said.

Making the board advisory, Bray believes, would better ensure the Fish & Wildlife Department's management practiced would be carried out according to "the best possible science, not management based on sentiment."

Bray acknowledged Baker's concern about funding for fish & game causes, and urged all Vermonters to contribute, whether that be through the purchase of wildlife stamps or nonprofit groups.

"During the last 20-30 years, we used to sell around 47,000 hunting licenses each year; now it's down to around 17,000. It means there's less revenue coming into the department and it's putting pressure on their budget," he said.

"We all have skin in the game; all wildlife belongs to all of us. I would hope everyone would find ways to contribute, maybe beyond just paying general taxes to the state," he concluded.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Letters to the Editor

Childcare payroll tax misguided

Here we go again. The Vermont Legislative body has enacted a payroll tax of .44% on all wages on their quarterly reports. Employers can collect no more than .11% from their employees. Self-employed will pay .11% of their net income. This tax is on all wages. This tax goes to the Child Care Contribution to help families with child care expenses. The tax bill will also create 26 new permanent employees of the state.

The shortage of child care is the fault of Vermont because of all the regulated rules that caused the closings of child care providers in the state. Note that this bill doesn't do anything to increase the

number of child care providers.

The tax only increases the cost of doing business and that cost will be passed on to the customer. It will also decrease the employee's bring home pay. As in the past that payroll tax will only go up as the need to spend more on Socialistic handouts.

The Legislative body should get their heads out of their, I will be nice, oh sand and realize that the cost of living or doing business in Vermont is going to drive people out of the state and people will think twice about moving to Vermont.

Dennis Cassidy
Middlebury

No more arms, funding for Israel

I have been actively working to support an immediate cease fire in Gaza and the West Bank. Ending the killing is only a first step towards a permanent peace based upon justice, freedom, and recognition of Palestinian rights to all of the civil liberties that we all take for granted.

We need to move beyond a focus solely upon the right of Israel to *be* and to self-defense and equally weigh in the rights of Palestinians to *be*, live in peace and security as well. Among these rights is to be free from apartheid, to be free from genocide or ethnic

cleansing, and self-determination.

The first step is simple. Not complicated. Stop sending American money and weapons to Israel.

We don't need to negotiate with anyone. Just stop. The war will end very quickly if we do. The longer peace will take time but can only happen if both sides are respected. A return to apartheid and the business as usual will only perpetuate cycles of oppression, violence, revenge and so on.

Steven Brown
Bristol

Anti-hunters back board change

Senator Bray is the chair on the senate Natural Resources and Energy committee. He is leading the charge to disband the current Fish & Wildlife Board structure and turn it over to non-consumptive users (anti's) who want to stop all trapping and some hunting activities which will lead to stopping all hunting and trapping practices eventually. They say that is not the intent but that is the ultimate goal of special interest groups.

I have served on the Fish and Wildlife for the past two years. Not once has Senator Bray or Hardy personally attended a board meeting. Yet Senator Hardy sent an email to a constituent indicating that Bray is an "expert" on the issue. Senator Bray does not have a hunting or fishing license, hasn't personally attended a F&W Board meet, he did not attend the legislative sportsmen's caucus February 20th held at the state house (I did), and he's an expert!

Currently the Board is made up of 14 people, one from each county. Bray wants 15 members, many who are considered non-consumptive users, and there is no geographical consideration for appointments. Several members would be from organizations that don't support our traditional uses of hunting and trapping. A non-consumptive user is defined as someone who doesn't hunt or fish.

So, if I give up my hunting and fishing license, I could apply as a non-consumptive member. Make sense? Of course not.

I continue to hear from people who contact Bray and Hardy with thoughtful input to the bill and get no response.

Their goal is to eliminate the hunting and trapping practices. I have spoken with a trapper in Massachusetts where recreational trapping was banned 1996 with

only nuisance trapping currently permitted. Now they trap year around and homeowner pays for the service and majority of pelts have no value. This could happen here if S.258 passes.

It's not possible to have an open discussion with anti's. They want a total ban on our lifestyle. How do I know? At one of the trapping hearings, one person stated, "I don't care what changes you make, I'm against them."

When the Department of Fish and Wildlife worked on best management practices for trapping they included several people from special interest groups. Several improvements were made to trapping rules, but there was never an agreement from the special interest groups. It's clear the proposed board make up will be nothing but harmful to the wildlife species in Vermont.

I responded to an email someone sent me who opposed trapping. The first thing I stated was that I wasn't a trapper. I then respectfully stated the benefits and value of trapping from my view. Here is the response to my email: "they hoped I would step into my own trap and starved to death." They said more than but it isn't fit for printing.

In speaking with a former F&W Board member, they had their life threatened while serving. How does a board work with that kind of hatred at the table?

Every discussion and consideration made by the board is guided by professional F&W staff, and board members have a wide array of F&W experience and expertise. Over the past 100 years conservation over preservation has proved to be the best way to manage wildlife. Managing wildlife keeps species healthy through harvesting and regulated practices. Where is the science that says the current process doesn't provide that?

Life is about balance, including wildlife. Current Fish and Wildlife regulations achieve that balance. Wildlife management should never fall victim to misguided politics and emotions or fall into the hands of special interest groups. Conservation and science has worked extremely well and is the best way forward.

I oppose S.258, and if you do call the state house and ask the Sergeant of Arms to deliver a message to Senators Bray and Hardy. It is simple and easy. 802-828-2228

Bob Patterson
Lincoln

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

Water

(Continued from Page 1A)

compared to a high-pressure wave that traveled through the miles of conduits, causing breaks at weak points within the lines. Public works officials dealt with more than a dozen breaks, prompting a short-staffed department to put in long hours to effect repairs and restore service.

Officials believe the surge emanated from a hydrant off Creek Road that froze in an open position. After the hydrant thawed, water flowed through it at such a high rate that it caused a “pressure wave” throughout the town’s system, damaging mains and further weakening infrastructure in susceptible areas, according to Middlebury Emergency Management Director Tom Hanley — who lives in one of the most affected areas.

Those areas included most of Case Street; Munson, Airport and Cady roads; North Ridge; Mead and Drew lanes; parts of Route 7 South; and the Lindale Mobile Home Park.

Meanwhile, folks at Haymaker Bun Co. on Monday morning got their own, unwelcome and costly reminder of the water system’s fragility. The town temporarily cut off water service to parts of Bakery Lane — including Haymaker — to repair a leaky fire suppression valve on Main Street, according to Director of Public Works Operations Bill Kernan. The repairs began mid-morning and finished at around 11:30 a.m., he said.

Haymaker, in a Facebook post, said it received no notice of the shutdown, which resulted in lost sales, food and labor.

“I have asked multiple times to be made aware of when Bakery Lane will be shut down and never once have been given notice by the town,” reads the Facebook post from Haymaker’s Caroline Corrente. “Now I am not informed when I will need to shut down my business in the middle of the day. I love you, town of Middlebury, but please do better. This is unacceptable.”

Kernan said a public works employee was tasked with delivering printed notices days in advance of the impending shutdown. Kernan believes that a notice was at least dropped off at Haymaker, but the DPW worker believed to have handed it out suffered a medical emergency soon thereafter and hadn’t been reached as of Tuesday, according to Kernan.

“We’re human and we’re fallible,” said an apologetic Kernan, who said he’d spoken with Corrente about the matter.

The news will soon get better for those living and doing business on Bakery Lane. Middlebury residents next Tuesday will be asked to bond up to \$1.2 million for the complete reconstruction of Bakery Lane. That project will include rebuilding of the roadway to accommodate vehicular and pedestrian traffic, addressing ongoing drainage issues, and replacing the existing water main, gravity sewer system, and pressure force main.

BEYOND BAKERY LANE

But what about the rest of the considerable water main network in town?

Middlebury DPW officials said during a recent interview they try to plan water main projects five or more years in advance, but the to-do list can change with an



BRIAN MURRAY, A water maintainer with the town of Middlebury, tests water quality at a Middlebury home last week. Middlebury’s municipal water is now fine to drink following a spate of water main breaks, and local public works officials are sizing up improvements to the 54-mile system of pipes, some of which are more than 100 years old.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

unforeseen conduit catastrophe or if a routine maintenance check reveals major problems.

“Sometimes your priorities change,” Kernan said.

He harkened back to 2017, when a series of main breaks on Exchange Street — bordering Middlebury’s industrial park — demanded quick attention.

“After we fixed those leaks, there have been years without one,” he said.

Kernan said Middlebury sees around 15-30 water main breaks during a “normal” year.

“You never know how many you’re going to have,” he said, adding breaks have been system wide.

“The system is old throughout, and we have different issues throughout, whether it’s backfill or soils or stray electrical currents that eat at the pipe,” he said. “Those weak points are what we found when (the recent water surge) happened.”

Emmalee Cherington, Middlebury’s director of public works planning, noted part of the issue is the varying age and fabrication of the town’s water system. The current industry standard is ductile iron, and there’s a lot of it in Middlebury’s system. There’s also a fair amount of cast-iron conduit that’s more than 100 years old. Counterintuitively, a lot of the older stuff is still performing at peak, officials said.

Cherington said the system’s complement of universal water piping seems to be causing the most problems. It’s a variety that was used a lot during the 1960s, she said. Typically, problems occur at the joints of the water main segments as they give way to decades of water and soil stress, DPW officials explained.

She cited Gorham Lane, Foote Street and portions of Court and Monroe streets as current priority candidates for water main work. The following water main replacement projects have either been completed during the past five years, or remain in engineering:

- Court Street — 175 linear feet.
- Colonial Drive — 795.
- Washington Street — 2,675.

- South Street — 3,200.
- Dow Pond/Case Street — 1,500.
- Foote Street (in engineering) — 2,660.
- Charles Avenue — 785.
- Gorham Lane (in engineering) — 3,900.

The department tries to perform water main replacement in conjunction with any sewer and/or stormwater work that needs to be done in the same vicinity, to make sure the town has to excavate only once and can assemble the best possible funding package to pay for the work.

Depending on its fabrication, water main life expectancy can range from 60-100 years, according to Cherington. So based on the length of the system and an 80-year service life, the town’s goal is to replace 0.675 miles (3,564 feet) of water main per year, according to Cherington.

RIISING COSTS

But rising costs of materials and recent market shortages have greatly affected communities’ ability to replace water mains. For example, Cherington noted waterline upgrades cost roughly \$220/ per linear foot in 2018. At that time, Middlebury’s annual budget for capital improvements was \$235,310 — allowing the town to install roughly 1,070 linear feet of new water lines per year.

Fast forward to today. The town currently (FY’24) has \$463,833 budgeted for water infrastructure capital improvements, but project costs have increased to \$500-\$775 per linear foot. Based on the \$500 figure, the town’s budget only allows for 927 feet of improvements per year. To achieve its goal of 3,564 feet at the current installation cost, the town would have to bump its budget to \$1,318,500 annually, according to Cherington.

Communities are getting an assist from Vermont’s Revolving Fund, which provides low-interest loans for water system repairs

with forgiveness up to \$750,000, depending on the size of the project.

“Many of our recent upgrades have used this funding,” Cherington said. “We have also been awarded grant funding through the Northern Borders Regional Commission, which offset \$600,000 of project cost on Washington Street. Alternate revenue streams and grants are always considered to help ease the cost burden to our users.”

One of Cherington’s top priorities for this and future years is to see more redundancy and water reserves built into the municipal system. That means getting a second water storage tank installed on Chipman Hill and giving users an emergency alternative if there’s a break in their area.

“Our main goal is to create as many loops in our water system as possible within the system, so you can back-feed an area if you have to shut a line down,” she said.

Adding to the DPW’s woes right now is that its water department is at 50% strength as it tries to troubleshoot the growing problems. What should be a four-person team is currently two, though an additional hire will start March 1, according to Kernan.

“It’s been very taxing on staff,” he said. “They’re putting in long hours.”

Kernan said he doesn’t believe other aspects of the town’s water service have been compromised due to staffing shortages and the latest main breaks. He believes Middlebury water users get great service at a good price, and noted many other municipal water systems are dealing with similar challenges.

“There are some communities in Vermont that are still using wooden (water) conduits,” Kernan said.

He urged patience as Middlebury grapples with its water system repairs.

“We anticipate it’s going to continue,” Kernan warned of current problems. “We definitely hope — and anticipate — it’ll slow down. We have some more work to do, from a maintenance standpoint. And when we do that, we could uncover additional issues.”

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

the number it came from, the caller’s name, and what the caller said. Customers are also encouraged to report scam calls to the Vermont Attorney General’s Consumer Assistance Program at 800-649-2424 (in state) or 802-656-3183 or online at ago.vermont.gov/cap.

The Lincoln-based Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) will undertake several community projects this year, with a focus on repairs and maintenance of area gravestones marking the final resting place of veterans of the war between the states (1861-65). The group is seeking volunteer and financial assistance in order to carry out its tasks, which will include proper cleaning and reconditioning of cemetery monuments, along with GAR markers and flag replacements. Anyone willing and able to pitch in can check out the SUVCW James A. Garfield Camp 62 website at suvcwgarfieldcamp62.org.

Speaking of efforts to honor soldiers of the past, a March 15 tribute has been set for Henry Breault of Vermont, the late torpedoman who in 1924 became the first submariner — and only enlisted submariner — to receive the Medal of Honor. The celebration is set for 9:30 a.m. in the Vermont Statehouse. The event will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Medal of Honor presentation to Breault by former President (and Vermonter) Calvin Coolidge. Breault was serving aboard the submarine USS O-5 (SS-66) on Oct. 28, 1923, when it was struck by a steamship near the Panama Canal. Breault showed disregard for his own safety by saving

a shipmate as the submarine was foundering. A group of active-duty submariners from the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Conn., as well as members of the Vermont Submarine Veterans Green Mountain Base, are expecting to attend the March 15 tribute at the Statehouse.

United Way of Addison County will honor a local high school senior through its Youth Volunteer Scholarship. On behalf of a generous donor, one Addison County student is chosen annually for the Youth Volunteer Scholarship, recognizing a student who volunteers in their community and is interested in advancing their education. This scholarship comes with a \$3,000 cash award for post-graduation education (college, trade school, adult education, etc.). Applications for the Youth Volunteer Scholarship Award can be submitted to the United Way of Addison County if the nominee meets certain criteria, including being younger than 21, a high school senior (or equivalent), and has volunteered in Addison County anytime within their high school years. Interested students must fill out an application and provide letters of reference. For details, go to unitedwayaddisoncounty.org.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont rose four-tenths of a cent per gallon during the past week to \$3.24, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 626 stations. Prices in Vermont are 7.4 cents higher than a month ago and 19 cents lower than a year ago. The cheapest station is \$2.95; the most expensive \$3.39. Meanwhile, the national average price has fallen 1.9 cents in the past week to \$3.24.

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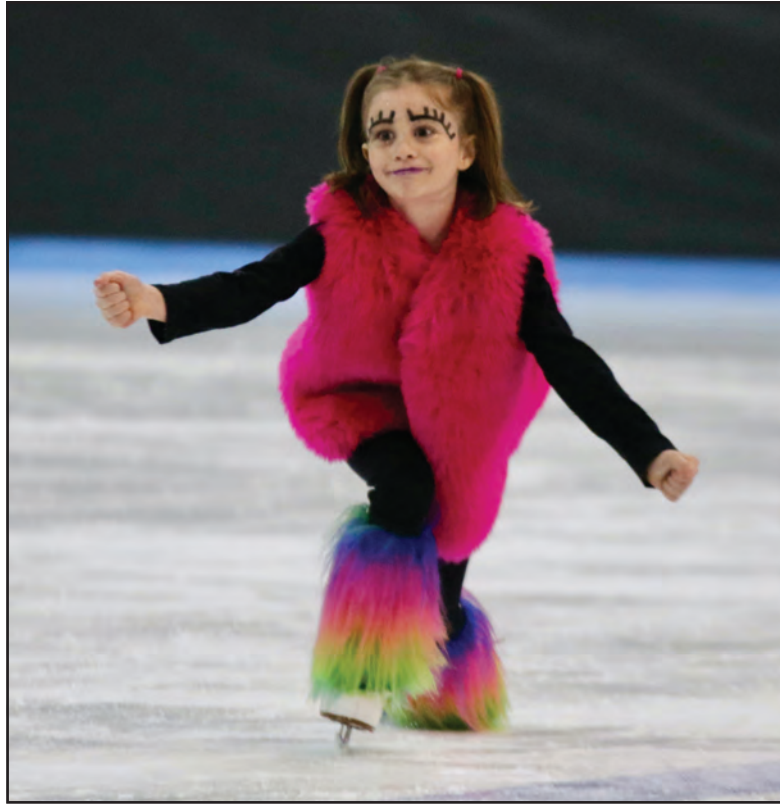
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is seeking volunteer repair fixers for our next Repair Fair on **Saturday, April 20th!**

Examples of fixer skills:
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Fun for all ages

THE MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE Winter Carnival Ice Show put on a pair of performances this past Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, with the theme of "A Blast from the Past!" from the 1960s. As well as accomplished guest skater Kaylee Dutil-Poulin, the show featured talented members of the Middlebury College Figure Skating Club, and youth skaters from Middlebury Figure Skating Club, who were joined by family members for one routine.

Independent photos/Steve James



Addison

ADDISON — Addison this year boasts the most crowded Town Meeting Day selectboard race in the county, with nine candidates, including three incumbents, vying for three selectboard seats.

Board Chairman Roger Waterman drew four opponents for a two-year term: retired nurse Elizabeth Armstrong, pig farmer and kiln-dried firewood marketer Ethan Gevry, Agency of Transportation worker Geoffrey Grant, and Michael Hollis, an artist and former employee of Apple and Gap Inc.

Incumbent Jeffrey Kauffman has one challenger for three more years: Eliza Spencer, a consultant for a firm that handles federal contracts who is now also helping upgrade the town's website.

Incumbent Peter Briggs is on the ballot for one year, and he is being challenged by self-employed woodworker and music/audio producer Levi Barrett.

One notable office went begging for candidates: Longtime Addison Northwest School District board member Laurie Childers told town officials she made the difficult decision not to file paperwork this time around, and no one filed papers for her seat. It remains to be seen if anyone generates the minimum number of write-in votes to earn a spot on the board, or whether a selectboard appointment will be necessary.

Addison will hold an informational meeting in the former Addison Central School gym starting at 7 p.m. on Monday to go over town business, but residents will make all decisions on finances and elections by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5. Voting hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the town clerk's office on Tuesday, March 5.

Issues that could be discussed at the Monday meeting include the recent closing of the sale of the school building to the town and the building's future, and progress both on a new town website and on the effort to rehabilitate the former town hall on Route 22A into a town clerk's office and community gathering center.

Selectboard members could also discuss their spending plans on which residents will cast votes on Tuesday.

They are proposing a general fund budget of \$732,100, up by more than \$80,000 from current fiscal year spending.

The board's proposed highway budget is \$938,911, which if approved would be an increase of almost \$28,000 over the current fiscal year's spending level.

Residents on Tuesday will also decide on requests from 22 nonprofits; most notable among those asks are \$10,000 from the Town Line First Response Squad and \$30,162 from the Bixby Library.

Addison will join the other four ANWSD communities on Tuesday in voting on a proposed school district spending plan of \$28,232,078 for the upcoming school year. It would represent an increase in spending of about 11.6% if approved.

School district officials said their budget would preserve all existing programs as well as retain many positions previously paid for by pandemic-era funding.

Despite the double-digit spending increase, ANWSD estimates call for the district-wide homestead rate to increase by just 3.25%, or about 5 cents, to \$1.5910 per \$100 of assessed property value.

But because of rising property values and the resulting major impact of towns' low Common Levels of Appraisals (CLAs) on school tax rates, they are still expected to rise more dramatically. Addison's homestead rate might increase by roughly 35 cents.

The ANWSD board is also seeking voter approval to place \$1,172,107.61 from an FY23 surplus into the district's Capital Improvement Fund to address upcoming district infrastructure needs.



BROTHERS JASON, LEFT, and Darren Kerr raise their green cards during voting at Shoreham's 2023 town meeting. Most Vermonters take the annual town meetings quite seriously.

Independent file photo/ John S. McCright

Brandon

BRANDON — On the ballot this year will be three seats on the selectboard: one three-year term (to replace Tracy Wyman, who is not running for re-election) and two one-year terms. Running for the three-year seat are Doug Bailey and David Snow.

Incumbent Cecil Reniche-Smith will not seek re-election, but selectboard member Heather Nelson (who was appointed to replace Seth Hopkins) will be on the ballot for a one-year term, along with David Atherton, Ralph Ethier, Ray Marcoux and Aida Nielsen.

Voters will consider proposed fiscal year 2025 municipal spending of \$3,796,180, which represents a 13.4% hike over the current year's spending. If approved, \$3,271,510 would be raised from property taxes to cover town spending. Separately, residents will be asked to advise the selectboard on whether to hire an additional police officer to increase on-duty police coverage to 24 hours a day; right now some coverage is done through overtime and on-call officers.

The other big financial request seeks approval to float a \$500,000 bond for the town to invest in construction of a 120 kW net-metered solar array on land off Robert Wood Drive. The actual cost of the array would be reduced by state and federal grants.

Brandon voters will consider budgeted appropriations for 14 organizations, the largest of which are \$82,580 for the Brandon Area Rescue Squad, \$92,000 for the Brandon Free Public Library and \$15,000 for the Brandon Senior Center.

The big-ticket on the Brandon ballot this year will be the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school district budget, which proposes 2024-2025 spending \$27,247,823. That budget represents a 12.71% increase over the current year's spending, but on an equalized pupil basis, it is a 9.74% increase.

Calculations in January showed that this level of spending would drive up education property taxes in the six town district between 17% and 28% for those who paid based on their income (two-thirds of Vermonters pay less for their school taxes because of state support).

Brandon residents may cast ballots on the board representing the OVUU, but this year there will be not many names to choose from. There are no contested races, and only two board members are seeking re-election: Natalie Steen of Brandon and Fernanda Canales of Goshen. But several

board members are not running, and a couple are stepping down mid-term. On the ballot with no candidates are a Brandon seat with one year remaining on a three-year term, a Leicester seat with two years remaining on a three-year term, and three-year terms for seats in Whiting, Pittsford and At-Large.

It's too late to get your name on the ballot, but anyone who wishes to fill one of these school board seats may run a write-in campaign.

Brandon will gather for the annual town meeting on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at Brandon Town Hall. The only items on the agenda are to hear the selectboard's explanation of the town budget and the solar array proposal, plus to vote on proposals to exempt the rescue squad and masons from property

taxes. Voting by Australian Ballot will take place the next day, March 5, at the Brandon American Legion Post 55, 550 Franklin St., between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Bridport

BRIDPORT — Bridport residents on Town Meeting Day will, among other things, be asked to OK the purchase of a new tandem dump truck and decide whether the community should remain part of the Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD).

The LFICD was established in 2006 for the purpose of mosquito abatement in Bridport, Cornwall

and Weybridge. The district's strategy includes introducing larvicides in areas where major mosquito hatches appear imminent. The LFICD is supported by grants from the state and contributions from the three towns.

If a majority of the Bridport voters on March 5 agree with the idea of withdrawing from the district, the selectboard will then set an Australian ballot vote to affirm (or reject) that choice.

The town's exit would be effective one year after the vote, with the town still responsible for its LFICD dues during that transitional year.

The proposed new tandem dump truck would cost \$275,000, to be financed over five years.

Residents will field a combined

town/highway budget of \$1,872,217 for fiscal year 2025. Of that, \$1,428,354 would need to be raised through property taxes, an amount that's \$52,080 more than this year.

Other articles on the Bridport's town meeting warning seek:

- \$25,000, from the town's accumulated Public Works Department fund balance, to help pay the cost of a heat recovery system for Bridport's highway garage.
- \$25,000 for the Bridport Fire Department.
- A total of \$49,463 in social service funding requests from nonprofits providing services to Bridport residents. It should be noted that \$15,925 of that sum is associated with a per-capita funding request through Middlebury Regional EMS.

There are no contested elections on this year's Town Meeting Day ballot. Incumbents David Bronson and Robert Sunderland are running for additional terms of three and two years, respectively. Tim Howlett is seeking another year as town moderator.

Bridport residents will also participate in uncontested elections for four, three-year seats on the Addison Central School District board. Running unopposed are incumbent Mary Heather Noble and Laura Harthan for two Middlebury seats on the board, and incumbents Ellen Whelan-Wuest and Barbara Wilson for seats representing Cornwall and Shoreham, respectively.

All ACSD candidates are elected at-large in the seven-town district.

Bridport residents will field a proposed 2024-2025 ACSD preK-12 budget of \$50,604,080, which represents a 6.5% increase in total spending compared to this year. As the *Independent* went to press, the Legislature was still tinkering with the state's education funding law. As a result, the ACSD's education property tax rate — and thus the individual homestead education property tax rates for each town — were still fluid at press time. While the *Independent* was unable to provide definitive education property tax rates for each of the seven district towns, it was clear each community would see a larger-than-usual rate increase, due to universally low Common Level of Appraisal ratios.

CLAs, as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Department of Taxes, compare towns' property tax assessments to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upwards or downwards to equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

You can find more details about the ACSD budget at acsdvt.org/district-link/fy25budget.

Bristol

BRISTOL — Bristol voters on Town Meeting Day will weigh in on a two-way contest for an open seat on the town's selectboard. Incumbent Darla Senecal will not seek another two-year term on the board, and residents Chanin Hill and Jessica Teets are running to fill the seat. Longtime Selectman Joel Bouvier is also running for another three-year term.

All other candidates for town offices are running unopposed, except for in the second constable race, which has drawn no candidates.

Four of Bristol's seats on the Mount Abraham Unified School District board will appear on the March 5 ballot. MAUSD Vice Chair Erin Jipner is running unopposed for a three-year term, and school board representative Mike Dash is running for the remaining two years of a seat he was appointed to fill in April.

No candidates have stepped forward to run for the one year remaining on a two-year seat formerly held by Jipner, or Bristol's other open three-year seat. Bristol residents can still fill both of those seats through write-in campaigns. Otherwise, the MAUSD board, in consultation with the town's selectboard, will appoint Bristol residents to temporarily fill the

(See Bristol, Page 12A)



JAIME MCCALLUM TURNS away from the action of the Weybridge town meeting in 2023 in the Weybridge Elementary gym to share a moment with his daughter Tessa, who pauses her own note-taking to connect with her dad.

Independent file photo/Megan James

Addison
Brandon
Bridport

Bristol
Cornwall
Ferrisburgh

Goshen
Granville
Whiting

Town Meeting Preview

Lincoln

Middlebury

Hancock

Leicester

Monkton

New Haven
Ripton
Waltham

Orwell
Salisbury
Starksboro

Panton
Shoreham
Vergennes
Weybridge

Log on to: addisonindependent.com Tuesday night, we will update the site with town meeting results.

(Bristol continued from Page 11A)

open spots after Town Meeting Day.

Bristol voters will be asked to approve three major town appropriations for the 2024-2025 fiscal year:

- \$1,149,168 in General Fund spending, an increase of \$35,283, or 3.2%, with \$962,968 to be raised in taxes.
- \$912,544 in Public Works spending, an increase of \$17,886, or 2%, with \$785,586 to be raised by taxes.
- \$415,076 in Arts, Parks and Recreation spending, an increase of \$65,807, or 18.8%, with \$302,486 to be raised in taxes.

Residents will also be asked to approve a total of \$158,223 for 31 voted appropriations to organizations in Bristol and throughout the county, spanning Articles 13 to 20. Article 21 asks voters to allow for the use of Australian ballot to vote on civic/social services appropriations beginning next year.

Bristol's Town Meeting Day warning also features a request for voters to authorize the purchase of 4.7 acres at the corner of Hewitt Road and Route 116 for the purpose of constructing a new Public Works Department facility. According to the warning, a down payment of \$17,000 (or 10% of the \$170,000 purchase price) would be paid at closing from the town's Capital Building and Maintenance Reserve Fund. The remaining \$153,000 principal balance would be paid over a 10-year period at a 6% simple interest rate, with annual payments of around \$24,000.

Residents who live in the Bristol Police District (primarily the village) will consider a proposed spending plan of \$626,628, an increase of \$27,280, or 4.6%, with \$479,461 to be raised by taxes.



CITIZENS OFTEN COME to town meeting with their annual town report in hand, like Laura Siebecker, who took her turn to weigh in at the 2023 Shoreham town meeting.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

Bristol voters on Town Meeting Day will also be asked to OK a \$37,014,566 MAUSD spending plan for the 2024-2025 school year. The proposed plan reflects an increase of \$3,145,666, or 9.29%, in total spending.

Lawmakers were still deliberating on proposed changes to the state's education funding system as MAUSD officials prepared to field the spending proposal to district voters on Town Meeting Day. As a result, the education tax rate for Bristol

residents remained subject to change as the *Independent* went to press.

The most updated figures from MAUSD officials estimated that the district-wide tax rate would increase by 4.65 cents, or 3.1%, from \$1.4991 to \$1.5456. Low Common Level of Appraisals were expected to further drive up the tax rate for MAUSD residents who pay education taxes based on the value of their home in three of the district's member towns. Bristol's school tax rate, after the CLA

is applied, was expected to rise around 29.36 cents.

District voters will also weigh in on whether the district should purchase the BristolWorks building that houses MAUSD's central office for \$1,230,000. According to the district's Town Meeting Day warning, the purchase would include the around 10,324-square-foot building, located at 72 Munsill Ave. in Bristol, and common elements, including the parking lot and related improvements.

The MAUSD annual meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Bristol will hold its annual meeting at Holley Hall on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. Voting by Australian ballot to elect town and school officers and approve the police and school district budgets will take place the following day, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Holley Hall.

ballot, Cornwall will see new folks taking those positions — which are now appointed — on March 5. Longtime incumbent Town Clerk/Treasurer Sue Johnson is retiring. She will give way to new Town Clerk Laura Fetterolf and new Treasurer Nicholas Gill.

Residents will be asked to support a fiscal year 2024-'25 municipal budget of \$510,838, which is down from the \$535,400 that was approved for the current year. The highway budget request comes in at \$551,800, up from the \$535,150 approved last year.

Other articles on Cornwall's town meeting warning seek:

- \$73,600 to support the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD).
- Permission to exempt, from local property taxes, the CVFD's properties at 1952 Route 30 and 63 North Bingham St.
- \$4,000 to support the Cornwall Free Library.
- A combined total of \$41,670 in requests from nonprofit entities that provide services to Cornwall residents.

Cornwall residents will also participate in uncontested elections for four, three-year seats on the Addison Central School District board. Running unopposed are incumbent Mary Heather Noble and Laura Harthan for two Middlebury seats on the board, and incumbents Ellen Whelan-Wuest and Barbara Wilson for seats representing Cornwall and Shoreham, respectively.

All ACSD candidates are elected at-large in the seven-town district.

Cornwall residents will also field a proposed 2024-2025 ACSD preK-12 budget of \$50,604,080, which represents a 6.5% increase in total spending compared to this year. As

the *Independent* went to press, the Legislature was still tinkering with the state's education funding law. As a result, the ACSD's education property tax rate — and thus the individual homestead education property tax rates for each town — were still fluid at press time. While the *Independent* was unable to provide definitive education property tax rates for each of the seven district towns, it was clear each community would see a larger-than-usual rate increase, due to universally low Common Level of Appraisal ratios.

CLAs, as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Department of Taxes, compare towns' property tax assessments to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upwards or downwards to equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

You can find more details about the ACSD budget at acsdt.org/district-link/fy25budget.

Cornwall's annual meeting will be held at the Bingham Memorial School on Saturday, March 2, at 10 a.m. Australian ballot voting will be held Tuesday, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Cornwall Town Hall.

Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — At their annual town meeting, Ferrisburgh residents are looking at a contested race for a selectboard seat and a decision on increased town spending.

Municipal spending issues will be decided from the floor of town meeting at the town hall on Route 7, a gathering that begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 2. Residents will cast ballots on the selectboard and uncontested races, as well as Addison Northwest School District spending, at the town hall from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5.

The selectboard race came about after board member Red Muir chose not to run again after several terms. Two candidates filed for his seat: Stephen Fleming, a longtime former member and past president of the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad and a retired Simmonds/Collins Aerospace employee, and Susan Oliveira, a longtime guidance counselor at Vergennes Union High School and supporter of the school's extracurricular programs.

The town's total proposed spending, including nonprofit requests that are routinely approved, is \$2,658,079.

That compares to this past March's total approved spending of \$2,454,992, thus meaning a proposed increase of about 8.3%, or \$203,087. According to Town Clerk Pam Cousino, that would translate to about 3.6 cents more on the municipal side of Ferrisburgh's property tax rate.

The main drivers of the higher (See Ferrisburgh, Page 13A)

Cornwall

CORNWALL — Cornwall voters should make relatively light work of their 2024 town meeting business agenda.

The warning features no contested elections. Those running unopposed include Cy Tall for a one-year term as town moderator; John Roberts, three years, selectboard; Shawn Fetterolf, two years, selectboard; and Susan Johnson, three years, library trustee. Write-in campaigns or appointments will be needed to fill two library trustee spots that are currently unspoken for.

While the town clerk/treasurer's positions won't be on this year's



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LINCOLN TOWN MODERATOR Todd Goodyear keeps order at the annual town meeting at Burnham Hall on March 6, 2023. Town Clerk Sally Ober joined him on stage and took minutes during the meeting. Independent file photo/Marin Howell

(Ferrisburgh continued from Page 12A)

spending directly proposed by the selectboard can be found in the town's highway department. Proposed paving costs rose by \$94,000 because the town is falling behind its road resurfacing schedule and resurfacing costs have also risen.

Although that increase was partially offset by projected lower fuel, truck and equipment maintenance expenses, the overall budget also includes \$22,000 in higher department wages.

Other increases include \$13,000 more for the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, based on a \$5 higher per capita assessment; \$34,000 for the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department, as requested by that agency; \$25,000 in higher employee benefits, most of which is \$17,000 in rising health insurance costs; and \$27,000 for a much-needed town-wide property reappraisal.

Residents will also be asked to approve spending up to \$225,000 to buy a new "tandem dump truck and related snow removal equipment" for the highway department. But Cousino said even if the town were to bond to buy the truck that payments were unlikely to be made during the coming fiscal year.

Although a number of line items are proposed to rise from current levels, one remained the same — \$104,676 for the town's fire protection contract with Vergennes.

But the cost to Ferrisburgh for city fire protection actually increased to \$119,000 after Ferrisburgh and city officials sat down with a mediator and reached a new three-year deal that reflected higher costs for the city fire department, which serves as the first responder to all of West Ferrisburgh and the portion of Ferrisburgh south of Tupper's Crossing, just north of the city line.

Cousino said the town has a surplus that has accumulated from the three previous fiscal years that can be tapped to make up the roughly \$14,400 difference.

Ferrisburgh will also join the other four Addison Northwest School District communities on Tuesday in voting on a proposed school district spending plan of \$28,232,078 for the upcoming school year. That budget represents an increase in spending of about 11.6%.

School district officials said their budget would preserve all existing programs as well as retain many positions previously paid for by pandemic-era funding.

Despite the double-digit spending increase, ANWSD estimates call for the district-wide homestead rate to increase by only 3.25%, or about 5 cents, to \$1,591.00 per \$100 of assessed property value.

But because of rising property values and the resulting major impact of towns' low Common Levels of Appraisals (CLAs) on school tax rates, they would still expect to rise more dramatically. Ferrisburgh's homestead rate might increase by roughly 44 cents.

The ANWSD board is also seeking voter approval to place \$1,172,107.61 from an FY23 surplus into the district's Capital Improvement Fund to address upcoming district infrastructure needs.

Goshen

GOSHEN — Residents who only take a cursory look at Goshen's town meeting warning will likely be shocked to see that the selectboard proposes spending \$747,150 on roads this year, which is a 323% increase over the amount approved for roads last year.

A closer look at the town report shows that a vast majority



GOSHEN SELECTBOARD MEMBERS William Mathis, left, Tammy Walsh and Thomasina Magoon on the dais join the crowd at the tiny town's March 2023 annual meeting in looking to the speaker during a two-and-a-half-hour gathering.

Photo by Will Ross/Brandon Reporter

of the budget money for roads is earmarked for a \$552,000 paving project on Town Hill Road. A budgeted \$352,000 would come from town money market and investment funds that have been building up for this day. The other \$200,000 would come from a state grant.

In their report, selectboard members note that the proposed amount raised by taxes — \$155,150 — represents an increase of \$11,850, or about 8.3%.

Goshen residents will be asked to approve municipal spending of \$269,761, which is an increase of \$21,598, or 8.7%, over last year.

Goshen's in-person town meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Monday evening at the Goshen Town Hall, 50 Carlisle Hill Road.

After the above-mentioned articles are voted on, town meeting will recess and then Australian ballot voting takes place the next day, Tuesday, March 5, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at the same locale.

Residents will entertain the following:

The selectboard asks townspeople if they want to make major changes to some town offices. First, should the elected position of town treasurer become one that is appointed by the selectboard and could be hired from out of town. The thinking is that Goshen is a small town and at some point it will have to look out of town for expertise. By the way, Treasurer Vickie Whiting has retired.

A second major change is to do away with the two town constables and depend on state police and the county sheriff. The reasoning here is that there is a town expense in training and insuring constables, and their official authority is limited. An animal control officer would be appointed to take care of dogs in town.

A third change would move from elected local auditors to hiring an outside professional auditor, as many Vermont towns have done.

Plus, Goshen folks will elect a member of the selectboard to a three-year term (incumbent Bill Mathis's term is up), and elect a town clerk for one year (Martin Fjeld, who was appointed to the position this past summer, is willing to continue).

Goshen residents on Tuesday will vote on the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school district budget, which proposes 2024-2025 spending \$27,247,823. That budget represents a 12.71% increase over the current year's spending, but on an equalized pupil basis, it is a

9.74% increase.

Calculations in January showed that this level of spending would drive up education property taxes in the six town district between 17% and 28% for those who paid based on their income (two-thirds of Vermonters pay less for their school taxes because of state support).

Goshen residents may cast ballots on the board representing the OVUU, but this year there will be not many names to choose from. There are no contested races, and only two board members are seeking re-election: Fernanda Canales of Goshen and Natalie Steen of Brandon. But several board members are not running, and a couple are stepping down mid-term. On the ballot with no candidates are a Brandon seat with one year remaining on a three-year term, a Leicester seat with two years remaining on a three-year term, and three-year terms for seats in Whiting, Pittsford and At-Large.

It's too late to get your name on the ballot, but anyone who wishes to fill one of these school board seats may run a write-in campaign.

Granville

GRANVILLE — Residents of Granville vote for town officers from the floor of town meeting, and this year on March 5 they will elect a new selectboard member.

Selectboard member Rachel Grigorian's term is up, and she is not running again, Town Clerk Cheryl Sargeant said she doesn't know if Selectmen Bruce Hyde and Kenneth Beattie have recruited anyone to stand for the position at the meeting. Show up and throw your hat in the ring if you're interested.

The White River Valley town will also get a new auditor. First Auditor Robin Hagerman's term expires and she will not run again.

Constable Mark Belisle, who gets a salary of \$5,060, may have to explain at town meeting why voters should OK another year at that pay level, Sargeant said. As he says in his constables report,

Belisle was not on the job for some time last year because of an injury. He could field questions about what value he is giving the town for another \$5,060; "People are not happy," Sargeant said.

Also up for discussion and a vote will be a proposed town spending plan of \$405,886 for the coming fiscal year, which is 7.9% higher than the current year. The selectboard budgeted \$218,778 for municipal spending (up 6.7%) and \$187,108 for highway spending (up 9.4%). In explaining the increases, Sargeant said much of the jump is because Granville hires a lot of contracted services and the fees being charged have simply gone up. For example, the new contractor for plowing and sanding raised prices by \$18,000 from the current year (a 36% increase). On the municipal side, the cemetery mowing contract rose \$1,360, and the White River Valley Ambulance contract went up \$1,086 because of inflation and pay increases.

Sargeant also pointed out that Granville now has to buy its gravel from over the mountain since the supplier in town has not got a permit anymore.

Voters will also be asked to put \$6,000 more into the Highway Capital Investment Fund for road paving, and \$5,000 into the Municipal Building Investment Fund for repainting municipal buildings.

Granville town meeting will take place next Tuesday, March 5, at 6 p.m. in the Granville Town Hall.

Hancock

HANCOCK — When residents of Hancock gather for town meeting on Tuesday, March 5, at 10 a.m. in the town hall on Route 125 they will elect someone to a seat on the selectboard and weigh in on some very large expenditure relating to the unprecedented floods last August.

Hancock residents will be voting for a number of elected officials. The most prominent is a three-year term on the selectboard; incumbent Dan Perera's term expires.

The biggest of the big-ticket

items on the warning asks voters to authorize the selectboard to borrow \$1.21 million to repair Texas Falls Road Bridge No. 1. This sounds like a lot of money, particularly given that the budget for the entire town has run around \$400,000 in recent years. Selectboard members explain in the town report that this money would be 100% reimbursed by the U.S. government under the Federal Lands Access Program, or FLAP, which requires towns to complete infrastructure work

before federal funds are disbursed. The old bridge has a weight limit that precludes fuel, dump and logging trucks from legally crossing it.

Residents will be asked to approve a town spending plan of \$483,915. This is a 26% increase over budgeted spending of \$383,950 for the current year. The expense that sticks out in the fiscal year 2025 budget is long-term debt payments — specifically, \$102,000 for three projects: the Texas Falls bridge, Shampeny culvert and emergency repairs from damage caused by the Aug. 3, 2023, floods. So, some of that \$102,000 would likely come back to the town in the form of the FLAP reimbursement and state or FEMA road grants.

One item on the budget that was zeroed out was Hancock's \$15,000 appropriation for hiring the Addison County Sheriff's Department to do traffic enforcement in town. Selectmen said the line item has paid for itself in recent years through collection of speeding ticket revenue, which is split with the sheriff's department, but this year there have not been enough tickets issued to cover the cost of enforcement. In addition, selectman said, there is still too much speeding through the village.

Residents will also vote on \$8,509 in appropriations to 10 organizations, the largest of which is \$2,716 to the Quinn-Town Senior Center and the smallest \$50 to Green Up Vermont.

Finally, Hancock will vote on the so-called "Declaration of Inclusion" to promote fair and equal treatment of everyone. The effort of a nonprofit, the declaration says the town officially "condemns racism and welcomes all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, (See Hancock, Page 14A)



AT MIDDLEBURY'S 2023 town meeting, resident Alice Eckles poses a question to the selectboard members on the stage in the MUHS auditorium.

Independent file photo/John Flowers

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RE-ELECT FARHAD KHAN

For Middlebury Selectboard

I am a proud Middlebury business owner of the Dollar Market for the past 28 years, where I can be found most days with my wife, Amtul. It has been an honor serving on the Middlebury selectboard since 2018. We have seen many challenges and changes over the last 6 years, but I am grateful to have been at the table finding solutions and ensuring people are cared for and respected. I also serve as a board member for the Better Middlebury Partnership, Ilsley 100 and MCTV, and am a member of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

VOTE March 5

My main goals for the town include:

1. Supporting a thriving business community with strong retail;
2. Promoting transparency in town leadership and maintaining open channels of communication for all;
3. Working to provide safe streets and schools.

Please feel free to send any concerns or advice you might have for me to: fkhan63@icloud.com

Addison
Brandon
Bridport

Bristol
Cornwall
Ferrisburgh

Goshen
Granville
Whiting

Town Meeting Preview

Lincoln Middlebury Hancock Leicester

New Haven
Ripton
Waltham

Orwell
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Starksboro
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Vergennes
Weybridge

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(Hancock continued from Page 13A)

sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, disability, or socioeconomic status, and wants everyone to feel safe and welcome in our community.”

Leicester

LEICESTER — Those Leicester residents who come to town meeting on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the Leicester Meeting House, may not have much to talk about. Selectboard members will discuss the budget they have fashioned, but the difference from last year isn't that great.

Residents will vote on town and school budgets by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Leicester Town Office.

At the polls they will also vote on a handful of elected positions. Two selectboard spots will be on the ballot: a two-year spot held by Diane Randall and a three-year spot held by Brad Lawes.

When it comes to the municipal budget, residents will be asked to OK a 2024 spending of \$809,686, which is an increase of less than \$10,000 from the figure OK'd last year, or a hike of around 1%. The town is asking to raise \$617,965.96 in property taxes to pay the bill. That represents an increase of \$23,720.66, or about 4% from what was collected in 2023.

Specifics on the town budget are proposed at \$341,495.72, with the amount raised by taxes pegged at \$ 256,057.68. This would be a 3% increase in town spending. Proposed spending on roads is \$468,190, with the amount to be raised by taxes \$361,908.28. That's just \$600 more than was spent on highways last year.

The big-ticket item on the Leicester ballot this year will be a Fiscal Year 2025 Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school district budget of \$27,247,823. That budget represents a 12.71% increase over the current year's spending, but on an equalized pupil basis, it is a 9.74% increase.

Calculations in January showed this level of spending would drive up education property taxes in the six town district between 17% and 28% for those who pay based on their income (70% of Vermonters pay less for their school taxes because of state support).

Leicester residents may cast ballots on the board representing the OVUU, but this year there will be few names to choose from. There are no contested races, and only two board members are seeking re-election: Natalie Steen of Brandon and Fernanda Canales of Goshen. Several board members aren't running, and a couple are stepping down mid-term, including Leicester rep. Jeremy Gildrien and at-large rep. Greg Bernhardt of Leicester. On the ballot with no candidates are a Brandon seat with one year remaining on a three-year term, a Leicester seat with two years remaining on a three-year



GAVIN GREENWALT CHECKS in for the 2023 Shoreham town meeting in the entryway of the little town's elementary school.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

term, and three-year terms for seats in Whiting, Pittsford and at-large.

It's too late to get your name on the ballot, but anyone who wishes one of these school board seats can run a write-in campaign.

Lincoln

LINCOLN — Town Meeting Day voting in Lincoln will include two contested races for openings on the town's selectboard and a request for voters to approve the creation of a full-time town administrator position.

Lincoln will hold its annual meeting on Monday, March 4, at 6 p.m. at Burnham Hall. The Lincoln School District will also hold its annual meeting that evening during a recess of the town gathering.

Voting by Australian Ballot to elect town and school officers will take place in the same location the following day, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The March 5 ballot features three open seats on the Lincoln selectboard. Incumbents Bay Jackson and Bill Finger will not seek re-election, and four Lincoln residents are running to fill the seats.

Ken Stockman, Bern Terry and Joe Martell are seeking the three-year seat being vacated by Finger. Amanda Allen is running unopposed to fill Jackson's two-year seat.

The remaining year of a three-year term vacated by former Selectman Alan Schmidt in August

will also appear on the ballot. Brett Bassett and Victor Atkins II are running to finish out the term.

Lincoln voters on Town Meeting Day will also elect two new faces to the Lincoln School Board, as incumbents Abby Reynolds and Lea Calderone-Guthe will not seek new terms on the board.

Deirdre Kelly is running unopposed for Reynolds's seat for a three-year term. Peg Sultive is the lone candidate running for Calderone-Guthe's two-year seat.

Lincoln School Board Chair Jeanne Albert is also running for the remaining year of a three-year term she was appointed to fill in December.

Lincoln voters are asked to approve \$484,797 in general fund spending, an increase of \$34,065, or 7.6%. Though, if approved, the amount of taxes to be raised for general fund spending — \$241,448 — is \$35,111 less than what was approved last March.

Proposed highway spending would decrease by \$49,924, or 4.4%, to \$1,087,680, with \$855,663 to be raised in taxes.

Article 7 on the town meeting warning asks voters to establish a full-time town administrator position in Lincoln and appropriate a sum of up to \$130,000 to support the position.

Other articles on the Town Meeting Day warning ask voters to approve 29 voted appropriations to local organizations totaling \$143,098, including \$44,000 for the Lincoln Library and \$56,000 for the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company.

Voters will also be asked to

authorize a sum of \$10,000 for contracted law enforcement services. Article 8 asks Lincoln voters whether the town should vote on public questions involving law enforcement by Australian ballot beginning with the 2025 annual meeting.

During the Lincoln School District's annual meeting, voters will be asked to OK a \$4,927,940 spending plan for the 2024-2025 school year, an increase of 6.09% in total spending over the current year.

According to the Lincoln School District's annual report, the proposed budget includes a new administrative support staff position and an additional first- and second-grade classroom teacher.

Lawmakers were still deliberating on proposed changes to the state's education funding system as Lincoln School District officials prepared to field the spending proposal to district voters on Town Meeting Day. As a result, the education tax rate for Lincoln residents remained subject to change as the *Independent* went to press.

The most updated figures from district officials estimated that Lincoln's homestead tax rate for fiscal year 2025 would decrease by 13 cents, or 7.89%, from \$1.64 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.508, due to the tax provisions included in Vermont's new school funding law and the anticipated completion of a town-wide reappraisal, which would likely raise the town's Common Level of Appraisal.

Lincoln voters this Town Meeting Day will not vote on the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District budget as they have in previous years. According to the technical school district's Town Meeting Day ballot, Lincoln is no longer a member town in the voting district. As the *Independent* went to press, it remained unclear when the town officially left the technical school district and what caused the change in membership.

Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY

Middlebury's town meeting to-do list will include deciding a three-person race for two spots on the local selectboard, and fielding two separate bond issues that would finance major repairs to South Street and Bakery Lane.

The selectboard race involves incumbent Selectman Farhad Khan, former longtime Middlebury Town Planner Fred Dunnington and former Selectman Travis Forbes. The three are vying for two available three-year terms on the board. The *Independent* recently published their responses to an election Q&A (see tinyurl.com/4xdfhsec).

All other elections on the Middlebury ballot are uncontested.

The two bond requests are for:

- Up to \$1.5 million to continue major upgrades to South Street, including installing new sewer mains, sewer service lines, sewer manholes, stormwater mains, stormwater catch basin structures, yard drains, new concrete curb, stormwater treatment systems (as possible), traffic calming bump-outs and final paving.
- Up to \$1.2 million for the complete reconstruction of Bakery Lane, including reconstruction of the roadway to accommodate vehicular and pedestrian traffic while also addressing ongoing drainage issues, and the replacement of the existing water main, gravity sewer system, and pressure force main.

Middlebury voters at their annual meeting will consider an FY'25 municipal budget of \$13.6 million (a 5.5% increase compared to this year) that will require an \$8,753,310 infusion of property taxes. If approved as is, the budget would require a 2.99-cent increase in Middlebury's current municipal tax rate of 86.48 cents per \$100 in property value.

The board was able to soften the proposed FY'25 municipal tax rate hike by applying \$133,450 from Middlebury's local option tax surplus fund. The board can't do that unilaterally, though; residents will be asked to affirm that action by approving Article 3 on their town meeting warning.

The \$133,450 transfer is being specifically earmarked for the FY'25 debt service on work recently done to a former wastewater treatment plant building that's been repurposed for police department and other municipal uses. That debt service would have fallen on local taxpayers, absent the transfer.

Article 4 on the warning asks residents if they'd like to see their FY'25 property taxes due in two equal installments, on Nov. 15, 2024, and March 14, 2025.

Middlebury folks will also participate in uncontested elections for four, three-year seats on the Addison Central School District board. Running unopposed are incumbent Mary Heather Noble and Laura Harthan for two Middlebury seats on the board, and incumbents Ellen Whelan-Wuest and Barbara Wilson for seats representing Cornwall and Shoreham, respectively.

All ACSD candidates are elected at-large in the seven-town district.

Middlebury voters will field a proposed 2024-2025 ACSD preK-12 budget of \$50,604,080, which represents a 6.5% increase in total spending compared to this year. As the *Independent* went to press, the Legislature was still tinkering with

the state's education funding law. As a result, the ACSD's education property tax rate — and thus the individual homestead education property tax rates for each town — were still fluid at press time. While the *Independent* was unable to provide definitive education property tax rates for each of the seven district towns, it was clear each community would see a larger-than-usual rate increase, due to universally low Common Level of Appraisal ratios.

CLAs, as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Department of Taxes, compare towns' property tax assessments to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upwards or downwards to equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

You can find more details about the ACSD budget at acsdvt.org/district-link/fy25budget.

Middlebury's annual meeting will be held in the Middlebury Union High School auditorium at 73 Charles Ave. on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. Australian ballot voting will take place the next day, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the town's recreation facility at 154 Creek Road.

Monkton

MONKTON — Monkton voters are set to gather for the town's annual meeting on Saturday, March 2, at 10 a.m. at Monkton Central School. Voting by Australian Ballot to elect town and school officers and approve town and school district budgets will take place on Tuesday, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Monkton Town Offices.

The March 5 ballot includes several uncontested races for spots on the Monkton selectboard and Mount Abraham Unified School District board. Selectboard Chair Stephen Pilcher is running for another two-year term on the board. Incumbent Selectman Paul Low will not seek reelection, and Joseph Szarejko is running for the open three-year seat.

As for Monkton's three school board positions on the ballot, MAUSD representatives Justin Pearson (three-year term) and Barbara Crandall (three-year term) are running to keep the seats they were appointed to fill in May.

MAUSD board member Kielee Pelland is also running for the remaining two years on a three-year seat she was appointed to fill in December.

Monkton voters will be asked to approve \$901,418.82 in general fund expenditures, an increase of \$122,972.32, or 15.8%, with \$630,258.82 to be raised by taxes.

Other spending requests on the Monkton Town Meeting warning include:

- \$811,106.50 in highway fund expenditures, a decrease of \$62,028.70, or 7.1%, with \$611,062.50 to be raised in taxes.
- \$30,197 in total appropriations for 29 local organizations, up \$2,448 from the current year.

Monkton voters on Town Meeting Day will also be asked to OK a \$37,014,566 MAUSD spending plan for the 2024-2025 school year. The proposed plan reflects an increase of \$3,145,666, or 9.29%, in total spending.

Lawmakers were still deliberating on proposed changes to the state's education funding (See *Monkton*, Page 15A)

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Town Meeting Preview

Log on to: addisonindependent.com Tuesday night, we will update the site with town meeting results.

(Monkton continued from Page 14A)

system as MAUSD officials prepared to send the spending proposal to district voters on Town Meeting Day. As a result, the education tax rate for Monkton residents remained subject to change as the *Independent* went to press.

The most updated figures from MAUSD officials estimated that the district-wide tax rate would increase by 4.65 cents, or 3.1%, to \$1.5456 per \$100 of assessed property value. Low Common Level of Appraisals were expected to further drive up the tax rate for MAUSD residents who pay education taxes based on the value of their home. Monkton's school tax rate, after the CLA is applied, was expected to rise around 28.97 cents.

District voters will also weigh in on whether the district should purchase the BristolWorks building that houses MAUSD's central office for \$1,230,000. According to the district's Town Meeting Day warning, the purchase would include the around 10,324-square-foot building, located at 72 Munsill Ave. in Bristol, plus the parking lot and related improvements.

The MAUSD annual meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 27.

New Haven

NEW HAVEN — New Haven will hold its 262nd annual meeting at its town hall on Monday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. Voting by Australian ballot to elect municipal and school officers and approve town and school district budgets will take place in the same location on the following day, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

There are no contested races on New Haven's Town Meeting Day ballot this year. Selectboard incumbents John R. Roleau (two-year term) and Bruce Many (three-year term) are running unopposed to keep their seats.

New Haven voters will elect a new face to sit on the board of the Mount Abraham Unified School District. Board representative Sarah LaPerle will not seek another term, and Ashley Bessette is running unopposed for the three-year seat. Kathi J. Apgar is also running to finish out the two-year term she was appointed to fill this past April.

When considering the proposed spending included on New Haven's March 5 ballot, it's worth noting the town budgets on a January-December calendar year, while the MAUSD budgets use a July-June fiscal year. Thus, school-related charges and payments show up in different New Haven fiscal years.

New Haven Treasurer Danielle Hubbell has previously explained that voters will see a large surplus in the general fund, a large portion of which is made up of school taxes that are collected in one year and paid in the next. As a result, Article 6 of the New Haven town meeting warning includes both a \$600,000 "school payment" due and a \$736,395.55 "2023 surplus."

With that in mind, New Haven voters will be asked to approve:

- \$814,246 in general fund expenses, an increase of \$39,772, or 5.1%
- \$600,000 for a school payment, the same amount as the current year.
- \$1,176,162 for road fund spending, down \$109,135, or 8.5%, with \$909,508 to be raised by taxes.
- \$3,400 in voted appropriations for local organizations, spanning Articles 9 through 11. An additional



PRESTON TURNER, IN the red parka, has his say during the Salisbury town meeting in 2023; next to him Jim Andrews gives his full attention.

Independent file photo/Steve James

\$26,558.25 in appropriations for 19 other organizations are included in the proposed general fund budget and detailed in the town report. New Haven voters last year agreed to include requests for funding from organizations that had successfully petitioned for five consecutive years in the town budget.

Additionally, residents will be asked to spend up to \$20,000 from the town's Reserve Facilities Fund to make repairs to the geothermal system in the town offices and library.

New Haven voters on Town Meeting Day will also be asked to OK a \$37,014,566 MAUSD spending plan for the 2024-2025 school year. The proposal reflects an increase of \$3,145,666, or 9.29%, in total spending.

Lawmakers were still deliberating on potential changes to the state's education funding system as MAUSD officials prepared to present the spending proposal to district voters on Town Meeting Day. As a result, the education tax rate for New Haven residents remained subject to change as the *Independent* went to press.

The most updated figures from MAUSD officials estimated that the district-wide tax rate would increase by 4.65 cents, or 3.1%, to \$1.5456 per \$100 of assessed property value. Low Common Level of Appraisals were expected to further drive up the tax rate for MAUSD residents who pay education taxes based on the value of their home in three of the district's member towns. New Haven's school tax rate, after the CLA is applied, was expected to rise around 24.23 cents.

District voters will also weigh in on whether the district should purchase the BristolWorks building that houses MAUSD's central office for \$1,230,000. According to the district's Town Meeting Day warning, the purchase would include the around 10,324-square-foot building, located at 72 Munsill Ave. in Bristol, plus the parking lot and related improvements.

Orwell

ORWELL — A prominent name in the town of Orwell will be missing from the Town Meeting Day ballot this year. Thomas Audet, who has been on the selectboard for more than five years and most recently chaired the

board, is not seeking re-election. Les Wood is seeking the two-year seat on the selectboard that Audet is vacating. Also on the ballot for a selectboard seat — this one is a three-year term — is incumbent Gary Murdoch, who will face challenger Robert Barnes.

Others on the March 5 ballot should be familiar to Orwell voters: Michael Audet for moderator (one year), Betty Walker for town clerk (one year), Bryan Young for town treasurer (one year), among others. A three-year seat as an auditor is looking for a write-in candidate.

Also up for election is a three-year term on the Slate Valley Unified Union School District, or SVUU, school board. Orwell's Peter Stone, who is vice chair of that body, is up for re-election.

Orwell residents will decide a number of financial questions. The largest, as usual, is the town budget. The selectboard is asking to spend \$1,778,548 in 2024, with \$926,263 being raised in taxes, and the rest raised from grants and other non-tax revenues. That represents a spending increase of \$413,836, or 30.3% over the current year. The increase in tax ask was not nearly so steep — about 11.8% or a tad less than \$98,000.

Voters will also get to weigh in on a proposed \$103,441 in sewer spending, which would be paid by users of the system/

Other prominent appropriations on the warning are \$18,000 for the Wright Memorial Library Building plus \$5,000 to complete painting of the building; \$4,500 to buy books for the library; \$2,200 for the Orwell Parade Committee; \$1,000 for Orwell youth recreation; and \$200 for maintenance of St. Paul's Cemetery.

Orwell voters will also cast ballots on the proposed budget for the Slate Valley Unified Union School District, or SVUU. Proposed spending for the coming year is \$31,021,635, which represents an increase of \$2,965,235, or about 10.1%, over the amount warned last year. The increase in spending per pupil, however, is less than 1%.

School officials made the point that if the education tax was dependent only on the budget, then property taxes would go down in each of the district's six towns, but the CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) would drive up taxes. Specifically, the increase would be \$209.44 per \$100,000 of appraised homesite value in Orwell, according to a Feb. 8 estimate.

SVUU voters will also be asked to transfer a \$500,000 surplus

to the Capital Improvement and Repairs Fund.

Orwell's town meeting begins at 10 a.m. at town hall. Australian ballot voting begins at the same time and place, and will continue until 7 p.m.

Panton

PANTON — With no major races for office on Panton's Town Meeting Day ballot, residents will largely be casting their ballots on town and Addison Northwest School District spending.

The Panton selectboard will host an informational meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 4, at Panton Town Hall to discuss town business and answer residents' questions.

All balloting on financial questions and on candidates in Panton are done by Australian ballot. Voting hours in Panton on Tuesday, March 5, are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Panton Town Hall.

Unopposed incumbent

selectboard member Teresa Boucher is on the ballot. Incumbent Meddie Perry also faces no opposition for a new term on the Vergennes-Panton Water District board. The term of Panton's representative on the ANSWD board does not expire this year. There are openings for which no resident filed for dog warden, moderator and constable.

The Panton selectboard is recommending a general fund budget of \$1,129,693 to handle town business and maintain town roads. That figure includes all proposed spending, including reserve funds and \$13,401 of town donations to nonprofits, both of which require separate voter approval.

The board's proposal calls for an increase of about \$288,000, or 25%, from the \$841,341 approved a year ago.

Major drivers of the higher spending include:

- \$90,000 for new dump truck, representing the first payments on a purchase approved by voters in 2023.
- \$60,000 for a new pickup truck.
- About \$48,000 for higher wages and benefits for highway crew and town office workers, notably health insurance as well as pay.
- An increase of \$5,000 in the selectboard's ask for Panton's eight reserve funds. The board is asking for \$70,500 in total, including \$30,000 for highway equipment, \$20,000 for highway projects, and \$10,000 for truck tires.
- \$10,000 more for the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, which is upping its per capita request to the towns it serves.
- About \$12,000 more for first-responder fire protection from the Vergennes Fire Department.

Panton will also join the other four ANWSD communities on Tuesday in voting on a proposed school budget of \$28,232,078 for the upcoming school year. It would represent an increase in spending of about 11.6% if approved.

School district officials said the spending plan would preserve all existing programs and retain many positions previously paid for by pandemic-era funding.

Despite the double-digit spending increase, ANWSD estimates call for the district-wide homestead rate to rise by just 3.25%, or about

5 cents, to \$1.5910 per \$100 of assessed property value.

Unlike the other four ANWSD communities, Panton expects to have completed a town-wide property reappraisal before tax bills are sent out this summer. Residents thus might not see the 30- to 40-cent increases on their homestead tax rates other ANWSD towns are likely to experience, which are being driven by low Common Levels of Appraisals. Still, higher taxes are almost certain.

As is typically the case with town-wide reappraisals, particularly when one has not been undertaken in more than a decade, as in Panton, some categories of properties are likely to have risen in value more than others. Thus, increases in taxes for some property owners might be lower or higher than for others. Overall, it is difficult to predict where rates will ultimately land.

Ripton

RIPTON — Competition for two spots on the Ripton selectboard will highlight the community's town meeting business.

In one of those races, Bill Hunsinger and Chris Smith are vying for a one-year term on the board. In the other, Giles Hoyler and Milo Tudor are competing for a three-year term on the panel.

All other elections on the ballot are uncontested.

Residents will be asked to endorse a combined town/highway budget of \$770,667 for Fiscal Year 2025, which represents around a \$35,000 increase compared to this year's spending plan of \$735,923. The general fund ask this year is for \$281,067, and the highway request is \$489,600.

Ripton officials, in their entry in this year's town report, noted the financial impact of last summer's floods.

"Most of the cost will eventually be covered by FEMA and the state, but those funds come after all is completed, including much paperwork," selectboard Chair Laurie Cox wrote on behalf of the panel. "We will borrow from the

(See Ripton, Page 16A)



PETER JAMES REACHES for his town report during a discussion at the Weybridge town meeting in the elementary school during the 2023 town meeting.

Independent file photo/Megan James



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Town Meeting Preview

Lincoln Middlebury Hancock Leicester

New Haven
Ripton
Waltham

Orwell
Salisbury
Starksboro

Panton
Shoreham
Vergennes
Weybridge

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(Ripton continued from Page 15A)

Vermont Bond Bank, which will provide loans at a low-interest rate, or from local banks if necessary.”

Other articles on Ripton’s town meeting agenda ask voters to:

- Appropriate \$44,950 for the Ripton Volunteer Fire Department and Ripton First Response.
- Appropriate \$6,000 for the Ripton Cemetery Commission.
- Earmark a total of \$21,846 for various non-profit social service agencies that serve Ripton residents.

Ripton residents will also participate in uncontested elections for four, three-year seats on the Addison Central School District board. Running unopposed are incumbent Mary Heather Noble and Laura Harthan for two Middlebury seats on the board, and incumbents Ellen Whelan-Wuest and Barbara Wilson for seats representing Cornwall and Shoreham, respectively.

All ACSD candidates are elected at-large in the seven-town district.

Ripton residents will field a proposed 2024-2025 ACSD pre-K-12 budget of \$50,604,080, which represents a 6.5% increase in total spending compared to this year. As the *Independent* went to press, the Legislature was still tinkering with the state’s education funding law. As a result, the ACSD’s education property tax rate — and thus the individual homestead education property tax rates for each town — were still fluid at press time. While the *Independent* was unable to provide definitive education property tax rates for each of the seven district towns, it was clear each community would see a larger-than-usual rate increase, due to universally low Common Level of Appraisal ratios.

CLAs, as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Department of Taxes, compare towns’ property tax assessments to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upwards or downwards to equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

You can find more details about the ACSD budget at acsdvt.org/district-link/fy25budget.

Ripton’s annual meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 4, at the Ripton Community House at 1283 Route 125. Australian ballot voting will take place the next day, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., also at the community house.

Salisbury

SALISBURY — Salisbury’s 2024 town meeting will be dominated by financial requests.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget asks for \$387,725 for general fund costs, and \$524,730 for highway expenses. The combined \$912,455 is \$48,221 more than the \$864,234 voters endorsed for the current fiscal year.

Other financial requests on this year’s ballot include \$17,868, for the town to receive mosquito eradication services through the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District, and a \$104,604 to fund a variety of non-profit agencies that serve Salisbury residents. Among the payees: The Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Assoc. Milfoil Protection Program (\$25,000), and the Salisbury Volunteer Fire Department (\$59,069).

Residents will be asked if they’d like to apply approximately \$30,000 in budget surplus to help offset taxes.

There are no contested elections on this year’s ballot. Christopher Andres and Robbie Devoid are in line for terms of two years and three years, respectively, on the selectboard. Town Clerk Allen Hathaway is seeking another year in office, and John Nucedder is on the ballot for another year as town moderator.

Salisbury’s informational meeting will be held at 2 p.m. this Saturday, March 2. All of the financial and election items will be fielded by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Salisbury town office.

Local voters will also participate in uncontested elections for four, three-year seats on the Addison Central School District board.



BRENDA BURCHARD STEPS out of her town treasurer role at the 2023 Salisbury town meeting to give her opinion on an issue before fellow residents.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Running unopposed are incumbent Mary Heather Noble and Laura Harthan for two Middlebury seats on the board, and incumbents Ellen Whelan-Wuest and Barbara Wilson for seats representing Cornwall and Shoreham, respectively.

All ACSD candidates are elected at-large in the seven-town district.

Salisbury residents will field a proposed 2024-2025 ACSD pre-K-12 budget of \$50,604,080, which represents a 6.5% increase in total spending compared to this year. As the *Independent* went to press, the Legislature was still tinkering with the state’s education funding law. As a result, the ACSD’s education property tax rate — and thus the individual homestead education property tax rates for each town — were still fluid at press time. While the *Independent* was unable to provide definitive education property tax rates for each of the seven district towns, it was clear each community would see a larger-than-usual rate increase, due to universally low Common Level of Appraisal ratios.

CLAs, as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Department of Taxes, compare towns’ property tax assessments to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upwards or downwards to equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

You can find more details about the ACSD budget at acsdvt.org/district-link/fy25budget.

Residents will gather for an informational meeting at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 2, at the Salisbury Community School. All of the financial and election items will be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Salisbury town office.

Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Shoreham residents at their town meeting next week will be asked, among other things, to purchase a new truck for the local highway department, and to adopt a new policy for entertaining annual social service agency funding requests.

The selectboard is asking for permission to spend up to \$272,000 on the new truck (with plows), and the town will apply proceeds from the sale of the current truck (a 2015 Western Star) to help defray the costs of the purchase.

Voters will be asked to limit the future town meeting funding petition requirement to nonprofits requesting money for the first time, or for those that request substantial increases. Repeat requesters pitching the same amounts would be exempt from re-petitioning.

Shoreham leaders are proposing a Fiscal Year 2025 highway budget of \$1,043,696, a bump of approximately \$63,000, or 6.4%, compared to the current spending plan of \$980,430.

The FY’25 general fund request comes in at \$443,509, up almost \$18,000, or 4.2%, from the current \$425,553 spending plan.

There are no contested elections

on Shoreham’s 2024 Town Meeting Day ballot.

Molly Francis and Rebecca Kerr are both in line for one-year terms on the selectboard. Loren Wood is unopposed for a three-year term on the panel.

Kathryn Flagg has no competition for a five-year term as library trustee.

No one has stepped up for terms as town moderator, town constable and for three separate seats on the planning commission.

Shoreham residents will also participate in uncontested elections for four, three-year seats on the Addison Central School District board. Running unopposed are incumbent Mary Heather Noble and Laura Harthan for two Middlebury seats on the board, and incumbents Ellen Whelan-Wuest and Barbara Wilson for seats representing Cornwall and Shoreham, respectively.

All ACSD candidates are elected at-large in the seven-town district.

Shoreham residents will field a proposed 2024-2025 ACSD pre-K-12 budget of \$50,604,080, which represents a 6.5% increase in total spending compared to this year. As the *Independent* went to press, the Legislature was still tinkering with the state’s education funding law. As a result, the ACSD’s education property tax rate — and thus the individual homestead education property tax rates for each town — were still fluid at press time. While the *Independent* was unable to provide definitive education property tax rates for each of the seven district towns, it was clear each community would see a larger-than-usual rate increase, due to universally low Common Level of Appraisal ratios.

CLAs, as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Department of Taxes, compare towns’ property tax assessments to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upwards or downwards to

equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

You can find more details about the ACSD budget at acsdvt.org/district-link/fy25budget.

Shoreham’s annual gathering will begin at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 4, in the Shoreham Elementary School auditorium. Australian ballot voting will take place the next day, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Shoreham town office at 297 Main St.

Starksboro

STARKSBORO — Starksboro will hold its annual town meeting on Saturday, March 2, at 9 a.m. at Robinson Elementary School. Voting by Australian Ballot to elect town and school officers and to adopt the school district budget will take place in the same location on Tuesday, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

There are no contested races on Starksboro’s Town Meeting Day ballot this year. Selectboard incumbents Koran Cousino (two-year-term) and John Painter (one-year-term) are running unopposed to keep their seats on the board. No one has filed to run for the three-year seat vacated by Carin McCarthy in August.

MAUSD board member Steve Rooney is also running unopposed for another three-year term.

At the town’s annual meeting, Starksboro voters will be asked to approve:

- \$1,201,874 in general fund spending, an increase of \$52,296, or 4.5%, with \$917,709 to be raised in taxes.
- \$62,100 for the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund, an increase of \$4,605, or 8%.
- \$119,344 for the Road Equipment Reserve Fund, an increase of \$6,755, or 6%.
- \$44,192 for the Starksboro Public Library, an increase of \$525, or 1.2%.

• \$7,590 for the Bristol Rescue Squad to provide ambulance service to parts of Starksboro.

Articles 9 through 11 ask Starksboro voters to approve a total of \$87,230 in voted appropriations to 36 organizations in Starksboro and other parts of the county.

Voters will also be asked to decrease the town’s planning commission from seven members to five. All terms would be for three years.

Starksboro voters on Town Meeting Day will also be asked to OK a \$37,014,566 MAUSD spending plan for the 2024-2025 school year. The proposed plan reflects an increase of \$3,145,666, or 9.29%, in total spending.

Lawmakers were still deliberating on proposed changes to the state’s education funding system as MAUSD officials prepared to send the spending proposal to district voters on Town Meeting Day. As a result, the education tax rate for Starksboro residents remained subject to change as the *Independent* went to press.

The most updated figures from MAUSD officials estimated the district-wide tax rate would increase by 4.65 cents, or 3.1%, to \$1.5456 per \$100 of property assessment. Low Common Level of Appraisals were expected to further drive up the tax rate for MAUSD residents who pay education taxes based on the value of their home in each of district’s member towns expect Starksboro.

That’s because Starksboro is currently in the process of completing a town-wide reappraisal, which is expected to be finished by July 1 and bring the town’s CLA closer to 100. As a result, Starksboro’s school tax rate, after the new CLA is applied, is expected to decrease by 40.11 cents.

District voters will also weigh in on whether the district should purchase the BristolWorks building that houses MAUSD’s central office for \$1,230,000. According to the district’s Town Meeting Day warning, the purchase would include the around 10,324-square-foot building, located at 72 Munsill Ave. in Bristol, plus the parking lot and related improvements.

The MAUSD annual meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Vergennes

VERGENNES — With no contested races on the city ballot the major decision Vergennes residents will have to make are on the separate Addison Northwest School District ballot.

Vergennes residents will cast their votes on Tuesday, March 5, from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Green Street fire station.

They may also choose to attend the annual city meeting on Monday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Vergennes Opera House. At the most recent Vergennes City Council meeting, officials were discussing format changes to the city meeting

with the goal of encouraging more dialogue between officials and community members about issues facing the city.

On the ballot, Deputy Mayor Dickie Austin and Councilors Jill Murray-Killon, Mark Koenig and John Montgomery are all running unopposed.

Austin and Murray-Killon are elected incumbents seeking re-election for two more years. Koenig and Montgomery were both appointed to vacancies during 2023 and will seek election, not re-election. Koenig has served previously on the council and is looking to fill out the final year of a two-year term. Montgomery was appointed to a finish out a term that expires in March and is looking for a full two years.

Also on the ballot, Neil Swenor is running unopposed for a three-year vacancy on the Vergennes-Panton Water District board.

Residents will be asked to approve an updated 25-year lease for the Vergennes Opera House to share city hall with municipal offices. That lease re-do is in part necessary due to the theater’s planned all-access project, which will also improve handicap access to city offices when completed.

Twenty nonprofits are seeking financial support from city residents.

Vergennes will join the other four Addison Northwest School District communities on Tuesday in voting on a proposed spending plan of \$28,232,078 for the upcoming school year. It would represent an increase in spending of about 11.6% if approved.

School district officials said their budget would preserve all existing programs as well as retain many positions previously paid for by pandemic-era funding.

Despite the double-digit spending increase, ANWSD estimates call for the district-wide homestead rate to rise by just 3.25%, or about 5 cents, to \$1.5910 per \$100 of assessed property value.

But because of rising property values and the resulting major impact of communities’ low Common Levels of Appraisals (CLAs) on school tax rates, they are still expected to rise more dramatically. The city’s homestead rate might rise by roughly 33 cents.

Waltham

WALTHAM — Waltham residents will gather at their town hall at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 4, to make all decisions on town business from the floor of town meeting.

That business includes electing a new selectboard member for a three-year term to replace Andrew Martin, who has said he’ll decline a nomination to stay on the board. Attorney Anthony Duprey, a former member of the Vergennes City Council, has expressed interest in receiving a nomination for the position.

A number of other offices will become or remain open, including

(See Waltham, Page 17A)



SHOREHAM RESIDENT PETER Szymkowicz makes his point very clearly during the March 6, 2023, town meeting at the Shoreham Elementary School.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

(Waltham continued from Page 16A)
 lister, auditor and moderator.
 The selectboard is seeking approval for \$277,863 in spending for the upcoming 2025 fiscal year, an amount that's 6%, or about \$11,800, higher than spending approved in March 2023.

Of that, \$141,013 would support town government operations, an increase of about 15%, or a little more than \$18,000, from current spending. Line items driving the proposed budget higher include payroll, the town's contract with Vergennes for fire protection, and mowing.

The selectboard is also seeking \$107,850 for road maintenance, a decrease of more than \$10,000 from FY24.

In a separate road maintenance request, the selectboard is asking residents to bond for up to \$275,000 and 15 years to fund replacement of a culvert on South Middlebrook Road. The board said the estimated cost of the replacement is \$441,000, but a Vermont Town Highway Structures Program Grant will cover \$200,000 of the bill. The impact of that bond wouldn't affect this year's budget, officials said.

Another separate article asks Waltham residents to devote \$10,692 in tax revenue to support the Bixby Library. That amount is based on a per capita figure the library board is asking from each of the towns the Bixby serves and is unchanged from its current level. Also, 16 nonprofits are seeking a total of \$ 4,329 from Waltham residents.

Waltham will join the other four Addison Northwest School District communities on Tuesday in voting on a proposed spending plan of \$28,232,078 for the upcoming school year. It would represent an increase in spending of about 11.6% if approved. Voting hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, at Waltham Town Hall

School district officials said their budget would preserve all existing

programs as well as retain many positions previously paid for by pandemic-era funding.

Despite the double-digit spending increase, ANWSD estimates call for the district-wide homestead rate to increase by just 3.25%, or about 5 cents, to \$1.5910 per \$100 of assessed property value.

But because of rising property values and the resulting major impact of towns' low Common Levels of Appraisals on school tax rates, they would rise more dramatically. Waltham's might rise by roughly 29 cents.

Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Weybridge residents at their town meeting will, among other things, consider spending \$25,060 for locals to obtain fiscal year 2025 memberships to Middlebury's Ilsley Public Library.

The *Independent* last November reported details on the proposal, which recognizes that Weybridge currently doesn't have a functioning public library. Weybridge's Cotton Free Library is a beloved local structure but hasn't been used for its intended purpose since the 1980s. The Ilsley Library has the capacity and resources to accommodate Weybridge patrons.

Weybridge voters also will be asked to support a proposed FY'25 highway budget of \$583,850, up around \$32,000 from the current \$551,900 spending plan.

The FY'25 general fund ask is \$193,782, up around \$16,000 compared to this year's budget.

Other requests on the 2024 Weybridge town meeting agenda include:

- \$30,000 for fire protection.
- \$13,000 to sustain the local recycling program.
- A combined \$28,425 for various social service organizations that serve Weybridge residents.

There are no contested elections

on this year's Town Meeting Day ballot. Incumbents Kelly Flynn and Stacey Rainey are unopposed for terms of two and three years, respectively, on the Weybridge selectboard. Spence Putnam is seeking another one-year term as town moderator.

Local residents will also participate in uncontested elections for four, three-year seats on the Addison Central School District board. Running unopposed are incumbent Mary Heather Noble and Laura Harthan for two Middlebury seats on the board, and incumbents Ellen Whelan-Wuest and Barbara Wilson for seats representing Cornwall and Shoreham, respectively.

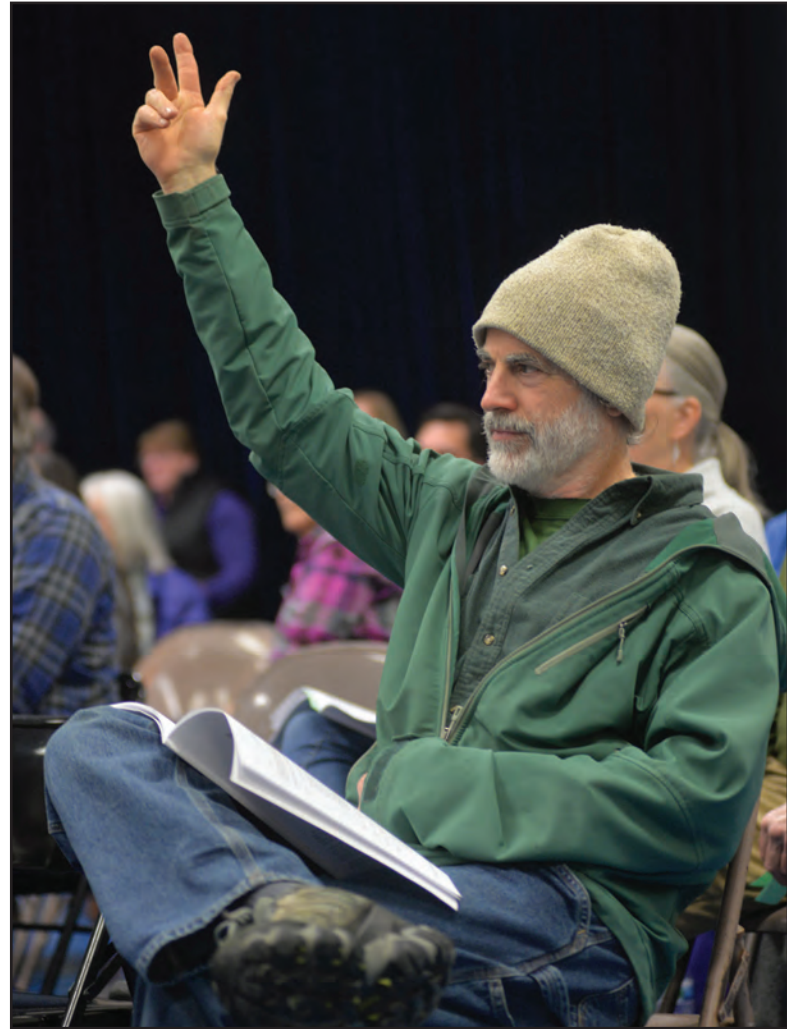
All ACSD candidates are elected at-large in the seven-town district.

Weybridge voters will field a proposed 2024-2025 ACSD preK-12 budget of \$50,604,080, which represents a 6.5% increase in total spending compared to this year. As the *Independent* went to press, the Legislature was still tinkering with the state's education funding law. As a result, the ACSD's education property tax rate — and thus the individual homestead education property tax rates for each town — were still fluid at press time. While the *Independent* was unable to provide definitive education property tax rates for each of the seven district towns, it was clear each community would see a larger-than-usual rate increase, due to universally low Common Level of Appraisal ratios.

CLAs, as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Department of Taxes, compare towns' property tax assessments to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upwards or downwards to equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

You can find more details about the ACSD budget at acsdvt.org/district-link/fy25budget.

Weybridge's annual gathering



SHOREHAM'S TOWN MODERATOR went old school during the 2023 town meeting and called for a vote by show of hands; here Greg Borah is happy to oblige.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

will be held Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m. at Weybridge Elementary School. Australian ballot voting will take place the next day, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Weybridge town office.

Whiting

WHITING — The legal voters of Whiting will wrap up Town Meeting Day in Addison County when they gather for their annual town meeting this coming

Tuesday, March 5. The assembly at Whiting Town Hall begins at 7:15 p.m.

Those legal voters will decide whether to accept the selectboard's proposed municipal spending plan of \$487,675, which would be \$31,415, or 6.9%, more than the town budget approved at last March's meeting. The amount that would be collected in property taxes is also going up; the proposed spending would require \$315,250 in taxes, which is \$24,946, or 8.6%, more than last year.

Whiting residents will also

nominate and vote for five town officers. On the top of the list a three-year term on the selectboard that is currently held by Bob Wood. Other offices on the warning are lister (three years, currently Rani Fallon), auditor (three years, currently Pat Mattison), first constable (one year, Rusty Brigham) and collector of delinquent taxes (one year, Rani Fallon).

While town business takes place Tuesday night, Whiting will host Australian ballot voting at town hall that day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., for the presidential primary and to vote on the Otter Valley Unified Union (OVUU) school district budget. The schools are proposing 2024-2025 spending of \$27,247,823. That budget represents a 12.71% increase over the current year's spending, but on an equalized pupil basis, it is a 9.74% increase.

Calculations in January showed that this level of spending would drive up education property taxes in the six town district between 17% and 28% for those who paid based on their income (two-thirds of Vermonters pay less for their school taxes because of state support).

Whiting residents may cast ballots on the board representing the OVUU, but this year there will be not many names to choose from. There are no contested races, and only two board members are seeking re-election: Natalie Steen of Brandon and Fernanda Canales of Goshen. Several board members, including Rebecca Watters of Whiting, are not running, and a couple are stepping down mid-term. On the ballot with no candidates are a Brandon seat with one year remaining on a three-year term, a Leicester seat with two years remaining on a three-year term, and three-year terms for seats in Whiting, Pittsford and At-Large. It's too late to get your name on the ballot, but anyone who wishes one of these school board seats may mount a write-in campaign.

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Vergennes young poet writes

Young Writers Project is an independent nonprofit that engages students to write, helps them improve, and connects them with authentic audiences in newspapers, before live audiences and online.

into metaphors — what could be more natural? They so readily represent our dreams, up in the clouds, and the hundred small obstacles and thousand small steps between us. But when the summit is our destination as literally as it is figuratively, to conquer its peak is the ultimate triumph. This week's featured poet, Tatum Raphael of Vergennes, writes about a climber drawing from an inner well of strength to scale the height of an icy cliff face and experience the pride of planting a flag.

We're quick to turn mountains

Scaler

I clip my carabiner onto the hoop as I scale, icy breath blowing in my face.
 I climb on.
 I feel like retreating from this daunting task, the sky's disappointed pelting of ice discouraging me.
 I climb on.
 I take a step and trip, catching myself as the rock falls with a thud.
 I climb on.
 I hear voices yelling, screaming, and talking. You're wrong.
 I climb on.
 I see it face-to-face, an unforgiving self in the reflection in the ice.
 I climb on.
 I see the summit is nearing, and I hear the silence of the voices.
 I climb on.

I reach over the ledge and pull myself up, planting my flag among others.
 I stay there.
 I take a break and look down at the challenges I've conquered.
 I stay there.
 I begin to repel as I realize what I've accomplished.
 I descend.
 I push myself down the mountain and see my reflection.
 I am proud.
 I hear the voices applaud and cheer.
 I am content.
 I step down to a foothold.
 I am standing tall.
 I get to the ground with my mind clear and fresh.
 I am home.

— Tatum Raphael, 13, Vergennes



One of the best

TIM AND KRISTEN Essex and their daughter, owners of the Essex Farm on Basin Harbor Road in North Ferrisburgh, placed second in the Vermont Dairy Industry Association 2023 Vermont Milk Quality Awards. The awards recognize the dairy farmers who produced Vermont's best quality milk in 2023.

Photo courtesy of Scott Waterman



THIS VERGENNES RESIDENT recently got a 7th birthday cake that memorialized the Vergennes Partnership.

Verg. boy asks for special cake

A recent email from a mom has melted the heart of Julie Basol, Marketing & Development Coordinator for the Vergennes Partnership. She tells the story in a recent newsletter to the Little City:

"Seems that her son, Phinn, a student at Vergennes Union Elementary School, is enamored with the Vergennes Partnership logo — and all things Vergennes! With his 7th birthday on the horizon, we solicited the help of lu.lu's Laura Mack to create the perfect surprise for him. Talk about a melting of the heart moment! And thank you, Laura!"

Little Phinn was presented with a cake that included the Vergennes Partnership logo emblazoned in frosting.

Police investigate suspicious person

VERGENNES — Vergennes police are evaluating whether a man they found wandering through the Auto Creek parking lot on Sunday and looking into cars might have stolen something. An investigation is ongoing, they said.

It is not clear if the incident is related to a Feb. 21 report of a man seen in the parking lot looking at vehicles after hours at the car repair business on West Road. Police are looking at video of that incident.

Also between Feb. 19 and 25 Vergennes police conducted 12 patrols in cruisers and one on foot, 13 traffic stops and two property watches; responded to a false alarm; and:

- On Feb. 19:
 - Took a complaint of an individual tossing trash in the Maplefields convenience store's

Vergennes Police Log

Main Street Dumpster.

- Took a report of a car accident for insurance purposes.

- Responded to a three-vehicle accident on West Main Street. Police said a northbound car passed a garbage truck, allegedly because a brake failure that didn't allow the driver to stop the car, and struck the back end of a cattle truck as well as the garbage truck. Police said the garbage truck driver suffered a minor shoulder injury.

On Feb. 22:

- Issued a citation to a West Main Street resident on behalf of

Bristol police.

- Heard of a supposedly suspicious vehicle turning around in the Walker Avenue parking area and leaving.

On Feb. 23:

- Heard from the female member of a divorcing couple that her husband seemed to be missing; police learned from family members he was OK.

- Checked a report of a car parked for several hours with its hood open in a wooded stretch of Green Street, but found nothing.

On Feb. 24:

- Dealt with a report of an unwanted guest at a Main Street apartment.

- Were told by a woman that she had heard, but not seen, a man "growling like a zombie" in an alleyway while walking near her Main Street apartment.

Newton nominated for LifeChanger award

VERGENNES — Vergennes Union Elementary School physical education teacher Robyn Newton has been nominated for National Life Group's 2023-24 LifeChanger of the Year award. Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, LifeChanger of the Year recognizes and rewards the very best K-12 educators and school district employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.

Newton was nominated by VUES Principal Matt DeBlois, who recognized her contributions to physical education and overall

wellness for both students and the community.

Under Newton's guidance, the school has expanded the "Action Based Learning" program for kindergarten students, emphasizing data-informed instruction and its positive impact on academic performance. She promotes community fitness through school-wide traditions, including the annual Fun Run and various events like the Olympics and Jump Rope for Heart, where families actively participate.

Additionally, Newton helped secure a federal PEP grant in 2008 that brought various learning opportunities to the community,

such as ropes courses, Frisbee golf courses, rollerblades and cross-country skiing equipment. Her efforts continue to drive personalization in physical education programs.

"There is no greater champion for all students past and present than Robyn Newton," stated DeBlois. "She deserves this distinction so that she can share with others her story and the story of learning possible."

Each school year, LifeChanger of the Year receives hundreds of nominations from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Seventeen individual LifeChanger of the Year awards will be given this school year.

One Grand Prize Winner will receive \$10,000 to be shared with their school/district.

Four Grand Prize Finalists — \$5,000.

Ten LifeChanger Award Winners — \$3,000.

One Spirit Award Winner — This award is given to the nominee whose community demonstrates the most support for their nomination. The winner will receive \$5,000 to be shared with their school/district.

One Spotlight Award Winner — For a nominee in a specific discipline each year. \$5,000.

Winners are chosen by a selection committee comprised of former winners and education professionals. To be considered for an award, nominees must:

- Make a positive impact in the lives of students
 - Enhance their school or district's atmosphere, culture and pride
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- More information is online at lifechangeroftheyear.com/showspirit.

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Church

(Continued from Page 1A)
 seat for a Sunday sermon won't miss out completely. They have the option of attending services remotely, or on demand through YouTube or via podcast. A devoted group of 60-plus people already views sermons from home, due to frailty, disabilities or because they might live in a different state or country.

"It's a good problem to have," is something that Rev. Allen has heard a lot during her decade shepherding Memorial Baptist.

The resurgent MBC is building its base, in part, thanks to a popular

pastor and an unabashed embrace of technology to amplify its message.

"Many churches disbanded their livestream when they (returned to in-person services after the pandemic). We never did," Allen explained during a recent interview.

If anything, MBC doubled down on technology.

In addition to offering videos and podcasts of sermons, Allen stars in a variety of short videos accessible through YouTube and TikTok.

Those videos — some of which have received 2,000 or more hits

— impart a cross-denominational message of "comfort, love and unity," according to Allen.

Anyone who attends an MBC Sunday service can get instantaneous access to Allen's sermon notes by simply capturing, with their smartphone, a QR code that appears on church pews. Paper versions are also available.

"The videos and technology have driven the younger population to the church; it does help," Allen said.

Indeed, while many MBC parishioners are seniors, the church is drawing an impressive number of children, youths and young adults.

Sixteen members of the MBC flock are younger than 8 years old, a youth movement that has forced the church to revamp its nursery twice during Allen's tenure.

"We have a gigantic Middlebury College population," Allen added with a smile.

Earlier this month, MBC hosted a "welcome back Febs" event for incoming, winter-term students.

"It was packed downstairs with college students; 30-40 of them mixing around; it was the coolest thing in the world," Allen said.

Two current Middlebury College parishioners will be attending seminary school during the next few years, according to Allen.

"Those are the signs of growth and health in a church that you wouldn't know if you're not here to see it," she said. "The passion for me is working with this next generation."

Allen and her colleagues realize that interest in the church can't build in a vacuum.

"(College students) have had retreats here, and I would love to offer more. But we're limited in what we can do," she lamented.

BUILDING OPTIONS

The COVID pandemic has forced a roughly three-year pause in MBC's growth aspirations. Church leaders last fall assembled a building committee to consider expansion options. The panel



THE REV. STEPHANIE Allen, pastor of Middlebury's Memorial Baptist Church, has an enviable dilemma: How to create more room to meet public demand for the church's programming.

Independent photos/Steve James



A MARBLE-CLAD 1905 icon on South Pleasant Street in Middlebury, Memorial Baptist Church is outgrowing its current footprint and is studying whether it could expand on its back side or purchase the Inn on the Green to the north.

is considering both short- and long-term solutions. The most ambitious of those ideas: Possibly purchasing the adjacent Inn on the Green or building a 4,000-square-foot addition onto the east (rear) side of the church. Church leaders have asked architects to calculate what it would cost to build with a basement, and to potentially add a second floor in the future.

Middlebury's MBC was erected in 1905, courtesy of Col. Silas Ilesley, who also gifted the town the Main Street library that bears his name.

"He built this to his father's memory," Allen said of the building, which boasts marble in its exterior construction, a sturdy slate roof and magnificent stained glass.

While extravagant in its design and fabrication, the church building occupies a small footprint that offers limited expansion options.

In 2005, the church underwent renovations that maximized its interior space. The congregation hired an architect to find ways to increase seating in the church sanctuary. The concept of a balcony was abandoned because its high

cost couldn't justify the mere 50 new seats it would've created.

"We've done as many modifications as we can. We've added panels in the basement to negate some sound, to get more space, because we're using the fellowship hall for multiple (purposes). We're out of everything," Allen said.

Officials have explored purchasing the neighboring Inn on the Green, currently owned by Middlebury College. The college purchased the inn in 2021 to house around 25 students. Allen said the institution bought the property for around \$1.5 million and would certainly want to recoup that investment should it choose to sell.

"It's not for sale right now," Allen said.

One of the advantages of acquiring the inn someday is that it wouldn't enlarge Memorial Baptist's carbon footprint, Allen explained.

Owning the inn would also give the church the option of renting some rooms and thus soften the town's housing crisis.

Building an addition onto MBC would give church members the

chance to customize the space and incorporate green energy, such as solar panels. But new construction would have to pass muster with the state's historic preservation standards. For example, the MBC would be hard-pressed to incorporate expensive marble into new construction to match the 1905 building.

Either expansion option would be costly, and rural churches aren't flush with cash. But Allen is optimistic MBC will be able to solve its space problems with help from parishioners, diligent fundraising, support from the community at large, and bank loans.

Memorial Baptist has yet to kick off its capital campaign. Allen believes an expansion project is still one or two years down the road.

"Ideally, if I could snap my fingers, it would be today," she said of the creation of extra space.

"We're literally running on fumes."

For more information about MBC, check out memorialbaptistvt.org.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Sewing Lab: Participants can create with fabrics and fibers using our sewing machines, cutting tables, and notions.

Woodworking Lab: This lab provides personal safety equipment plus specific training on machinery and tools. Tools include a Delta 8" jointer, 24" Powermatic planer, 10" table saw, band saw, large work tables, and assorted small power and hand tools.

Games Lab: Magic: The Gathering. This game is a fantasy-themed trading card game that requires critical thinking and strategy.

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BRIAN HEFFERNAN, LEFT, and his parents, Bill and Julie, stand alongside Hillsboro Sugarworks founders and former owners Dave and Sue Folino. The Folinos recently sold their Starksboro sugarworks to the Heffernans, who run a maple farm a few miles south on Hillsboro Mountain.

Photo courtesy of Julie Heffernan

Folinos

(Continued from Page 1A)

a recent press release.

The sale closed this past December and included the Starksboro sugarbush land, sugarhouse, equipment and the Hillsboro Sugarworks brand. The sugarworks is located on the north side of Hillsboro Mountain and consists of 16,000 taps on 351 acres.

The Folinos have spent decades tending to the land and developing the markets that Hillsboro Sugarworks sells in today.

Dave Folino began sugaring on the Hillsboro Sugarworks property in 1979. Around 20 years later, the pair decided to expand what had become a large hobby into a full-time, year-round business.

They've each worn several hats over the years, with Sue working to build and maintain the Hillsboro Sugarworks website and markets and Dave working in the woods and creating Hillsboro's well-known graphics.

"The best testimony to their joint efforts is the fact that their accounts and customers have stayed loyal to Hillsboro Sugarworks for decades in the middle of the country's most competitive maple market," the Folinos wrote. "All of their accounts have proven through the years, that their commitment to Hillsboro Sugarworks states that they adamantly support the local agriculture of Vermont, as well as the success of small businesses. Providing the shelf space in their stores, then providing the customers an opportunity to buy and support the farm."

Since starting the maple farm, the Folinos have built a loyal customer base that includes longtime buyers Middlebury College and the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op. Their products have filled shelves around the state and beyond, and the pair has received various awards for their approach to forestry as well as to sugaring.

Running Hillsboro Sugarworks has been a labor of love for the Folinos, but Dave, nearing 70, ultimately decided this past maple season would be his last. **CHANGING HANDS**

Having dedicated over 40 years to Hillsboro Sugarworks, the Folinos were particular about who they were willing to sell the business to.

"Connected with a piece of land long enough to watch a sapling turn into a tappable tree, they were very attached to, and protective of the place," reads the Folinos' press release. "With relationships built over decades, and healthy markets developed, they felt protective of the business as well."

After much consideration, the Folinos began discussing the sale of the maple farm with the Heffernans, a team of nearby sugarmakers who the Folinos felt shared their commitment to quality forestry and sugaring.

The neighboring maple producers have for several years worked nearby one another.

As a senior in high school, Brian Heffernan, who runs Heffernan Family Sugarworks with his father, Bill, spent the spring semester



SUE AND DAVE Folino, shown this past spring, have spent over 40 years sugaring in the woods of Starksboro's Hillsboro Mountain. The pair ultimately decided this past maple season would be their last running Hillsboro Sugarworks and have sold their farm to neighboring sugarmakers, Heffernan Family Sugarworks.

Photo courtesy of Dan Folino

working in the Folinos' sugarbush. Dave Folino later helped Brian and Bill start their own sugaring operation after the Heffernans purchased an established sugarbush a few miles south of the Folinos on Hillsboro Mountain in 2008.

"Dave was instrumental in setting us up and telling us what to do because sugaring had changed so much over the years. Sugaring was a whole different ball game than when I was a kid," Bill Heffernan said.

"We only use one tap per tree, and we try to be really, really careful and we don't tap young trees."

— Bill Heffernan

My son has three young boys, and my daughter has three young boys and a girl, and we just hope to grow the family business," Bill Heffernan said. "I would love to see my grandchildren brought up in a farmer-type situation, whether managing the sugar maples, or we also grow vegetables in the summer. I'd like to see them grow up with that experience."

NEW CHAPTER, SAME STORY

The Heffernans team will take over operations at Hillsboro Sugarworks beginning this year.

When the *Independent* spoke with Bill Heffernan this past Friday, the team had already put out nearly all of its taps around each of the Hillsboro Mountain sugarbushes it now operates.

Heffernan said the team has taken on additional part-time

employees this year and now consists of three full-time workers and six part-timers, as well as an additional seasonal team member who worked full-time throughout the winter.

"That's the reason that we're done tapping so early, is because we have so much help," he explained. "It usually takes us until mid-March."

While the sale for an undisclosed price marks the beginning of a new chapter for Hillsboro Sugarworks, the Heffernans plan to continue the Folinos' legacy of quality forestry and sugaring.

The Heffernan team will continue maintaining the sugarbushes they operate as they have in previous years. The team has forest management programs geared toward sugarbushes for each of the parcels they own, and they'll continue following those plans moving forward.

"We only use one tap per tree, and we try to be really, really careful and we don't tap young trees," Heffernan said of the team's forest management.

Like the Folinos, the Heffernans produce certified organic syrup.

This maple season, sap harvested from the Hillsboro Sugarworks property and the Heffernan team's other taps will be boiled at the Heffernans' current facility, which is 100% solar powered. Heffernan said the team will take on the Hillsboro Sugarworks name. As the team takes the reins of the operation, Heffernan said he is looking forward to carrying on the Hillsboro Sugarworks name that the Folinos have created, one he hopes to pass on to future generations of sugarmakers.

"Dave's had it for 40 years, and not that I'll live that long, but I'd love to see my son pass it on to his children," he said.

Myers receives medical provider award

BRANDON — Robin Myers, a Family Nurse Practitioner and Medical Director of Community Health Brandon, is a recipient of one of the 2023 Rutland Regional Medical Center Advanced Practice Provider of the Year Awards. She was selected from more than thirty nominees.

To be nominated for an award, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate dignity and respect toward patients and staff.

- Exhibit excellence in clinical care.

- Serve as a role model professionally and personally within the health care system and community.

Myers received a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Vermont, a Master's in Adult Nurse Practitioner from Russell Sage College, and a Doctorate in Nurse Practice from UMass Amherst. Myers is dually Board Certified through the

American Nurses Credentialing Center in Family and Adult Medicine.

She started her healthcare career at Porter Medical Center as a Unit Clerk and later earned her degree as a Registered Nurse. She worked in various roles at RRMCC including in the ICU, Case Management, and as a Certified Diabetes Nurse Educator for many years. She joined Community Health in 2004.

VARS

(Continued from Page 1A)

and Director of Operations Jenna Lindemann met with the Vergennes City Council to go over their agency's problems, present a plan to move forward, and look for councilors' support in June when they set spending for the city's next fiscal year, which begins July 1.

They gave to the council the same message they presented to neighboring selectboards in earlier meetings. One part of the message is the \$15 per capita VARS is asking remains within the \$13 to \$26 per capita range similar agencies assess their service areas elsewhere in Vermont, including Middlebury, Waterbury and Essex.

Goodyear and Lindemann also repeated the rest of the message they had earlier delivered: VARS has lost volunteer strength since the pandemic, it needs stronger funding to raise wages to attract and retain more full- and part-time employees; and it will work hard to recruit more paid and volunteer personnel.

The VARS representatives did not sugarcoat the out-of-service issue. They noted in 2022 VARS was offline for 72 days. They did not offer data for 2023, but Vergennes Mayor Chris Bearor later told the *Independent* it was his understanding VARS was offline for "almost 90 days" last year. He and selectboard chairs have expressed concerns in recent months, either to the *Independent* or in meetings or both.

FEWER VOLUNTEER HOURS

Lindemann described VARS's central problem as two-fold. According to the presentation, in 2020 VARS had 21 volunteers who collectively worked 6,600 hours. In 2023 VARS saw 11 volunteers work 2,800 hours.

"COVID made it worse," she said.

Meanwhile, the agency's annual calls for service grew from 840 in 2020 to 1,100 in 2023.

"We have seen our call volume significantly increase," Lindemann said. "As our volunteers moved on our service was not able to keep up with it."

The agency's best answer — as has been the response of other emergency medical and ambulance services in the county and around the state — has been to bring more paid staff on board. VARS

now has two full-timers, plus 11 part-time employees paid on a per-diem basis. And to bring more hired help aboard means paying wages that are competitive with other agencies, including those in Chittenden County.

As a result, according to the presentation, VARS payroll grew from \$230,000 in 2019 to \$290,000 in 2023. Its annual total projected budget for the current year is \$550,000.

Billing, including Medicare and Medicaid as well as private insurance, remains the largest source of income, and VARS gains about 12% of its budget from subscriptions to its service, according to the Feb. 13 presentation. Before the proposed per capita increases, only about 17% of its funding came from the towns.

With the request for more municipal funding, Lindemann and Goodyear said they understand the agency's ability to provide 24/7 service is critical.

"That's a concern for us, and we know it's a concern for you guys," Lindemann told the city council. "And we want to be able to provide the service we promised to you guys and to our subscribers."

To meet that goal the VARS officials pledged an increase in billing rates, robust retention and recruitment efforts, a "competitive pay structure," and benefits including health insurance and retirement plans for its paid staff.

"It is a competition for employees," Goodyear said, pointing to the VARS increasing wages to \$23 to \$27 an hour.

Goodyear and Lindemann also pledged to provide to Vergennes, as well as to other communities, monthly updates on VARS's performance.

Bearor, a former longtime emergency medical service worker in Middlebury, was sympathetic to the agency's situation, but said he would recommend to the council that it monitor VARS over the next few months before acting.

Bearor acknowledged the sector-wide trend toward more employed EMTs, and said he appreciated the promise of the monthly reports. He said he would like to see the agency's performance "trending in the right direction" before the city committed more money. Bearor said he was optimistic VARS

would do so, and that "They've hired some great staff."

"I believe that they're on that path," he said. "You have your highs and lows in every department. I've seen it. I've seen it in Bristol. I've seen it in Vergennes. Vergennes is being hit with it now. They've kind of hit that low. And now they're building up from it."

COMPARATIVE RATES

Certainly, VARS is not alone in turning to higher per capita rates. Goodyear and Lindemann said — as did Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) Executive Director Kate Rothwell — VARS's new ask remains on the low end of the Vermont average.

Rothwell said MREMS did a study in 2023 that showed an average range of \$25-\$30 charges per capita, with one service charging more than \$70.

Rothwell also told the *Independent* that earlier this year she and the Vermont Ambulance Association asked around again. With a 40% response rate from agencies around the state, the per capita average was around \$46, she said.

Rothwell also confirmed MREMS is likely to raise its per capita rate in the not too distant future. The *Independent* reported in September the MREMS was considering a hike up to \$19 over the next few years.

One local agency is charging less per capita, but is just dipping its toes for the first time into that type of funding stream.

According to Bristol Rescue Squad Chief Will Elwell that organization is this year asking for the first time a per capita charge of \$6 from its member towns. Previously, he said the agency charged Bristol \$13,500 and the other four towns it serves \$7,500 each.

Elwell said he expects the starting per capita charge to rise over time as Bristol Rescue Squad "builds towards compensating people for what they're doing."

Providing these services are not cheap. On top of salaries, for example, Rothwell said for a call-out to cardiac incident MREMS loses money if the patient is covered by either Medicare or Medicaid because federal reimbursement rates do not cover costs. And, she added, a new ambulance can set an agency back \$250,000 or more.

Bristol

(Continued from Page 1A)

The department's current facility, at 80 Pine St., consists of seven buildings on 14.7 acres. Those buildings include the town garage and former village garage, built in the 1960s and late 1980s, respectively.

Town officials began exploring options for a new public works department facility in 2020.

Town Administrator Valerie Capels said that at the time Bristol officials were also considering a new site for the Bristol Police Department.

"The current Public Works facility is aging and no longer meets the current and projected needs of the Public Works Department," Capels told the *Independent* in an email. "Meanwhile, the Police Station is located in rented space on Munsill Avenue that is increasingly limited to meet their current needs. It was not then, but the property is now up for sale. The current rent payment amounts to more than \$40,000 per year — which could be about equal to a bond payment on a new facility that does meet their needs. The potential impacts to the rent if and when the property sells is uncertain. So, in 2020, it made sense at the time to explore the possibility of co-locating new DPW and Police facilities on

already-town-owned property."

The town put out a request for proposals and selected Bread Loaf Corp. to conduct a building, site and needs analysis in the fall of 2020.

"We were very satisfied with Bread Loaf's site and facilities analysis," Capels said. "Things got stymied, however, by the subsurface soils analysis indicating that the soils associated with the former landfill in that area would either need to be replaced or reinforced with structural piers at a cost of an estimated hundreds of thousands of dollars. The selectboard wanted to consider other options rather than spend that amount of money on just soil remediation."

Town officials began looking into the housing a new police station on the town-owned land behind the fire station, and separately started exploring possible locations for a new public works facility.

Capels said that town officials considered various sites, and that around that time, the Lathrops were in the process of closing their Bristol wood products business, Exclusively Vermont Wood Products/Lathrop's Maple Supply. "Long story short after many discussions, we ended up turning attention to the vacant 4.7 acre

site next to their wood products buildings at Hewitt Road and Route 116," Capels explained. "The site offers many potential options for energy efficient building designs and site layouts to accommodate the department's operational needs. Discussions occurred over several months to arrive at agreeable terms, which is where we are today."

Among the terms included in the purchase and sale agreement is voter approval at the March 2024 town meeting. Bristol voters will have a chance to discuss and vote on the land purchase from the floor at the town's annual meeting on Monday, March 4, at 7 p.m.

If the purchase is approved by Bristol voters on Monday, Capels said next steps will include finalizing the purchase and engaging an engineering and design team to complete a thorough site assessment for water supply, septic capacity, site layout options, permitting requirements, and any other considerations.

"This will be an opportunity to invest in necessary and appropriate improvements to the Public Works Department's facilities to serve the community for decades to come, and we expect to take the time needed for a deliberate, thoughtful and public process," Capels said.

SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs

Otter boys' basketball reaches semi

HARWOOD — The No. 6 Otter Valley boys' basketball team rode a big fourth quarter past No. 3 Harwood in a Saturday Division II quarterfinal, 70-49.

The 14-8 Otters advanced to a semifinal against three-time defending champion Montpelier (19-3) in the Barre Auditorium. That game was scheduled for 8:15 p.m. on Wednesday after the deadline for this edition.

This past Saturday, the Highlanders took a 17-11 first-quarter lead, but the Otters whittled that advantage down to 49-48 after three periods. And in the fourth, OV outscored Harwood by a 22-10 margin to win going away.

Five Otters scored at least nine points: Logan Letourneau, 17; Mark Jackson, 12; Connor Denis and Drew Pelkey, 10 apiece; and Aiden Decker, nine.

Tobey Bellows scored 19 points for the 16-6 Highlanders, and Josh McHugh added 15 points.



TIGER AVERY CARL has the upper hand against Mount Anthony's Shaun Gassaway in his victory in their 144-pound semifinal on Saturday at the state championship tournament at OV. The second-seeded Carl ended up second.

Independent photo/Steve James



OTTER SENIOR CHASE Cram looks ready to move on to the 157-pound final just after winning his semifinal match. He also won the final at Saturday's Vermont championship meet at OV.

Independent photo/Steve James

Trio of wrestlers earn gold

Couture, Cram, Preston claim state titles; OV is fourth

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

BRANDON — Two wrestlers from Vergennes Union High School and one from Otter Valley bulldozed their way to Vermont weight-class titles at the state championship meet, which the Otters hosted this past Friday and Saturday.

VUHS senior Jamison Couture at 215 pounds and Commodore junior Isaac Preston at 190 pinned all of their opponents in claiming their crowns, while Otter senior Chase Cram completed a 30-0 season in winning at 157 pounds.

Cram's performance — along with seven other podium efforts from his OV teammates, including second place from Isaac Whitney at 175 — helped the Otters earn the best finish as a team among the four local schools, fourth behind the Mount Anthony Union (MAU) dynasty.

The Patriots won five weight classes and racked up 189 points in claiming their 35th straight title, brushing aside challenges from Spaulding (154), Colchester (149.5) and OV (122.5 after nipping at the Patriots' heels after

day one). The state's coaches voted OV's Cole Mason the Coach of the Year.

Middlebury, with second-place efforts from Alex Sperry at 126 pounds and Avery Carl at 144 leading the way, were fifth at 106.5. The Commodores, with third-place efforts from Stephen Kittredge at 120 and Tyerelle Lavoie at 165, were sixth, at 99.5. Mount Abraham cracked the top 10 in ninth at 60, with Kaidin White's second place at 120 and Zach Montgomery's third at 113 (See Wrestling, Page 2B)

Tide ousts Mt. Abe girls' hoop in first round

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

BRISTOL — Tuesday's first-round Division II opponent for the No. 6 Mount Abraham girls' basketball team wasn't just anyone — the 13-7 Eagles and No. 11 Spaulding, who came in 9-11 against a tough schedule, have a lot of recent history.

In 2023 the Crimson Tide hosted the Eagles in a quarterfinal and ousted them from the tournament on the way to their second straight D-II title game appearance. The first of those finals was a loss to the Eagles in 2022.

There's playoff intensity, and then there was Tuesday's game. Both teams playing relentless man-to-man defense and battled

for every inch of hardwood. Bodies collided and hit the floor. Officials stopped the game more than once because players were bleeding.

Ultimately, the Tide came out on top, 48-44, hitting 11 of 15 free throws in the fourth quarter, during which the Eagles committed 11 of their 28 turnovers.

The Eagles led by 32-28 entering the period and still were up, 38-34, after three straight points, a McKenzie Griner hoop set up by Louisa Painter and then a Painter free throw at 3:39.

But the Tide then went on a 6-0 run to lead by 40-38. Sophie Guarriello scored five of those points by converting a steal and hitting three free throws. The

Eagles were also hurt in that stretch when both senior Morgan Barnard and junior Hazel Guilmette fouled out.

"They're great teammates. They're a great bunch of kids to coach."

— Coach Koran Cousino

A Griner hoop set up nicely by Piper Guilmette tied the game at 40-40, but Spaulding's Deanna Wild hit one free throw after grabbing an offensive board, and

at 0:50 Taylor Keel hit another to make it 42-40.

After a timeout the Eagles ran a play in which Griner converted in the post, again from Painter, and the game was tied again. But Guarriello hit two more free throws, and then stole the ball and scored again to make it a four-point game with 14 seconds left.

Guilmette pulled the Eagles within 46-44 by sinking two free throws at 0:11.6, but the Tide's Gracie Martin iced the win with two from the line immediately afterward.

Mount Abe had led most of the game, although Spaulding bolted to an early 9-1 lead. But the Eagles led by 15-13 after the first quarter

after getting both a jolt of defensive energy midway through the quarter and a buzzer-beating putback from Hazel Guilmette. After an evenly contested second period the Eagles still led by 24-23 at the half.

The Eagles added three points to that lead in the third period, but probably should have scored more — they outrebounded the Tide in the period by 15-4, including team rebounds, but missed a number of second-chance opportunities in the paint and all four of their free throws in the quarter. Griner's six points in the period and a lockdown defensive effort helped them to their 32-28 lead entering the fourth quarter.

(See Eagles, Page 3B)

Score Board

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Hockey	
D-II Playoffs	
2/28 #7 MUHS at #2 Hartford.....	Late
Boys' Hockey	
D-II Playoffs	
2/21 Mt. Mansfield vs MUHS.....	2-2
D-III Playoffs	
2/24 #8 MUHS vs #9 U-32.....	7-6
2/28 #8 MUHS at #1 Colchester.....	Late
Boys' Basketball	
D-II Playoffs	
2/24 #6 OV vs #3 Harwood.....	70-59
2/28 #6 OV vs #2 Montpelier (Semi) ..	Late
D-III Playoffs	
2/21 #5 VUHS vs #12 Springfield.....	61-38
2/24 #4 Winooski vs #5 VUHS.....	47-41
Girls' Basketball	
D-II Playoffs	
2/22 VUHS vs Milton.....	37-39
2/22 Colchester vs MUHS.....	48-27
2/22 Springfield vs OV.....	65-38
2/24 VUHS vs Stowe.....	66-30
D-III Playoffs	
2/27 #11 Spaulding vs #6 Mt Abe.....	48-44
2/27 #2 Fair Haven vs #15 MUHS.....	45-37
2/27 #1 North Country vs #16 OV.....	59-21
D-III Playoffs	
2/28 #10 Winooski at #7 VUHS.....	Late

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Basketball	
NESCAC Final Four at Bowdoin	
2/27 #1 Bowdoin vs #4 Midd.....	61-54
Men's Hockey	
NESCAC Quarterfinal	
2/27 #7 Midd vs #2 Bowdoin.....	5-1
Women's Hockey	
NESCAC Quarterfinal	
2/24 #2 Midd vs #7 Williams.....	4-1

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Boys' Basketball	
D-II Playoffs	
3/2 Final in Barre.....	3:45 PM
Girls' Basketball	
D-III Playoffs	
3/2 VUHS or Winooski at #2 Windsor 3 PM	
3/7 Semifinal in Barre.....	8:15 PM
Nordic Skiing	
3/1.....	State Meet Day 2 at Craftsbury
Girls' Hockey	
D-II Playoffs	
3/1 or 3/2 Semifinal.....	TBA
Boys' Hockey	
D-II Playoffs	
3/1 or 3/2 Semifinal.....	TBA

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Hockey	
NESCAC Final Four at Trinity	
3/2 #7 Midd at #1 Trinity.....	1 PM
3/2 #3 Tufts vs #4 Hamilton.....	4:30 PM
3/2 Final.....	2 PM
Women's Hockey	
NESCAC Final Four at Amherst	
3/2 #2 Midd vs #3 Colby.....	7:30 PM
3/2 #1 Amherst vs #4 Hamilton.....	4 PM
3/2 Final.....	4 PM

Schedules, especially at the high school level, change often due to weather and transportation and officiating availability. Please consult school websites to confirm dates and times.

Tiger Nordic girls seize first-leg lead

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

RIPTON — The Middlebury Union High School girls' Nordic skiing team took a commanding lead in the Division II championship meet on Tuesday, when the first leg of the two-day state event was staged at the Rikert Outdoor Center. The Tiger girls are seeking their third straight title.

The defending champion Tiger boys are in second place after day one's classic-style racing at Rikert in warm, sunny conditions, but Woodstock has a substantial lead heading into the freestyle races on the second day, which Craftsbury is set to host on Friday.

In Tuesday's girls' 5-kilometer classic race Tigers Beth McIntosh and Ava Schneider finished first and second, respectively. Teammate Mary Harrington was fifth, and the Tigers' fourth scorer, Lila Cook Yoder, was 12th overall. MUHS won the morning event with 16 points to

take a big lead over their nearest competitors in the six-team field, Montpelier (38), Woodstock (44) and U-32 (52).

McIntosh's time was about 30 seconds faster than the top D-I competitor and 36 seconds ahead of her teammate Schneider in the D-II race.

The same four Tiger skiers then breezed to victory in the afternoon relay to extend the Tigers' lead. Heading into Friday's freestyle races at the Craftsbury Nordic Center MUHS led with 26 points, trailed by Woodstock (64), Montpelier (68), and U-32 (92).

Skiing as individuals, Mount Abe's June Yates-Rusch came in seventh and Vergennes Union High Schools' Ellie Eckels was 34.

Meanwhile the Tiger boys stood in third out of seven scoring teams after the morning 5K, well behind Woodstock, but nipping at Montpelier's heels. The other four teams were out of contention.

Matias Citarella (fourth place), Baxter Harrington (sixth), Matthew Berg (13th) and Baker Nelson (17th) were the scorers for the Tiger boys in the morning 5K.

The Tigers moved past Montpelier and into second place by finishing second in the afternoon relay. The same four skiers also competed for the MUHS boys' relay team.

Woodstock prevailed in the relay to stretch its lead. Heading into Friday at Craftsbury, the top three boys' teams and their scores were: Woodstock, 28; MUHS, 54; and Montpelier, 58. Lyndon was well back in fourth at 122.

GIRLS' RESULTS

The top 10 girls' and local skiers' places and times in the classic 5K were:

1. McIntosh, MUHS, 20:26.6;
2. Schneider, MUHS, 21:02.9;
3. Anika Leahy, Craftsbury, 21:12;
4. Claire Serrano, U-32, 21:46.3;
5. Harrington, MUHS, 22:06.8;

(See Nordic, Page 3B)



TIGER BETH MCINTOSH works her way up a slope on the way to her big win in the girls' 5K on Tuesday in the first day of the Nordic state championship meet, hosted by Rikert Outdoor Center.

Independent photo/Steve James



TIGER ALEX SPERRY takes it to Fair Haven's Anthony Szabo during their 126-pound semifinal at Saturday's state championship meet at OV. Sperry won the bout and claimed 2nd place in the weight class.

Independent photo/Steve James




VUHS JUNIOR ISAAC PRESTON goes for one of his four straight pins, this one vs. Burr & Burton's JT Wright in a Saturday semifinal. Preston earned the 190-pound title at the Vermont championship tournament at OV.

Independent photo/Steve James



COMMODORE STEPHEN KITTREDGE dodges a takedown attempt by 120-pound champion Duncan Harrington in their semifinal match at Saturday's state championship tournament at OV. Kittredge cruised in consolation, earning third place.

Independent photo/Steve James



Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 29:
9:00 - 11:00 AM
Public Skating


Tuesday, March 5:
9:00 - 11:00 AM
Public Skating

Thursday, March 7:
9:00 - 11:00 AM
Public Skating

Tuesday, March 12:
9:00 - 11:00 AM
Public Skating

Thursday March 14:
9:00 - 11:00 AM
Public Skating

Skate Sharpening available during all events.



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info@memorialsportscenter.org
MemorialSportsCenter.org



EAGLE KAIDIN WHITE and Colchester's Jaden Coppins exchange a hug after their tough 120-pound semifinal at Saturday's Vermont championship meet at OV. White prevailed with a late pin in this match and was second overall.

Independent photo/Steve James



COMMODORE SENIOR JAMISON COUTURE sizes up OV's Simon Martin early in Saturday's 215-pound semifinal. Couture made Martin one of his three wins by pin as he won the 215-pound title at the state meet in Brandon.

Independent photo/Steve James

Wrestling

(Continued from Page 1B)
pacing the team.

The winners and runners-up by weight class, plus the local athletes who finished in the top six, plus their records, were:

106 pounds: Mason Sheltra (Colchester) pinned Seth Markwell (Springfield); 3. Zach Montgomery (Mt. Abe, 4-1).

Montgomery lost only to Markwell in the semifinal round and cruised in the consolation bracket.

113: Cahota Lafond (Colchester) defeated Eoin Comes (North Country) 18-2; 5. Thomas Givens (OV, 2-2).

120: Duncan Harrington (MAU) pinned Kaidin White (Mt. Abe, 2-1); 3. Stephen Kittredge (VUHS, 4-1).

White pinned both his first two opponents and took the top-seeded Harrington into the third period before being pinned.

126: Logan Davis (MAU) defeated Alex Sperry (MUHS) 6-3. Sperry finished with a 3-1 mark and pinned his first three foes.

132: Trey Lee (Fair Haven) defeated Karter Morey (Lyndon) 9-0; 4. Parker Carl (MUHS, 2-2).

138: Asa Reiss (MAU) defeated John Marcellus (Spaulding) 5-2; 4. Isaiah Isham (Mt. Abe, 3-2); 6. Lincoln Wilcox (OV, 2-1).

144: Elias Kalat (Spaulding) defeated Avery Carl (MUHS) 18-6. Carl, the second seed, won both his matches handily before meeting Kalat, who won twice by pin and twice by major decision

and was voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

150: Spencer Boucher (MAU) pinned Quinn Smith (Harwood); 3. Tucker Wright (MUHS, 5-1); 4. Blake Allen (OV, 2-2).

Wright avenged an early-round loss to OV's Allen with a 15-0 victory in the consolation final.

157: Chase Cram (OV) defeated Brody Coppinings (Colchester) 8-4.

Cram pinned his first three opponents, but he had to fight off a near pin in a tough semifinal match vs. Mill River's Toby Pytlak to reach the final, where he wrapped up his perfect season with a solid decision.

165: Jack Arpey (MMU) defeated Gabe Bache (FH) 5-3; 3. Tyerelle Lavoie (VUHS, 5-1); 4. Wyatt Kennett (MUHS, 2-2); 6. Drake Felkl (OV, 1-3).

Lavoie lost only an early match to Bache and cruised from there. Kennett outperformed his No. 5 seed.

175: Anthony Matas (Essex) defeated Isaac Whitney (OV) 6-4.

Whitney (2-1), a junior who recently won his 100th match, rallied to tie the championship match at 4-4 late in the third period, but Matas scored two late points to prevail in Saturday's closest final.

190: Isaac Preston (VUHS, 4-0) pinned Thomas Murphy (CVU); 4. Keegan Reed (OV, 2-2 after reaching the semifinal round).

Preston rolled through the bracket by pinning all four of his opponents in the first period.

215: Jamison Couture (VUHS, 3-0) pinned Rieley Lyford (Randolph) at 1:08; 3. Simon Martin (OV, 3-1).

Couture, the top seed, pinned all three of his foes, including OV's Simon Martin as time expired in the first period of their semifinal.

285: Ryan Marsden (MAU) pinned Graham Resmer (Winooski) at 3:50; 5. Kameron Raymond (MUHS, 3-2).

Local wrestlers who also competed and their records were:

- 113: Thales Artis, Mt. Abe, 0-2;
- 120: Ethan Ross, OV, 1-2.
- 126: Maisa Allen, OV, 1-2.
- 144: Alex Vose, OV, 1-2.
- 150: Lincoln Painter, Mt. Abe, 2-2.

- 157: Mason Atkins, Mt. Abe, 0-2.
- 190: Steven Lackard, MUHS, 0-2.
- 285: Derek Li, OV, 0-2; Izaak Wolniewicz, VUHS, 2-2.

The full standings for the scoring teams were:

1. Mount Anthony 189;
2. Spaulding 154;
3. Colchester 149.5;
4. Otter Valley 122.5;
5. MUHS 106.5;
6. VUHS 99.5;
7. Essex 80.5;
8. Springfield 68.5;
9. Mount Abe 60;
10. (tie) Burr & Burton and Fair Haven 58;
12. Randolph 53;
13. Mount Mansfield 50;
14. Harwood 46;
15. Champlain Valley 32.5;
16. Winooski 22;
17. (tie) Lamoille and Rutland 20;
19. St. Johnsbury 18.5;
20. North Country 18;
21. Lyndon 17;
22. Mill River 14;
23. Lake Region 7;
24. Mount St. Joseph 5.



EAGLE ZACH MONTGOMERY battles Springfield's Seth Markwell in their 106-pound semifinal at Saturday's state championship meet at OV. Markwell won this match; Montgomery placed third overall.

Independent photo/Steve James

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VUHS girls #7; others out

By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON COUNTY — The Mount Abraham and Vergennes union high school girls' basketball teams both earned seeds that granted them home-court advantage in the first round of postseason play, while Middlebury and Otter Valley opened on the road.

COMMODORES
 The 11-9 Commodores, seeded No. 7 in Division III, were set to host No. 10 Winooski (7-11) on Wednesday. The *Independent* plans to cover this game and post a story online on Thursday. The winner of that game advances to take on No. 2 Windsor (16-4) at 7 p.m. on Friday.

EAGLES
 Mount Abe finished its season at 13-7, good for the No. 6 seed and a Tuesday home date with No. 11 Spaulding (9-11). See story on Page 1B.

TIGERS
 MUHS finished at 5-15 and was awarded the No. 15 seed in D-II, which meant a Tuesday game at No. 2 Fair Haven (16-4). The Slaters prevailed, 45-37, holding

off a second-half Tiger surge after leading by 31-12 at halftime. The Tigers rallied to within four points with two minutes to go before the Slaters iced the win from the free throw line.

Elizabeth Love (13 points), **Kate Hadwen** (12 points, seven rebounds) and **Izzy Cole** (11 points) led a balanced Slater offense.

Solstice Binder (20 points) and **Skylar Choiniere** (10 points) led the Tigers' scoring as they wrapped up their season with a competitive effort.

OTTERS
 The Otters finished at 2-18, good enough for the No. 16 seed in D-II. The Otters traveled to No. 1 North Country (18-2) on Tuesday and came up short, 59-29. The Falcons took a 24-0 lead and were never challenged.

Matelin LaPorte led the Otters with 11 points, and **Leann Thomas** added six.

Sabine Brueck led North Country with 14 points.

REGULAR SEASON COMMODORES
 The Commodores won twice

last week to conclude their regular season with a three-game winning streak and a winning record at 11-9 — a six-victory improvement over last winter's regular season.

On Feb. 22, they knocked off host D-II Milton, 37-29, as **Ava Francis** sparked the VUHS offense with 15 points.

On Saturday, the Commodores coasted at home past a one-win Stowe team, 66-30, to tie a bow on their winning season. **Ashtin Stearns** (14 points), Francis (12), and senior **Kaelin Sullivan** (11) all reached double figures for VUHS.

TIGERS
 Also on Feb. 22, host Colchester defeated the Tigers, 48-27. Madison Booska led three Lakers in double figures with 17 points.

Solstice Binder tossed in a game-high 20 points for the Tigers.

OTTERS
 On Feb. 22, OV wrapped up its regular season with a 65-38 loss at Springfield. Macie Stagner poured in 36 points to lead the 10-10 Cosmos.

Matelin LaPorte led the Otters with 13 points.



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School senior Baxter Harrington finished sixth in the boys' 5K and helped the Tiger relay team finish second at the Rikert Outdoor Center on Tuesday. The MUHS boys are in second after the first leg of the two-day state Nordic ski meet.

Independent photo/Steve James

Nordic

(Continued from Page 1B)

6. Sara Saligman-McGill, Montpelier, 22:47.1; 7. June Yates-Rusch, Mount Abraham, 23:09.9; 8. Margaret Voisin, Montpelier, 23:29.6; 9. Priscilla Richardson, Woodstock, 24:24.5; 10. Leila Griffith, SHS, 24:46.2; 12. Cook Yoder, MUHS, 25:35.3; 34. Ellie Eckels, Vergennes, 30:02.6; and 41. Sarah Benz, MUHS, 32:13.

The relay results for the top teams were: 1. MUHS, 46:33.8; 2. Woodstock, 49:57; 3. Montpelier, 50:02.6; 4. U-32, 53:04.8.

BOYS' RESULTS

The top 10 boys' and local skiers' places and times in the classic 5K were:

1. Uva Quinn, Woodstock, 19:07.3; 2. James Underwood, Woodstock, 19:19.2; 3. Sam Brondyke, Montpelier, 19:42; 4. Citarella, MUHS, 19:47; 5. Sage Grossi, Montpelier, 20:03.2; 6. Harrington, MUHS, 20:07.7; 7. Joseph Sluka, Woodstock, 20:14.8; 8. Graham Fox, Woodstock, 20:33.5; 9. Charles Kehler, Craftsbury, 20:57.1; 10. Lincoln Miller, White River,

20:57.8.

Also, 11. Lorenzo Atocha, Mt. Abe, 21:05; 13. Berg, MUHS, 21:22.4; 17. Nelson, MUHS, 22:06.3; 18. Aaron Carr-Perlow, MUHS, 22:31.3; 35. Nate Cook Yoder, MUHS, 24:44.3; 40. Kaden Hammond, MUHS, 25:36.8; 44. Eli Bagley, Otter Valley, 25:58.8; and 63. Ike Bagley, OV, 32:33.9;

The relay results for the top teams were: 1. Woodstock, 37:23.2; 2. MUHS, 39:13.9; 3. Montpelier, 39:37.2.

Boys' hockey wins D-II playoff opener

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The No. 8 seed Middlebury Union High School boys' hockey team on Saturday outlasted visiting No. 9 U-32, 7-6, in a Division II first-round playoff game.

The Tigers improved to 7-11-2 and advanced to face top-seeded Colchester (14-5-1) in a quarterfinal played on Wednesday after the deadline for this edition of the *Independent*. If the Tigers prevailed in that game they would face either No. 4 Milton or No. 5 Harwood next in the semifinal round, at a time to be announced. MUHS played Colchester tough

twice this winter, both times losing by one goal, once in overtime.

Against the 9-11-1 Raiders on Saturday, the Tigers were led by Toby Draper's two goals and two assists and Gus Hodde's goal and three assists. Iver Anderson (assist), Jordan Schroeder, Gavin McNulty and Gabriel Quesnel added a goal apiece; Landon Kean had two assists, and Eyon Tembreull and Kellan Bartlett chipped in an assist apiece. Goalie TJ Baron backstopped the win with 23 saves.

Colton Warren and Max Scribner paced the Raiders with two goals apiece, and Kaynen Haines and

Liam Weller each scored once. U-32 goalie Angus Kurtis made 17 saves.

On Feb. 21 in the Tigers' final regular season game, MUHS and visiting Mount Mansfield settled for a 2-2 tie. Tembruell scored both Tiger goals, notching the tying score late in the third period. McNulty, Quesnel, Kean and Hodde had assists. Goalie Casey Calzini made 23 saves.

Alexandre Romanko and Aidan Verdonik scored for the Cougars, and MMU goalie Lucas Parisi made 17 saves.

Girls' hockey seeded #7 in D-II

By ANDY KIRKALDY
WHITE RIVER JCT. — The 9-11 Middlebury Union High School girls' hockey team was awarded the No. 7 seed for the Division II tournament and was set to take on host No. 2 Hartford (13-6-1) on Wednesday after the deadline for this edition of the

Independent. The Tigers and Hurricanes played once this season, with Hartford prevailing at home on Dec. 16, 2-1. If the Tigers came out on top this time they would move onto a semifinal to be played this weekend at a time to be announced. Their most likely opponent would

be No. 3 Woodstock, which recently defeated MUHS, 2-0, on the Wasps' home ice.

The 9-11 Tigers finished in a tie in the points standings with Stowe (9-9-2), but Stowe was awarded the No. 6 seed via a tiebreaker.

Eagles

(Continued from Page 1B)

And then things just didn't go the Eagles' way.

Coach Koran Cousino addressed the biggest problem. She said the Eagles have struggled all season to take care of the ball, but had recently showed improvement. On Tuesday, however, they relapsed against the tough Tide defense. It should also be noted they forced 26 Tide turnovers, although Cousino pointed out Spaulding converted more miscues into points than did the Eagles.

"We've been plagued by games with high 20s, even low 30s in

turnovers. And you just can't do that down the stretch and expect to win," she said. "That's one thing we had a momentary improvement on, and then obviously tonight we went right back to 27, 28 or 29 turnovers again."

Cousino said it was not from lack of effort.

"I never have to worry about that," she said.

Guarriello led the Tide with 15 points, followed by Keel with 10 and Martin with nine.

Griner scored 19 for Mount Abe, adding 11 rebounds. Painter contributed eight points, 10

rebounds, four assists and three steals. Abba Parker scored nine and played strong defense. Piper Guilmette grabbed six rebounds, Hazel Guilmette had three assists, and Barnard and Gen Forand added three steals apiece.

Despite Tuesday's disappointment Cousino credited her team for winning 13 times and earning a home playoff game.

"They just work really hard every day. They come to practice with a good attitude," she said. "They're great teammates. They're a great bunch of kids to coach."

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TIGER AVA SCHNEIDER picks up speed on a downslope on the way to her second-place finish in the girls' classic 5K at Riker Outdoor Center. She helped MUHS to a big lead Tuesday in the first day of the Nordic state meet.

Independent photo/Steve James

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MIDDLEBURY FRESHMAN FORWARD Kate Flynn (#6) skates up the ice and celebrates, along with her Panthers teammates, after she gave her team a 2-0 lead in Saturday's NESCAC quarterfinal. Independent photo/Steve James



PANTHER CALLIA FERRARIS tries to stuff a shot short-side during Middlebury's Saturday's NESCAC quarterfinal win. Independent photo/Steve James



MIDDLEBURY FORWARD AVERY McNerny takes a bump from two Williams defenders as she pursues a rebound during Saturday's NESCAC quarterfinal. Independent photo/Steve James

Women's hockey erupts past Ephs

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The second-seeded Middlebury College women's hockey team rode a breakout offensive performance on Saturday to a 4-1 quarterfinal NESCAC playoff victory over visiting No. 7 Williams.

The victory was just the third time this season the 14-6-4 Panthers have scored as many as four goals in regulation. Just two weekends before the Panthers had eked out a pair of 1-0 victories over the 8-14-2 Ephs and standout goalie Erin Pye.

Coach Bill Mandigo said the goal-scoring effort should give Middlebury a lift this coming

weekend heading into the league's final four.

"It gives them a little confidence in what they're capable of doing," Mandigo said. "The (Williams) goalie is really good, and the kids figured it out. They played hard and had a presence around the net."

Middlebury now heads to this weekend's NESCAC final four at top-seeded Amherst. It will feature four teams ranked in the top 12 in NCAA Division III: No. 3 Amherst (21-2-2), No. 7 Panthers, No. 8 Hamilton (14-5-6), and No. 12 Colby (17-7-1).

Amherst will host fourth-seeded Hamilton at 4 p.m. on Saturday, followed by Middlebury against No. 3 seed Colby at 7:30 p.m. The winners will meet at 4 p.m. on Sunday for the NESCAC title and an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

In this past Saturday's quarterfinal against Williams, Mandigo said the Panthers attacked rebounds, dug pucks out of corners, moved the puck quickly in the offensive and created traffic in front of the net, all part of the game plan.

"The kids played hard. They listened to what we talked about this week about getting the puck down low and they did it," he said. "I'm pretty happy for them."

Middlebury took the lead 2:09 into the first period on a goal by sophomore defender Rachel Neyman. Neyman first carried the puck deep into the zone behind the net, and won a battle to keep it there before cycling back to the left point. Freshman forward Kylie Quinlan took control of the

puck down low and fed Neyman at the point, and her shot through traffic found the upper right corner.

Middlebury had more chances: Avery McNerny just missed tipping in a Jordan Hower cross, and with 9:32 gone, Jordan Hower's bid from the right dot pinged off the top left of the crossbar.

The Ephs had a great chance

clearing attempt from the left boards and one-timed a shot into the upper right corner.

Mandigo said the Panthers discussed their mindset after the middle period.

"We talked about it between the second and third, the momentum, and they had to get it back," Mandigo said. "Sometimes there's a difference between them figuring out to play to win rather than play not to lose."

The talk paid off, as they crisped up their play and won puck battles again. And at 3:29 Neyman made it 3-1 with another screened shot, this one a low blast from the right point that might have deflected off a defender. Fellow blueliner Cece Ziegler picked up the primary assist.

The Panthers killed off a Williams power play that began a 6:30, with Will making a pair of routine stops, and 13 seconds later it was 4-1, courtesy of Flynn. Defender Sabrina Kim skated down the right side and behind the goal and set up Flynn for an open backhand, which she tucked inside the right post.

Will finished with 26 saves, and Pye made 35.

And Middlebury advanced once again to the league's final four. With games now only on weekends at this point, the Panthers have a variation on the old cliché of taking it a day at a time.

"The goal is to keep playing, to play as long as you can play," Mandigo said. "Play for another week."

"The kids played hard. They listened to what we talked about this week about getting the puck down low and they did it."

— Coach Bill Mandigo

with 21 seconds left in the period, but Panther goalie Sophia Will denied Lucie Bond's attempt from point-blank range.

Freshman Kate Flynn made it 2-0 with 1:27 gone in the second period. Callia Ferraris worked her way behind and to the right of the net and set up Flynn off the right post, and she flicked a forehand low inside the left post.

The Ephs controlled the middle of the second period, although Ferraris had a good chance on the rebound of a Raia Schluter shot at one point. Williams finally broke through at 15:03 on a power play. Katie Armstrong, between the circles, intercepted a failed



PANTHER LIV FERNANDEZ watches Williams goalie Erin Pye stick away her backhand bid during Saturday's NESCAC quarterfinal. Independent photo/Steve James

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Middlebury College

Winter Carnival

2024



Photos by Steve James and Angelo S. Lynn

HANCOCK/RIPTON — The Middlebury College ski team finished third in this past Friday and Saturday's Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association championships, which were held at the Middlebury College Snowbowl and Rikert Outdoor Center in conjunction with the college's winter carnival.

Highlighting the Panthers' efforts were a win in the women's slalom on Friday by Mika-Anne Reha, a second-place effort in the men's giant slalom (GS) on Saturday by Bradshaw Underhill, and at Rikert on Saturday a third-place finish by Shea Brams in the women's 20-kilometer classic race.

In all, the Middlebury skiers accumulated 739 points during the two days of competition. They trailed only first-place Vermont (943 points) and second-place Dartmouth (876.5 points).

In Friday's women's slalom at the Snowbowl, Reha was in second place after the first run, but blazed through her second trip

down the mountain for a winning combined time of 1:41.04. Reha was the only competitor to complete a run in under 50 seconds, clocking in at 49.86 seconds on her second trip. She posted her second straight victory in the event.

Also scoring for the Panthers in the women's slalom were Tatum Coutu, 12th in 1:44.49, and Emma Hall, 13th in 1:44.75.

Charlie Lang paced the Panther men in the slalom by placing eighth with a combined clocking of 1:35.71. Underhill was 11th in 1:36.01, and Nicholas Unkovskoy finished in 15th (1:36.59).

At Rikert, Logan Moore paced the Panthers in the 7.5K skate with a 10th-place effort (21:28.6). Jack Christner (22:00) and Mason Wheeler (22:00.2) finished in 20th and 21st, respectively.

For the women's team, Sofia Scirica (26:22.3) and Brams (26:24.7) placed 24th and 25th, respectively, and Maggie Wagner was 29th in 26:56.5.

SATURDAY RESULTS

On Saturday both the Panther men and women finished second in the giant slalom, or GS, at the Snowbowl.

Individually, Underhill was in third place after the first run of the

GS, but posted the quickest second trip down the mountain (1:00.17) to finish second in 1:56.49. Lang also had a good second run and took 12th in 1:58.22, and Will Trudeau rounded out the scorers in 18th (1:58.49).

On the women's side, Reha moved up from 13th after her initial run to finish fourth in 2:03.45. Coutu was seventh in 2:03.85, while Katie Fynn placed 10th (2:04.26).

At Rikert, The men's Nordic team was third in the 20K classic, while the women finished fourth.

In the women's 20K, Brams continued her stellar season with a third-place clocking of 58:22.1. Behind her Wagner in 14th (1:00:34.1) and Sofia Scirica in 16th (1:00:44.5) also scored for Middlebury.

In the men's 20K Moore paced the squad with a sixth-place clocking of 50:48.2. Christner was next in ninth (51:01.9), and Peter Warner was 16th in 51:43.2.



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE SKIERS found a measure of success this past weekend at their own Winter Carnival, which doubled as the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association championships. Panther Alpine racers competing at the Snowbowl in Hancock included, clockwise from left, Brad Underhill (second in the giant slalom), Mika-Anne Reha (winner of Friday's slalom), and sophomore Sebastian Segre (shown competing in the slalom). Down the hill at the Rikert Outdoor Center in Ripton, Nordic skiers took to the trails. Below right, UVM's Haley Brewster pulls away from a competitor in Friday's freestyle race, which she won by more than 10 seconds. Below left, two of the competitors in the men's race hit the deck after finishing as they struggled after great exertion.



Axinn Center gets Migrant Justice grant

MIDDLEBURY — A three-year, \$1.48 million grant from the Mellon Foundation's Humanities for All Times initiative has been awarded to Middlebury College's Axinn Center for the Humanities to support work to examine local and global issues related to migration.

The grant will fund a project that examines Vermont's complex history with structural, cultural, and financial struggles facing migrants. The Migrant Justice in Vermont and Beyond project will delve into the past and present experiences of migrants, said Febe Armanios, professor of history, co-founder and former director of the Axinn Center.

"It shows how the humanities — one of Middlebury's core strengths — can enhance our comprehension of relevant social, political, and economic factors that shaped migration," said Armanios. "It also helps to increase our awareness of how stories of home, movement, place, belonging, and displacement affect our immediate surroundings."

Selected from among 50 liberal arts colleges invited to apply, Middlebury is part of a 10-college cohort working to develop social justice-oriented curricular and community projects. As part of this work, the Axinn Center will conduct innovative research, migrant justice workshops, and three summer institutes for faculty. It will also develop new Public Humanities Labs

focused on teaching students about migrants' experiences, in collaboration with local organizations.

"We're delighted to support Middlebury students and faculty as they unleash the power of humanities skills and methods on an issue of pressing local and national significance," said Carolyn Dinshaw, senior program officer for higher learning at the Mellon Foundation.

The grant's support will allow the Axinn Center to expand its nationally recognized Public Humanities Labs Initiative, launched as a small pilot in 2021. The labs integrate humanities skills and expertise into classes that emphasize experiential learning, public-facing outreach, and engagement with community partners. Faculty will attend a March 24 workshop with community partners to identify issues affecting refugees and migrants and discuss how to build courses to address them.

Henry N. Hudson Professor of English Marion Wells, who co-founded and served as director of the Axinn Center with Armanios, said the grant will support the creation of 30 new Public Humanities labs over the next three years "promoting the development of experiential, public-facing classes that delve into the literary, historical, philosophical, linguistic, and other humanistic aspects of migration, both local and global."

The grant's focus on migrant

justice arises from the need to address the largely invisible challenges experienced by migrants globally and locally. Many of the estimated 1,200 migrant laborers in Vermont work and live in Addison County and face language barriers, food and housing insecurity, lack of access to healthcare, and community indifference or hostility.

Based on those needs, Wells, Armanios, new Axinn Center Director Ian Barrow, professor of history, and Associate Director Carrie Anderson, professor of history of art and architecture, wrote the Mellon proposal. Anderson said community engagement will be a core part of the grant's pedagogical context, allowing faculty and students to "showcase the critical role that the humanities play in making positive social change in our communities."

The grant also includes funding for a postdoctoral fellow in migration studies to teach courses, conduct research, and deliver public lectures. Fifteen undergraduate students will be awarded fellowships to research and write on topics related to migration.

In the context of the much-noted crisis in the humanities across the country, the grant will help ensure, as Barrow notes, "that the humanities at Middlebury — one of the pillars of the college at its founding — will remain vibrant and relevant."



Hometown hero

OTTER VALLEY JUNIOR Isaac Whitney celebrates his 175-pound semifinal victory on Saturday at the Vermont championship meet in his home gymnasium. Whitney lost a close match in the final. Independent photo/Steve James

VUHS boys net one playoff win

By ANDY KIRKALDY

WINOOSKI — The Vergennes Union High School boys' basketball team was awarded the No. 5 seed in Division III and won one playoff game at home before coming up short in a defensive battle in a quarterfinal on the road. The Commodores wrapped up a successful season at 15-7.

In the first round on Feb. 21, the host Commodores used balanced scoring and ball movement to pull away from No. 12 Springfield in the second half to prevail, 61-38. Eight Commodores scored at least five points, and seven recorded at least two assists. VUHS led at

the half, 28-24, before taking full control.

Ryan Wright led VUHS with 10 points; Devin Brisson scored nine; Reese Paquette and Oakley Francis added seven apiece; and Spencer Gebo, Ryker Mosehauer and freshman JV callup Cohen Howell all chipped in six. The VUHS staff noted Howell's points all came in the second quarter, with the score still close.

Mosehauer contributed team highs of nine rebounds, three blocks, three steals and three assists. Gebo was next with seven rebounds, adding five points.

Bradley Gallant (12 points) and

Oliver Kelley (nine) led the 8-13 Cosmos in scoring.

On Saturday night, host No. 4 Winooski improved to 19-3 with a 47-41 victory over the Commodores. Sam Parris sparked the Spartans with 17 points, six rebounds, five assists and four steals. Hussein Mohamed added 11 points and Chris Buker grabbed 16 rebounds and blocked four shots.

Francis wrapped up his VUHS basketball career by leading the team with nine points and nine boards. Mosehauer and Levi Cogger also each scored nine points, and Mosehauer added eight rebounds.

Milk prices to be uncertain

Dairy indicators not pointing steadily in any direction

By WHITNEY HULL
Extension Dairy Specialist
University of Vermont

As we look ahead to what 2024 will bring for milk prices, it's helpful to reflect on the trends of 2023 dairy production and consumption. Milk prices continued to rise as lower milk production prompted a drawdown in dairy product inventories despite demand remaining flat. Growth in domestic commercial use of milk in all products was offset by a drop in the volume of U.S. dairy exports.

According to data collected by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), between April and Oct. 2023, the U.S. exported roughly 2% less of its milk solids production than it did over the same period in 2022. The key products contributing the most to this loss are dried and modified whey, whey protein concentrate, skim milk powder, butter and anhydrous milkfat and cheese. Exported milk solids lost an overall 12% of their

per-unit dollar value during this period, reflecting the toll weaker worldwide import demand has had on international dairy prices.

The NMPF also reported that total U.S. milk production slowed throughout the second half of 2023, due to lower cow numbers and flat production per cow. With some northeastern co-ops lifting the quota in 2024, we can expect to see modest increases in milk production in pockets of the Northeast.

Looking ahead to 2024, the Federal Milk Marketing Order advanced Class I base price will be weaker to begin the year. At \$18.48/hundredweight (cwt), the January price is \$1.28 less than December 2023 and \$3.93 less than January 2023. The Chicago Mercantile Exchange Class III and IV futures show a soft start to the year with futures increasing steadily from March through April 2024.

As of the week of Jan. 7, the December Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) margin was forecast at

\$8.89/cwt, which would trigger Tier I indemnity payments at \$9 and \$9.50 coverage levels. However, the actual margin will be announced on Jan. 31. Futures markets also were expecting the DMC margin to average about \$8.95/cwt during 2024, which would be \$2.20/cwt higher than 2023's projected average margin.

In dairy policy, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, but the bill was blocked in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Michigan), chair of the Senate Agricultural Committee. Despite the potential for this bill to increase milk consumption in schools, Stabenow felt that school milk standards should fall under the upcoming Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which is expected to be released in 2025.

For more information, visit <https://go.uvm.edu/milk-prices>.

Local students earn high marks at CCV

VERMONT — Community College of Vermont has released its honors list for the fall 2023 semester. A number of local students have appeared on the roll. These full-time students with a 4.0 grade point average have been named to the president's list for the fall 2023 semester:

Ferrisburgh: Tyler Bergmans, Thane Gill and Cierra Hoyt.

Lincoln: Natalie Atkins and Dillon L'heureux.

North Ferrisburgh: Tori Scott
Vergennes: Dustin Benway and Neil Brons.

The following students were named to the fall 2023 Student Honors List. This honor recognizes

part-time students with a 4.0 grade point average.

Addison: Brad Russett.

Bridport: Sara Roberts.

Bristol: Heather Gorton, Louise Johnson, Makayla Lambert, Sydney Perlee and Madeline Vandervoort.

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Lincoln: Calum Dooley.

Middlebury: Gloria Bushey and Katie Nop.

New Haven: Bethany Scott.

Panton: Jennifer Coyle

Salisbury: Dominic Beck and Amber Thornton

Vergennes: Jeanine Angier
With a grade point averages between 3.5 and 3.99, the following local students were named to the fall 2023 dean's list at the Community College of Vermont:

Bristol: Maxine Cromis.

Ferrisburgh: Cecilia Mills and Julia Reitz.

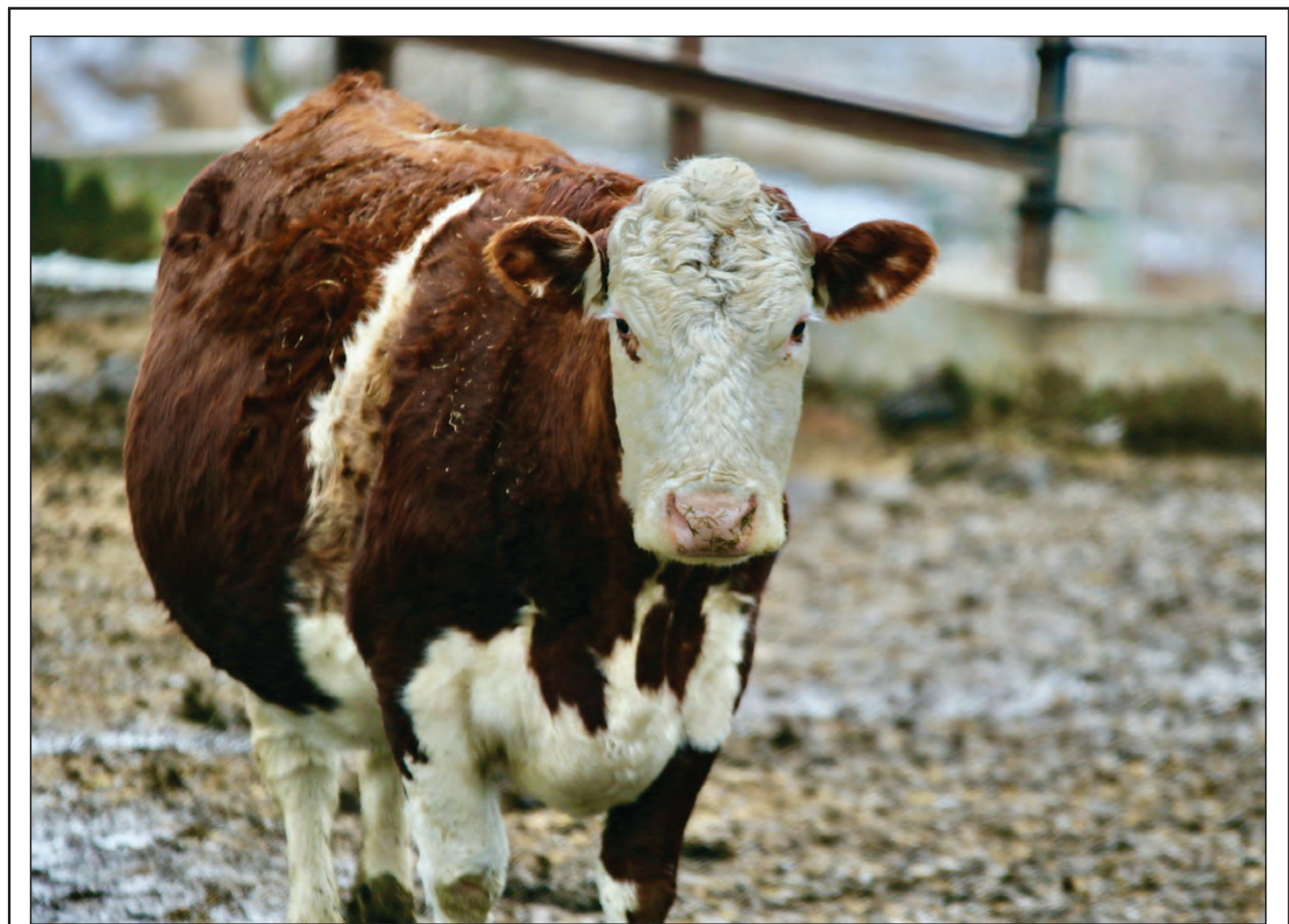
Middlebury: Elliot Monk, Bryan-Michael Parks, Atticus Peterson and Krista Sargent.

Panton: Cassidy Quinlan

Salisbury: Catherine Carpenter

Starksboro: Ava Young

Vergennes: Collin Clair, Lilah Cunningham, MacKenzie Flint and Tyler Gray.



Udderly unimpressed

A BEEF COW wandering the fields of New Haven's Chalker Farm appears unenthusiastic by the photographer passing by the farmstead off Route 17 earlier this month.

Independent photo/Steve James

Grain production workshop offered to feed-crop farms

MIDDLEBURY — To reduce purchased feed costs, many Vermont dairy farmers are considering growing their own corn and soybeans for grain. But for some, the decision to produce their own forages may also raise questions about what varieties to grow and how to optimize resources for best results.

University of Vermont Extension (UVM) and the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition will co-host a free workshop on March 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Middlebury Extension Office to provide them



with practical information on growing, harvesting and storing grains as well as the impact on water quality and soil health.

Extension Agronomist Heather Darby and members of her Northwest Crops and Soils team will discuss varieties of corn and soybeans optimal for growing in the Northeast. Abby Augarten and Joshua Faulkner from the Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture team will present preliminary data on nutrient

balances and the water quality impacts of growing soybeans.

This workshop is a collaboration among the UVM Extension Agricultural Business, Northwest Crops and Soils and Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture teams. It is the second in an ongoing series related to grain production for dairy farms.

Farmers have until March 19 to register at <https://go.uvm.edu/grainworkshop>.

Lunch will be provided. In the event of inclement weather, this workshop will be rescheduled to March 28 at the same location and time.

The workshop will conclude with a farmer panel of Vermont dairy producers who have integrated grain production into their operation. They will share their experiences, including their successes and challenges.

Contact Whitney Hull at (802) 279-7517 or whitney.hull@uvm.edu with questions. To request a disability-related accommodation, contact her by March 1.

community calendar

feb 29 THURSDAY

An Evening for Porter fundraiser in Middlebury. Thursday, Feb. 29, 5-6:30 p.m., Edgewater at the Falls, 1 Mill St. Music by the Do No Harm-onies, a band of Porter Medical Center's own musicians, door prizes, refreshments and cash bar. Join the fun and help raise funds for Porter Auxiliary, an organization that has contributed over \$2.5 million to Porter Medical Center over the years. Tickets \$37, include 1 drink ticket and \$2 processing fee. Available at 802-382-9222, www.townhalltheater.org or tickets@townhalltheater.org.

mar 1 FRIDAY

Lenten fish dinner in Vergennes. Friday, March 1, 5-6:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 58 S. Maple St. Menu includes beer-battered haddock, zesty wedges, coleslaw, mixed vegetables, roll with butter and chocolate chip brownie. Take out or dine in. Cost \$13 adults/\$7 children 6-12 (cash or checks). Call 802-877-3352 to reserve. Leave a message with your name, phone number and number of dinners.

mar 2 SUNDAY

Used book sale in Middlebury. Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Isley Public Library, 75 Main St. As always, current members of the Friends organization may begin shopping at 9:45.

Music with Anna in Orwell. Saturday, March 2, 10 a.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Immerse your little ones (ages 3-6) in the joy of music with early childhood music educator Anna Laufenberg. Through hands-on instrument exploration, interactive sing-alongs and creative movement, cultivate a love for music while fostering creativity. Free.

Youth Ministry Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, March 2, 5 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 South Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m., Bingo starts at 6 p.m. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Ambrose and St. Peter's Youth Ministry to benefit the on-going program costs.

mar 5 TUESDAY

Awe: A talk by Middlebury College professors Katy Smith Abbot and Matthew Evan Taylor in Middlebury. Tuesday, March 5, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The first installment of a new, free series created by Vermont Book Shop and Town Hall Theater. "Up for Discussion" is designed to spark community conversation and features local experts in their fields, sharing timely topics that span literature, art, film and contemporary issues. The 30-minute presentation will be followed by a roundtable discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas. Free, but registration required at townhalltheater.org.

Author Rick Winston in Middlebury. Tuesday, March 5, 6 p.m., Isley Public Library, 75 Main St. Isley and Vermont Book Shop's First Tuesdays series continues as Rick Winston returns to share his latest book, "Save Me A Seat: A Life With The Movies!" Winston's genial and companionable memoir is the chronicle of a lifelong love affair with movies. VBS will be there with books for sale and signature.

mar 6 WEDNESDAY

Historical society meeting in Shoreham. Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, Main St. The Shoreham Historical Society will meet in person for the first time in two years. Anyone interested in having an active Shoreham Historical Society is welcome. Bring your ideas. Refreshments will be served.

mar 7 THURSDAY

"The Tempest" in Middlebury. Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Come see Addison Repertory Theatre's production of Shakespeare's story of shipwreck, magic and love. March 7, 8, and 9. ART students take the lead in all aspects of production. Tickets \$10, available at addisonrep.ludus.com/index.php.

Off Campus: A Middlebury College comedy showcase in Middlebury. Thursday, March 7, 7:30-9 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The comedians of Middlebury College will be coming to the Town Hall Theater with a mix of sketch comedy, standup and perhaps a little bit of improvising. To make matters more confusing, they'll also be performing "Off Campus" on campus later that weekend in the Hepburn Zoo. Tickets \$5/\$10 available at townhalltheater.org, at 802-382-9222, or in person at THT's box office Monday-Friday between 12-5 p.m.

mar 8 FRIDAY

Lenten fish fry in Bristol. Friday, March 8, 5-7 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish, 11 School St. All-you-can-eat fish fry. Menu includes fried or baked haddock, French fries, cole slaw, fresh-baked dinner roll, beverage and dessert. Cost: \$17 adults/children 9 and under \$9/immediate family of 5 \$50. More info contact St. Ambrose at 802-453-2488.

"The Tempest" in Middlebury. Friday, March 8, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. See March 7 listing.

Three one-act plays in Bristol. Friday, March 8, 7 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. The Bristol Gateway Players will present three one-act plays: "Cindy and Julie" by Bruce Kane, "Universal Language" by David Ives and "Blazin' Pistols in Sleepy Ol' Bristol" by Carl Engvall, in collaboration with the Bristol Recreation Department. Admission by donation. Proceeds will be split between the Bristol Gateway Players and the Bristol Recreation Department.



The eyes deceive

BONSAI TREES RECREATE the natural world in miniature. Learn more about it on Tuesday, March 12, at 1 p.m., at Isley Public Library in Middlebury when Carl Phelps and Nan Jenks Jay of Miller Hill Farm in Sudbury discuss the creation and maintenance of bonsai.

Photo by Sage Ross, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

mar 9 SATURDAY

Wildlife walk in Middlebury. Saturday, March 9, 8-10 a.m., Otter View Park, Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. Please take common sense: Stay home if you are feeling ill, and wear a mask if you are unvaccinated. More info at 802-388-6019.

Spring Fever craft and vendor fair in New Haven. Saturday, March 9, 9 a.m., New Haven Town Hall, 78 North St. Join more than 20 crafters and vendors at the first annual craft fair for the Michelle Kilbreth Legacy Foundation for Hope. Shop a wide variety of items: jewelry, crochet, woodworking, children's gifts and more. Bake sale fundraiser, too. All bake sale proceeds go to the foundation's scholarship fund for local youth.

Winter Crafters Market in Middlebury. Saturday, March 9, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., VFW, 530 exchange St. Join the Middlebury Farmers Market as our regular winter members welcome several new vendors to share their crafts with the community. Produce, fresh food items, breads, granola, herbal supplements, CBD products, maple products, bird houses and other wood products along with jewelry, candles, earrings, knitted and crochet items, woolen and felted items, quilted items, maple products, wood crafts, note cards, calendars, canvas prints and more. Vendor gift raffle: proceeds to be donated to the Michelle Kilbreth Legacy Foundation. Live music by Michael Stridsberg.

Racial Learning for Young Children in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, March 9, 10-11 a.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Our society does not equip parents well to talk to their young children about difficult social topics like racial bias, social class and other types of inequity. Nonetheless, children observe an unfair world and are curious to learn why. If children are excluded from conversations and information, they can easily internalize harmful, biased messages about themselves and others at an impressionable age. Free. Registration required. More info at rokeby.org/family-group-racial-learning-for-young-children. Continues March 16, 23, and 30.

"The Supreme Court's Role in Reproductive Freedom" in Middlebury. Saturday, March 9, 1 p.m., Isley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join Meg Mott, PhD., for "How to Trust the People with Reproductive Rights," a three-part series examining the history and strategy of securing reproductive rights in the United States. Part 2 is March 16.

Home Heat Transfer Workshop in Orwell. Saturday, March 9, 1 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. How do insulation and air sealing save money while keeping our homes warmer? Learn all about it at this hands-on workshop with VT Energy Education Program. Register at OrwellFreeLibrary.org.

Chowder Fest and basket raffle in Orwell. Saturday, March 9, 2 p.m., Farmers Haven, 318 Route 22A. Who doesn't love to taste test some yummy chowder? In the chowder contest, it's \$5 per person to taste. Basket raffle. All proceeds will be donated to Tatum's Totes. Enter your chowder or donate a basket. Contact Farmers Haven or Makayla Davis 802-349-3038 or Makayla.davis96@gmail.com.

Corned beef and cabbage supper in Vergennes. Saturday, March 9, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main St., across from the Opera House. Takeout only. Menu includes corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potato, onion, roll and dessert. Cost \$12. Preorder required at 802- 877-3150 before 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7.

Three one-act plays in Bristol. Saturday, March 9, 7 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. See March 8 listing.

"The Tempest" in Middlebury. Saturday, March 9, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. See March 7 listing.

mar 10 SUNDAY

Fundraising breakfast in Bristol. Sunday, March 10, 7:30-10 a.m., Libanus Lodge, 2 Elm St. Served by the Bristol Masons Lodge, all profits are donated to a person or group in need within the Five Town Area. Menu includes homemade corned beef hash, scrambled eggs (or over easy if you ask us to flip them), bacon, sausage patties, sausage links, home fries, pancakes, blueberry pancakes and French toast, all with Vermont maple syrup and Cabot butter, assorted juices, homemade apple bread pudding and coffee. Cost \$9 adults/\$5 children under 12.

Breakfast Buffet in Vergennes. Sunday, March 10, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Omelets to order, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, fruit, plain and blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, corn bread, home fries, mini muffins, juice, milk and coffee. Adults \$12/children 8-12 \$7/immediate family \$32 (maximum). Offered by Vergennes Knights of Columbus to support their community service programs.

"Katharine, The Diary of An Ordinary Woman" in Ferrisburgh. Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7. Ferrisburgh Historical Society hosts Katie Quinn for this presentation on Katharine Hale Royce's diaries, which recount the life of an ordinary woman living in Vermont from 1926-1938. Royce and her family lived in North Ferrisburgh.

Three one-act plays in Bristol. Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. See March 8 listing.

"Underdog" on screen in Middlebury. Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. In "Underdog," the late New Haven dairy farmer Doug Butler risks losing the only home he's ever known to chase his dreams of dog mushing in Alaska. Revealed in intimate verité, Butler at first presents as a modern Quixote, but then finds to his delight that sometimes the world can be as he imagines. A Q&A with the film's director/editor/cinematographer Tommy Hyde and producer/writer Aaron Woolf will follow the showing. Presented by Vermont Public. Free, but registration required at townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222.

mar 11 MONDAY

Legislative breakfast in Vergennes. Monday, March 11, 7-8:45 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall 85 S. Maple St. Bridport Grange and Addison County Farm Bureau invite all to chat with legislative representatives over breakfast. Meal starts at 7 a.m. Program starts at 7:30 a.m. The purchase of breakfast is not required to attend, however it is a nice thank you to our hosts, to help defray the cost of opening their hall so early.

mar 12 TUESDAY

Death Café of Addison County in Middlebury. Tuesday, March 12, 9 a.m., Jessica Swift Room, Isley Public Library, 75 Main St. At a Death Café people gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death in a relaxed, open setting with no agenda, objective or themes. It is a discussion group, rather than a grief support or counseling session. Space is limited. Registration required at Eventbrite: tinyurl.com/death-cafe-March. More info contact Louella Richer at Incher@portermedical.org.

Introduction to Bonsai in Middlebury. Tuesday, March 12, 1 p.m., Isley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury Garden Club hosts Carl Phelps and Nan Jenks Jay of Miller Hill Farm in Sudbury. The pair will discuss the creation and maintenance of bonsai. Some of their interesting bonsai will on display. Free and open to the public.

ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

With GPAs averaging 3.50 or above, four local residents were named to the dean's list at Hamilton College for the 2023 fall semester. **Leah Croke** of Ferrisburgh, a senior majoring in Computer Science, is a graduate of Vergennes Union High School. **Patricia McNerney** of Monkton, a

graduate of Mount Abraham Union High School, is a first-year student. **Catherine Schmitt** of Middlebury, a senior majoring in Neuroscience and Philosophy, is a graduate of Middlebury Union High School. **Hannah Turner** of Leicester is a sophomore.

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REMINDER

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY PROPERTY TAX BILLS

MARCH INSTALLMENTS ARE DUE IN THE TREASURER'S OFFICE ON OR BEFORE:

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

TREASURER'S OFFICE: 388-8100 ext. 203, 204 or 208
accountclerk@townofmiddlebury.org

OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Please allow extra time if you are mailing your payment, postmarks are not accepted as timely payment.

For your convenience there is a secure payment box located between the Town Office and the Library.

2024 Area RABIES CLINICS

All Clinics are open to all residents of any town. Dogs and cats only. For the safety of all, dogs should be leashed and cats in carriers. You should bring paper proof of previous rabies vaccination(s). \$20 per vaccine **CASH only** - exact change appreciated.

Bridport Fire Station	Sat. March 2, 10:00 AM - 12 Noon
Lincoln Town Hall	Sat. March 9, 9:00 - 10:00
Whiting Fire Station	Mon. March 11, 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Brandon Fire Station	Fri. March 15, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Leicester Town office	Tues. March 19, 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Salisbury Town office	Tues. March 19, 6:15 - 7:15 PM
Orwell Fire Station	Fri, March 22, 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Monkton Fire Station	Tues. March 26, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Sponsored by Bristol Animal Hospital, and Valleywide Veterinary Services
Please bring cash - cards and checks will not be accepted.

Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Orwell writes:

"We are proud of you and so glad you remain a strong newspaper. Keep up the good work."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



Two-sentence writing contest to be held

WATERBURY CENTER — The Children’s Literacy Foundation (CLIF) announces the launch of its second annual Two-Sentence Writing Contest. Open to all Vermont and New Hampshire children aged 12 and under, the contest is free to enter, and prizes will be awarded to top submissions in each of four categories.

This year’s contest challenges young writers to “tell a two-sentence story that takes place in the sky.” Loosely tied to the upcoming total eclipse on April 8, the contest draws inspiration from the stories and legends ancient civilizations invented to explain sky phenomena.

CLIF’s inaugural Two-Sentence Writing Contest, held in February 2023, asked young writers to tell a story about winter, and drew over 700 submissions from across the Twin States.

“The range of creative expression demonstrated by the stories was truly amazing,” said CLIF Project Specialist Mary Edith Lechliter. “With just two sentences to work with, it’s incredible what kids can come up with. We had comedy, horror, tragedy, sci-fi...you name it. We can’t wait to read the stories generated by this year’s theme!”

The categories for this year’s contest are divided as follows:

kindergarten and below; grades 1 and 2; grades 3 and 4; and grades 5 and 6. The winner of each category will receive a five-book library from CLIF, curated to their age and interests.

Additional details about the contest and a downloadable entry template can be found on CLIF’s website at www.clifonline.org/writing-contest-2024. Entries must be received by email (communications@clifonline.org) or mail (CLIF Writing Contest, 3579 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677) by March 29, 2024. Winners will be announced in early April.



Lake cairns

SUN CATCHING STACKS of ice arranged earlier in February on the shore of Lake Dunmore give a warm glow to the chilly winter scene. Eight-year-old artist Rory McDonald created the icy sculpture while visiting his grandparents in Leicester.

Photo by Bonnie McDonald

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

50 Years ago this week

The Feb. 28, 1974, issue of the *Addison Independent* headlined the resolution of Bristol’s water crisis. After 23 days of around-the-clock emergency pumping, the frozen and broken pipes in the Lincoln water intake were finally fixed and the Civil Defense pumps were sent back to Montpelier. Town officials had yet to determine the full cost of the effort, but anticipated it would be steep. A small silver lining: while digging out the pipes in question workers found two more that had been unknowingly leaking and fixed those as well.

With Town Meeting Day around the corner, the paper highlighted issues up for discussion and vote in all 23 of Addison County’s towns. At the time, the county’s official residents count was 24,266. Among items on the ballot were a \$200 ice rink in Bristol, an \$18,000 tank truck for the Ferrisburgh Fire Department, establishing a dog pound in Middlebury, and selectboard races across the county. All towns were to weigh in on a controversial change to the Vermont Constitution that would amend the length of the governor’s term from two to four years.

In Middlebury, selectboard candidates discussed town improvements, including

the creation of satellite parking lots outside of town, a reconstruction of Frog Hollow to include the Vermont Cultural Center and make it the home of the Vermont Symphony, restoration of rail and boat passenger services, a Middlebury bypass, and a footbridge downtown. At the time, town planners projected that Middlebury’s population would grow to 30,000 by 2030.

Attempts to extend cable TV to East Middlebury stalled out when Green Mountain Cable Co. continually failed to respond to requests for finishing the project.

In sports, the Tiger wrestlers under coach Hubie Wagner clinched the State Championship by beating St. Johnsbury. Tiger Bob Shaw was named outstanding wrestler of the tournament.

The Cornwall Grange announced a sewing contest open to members and non-members alike. The Campus Cinema (now the Middlebury Marquis Theater) offered \$1 nights on Mondays and Tuesdays. Back by popular demand, the movie “M.A.S.H.” was screening.

The National Bank of Middlebury had a promotion encouraging patrons to “Help Lick the Gas Crisis: Bank by Mail.”

— Sarah Pope



Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — Burnham Presents welcomes Larry & Joe to the stage on Saturday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Burnham Hall. The duo is composed of Grammy-nominated bluegrass musician, Joe Troop and Venezuelan Llanera music legend, Larry Bellowin. Together they perform a fusion of Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, maracas, guitar and upright bass. The program they offer features a distinct blend of their musical inheritances and

traditions as well as storytelling about the ways that music and social movements unite.

Admission is general \$15 and generous \$20-\$25. Doors open at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be available.

FROM THE TOWN

The annual town reports have been delivered. If you did not receive yours, please stop by the town office to pick one up, and to let them know your correct mailing address for this time of year. Please bring the report with you to Town

Meeting. REMINDER

Town and School District Meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, at 6 p.m. at Burnham Hall. Voting for town and school officers and the Vermont Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 5, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Burnham Hall.

Until next time ... Tell Others How Important They Are To You. Calm Is A Super-Power. Don't Let Stress Kill Your Happiness.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Middlebury Union High School

Hope Bellinger

Hope Bellinger, the daughter of Mark Bellinger and Emily Bridges, is Middlebury Union High School's next Student of the Week. The family resides in Cornwall with their two dogs, Lucy and Nina. Hope's positive outlook and friendly personality are well known to all within the MUHS community. She is respected by her teachers for actively engaging in classroom discussion.

Hope is looking forward to graduation in June and is focused on completing the requirements for the full International Baccalaureate Diploma, MUHS's most rigorous academic program. One of the requirements is writing an extended essay, a 4,000-word document; she reports, "I'm glad that it is done!" Hope chose to research and write about assisted suicide. Last April, she and a group of other students in Spanish classes went to Ecuador with their teacher, Ms. Causton. Hope says it was a great experience and a trip she will always remember.

Hope balances her coursework with her full schedule of extracurricular activities. A horseback rider since the age of six, Hope loves her time at the barn and hopes to participate in riding at the club level when she heads off to college in the fall. She can also be found at the ice rink every Tuesday and Friday morning before the school day begins as a member of a local figure skating group. They meet at the Middlebury College rink and it is, in addition to her time as a ski instructor at the Snowbowl, a favorite activity. At the Bowl, Hope works primarily with 5- to 10-year-olds and says the greatest joy comes from watching the children progress as skiers. In the spring she plays lacrosse with the Tigers varsity team. Hope served as a peer leader last fall and has been involved in multiple hours of community service.

Our teachers admire Hope's attention to detail, ability to dive deeply into the subject matter and willingness to work collaboratively as well as independently. She credits Mr. Harrington for having sparked her interest in Physics, an area she knew "something" about before enrolling in his class. Hope says she is now considering a possible major in that field when she goes to college. She is awaiting word from the colleges she has applied to and is keeping her options open. We are confident that good things await Hope in the future.



Hope Bellinger
MUHS

Vergennes Union High School

Benjamin Hargett

Benjamin Hargett is Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week. A Ferrisburgh resident, along with his parents and pet dog, Benjamin has excelled in his studies at VUHS, with interests ranging from music to design.

What Benjamin values the most at VUHS is the opportunity to get involved in things he is passionate about, he says. His favorite class this year has been either Physics, Statistics or Instrumentality. His favorite teacher is his CAD teacher, Mr. Carl Crawford. "He's a great teacher who has taught me so much about Computer Aided Design, and inspired me to become an engineer," says Benjamin. He has been on the honors/high honors roll every year of high school, is a member of National Honor Society, is a recipient of College Board Nation Rural and Small Town Recognition Award and the Xerox Innovation and Information Technology Award. He also plays baseball for VUHS and guitar in the school jazz band.

Last summer Benjamin interned at J.P. Carrara and Sons in Middlebury. He was a founding member of the Vergennes Leos Club, the youth arm of the Vergennes Lions Club, which is involved in community service projects. He also regularly volunteers at the monthly fish fry at the Vergennes American Legion. He devotes a lot of his free time to practicing his guitar and playing baseball. He also likes to play Dungeons and Dragons with his friends.

He says the most important lesson he learned during his time in high school is that he is the one ultimately responsible for his success. "If I want to succeed, I need to put in the work to reach my goals," he says. "That's what I would tell underclassmen, that they need to put in the work to find the things they enjoy and excel at so they can succeed."

The summer after graduation Benjamin hopes to work as an intern at a local architectural or engineering firm. After that, he plans on attending university, either at WPI, SUNY University at Buffalo, or Clarkson University. All of us at VUHS wish him the best of luck.



Benjamin Hargett
VUHS

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

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CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalanonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

Public Meetings

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

Help Wanted

Experienced Farmer/Gardener Needed to help feed hungry neighbors

Little Village Acres is a social venture of the founder of the Vermont Coffee Company. Our mission is to grow and process nutritious food: We cultivate our own land in Middlebury and serve as a processing facility for produce gleaned and donated from local farms. We donate 100% of the food we grow and 100% of the food we process to the hungry, the homebound, and the homeless in our community.

As we plan for the 2024 growing season, we are searching for a part-time, seasonal farmer/gardener who can help us manage the crops needed by our local food shelves. We will have regular volunteer helpers during the growing season and many more for harvest.

We need someone with experience growing crops and processing food, and who can appreciate and supervise our volunteers.

Can you help? Compensation is open for discussion.

Please email farmer@littlevillageacres.com for details.

Little Village Acres
Food for Hope™

2840 Case Street
P.O. Box 616
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

farmer@littlevillageacres.com

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Master Plumber

Silver Maple Construction has recently launched a new mechanical division that focuses on providing excellent customer service and specializes in executing complex and innovative residential HVAC and plumbing systems. To help us achieve our goals, we are seeking a skilled and experienced Master Plumber to become part of our team.

At Silver Maple, we strongly believe in offering all our employees equal growth opportunities and providing them with inspiring work while maintaining a flexible and manageable work schedule, unlike what many other companies in this field offer.

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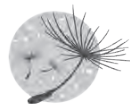
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email hr@silvermapleconstruction.com
or call our office at (802) 989-7677

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Bookkeeper

Mary Johnson Part-time
Children's Center 20 hours per week

We are seeking a Bookkeeper, who will handle the full cycle of bookkeeping duties for the center and its programs. Applicants must have experience working with Quickbooks and an understanding of generally accepted accounting principles.

Please send resume to dylan@mjcvt.org or call (802)388-2853 with any questions.

The Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 11B, 12B and 13B.

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities



Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is seeking classroom aides to assist in educational settings throughout Addison County. The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is a federally funded program that has successfully placed thousands of volunteers in educational settings nationwide. Individuals must be at least 55 and willing to work a minimum of 10 hours per week. Participants receive travel reimbursement, fifty paid vacation/sick days, and a tax-free hourly stipend if they are income eligible.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact **RSVP at 802-468-7056.**



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Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted **Help Wanted** **Help Wanted**



Addison County Parent/Child Center

Join the Parent/Child Center Team EARLY INTERVENTIONIST

We are seeking an **Early Interventionist** to work with young families as an outreach worker on our highly skilled, creative and energetic team.

You will work in coordination with parents in the home, community, and in our program in Middlebury in order to ensure that children are growing healthy and strong.

Candidates must have a solid understanding of child development, early intervention Part C, family systems, communication skills and flexibility. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in a related field is required.

Please contact **Donna Bailey** d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org

GREAT WORK! You found your dream job...

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Marketing & Advertising Account Manager

Join us as we pursue excellence in local media!
The Addison Independent is hiring a dynamic individual with boundless creative energy and an optimistic desire to help local businesses.

A successful candidate would have:

- A passion and drive to help local businesses pursue effective marketing and advertising platforms.
- A tenacious drive to support and grow sales.
- An outgoing personality eager to meet and help develop effective marketing plans for area businesses.
- Excellent communication skills and comfort conducting business over email, phone, and in person.
- Exceptional organization skills and the capacity to help clients navigate the field of options effectively.

Full time position with great earning potential, a flexible schedule and room for self-direction, as well as the opportunity to join a cheerful, family-owned company in Middlebury.

If this is you, let Christy know!

Christy Lynn, Director of Sales
58 Maple St. Middlebury, VT 05753
christy@addisonindependent.com

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Public Meetings

VERMONT SUPPORT LINE Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a

Public Meetings

caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT - TALKS.

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

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

Help Wanted

ARE YOU READY to make a significant impact on people's lives? Ready to be part of a strong and effective team? Then come join VABIR to assist Vermonters with disabilities in reaching their career goals. VABIR is a statewide non-profit with a part-time opening in Middlebury, and full-time positions in Springfield, Burlington and Barre. All positions enjoy a hybrid work model. Part-time salary starts at \$20-\$22 hr., full-time starts at \$41,600. To learn more about the great work we do please visit our website, www.vabir.org.



Addison County Parent/Child Center


VAN DRIVER JOB OPENING
Addison County Parent/Child Center

We are seeking a **van driver** who will transport children, youth, and parents to our center from around Addison County.

Strong candidates must have a clean driving record and experience with children and families.

Great working environment and benefits. This is a 20-hour position with hours split between mornings and afternoons.

Please contact **Donna Bailey** at d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org



Addison County Parent/Child Center

Join the Parent/Child Center Team

CHILDCARE WORKER/PARENT EDUCATOR

Childcare Staff Position: We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their families.

Strong candidates must have knowledge of child development, family systems, excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a Bachelor's degree preferred.

Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to **Donna Bailey** at d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org

Sunrise Orchards

Pie Baker, Donut Maker + Foodie Wanted!

Full-time seasonal (Aug 15-Nov 15), with opportunity to extend bakery hours through winter season.

Are you interested in becoming part of a vibrant farm business that is humming with activity this fall season? Do you also love baking and food and have some experience/skills producing food for a crowd? We are entering our 4th year of our farm stand with daily offerings of baked goods and savory, creative lunches on the weekends. Competitive wage, flexible scheduling and supportive atmosphere. Join us and be part of the local Vermont food + farm experience in Cornwall!

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2024

With interest, please contact:
Christiana Hodges
(802) 989-0694 or at chodges@sunriseorchards.com

Help Wanted

ODD JOBS; PROPERTY clean up, junk removal, brush cutting, lawn work. Call us today, we do other jobs too! 802-999-2194, John.

Help Wanted



ARE SEEKING TEAMMATES!

SEE MORE ON PAGE 9A

Lead Service Line Technician


Tri-Town Water District is seeking a (full/part)-time Lead Service Line Technician to join our team for the spring, summer and fall of 2024. This position includes data collection and review to assist in the completion of Lead Service Line inventories at current Tri-Town customer locations. As a member of our team, you will take part in data review to assess the history of our water system, GPSing water system assets, and field work to gather service inventory data on a programmed tablet. A valid Driver's License and reliable source of transportation as mileage is paid. Competitive pay.

Send resume to:
Darwin Pratt
Tri-Town Water District No. 1
P.O. Box 85
Bridport, VT 05734
or email to: tritownwater@gmvt.net

CUSTOMER SERVICE KE USA, Inc. in Middlebury is seeking flexible, motivated individuals to become part of our team. Qualified candidates must have a valid driver's license, be familiar with Microsoft Office. Data entry skills are a plus. KE Durasol offers wages commensurate with experience and full benefits. Please apply in person or send your resume to Curtis.larose@keusa.us or call 802-398-5424. You may also apply in person or send your resume to: KE USA 38 Pond Lane, Suite B Middlebury, VT 05753. An equal opportunity employer.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME Museum seeks part-time Development Assistant. Integral member of fundraising team, responsible for data entry/reporting and support for mailings/special events. 20 hours/week, \$22/hour. See www.lcm.org/careers for full position description and application instructions.

PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE KE USA, Inc. in Middlebury is seeking flexible, motivated individuals to become part of our manufacturing team. Qualified candidates must have a valid driver's license, be familiar with power hand tools, be willing to work overtime if needed, and have an aptitude for layout work. Experience in building construction is a plus. KE Durasol offers wages commensurate with experience and full benefits. Please apply in person or send your resume to Curtis.larose@keusa.us or call 802-398-5424. You may also apply in person or send your resume to: KE USA 38 Pond Lane, Suite B Middlebury, VT 05753. An equal opportunity employer.



Production Team Members

Vermont Soap is looking for attentive, reliable and responsible people to work in our production department.

This position requires basic computer skills, attention to detail, the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time and the ability to lift up to 50lbs. Must be a team player and also able to work independently.

This is a full time position (Mon-Fri 7-3:30) with paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k with employer match, and more!

Please send cover letter and resume to nichole@vermontsoap.com.

Help Wanted



Mountain Community Health We're Hiring!

Staff Accountant: Assists the Chief Financial Officer with the preparation of financial statements, reports and specialized analysis for management team. Maintain financial records to track the organizations assets, liabilities, profit and loss, tax liabilities, and other related financial activities. Accounts Payable, Receivable and Payroll process engagement. Requirements: Accounting or Business degree and/or minimum three years of experience in accounting field

- Understanding of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, Internal Controls and general accounting process and procedures
- Experience with Excel to include Vlookup, pivot tables, statistical analysis, and spreadsheets
- Experience in QuickBooks Enterprise or similar accounting system
- Experience working with large volume of transactions and in complex systems, requiring a high degree of accuracy and attention to detail.

Registered Dental Hygienist: Provides high-quality dental hygiene consistent with accepted standards of care. Evaluates patients and implements treatment regimens under the supervision of the Dentist. Documentation of all findings, treatments and outcomes. Initiates oral health education and prevention activities. Requirements: Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) from an accredited program with the ability to practice in the State of Vermont

- BLS or CPR certification.

Patient Account Representative: Responsible for providing patients with a positive financial experience. Collect payments, set up payment arrangements as appropriate, and advise patients in person and over the phone on their insurance benefits and coverage. Assist patients with eligibility for Medicaid, practice's sliding fee discount program and represents backup to billing functions as required for an FQHC. Requirements: High School Diploma or Equivalent

- Associate degree in business or related field a plus
- Minimum one year experience in a healthcare billing field
- Familiarity with CPT, CDT and ICD-10 codes
- Knowledge of computer applications for medical billing, financial data, spreadsheets, and word processing
- Knowledge of medical terminology, procedures, and diagnosis
- Working knowledge of dental and medical insurance.

Full Time IT Assistant: Provides technical assistance and support to practice staff with computer systems, hardware, or software issues. Respond to queries, run diagnostic programs, isolate problems, and determine and implement solutions. Assists IT Manager and the Informatics Specialist with operations. Requirements: 1-3 years' experience in technology field and/or customer support role

- AS or BS in IT, Computer Science, or relevant field preferred
- Knowledge of personal computer hardware and software applications
- Ability to deal effectively and courteously with a wide variety of users who have varying levels of computer understanding and experience, as well as outside vendors and consultants.

Dental Billing Specialist: Provides timely and accurate generation of statements for patients or claims to payers while striving to ensure all billing information is correct and in compliance with company policies and procedures. Resolves patient accounts by performing billing and follow-up activities to effectively collect balances due. Assist with greeting patients when they arrive, answering the phone, checking patients in and out and scheduling. Requirements: High School Diploma or Equivalent

- Minimum one year experience of medical billing or any equivalent combination of experience, training and/or education
- Certified Professional Coder (CPC) certification and FQHC experience preferred
- Working knowledge of CDT and ICD10 codes and dental terminology
- Read and interpret insurance explanation of benefits.

Dental Office Coordinator: Provides administrative and clinical support for the Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, and other programs. Responsible for maintaining quality assurance for clinic practices, policy and procedures, and patient records in compliance with the State Board of Dentistry, and other agency rules and regulations. Facilitates the daily operations of the Dental Clinic by coordinating patient care, payroll, maintaining supplies, equipment, and inventory, and handling hazardous materials. Requirements: High School Diploma or equivalent, university/college degree is an asset

- Minimum two year Medical/Dental front office and/or administrative management experience.

Family Nurse Practitioner - Part Time (0.75 FTE): Work collaboratively and with affinity for working with culturally and economically diverse patient populations, good organizational skills, willingness to work flexible hours and ability to work independently and solve problems. Requirements: Graduation from an accredited school

- License to practice medicine in the State of Vermont; CPR Certification
- Successful credentialing/privileging by MCH and applicable insurance companies.

RN Case Manager (MAT Program): Primary nursing support for medical providers delivering Medication Assisted Treatment services, including Suboxone, Sublocade, Brixadi, and Vivitrol Treatment for patients being treated for opioid dependence and other substance use disorders. Education and support to patients with chronic substance use conditions in partnership with the MAT Coordinator, LADC counselor, and medical staff. Requirements: Graduate of an accredited school of nursing, minimum bachelor's degree in nursing

- Current licensure as a Registered Nurse in the State of Vermont - unrestricted
- Evidence of one year of nursing experience, addiction medicine preferred
- BLS/CPR Certification

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) Role is a 50/50 blend of resource coordination and behavioral health counseling. Collaborate with a multidisciplinary team to ensure patients receive holistic care, including access to community resources and behavioral health support. Requirements: Master's degree in social work (MSW) from an accredited program

- Demonstrated experience in resource coordination and counseling, preferably in a healthcare or FQHC setting
- Valid state licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
- Knowledge of community resources, social service agencies, and behavioral health best practices
- Commitment to maintaining patient confidentiality and ethical standards.

Visit www.mchvt.org/join-our-team for full job descriptions and requirements. Please send your resume and cover letter to HR@mchvt.org. The Human Resources Department will contact applicants who have been chosen to continue through the selection process.

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT CUSTODIANS

Addison Central School District is seeking Custodians full or part-time and day or night shifts.

These positions are full-year positions. Addison Central School District offers competitive wages.

Employee benefits include: Health, Dental, Life AD&D, Long Term Disability coverage

- Contribution to up to a family health insurance plan contribution to a Health Savings Account or a Health Reimbursement Arrangement
- Access to a flexible spending account
- Single dental insurance plan funded by the school district with the option to purchase dependent coverage
- Long-term disability plan with a 90-day elimination period, benefit pays 66 2/3% of salary, funded by the school district
- Life insurance valued at \$30,000, funded by the school district

Other Benefits

- Paid time off
- Retirement annuity match of up to 5% of salary
- Employee Assistance Program

Apply by submitting a letter of interest, resume, and three current reference letters via School Spring or by sending a hard copy to:

Tim Williams, Superintendent
Addison Central School District
49 Charles Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. E.O.E.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

THOMAS MECHANICAL, INC./SHEETMETAL SPECIALISTS, INC. We are a full Mechanical Contractor looking for help in all positions. Experienced HVAC Shop Fabricators, HVAC Installers, Pipe-Fitting Welders, Plumbers. We are willing to train any applicant without experience but will to learn the trade. We have excellent benefits with competitive starting wages, including full health insurance premiums paid by company and 401K. Please call (802) 863-9577.

For Sale

ELECTRIC TWIN SIZE, extra long bed. \$600. 802-897-2831.

TUFLINE ATV DISC HARROW. Eight 16" diameter discs. Adjustable cutting angle and height. 52" wide; 347 lbs; 1 7/8" ball hitch. Very good condition. Suitable for wildlife food plots, gardens, or turf development. \$450. Call 802-767-3853.

For Rent

✓

ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

For Sale

BUNNIES FOR SALE lops, lionheads and New Zealand (a little older). Better deal if you buy more than one. Little Critters Rabbit Ranch. Phone 802-353-6821 or littlebrat31297@gmail.com

For Rent

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL/RETAIL. 1,250 sq.ft. Exchange Street, Middlebury. 802-388-4831.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

COLBY HILL LANDSCAPE COMPANY

Spring is Coming LANDSCAPERS WANTED

Colby Hill Landscape Company, located in Bristol, is hiring for the 2024 Landscape season. We are looking to hire people to work on Hardscapes (walkways and patios) as well as plantings and some garden maintenance.

We offer:
- A great work environment
- Paid Holidays
- Retirement plan
Experience helpful but we are willing to train.

Work to begin April 1, 2024
Please contact Dave Brett at: (802) 363-9958

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER

SUMMER CAMP COORDINATOR

The Middlebury Community Music Center is seeking an enthusiastic and energetic Summer Camp Coordinator for our 2024 summer camp program. The Summer Music Camp Coordinator is responsible for planning, organizing, and overseeing all aspects of the music camp program.

MUSIC TOGETHER® TEACHERS

We are seeking charismatic, playful individuals who can sing in tune, move with accurate rhythm, and are comfortable leading groups, to teach Music Together® in-school and parent/child music classes based in Middlebury and surrounding towns.

Our positions offer competitive pay as well as professional growth and development opportunities.

To apply for either of the positions please visit www.mcmcv.org/careers and send your resume and cover letter to Molly at info@mcmcv.org.

Are you Handy?

Mountain Community Health is currently seeking a fully insured handyperson for our medical and dental facility located at 61 Pine St. in Bristol.

The typical tasks for this role include:

- Drywall repairs
- Painting
- Moving furniture
- Assembling office furniture
- Minor repairs to cabinets
- Replacing ceiling tiles
- General repairs
- Odd jobs

If you are interested, please send an email to Jim Kirby at: jkirby@mchvt.org.

Mountain Community Health

DRY, WINTER/SUMMER STORAGE SPACE in Addison. Available storage space in my barn for summer/winter storage. The barn is structurally sound and weather-tight with electricity. No heat or running water. The barn is also available for lease. The entrance door measurements are 8' wide by 7' high. For more info: 802-363-3403 or rochon_m@yahoo.com.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

Want to Rent

QUIET, NON-SMOKING, non-pet-owning, retired couple seeks 2BR house or apartment starting May 1st. First preference Bristol village, 2nd preference Vergennes. References available. Call 419-347-3337 (no texts).

Wood Heat

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Att. Farmers

HORSE BLANKET WASH and repair. Accepting non-leather (for now) horsewear of all kinds for cleaning and repairing at my Weybridge location. Call or text Sue Miller at 802-377-5945 or email svdmiller@icloud.com with "horse" in the subject line for more information.

WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

Wanted

OLD & USED GUNS WANTED

Rifles, Hand guns, Shot guns
Top prices paid.
P: 802-775-2859
C: 802-236-7213

WARNING ANNUAL CITY MEETING MARCH 4, 2024

The qualified voters of the City of Vergennes are hereby warned and notified that the Annual City Meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024, commencing at 7:30 p.m. at the Vergennes Opera House located at 120 Main Street. The meeting can be accessed via Zoom using the following information:

- Join by Computer: <https://zoom.us/j/561577976>
- Join by Phone: Dial: 1 (312) 626-6799
- Meeting ID: 561 577 976
- Meeting Password: 1234

The Annual City Vote will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the Vergennes Fire Station located at 50 Green Street. The polls will open at 9:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m. The following Articles will be included on the ballot:

- Article 1: To elect by Australian ballot: three Aldermen for respective two-year terms; one Alderman for a one-year term; one Lister for a three-year term; one Lister for a two-year term and one Lister for a one-year term; one Auditor for a three-year term and one Auditor for a two-year term; one Commissioner to the Vergennes-Panton Water District Board of Water Commissioners for a three-year term; one Grand Juror for a one-year term and one Director to Addison Northwest School District Board of Directors for a three-year term.
- Article 2: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City of Vergennes approve a 25 Year lease as allowed by 24 App, V.S.A. CH 15, ss 26, with the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House, a non-profit corporation and current lessee, to manage the portion of City Hall located at 120 Main Street, commonly referred to as the Vergennes Opera House portion.
- Article 3: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$5,000 to Addison County Home Health & Hospice, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 4: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$2,000 to the Addison County Humane Society, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 5: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$3,074 to Addison County Parent/Child Center, said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 6: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$750 to Addison County Readers, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 7: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$1,500 to Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 8: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$5,000 to Age Well, Inc., formerly known as CVAA, said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 9: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$2,500 to Addison Housing Works (formerly ACCT), said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 10: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$5,000 to Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes, Inc., said sums to come from City funds?
- Article 11: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$2,500 to Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc., said sums to come from City funds?
- Article 12: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$2,000 to Elderly Services, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 13: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$4,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Addison County VT, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 14: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$3,000 to HOPE, said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 15: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$4,000 to John Graham Housing and Services, Inc. said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 16: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$3,000 to Open Door Clinic, said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 17: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$1,000 to Otter Creek Child Center, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 18: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$950 to RSVP of Addison County, said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 19: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$3,000 to Turning Point Center of Addison County, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 20: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$2,000 to Vergennes Area Seniors Association, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 21: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$890 to Vermont Adult Learning, said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 22: To vote by Australian ballot on the following: Shall the City appropriate \$4,000 to WomenSafe, Inc., said sum to come from City funds?
- Article 23: To transact any other non-binding business that may come before the meeting.
- Ballot boxes will remain open from nine o'clock in the forenoon until seven o'clock in the evening on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at the Vergennes Fire Station located at 50 Green Street for voting by Australian ballot on Articles I through XXI. The legal voters of the City of Vergennes are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting shall be as provided in Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.
- Dated at Vergennes, Vermont this 29th day of January 2024.

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

Visit MyVoterPage for all your Town Meeting info

MONTPELIER — With the Presidential Primary and Town Meeting Day (March 5) coming up next week, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas reminds Vermonters that there are resources available to them through her office's "MyVoterPage" online

platform. This online platform is a comprehensive resource for election information and allows voters to perform a variety of functions related to voting.

"As we approach the Presidential Primary, the MyVoterPage is a valuable resource for Vermonters," said Secretary Copeland Hanzas. "It's a one-stop-shop, from registering to vote to tracking an absentee ballot, and I strongly encourage voters to check it out if they haven't yet!"

At this online platform, Vermonters can:

- Check their voter registration status.
- Register to vote.
- Request an absentee ballot by mail.
- Track their ballot status.
- Challenge / fix errors in their mail-in ballot.
- Find their polling place.
- Update their registration information on file with their city/town office.
- View sample ballots for upcoming elections.

Voters access their page by logging in with their name, date of birth, registered town, and either their Vermont driver's license/permit/ID or the last four digits of their Social Security Number.

"Vermont is one of the most engaged electorates in the country, and my office's primary mission is to make sure our elections are secure and accessible," said Secretary Copeland Hanzas. "By putting Vermonters in the driver's seat of their voting experience, the MyVoterPage platform is a crucial part of that effort."

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 13B, 14B and 15B.**

- Addison (1)
- Addison County Courthouse (2)
- Knights of Columbus (1)
- Lincoln (1)
- Lincoln School District (1)
- Middlebury (3)
- Middlebury Cemetery Association (1)
- Ripton (1)
- RNeSU (1)
- Salisbury (1)
- Starksboro (1)
- Vergennes(1)

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY PROPERTY TAX BILLS

MARCH INSTALLMENTS ARE DUE IN THE TREASURER'S OFFICE ON OR BEFORE: **FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024**

Treasurer's Office: 388-8100 ext. 203, 204 or 208 accountclerk@townofmiddlebury.org
Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Please allow extra time if you are mailing your payment, postmarks are not accepted as timely payment.

For your convenience there is a secure payment box located between the Town Office and the Library.

Full Passport Service

Addison County Courthouse

The Addison County Clerk located in Frank Mahady Courthouse is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 9am to 1pm
Wednesday - 8:45am to 4:00pm
Friday - Closed

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED.
For appointment, go to www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com or call 802-388-1966



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 2/22/24 & 2/26/24

			COST
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Blue Spruce	1785	1.20	\$2142.00
Nop Bros.	1670	1.20	\$2004.00
Parmalee Farm	1460	1.19	\$1737.40
D. Francis	1420	1.20	\$1704.00
Hollister Hill	1495	1.15	\$1719.25
Woodnotch	1460	1.14	\$1664.40
			COST
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Barnes B&W	91	8.40	\$764.40
M. Eastman	85	7.50	\$637.50
Correia	106	7.30	\$773.80
Forbes Farm	102	5.40 (H)	\$550.80
Nop Bros.	94	5.20 (H)	\$488.80
Monument Farm	90	5.20 (H)	\$468.00

Total Beef - 184 Total Calves - 194
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

TRUCK & TRAILER AUCTION THURSDAY MAR 21

NEW HAVEN ITEMS SELL NO RESERVE!

BID NOW!

NN9475 '21 Peterbilt 579 semi truck

NN9477 '14 Peterbilt 386 semi truck

NN9474 '12 Freightliner Cascadia semi truck

NN9483 '13 Great Dane refrigerated van trailer

INVENTORY INCLUDES: semi trucks, refrigerated van trailers, dump truck, end dump trailer, truck cab and chassis and more. All items are sold "AS IS." 10% buyers premium applies. 866.608.9283

purple wave AUCTION

purplewave.com

MIDDLEBURY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION PUBLIC NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Middlebury Cemetery Association will be held at the offices of Langrock, Sperry & Wool, 111 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 5pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Looking for employees who worked at Bread Loaf Construction located in Middlebury, VT from 1970-1984.

Please call (618) 973-2090 www.mrhfmflaw.com

Public Notices

can be found in this ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 13B, 14B and 15B.

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Natalie Adams of North Ferrisburgh has been named to Bryant University's dean's list for fall 2023 in recognition of academic excellence.

Three local students, Noah Engvall of Bristol, Eli H. Burgess of Lincoln and Emily Rooney of Vergennes, have been named to the fall 2023 dean's list at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester. Three local students were included on the list: Silas Conlon of Cornwall, Camila Blanco of Salisbury and Abby Johnson of Starksboro.

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF ADDISON

The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, March 18, 2024 at the Addison Central School at 6:30 PM.

- 1. To approve the meeting minutes for February 19, 2024. To approve the work meeting minutes for February 19, 2024.
2. To transact any business found necessary before the board.
3. To allow time for public comment interaction at the end of the meeting.
4. Continue to work on updating & reviewing the Zoning Regulations & public hearing. The public hearing date is set for Monday, April 15, 2024 at 6:30PM at Addison Central School.
5. Continue with the Municipal Grant for updating the Town Plan with a work meeting with Katie Raycroft-Meyer, community planner from A.C.R.P.C. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Plans are for Katie Raycroft-Meyer from A.C.R.P.C. to attend our meeting for an update on the Town Plan each month.
6. We have a rough draft to work from to review the Zoning Regulations/& revisions and it is going to the printer. We have planned a work meeting for Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:30PM at the A.C.S.
7. Dan Mannach from A.C.R.P.C will visit our meeting with an update on the PEL Study at 7:00 PM.
8. Adjournment - stating time.

Deliberative Session if needed ---after the meeting.

We are planning to have a work meeting after the regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024 at Addison Central School at 6:30PM.

Jeff Kauffman Jr., Chair Starr Phillips, Secretary Addison Planning Commission

TOWN OF SALISBURY 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, March 20, 2024, to consider the following:

Application 2024-01

This proceeding involves review of an application for a Conditional Use/Site Plan Review submitted by property owner, Joann Langrock, applicant Joann Langrock, et al, (Parcel ID #0309027), in connection with a proposed permit to construct a 3-bedroom residential structure located at the above referenced location. This property is located within the Low Density Residential (LDR) District. This application requires DRB approval under §2.4.3 D of the Salisbury Uniform Development Regulations.

This application is pursuant to §2.4.3 D, §3.4.1-§3.4.8, and §3.8, and §4.3.1, 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 March 19, 2024. 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

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF ADDISON

The Addison Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Addison Central School. The hearing starts at 7:00PM.

To consider the following:

Proposed Changes/Revisions to the Addison Zoning & Subdivision Regulations since November 27, 2007 & 013 copies of Regulations combined together: Newest sections added are highlighted for recognition.

- Corrected grammar and/or spelling errors throughout the document as needed.
Added a table of contents with page numbers to support use and navigation of document.
The word "high" added to replace "low" watermark (see section 2.2 A 3, page 3).
Types of family dwelling combined under heading "Dwelling" in all districts (excluding Conservation District (CON) and Flood Hazard Area Overlay (FHO)).
Two family dwelling moved from permitted uses to conditional use in all districts (excluding CON and FHO).
Accessory Structure/Use: added "pre-existing permitted use" (see Table 2.1 B, page 6).
Accessory Structure/Use: added "pre-existing conditional-use" (see Table 2.1 C, page 6).
Accessory Dwelling Unit: added as a permitted use in all districts (excluding CON and FHO).
Accessory Apartment removed from conditional use in all districts (excluding CON and FHO).
Decreased minimum front setback (from 50 to 25 feet), and side/rear setbacks (from 20 to 10 feet) in the Village Neighborhood Commercial District (VC) (see Table 2.1, page 8).
Retail Store added to the permitted use in Low Density Residential/Agricultural District (LDRA) (see Table 2.2, page 9).
Decreased minimum frontage in LDR/A (from 400 to 300 feet), (see Table 2.2, page 10).
Decreased minimum front setback for single/two family dwelling from a private road in LDR/A (from 75 to 25 feet) (see Table 2.2, page 10).
Decreased minimum front setback for "other" in LDR/A (from 75 to 25 feet) (see Table 2.2, page 10).
Decreased side/rear setback for "other" in LDR/A (from 75 to 25 feet) (see Table 2.2, page 10).
Single family dwelling and seasonal/camp dwelling moved from conditional use to permitted use in the Shoreland Residential District (SR) and Shoreland Recreation District (SREC).
Decreased minimum lot area in (SR) from 2.5 to 1.5 acres) (see Table 2.3, page 12).
Decreased minimum road frontage for Lake Street and "other" in SR from (400 to 200 feet) (see Table 2.3, page 12).
Decreased minimum side and rear setbacks in SR (from 20 to 10 feet) for single/two family dwelling; and from 40 to 10 feet for "other" (see Table 2.3, page 12).
Changed REC to SREC (see Table 2.4, pages 14 - 15).
Decreased minimum road frontage for State Highways in SREC (from 300 to 200 feet), (see Table 2.4, page 15).
Decreased minimum side and rear setbacks in SREC (from 20 to 10 feet) (see Table 2.4, page 15).
Reference to "septic" removed in both SR (Table 2.3) and SREC (Table 2.4). EPA approves/disapproves septic.
"ACT" references have been updated throughout the revised section (see Section 3.4, page 21).

- Removed previous item 1 (reference to location of subsurface disposal system) (see Section 3.10, page 28).
Sentence pertaining to septic location removed (see Section 3.12 A1, page 31).
Updated accessory dwelling unit site restrictions (see Section 4.1, page 33).
Removed previous item 4 (reference to accessory apartment, type of occupant) (see Section 4.1, page 33).
Reference to Section 4.14 corrected to be 4.12 (see Section 4.4 A1, page 35).
Square footage of campsite reduced from 3,000 sq. ft. to 2,000 sq. ft. (see Section 4.5, page 35).
Added personal landing areas to specific use regulations (see Section 4.16, page 56).
Added Cannabis to specific use regulations (see Section 4.17, page 57).
Added Solar Energy Systems to specific use regulations (see Section 4.18, page 58).
Second from last paragraph removed from B 9 (see Section 5.6 B 9 "Water Supply & Sewage Disposal", page 67).
Titles of Subsections A and C changed by Town Attorney for clarity (see Section 6.5, page 78).
Section D added (see Section 6.5, page 79).
Definition of "Interested Person" added (see Section 6.5, page 79).
Revised Section 6.7 "Waivers" (see page 80).
Definition of "Should" added (see Section 7.1, page 83).
Added and/or updated definitions for the following in Article 7: Definitions (see page 83):
o Abutting Property - see page 83 (updated)
o Accessory Dwelling Unit - page 84 (updated)
o Accessory Structure - page 84 (updated)
o Building Height - page 87 (updated)
o Degree of Compliance - page 89 (updated)
o Detached Structure - page 89 (new)
o Development Review Board - page 89 (new)
o Fence- page 90 (new)
o Flood Hazard Boundary Map - changed acronym from FHBM - page 91 (updated)
o Habitable Floor Area - page 92 (new)
o Inn - page 93 (updated)
o Personal Landing Area - page 96 (new)
o Planning Commission - page 97 (new)
o Private Road - page 97 (new)
o Restricted Landing Area - page 99 (new)
o Resubdivision - page 99 (new)
o Road - page 100 (updated)
o Selectboard - page 100 (new)
o Solar Collector - page 101 (new)
o Solar Energy System - page 101 (new)
o Structural Element - page 102 (new)
o Subdivision - page 102 (new)
Removed the "Junk Yard" definition.
Changed "Accessory Apartment" to "Accessory Dwelling Unit".

Jeffrey Kauffman Jr Chair Starr Phillips, Secretary Addison Planning Commission

TOWN OF LINCOLN WARNING

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Lincoln and the Lincoln School District are hereby warned and notified to meet at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and transact business, and on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at Burnham Hall, the polls to open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for voting by Australian ballot.

Agenda for Meeting at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Article 1 To elect all town officers as required by law, by Australian ballot, voting to be held at Burnham Hall, polls to be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Offices for Election on Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Table with 3 columns: Office, Term Length, Vote for. Includes Selectboard (3 years, 1 vote), Town Clerk (1 year, 1 vote), Town Treasurer (1 year, 1 vote), First Constable (1 year, 1 vote), Second Constable (1 year, 1 vote), Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1 year, 1 vote), Town Meeting Moderator (1 year, 1 vote), Lister (3 years, 1 vote), Lincoln Library Trustee (3 years, 1 vote).

Article 2 To act upon the reports of the Town Officers and the Lincoln School District Officers.

Article 3 Shall the Town authorize the payment of real property taxes to the Town Treasurer, in two equal installments, with the due dates being the second Wednesday of October [October 9, 2024] and the second Wednesday of March [March 12, 2025], per 32 V.S.A. 4871?

Article 4 Shall the Town collect interest on overdue taxes from the due date of each installment in the amount of .5% (1/2 of 1%) per month or fraction thereof, in accordance with 32 V.S.A 4873?

Article 5 Shall the voters authorize a total Highway Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$1,087,680 of which \$855,663 shall be raised by taxes and \$163,200 by non-tax revenues and \$68,817 is surplus revenue?

Article 6 Shall the voters authorize a total General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$484,797 of which \$241,448 shall be raised by taxes, \$168,220 by non-tax revenues and \$75,129 by surplus revenue?

Article 7 Shall the town of Lincoln vote to establish a position of Full-time Town Administrator and to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$130,000, (which may be offset by the application of grant funds that may be available) to support the position?

Article 8 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote on all public questions involving law enforcement, including funding thereof, by Australian Ballot beginning with the 2025 Annual Town Meeting, or special town meeting? (17 V.S.A § 2680(d)(1))

RECESS TOWN MEETING & OPEN LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING ADJOURN LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING & RE-OPEN TOWN MEETING

Article 9 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to authorize a sum of \$10,000 for contracted law enforcement services?

Article 10 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to authorize a sum of \$175,000 for further restoration and improvement of existing Class 2 asphalt surface town highways, to be deposited in the paving reserve fund?

Article 11 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,500 to help support the Lincoln Cooperative Preschool?

Article 12 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$44,000 in support of the Lincoln Library?

Article 13 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to help support Lincoln Sports, Inc.?

Article 14 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$56,000 to the Lincoln Volunteer Fire Company?

Article 15 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$7,938 to Bristol Rescue?

Article 16 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to the Lincoln Cemetery Association?

Article 17 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to help support the Lincoln Community School Mentor Program?

Article 18 Shall the town of Lincoln vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of \$800 for the support the Have-A-Heart Food Shelf to provide services to residents of the town?

Article 19 Shall the Town of Lincoln vote to approve the following agency requests?

Table with 3 columns: Amt \$, Agency Name, Total. Lists various agencies and their requested amounts, totaling \$19,860.00.

Article 20 To transact any other legal and proper business when met. Dated this 26th day of January, 2024. /S/ Town of Lincoln Selectboard

TOWN of MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT WARNING Annual Town Meeting March 4 and March 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Middlebury, in the County of Addison, the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Middlebury Union High School Auditorium at 73 Charles Avenue in Middlebury on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. to act on Articles 1 through 5, and to discuss Articles 6 through 8, and on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 from 7:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M. at the Recreation Center, 154 Creek Road in Middlebury, to vote by Australian ballot on Articles 6 through 8 as provided by the Middlebury Town Charter.

With respect to Articles 6 and 7, the legal voters of the Town of Middlebury are further notified that an informational meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at the Middlebury Union High School Auditorium for the purpose of reviewing the proposals for issuing bonds for: 1) Phase V of the South Street Infrastructure Project; and 2) the reconstruction of Bakery Lane. Information on the bond proposals will be presented under Article 5 of the Annual Town Meeting Warning.

Article 1 To act upon the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 2 Shall the voters of the Town of Middlebury vote to adopt the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025) in the amount of \$13,609,827 with a portion thereof in the amount of \$8,753,310 to be raised by taxes and \$1,040,700 to be allocated from annual local option tax receipts in excess of debt and maintenance requirements of the Cross Street Bridge to offset spending for Capital Improvements?

Article 3 Shall the voters of the Town of Middlebury vote, pursuant to 24 VSA § 2408(a), to authorize the Selectboard to apply up to \$133,450 from the Cross Street Bridge Reserve Fund to offset PD Adaptive Reuse Building debt service expense?

Article 4 Shall the voters of the Town of Middlebury vote to collect taxes on real property for fiscal year 2024/2025 in TWO equal installments due in the Treasurer's Office on the 15th day of November 2024 and the 14th day of March 2025?

Article 5 To transact other business proper to be done.

[For voting by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, polls open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.]

Article 6 Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Middlebury in an amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000), subject to reduction from available alternate sources of funding, be issued for the purpose of constructing Phase V of the South Street Project, including the installation of new sewer mains, sewer service lines, sewer manholes, stormwater mains, stormwater catch basin structures, yard drains, new concrete curb, stormwater treatment systems (as possible), traffic calming bump-outs and final paving of the South Street roadway surfaces, the estimated cost of such improvements being One Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$1,500,000)?

Article 7 Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Middlebury in an amount not to exceed One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000), subject to reduction from available alternate sources of funding, be issued for the purpose of the complete reconstruction of Bakery Lane, including reconstruction of the roadway to accommodate vehicular and pedestrian traffic while also addressing ongoing drainage issues, and the replacement of the existing water main, gravity sewer system, and pressure force main from the Town's wastewater pump station, the estimated cost of such improvements being One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000)?

Article 8 To elect officers as required by the Middlebury Town Charter.

The legal voters of the Town of Middlebury are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting shall be as provided in Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Middlebury, Vermont this 23rd day of January 2024.

Brian R. Carpenter, Chair Andy Hooper, Vice Chair Heather Seeley Lindsey Fuentes-George Farhad Khan Dan Brown Isabel Gogarty

MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 13B, 14B and 15B.

ANNUAL MEETING of the FATHER DALEY ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:45pm +/- in the K of C Council room at St Mary Church hall to conduct the following business.

- 1) election of Trustees/officers
- 2) Address investment strategy re: Catholic Values
- 3) Donations 2024-2025
- 4) Address other proper business.

WARNING ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT MARCH 4, 2024, 6:00 P.M. BURNHAM HALL, 52 EAST RIVER RD., LINCOLN, VT

The legal voters of the Lincoln School District, Lincoln, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at Burnham Hall on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. to discuss and transact the following business. *Article 11 requires a vote by Australian ballot* and will take place on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at Burnham Hall, 52 East River Road.

Article 1: To elect a clerk who shall assume the office immediately and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.

Article 2: To elect a Treasurer who shall assume office immediately and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.

Article 3: Shall the legal voters of the Lincoln School District accept the report of the School District Board of Directors?

Article 4: Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$50 for the Moderator?

Article 5: Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$500 for the School District Clerk?

Article 6: Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$500 for the School District Treasurer?

Article 7: Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$750 for the Board Chair?

Article 8: Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District approve a stipend of \$500 for each board member?

Article 9: Shall the voters of the Lincoln School District authorize the District Board of Directors to borrow money by the issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the fiscal year 2024-2025, per 16 V.S.A. §562(9)?

Article 10: Shall the legal voters of the Lincoln School District authorize the School Board of Directors to expend \$4,927,939.57, which is the amount the School Board of Directors has determined to be necessary for the 2024-2025 school year?

Article 11: To elect Lincoln School District Officers and Directors as follows, for the indicated term, *by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 2024:*

- 1 – School Meeting Moderator (1 year)
- 1 – School Director (3 years)
- 1 – School Director (2 years)
- 1 – School Director (1 year remaining of a 3-year term)

Article 12: To transact any other legal business coming before said meeting.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2024.
/S/ Lincoln Board of School Directors

WARNING TOWN OF RIPTON ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to meet at the Ripton Community House, 1283 VT Route 125, Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

Article 1: Will the Town vote the sum of \$770,667 to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, divided as follows:
General Fund \$281,067
Highway Fund \$489,600

Article 2: Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2024; payments due in the Town Office by 5:00 p.m., postmarks not accepted?

Article 3: Will the Town vote the sum of \$44,950 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025?

Article 4: Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025?

Article 5: Other business

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to vote the following Articles by Australian ballot at the Ripton Community House, Tuesday, March 5, 2023, 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Early and absentee voting by mail is available with ballots due in the Community House by 7:00 p.m. March 5th.

Article 6: Will the Town elect the following Officers?
Selector 3-year term
Selector 1-year term
Moderator 1-year term
Delinquent Tax Collector 1-year term
Constable 1-year term
Lister 3-year term
Cemetery Commissioner 5-year term

Article 7: Will the Town approve the following funding requests?
Addison County Home Health and Hospice \$750
Addison County Parent/Child Center \$600
Addison County Restorative Justice Services \$170
Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative \$400
Addison Housing Works \$500
Age Well \$750
Atria (formerly Women Safe) \$1,250
Charter House Coalition \$1,600
Counseling Service of Addison County \$1,400
Elderly Services \$600
Green Up Vermont \$50
Homeward Bound \$750
HOPE - Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects \$3,000
John Graham Housing & Services \$1,600
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont \$300
Open Door Clinic \$1,500
Otter Creek Child Care Center \$1,000
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District \$50
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) \$475
The Teen Center \$1,900
Tri-Valley Transit \$1,901
Turning Point Center of Addison County \$1,000
Vermont Adult Learning \$300

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting shall be as provided in Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Lauren Cox, Chair Timothy Hanson Giles Hoyler
Ripton Selectboard
January 22, 2024

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT 2024 Municipal Paving Contract ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

"Sealed Bids for the construction of the 2024 Municipal Paving Contract will be received by the Town of Middlebury, Vermont, at the office of the Town of Middlebury, 77 Main Street, Middlebury VT 05753, until 11:00 a.m. local time on March 13, 2024, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project consists of shim and overlay sections of the following roads: Munson Road, Valley View Road, East Road, Forbes Circle, Springside Road, Forest Lane, Peterson Terrace, Gambrel Court, Methodist Lane, and High Street. Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis, as indicated in the Bid Schedule.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: **Otter Creek Engineering, Inc.** Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office, 404 East Main St., Middlebury, VT 05753, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office, during the hours indicated above, upon payment of \$50.00 for each set. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to "Otter Creek Engineering, Inc." mailing address: P.O. Box 712, East Middlebury, VT 05740. Upon request and receipt of the document payment indicated above, the Issuing Office will transmit the Bidding Documents. The date that the Bidding Documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office. **Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for issuing Addenda, if any, to parties obtaining Bidding Documents from sources other than the Issuing Office.**

Electronic copies of Bidding Drawings and Documents will be provided to all parties recorded as having officially received the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office, as portable document format (PDF) files, on a flash drive.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. local time on March 1, 2024 at the Town of Middlebury Department of Public Works, 1020 Route 7 South, Middlebury VT 05753. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.
Owner: **Town of Middlebury, Vermont**
By: **Ms. Kathleen Ramsay**
Title: **Town Manager**
Date: **2/23/2024**

ADVERTISE Email us at:
ads@addisonindependent.com

TOWN OF STARKSBORO DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Starksboro Development Review Board (DRB) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 14, 2024 beginning at 7:00P.M. to review the following application:

1. Application #24-500 is a request by Jennifer Austgen for an amendment to a previously approved subdivision (DRB #2020-DRB-01-SDA) on original home farm parcel F4171E (Book 99, pg 174) resulting in parcel F4171W. As proposed, this amendment would allow a change in location of the building envelope on "Lot 4" (parcel 4171W.3) of the subdivided property. This amendment requires site plan review and approval by the Town. The hearing review will be conducted pursuant to Sec. 424 of the Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations. "Lot 4" is a 1.9 acre parcel with frontage on Meadow Brook Dr. in the Agricultural, Scenic, and Rural Residential (ASRP) district. Application #24-500 is available for review at the Town Office. Contact the ZA for a copy of the application.

Zoom Meeting ID: 878 8416 6793
+1 929 436 2866 US
Meeting ID: 878 8416 6793
Passcode: 44885153

Interested persons may attend or send a representative. Pursuant to 24 VSA § 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Nancy Boss
Zoning Administrator
Date: February 26, 2024

STATE OF VERMONT

**VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
ADDISON UNIT** **CIVIL DIVISION
CASE NO. 23-CV-03461**

Vijay Paul and Shalini Paul v. Louise Martinek, Jonathan Weiman, and all other Occupants of 548 Monkton-Vergennes Road, Monkton, Vermont

SUMMONS AND ORDER FOR PUBLICATION

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO Louise J. Martinek and Jonathan Wieman

YOU ARE BEING SUED. The plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. A copy of the Plaintiffs Complaint against you is on file and may be obtained at the of the Clerk of the Court, Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753.

PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM. Plaintiffs claim is for eviction from your residence at the address of 548 Monkton-Vergennes Road, Monkton, Vermont.

YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 42 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. You must give or mail the Plaintiff a written response, called and Answer, within 42 days after the date on which this Summons was first published. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiffs attorney located at:

Harold B. Stevens, Esq.
Stevens Law Office
PO Box 1200
127 Mountain Road
Stowe, VT 05672-1200
hstevens@stowesq.com

You must also give or mail your Answer to the Court located at:
Vermont Superior Court
Addison Unit
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT 05753

YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM. The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiffs Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT GIVE YOUR WRITTEN ANSWER TO THE COURT. If you do not send the Plaintiff and the Court your Answer within 42 days, you will probably lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint.

YOU MUST MAKE ANY CLAIMS AGAINST THE PLAINTIFF IN YOUR REPLY. Your Answer must state any related legal claims you have against the Plaintiff. Your claims against the Plaintiff are called Counterclaims. If you do not make your Counterclaims in writing in your Answer, you may not be able to bring them up at all. Even if you have insurance and the insurance company will defend you, you must still file any Counterclaims you may have.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE. You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you should ask the Court Clerk for information about places where you can get free legal help. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still give the Court a written Answer to protect your rights, or you may lose the case.

ORDER


The verified Complaint or Affidavit filed in this action shows that service cannot be made with due diligence by any of the methods provided in Rule 4(d)-(f), (k), or (l) of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that service of the Summons set forth above shall be made upon the defendant, Louise J. Martinek and Jonathan Wieman, by publication as proved in Rule 4(d)(1) and Rule 4(g).

This Order shall be published once a week and at least seven days apart for two successive weeks commencing no later than the date of this order, in the Addison Independent, a newspaper of general circulation in Addison County, and a copy of this Summons and Order as published shall be mailed to the Defendant, Louise J Martinek and Jonathan Wieman, if an address is known.

Electronically signed: February 9, 2024
/S/ David R. Fenster
David R. Fenster, Superior Court Judge

7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-7741
www.vermontjudiciary.org

**Email your
Public Notices**
to legals@
addisonindependent.com
and Jenna makes sure
it gets in the paper.



Child Find Notice

Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, and Whiting

Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union is required by law to locate, identify, and evaluate every student birth through age 21 that may be in need of special education. If you have a child or know of a child that you think has a developmental delay or may require special education who resides in one of the towns listed above, please call (802) 247-5757 x2720.

In addition, RNESU is collecting information for preschool screenings. If you have a child who will be three or four by September 1, 2024, please scan the QR code or fill out and return this form to the address below as soon as possible. You can also call (802) 247-5757 x2733. Thank you.

CHILD'S NAME _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ PHONE _____

TOWN OF RESIDENCE _____


PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

911 ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Mail to: Rutland Northeast Early Childhood Program
RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION
49 Court Drive
Brandon, VT 05733



SCAN ME



MIDDLEBURY WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT Bob Wells, second from right, was among four Vermonters to be awarded A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year Award by the EPA. Photo courtesy of Kathrine Boyk

Wells receives Plant Operator of the Year Award

MIDDLEBURY — Robert Wells, the wastewater superintendent for the Middlebury Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facility, was recently awarded the 2023 EPA Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year

Award. Bob received this honor for his “outstanding work over the years operating and maintaining the facility.” Bob was also instrumental in responding to last summer’s flooding. His commitment to Middlebury’s wastewater facility and the

community is exemplary.

The award is given by the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) New England Office. Only seven individuals in New England received the award, and it is notable that four of them are from

Vermont. In addition to Bob, the other Vermont recipients are Ken LaCasse (Hardwick wastewater treatment facility), Joe Gaudiana (Ludlow wastewater treatment facility), and Dan Copp (Johnson wastewater treatment facility).

Police respond to domestic dispute call on Court St.

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police on Feb. 19 responded to a report of a domestic dispute at a Case Street residence. Police said they found one of the involved parties to be “highly intoxicated” and preparing to drive to a neighboring town to pick up their juvenile child. Police said they prevented the intoxicated person from driving and have referred the incident to the Vermont Department for Children & Families.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Assisted a Cedar Court resident who on Feb. 20 complained of ongoing harassment by a neighbor.
- Investigated a report of loud music and drinking behind the Ilsley Library at around 3 p.m. on Feb. 20. Police warned several men about the local ordinance against public drinking, and they seized and disposed of an open bottle of vodka the men had been consuming.
- Investigated a report of a vehicle stolen from a Seminary Street location on Feb. 20. Police

Middlebury Police Log

found the vehicle in Brandon, where it had been driven by a juvenile family member, according to police.

- Spoke with a woman about a potential assault case on Feb. 21.
- Responded to a report of a barking dog in the North Pleasant Street area on Feb. 21.
- Took a drunken man to Porter Hospital after he had fallen near the bus stop on Academy Street on Feb. 21.
- Enforced Middlebury’s overnight winter parking ban downtown on Feb. 21, 22, 23 and 26.
- Gave a ride home to a drunken man who was found in the North Pleasant Street area on Feb. 22.
- Served a court order on a local resident on Feb. 22.
- Investigated a two-vehicle hit-

and-run collision in the Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects parking lot off on Boardman Street on Feb. 22. Police said a white van reversed into an unoccupied car, causing minor damage. The van driver sped away from the scene without providing any information. Police are trying to identify the van and its driver.

- Received a report on Feb. 22 about a woman allegedly passing a fake \$100 bill at the McDonald’s Restaurant on Court Street Extension. Police said the case remains under investigation.
- Cited Tucker Moulton, 22, of Middlebury for driving under the influence, following a traffic stop on Seymour Street on Feb. 22.
- Investigated a noise complaint in the Fields Road and Middle Road areas on Feb. 23.
- Assisted a local family with a custody issue on Feb. 23.
- Responded to a report on Feb. 23 of a local elderly person allegedly being targeted by a scammer.
- Investigated a shoplifting

complaint at the Jolley store on Court Street on Feb. 23.

- Conducted foot patrols in the Merchants Row area on Feb. 23.
- Responded to a reported overdose case at a Court Street business on Feb. 23.
- Helped a suspected fraud victim on Feb. 23.
- Gave a courtesy ride to an elderly patient who had been discharged from Porter Hospital on Feb. 23.
- Provided resources to the family of a local teen who had allegedly attempted to run away from home on Feb. 24.
- Helped a local person who was experiencing a mental health crisis on Feb. 24.
- Restored the peace at a domestic dispute at Porter Hospital on Feb. 24.
- Tried to resolve a custody dispute involving a local juvenile on Feb. 25.
- Gave a courtesy ride to a patient who had been discharged from Porter Hospital on Feb. 25.
- Responded to an untimely

death report at a Newton Drive residence on Feb. 25. Police found Gail Swenor, 80, deceased, and believe she died of natural causes.

- Were informed that a purse had been stolen from a vehicle parked in the Court Square area on Feb. 25.
- Received a report on Feb. 25 that a coat has been stolen from a locker room at the Vermont Sun fitness club.
- Received a report about a bag of white powder that had been found on the Ilsley Library steps on Feb. 25. Police said the bag contained sand.
- Arrested 40-year-old Connor S. McCarthy on an existing arrest warrant, on South Main Street on Feb. 25.
- Took to Porter Hospital for a mental health consultation a local person who had allegedly been considering self-harm on Feb. 25.
- Responded to a report of a woman attempting to steal something from a vehicle parked in the Shaw’s Supermarket lot on Feb. 25.

Bristol Police Log

BRISTOL — Bristol police on Feb. 8 arrested Brian Dodds, 37, of Bristol on an outstanding warrant and violation of conditions of release. Dodds was lodged at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility.

Between Jan. 21 and Feb. 17 Bristol police completed 93 foot patrols, conducted 27 traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 24 times, at Bristol Elementary School 22 times and at local businesses 27 times.

Police also processed 27 fingerprint requests, conducted three welfare checks, verified three vehicle identification numbers, completed five sex offender registry checks and responded to one false alarm activated by a malfunction.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Jan. 22 served a notice against trespass to someone on Main Street.
- On Jan. 22 received a report of a loose dog on Church Street; it later returned to its home.
- On Jan. 22 responded to a hit and run accident in which a vehicle backed into a building on West Street. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Jan. 25 received a delayed report of a two-car crash on Maple Street.
- On Jan. 26 responded to a family dispute on Lawson Lane. Police determined that no action rose to the level of an offense.
- On Jan. 26 received a report of the sound of gunshots on Route 116 South in the early morning. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Jan. 26 arrested Ryan Prim, 25, of Bristol for suspicion of driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license and excessive speed on Hewitt Road.
- On Jan. 27 received a report of a stolen cell phone from Prince Lane. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Jan. 31 responded to a report of a juvenile who had not returned home after school. The youth returned home prior to when police arrived.

On Feb. 2 received a report of juveniles in possession of tobacco on Airport Drive. An investigation is ongoing.

On Feb. 2 received a delayed report of a two-car crash on South Street.

On Feb. 3 received a report of a missing person. Bristol police’s preliminary investigation revealed the person might currently live in the Burlington area. The individual was later found.

On Feb. 5 responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle on West Street. The vehicle was gone when police arrived.

On Feb. 6 helped someone report an incident that occurred in another town to the appropriate agency.

On Feb. 7 read a book to students at Beeman Elementary.

On Feb. 7 investigated a motor vehicle complaint on Mountain Street.

On Feb. 7 received a report of child neglect and completed a report for the Vermont Department for Children and Families.

On Feb. 8 heard from a property owner on Route 116 South who reported towing an abandoned vehicle from their property.

On Feb. 9 responded to a one-car crash involving a deer on Stone Hill Road.

On Feb. 11 assisted a disabled motorist on Route 7.

On Feb. 12 helped someone locate missing items on Mountain Street.

On Feb. 12 received a report of a car operating erratically on Route 116 South. Police located the vehicle and determined the driver was tired and stopping to rest.

On Feb. 13 issued a ticket to a minor in possession of tobacco on Airport Drive.

On Feb. 14 received a report of a lost debit card in the Prince Lane area.

Drivers do a switcharoo during high speed chase

ADDISON COUNTY — A Middlebury woman and a Middlebury man in a stolen car on Monday night led Vermont State Police on a wild chase in which they swapped positions as driver and passenger while the car was in motion.

Troopers at the New Haven barracks got a report on Feb. 16 at around 10:41 p.m. that police were pursuing a car in Hinesburg and headed toward Starksboro. The car was reported to be one stolen from a Middlebury woman a day earlier.

Troopers located the vehicle and were unsuccessful in their attempt to stop it. State police said the vehicle continued and the operator and passenger swapped seats while the vehicle was actively moving, nearly causing a head-on collision with an oncoming vehicle.

The vehicle fled but troopers found it again a short time later on River Road in New Haven, where the man and the woman were taken into custody. Police identified the two assailants as Samantha Jarvis and Matthew Cooke, both 32 years old.

Since they were both suspected of driving the car during the chase both were cited for eluding police, grossly negligent driving, reckless endangerment, possession of stolen property, speeding and driving without the owner’s consent.

In addition, Cooke was cited for two counts of violating his conditions of release, driving under the influence (second offense) and driving with a criminally suspended license. He was jailed at Marble Valley Correctional Facility with bail set at \$1,000.

Jarvis faced the additional

Vt. State Police Log

citation of violating conditions of release four times. She was jailed at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility with bail set at \$1,500.

In other recent activity, troopers:

- On Feb. 14 at approximately 8:33 a.m. responded to a two-car crash on Monkton Road near Owl Mountain Road in Monkton. The road was reported to be snowy and icy, the weather cloudy.

Police said that Gage Schrier, 22, of San Francisco, Calif., was driving a 2021 Subaru Crosstrek northbound on Monkton Road while Ania Mortier, 46, of Lincoln was southbound behind the wheel of a 2022 Toyota 4Runner. Schrier apparently lost control of his Subaru and the vehicle began to spin, subsequently entering the southbound lane and colliding with Mortier’s Toyota head-on.

Schrier and Mortier, who were both wearing seatbelts, sustained minor injuries. Both vehicles were totaled.

Monkton Road in the area of Owl Mountain Road was temporarily reduced to one lane of travel. Schrier was taken to Porter Hospital; Mortier was taken to UVM Medical Center.

State police were assisted by the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department, Vergennes Area Rescue Squad and Bristol Rescue Squad.

- On Feb. 15 at a little after 4:30 p.m. responded to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Route 17 and Green Street in New Haven. Police allege that Joan Humiston, 85, of



Suet acrobatics

A FEMALE YELLOW-BELLIED Sapsucker, a kind of woodpecker, hangs from a local suet feeder in Weybridge. Sapsuckers more often drill holes in trees to sip on sap, but occasionally visit suet feeders as well.

Photo by Susan Humphrey

Ferrisburgh failed to stop and yield at the intersection and as a result the front end of her 2015 Toyota Corolla struck the driver’s side of a 2012 Dodge Ram driven by William Masterson, 77, of Lincoln. No injuries were reported, but both vehicles were totaled. Troopers were assisted by Vergennes police and rescue.

- On Feb. 20 at around 11:20 p.m. saw a motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Town Hill Road in New Haven and stopped the car. The trooper identified a passenger as 46-year-old Stephanie

Barbagallo of Proctor, and the officer found that she had an active instate warrant for her for failure to appear stemming from the charge of simple assault. So they arrested Barbagallo without incident and took her to the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility, where she was held for lack of \$200 bail.

- On Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. went to the scene of a two-car crash at the intersection of Route 7 and Greenbush Road in Ferrisburgh.

Police report that Anthony Perreault, 34 of Colchester was

driving a 2012 Hyundai Genesis northbound on Route 7 behind a 2017 Nissan Leaf driven by Michael Cianciola, 28, of Colchester. As Cianciola was attempting to make a left hand turn onto Greenbush Road, Perreault apparently attempted to pass on the right, and rear-ended Cianciola’s car, which then went off the eastbound shoulder of Route 7. No one was hurt; both cars were totaled.

State police were assisted by the Ferrisburgh Fire Department. A traffic ticket is pending.

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

February 29, 2024



MUHS junior Mirabelle Markowski, costume designer for the Addison Repertory Theatre's upcoming production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest," sewed a lot of American Girl Doll clothing as a kid. Now she creates costumes for school productions.

PHOTO / OLIVER PARINI

ART student creates costumes for 'The Tempest'

She's 17. She lives in Bridport. She likes sewing.

Meet Mirabelle Markowski.

Hang on, to say Markowski "likes sewing" is an understatement. She not only likes it; she crushes it. Markowski,

**BY ELSIE
LYNN PARINI**

a junior at Middlebury Union High School and in her first year

in the Addison Repertory Theatre (ART) at the Hannaford Career Center, has designed and fabricated almost all the costume pieces used in ART's upcoming production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest."

The show will take the stage at the ART's Black Box Theater on Charles Avenue in Middlebury next Thursday through Saturday, March 7, 8 and 9. It features 15 students and ART Director Eric Reid-St. John.

"I'm playing Prospero," Reid-St. John said, who moved to Vergennes in 2018 to take the job as director of the ART program. "This is the first time I've been on stage with students... We have a wonderful cast of students in this production. I'm lucky every year, but especially this year. It's been a lot of fun!"

There are five tech crew students, nine student actors and one student stage manager.

"Notable on this production is the work by Mirabelle Markowski," Reid-St. John pointed out. "She is a wonderfully creative person. She's able to take that creativity and produce tangible things — it's an incredible thing to watch."

"I've been sewing since I can remember," Markowski said in an interview last week. "My mom had a sewing studio as a hobby... we used to make a lot of American Girl Doll clothes together. I would make the first little bit and then she would finish it for me."

Markowski credit's her mom Jennifer Roberts (former owner of Daily Chocolates in Vergennes)

SEE TEMPEST ON PAGE 2



Mirabelle Markowski is hard at work creating the costumes for ART's production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest".

PHOTOS / OLIVER PARINI

TEMPEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for helping her learn different sewing techniques and how to get through "finicky parts that can be annoying."

So when Markowski entered the ART program and took the role of costume designer, she was prepped to excel.

"Last year I did the costumes for 'Music Man' and 'Madagascar' and this year, I did 'Frozen' and 'Legally Blonde,'" Markowski said. "A lot of the work has been alterations and costume design... The work for 'The Tempest' is the first time I've done everything from start to finish — from drawing the look, to making the templates, to creating the clothes and finishing with alterations and accessories."

Markowski has leaned the look of the costumes for this production of "The Tempest" toward a "timeless old-fashioned look, with peasant shirts and short pants."

"She's got this system," Reid-St. John said. "She is really good at planning and can move at a very quick pace. To come in, visualize what needs to be done and complete it in a matter of hours is an incredible thing to do. She had an idea for the look of the show, and I said, 'Yeah, let's do it!'"

The ART class is a year long, but the crew started on this production project only in late December, Reid-St. John clarified: "She's really been at it for maybe only three weeks."

"I really enjoy being part of the theater

"THE WORK FOR 'THE TEMPEST' IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE DONE **EVERYTHING FROM START TO FINISH** — FROM DRAWING THE LOOK, TO MAKING THE TEMPLATES, TO CREATING THE CLOTHES AND FINISHING WITH ALTERATIONS AND ACCESSORIES."

— Mirabelle Markowski

community," Markowski said. "Sewing is just a fun hobby, and a really cool way to get clothes. You can make exactly what you want."

Like, for example, who likes to throw out their favorite pair of jeans? Answer: no one. Especially not Markowski. What does she do instead? Why mend them, of course.

"I patch the inseams and holes; I add new pockets... it makes them more sustainable and you can keep wearing them," Markowski said. Win-win!

Markowski has also made herself a formal dress, tailored pants and overalls.

"I love it when people say, 'Wow, I love what you're wearing.' And I can answer 'Thanks, I made it,'" Markowski said, adding, "You do get some injuries sewing... you wouldn't think of sewing as a dangerous hobby, but I'm constantly stabbing myself with pins."



But even that doesn't slow her down.

"When you're working as a costume designer and creator in theater, you just do it in the time you have; you can't always pass it on to someone else," Markowski said. "I need the deadline... Deadlines help me finish the projects."

"In the 20 years I've been teaching, I've only had a handful of students be able to actually produce the costumes," Reid-St. John said, confirming Markowski's skill. "It's kind of rare... there is incredible possibility in her future. Many students take on a leadership role in the second year of the ART program; and I'm looking forward to seeing what Mirabelle will do next year."

In addition to Markowski's costume design and creation, Reid-St. John complemented the student actors' ability to play multiple roles, and at times "change roles in front of the audience." He also noted that the tech crew has created a set that allows for "interesting blocking and movement," lighting that is "beautiful," and a sound design that allows for a unique immersive experience.

"It's a really pretty show," Reid-St. John summarized.

Mark your calendars to see this abbreviated 90-minute production of "The Tempest," March 7-9. Tickets are \$10, and are available online at addisonrep.ludus.com/index.php.



"TO COME IN, VISUALIZE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND COMPLETE IT IN A MATTER OF HOURS IS AN **INCREDIBLE THING TO DO.**"

— Eric Reid-St. John

New salon-style series sparks community conversation

Thanks to a grant from Vermont Humanities, Vermont Book Shop (VBS) and Town Hall Theater (THT) present a new, free, quarterly series designed to spark community conversation. "Up for Discussion" features local experts in their fields, many of whom are Middlebury College professors, sharing timely topics that span literature, art, film, and contemporary issues.

The first installment of this salon-style series

focuses on "Awe Now," with a talk led by History of Art Professor Katy Smith Abbot with Composer and Music Professor Matthew Evan Taylor. The conversation will be held at Town Hall Theater in downtown Middlebury, on Tuesday, March 5, from 5:30-7 p.m.

"Awe Now" asks the question: When was the last time you felt awe — the kind that brings you up short, stops you in your tracks, and leaves you slack-jawed with wonder? Is awe a universal feeling, or is it highly personal? Awe

is certainly having a "moment."

A 2023 book by psychologist Dacher Keltner got lots of people talking about awe, as have recent journal articles and podcasts.

In September of 2024, the exhibit "An Invitation to Awe" will open at the Middlebury College Museum of Art. It's being curated by Katy Smith Abbott, Associate Professor of Art History at the college, in collaboration with

SEE TALK ON PAGE 11

A new opportunity to chat with fellow neighbors is starting up on March 5. Up for Discussion is a new salon-style quarterly series hosted by Vermont Book Shop and Town Hall Theater. The first event with History of Art Professor Katy Smith Abbot and Composer and Music Professor Matthew Evan Taylor will be held on Tuesday, March 5 at the theater from 5:30-7 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTOS



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Created and performed
by Rachel Mars
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Friday, March 1 ■ 7:30 PM
\$25/20/10/5

Small Island Big Song
Friday, March 8 ■ 7:30 PM
\$25/20/10/5

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UPCOMING MUSIC

Americana music takes the stage for next Wintertide Concert with Reed Foehl

On Friday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m, Town Hall Theater's Wintertide Concert Series continues with Reed Foehl and His Band for an inspired show of Americana music, blending roots-rock, folk, and bluegrass. Nominated for a Grammy for his song "Fly" in 2020, Foehl tours nationally and continues to write boundary-pushing lyrics that often focus on personal stories and experiences of the human condition.

Foehl will be joined by an all-star band, featuring:

Putnam Murdock is an acclaimed songwriter, vocalist and bass guitarist who often collaborates with Foehl. Murdock's work has received multiple Grammy nominations and has been featured in many television and film projects, including *Joan of Arcadia*, *Dawsons Creek*, MTV's *Made*, *Just Friends*, and more.

Jeff Berlin is a lifelong drummer whose background is primarily in Americana and jazz music. Berlin is a well-known and highly sought after veteran of the Boston music scene for recording and performance. Now based in Vermont, Berlin has contributed to many recording projects and worked with artists such as Catie Curtis, Jeffrey Foucault, Bow Thayer, Jabe Beyer, Meg Hutchinson, and more.

Jefferson Hammer is a guitarist, singer, and



Reed Foehl and His Band will play the next Wintertide Concert for the Town Hall Theater's series on Friday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

songwriter from Brooklyn, N.Y. He has toured and recorded albums with Anais Mitchell (Child Ballads, winner of a BBC2 Folk Award), Sarah Jarosz (as guitarist and harmony singer on her Grammy-nominated Blue Heron Suite), and Session Americana.

Next Friday's performance is in Town Hall Theater's lounge with a choice of tables or regular seating. Tickets range from \$27-\$37 and can be purchased at townhalltheater.org, by calling 802-382-9222, or in person at THT's box office Monday-Friday between 12-5 p.m. Cash bar available.

MORE TUNES

SARAH KING OPENS AT HIGHER GROUND

Ripton's own Sarah King will be opening for Hannah Wicklund at Higher Ground in Burlington on March 3. King is returning to Vermont after being on tour, and is excited to share her new CDs.

Want to know more about Hannah Wicklund? She's been traveling fast and far, playing big cities and small towns around the world since starting her band at 8 years old. With her new album, Produced by Sam Kiszka, she is now arriving somewhere completely unexpected. Ethereal texturing, smokey falsetto vocals, string section surprises and guitar solos that carry equal parts pain and joy are woven tastefully into what Wicklund says is: "A record that just sounds like me."

Much like Wicklund's paintings she has become known for, each song is intricately entrancing and honored with two things seemingly lost in today's world...patience and time. With Sam Kiszka on bass/keys/organ and Danny Wagner on drums, both of Greta Van Fleet, the songs serve as a rock 'n' roll roadmap to a crossroads that Wicklund has been unknowingly gravitating towards for well over a decade. X marks the spot where the weary girl speeding towards the woman she will become meet in a fiery head-on collision.

Indeed, Wicklund's album "The Prize" is a beautiful representation of what raw feminine power and determination look, feel and sound like. Carved with pain during the most wounded and fragile point in our young heroine's life, this record is for anyone that has ever had to look inward to move onward.

"This album was so radically healing for me, and I hope it can inspire and perhaps play a role in someone else's story" Wicklund said. "I want us all to remember, it can be lonely and is never easy 'doing the work,' but we are each worthy of our own love, time, and dedication."

A perfect pairing for Ms Sarah King, don't you think? Check 'em out Sunday, March 3. Doors open at 7; show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20-\$25 at highergroundmusic.com.

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ART ON EXHIBIT

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center Street, Brandon

For more info visit brandonartistsguild.org or call 802-247-4956.

"In the Path of Shade" a celestial celebration that captures the awe-inspiring essence of a solar eclipse. On view March 1-April 28, with a reception on Friday, April 5, from 5-7 p.m.

DAVIS FAMILY LIBRARY

110 Storrs Avenue, Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/library or call 802-443-5494.

"The Lesbian House (1972-1973): Photographs by Bee Ottinger, class of 1970." Middlebury College Special Collections's new exhibition of photographs by alumna Bee Ottinger. On display in the atrium through April.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call (802) 458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more info.

"New Work" by Sara Katz. Abstract painter Sara Katz presents a series of new large works on panel this February at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls. Katz's work is informed by her agricultural background, interest in the natural world and Japanese heritage. She finds that painting abstractly most successfully conveys the feelings she has for a place or for a botanical form. She works with a palette drawn from the natural world, varied mark making, and simplified forms from the landscape and botanical world to create her dynamic and bold compositions. On view Feb. 10-March 30.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury

Visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

"A New Path: Paintings in oil and watercolor" features a solo show of work by retired veterinarian Dr. Tom Munschauer. His exhibit shows larger format paintings in oil and watercolor. His strong sense of graphic design and composition are evident in his approach to painting. His imagery includes flora and fauna, landscapes, and anything that might spark his interest. On view Jan. 12-March. 17.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Traces." An exhibition of photographs that show a hint of people and events come and gone by, as told by the traces left behind. Any capture method and all processes, including black and white,

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 8

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, think about collaborating on a fun project with someone close to you. Find out if anyone needs help on something they may be working on if you don't have a project in mind.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. An excitement concerning work goals or a business venture may compel you to take some action to get your ideas heard by higher-ups, Taurus. The audience will be receptive.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, trying to resolve issues in a relationship this week may leave you feeling unsettled. It might be that you are trying to avoid sensitive topics that you will have to address eventually.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, if you are feeling content with yourself and life in general lately, that is excellent. Embrace this positive state of mind and take the necessary steps to continue the good feelings.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, this week you may be feeling nostalgic or sentimental. Look over old photographs or watch family movies for a bit. If you want to take it further, reach out to childhood friends.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Find new activities that you can add to your daily routine, Virgo. This may be a sport, hobby or even a new club. Add a dose of creativity to each and every day for good effects.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Uncertainty regarding long-term plans may be driving emotions of shyness, Libra. If you are having trouble, plan excursions or events with friends you trust.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, encouragement comes from people you may not feel are on your team. Take all of the support you can get as you start plowing through some long-term goals.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. It's always the right time to tell others how much they mean to you, Sagittarius. It will not take grand gestures to do so, merely your loving words.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Your busy schedule this week has everything feeling more hectic even if it really isn't, Capricorn. Carve out some time to sit quietly or enjoy some alone time to refresh.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. This week you may be feeling especially charitable, Aquarius. Open your heart up to others who may need some extra support. This may be a stranger or someone you know.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Some news from a family member may catch you off-guard, Pisces. You'll soon recover when you learn that it is extremely happy news. You may even get good news of your own.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- MARCH 1 — Paul Hollywood, celebrity chef (58)
- MARCH 2 — Lou Reed, singer-songwriter (d)
- MARCH 3 — Chief Joseph, Nez Perce leader (d)

- MARCH 4 — Miriam Makeba, singer (d)
- MARCH 5 — Gerardus Mercator, cartographer (d)
- MARCH 6 — Wes Montgomery, musician (d)
- MARCH 7 — Bryan Cranston, actor (68)

CALENDAR

FEB. 29-MARCH 13
2024



THURSDAY, FEB. 29

AN EVENING FOR PORTER FUNDRAISER IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Feb. 29, 5-6:30 p.m., Edgewater at the Falls, 1 Mill St. Music by the Do No Harm-onies, a band of Porter Medical Center's own musicians, door prizes, refreshments and cash bar. Join the fun and help raise funds for Porter Auxiliary, an organization that has contributed over \$2.5 million to Porter Medical Center over the years. Tickets \$37, include 1 drink ticket and \$2 processing fee. Available at 802-382-9222, www.townhalltheater.org or tickets@townhalltheater.org.

"YOUR SEXTS ARE SH'T: OLDER BETTER LETTERS" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m., Wright Theater, Chateau Rd. Award-winning theater maker Rachel Mars performs a gloriously rude new solo show that unearths the hot-as-hell letters that make sexts blush. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5 available at go.middlebury.edu/tickets or 802-443-MIDD (6433). Repeats March 1.

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Middlebury Community Players' production of Christopher Durang's smash Broadway comedy "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" revolves around late-middle-age siblings Vanya and Sonia who share the family home in Bucks County, Pa., where they bicker and complain about the circumstances of their lives. Suddenly, their movie-star sister, Masha, swoops in with her new 20-something boy toy, Spike. A weekend of rivalry, resentment, and regret ensues. Tickets \$20/\$17 opening night, available at townhalltheater.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB WALK IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, March 1, TAM Trail, location based on trail conditions. Moderate outing of 4-6 miles on the TAM. Microspikes or snowshoes required. This will be an afternoon walk at a medium to fast pace, possible happy hour afterwards. Contact Ellen Cronan for more information at 908-595-2926.

"YOUR SEXTS ARE SH'T: OLDER BETTER LETTERS" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m., Wright Theater, Chateau Rd. See Feb. 29 listing.

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Feb. 29 listing.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

ATLANTIC CROSSING IN VERGENNES.

Saturday, March 2, 1-2:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Lace up your dancing shoes. As part of Making Music in Vermont, Bixby Library will come alive with the music of Atlantic Crossing. From foot-stomping jigs to soulful ballads, Atlantic Crossing will take you on a journey through Vermont with the power of history and song. The concert is the first in the Bixby's Making Music in Vermont Free Concert Series, accompanying the library's newest historical exhibit, "Making Music in Vermont."

VOCES8 IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, March 2, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Middlebury Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Come hear the 2023 Grammy-nominated British vocal ensemble inspire through their music, offering

versatility and a celebration of diverse musical expression. Their Vermont debut program, titled "20 Songs from 20 Years," features beloved music from across the centuries and pieces by contemporary composers. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5, available at go.middlebury.edu/tickets or 802-443-MIDD (6433).

LARRY & JOE IN LINCOLN. Saturday, March 2, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Larry and Joe play a mix of Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music they've dubbed "Venezualachia," aiming to create a personal and unique sound that blends their distinct backgrounds. Both men are versatile multi-instrumentalists and singer-songwriters on a mission to show that music has no borders. A Burnham Presents concert. Admission: general \$15 to generous \$20-\$25 available at www.burnhampresents.org or at the door. Homemade desserts and beverages available.

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, March 2, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Feb. 29 listing.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 3, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Feb. 29 listing.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

AWE: A TALK BY MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PROFESSORS KATY SMITH ABBOT AND MATTHEW EVAN TAYLOR IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, March 5, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The first installment a

new, free series created by Vermont Book Shop and Town Hall Theater. "Up for Discussion" is designed to spark community conversation and features local experts in their fields, sharing timely topics that span literature, art, film and contemporary issues. The 30-minute presentation will be followed by a roundtable discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas. Free, but registration required at townhalltheater.org.

AUTHOR RICK WINSTON IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, March 5, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Ilsley and Vermont Book Shop's First Tuesdays series continues as Rick Winston returns to share his latest book, "Save Me A Seat: A Life With The Movies!" Winston's genial and companionable memoir is the chronicle of a lifelong love affair with movies. VBS will be there with books for sale and signature.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

FILM SCREENING: "AN OCEAN SONGLINE" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, March 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center 125, 72 Porter Field Road. Filmed over three years on 16 Island nations across the Pacific and Indian Oceans, this grassroots musical follows the ocean highways uniting ancient musical lineages. From Madagascar to Rapa Nui/Easter Island, Taiwan to Zenadth Kes/The Torres Strait. A heartfelt plea for environmental awareness and cultural preservation from those on the frontline of the climate crisis. A Q&A with the artists follows the screening. Free and open to the public. For more information contact the event organizer Allison Coyne Carroll at carroll@middlebury.edu.

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.	
Channel 1071 Friday, March 1 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 6 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church 10 a.m. Special Selectboard 12:19 p.m. Legislative Breakfast 3 p.m. Energy Week 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Special Selectboard 8 p.m. Legislative Breakfast Saturday, March 2 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 10 a.m. Special Selectboard, Legislative Breakfast, 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. Spec. Selectboard /Public Affairs Sunday, March 3 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass	9:30 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Energy Week 1:30 p.m. Spec. Selectboard/Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 8:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell Monday, March 4 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 6 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Special Selectboard 7 p.m. Town Meeting LIVE Tuesday, March 5 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Selectboard/Town Meeting 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard/Town Meeting 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Selectboard/Town Meeting 11 p.m. Energy Week Wednesday, March 6 Overnight: Perspectives On Trauma	5 a.m. Energy Week 6 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard/Town Meeting 7 p.m. Town Meeting, State House, Public Affairs Thursday, March 7 Overnight: Perspectives On Trauma 8 a.m. Congregational Services 9:30 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 12 p.m. Selectboard/Town Meeting, State House, Public Affairs 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Dr. John Campbell Channel 1091 Friday, March 1 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Hannaford Career Center Annual Meeting 7:45 a.m. ACSD Annual Meeting 12 p.m. ACSD Annual Meeting 5 p.m. HCCenter Annual Meeting 8 p.m. ACSD Annual Meeting 11 p.m. All Brains Belong Vermont	Saturday, March 2 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. Love your Snake and Lizard Neighbors 9 a.m. All Brains Belong 10 a.m. ACSD, HCC Annual Boards 6 p.m. MUHS Band Concert 7 p.m. Love your Snake and Lizard 8:32 p.m. HCC, ACSD Annual Boards Sunday, March 3 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. Love your Snake and Lizard 9 a.m. All Brains Belong Vermont 10 a.m. ACSD, HCC Annual Boards 2:30 p.m. Rain Gardens 4 p.m. All Brains Belong Vermont 5 p.m. The Night Owl Club 6 p.m. HCC, ACSD Annual Boards Monday, March 4 5 a.m. Love your Snake and Lizard 6:32 a.m. Rain Gardens 8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 a.m. HCC, ACSD Annual Boards 12 p.m. HCC, ACSD Annual Boards	Tuesday, March 5 6 a.m. Word Time With Miss Markee 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8:05 a.m. Tai Chi 8:30 a.m. Moccasin Tracks, "That's One for the History Books" 12 p.m. All Brains Belong Vermont 5 p.m. Festival On the Green Wednesday, March 6 6 a.m. Word Time With Miss Markee 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8:05 a.m. Tai Chi 8:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 8 p.m. Festival On the Green 10 p.m. Authors and Poets Thursday, March 7 5 a.m. Festival On the Green 7:05 a.m. Tai Chi 7:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4:30 p.m. "History Books," Moccasin Tracks 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. All Brains Belong Vermont 7:01 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL. Thursday, March 7, the Watershed Loop, Plank Rd. This moderate hike is a 5-mile loop with about 600 feet of elevation gain. Enjoy a scenic pond, diverse plant communities, and a beautiful view west to the Adirondacks. Contact Alan Finn at alanfinn453@gmail.com or 802-349-2162 to register and for details.

"THE TEMPEST" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. Come see Addison Repertory Theatre's production of Shakespeare's story of shipwreck, magic and love. March 7, 8, and 9. ART students take the lead in all aspects of production. Tickets \$10, available at addisonrep.ludus.com/index.php.

OFF CAMPUS: A MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE COMEDY SHOWCASE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, March 7, 7:30-9 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The comedians of Middlebury College will be coming to the Town Hall Theater with a mix of sketch comedy, standup and perhaps a little bit of improvising. To make matters more confusing, they'll also be performing "Off Campus" on campus later that weekend in the Hepburn Zoo. Tickets \$5/\$10 available at townhalltheater.org, at 802-382-9222, or in person at THT's box office Monday-Friday between 12-5 p.m.

"CLIMATE CHANGE: OUR RESPONSE AS ARTISTS" DISCUSSION IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, March 7, 12:40-1:30 p.m., Franklin Environmental Center, The Orchard-Hillcrest 103, 531 College St. This panel discussion features performing artists from Small Island Big Song to discuss the impacts of climate change and explore how the arts can influence our relationship with the environment. Free and open to the public. For more information contact the event organizer Lily Hunt at lnhunt@middlebury.edu.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

PHOTOGRAPHY OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 8, 4-7 p.m., Photoplace Gallery, 3 Park St. Opening reception for "Traces." Show runs through March 28.

"THE TEMPEST" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 8, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. See March 7 listing.

THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS IN BRISTOL. Friday, March 8, 7 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. The Bristol Gateway Players will present three one-act plays: "Cindy and Julie" by Bruce Kane, "Universal Language" by David Ives and "Blazin' Pistols in Sleepy Ol' Bristol" by Carl Engvall, in collaboration with the Bristol Recreation Department. Admission by donation. Proceeds will be split between the Bristol Gateway Players and the Bristol Recreation Department.

SMALL ISLAND BIG SONG IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., McCullough Student Center, Old Chapel Rd. This sweeping performance unites the seafaring cultures of the Pacific and Indian oceans, a region

at the frontline of the climate crisis. Indigenous artists come together with filmmakers and poets to present irresistible oceanic grooves and soulful island ballads collected across 16 countries. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5, available at go.middlebury.edu/tickets or 802-443-MIDD (6433).

REED FOEHL BAND IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, March 8, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join us for a night of folk music at its best. Foehl was born into a musical family and raised in a small New England town. His Americana-folk music tells stories with a voice that pushes boundaries while paying homage to tradition. Tickets: Table seating \$37/regular seating \$27, includes applicable fees. Available at 802-382-9222, www.townhalltheater.org or tickets@townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, March 9, 8-10 a.m., Otter View Park, Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help us survey birds and other wildlife. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. Please take common sense COVID-19 precautions. Stay home if you are feeling ill, and wear a mask if you are unvaccinated. More info at 802-388-6019.

"LA FORZA DEL DESTINO" LIVE OPERA IN HD IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, March 9, noon, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. In this METOpera HD broadcast, Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Verdi's grand tale of ill-fated love, deadly vendettas, and family strife, with stellar soprano Lise Davidsen as the noble Leonora, one of the repertory's most tormented — and thrilling — heroines. Pre-show talk with OCM board member Jim

Pugh beginning at 11:15 a.m. Tickets adult \$26/student \$12, available at townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222.

THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS IN BRISTOL. Saturday, March 9, 7 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. See March 8 listing.

"THE TEMPEST" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, March 9, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. See March 7 listing.

CONTRA DANCE IN CORNWALL. Saturday March 9, 7-9:30 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall. Local favorite Adina Gordon will be calling, with red hot music by Red Dog Riley. Tickets \$5 to \$10 or pay what you can.

RAY VEGA AND HIS SIX PIECE BAND IN VERGENNES. Saturday, March 9, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. New York born and bred musician Ray Vega is a University of Vermont faculty member, host of Vermont Public Radio's Friday Night Jazz and TRR, as well as Origin recording artist. His Vermont-based ensemble presents original compositions by Vega, which combine elements of Jazz, Latin and Funk. Tickets \$10 advance/\$25 door available at vergennesoperahouse.org.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

"UNDERDOG" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. In "Underdog," the late New Haven dairy farmer Doug Butler risks losing the only home he's ever known to chase his dreams of dog mushing in Alaska. Revealed in intimate verité, Butler at first presents as a modern Quixote, but then finds to his delight that sometimes the world can be as he imagines. A Q&A with the film's director/editor/cinematographer Tommy Hyde and

producer/writer Aaron Woolf will follow the showing. Presented by Vermont Public. Free, but registration required at townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222.

THREE ONE-ACT PLAYS IN BRISTOL. Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. See March 8 listing.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

INTRODUCTION TO BONSAI IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, March 12, 1 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury Garden Club hosts Carl Phelps and Nan Jenks Jay of Miller Hill Farm in Sudbury. The pair will discuss the creation and maintenance of bonsai. Some of their interesting bonsai will on display. Free and open to the public.

THE MOTH STORYSLAM IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St. The Moth Radio Hour flutters to Middlebury for a night of stories on the theme "Dazzled." The Moth StorySLAM is an open-mic storytelling competition in which anyone can share a true, personal, 5-minute story on the night's theme. Sign up for a chance to tell a story or sit back and enjoy the show. Tickets \$15, available Feb. 20 at townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

"TALES OF A LOST OCEAN IN VERMONT" IN ORWELL. Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Rocks near Orwell formed under water off the coastline of an ancient continent, located near the equator. Learn about the amazing geology of Vermont and ask questions about the environment around us. Presented by Professor Emeritus Ray Coish of Middlebury College.

TOP PICK


HEAD UP TO LINCOLN TO SEE LARRY & JOE PERFORM A MIX OF VENEZUELAN AND APPALACHIAN FOLK MUSIC ON SATURDAY, MARCH 2, AT BURNHAM HALL. TICKETS ARE \$20-\$25. BRING CASH FOR THE DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS TOO.




VANYA and SONIA and MASHA and Spike

by Christopher Durang
Directed by Peter Kristoph

A wickedly funny play about family, regret, hope, and the choices we make in life.



Feb. 29, March 1 & March 2 - 7:30pm
March 3 - 2pm



**Town Hall Theater
Middlebury**

Tickets: townhalltheater.org or call 802-382-9222
More info: middleburycommunityplayers.org

This production may not be suitable for children under 13. It contains adult language, sexual references, and several mentions of suicide. Parental discretion is advised.

Students come off campus to perform a comedy show

For the first time in Middlebury College history (someone should probably fact check that), the college's comedians will be coming out of hiding on campus to perform their show "Off Campus," off campus and at the Town Hall Theater for Middlebury's public. To make matters more confusing, they'll also be performing "Off Campus" on campus later that weekend in the Hepburn Zoo.

The comedians of Middlebury College will be coming to the Town Hall Theater with a mix of sketch comedy, standup, and perhaps a little bit of improvising. (Messing up lines counts as improv, right?)

This show will leave you laughing, crying, or wishing you had a drink. During this hour of comedy, you'll see the work of Middlebury Discount Comedy (MDC), as well as standup comics Keziah Wilde, and Jonah Joseph.

MDC is the campus' only sketch comedy



The comedians of Middlebury College will be coming to the Town Hall Theater with their comedy workshop, "Off Campus," on Thursday, March 7, from 7:30-9 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

group and has been highly active on campus for a few years now. MDC generally puts on

two shows of original material each semester, written, directed, and performed by the 15 members of the group. Every member contributes to every aspect of the process to put these shows on and they're all very excited for this public debut of their material.

Keziah Wilde and Jonah Joseph have been performing standup at the Vermont Comedy Club Burlington for a couple years. Jonah was finalist in Vermont's Funniest Comedian competition in 2022, and Keziah has been the co-host of a show called "Nice to Meet You" at VCC.

Come to the Town Hall Theater at 7:30 p.m., on Thursday, March 7 to enjoy this exciting lineup of comedy. Show runs for about 90 minutes.

Tickets are \$5-\$10 and can be purchased at townhalltheater.org, by calling 802-382-9222, or in person at THT's box office Monday-Friday between 12-5 p.m.

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

alternative process and monochromatic toning, are welcome. Juror Jeff Curto selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view March 8-29.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Rd, Middlebury
For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions.

"Derrick Adams: Sanctuary" featuring 50 works of mixed-media collage, assemblage on wood panels, and sculpture that reimagine safe destinations for the black American traveler during the mid-20th century. On view Jan. 26-April 14.

"David Plowden: Portraits of America." This exhibition is arranged around the major themes that dominated the artist's body of work: locomotives, steam ships, steel mills, bridges, small towns, and the agricultural landscapes of the Midwest. On view Jan. 26-April 14.

BAG prepares for eclipse with exhibit

The Brandon Artists Guild is opening an exhibit to celebrate the approaching solar eclipse. "In the Path of Shade" will be on view at the 7 Center Street Gallery from March 1-April 28, with a celestial celebration that captures the awe-inspiring essence of a solar eclipse on Friday, April 5, from 5-7 p.m. For more info call 802-247-4956 or visit brandonartistsguild.org.



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PUZZLES

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ACROSS

- 1. Become less intense
- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out
- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and Belgium
- 23. Miami's mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction

- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one's own appearance
- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. I.M. ___, architect
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Dutch and German surname

- 59. Square measures
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Degrade someone

DOWN

- 1. Siberian river
- 2. Blessing
- 3. Substitutes (abbr.)
- 4. Principle underlying the universe
- 5. Work unit
- 6. Yellow edible fruits
- 7. Gemstone
- 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
- 9. Evergreen tropical tree
- 10. Reality TV star Richards
- 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 12. Stakes

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Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

- 13. Antidiuretic hormone
- 16. Make warm again
- 18. Light beams
- 22. Lethal dose
- 23. Terrorist group
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. ___ Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd
- 36. It may be for shopping
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.



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Hands on maple

Vermont's sweetest season is upon us.

Actually, the sap has been running, on and off, since January this unusually warm year. But typically sugarhouses get busy boiling down the sweet stuff in March.

Maple Open House Weekend is March 23 and 24, but if you're looking for a more immersive experience for your family, check out this free offering from **Foxglove Farm**:



The Leicester farm is inviting families to dive into a day of maple exploration on Saturday, March 16. Through a guided walk in the forest and hands-on activities, participants in the **Maple Field Day for Families** will explore how well-managed forests can enhance bird habitat, learn how syrup is made, and taste fresh maple products from the sugarbush.



"It is really important to us to offer programs for kids around healthy forest management," said Catie Raishart, who owns the farm with her husband,

Mark. She's finishing up a yearlong Agricultural Educators Cohort through NOFA-VT that has inspired the couple to offer more educational programs. This one is in partnership with Audubon Vermont, Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Tree Farm.

The event is free, but limited to 30 participants. Register here: foxglovefarmvt.com/events.



PHOTOS / NEW ENGLAND FARM AND FOOD

Coming Up

"LEGALLY BLONDE JR. THE MUSICAL," March 14-16 at Middlebury Union High School: A musical adaptation of the Reese Witherspoon movie, performed by high schoolers.

CHIPMAN INN ART AUCTION, March 17 at the Chipman Inn: An afternoon of art, including an opportunity for kids to make and display their own artwork.

GRAND FRIENDS GALA, March 23 at Town Hall Theater: A magical evening of live music, dancing and activities for the young and young at heart.

Racial learning at Rokeby

It's never too early to talk to kids about race — but it can be difficult. Folks looking for support in having these conversations might be interested in a new program at Ferrisburgh's Rokeby Museum on Saturday mornings through the month of March. The **Racial Learning Family Group** is designed for children ages 3-5 with one accompanying caregiver. Using age-appropriate books, conversations and hands-on activities, the group will explore the diversity of the human experience while strengthening empathy skills. Register here: rokeby.org/visit/programsevents.

See more online

MiniBury.com

THINGS TO DO • MEET PARENTS & FRIENDS
NEWS FOR FAMILIES • TIPS, TRICKS & TRENDS • CALENDAR

TALK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

students and colleagues from across campus. One of those colleagues is musician, composer and Assistant Professor of Music, Matthew Evan Taylor. In this first gathering of the Up for Discussion salon series, Matthew will join Katy for a conversation about where he finds awe now, and how experiences of awe can change with time, age, and experience.

Other talks in this quarterly Tuesday evening series include:

MAY 7
The Art of Translation: Literature to Film by Michael Katz & Chris Keathley

JUNE 11
Youth Sports in Society by Alex Wolff & Erin Quinn

OCT. 8
Living Deliberately: What Thoreau Means Today by Dan Brayton & Rebecca Gould

Each 30-minute presentation will be followed by a roundtable discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas. Up for Discussion is free, but registration is required, as space is limited. Register at townhalltherater.org.



Pet of the WEEK

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Wheel

Meet our adorable 4-year-old rabbit, **Wheel!** She is a checkered-mix rabbit who is fully litter box trained! She is shy at first but quickly becomes your best friend when tempted with tasty treats. Wheel is a gentle soul who would do best in a quiet, laid-back home with older children, as too much commotion stresses her out. While she is not too fond of being held or mingling with other rabbits, Wheel finds solace in burrowing into fuzzy blankets and enjoys exploring her surroundings with curiosity. She adores gentle pets on the head, and to engage in stimulating activities like stacking cups and solving puzzle feeders.



Kilo



Kilo is a funny 1-year-old who is shy, but very sweet. She will roll over and show you her belly while you watch her through the window, but if you enter the room she will run away! We believe that part of her really craves human attention but she is not confident enough yet to accept it. Kilo would do great in a home with a friendly cat that can teach her that humans aren't that bad. She has never been around dogs.

Bear

Bear is a 7-month-old German Shepherd/Rottweiler mix and is still growing. He has a lot of puppy energy and can be jumpy when excited, but is very smart and learns new cues like a champ. He is extremely food-motivated and enjoys solving puzzle toys. Bear is very playful and will need a lot of physical and mental exercise. He absolutely loves his people and is very friendly to visitors. Bear does not get along with other dogs in the same household and needs to be the only pet. He can live with older children. It is important for Bear's new owner to understand that he is still an adolescent and will need a lot of training. He is a big, goofy youngster who is looking for an active family capable of handling his size and energy.



Nibbles and McGriddles



Nibbles and McGriddles are female guinea pigs with no known medical conditions. Their owner describes them as talkative, playful, and affectionate. They love to be held. These guinea pigs have regularly been around children 10+ who play with them and allow them to run around for supervised play and exercise outside of their cage. They are quite happy to be snuggled and loved on. Nibbles and McGriddles have been together for over 3 years and should go to a new home together. They are part of our 3rd Party Adoption program, so they still residing at home.

Want to learn more?

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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

COLD FRAMES AS SEASON EXTENDERS



Andrea Knepper is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from Bolton.

Cold frames allow for the early planting of spring vegetables such as lettuce, radishes, carrots and cabbage by protecting them from frost and cold temperatures at the beginning of the season.

BY **ANDREA KNEPPER**

You can construct a season-extending cold frame for your garden with an old window, some salvaged wood and basic

tools and hardware. This enclosed box with a transparent top allows sunlight to heat the space within. Gardeners can anticipate the temperature inside a cold frame to be 5 to 10 degrees warmer than the outside air.

Different styles of cold frames exist. One easy cold frame to make is a wooden box with the

back taller than the front with a window that acts as the lid. There is no bottom, so the frame can be easily moved to any location with soil suitable for planting.

The placement of your cold frames is flexible. You can place them directly in a garden bed and then remove them when temperatures warm. You also can put one near your house to access vegetables earlier in the season.

This is especially helpful if your garden is not easily accessible in the winter months. Make sure your cold frame faces south to soak up the sunshine.

To build your cold frame, you will need a discarded framed single-pane window. You also will need boards that are as long as the perimeter of the window and six or more inches wide.

It is important to note that caution is necessary when using salvaged materials. You should avoid treated wood as the chemical preservatives can leach into the soil and your vegetables. Wood that looks off-color is one way to identify treated wood. When in doubt, keep looking.

Paint also should be avoided when making a cold frame. Sand off any paint before using the wood to build your cold frame. As always, use the necessary protective equipment when doing so.

Once you have secured your window and wood, measure the perimeter of your window and make a note of the dimensions. Decide how tall you want the front of the box to be. The back of the box should be a few inches taller to create a slanted top.

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 14

This unique property is located just south of Middlebury right off of Route 7, making it a very convenient commute to Middlebury, Rutland, or Burlington. The house has had a lot of work done on it over the last 5 1/2 years including an updated kitchen with all new high-end appliances. However, there is still room to add your personal touch. Lots of storage space in the attic and also multiple out buildings. There is an attached garage with one door but has room for a shop area and at least 4 cars. There is another building that has even more space. A wonderful place to call home with extra space for toys and equipment!



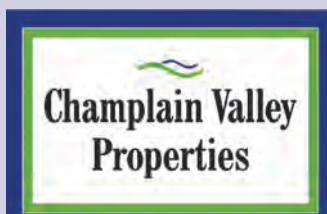
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January Stearns, Brenda Jaring, John Synder-White, Liz Marino, Amy Young, Nancy Foster, Mandy Hodson, Diana Berthiaume, Heather Foster-Provencer and Lisa Sargent



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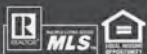
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GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The angled top of the side panels will be the same length as the sides of the window. After marking this, mark the front and back heights and cut. Make two of these sides.

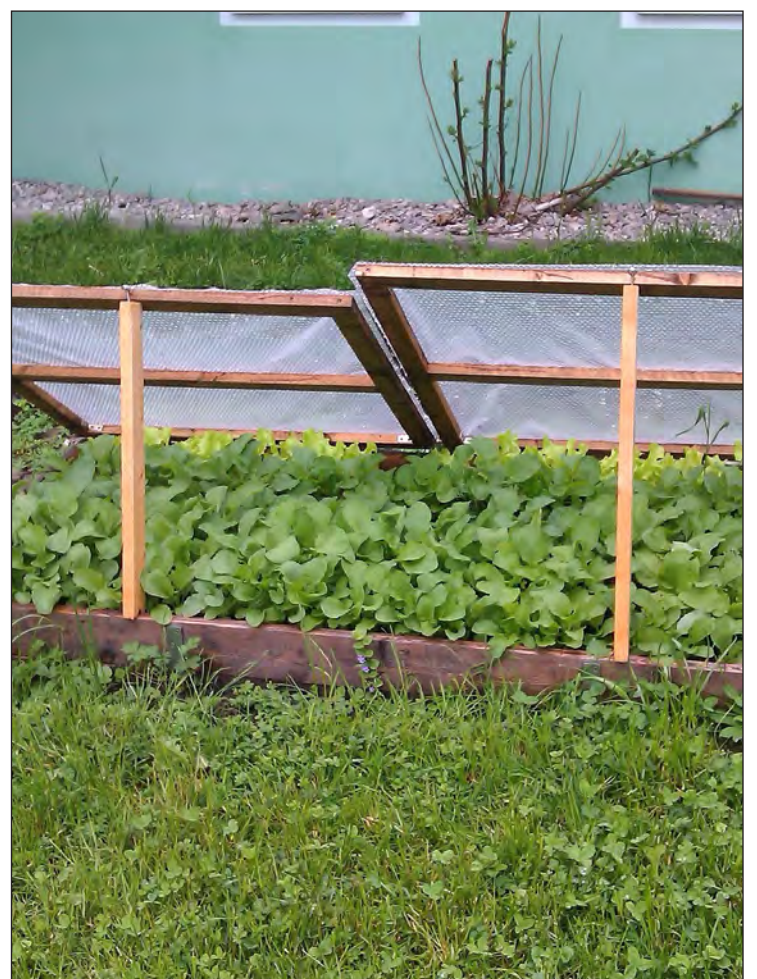
For the back panel, cut a rectangle that measures the width of your window and the desired back height of the cold frame. The front panel is another rectangle the width of the window, but the height should be the front height of the cold frame.

Use whatever hardware you have available that makes sense with the wood you are using. You can set the window directly on top. If you want to use hinges, these can be attached to the window along the back of the cold frame.

To control the temperature in your cold frame, open the window. Use a stick to hold a hinged window open. You also can offset an unattached window from the frame or remove it completely to allow cooler air in.

Position your cold frame so that the angled top is facing south. Enjoy some extra time this growing season!

View and print a planning worksheet for your cold frame at go.uvm.edu/coldframe.



A season-extending cold frame can be built using an old window and salvaged wood to allow for earlier planting and harvest of many vegetables including spring greens like lettuce.

PHOTO / BERNADETTE KAUFMANN/PIXABAY

ADVICE

FROM
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DID YOU KNOW?

Irene has lived in Addison County since 1997. In

addition to her real estate work, Irene is a volunteer EMT on both Ripton Fire & Rescue and Brandon Area Rescue Squad.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE REAL ESTATE MARKET THESE DAYS?

The real estate market nationally continues to reel from the many effects of the pandemic, and Vermont's market is no exception. In a word, the market is "complex," and in the process of recalibrating.

The pandemic migration we experienced has slowed substantially, if not stopped, and I've already seen folks who bought during the pandemic decide to sell (at a substantial profit).

With many companies allowing employees to work from home, internet connectivity has become a key factor for many buyers when choosing a location. The active build-out of the high-speed internet infrastructure has substantially increased

the options for many buyers, and bolstered home values in the areas connected.

The low housing inventory remains the most critical issue affecting today's market, followed closely by the spike in interest rates. (For the baby boomers among us, the current interest rates do not seem all that frightening, compared to what we saw in the 1990s.)

There does not appear to be an immediate solution to the chronic housing shortage in Vermont, which likely means that home values will continue to drift



IRENE POOLE
COLDWELL
BANKER HICKOK
AND BOARDMAN

higher. It could take as long as a decade for the housing shortage in Vermont to be rectified. And regarding interest rates, there are no signs yet that rates will be lowered enough to make a difference any time soon.

side (nowhere to go). The ones with an upper hand are those who have the ability to sell, without the necessity to buy (people considering moving to retirement communities, for instance). On the buy side, cash buyers continue to have greater success when multiple offers are made on a house.

DO YOU SEE THAT SHIFTING IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

The market is currently recalibrating. I do not see any major shifting in the housing market until the housing shortage conundrum is solved, which is going to take time (many years). Of course, lower interest rates will increase the ability of some buyers to enter the market, but that is not looking like a possibility any time soon either.

WHICH PARTY HAS THE UPPER HAND RIGHT NOW?

Because of the low housing inventory, coupled with the appeal of Vermont living, the current market is considered a sellers' market. That said, many potential sellers are reluctant to sell in this market because there are so few options on the buying

Reach Irene Poole at irene@chrisvontrapp.com

The Addison Independent asked nine local real estate professionals for advice on understanding the housing market in Addison County. These columns will publish weekly here in the Arts+Leisure section.

SUPPORT THE ARTS

Your subscriptions, donations and advertising allows us to have dedicated coverage of the arts scene in Addison County.

Learn how to become an **ADDY ALL-STAR** supporter in the C Section of today's paper

Thank You!

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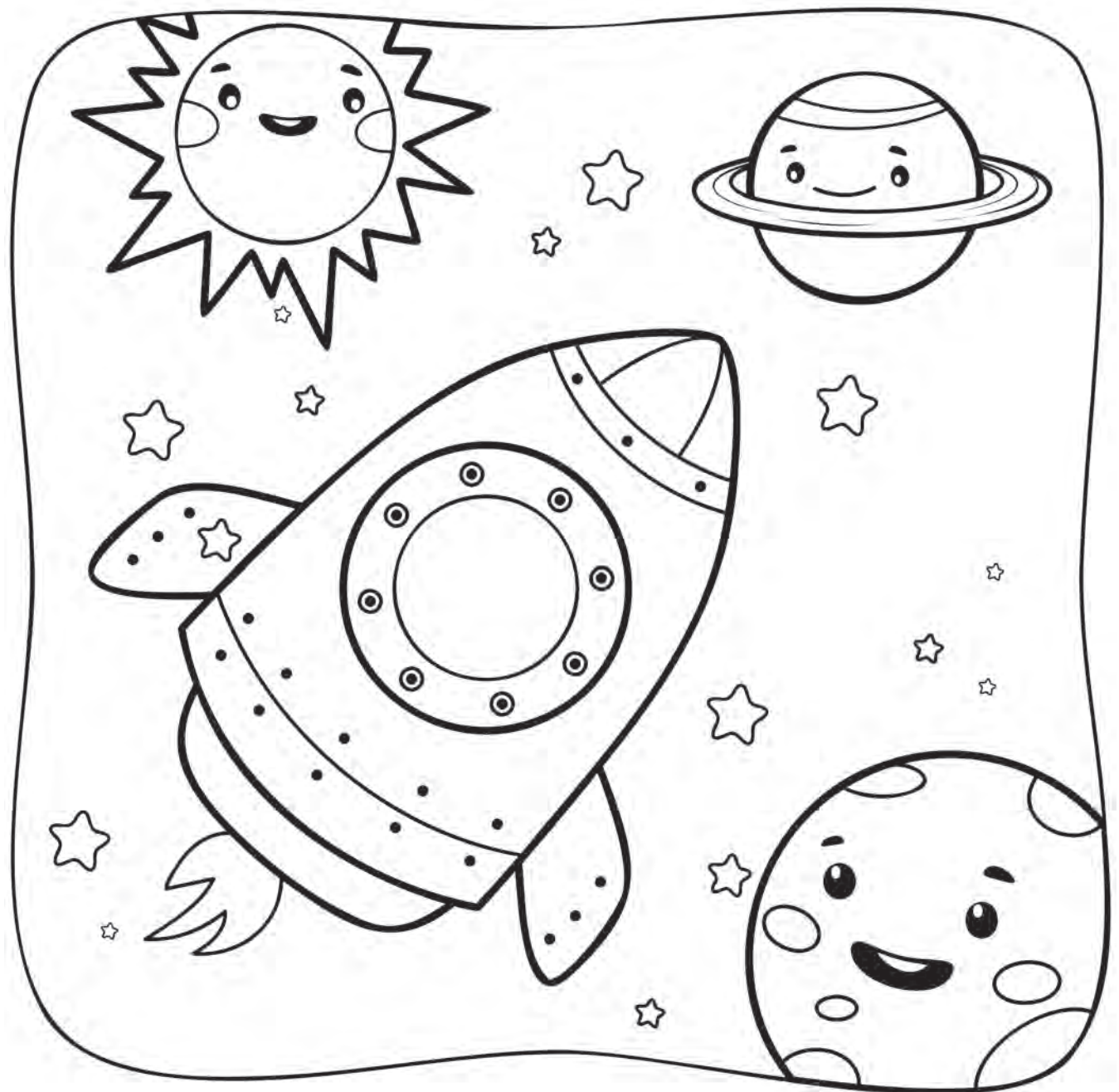
Winter 2024 Cosmic Coloring & Decorating Contest

Escape the snowy winter landscape and embark on an interstellar journey through the depths of space as we invite you to unleash your creativity in our cosmic coloring extravaganza!

Gather your crayons, markers, colored pencils, and glitter to explore the infinite possibilities of space and showcase your artistic abilities. Submit your out-of-this-world masterpiece before **Monday, March 18th**:

- **Online at** addisonindependent.com/contests
- **By Email** to contests@addisonindependent.com
- **By Mail** to Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Feel free to tear out this coloring page, photocopy it, or go to our website for a printable version. Winners will be announced in the March 21st edition of the *Addison Independent*. Two winners from each age group will win a prize from one of our sponsors that can be picked up at the Addy Indy office through April 25th.



Name: _____ Age: _____

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ANNOUNCING
THE LAUNCH OF THE

ADDY

ALL-STARS

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The Addison County Independent was founded in 1946 and for 77 years we have been committed to providing high quality, dependable news and information in and around Addison County, Vt.

How exactly we accomplish this mission is a moving target. We have modernized and adapted over time to best deliver on our promise and continue to do so.

With the launch of the ADDY ALL-STARS, our readers can now show their support for the paper through donations. Diversifying our revenue is increasingly important to build the resiliency and stability of the Addy Indy.

This extra section is dedicated to sharing the value of our operations, introducing the team who makes every edition possible, and inviting you to become an ADDY ALL-STAR supporter!



FROM THE PUBLISHERS:

WHY WE NEED ADDY ALL-STARS

Are we at the Addy Indy worried about the disruption of the news industry and the uncertain future for democracy that lies ahead?

Heck ya we are. But not in a way that makes us turn away.

In fact, it makes us want to sink our teeth in further, work a little harder and find solutions for community newspapers like *The Addison County Independent* that can help keep the public informed and engaged.

We know that communities with a well-supported newspaper share a greater sense of respect for each other and responsibility to one another. We know community newspapers can foster a sense of caring and genuine curiosity that makes communities stronger.

We know this because it's our business.

Through our weekly coverage and breaking news in our four weekly newsletters, the stories we tell help weave the fabric of our communities together. Sports and school activities tie so many of us together; selectboard and school board stories report how taxes are spent and basic services provided; personal profiles connect us to each other, as do the arts, social gatherings and obituaries; community news from all walks of life and advertising from merchants portray a team of engaged people working together.

Every week we hear from readers and advertisers that we offer a service they love. Absolutely love. The kind of service, they tell us, they can't do without.

For the past 77 years, the Addy Indy has been able to pay for this community service through a mix of subscription revenue and advertising. In fact, our amazing advertisers kick in the lion's share of our revenue, but they can't support us alone.

Because we believe in the value of accessible local news, the newspaper has set its

subscription rate at just enough to cover the cost of printing and mailing the paper. Today, it costs \$1.25 to print and mail a single issue of the Addy Indy, which turns into \$65/year. Likely less than many of us spend on a cup of Joe every day.

But the revenue generated by subscriptions doesn't pay our staff of 21 to report the news, graphic artists to create ads and layout the pages, the advertising staff to serve area merchants, nor the front office staff to process subscriptions, answer phones, process billing and run the business necessary to keep *The Addison Independent* operating. (A realistic breakdown of those cost is on Page 3 of this section. You'll be shocked to learn a single sports story with photos can cost over \$175!)

Today's launch of the ADDY ALL-STARS is the start of a shift in revenue to a more stable three-legged stool – advertising, subscriptions **and donations**. We want everyone to be an ALL-STAR, so please contribute and join our committed team of news enthusiasts. If even half of our existing subscribers committed just \$2 a week, it would be an enormous contribution to continue funding a quality team of journalists and staff.

With success, we intend to reach an ever-growing audience not only through the newspaper and through our digital newsletters, but also in less traditional ways – by holding educational workshops, roundtable discussions, and social gatherings to inform and build community. The possibilities are endless.

Our goal, as ever, is to strengthen community and our democracy, through information and engagement, but we can't do that on our own. Today, it also takes vibrant feedback from readers – and an ALL-STAR team!

We hope you'll join us.

JOIN THE TEAM. BE AN ADDY ALL-STAR!

“OK! YOU HAD ME AT ‘HELLO,’ BUT...”

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME WHEN I JOIN?”

Being an ADDY ALL-STAR means helping us shape a more informative newspaper. It means helping the paper be more engaged in each of the county's 23 communities, and adding your voice to the community you live in. It means having a direct line when you have story ideas or ways the Addy Indy can better serve the community. It means being a part of forums hosted by the Addy Indy that tackle specific issues in your community, or overarching issues that affect us all. It means being privy to additional op-eds and joining in those discussions.

It means being part of an Addy Indy team that's building community, and bringing people together to share fun times.

For those who join, we'll be asking questions like:

- What could we add to the paper to make it more interesting?
- How would you suggest we improve our coverage of business, schools or religion in Addison County?
- As a resident of your community, what do you need to be more informed and what info would help you become more engaged?

It means supporting local journalism and democracy, because when we do our job well – including keeping tabs on local and state government – we all benefit.

But while we want to create an engaged feedback loop from our members, we don't intend for the ALL-STARS to be overly serious – as if there aren't enough things to worry about already!

MEET THE ADDY INDY TEAMS WHO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN EACH WEEK ON THE NEXT PAGE!

WHAT DO YOU GET?

“IN SHORT, WE HOPE THE ADDY ALL-STARS WILL BECOME OUR TOUCHSTONES TO EACH COMMUNITY.”

- DIRECT CONNECTION
- COMMUNITY FORUMS
- EVENTS
- ALL-STAR NEWSLETTERS
- A VIGOROUS LOCAL PAPER

So, we'll have fun too. For instance, we'll ask about your favorite ways to use maple syrup in a recipe. We'll have prizes that involve photos and stories of favorite pets, challenge readers to write haikus, share family traditions and favorite summer vacations, and much more.

In short, we hope the ADDY ALL-STARS will become our touchstones to each community to help us do a better job covering each town. Plus, we hope it's a way for readers to be more personally engaged with the newspaper. The membership itself also will provide an important source of revenue to keep the newspaper sustainable (no small concern), but more importantly, the more members we have, the better we'll understand each other – and, consequently, the stronger our communities will be.

So, if you can, join us today. Everyone can be an ALL-STAR to help *The Addison Independent* remain dynamic, vigorous and vital to our communities – and make Addison County a more engaged democracy.

?

HOW DOES THE ADDY INDY MAKE MONEY?

The Addy Indy is a family-owned and operated independent weekly newspaper. We rely on support from readers through subscriptions & newsstand sales, advertising revenue and now donations through our newly formed ADDY ALL-STARS membership club. All three legs are critical for the support and stability of our operation.

SUBSCRIBE * ADVERTISE * DONATE



Left to right: Angelo Lynn, Megan James, Marin Howell, Andy Kirkaldy, John McCright, Steve James and John Flowers.

NEWS / EDITORIAL

The job of the News Department is fairly straightforward: We gather information about the community and reflect it back so people can learn about their neighbors and feel a stronger connection to the world we all live in. It's a simple concept, but execution is everything.

We have a trained staff of reporters who go out into Addison County, talk to people, do more research, and craft the information they glean into stories worthy of your time to read. Some stories are complex with many interviews, hours of planning and writing, taking of photos, editing and proofing. But even stories that seemingly fall from the sky take a team of people to turn them from raw information into polished stories. We have to balance the different ways everyone sees and experiences life here in Vermont.

In the end, we hope everyone sees a bit of themselves in the Addy Indy, and learns a bit about others.

Hi! We're the ad team, an outgoing crew working hard to foster connections between businesses and buyers in our community. It's our goal to find ways to represent the unique and exceptional goods and services offered by our business community in targeted and creative ways so customers can find what they're looking for. We help business leaders develop growth goals and build advertising and marketing solutions customized to the audiences and platforms they need to reach. Our team can offer print and digital advertising, digital directories, websites and of course, informed insight into all.

If you're interested in advertising, but unsure about what the ad should say or look like, never fear! It's what we do and we love doing it.

ADS & MARKETING



Left to right: Katy Foote, Jenna Hunsinger, Christy Lynn and Tom Van Sant.



Left to right: Elsie Lynn Parini, Sue Leggett and Sarah Pope.

DESIGN & GRAPHICS

Team Graphics! We are often asked "what do you do at the paper?" From advertising design to page layout, we are the glue that puts all the pieces together. Our sales reps gather information from their clients. We break down the info, add some graphics, color and the business logos and send the completed ad back to the sales rep. Sometimes it is a very simple idea. Others we call "Brown Baggers" — a term from years ago when we received ad copy from places like Ben Franklin literally in a brown paper bag.

We also put together the pages of the paper, using the ads, news and photos that are sent our way. It's very rewarding to take that brown bag of info and see it printed on the page every Thursday! If you like puzzles, you'd be a great fit on the graphics team!

FRONT OFFICE

For the last 37 years, anyone who has walked through the front door of *The Addison Independent* office has been greeted by the smiling face of Vicki Nolette. Harris Gerner recently joined the front office team and together they both serve as the first point of contact for everyone wanting to connect with the Addy Indy. A typical day in the front office involves helping people renew their subscriptions, taking ads for the classified section and providing help with various projects, from archiving newspapers to helping customers with special requests and support.

In addition to her front office responsibilities, Vicki facilitates all things related to accounts receivable for subscribers, advertisers and community members.



Left to right: Vicki Nolette and Harris Gerner.



Left to right: John Ebert, Dennis Smith and Gene DeLorenzo.

CIRCULATION

Every Thursday morning from the printing press in Mirabel, Quebec, the paper arrives at the Addy Indy office. Before the sun comes up and through all kinds of weather, you'll find John, Dennis and Gene preparing the paper to be circulated. From delivering subscriber copies to the post office, to dropping off papers at the 50+ businesses across Addison County who stock it on their shelves — this team makes it happen.

In addition to his front desk duties, Harris serves as circulation manager. He ensures the paper gets where it is supposed to go, and is excited to develop innovative ways to support and engage subscribers, businesses and our community.

TESTIMONIALS

ADDY ALL-STARS

Middlebury College senior and Addy Indy summer 2023 intern
SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI

“ I feel so fortunate to live in a place with a crew of journalists who are so passionate about putting out a newspaper full of interesting, important and accurate news! I always look forward to perusing the Op-Ed section of the paper. It makes me so happy to see the community engaging with local news in a thoughtful and honest way. As a summer intern at the Addy Indy in 2023, I came to understand how important local news is to a community. I also learned that anything that pique's your interest can make an amazing story!



AROUND THE BEND COLUMNIST
JESSIE RAYMOND

“ In a time where many towns and cities are losing their local news outlets, we are lucky to have a valuable resource like the *Independent*. To be fair, I used to work at the paper (and have been a columnist for over 20 years), so I know and love many of the hard-working staff who continue to put out editions week after week. But even if I weren't biased, I would be grateful for the *Independent*; having a well-written, informative and entertaining local paper is one of many benefits of small-town living, one I will never take for granted.



BRISTOL MASON
CECIL FOSTER

“ The Masons of Libanus Lodge #47 in Bristol would like to express our appreciation of the placement of our photo and article on the Masons' Feed the Goats Christmas Tree Program — it was awesome! I have received an email and 3 texts about what a nice program it is and people are looking forward to us continuing the program next year.



ARTIST/CREATIVE CONSULTANT
KELLY HICKEY

“ Long after we leave Addison County our stories will remain as part of the cultural fabric captured in-part by *The Addison Independent* & *Minibury*. Whether that be a sometimes hilarious police blog report or a devastating situation one could never predict; a young community member being uplifted or a neighbor needing support; the range of news captured by these publications is closely interwoven into all of our humble lives as we make our mark on this place & time.



PROPRIETOR OF THE CHIPMAN INN
ELIZABETH GUILBEAU

“ Even though I've been a part of the Addison County community for less than a year, *The Addison Independent* has quickly become indispensable to me and Chipman Inn. Its coverage not only keeps us connected but has also provided valuable visibility for our inn. The initiation of the ADDY ALL-STARS is a testament to the paper's commitment to deepening community ties, something I've already experienced firsthand through positive interactions and valuable insights gained from the paper.

LINCOLN NEWS CORRESPONDENT
DAWN MIKKELSEN

“ *The Addison Independent* has been my go to for local news since my family moved to Lincoln in 1988. Even after going out of state for college, my mom would mail me the newspaper every month. For seven years I've had the privilege of writing the Lincoln News column for the newspaper. I enjoy reading *The Addison Independent* to learn more about community events and local businesses that I might not otherwise have heard of.



SHOOT FOR THE STARS!

HOW DO YOU WANT THE ALL-STARS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY?

We're excited about what we can do with support from the ADDY ALL-STARS to help build community and strengthen the relationships we have with our readers! Here are a few of the pop-up events we'd like to host (these would be free and open to all — not just ALL-STARS):

Something serious:

Meet the folks running for local office at a candidates forum

Something practical:

BYO holey socks and tattered jeans to a DIY mending night

Something educational:

Come hear from a local expert on a timely topic

Something silly:

Test your wits with local news trivia

Do you have some ideas for pop-up ADDY ALL-STAR events? We want to hear them! Email allstars@addisonindependent.com.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

THE COST OF COVERING A SINGLE STORY

SPORTS

(LABOR ONLY)

REPORTER: 2 hours at the game	\$50
PHOTOGRAPHER: shoot & process	\$50
REPORTER: write up the story	\$40
EDITING & PROOFING:	\$25
LAYOUT & DESIGN:	\$10
SPORTS TOTAL (Labor ONLY).....	\$175

Total average cost (labor only) to produce a sports section each week

\$700

STAFF REPORTED NEWS

This is just an example of a sports story budget. Consider that *The Addison Independent* averages 10-15 staff-written stories per issue.

WEEKLY STORY TOTAL (labor only) **\$2,100+**

WHAT IS LOCAL NEWS WORTH TO YOU?

Would you give \$5/week if you knew you could easily put your hands on quality, reliable local news delivered right to your door or inbox? Great! Please do! An additional \$5/week from every one of our existing subscribers could fund our entire newsroom's salaries, relieving the burden on advertising revenue and offering a much more resilient funding stream for your local news.

SUBSCRIBE * ADVERTISE * DONATE

GET OVER \$25,000 OF VALUE IN EACH ISSUE

It costs a lot — and takes a lot of time and care — to put out the news. Every week, our reporters and editors meet with sources all over the county, attend public meetings and sports games, chat with local leaders, visit with artists, farmers, educators, centenarians and other local characters. Sometimes snap a photo or two. Then the writing begins.

Our photographer spends hours on the road each week, meeting folks at home or on the job, capturing the faces and places that color this community. Meanwhile, our sales reps are working every day with local businesses to create the ads that keep them in front of potential customers.

On the left you can see a simple breakdown of one segment of the Addy Indy — SPORTS. Plus the time it takes to produce the news stories. A school board meeting, for example, will take two hours (at least) to attend, an hour-plus to write up. Then there is editing, proofreading, putting it on the page, proofing the page — another 60 minutes. At \$30 per hour of staff time, that's at least \$120 for a routine story. We ran more than 17 bylined staff stories per edition last year (plus many stories without bylines — who do you think writes the police logs, for instance.) That's at least \$2,000 of value every week just in labor if they were all routine stories; and most are far from routine.

Then there's managing press releases, obits, calendar, letters, op-eds, town news, etc. — and all the ad creation, layout and online posting. And don't forget about *MiniBury* and circulation.

Add it all up and we invest over \$25,000 per week into each newspaper — all for the bargain price of \$1.50 per week at the newsstand, or \$65 per year for a subscription. (And that doesn't even include our four digital newsletters, our Facebook and Instagram presence, or our website — which draws 15,000 unique visitors each week.)

Good local journalism can't be farmed out. It relies on having good journalists working here in our community, and dedicated staff to support them. For you, our readers, that's a whole lot of value in a weekly product.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946



SUBSCRIPTIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

ADDY ALL-STARS

WE'VE GOT MERCH!

Just because it's fun!

Snag your swag with a donation of \$50 or more, and help us spread the word about becoming an ADDY ALL-STAR supporter!

Each donation level is eligible for a different product. Find more about products and options online.

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ALL-STARS



WHY ARE RATES GOING UP?

We want YOU to get the paper.

In fact, we want everyone in Addison County to get the paper. That's why we set the cost of a subscription to *The Addison Independent* as low as possible. The goal with our subscription revenue is to cover the cost of printing and mailing your paper – that's it.

This year we are increasing our subscription rates and simplifying our offerings to cover higher postage and printing costs.

Wonder what it costs to print and mail a copy of the Addy Indy? It's about \$1.25 per paper (\$65 per year). And that is how we came to our new base-price for an annual print and digital subscription.

PRINT & DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

STANDARD SUBSCRIPTIONS (PRINT & DIGITAL)

2 YEARS	\$125
1 YEAR	\$65
6 MONTHS	\$35

DIGITAL ONLY SUBSCRIPTIONS

1 YEAR	\$50
1 MONTH.....	\$10
1 WEEK.....	\$3

Get 10% off as a Senior (65 years and older).

Get 25% off as a Student.

Discounts valid on all subscriptions. Proof may be required.

78%

of Americans say they have more trust in local news to give them the information they need to get involved in their community.

More people feel encouraged to participate in their community or local politics after consuming local news, as opposed to national news or news on social media.

Source: Gallup/Kight Foundation (Nov.23-Dec.3, 2021)

YOU CAN BE AN ALL-STAR. DONATE TODAY!

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ALL-STARS

DONATION AMOUNT: \$

DONATE
\$50-100

DONATE
\$101-\$250

DONATE
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DONATE
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DONATE
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JOIN THE TEAM!

I want to support the Addy Indy every year. Yes, sign me up for automatic payments annually.

ADDY ALL-STARS

THANK YOU!

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946

ARE YOU A SUBSCRIBER?

Yes No

Super!

You can add your ALL-STAR donation to your account online.

Would you like to subscribe?

Yes please! No thanks.
Complete the form below to subscribe!

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STAY IN THE GAME!

GET THE NEWS FIRST WITH OUR FOUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS.

Yes! Sign me up for the Addy Indy newsletters:

ADDY INDY NEWS **MINIBURY**

Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays

Tuesdays

Don't worry. We promise to never sell your information.