



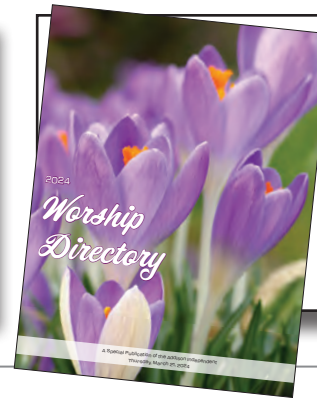
## Frost at 150

The great poet's work will be read aloud at an event during his birthday week. See Arts + Leisure.



## Sports in pics

Photos caught much of the drama during the winter season. See some of our favorites on Page 2B.



## Worship

Find out about special services for Holy Week and Easter in our special pull-out.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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**SALISBURY'S TOM GOLPER**, a self-described "eclipse nerd," has traveled the world with his wife, Lee Ann, chasing eclipses since 1998 — and he has the commemorative T-shirts and glasses to prove it! April 8's total eclipse in Vermont will be his fifth and he and his family plan to watch it. Independent photo/Steve James

## Gaga for the Eclipse County preps for celestial show

**By MEGAN JAMES**  
ADDISON COUNTY — The first time Tom and Lee Ann Golper saw a total solar eclipse, they were on a cruise ship in the Caribbean with Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin.  
"I'm sort of a science fiction fan," said Tom, a nephrologist and self-described "eclipse nerd"; he and wife Lee Ann live in Salisbury.  
The couple is among the countless number of people — locals and visitors — who will be out in the open spaces of northern Vermont to view the total eclipse of the sun

on Monday, April 8. For the first time since 1932, Vermonters will be able to see this unusual celestial phenomenon, in which the moon passes between the sun casting a shadow of total darkness for a minute or two. Look for totality around 3:27 p.m.  
Years ago Tom Golper joined the National Space Society and the Planetary Society, two nonprofits involved in research and public outreach related to astronomy, space exploration and the like. For fun, the organizations put on events for their members such as cruises

with superstar hosts.  
Which is how Buzz Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, ended up leading this weeklong cruise in 1998, the purpose of which was to watch a total solar eclipse off the coast of Aruba. The ship was full of scientists and astronomers, many of whom brought their own telescopes.  
The sky was overcast as the eclipse approached, and the captain gave passengers the option of disembarking for the experience, or staying aboard. The Golvers (See *Eclipse*, Page 9A)

## ANWSD revote is Tuesday

### Board approves \$750,000 of cuts, some called difficult

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
VERGENNES — After defeating an Addison Northwest School District spending plan on March 5, residents of the five-town district will vote on a slightly smaller budget this coming Tuesday.  
The ANWSD Board on Monday decided to put a \$27.5 million budget before voters on March 26, after accepting administrators' recommendations for reductions that lowered spending by about \$750,000 from the budget defeated on Town Meeting Day, 1,282-1,012.

The new spending proposal ends the alternative education Walden Program at Vergennes Union High School after more than two decades, and abolishes the position of ANWSD Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity (DEI) Coordinator, which after this current school year would no longer be federally funded. The new budget retains all other positions and programs at the district's three schools.  
The district-wide tax rate is now projected to be slightly lower than the current level. But because (See *ANWSD*, Page 9A)

## Mt. Abe lowers budget by \$1.3M

### Voters asked to OK the revised plan on April 16

**By MARIN HOWELL**  
BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District Board on Monday adopted a revised spending plan for fiscal year 2025, and asked district voters to approve it on April 16.  
The budget reflects \$35,652,401 in total spending, around \$1.36 million less than the proposed FY'25 spending plan shot down by district voters, 1,341 to

1,113, on Town Meeting Day.  
The revised budget is expected to translate to a homestead tax rate increase of 7.27- 9.9% in each of the district's member towns except Starksboro, after Common Level of Appraisals (CLAs) are applied. The budget defeated by voters on March 5 was expected to raise post-CLA education tax rates in three of the (See *Mt. Abe*, Page 11A)



### All in the family

**GRANDMA ADDAMS, PLAYED** by Hannah Gallivan, gives a hoot during Mount Abe's rehearsal of "The Addams Family" accompanied by fellow students Alina Donaldson as an ancestor and Jillian Cousino as Pugsley. The show will be staged this weekend in Bristol. See more photos on Page 12A. Photo by Buzz Kuhns

## Rep. Caleb Elder to run for Vt. Senate

**By JOHN FLOWERS**  
STARKSBORO — Rep. Caleb Elder, D-Starksboro, said his decision to leave the Vermont House this year was based on his belief he could get more done in the state Senate.

The *Independent* reported on Thursday that Elder had decided to take a pass on re-election to the Addison-4 House seat that he won back in 2018. Elder, 42, has served on the House Education, Ways & Means and (currently) the

General & Housing Committee since winning one of the two seats representing the Addison-4 communities of Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro.  
Elder, a longtime musician (See *Elder*, Page 14A)



## By the way

A couple of Vergennes Union High School graduates will be making a musical splash in Tilburg, the Netherlands, next month. The Roadburn Festival, slated for April 18-21, will feature a variety of bands specializing in what organizers call "heavy" (See *By the way*, Page 11A)

## Bristol lumber mill hurt by changing times

### Owners look to revive cash flow

**By MARIN HOWELL**  
BRISTOL — For more than eight decades, the A. Johnson Company's Bristol lumber mill rang with the sounds of logs being sawed, sorted and sold to customers.  
Things are quieter at the site off Route 116 lately, as the company permanently closed its lumber mill this past November and wrapped up retail sales the following month. The decision to do so followed a particularly difficult year for the business, and the forest products industry as a whole, in 2023.  
General Manager and co-owner Ken Johnson acknowledged that the mid-sized manufacturer of boards simply lost a "technological arms race" to bigger or more specialized lumber companies.  
While the closure of the mill marks a major change for the 117-year-old A. Johnson Company, it is also the beginning of a new chapter. The company plans to repurpose its mill (See *Lumber mill*, Page 10A)



**KEN JOHNSON, GENERAL manager and co-owner of the A. Johnson Company**, gives a tour of the recently closed mill in Bristol. Johnson's great-grandfather in 1906 started the lumber business, which has seen both signs of growth and challenges over the decades. Independent photo/Steve James

## Bridport could leave mosquito control district

**By JOHN FLOWERS**  
BRIDPORT — Seven months after one of the buggiest summers on record, Bridport residents are thinking about leaving the insect control district charged with minimizing their local mosquito population.  
Bridport's \$6,000 annual contribution to the Lemon Fair Insect Control District (LFICD) isn't a stinging financial outlay, so why would some townspeople get the itch to ditch the service?  
It's kind of complicated, but in essence: The LFICD uses a helicopter service to drop larvicide to kill embryonic mosquitos in breeding hotspots within the three-town district (Bridport, Cornwall and Weybridge). And while mosquitos were (See *Mosquito*, Page 15A)

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# Lincoln welcomes a new principal

LINCOLN — Lincoln School District has hired a new principal to lead the Lincoln Community School.

Melissa “Brooke” King will take the reins at LCS on July 1, succeeding longtime principal Tory Riley. King, a Burlington resident, is assistant principal of Colchester’s Mallets Bay School, a third- through fifth-grade elementary school of around 465 students.

“I am humbled and excited to lead and collaborate with a community that truly believes and acts on coming together to support the learning experiences of our youngest members,” King said in a March 13 press release. “Becoming the next principal at LCS is an honor. I look forward to meeting all of you in the gardens at school this summer.”

Due to the size of the elementary school (around 70 students in grades K-6), Lincoln’s principal position has been structured as a fulltime role that combines administrative responsibilities with a part-time teaching position.

Riley has helmed the elementary school since 2003, when she took on a co-principal post alongside Bill Jesdale. She also serves as the school’s librarian.

Riley will step down from the principal position at the end of this school year, though she will maintain her part-time role as school librarian.

The district in January kicked off its search for a new LCS principal to succeed Riley. Superintendent Amy Cole oversaw the search; the



**BROOKE KING**

principal search committee was made up of LCS teachers, staff members, a community member/parent and one school board/community member.

The Lincoln School Board on March 12 voted unanimously to have King take on the position.

“We are so delighted to have found her and we welcome (King) to our school and our entire community,” Lincoln School Board clerk and search committee member Mary Gemignani said in the press release.

### KING’S BACKGROUND

King has spent over 20 years working as a teacher and educational leader throughout Vermont. Before joining the Mallets Bay School, she was a first-grade teacher and administrator designee in Burlington.

In addition to her work as an administrator, King has served

in several teaching positions, including as a sixth-grade teacher at Bristol Elementary School in 2008.

In 2010, King received the Champion of Diversity and Equity Award from the Burlington School District. In the professional summary included in her resume, King describes her approach to leadership and the value of collaboration.

“When people feel that their voice is heard and valued, it is easier for them to hear and understand a leader. In addition, following through with integrity is essential when fostering a productive, transparent, and positive climate,” King writes. “My beliefs guide me to lead in a way where I hope my intentions are always clear, those impacted feel I have listened to understand, and I move forward with integrity in a way that serves my community and its children in the most beneficial ways possible.”

District officials expressed their excitement for welcoming King to the LCS community in the March 13 press release.

“We are thrilled to have Brooke join LCS as the next principal,” Cole said. “Brooke comes to us with a wealth of experience and specific skills in the areas of curriculum leadership, community engagement, faculty development, classroom management and positive behavioral interventions. She has a particular passion for outdoor education, social emotional learning, and sustainability, which fits nicely with the values of Lincoln Community School.”



**COWS AT LUCAS Dairy Farm in Orwell enjoy a meal outside the barn. The farm, formerly owned by Tom and Mike Audet, is now owned by first-time dairy farmer, thanks to help from the Vermont Land Trust.**

Photo courtesy of Vermont Land trust

# Orwell dairy farm gets new conservator

ORWELL — After six years of leasing land for his dairy business, first-generation dairy farmer Jon Lucas bought and conserved 390 acres of Orwell farmland, wetland, streams and woods, through the Vermont Land Trust. Lucas runs Lucas Dairy Farm with about 250 milkers and another 200 young stock. He uses the protected property to grow feed, and sells milk to the Cabot Creamery.

Lucas grew up in New Hampshire, where he helped out on his family’s small beef and hay operation, before joining Vermont Technical College to study dairy. He worked as a first-generation dairy farmer for eight years in New Hampshire before moving to Vermont.

Owning his own farm has been Lucas’s dream since he bought his first cows decades ago. “Conserving the farm made my purchase of the farm possible,” he said. “It was a critical piece of the whole deal. Without the conservation funding, my loan payments would be too great. It’s also comforting to know that this scenic and historic farm will stay a farm and not be developed.”

In addition to being a member of the Cabot cooperative, Lucas has been a member of the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition since 2012 and was named “Conservation Farmer of the Year” in 2018 by the Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District.

“Farming today is dynamic and challenging. VLT is thrilled to be able to support first-generation farmers like Jon establish their land base and thrive,” said VLT’s Al Karnatz. “Just as important is helping farmers looking to retire

or phase out their land ownership, all while protecting the natural resources and encouraging good ecological stewardship.”

The land was long owned by brothers Mike and Tom Audet, who used it for their dairy and sugaring operation, Ledge Haven Farm. The Audet family first came to the area from Canada to farm in the 1930s. The farm originally had 588 acres, but about a third of it was not suitable for cropping. In the 1990s the brothers conserved and sold wetland and other ecological features to The Nature Conservancy to become part of a preserve.

When it came time to look for new owners, the brothers turned to VLT. VLT connected them to Jon Lucas, who was looking for

new land after starting his dairy on leased land in Starksboro.

Tom and Mike Audet said: “We always liked the concept of preserving the heritage of farming in this part of town. So conserving and selling the main farm to Jon meets our goals. It was an excellent outcome for both sides.”

The conservation easement includes a special protection to keep the farm available to farmers in the future.

Located less than half a mile from Lake Champlain, the land lies on both sides of Mt. Independence Road and is virtually surrounded by protected parcels. There are over a mile of tributaries to East Creek and Lake Champlain. Several ravines on the north side

(See Lucas, Page 3A)

# Bridport/Shoreham principal to step down

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRIDPORT — Matthew Brankman, principal of Bridport Central and Shoreham Elementary schools, will step down at the end of this academic year.

“I have absolutely loved working with the community of Bridport over the last five years, and have loved getting to know Shoreham this year,” Brankman said through an email last week to families in both towns. “The reality is that my responsibilities as a parent have taken too much of my attention this year, and that is where my focus needs to be going forward.”

Tim Williams, Addison Central School District interim superintendent, thanked Brankman for his service.

“We are grateful to Matthew for the years he has spent as a



**MATTHEW BRANKMAN**

principal in the ACSD. His student and staff-centered leadership have established strong community connections, and he has been a

valued member of our school and district community. We wish him well in his next chapter.”

It was in April of 2019 that Brankman — former principal of Bradford Elementary School — was hired to succeed Jennefer Paquette as top administrator of Bridport Central School. His role was expanded to include oversight of Shoreham Elementary, after then-Principal Andy Johnson stepped down last June. Jenny Urban has provided key support as assistant principal at both schools.

Brankman will finish out this academic year as Bridport principal, while Urban will serve as Shoreham’s acting principal.

“I am especially grateful to Ms. Urban for her work and support this year,” Brankman said. “She has built relationships and become a trusted leader in a very challenging situation. I also appreciate the teaching and support staff at both schools.”

It remains to be seen how the ACSD will permanently fill the

(See Brankman, Page 3A)



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**FIRST-GENERATION DAIRY farmer Jon Lucas has become the owner and conservator of Lucas Dairy Farm — 390 acres of farmland, wetland, streams and woods — through the Vermont Land Trust.**

Photo courtesy of Vermont Land trust



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# City council organizes after election

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — On March 12, its first meeting since Town Meeting Day, the Vergennes City Council accomplished a number of tasks that both looked backward and moved forward.

Those tasks included re-electing a deputy mayor, discussing Mayor Chris Bearor's remarks on an administrative pre-election snafu, taking steps to buy two used fire trucks and to fund planning and design of the major overhaul of the city's sewer system, populating city committees that report directly to the council, and making other appointments.

The council unanimously elected its only nominee for deputy mayor, Dickie Austin, who, along with Councilors Jill Murray-Killon and John Montgomery, was returned to the panel without opposition on March 6.

That election was properly warned, Bearor said, but the city's annual meeting held on March 5 was not warned in the newspaper of record (the *Independent*) in a timely manner. City officials said there was a problem with posted warnings at the city post office and the Maplefields convenience store bulletin boards being removed.

However, Bearor read a statement in which he said there was "ample notice" of the meeting on the city website, published newspaper articles (in the *Independent*), word of mouth, and the longstanding precedent of the city meeting — at which issues are discussed, but

not decided — being held on the Monday evening before Tuesday Town Meeting Day voting.

"Nevertheless, we will strive to do better in the future," Bearor said, adding, "I appreciate the confidence that the people of Vergennes have shown to this council and the administration."

City Manager Ron Redmond also acknowledged errors in the city report, several of which had been brought to light by resident Mike Daniels in a social media post. They included incorrect dates, an incorrect table of contents, and incorrect names listed for one committee. Redmond said print corrections were being made, and the version that was online at [vergennes.org](http://vergennes.org) by March 12 was already largely accurate.

In other business on March 12, the council:

- Heard from Redmond that representatives from the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad would come to the council's first meeting in April to discuss the agency's request for up to \$47,000 in per capita and user-fee support from the city in the coming fiscal year. That amount would more than double the city's current annual payment to VARS, and it is based mostly on an increase in the per capita charge from \$8 to \$15. VARS officials say it is necessary to hire more help to meet its goal of providing service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- As the council had approved in February, authorized city staff to pay a \$162,250 deposit on a used 2017

Heavy Rescue Pumper Tanker and a \$73,750 deposit on a 2003 Ladder/Tower Truck, both to be funded by a bond anticipation note for \$236,000.

- Appointed Councilor Cheryl Brinkman to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District Board of Supervisors for a one-year term.

- Appointed Ben Hatch, Erin Wolcott, Julian Cesner, Nancy Ambrose, Tania Bolduc, Adelaide Brooks, Tara Brooks, Mike Daniels, James Dragon, Matt Hawes, Cory Glover and Robyn Newton to the Parks & Recreation Committee, adding Councilor Susan Rakowski as the council representative.

- Appointed James Dunn, Joel Galvin, Al Harder-Hyde, Linda Harmon, Jess Horner, Allison Rimmer, Grace Williams and Ruth Williams to the Community Engagement Committee that will advise the city manager and police chief on police department-community relations.

- Appointed Sid Bosworth, Don Ferris, Al Harder-Hyde, Maggi Shadrouti, Jeremy Francis, Grace Williams, and ex-officio members Anthony Severo from Northlands Job Corps and Vergennes state Rep. Diane Lanpher to the Vergennes Energy Committee, adding Brinkman as the council representative.

- Recognized former councilor, zoning administrator, and planning commission member Peter Garon for his service to the city. "You've got a big V on your shirt for Team Vergennes," Redmond said.

# Lucas

(Continued from Page 2A)  
of the property host headwaters of East Creek and remnants of the clayplain forest that was once widespread across the Champlain Valley. The ravines drain north to the 500-plus-acre East Creek Natural Area owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. These areas were once used as pasture but are now enrolled in USDA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which partners with farmers to plant native species in environmentally sensitive land and remove it from production.

The conservation easement identifies about 45 acres of wetlands on the newly conserved property as having special protections, along with nearly nine acres of clayplain forest, a forest type that is now rare in Vermont.

The project was funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, with matching funds from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Mike Audet served on VHCB's inaugural farmland protection advisory board. His insight was foundational to developing a program that has now protected over 175,000 acres of farmland across Vermont," said VHCB Executive Director, Gus Seelig. "We are delighted that Tom and Mike have been able to work with Lucas in arranging an affordable transfer to this first-generation Vermont farmer. We expect Jon will continue the Audet legacy of great stewardship of the land and we thank VLT for shepherding this effort and their continued commitment to helping young farmers access land."

# Brankman

(Continued from Page 2A)  
Shoreham and Bridport principal vacancies going forward. Will they remain a dual role for one administrator, or will the district make them separate positions once again?

Those and other questions will be answered after Wendy Baker is officially installed as ACSD superintendent on July 1.

"We recognize that principal turnover can create uncertainty for families. We are currently working to establish a leadership plan that supports the Bridport and Shoreham communities and allows our incoming superintendent, Dr. Wendy Baker, an opportunity to guide the future leadership structure," Williams said.

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

# Councilors eye limits on comments

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — After a discussion at the Vergennes City Council's March 12 meeting on the topic of how much public comment should be allowed at council meetings, including advice from the city's attorney, Mayor Chris Bearor later last week confirmed he would impose a limitation on how long visitors could speak.

"I'm going to stand firm on the three minutes," Bearor told the *Independent*. "We're going to put it in the rules."

However, Bearor said, if residents have concerns they still believe the council should address after their allotted time is up, Bearor said speakers can ask him to be placed on a future agenda, and Bearor would try to accommodate the request as soon as possible. Placing an issue on an agenda would also allow councilors to research the topic in question, the mayor added.

Bearor also said that for comment on specific agenda items he might allow residents more time to express their thoughts.

"I'm not sure if I'm going to limit the discussion part of it on the topics we're talking about," the mayor told the *Independent*. "If it's on the agenda, and we're talking about it, I'm open to listening to anybody."

Feedback on the question from members of the public was mixed at the March 12 meeting. Resident and former mayor Mike Daniels said he was concerned the policy would "stifle individuals from the community," and said during his tenure residents would use public comment periods to "bring me their ideas."

Resident Jeremy Holm, on the other hand, said the council should be allowed to run efficient meetings,

and that residents have plenty of opportunities outside of meetings to let their opinions be heard, adding that he trusted councilors to listen.

"I support the idea of this policy because they (meetings) can be long and frustrating when the same few people keep bringing up really good points, and sometimes not," Holm said. "I know we have email, Front Porch Forum, (City Manager) Ron (Redmond) is very responsive ... I don't worry about any member of our community not being heard, or any point not being understood."

City Recreation Coordinator Martha DeGraaf, who co-chaired the committee that studied a proposed merger of the Addison Northwest and Mount Abraham school districts, supported discussion after action items.

DeGraaf said the school merger study committee established effective rules that allowed comment after action items, limited to three minutes, with an open comment period allowed at the end.

City Attorney Ed Adrian weighed in. He called it "unusual" and "typically not constructive" for a board to have the "kind of back-and-forth" with the public he has seen at city council meetings.

"We recommend that boards, especially boards in larger towns ... there needs to be some way to manage that," Adrian said.

He referred back to Daniels' and Holm's comments.

"That doesn't mean the white-haired folks, as the gentleman (Daniels) put it, can't engage board members any time they want, via emails, telephone calls, seeing them in the store," Adrian said. "As (Holm) pointed out, it's a representative democracy. It's not town meeting anymore. You have

an Australian ballot. And there is more than one way for residents to participate than ... engaging in a back-and-forth with the board in a public forum."

Councilors who spoke favored limits. Deputy Mayor Dickie Austin said such a policy would make meetings "more efficient and effective," and Jill Murray-Killon said a time limit could also encourage those who wanted to comment to be "more prepared to be concise" in their remarks.

Councilor Mark Koenig, also an ANWSD school board member, also weighed in.

"This is the way the school board has been operating for seven, eight years, and it's fine," Koenig said. "Nobody has trouble getting in touch with me outside of a meeting, and we still raise every issue that comes up."

Murray-Killon also asked Adrian if the council could make exceptions. He said yes, but added cautions.

"You can always vote to suspend the rules," Adrian said. "What you need to do is make very clear what the rules are at the beginning of a public forum, and what everybody gets. And I would stay away from making exceptions for particular speakers ... You've got to treat everybody the same."

Adrian added one last piece of advice for Bearor and the rest of the council.

"If you adopt these for however many minutes, let's say three, if somebody goes over that time, they need to be politely warned they've gone over, and then they need to be asked to stop. And the council needs to recess if they don't stop, and take appropriate action," Adrian said. "Because otherwise the rules are meaningless."



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## Editorial

## High-fives, and thumbs down, for legislative work this session

Last week and this are crucial weeks in the state's legislative session; it's when bills either cross over from the House to the Senate or vice-versa — or die. The crossover date for money-bills is this Friday, March 22; last Friday was the deadline for all other bills. Brief commentary of those notable bills that made crossover, or are dead for this session, largely based on reporting by VtDigger, follows:

- We're heartened to see the misguided effort to kneecap the Green Mountain Care Board failed. Both S.211, which would have shifted some of the GMCB's powers to Agency of Human Services, and S.151, which would have altered how the GMCB operated, were attempts to reduce oversight of the state's hospitals and associated costs. The GMCB acts as the citizens' advocate for health care costs, with its primary focus to contain costs where possible. It's a very complicated issue with many points of contention, but in general, the GMCB should, if anything, be strengthened in its role to monitor and contain health care costs of behalf of all Vermonters. That does at times work against hospitals and their efforts to remain viable, but it's a healthy tension.

- In a sign the Legislature has some sensibility to the public mood, Senate bill S.224, which was an attempt to raise legislators' pay, never received a committee vote, nor did another bill, S.221, which was to slash the governor's salary. DOA is a fitting end for both.

- H.719, the bill to address the lack of affordable housing that was initially backed by Democrats, Republicans and Progressives, and had the governor's support, is all but dead. That's unfortunate. It will be one of the legislature's biggest failures if they don't pass effective legislation that addresses the state's affordable housing crisis. Another bill, H.687, is a compromise between developers and conservationists on Act 250 reform and remains alive, but whether it has the punch it needs to move the affordability needle is dubious.

- In an attempt to address some of the school funding woes, H.871 directs a group of lawmakers to "hash out the details of a future state school construction program." Look for that measure to be debated in the next biennium, followed by much hang wringing over cost.

- It's good news the legislature paused what are over-the-top measures to limit PCBs in schools. The state-imposed threshold for PCB presence in schools was multiple times higher than any federal standard. In a perfect world, eliminating all PCBs would be grand, but the costs are prohibitive and there's no need to reach levels far below what federal standards consider safe. H.873 will pause PCB testing when the funding for testing and remediation hits a certain threshold. For now that's a reasonable compromise.

- A measure supported by Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Addison, aimed at establishing some accountability over county employees, specifically sheriffs and state's attorneys, has been declared all but dead. That's a shame. Recent cases of sheriffs in Franklin and Addison counties have exposed the need to have some way to oust an officeholder who has proven inept or a detriment to the public he or she serves. The measure was proposed in the form of a state constitutional amendment to set qualifications and removal procedures. Called Proposal 1, it was sent back to Senate Government Operations Committee instead of being put it to a vote. The measure needed two-thirds of the chamber, or 20 votes, to move forward, and the votes just weren't there to pass it.

What happened was an effective lobbying campaign by the Vermont Sheriffs Association, which killed the initiative. A reasonable option remains: to create mechanisms in state law to exercise oversight and accountability, rather than trying to change the state's constitution.

Whatever approach is taken, something must be done soon: the idea that a county sheriff, state's attorney, or any other county official can exercise what is clearly poor judgment, or are negligent in their duties, or even abusive to others and still remain in office is an offense to the public good. Sen. Hardy and her committee were right to press the case; we hope the committee is more effective in the next biennium.

- The Vermont House finally passed S.18, a measure that would ban the sale of flavored nicotine products and tobacco substitutes. The Senate passed the bill earlier. The bill now goes to the governor for approval.

One might think this bill was a no-brainer. It's beyond doubt flavored e-cigarettes appeal to school-age youth and are creating nicotine addictions among them at an alarming rate. We all know tobacco, when smoked, kills and that nicotine's addiction is hard to shake. Good public policy is to limit access.

But, in politics, legislators can get confused over relatively petty concerns. Consider numerous legislators changed their opposition to flavored tobacco when they learned the loss of sales tax revenue from those sales — anywhere from \$7 million to \$14 million, which is a relative pittance on a \$2 billion budget — would be too much of a burden. That, of course, is near-sighted math, not counting the long-term costs of addiction, lung cancer, hospitalizations, and so on. Yet, it was significant enough that legislators moved the effective date of the law from 2025 to 2026. An even weaker argument is the idea among some Democrats and Progressives that banning menthol-flavored cigarettes was somehow displaying inequitable treatment to Blacks and LGBTQ+ people, because, supposedly, they were more disposed to smoke menthol-flavored cigarettes. Gov. Scott picked up on another sentiment, suggesting the state allowed the sale of flavored alcohol and cannabis products. "So it seems we're not being fair about this in some respects."

Good grief. Forget the sideshows, people, and stick to the main act. Flavored cigarettes and e-cigarettes are terrible for public health. Children are being addicted to nicotine via flavored e-cigarettes. That's the problem this legislation addresses.

Kudos to the Legislature for finally passing it. Gov. Scott should sign it without hesitation.

Angelo Lynn



## A poem as beautiful

NO BUDS YET on this tree in Middlebury's Marble Works, but the sky is blue and the sun is getting warm (some days). Spring officially arrived on the calendar this past Tuesday, so it must be here.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

## Figure it out, whatever it takes

Eighth in a series

Charity Eugair is E-Team Clinician for the Counseling Service of Addison County, or CSAC.

What defines a crisis? While there's apt to be more than one right answer, I was taught that a crisis, fundamentally, is a *critical situation in which the demands exceed the resources available to meet them.* A crisis often feels like "we can't get there from here."

In the work of crisis response, we never know what a day will bring. Whether we are working in mental health (as I do), emergency housing, law enforcement, EMT service, emergency medicine or domestic violence, the assignment is wildly different from day to day, but the job description is always the same: "Figure it out, whatever it takes."

As a clinician on CSAC's Emergency Team, working many nights and weekends, I am grateful that most of the time we can pull together, and weave together solutions. As a community, I think we do an honorable job of combining our respective resources and services to bring hard, and even dangerous situations from a crisis status back to a manageable one.

However, the crisis I run into that seems the hardest one for us to team on is homelessness. More than with most problems, there are a litany of causal factors in homelessness (mental health being just one), and a gravelly slim range of solutions. While our community is lucky to be more resourced with shelter than many, homelessness is a crisis steeped in powerlessness. Not just for those experiencing it, but for all involved.

## Living Together

Addison County Homelessness Task Force



By Charity Eugair

None of us respond well to powerlessness. It's one of the hardest things to hold, especially where there is suffering and vulnerability. Especially when we are afraid. For unhoused people in need of care, powerlessness might look like problem behaviors, ill-chosen expressions or even crimes, inspiring conflict among citizens. For those working to respond, powerlessness can manifest within our network of partnerships as blame, criticism and divisiveness.

When crisis response depends on community partnerships, we cannot afford to let our sense of powerlessness in the work silo our services.

To be fair, I acknowledge that this isn't easy. When the limitations of our work (and others') leave risk on the table, our unchecked powerlessness can breed criticism quickly. Fear and anger have been old friends for all time. I'm not immune to big frustrations and occasionally grumbling about what I wish someone else would do differently.

In mental health we are frequently criticized for not doing what people expect in the face of disruptive, and even risky, mental health presentations. At least once a week, someone is exasperated with me about why we won't just "put them in the hospital," referring to someone whose troubling behavior is assumed to be mental health related. Our least-loved tool, the Emergency Exam application, is what we use to involuntarily hospitalize people, a last-resort safety measure when "imminent risk of physical harm" is (See *Living Together*, Page 5A)

## Pruning: How about them apples?

Last week, I spent an afternoon pruning one of our three old apple trees. You probably didn't know I could do stuff like that, but that's OK; until last week I didn't know it either.

Years ago, we used to have a professional come out several times a season to prune and spray the trees. His care kept them healthy. Unfortunately, it also caused them to produce apples far more vigorously than we ever picked them. Eventually we concluded that we should stop paying to have our trees grow vast quantities of high-quality drops.

Now the trees are overgrown and hardly producing, and it makes me sad, mainly on principle. You know how it is with me and old things: They may no longer be practical, pristine or efficient, but I love to see them still working (as usual, insert husband joke here).

Sure, it's easier to buy a bag or two of apples each fall. But that doesn't honor the legacy of our property or the family who planted and kept those trees a century ago. "Don't those mean anything to you?" I asked Mark. He considered the question and took his time formulating a well-reasoned response.

"Not really."

I had never pruned an apple tree before. But I did watch two 15-minute YouTube videos before taking a

shot at it, so I'm basically an expert now, at least on an intellectual level. I understand the purpose of pruning. I understand the goal. I understand which branches to trim and what overall shape to aim for.

The only aspect I haven't mastered is applying my deep understanding to the physical process.

That part seemed better suited to Mark. But, not caring much about the trees or having my level of experience watching how-to videos, he turned me down.

I then suggested a team effort, whereby he would get a ladder and a saw and some clippers, and I would give him instructions based on the comprehensive skills I had picked up from my several minutes of online training.

He said that, as much as he loves when I stand around and tell him what to do, he was more inclined to prune the trees "at the base of the trunk" to save time in future years.

The man has no sense of history. So I did the pruning myself.

I knew, in theory, what to do: Cut back any dead wood and rubbing branches and remove the smooth vertical shoots — what we experts call "water sprouts" — that apple trees send up in search of sunlight.

I had planned to do all three trees in an afternoon. (See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

## Invest our funds in our citizens

The Issue of this election is not about Ukraine, it is about facing the hard truth that it is not Russia or China that are the biggest threats to our country and this planet, it is the United States of America. We are the ones who overthrew the democratically elected president of Ukraine in 2014 with our support and instigation of the Maidan Revolution — one of over 950 coups in 138 countries since 1945.

The taxpayers of this country shell out almost \$1T a year to a military that has never passed an audit or won a war since World War II. We have over 750 military bases in over 80 countries, and a bigger military budget than the next 10 countries combined. All of this while U.S. citizens have no access to universal healthcare, no access to universal education, and a minimum wage still stuck at \$7.25 per hour.

Face it, we live in a thugocracy that plunders its own people to fund destabilization and conflict around the world to make arms dealers wealthy. Ask Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense and a Raytheon board member, about these connections. Don't be fooled by Russia and China fear-mongering. Let's invest in American citizens and not in sorrow, tears and blood.

John Garn Ripton

## Editorial got facts incorrect

In answer to the editorial, "Pull the Plug on Israel, Joe:"

Israel has a parliamentary system. The president, who has a ceremonial role, is Yitzchak Herzog. The prime minister is Benjamin Netanyahu, not Begin Netanyahu. Menachem Begin was prime minister of Israel from 1977 to 1983.

In my opinion Netanyahu and his government are reprehensible but a newspaper should be able to get basic facts correct.

Michele Lowy Middlebury

*Editor's note: Guilty as charged. Rushed it to get to a meeting; never a good idea. Corrected it online, but not before the paper was printed.*

## U.S actions in Gaza questioned

Senator Bernie Sanders, referring to the war in Gaza, has said, "It is not just an Israeli war. It is an American war. These are our bombs and military equipment that are being used." Even as American officials, including President Biden, complain that Israeli leaders have not done enough to protect civilians, Washington as of March 6, 2024, had approved more than 100 separate military sales to Israel since the invasion of Gaza. This includes thousands of "precision-guided" munitions, small diameter bombs, bunker busters, small arms and other lethal aid as reported by U.S. officials to members of Congress in a recent classified briefing.

In addition to the 3.3 billion dollars in military aid provided to Israel every year, President Biden and the Republicans in Congress support an additional 17.6 billion dollars in military aid. Israel would not be able to conduct its genocide of the Palestinian people without this unconditional aid.

As Americans we need to come to terms with the realities of this war. In the first week of the war, Israel reported that it had dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza. Gaza comprises an area 13 miles long and 7.5 miles wide at its widest point. The Gaza Strip, smaller than Addison County, has been described as the world's largest open-air prison, with a population of 2.3 million people. Under occupation, Palestinians were denied basic human rights, including access to clean water, food, power, health care, schooling and an ability to move in and out of Gaza without Israeli authorization.

For decades UNWRA, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency, helped to fill this void by providing services to 50% of the

(See *Brown letter*, Page 4A)

## ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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# What is the cost of flourishing?

Have you ever been lost? Before there were the map apps, it surely happened more frequently while driving. Hiking can be a different situation. While many trails are well blazed, even they can be tricky in snow or after dark. I used to be quite adventurous while hiking with my dog, following all the official and unofficial trails I could find up here in the mountains. There were (still are) trails that would start out quite obvious, even if not marked. As I walked, sometimes navigating around or over fallen trees, the path might become increasingly difficult to discern. That would be a challenge, but I kept pushing on, caught up in the moment. I might end up at a river or connect with another, more traveled route. Or the trail might just peter out. I often would keep moving on, sure that all would be clear just ahead, but no luck. My path had disappeared. That's when I would turn around, looking to retrace my steps.

Unless you are walking through snow or mud, retracing footsteps is not so easy. I might well have pushed on too far from anything but wilderness. I would seek a remnant of the landscape I had passed, but seeing objects from the opposite direction tended to distort my memories. Eventually I would find my way again, but a couple of times not quite. Orienting by the sun and the features of the land, I finally succeeded, but it was a real slog — at least once through a marsh — to get myself back on track.

I look around at our state, our country, and wonder if we have



**Ways of Seeing**  
By Laurie Cox

lost our way. We go along, often thinking more about the present than where we might be headed. It's like when driving down the road, talking on the phone (hands free), munching a snack, thinking about our jobs or our kids or what to do this weekend. Where are we actually going? Here in Vermont, we fret about rich people moving away if they are asked to pay equitable taxes when we need to focus on moving our society into a successful future. Which is more important: cheap gas now or avoiding catastrophic climate change down the road? Fancy second homes or affordable housing for the rest of us? Getting lots of "likes" on social media or spending time with real friends, people who will be there for you as you go through life's changes or your car breaks down? How can we know we are on the right track when we aren't paying attention to where we're headed?

There is a lot of talk about making Vermont more affordable, but what exactly does that mean? What path does that take us down? Maybe we need to turn around and look at where we came from. In the towns, large and small, that make up our state we see many beautiful buildings — the town halls, libraries, churches and performance venues that were built well over a hundred years ago. How did they afford to build such edifices at a time when most people lived and worked in an economy almost devoid of cash? And yet they were built, and built to last. Sometimes it was by a wealthy benefactor, because sharing with the community at

large was important. Sometimes it was that community at large, all working together to create these important structures. They were and often still are the places where the community comes together to maintain community. Can we still afford such places? No one loves to pay their taxes but that is how we maintain a strong community, an educated populace, a sustainable environment. Those folks who created our communities well over a hundred years ago drank coffee, but they didn't stop at a store every morning to get their beverage. They made it at home. We might think of that cup of coffee as cheap and convenient, but brewing it at home rather than grabbing it on the way can easily provide you with several hundred extra dollars every year to support our schools, our physical and mental health care, a healthy environment. Has the easy satisfaction of the moment become so engrained that we can no longer focus on the long haul — on our very future?

Sometimes we need to turn around, look where we came from, and find our way back. Not everything in the "good old days" was very good, but some wisdom remains. Can we afford to pay the money, effort, and attention for the things that will make our society flourish? Can we afford not to? A synonym for "unaffordable" is "priceless." The nature of our state is priceless. Let's keep it that way; let's not lose our way.

*Laurie Cox is a retired school counselor and longtime Ripton selectboard member. Besides occasional writing she pursues art, gardening and hiking with her dog, and is always striving to build stronger communities.*

# Government transparency vital

Open government mattered to all of us during the height of the COVID pandemic. Government played an outsized role in our day-to-day lives then. Schools closed, storefronts shuttered and the officials making decisions about quarantines, mask mandates and vaccines often met in secret or exclusively online. We demanded access to their Zoom meetings and to information about how long our kids would remain home and when our businesses could reopen. We requested reports on public health data underlying the policies decided by our local and state

## Community Forum

*This week's writer is Justin Silverman, executive director of the New England First Amendment Coalition and a Massachusetts attorney. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Maine School of Law, New England Law in Boston and the University of Connecticut.*

representatives. We used public record and open meeting laws to get answers to our questions.

With the pandemic largely behind us, however, it can be easy to forget about government transparency. Outside of newsrooms, few of us regularly make public records requests or attend open meetings. The decisions of government don't seem to weigh as heavily on us as they once did.

Sunshine Week — March 10 to 16 — is a reminder that the need for open government never abated. The sunshine reference is attributed to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis, who famously wrote that "sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants." (See Silverman, Page 7A)

## Brown letter

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

population. UNRWA became the infrastructure that the people of Gaza depended on. This apartheid has been acknowledged and condemned by the UN numerous times over the decades of Israeli occupation. The Arab states have also condemned the apartheid state and have themselves been at war with Israel over what is commonly called "the Palestinian Problem."

President Jimmy Carter called the occupation for what it was, apartheid, and said that without justice for the Palestinians, there would be no peace. Since 1948 the Palestinians have resisted occupation and apartheid, but each military confrontation has resulted in Israel occupying more land. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace told CNBC: "Typically speaking, year in and year out, the number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli forces exceeds Israeli civilians killed by Palestinians several times over. Additionally, since 2008 alone, at least 183,500 Palestinians have been wounded due to

conflicts while approximately 11,700 Israelis have been injured, according to UN data."

Since the massacre of 1,200 innocent Israeli civilians on October 7 by Hamas, Israel has massacred over 31,000 innocent Palestinian civilians. In early February, the U.S. withdrew its financial support of UNRWA. The UNRWA workers as well as journalists, teachers, poets and healthcare workers have been targeted and killed by the Israeli military. The situation gets more and more dire by the day as Israel carries out its genocide. The Palestinians have been told to vacate their homes and move to southern Gaza while their homes, schools, hospitals, clinics are demolished. Now with over a million Palestinians forced to flee to Rafah, the southernmost town in Gaza on the border of Israel and Egypt, Israel has started its ground invasion of Rafah, where they were told to flee.

Haven't we seen this forced en masse expulsion of a whole ethnicity by powerful governments

before? And yet despite the fact that we have seen this before in world history and have denounced it as barbaric and ethnic cleansing, we are "complicit," as Bernie says. Amidst the deaths, rubble and destruction, we are seeing further genocidal acts as Palestinians face starvation, widespread disease and impending famine.

On March 11, 2024, Avril Benoit, from Doctors Without Borders USA said it well, "The U.S. plan for a temporary pier in Gaza to increase the flow of humanitarian aid is a glaring distraction from the real problem — Israel's indiscriminate and disproportionate military campaign and punishing Siege."

Despite President Biden's warnings and scoldings of Israel's indiscriminate military actions, he continues to recommit U.S. allegiance to Israel regardless of their actions.

Bombs and promises of food and water. These are our gifts to the Palestinians of Gaza.

**Linda Brown Bristol**

## Living Together

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

driven by mental illness. Since the use of this tool revokes a person's constitutional freedom we exhaust numerous alternative crisis interventions first, including Mobil Crisis response, Interlude (a peer-based support program), and Rapid Access, which offers holdover services while people await therapy. People want us to use hospitalization to impose treatment on those who need it and refuse it. However, involuntary hospitalization is not created to support people or help them heal, therapeutically. It's not designed to motivate them or build trust in the care system. Involuntary hospitalization is an imposition of profound powerlessness upon someone who already feels that way, and it's meant to keep them, and others, alive. That's it.

Each agency or community partner has some version of this — something people desperately demand that they can't provide. In

crisis response, the space between what we want to do and what we're empowered to do can be a dark one. The powerlessness we feel in that space widens the gap and, if we are not mindful, can undermine our efforts.

The antidote to this powerlessness is not power. It is not policy, or research or even funding (though more of both would be great). The antidote to powerlessness is curiosity, and this is exceedingly hard. It's not easy to maintain curiosity under duress. Wonder and fear are *not* old friends. This, of course, is why we must reach for curiosity proactively. Doing so doesn't hinge on what we know, rather it requires that we consider what we don't know yet.

I'm grateful to see curiosity at work in Addison County. At CSAC, we invited law enforcement leadership to our table in January and have ongoing meetings planned to help us understand

each other's work and collaborate more effectively. Having worked in domestic violence in Rutland County, I'm thrilled to learn about conversations aimed at integrating elements of the Project VISION model here. Project VISION is a Rutland County coalition comprising over 300 partners, who collaborate as guided by a shared ethos that addressing challenges exceeds the capacity of any single entity. Some of the most challenging outcomes of my work in Rutland happened because of Project VISION partnerships.

Where the crisis of homelessness is concerned, there is no easy answer. I think we're all a long way from transcending the powerlessness that comes with it. In the meantime, we must work just as hard on working together as we do on living together, strive to maintain curiosity and give each other some grace along the way. It is the best chance we have of getting there from here.

## Jessie

*(Continued from Page 4A)*

It turns out, however, that while YouTube videos can be edited for time, real life can't. I got one tree done that day.

Had anyone with actual pruning experience been watching me, I'm sure they would have been screaming about my technique. I shouldn't have cut so close to (or so far from) the main branch. I shouldn't have used that kind of saw. I shouldn't have been hanging upside down like a sloth. Those people would be justified in their horror. But from a distance, even though I gave it only a light pruning, the tree does look better.

And let's put it in perspective: When the tree guy used to do his thing, the trees yielded a nearly unlimited supply of apples. Nobody wants that.

Do you know how many apples are in a bushel? Google tells me about 120. And a healthy, mature, full-sized apple tree can produce 10 to 20 bushels per year. We have three trees. That's 3,600 to 7,200 apples a year, or approximately 3,500 to 7,100 more than I need for a few pies and a couple dozen jars of applesauce.

Every September, the sight of those picture-perfect trees dotted with robust red fruits would cause me to groan in despair. Another

bountiful harvest? Already? Ugh. I couldn't take the pressure of picking as many of the fine, unblemished fruits as possible before they fell, or of processing them before they turned to mush. And later I'd feel guilty knowing I'd let most of them rot on the ground.

I know my pruning isn't as pretty or as thorough as it should be, but I'm fine with that. We'll probably end up with a few dozen scabby, misshapen apples, suitable only for baking and canning.

Good. I'm not proud to say it, but, honestly, that's about all I can handle.

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**Session 4:**  
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Elder Counseling Options and Resources in our Community.

Presented by Joanne Corbett  
Geriatric Social Worker, Elderly Services  
Tuesday, May 14, 3:30-5:00 PM  
at EastView at Middlebury

**Session 2:**  
"Better Safe than Sorry"  
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Presented by Tom Hanley, retired chief of Middlebury Police Department  
Tuesday, April 23, 4:30-6:00 PM  
at National Bank of Middlebury

**Session 5:**  
"You are Not Alone"  
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ADDISON COUNTY

# Obituaries

## Galen Otis Hutchison Jr., 86, of Leicester

BRANDON — Galen Otis Hutchison Jr., age 86, passed away on Monday, March 11, 2024, at Mountain View Center in Rutland. Galen was born in Middlebury on Dec. 6, 1937. He was the son of Galen and Kathleen (MacCall) Hutchison Sr. He grew up on Wagner Road in Forest Dale and received his early education in local schools. He graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1955. He afterwards attended Paul Smith's College and earned his degree from the University of Vermont. Upon graduation he worked for UVM in Forestry Research.



GALEN OTIS HUTCHISON JR.

He has been a consultant in forestry management for many years, retiring in 2000. He and his family had lived in Bakersfield for several years before returning to the Brandon area. He was a member of the Leicester Church of the Nazarene, where he has been involved in many church affairs and activities. He enjoyed

hunting and fishing, was an avid reader and loved making maple syrup and working in his garden.

Surviving is his son, Andrew Hutchison and his wife Donna of Leicester; and a daughter, Wendy Cijka and her husband Stephen of Hubbardton; and two

grandchildren, Emma Cijka of Shoreham and Joseph Cijka of Hubbardton. Several nieces and nephews also survive him. He was predeceased by his wife, Sally (Sargent) Hutchison, whom he married in Forest Dale on Jan. 29, 1959, and a sister, Laura Slattery.

Friends may call at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home on Friday, March 22, from 5 until 7 p.m.

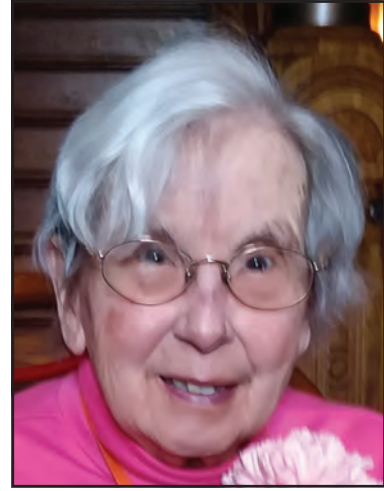
A memorial service in celebration of his life will be held on March 23, at 11 a.m., at the Leicester Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Michael Vincent will officiate. Following the service the family will receive friends in the church hall for a time of remembrance.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to: Leicester Church of the Nazarene, 39 Windy Knoll Lane, Leicester, VT 05733.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. ♦

## Thelma Miner, 94, of Brandon

BRANDON — Thelma Miner, 94, passed away March 14, 2024, at the UVM Medical Center in Burlington. She was born Jan. 16, 1930, in Goshen, Vt., to Hawley Hathaway and Mindwell Cross Hathaway. She graduated from Brandon High School, class of 1948.



THELMA MINER

Thelma went to work for the Ayrshire Breeders' Assn. in Brandon. She married Leo Miner on July 22, 1950, and farmed alongside him, raising five children together. The farm later passed to her son Jim. Leo then created a snack wagon from a small transit bus and Thelma's Snacks was born. They traveled to auctions, festivals and fairs selling their food. They were also maple producers producing some mighty fine syrup.

Leo passed away in 1998 and Thelma carried on with her snack wagon and maple syrup. She made her maple products, syrup, cream, sugar and candy and set up once a week at the Farmer's Market in Brandon. Generations have grown up enjoying Thelma's Bread

Dough with Maple Cream as she was a staple at July 4th festivities and served the people at Addison County Field Days for 20 years.

She loved being a maple producer and would "talk maple" with anyone who asked about syrup or visited her sugarhouse during boiling. She was an active member of the Addison County Sugar Makers Assn. for many years. Thelma was

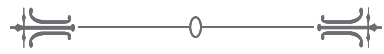
also a 59-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Marble Chapter 80 in Brandon.

Thelma is survived by her children, Marie Perry, Ernest Miner and wife Deborah, James Miner and wife Kim, Marsha Hesse and Edward Miner and wife Lynn; sister-in-law Gertrude Hathaway; 11 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Leo, and two brothers, Ralph Hathaway and Burton Hathaway.

The OES and Funeral Service will be held March 23, at 11 a.m., at the Brandon Congregational Church. Refreshments and fellowship in the Rectory will follow the service.

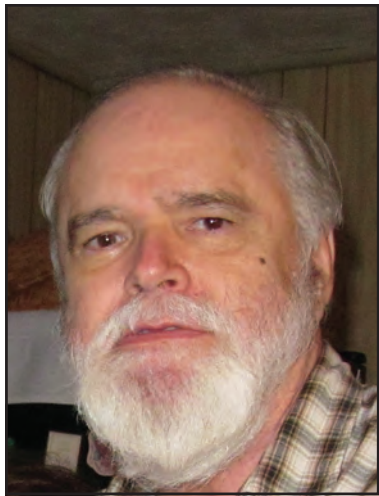
Thelma was a big supporter of the Brandon Town Hall. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in her memory to "The Friends of the Brandon Town Hall," PO Box 181, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home, Middlebury, VT. Online condolences at [www.sandersonfuneralservice.com](http://www.sandersonfuneralservice.com)



## Oliver E. 'Joe' Nunn Jr., 81, Bridport

BRIDPORT — Oliver E. Nunn Jr., known to all as Joe, took his final breath surrounded by his loving family on March 8, 2024.



OLIVER E. 'JOE' NUNN JR.

Joe was born in Peacham, Vt., on April 17, 1943, spent his adolescence in the Northeast Kingdom, did his military service in the Air Force in Germany, and then settled down in Addison County. Joe held various jobs in his lifetime; he was a Middlebury policeman, an automobile mechanic, a real estate agent, and for twenty years an aerospace technician, after which time he retired due to complications from Parkinson's Disease.

Joe is survived by his wife of 36 years, Karen; their son, Chad; daughters Holly Nunn, Jennifer Severance and her husband Greg, and Jodi Litchfield and her partner Jake; as well as six grandchildren

and five great-grandchildren. Surviving family also includes Joe's brother, Robert Wishart (Roberta), and his sisters, Margaret Moss (Greg), Elizabeth Traver (Andy),

Patricia Dent (John), and Sally Paul (Ron). Joe is predeceased by his grandparents, Helen and John Gilman, parents Joyce and George Wishart, and granddaughter Ashley Boyd.

Despite his health challenges, Joe lived a rich and full life, one filled with his love of fishing and hunting, his devotion to NASCAR, his Notre Dame and Green Bay football teams, and to Yankee baseball. If something needed to be fixed, Joe taught himself how to do it. If someone needed a good joke, Joe was ready with one of his legendary puns. He will be best remembered for his kind smile, his sharp wit, and his love for his wife Karen. No formal service will be held, but the family is planning a celebration of Joe's life at his and Karen's home in Bridport this summer. ♦

## Marlene Bond Prescott, 86, of Upper Jay, N.Y.

UPPER JAY, N.Y. — Marlene Bond Prescott, 86, of the Springfield Road, Upper Jay, N.Y., died Wednesday, March 6, 2023, at her residence, under the loving care of her family and High Peaks Hospice.



MARLENE BOND PRESCOTT

Marlene was born in Stowe, Vt., Nov. 18, 1937, the daughter of Andrew and Laura (Field) Mansfield. She grew up in Stowe and graduated from Stowe High School. She later graduated from The University of Vermont with a bachelor's degree.

She married Robert Bond in 1959. He predeceased her.

Marlene came to Upper Jay in the early 1990s to run the Brookside Motor Inn and flourished in her role as the unofficial "mayor of Upper Jay." She delighted in acting as a vital resource and community liaison. Whether you were a hiker in need of directions, a community member in need of someone to help with house repairs, or a victim of the devastating flood in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, Marlene was

there to help. The Red Cross Station for flood relief was housed at Brookside, and it was the gathering place for meals, food and other supplies.

If you visited Upper Jay, you would undoubtedly find Marlene sitting amiably on her porch, waving to passers-by and greeting guests who had become lifelong

friends. If you ever had the good fortune to stay at the Brookside, you are forever counted among them.

Left to cherish the memory of Marlene are: her children, Laurie Childers, Elizabeth Bond-Stewart (John), Robert D. Bond (Raelene), and Suzanne Hunt (Robert); grandchildren, Hattie, Clayton (Alyssa), Clara (Matt) and Glen Childers; Emily, Colin, and Caroline Stewart; Raeann, Ryan (Karen) Bond, John (Julia), Asa, Tia, and Marlie Hunt; great-grandchildren, Awasos Hunt, Ronan, and Thea Bond; and brother, Daryl.

A celebration of her life will be held Saturday, March 23, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the ADK Cafe. Please join her family in celebrating Marlene Dolores Mansfield Bond Prescott's extraordinary life. Bring your Marlene stories; have some delicious lunch supplied by the local restaurateurs and gather in her spirit.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wells Memorial Library in Upper Jay, N.Y. ♦



## Russell George Sumner, 96, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Russell George Sumner, 96, passed away on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Porter Medical Center in Middlebury.

He was born April 24, 1927, in Bristol, the son of Dewey and Ruth Hallock Sumner.

He enjoyed gardening, cutting wood and working on his property.

Russell is survived by his wife, Pauline Sumner of Bristol; his son, Russell Glenn Sumner of Bristol; a

daughter, Sharon Sumner of New York; three great-grandchildren, Ashley, Jessica and Marissa; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a granddaughter, Michelle Bleakley, and two brothers and three sisters.

A graveside service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, VT Affiliate, PO Box 1070, Williston, VT 05495. ♦

## Jerry Tanner Sr., 67, formerly of Monkton

BETHEL — Jerry Tanner Sr. formerly of Monkton, passed away on March 11, 2024, at home.

A celebration of life will be held on April 13 at the Victory Baptist Church in Waltham Vt., on top of Woodman Hill, from noon to 3 p.m.

## Spring breakfast in Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Shoreham Congregational Church will hold a spring breakfast on Saturday, April 6, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

The menu offers plain or blueberry pancakes, French toast with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, home fries, quiche and beverages.

The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and \$30 for families. It is a great chance to enjoy good food as you chat with your neighbors and friends.

It is also an opportunity to take a chance on a Spring Basket of Goodies. Raffle tickets are only \$1 each or 10 for \$5. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the breakfast that day.

Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the Food Shelf to help those in need.

## David Malcolm Stephens, 74, formerly of Vergennes

MANITOWOC, Wis. — David Malcolm Stephens passed peacefully Nov. 10, 2018, at the age 74, at "The Bay" in the North Ridge Health and Rehabilitation Center, in Manitowoc, Wis., after a long struggle with chronic illness and declining health.



DAVID MALCOLM STEPHENS

Born Jan. 22, 1944, in Springfield, Vt., David grew up in Vergennes playing high school basketball, baseball, and soccer — and being a great dancer, especially when doing The Twist. After school and in summers he worked at his father's Pharmacy on Main Street and enjoyed time at the family camp on Potash Bay, Lake Champlain.

In 1967 he married M. Lucinda Reed, of Montpelier, Vt. They were divorced in 1983. He graduated from Huntington University in 1968 with a B.A. in History after which he taught 6th grade in Indiana. Military service in the U.S. Army began with Basic Training at Fort Bliss, Texas, followed by Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as a Medic-Specialist in San Antonio. David then enlisted in the Vermont National Guard where he served from November of 1969 through 1975. He reenlisted and served several more years into the 1980s.

David returned to school in 1970 at the Albany College of Pharmacy, where he earned a postgraduate degree in 1974 and was licensed to practice. His father

passed in 1971 and David became owner and manager of the family store until 1984.

David is survived and lovingly remembered by his former wife, Luci; their devoted son, David Frederick Stephens, b. 1970; three grandsons, Mason, b. 2003, Mitchel, b. 2005, and Mathew, b. 2006; his elder brother, John A. Stephens (Carolyn); and his sister, Mary Sue "Mitzi" Stephens Wright. He is fondly remembered as "Uncle David" by his nephews and nieces, Allison, John W., and Matthew Stephens, Stephanie Stephens Sutton, and Rebecca Catherine Wright.

After 1984, David left pharmacy and moved to Milwaukee Wis., initially to enroll in Rogers'

Hospital Residential Treatment Program, followed by extensive outpatient care. He then enjoyed 20 years of independent life as a member of the guest services staff at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. Always a sports lover, David enjoyed being on a first name basis with the stars who stayed at the Pfister. He developed a standup comedy routine of puns and one-liners to exchange with guests. He was deeply moved by magic moments in the Pfister lobby, such as the night Bette Midler performed an after-hours concert, exclusively for the hotel staff.

In mid-life David thrived on the exercise and stimulation which his job provided. He became the grandpa of the Bell Staff and was elected Bell Captain by his younger peers. In 2009, he turned 65 and could no longer carry the weight of his duties. The HR department at the Pfister stood by him during his last year of ill health.

While David struggled with multiple health issues in his retirement, he found peace in his final days at "The Bay" in Manitowoc. Furthermore, he conducted himself with a sense of grace and poise that not only hid his pain and suffering but brought great comfort to his family, allowing time to make new memories, reminisce and just enjoy time together. He was able to see his grandsons and other family members and finally, was able to say goodbye to those he loved and who loved him.

A private memorial service is planned for summer, 2024 in Vermont. ♦

## Obituary Guidelines

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

department. Photos (optional) with either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to [obits@addisonindependent.com](mailto:obits@addisonindependent.com).

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

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# Silverman

(Continued from Page 5A)

In other words, an informed public is the best way to rid government of corruption.

We don't need a global pandemic to appreciate our personal stake in government accountability. Consider the following examples of how sunshine laws are playing out in the region:

- Regular FOIA scofflaws in Connecticut rarely pay fines despite the law allowing up to \$5,000 in penalties. As of last month, the state's Freedom of Information Commission imposed only six fines for FOIA violations since 2012. Changes in the law now require the fines to be paid by officials personally. This is a strong incentive to follow the law, but only if fines are imposed and the message is sent to agencies that they cannot disregard their FOIA obligations with impunity.

- Following the worst mass shooting in Maine's history, newsrooms are making public record requests to better understand how the tragedy in Lewiston unfolded. Through records obtained using the Maine Freedom of Access Act, we know more about the shooter's military history and what, if any, attempts were made to treat his mental disorders prior to last October. The information learned through public records will almost certainly fuel arguments for — and against — gun reform in the state.

- A proposal by Massachusetts

Gov. Maura Healey would make the format of local open meetings completely discretionary instead of guaranteeing both in-person and remote access. Do you have a disability, parenting responsibilities, odd work hours or any other reason preventing you from traveling to a government meeting? Under this proposal, you'll be shut out when city councils, selectboards or school committees decide to hold their meetings exclusively in person.

- In a state where the right to know about government is enshrined in its constitution, New Hampshire lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow excessive fees to be charged for public records. The bill makes no exception for those who cannot afford the fees or for information of high public interest. Instead, the legislation incentivizes government officials to overestimate the time to comply with a records request, needlessly redact and review documents, and ultimately deter even modest requests from being made in the first place.

- Want to know how the Washington Bridge in Providence fell into disrepair and why it ultimately closed? You'll need to pay. Rhode Island Gov. Daniel McKee is charging thousands of dollars for records that date back to July 2023 when the bridge last passed inspection. The Attorney General's Office said that while the charges are legal, they can also be waived by the governor. Legislation

to change the state's Access to Public Records Act would require those fees be waived and make it easier for us to understand what caused one of the biggest travel headaches in the state's history.

- Vermont state agencies are turning the public records law on its head, requiring reporters to submit formal requests for basic information that should be readily accessible. As Diane Derby at VTDigger recently explained, agencies are using the law "as a shield to deny reporters timely access." Rather than just answer a straightforward question, she said, they force the reporter to file a formal request, slow the process and deprive readers like you of much-needed information.

Still not convinced you have a personal stake in government transparency? Consider sunshine an insurance policy. Even if none of the situations above resonate with you or relate to your daily life, know that transparency discourages government misconduct from occurring at all. Those in government are less likely to act in their self-interest when the public is looking over their shoulder. When malfeasance does occur, we can use our sunshine laws to learn what happened and hold those responsible accountable for their actions.

Let's not wait for another pandemic or public health crisis to make transparency a priority. Sunshine is a cause we should always be rallying around.

# Lincoln

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

## NEWS

LINCOLN — The United Church of Lincoln will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Weathervane lawn at 10 a.m., sharp, on Saturday, March 23. Participants should bring their own basket or bag and meet on the church steps by 9:45 a.m. as the hunt will start on time.

This year the younger children will get a little bit of a head start so it is equally enjoyable for all. There will also be a limit on the number of eggs any one child can collect. A prize will be given to each child. This is a rain or shine event. Please dress accordingly.

There will be a Community Potluck Saturday, March 23, starting at 5 p.m. at Burnham Hall. Show up with a dish to share or come as you are. The meal will go as long as there is food and people. If you can't make it but would like a meal, email reedprescott@gmavt.net to make arrangements for takeout.

Join fellow card players upstairs at Burnham Hall on Saturday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m., for a game of Military Whist. Never heard of Whist? It's a very simple game and a whole lot of fun! Teams are made

up of four players and each team has its own card table called a fort. Each fort has a number and each team member has their own number 1, 2, 3 or 4. A fort chart tells each of the team members whether they go challenge another fort or if they stay and defend their fort.

Once all players are seated, the visiting lady (one of the players from a nearby fort) deals each person 13 cards. There are 13 tricks up for grabs in each round of play. A trick is won by the player who puts down the highest card in the suit that was led or by the person who played the highest trumped card. Attackers and defenders work to get seven of the thirteen tricks. The winners of each round earn a flag. Flags have different values. A trick can be worth 1 to 20 points.

At the end of all rounds, the flags are added up and the team with the most points wins. The generals (those running the card game) may decide that the winners are the losers or some crazy kind of change to the game. Small, fun prizes will be awarded. All are welcome.

For ten consecutive Wednesdays

starting June 19 and continuing through August 21, the library will once again be featuring "Pop-In People!" This series of summer afternoon activities is a way to support summer reading and multi-age activities based on sharing a personal hobby or passion. Last year people shared their interest in playing chess, making fairy houses, caring for rescue dogs, making a book together, creating slimy concoctions, learning magic tricks and more. It was different every week, and fun every time. The primary audience is elementary aged kids, but there will be two assistants available to help make the activity engaging for younger or older participants.

If you are interested in sharing a passion or hobby, please email Wendy at [lincolnlibraryvt@gmail.com](mailto:lincolnlibraryvt@gmail.com) to sign up for a particular day.

Until next time ... Life Is What Happens When We are Busy Making Other Plans. Every Star Shines A Little Differently. You Can't Change The Past, But You Can Change The Present By Worrying About The Future.

## Symposium to focus on anti-gender movement

MIDDLEBURY — As part of its annual Gensler Family Symposium on Feminism, Middlebury College will host a conference on the global anti-gender movement on April 11 and 12. The conference, entitled "Feminism, Fascism and the Future," is organized by the college's program in Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies and the Feminist Resource Center. It is free and open to the public.

In recent years, feminist scholarship and gender studies have come under increasing attack from right-wing politicians across the globe. This symposium aims to shed light on the intersection of feminism

and fascism, examining how the rise of fascist ideologies poses a threat to gender studies, feminism, and LGBTQ rights in Europe, Latin America, and the United States.

The symposium will feature presentations and discussions by some of the world's leading experts in the field, providing valuable insights into the current challenges and future prospects for feminist movements worldwide. Attendees will also have the opportunity to engage with a new podcast dedicated to exploring the complex relationship between feminism, fascism, and the future.

Organized annually by the GSFS

Program in collaboration with the Feminist Resource Center at Chellis, the Gensler Family Symposium on Feminism in the Global Arena has been a platform for addressing pressing issues through a feminist lens since its inception in 2008. Past topics have covered a wide range of issues, reflecting on GSFS's commitment to advancing gender equality and social justice on a global scale.

Further information about the symposium, including the schedule, is available at <https://sites.middlebury.edu/genslerfamilysymposium2024/>.

## Letters to the Editor

### Nonprofits are better at keeping people housed

If you have spent any amount of time in the "affordable housing" rabbit hole, you are aware that research over the last 50 years has shown that nonprofit housing organizations are consistently *better* at keeping people housed than for-profit housing developers are. The conclusion seems obvious, that for-profit housing developers are in business to profit from housing human beings. Nonprofit housing developers are in business to house human beings. And yet our country's insistence on the use of the Public/Private partnership to solve this housing crisis remains Vermont's only idea for providing its citizens with the most basic human need: shelter.

Accessory Dwelling Units are the hot new method for creating "gentle infill (more housing units in town), and to do that, in Vermont, the state has decided to grant private homeowners public money to assist them in financing units that they agree to keep

"affordable" for *five years* — after which, they can rent their units at whatever the market will bear. This is like the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit given to developers in exchange for a percentage of its project units being held aside as "affordable" for a period of 20-30 years (while they continuously profit from the remaining units). What most people are not aware of is that approximately 40% of this country's "affordable housing" units are occupied by a tenant who has a housing voucher. In effect, the government is paying twice.

This makes sense if the units are in a nonprofit development. That is how many of us would expect the government to use public money — assisting public housing organizations to do the work of housing our neighbors. However, it is estimated that less than 5% of all housing in the United States is nonprofit. Do you really think that all those vouchers (all that public money) are in the public housing

sector?

If nonprofit housing organizations are better at *housing* people, and we are in a *housing* crisis, doesn't it make sense that we would demand that as much money as possible be shifted in their direction? In most cases, these organizations work with for-profit builders, so no one is out of a job per se. Further, in a merit-obsessed society, why aren't nonprofit builders given the lion's share of our government's business? Why is their path toward developing housing that is perpetually affordable marred with the same obstacles as those developing housing for the sole purpose of making money?

When are we going to acknowledge that the public/private partnership is so flawed that it cannot be the primary solution to permanent affordable housing?

Andrea Galiano  
Middlebury

### S.258 is a much-needed change to VF&W board

I support S.258- Modernizing Wildlife Governance

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board consists of volunteers appointed by the governor. Although the fish and wildlife of Vermont are held in trust by the state for the benefit of all citizens, the board currently consists only of hunters, trappers, and/or anglers.

S. 258, introduced by Senator Bray, is a much-needed corrective that would balance the composition of the board to include the viewpoints of all people concerned with our wildlife. Applications will be accepted and the authority to appoint board members will be split between the Commissioner of the Fish and Wildlife Department,

the Speaker of the House, and the Committee on Committees. Among the criteria for selection is the need to include members of the public beyond just hunters and trappers.

S.258 also makes the board advisory, with final decisions in the hands of the Fish and Wildlife Department, where the professional staff has the expertise and knowledge needed for effective wildlife management.

The bill does prohibit hunting coyotes with dogs. Using hounds to chase coyotes to shoot is not sporting, nor does it make sense. Coyote meat is not used and the fur is of little value. Nor is hunting coyotes with dogs needed or useful for maintaining coyote populations

as is the case with deer. Coyotes monitor their own population. Studies show that when coyotes are aggressively hunted, the number of young they produce will increase.

I come from four generations of Vermonters who all were hunters and fisherman. Our family enjoyed venison, duck and fish brought home by my father, Dr. BJ Andrews from Middlebury. He hunted deer and preferred hunting with a bow to hunting with a gun because he believed it was more sporting.

I strongly support modernizing wildlife governance with S.258.

Linda Andrews  
Bristol

## Public meeting access gets upgrade post-COVID

By VTDIGGER.ORG EDITORS

MONTPELIER — The Senate this week unanimously passed S.55, a bill that sets new ground rules for the public's access to public meetings in the post-pandemic era.

The version moving forward requires that meetings of all state-level bodies with control or jurisdiction over budgetary, legislative or quasi-judicial matters be hybrid, that is, provide both an in person and online option for attendance and participation. However, local bodies with those powers are allowed to meet entirely in person or provide a hybrid option, a reversion to the pre-pandemic status quo.

Advisory bodies on both the state and local level have the option to meet however its members prefer, either in hybrid form or entirely online or in person.

Additional new requirements in the bill include the procedure for calling an emergency online-only meeting following a local incident and new training requirements for

municipal officials, among others.

On Wednesday, the bill passed third reading in the Senate and then was sent to the House.

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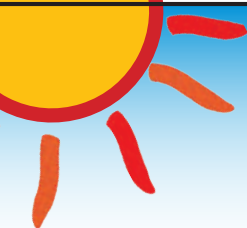
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### Pet of the week

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## New Haven, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

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Mike and Helen Hanley – New Haven, VT





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### Shoreham eats pie for Pi Day

DESSERT LOVERS AND math enthusiasts both had a lot to celebrate this past Thursday, March 14, fondly known as "Pi Day," since the day's date (3.14) corresponds with the first three digits of the mathematical constant pi. Pictured at a pie-filled event at the Shoreham Congregational Church to honor the day are, clockwise from top left, Shoreham librarian Abby Adams, Evie and Max Siebecker, Deedee Bertholf, Christy Lombardo and Judy Blake, Evie enjoying a slice of cherry pie, one of the 11 flavors of pie offered, event organizer Ginny VanHazinga, and a slice of lemon meringue waiting to be claimed.

Independent photos/Steve James



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# Eclipse

(Continued from Page 1A) chose to stay on the ship, betting that they'd have a better chance of getting around those clouds on a fast-moving vessel.

"The captain knew there was clear sky 50 miles away," Tom recalled. "But we had to hurry."

Passengers were advised to come down from the upper deck while the ship picked up speed, hauling at 30 miles an hour to clear skies. Lee Ann went downstairs, but Tom didn't want to lose his prime eclipse-watching spot. "All the telescopes and the geeks were up there," he said.

They made it to clear skies just in time. Lee Ann came upstairs to find her husband, and she laughed recalling what she found.

"I see Tom wearing his dad's golf hat, like a bucket hat," she recalled. "And then he has the solar eclipse glasses on, and because he's worried the hat will get blown off, he's taken the belt of a terrycloth robe and tied it around his hat with a big bow under his chin."

"I'm all about function, she's about form," Tom said, defending his eclipse-watching style. Besides, it didn't matter how he looked. Everyone's eyes were on the eclipse.

Total eclipses like that set of April 8 happen about 70 times a century. On the cruise ship, the Golvers were surrounded by scientists who had seen them before, so they were able to point out subtle changes as totality approached, such as the temperature dropping. Then the diamond ring — a sparkling ring



**TOM GOLPER SAW his first eclipse on a Caribbean cruise with Buzz Aldrin in 1998. Since then he and his wife, Lee Ann, have seen them in France, Nashville and Zion National Park. He's looking forward to witnessing totality again on April 8 in Vermont.**

Independent photo/Steve James

of sun around the darkness of the moon — appeared. At the moment of totality, he was advised to take off his glasses and look for Bailey's Beads, which are created by the sun's light pooling and sparkling in the craters of the moon.

He put the glasses back on to protect his eyes right before the moon began to move out of totality.

"It's emotional," said Tom. "If someone tells you this isn't the most amazing thing they've ever seen, they're lying. It's a gift from God."

"And science," interjected Lee Ann.

Since then, the Golvers have seen three more eclipses: One in France in 1999, one in 2017 in Nashville, where they used to live, and an annular eclipse — when the moon is at such a distance from the Earth

that it doesn't fully occlude the sun — in Zion National Park in 2019. The upcoming total eclipse in Vermont will be their fifth.

The Golvers plan to watch it in northwestern Addison County. "I want to see it on Lake Champlain," Tom said, noting that totality will last longer a bit farther north and west of Middlebury.

Tom said he has learned a thing or two over the years about how to approach this incredible event.

"At totality you're going to be looking at the sun," he said. "Take a moment to look around you, too. Just looking at the horizon is going to be incredible, because the horizon you see is under full-fledged sun while you're standing in dusk. You're never going to see anything like that."

# Addison County to host eclipse events

By JOHN FLOWERS & MEGAN JAMES

VERMONT — Don't be left in the dark planning for the April 8 solar eclipse.

Schools, museums, libraries, government agencies and lots of other organizations are planning events where you can participate in this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Here are some events you might find interesting.

- The state of Vermont has established an eclipse website, at [tinyurl.com/VtNoSun](http://tinyurl.com/VtNoSun). It will give you tips on viewing safety, travel alerts, and viewing or lodging options. You can also text VTECLIPSE to 888777 to sign up for text alerts regarding weather, traffic and other notable information on the weekend and day of the eclipse. Some state parks will be open for eclipse viewing and will have open gates and parking access. Check out the list on the aforementioned state eclipse webpage.

- Folks in the 5-Town area: Go to Bristol's Lawrence Memorial Library on Saturday, April 6, to pick up free solar eclipse glasses and enjoy some solar eclipse activities before the big event. Glasses will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis, with one pair per person, or three per family. Pick up will be Monday from 10 a.m.-1p.m. Plus, the library will have a special eclipse display to teach community members all about this once-in-a-lifetime event, and a family-friendly activity upstairs. To reserve your glasses, visit [tinyurl.com/y2f639jn](http://tinyurl.com/y2f639jn).

- The Starksboro Volunteer Fire Department will be selling T-shirts, as a fundraiser, to commemorate the solar eclipse. These t-shirts will be available for purchase at the Solar Eclipse party on April 8. The T-shirts come in child and adult sizes and sell for \$15 each. Cash or check only. To order t-shirts, please send a check with your order (list the sizes you want) to Chris Runcie, 500 Parsonage Rd, Starksboro, VT 05487, and confirm with an email to [chris.runcie@gmail.com](mailto:chris.runcie@gmail.com).

- You can also drop off your check and order at the Starksboro Town Clerk's office during business hours. Please make checks payable to the Starksboro Fire Department Auxiliary.

- You're invited to Monkton's Solar Eclipse Party at the town hall on Monday, April 8, from 1-4:30 p.m. Please RSVP to help organizers better plan for the party: forms.gle/4GmxWscgpFDRG49j6. Please make some time to get your solar eclipse glasses, the library and the town hall have a limited number to distribute. Check out this link from the American Astronomical Society to purchase safe eclipse glasses: [eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/viewers-filters](http://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/viewers-filters). The event will also feature food vendors, including Queen Bee and ReMarcAble Bakery.

- Middlebury Great Solar Eclipse Party: Monday, April 8, 12:30-4 p.m. at the Middlebury Rec Park near Mary Hogan School. Food trucks, games, music. Glasses available.

- Eclipse Watching at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Ferrisburgh: Monday, April 8, 1-4:30 p.m. Picnics welcome; limited glasses available.

- Solar Eclipse Viewing with MALT (Middlebury Area Land Trust): Monday, April 8, 3-4 p.m. at Riverside Park in Middlebury's Marble Works. Opportunity to be part of the Eclipse Soundscape Project. BYO glasses.

- Eclipse & Pizza by the Pond: April 8, noon to 4 p.m. at Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center in Goshen. Enjoy wood-fired pizza and other bites in the lead up to the big event.

- Eclipse Fun in Brandon: April 8, 2-4 p.m. at Estabrook Park. Kids games, Nerf Battle, eclipse viewing.

- The Champlain Philharmonic will perform "In the Key of Spring" during the pre-eclipse weekend

## Where to get glasses

Middlebury Area Land Trust is providing solar eclipse glasses for purchase at the Middlebury Shop, Middlebury Mountaineer, Frog Hollow Bikes, The Vermont Book Shop and Sweet Cecily.

Orwell Free Library and Bristol's Lawrence Memorial Library are giving out glasses for free (first come, first serve).

— at the Congregational Church of Middlebury on Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m.; and again on Sunday, April 7, at 4 p.m., at Rutland's Grace Congregational Church. These concerts will feature the spectacular Organ Symphony No. 3 in C Minor by Camille Saint Saëns and two humorous short pieces; one by the infamous "de-composer" PDQ Bach (aka Peter Schickele) and the other Vermont pianist and composer David Feurzeig with his ragtime arrangement of Stravinski's Rite of Spring. Check

out [champlainphilharmonic.org](http://champlainphilharmonic.org).

- Here's a reminder that April 8 will be an early release day in the Addison Central School District, recognizing that parts of the seven-town ACSD will be in total darkness at around 3:30 p.m., and Route 7 is expected to be busy with tourists visiting our area to take in the eclipse. ACSD schools will follow their usual early release schedule.

- Salisbury 4th-grade teacher Amy Clapp and colleagues across ACSD schools are planning fun eclipse activities for PreK-12 students, leading up to the eclipse. There will be eclipse glasses available for every ACSD student; these will be sent home closer to the event.

- The Bixby Library in Vergennes is preparing its own plans leading up to the solar eclipse. On Saturday March 23, at 11 a.m., there'll be an Eclipse Party for Kids, with information on moon craters, a solar telescope demonstration, and a "corona craft." On

Saturday, March 30, at noon, there'll be a solar telescope and sun spotter demonstration.

On Saturday, April 6, at 11 a.m., the Last Chance Solar Eclipse Program will offer a variety of activities and information on how to safely view the eclipse. Free eclipse sunglasses are available to library card holders (limit three per family.) For more information on these fun and informative eclipse events, visit [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

- Middlebury's solar eclipse gathering is slated for Monday, April 8, 12:30-4 p.m. on the recreational fields next to Mary Hogan Elementary School. There will be food trucks, games, music. The bike pump track and mini ramp will be open, as well as a disc golf course. Glasses will be available at this event. Middlebury's Ilsley Public Library will also have some glasses to distribute from the library beginning April 5.

- The Green Mountain Club (GMC), which manages 500 miles of hiking trails in Vermont, is concerned about people who are planning on viewing the eclipse from a wilderness location. Hiking, the club cautions, is a potential problem for several reasons, and out-of-state visitors in particular might not be ready for dangerous winter conditions at elevation. Also, state emergency resources will be taxed, and hiking is discouraged during the spring mud season, with many trails on state land closed to protect vulnerable environments. So GMC is encouraging eclipse viewers to avoid the backcountry and stick to organized viewing events in towns, cities and parks for their safety.

- Art on Main in Bristol will host a "Totality Eclipse/Earth Day" combined exhibit from April 5-27. This is a non-juried exhibit; all work relating to the topics accepted — both 2-D and 3-D. The 2-D submissions must be ready to hang. There is a \$5 entrance fee, and artists receive 80% of the sale price. Bring one piece of art to 25 Main St., Bristol, by April 2; include your entrance fee. Gallery hours in April are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Direct any questions to [aom@gmavt.net](mailto:aom@gmavt.net) or call 802-453-4032.

- Solar Eclipse Festival at ECHO: Friday through Sunday, April 5-7, with a viewing of the eclipse on April 8, at the ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain in Burlington. Take part in family-friendly, hands-on activities to learn more about this once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event. Glasses provided with admission.



**LIANN SPINDELDRÄHER OF Berlin, Germany, cast her gaze skyward at Mount Abraham Union High School to view a partial solar eclipse on Aug. 21, 2017.**

Independent file photo/Andy Kirkaldy

# ANWSD

(Continued from Page 1A) of ANWSD communities' low Common Levels of Appraisal (CLAs), property taxes are still expected to rise in the district, as they are statewide. See details below and in the accompanying chart.

The ANWSD board will hold an information meeting at 6 p.m. on this coming Monday in the VUHS library and on Zoom. A link to the meeting will be available at [anwsd.org](http://anwsd.org) under school board agendas.

The new budget still calls for increased spending of almost 8.7%.

ANWSD officials said spending drivers include higher wages and benefits (more than half the budget), 10% higher transportation costs, a statewide health insurance benefit deal that increased that expense by 16.3%, and a higher Hannaford Career Center tuition.

At the Monday meeting ANWSD Superintendent Sheila Soule laid out a half-dozen areas of reductions to the defeated \$28.2 million budget, cuts that board members eventually approved in a 7-5 vote:

- \$90,000 not to make technology equipment and "middle school incidental" purchases, such as furniture.
- \$54,075 not to retain a contracted social worker.
- \$167,332 not to retain 1.5 formerly federally funded positions, including the DEI Coordinator.

- \$162,488 to remove from the ANWSD payroll two positions in the Addison Consortium Program. Soule said ANWSD has ceded "fiscal responsibility" for that special needs program, once based in the Addison Central School building and now in Middlebury, to the Addison Central School District. Thus ANWSD will save on payroll, she said, a net cost benefit even though the district will continue to pay tuition for its students to attend the program.

*"If we don't pass budgets, the easiest place to cut, and I'm not talking easy emotionally, is high school programs ... because they're not required."*

— board Chair John Stroup

- \$250,488 to end the Walden Program. Program founder and educator Matthew Schlein is retiring, and Soule said administrators decided not to fill his position. The program's second teacher, a science educator, will be retained "to maintain outdoor environmental education," Soule said. The rest of the savings will come from not funding transportation to Walden's Monkton site and the rental for the land and barn the program uses there.

Soule said the Walden decision was made to "take advantage of natural attrition," and because the program served fewer students — five so far had signed up, although she acknowledged more were expected — than other programs that could be cut, a key criterion administrators used in finding the savings.

Those reductions totaled about \$724,000, and the district also realized another \$30,533 to offset taxes because the board lowered its contribution to the ANWSD Education Stabilization Fund. The board routinely puts an amount equal to 4% of the budget into that emergency-use fund, and the new plan is lower than the defeated budget.

## BUDGET DEBATE

The elimination of the Walden program after 24 years sparked discussion even though it was a full 33% of the savings. Two speakers called the program "life-saving" for students who did not thrive in traditional classroom settings.

Student board member Grey Fearon, although not a Walden attendee, was also among those who questioned the Walden decision.

"The Walden Program seems like a big deal to me, and it's tough because I don't know what else we would cut," Fearon said.

But, he said, for example, other classes, such as a stats class, could be cut, and students could shift to other math courses.

"We have to also think about options, because the Walden Program is just not a class with an alternative option. It is the alternative option," Fearon said.

Soule replied that the decision was not easy, but that not replacing Schlein was a better option than cutting an educator carrying a full teaching load of several classes.

"We're not reducing a teacher that is remaining on staff," Soule said. "And that point you made about the

(See Teachers, Page 10A)

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# Lumber mill

(Continued from Page 1A)

site and will continue managing the forestland it owns, as well as promoting sustainable forestry and the benefits of timber harvesting.

"It's really disappointing after 117 years, but I do believe as one door closes another door opens. It's just hard sometimes to see what that door is," Ken Johnson said during a recent interview.

## MILL HISTORY

Johnson's great-grandfather Andrew founded the A. Johnson Company in eastern New York state in 1906 with his three sons and a small, portable mill. The family business eventually moved to Pike, N.H., in 1914 before relocating to Lake Dunmore four years later.

Ken Johnson's grandfather Fred moved the mill to its current site in Bristol in 1937.

"When we started in 1937, that was the year before the '38 flood," recalled Bill Sayre, Johnson's business partner and the real estate and finance advisor for the company. "It washed down the river quite a few of the logs and caused some other problems here, but it was quite the introduction to Bristol."

Some of the original 1930s-era buildings still remain on the property. Over the years, they've been joined by dry kilns, green and dry lumber sorters and various other pieces of machinery now spread across the 80-acre site.

The mill has seen a lot of other change since its move to Bristol. The company began hiring professional foresters to manage its forestland in 1944, and around that time expanded from solely working with pine.

"When my father came from back from World War II, he started steering the company toward hardwoods," Johnson said, adding that the company produced both pine and hardwood boards until exiting the pine business a few years ago.

Before it closed the mill, the A. Johnson Company produced high quality hardwood lumber for wholesale and retail markets. The

mill was one of the largest in the state, sawing around 8.5-9 million board feet annually.

The company sold both green (freshly cut, unseasoned) and kiln-dried wood.

"One of the reasons we survived as long as we did is that we had dry kilns, and we made a living off of the price differential between green and dry lumber," Johnson said. "And yet, our kilns are old and not very efficient, and that was one of the things we struggled with in terms of high costs."

## CHALLENGES FACED

The mill has weathered several other challenges over the years, notably the pressure to remain competitive as a mid-sized mill.

"There are the little guys, who are producing strictly for the local market, and there's people who are hybrid and in between, which is what we were, and then there's people who are producing for the international and national-volume production line," Johnson explained. "We talked about for years that productivity and efficiency was rising so much that there wasn't going to be a place in the middle, and it turns out that's true. You can either serve the local market with higher margins, or you've got to compete on volume."

To stay competitive, mills need to invest in newer, more efficient equipment and technology.

"We started spending money to try and compete on volume, and we spent nearly \$3 million putting in an optimizing edger, and it was great, yield went up, and we thought 'Boy, we're making progress,'" Johnson said. "But (a new mill built in New Hampshire), they spent \$30 million on, and we can't come up with that kind of money."

Johnson noted that the Bristol company's efforts were still successful in many ways.

"We improved productivity. We were selling more, and we got more out of each log," he said. "But it's a technological arms race, and we took

it as far as we could."

Finding raw material has also been a challenge for the company. Running the mill requires a steady stream of hardwoods, a portion of which come from land A. Johnson Co. owns and manages.

The majority of its supply comes from other wood lots. The company would often contract with logging crews and purchase logs from crews working their own lands.

"We're close to Canada so there's a lot of pressure from the Canadian markets in terms of they buy logs from here," Johnson said. "Quite a bit (of timber) goes north. A fair amount of logs get stuffed in cans and sent to Asia, and the rest of it stays local."

The company has also wrestled with increasing opposition to timber harvesting on national forest lands and some private land, Sayre said.

"That's our resource base," he said. "If we don't have a resource base, it doesn't matter how good our machinery or people are."

Johnson and Sayre said they are committed to promoting the value of forest products and the benefits of sustainable timberland management, but acknowledge they face challenges in doing so.

"We feel like we're losing the battle with people who say, 'Timber harvesting is bad,'" Johnson said.

Some years have proven to be particularly difficult for A. Johnson Company.

Johnson said the mill's most challenging year came during the 2008 housing bubble. During that economic crisis, the company closed one of its two mills, reduced its production by about 50% and cut its staff of around 60 in half.

"We downsized dramatically, by 50%, and losing good people is painful at any time and even more when the company is in crisis," Johnson recalled. "We had to sell land to cope with the losses and that is also painful. Parting with land that we have managed for many years, under duress, is frustrating and left us less durable in the long run."

This past year was another devastating one for the company, with difficult business conditions beginning in November 2022 and ultimately resulting in the closure of the mill. Lumber prices plummeted and abnormally wet conditions this



**KEN JOHNSON, LEFT** and **Bill Sayre** have helped run the **A. Johnson Company** in Bristol for decades. The family-owned business is now entering a new chapter, after closing its lumber mill and stopping retail sales this past winter.

Independent photo/Steve James

past summer significantly limited the ability to harvest timber sustainably, leaving the mill with no raw material for production.

## 'A GREAT RUN'

Goodbyes are seldom easy, and Sayre and Johnson are candid about how this one has been particularly painful.

"You don't stay in a business for 117 years and not develop some close attachments," Sayre said.

"And some close relationships," Johnson added.

Those relationships have been a highlight of running the family business for Johnson.

"By far the most enjoyable part of running a company is the people we get to work with, some for many years," he said. "There is nothing more rewarding on the job than good, close working relationships with people we like and respect, that we learn as much from as they learn from us."

In closing the mill and retail sales, A. Johnson Company downsized its staff from 46 to six employees. Johnson said the state of Vermont helped the company's former employees find new jobs when the mill closed.

There are other aspects of the company's history that stick out to Johnson. He noted that the A. Johnson team prioritized safety and that "efforts towards a safety conscious workforce remains one of the most important things we have done here."

"For the mill, we started pushing safety more seriously perhaps 20 years ago. My brother David was the first one to take on responsibility

for safety and we all started pushing much harder over the next few years," he said. "It takes time to build a safety culture and I feel we were successful at that. Most of the credit goes to the employees for their embracing of safe work practices and the lockout/tagout process as the basis for workplace safety in our heavy manufacturing environment"

Johnson and Sayre have stories to tell about each part of the mill, and they shared many of them with this reporter during a tour this past Thursday.

"We had a great run," Johnson said, a sentiment repeated by both partners that afternoon.

## NEXT CHAPTER

With the mill now closed, the company is focused on paying off the debt left after a challenging 2023. The team is working to sell its machinery and is exploring ways to repurpose the various buildings on the property, such as starting a storage business for boats, campers and other large items.

"If we have nothing else, we have buildings, so we're going to figure out what to do with space," Johnson said. "We need to generate a source of revenue because in about a week all of the lumber will be sold and we've got zero income, except for a few log sales. We're trying to figure out how to monetize this site."

One of the buildings on the property is already back in use. The former truck fleet shop has become home to the new McNally Truck & Auto Service, run by A. Johnson Company's longtime fleet manager Loran McNally.

"It's going to continue to live a life

as a maintenance shop, which gives me a little bit of satisfaction because this started as a maintenance shop in the 1930s," Johnson said of the building.

The company's lumber yard is also being leased by Allard Lumber Company of Brattleboro.

"They're buying logs and will bring them wherever they find the best market," Johnson explained.

Moving forward, the company will continue managing the forestland it owns. Johnson and Sayre noted they also hope to continue educating people on the benefits of the timberland management and sustainable forestry.

"We believe that one of the reasons that the biology and biodiversity (on A. Johnson land) is as robust as it is, is because of the way we've managed it," Sayre said. "When you harvest, you create young forests and young forests provide shelter and food for many of the animals."

While the number of lumber mills in the state has declined over the years, Sayre and Johnson do not believe that will mean the end of the forest products industry.

"Most everybody continues to value, and appreciate, and use wood and paper products," Sayre said. "They're part of our lives in ways we don't even understand."

Looking ahead, the future of the forest products industry is something Johnson remains optimistic about.

"I feel the forest products industry will remain strong, just with fewer mills," he said. "There is a bright future in mass timber and overall for the fantastic renewable resource that forest products represents."

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# Teachers

(Continued from Page 9A)

statistics class, that's a good point, except that you wouldn't have any savings by reducing that statistics class. You would have to reduce a teacher ... We would have to cut a lot of classes to reduce a teacher. I think our students don't have a lot of offerings to begin with to choose from, so that's not necessarily a step I would want to take."

Schein himself later weighed in on a Facebook post.

"I was deeply saddened when I heard, but such is the reality of the way public schools are funded in Vermont and the difficult calculus administrators must make in conjunction with this. They thought my exit would be an opportune moment to make this cut," he wrote. "Even though Walden is not included in this budget, I hope it passes so we can keep many of the other pathways open to our young people. They both deserve and need it."

Board member Barbara Fitzpatrick said she believed some district residents were voting against the budget "for the wrong reasons,"

# Addison Northwest School District tax comparison

Town	Union Tax Rate (FY24)	CLA (FY24)	*Education Tax Bill (FY24)	Union Tax Rate (FY 25)	CLA (FY25)	*Education Tax Bill (FY25)
Addison	\$1.5411	82.80	\$5,584	\$1.5571	72.35	\$6,374
Ferrisburgh	\$1.5411	86.86	\$5,323	\$1.5571	72.60	\$6,352
Panton	\$1.5411	90.74	\$5,095	\$1.5571	75.96	\$6,071
Vergennes	\$1.5411	79.68	\$5,802	\$1.5571	70.78	\$6,515
Waltham	\$1.5411	82.06	\$5,634	\$1.5571	73.79	\$6,249

\*Tax Simulation for a home valued at \$300,000

citing pushback against the omnisex bathrooms to be installed in the two Vergennes schools this summer.

In an earlier conversation with the *Independent*, Board Chair John Stroup described the bathrooms, which are part of larger upgrades to both schools, as more private for students than the existing ones. The designs are modeled after facilities in use in Colchester and Montpelier schools, he said, adding ANWSD administrators and students inspected the Montpelier facilities before plans were adopted.

There will be no urinals, and all students will use stalls that offer doors that reach all the way to the floor and most of the way to the ceiling. There will be common handwashing areas that will be open to hallways, allowing staff to

more easily monitor the facilities and keep better tabs on student behavior. There will still be separate lavatories for boys and girls.

"These are good designs," Stroup said.

Soule and Stroup said that spending reductions were less feasible at the elementary school level, where more programs are mandatory, with Stroup saying the cuts were necessary to pass a spending plan and "not lose more people."

"If we don't pass budgets, the easiest place to cut, and I'm not talking easy emotionally, is high school programs," Stroup said. "What gets cut, because they're not required, are high school programs. And it is exactly what is happening. We're losing a high school program, and it is hard ... But I do think it's reasonable, the choices that have been made."

## TAXES AND SPENDING

Even though the new lower proposal represents an almost 8.7% increase over current spending, as a result of the reductions the board adopted on Monday the projected district-wide tax rate will drop to \$1.5371 per \$100 of assessed property value.

That's 5.39 cents less than the \$1.5910 district rate projected if the first \$28.2 million budget had passed.

It's also a bit less than the current district-wide rate of \$1.5411. Soule added the district rate could end up even lower depending on final numbers adopted by state officials.

But while it will mean lower taxes for ANWSD than the first budget plan, the five district communities' low CLAs, over which school officials have no control, will still trigger tax increases.

CLAs compare towns' grand lists to fair market value, as determined

by state analysis of property sales. That analysis creates a percentage value of that comparison expressed in CLAs. If CLAs are below market value, state officials divide local school tax rates by the CLA to determine what taxes would be paid with 100% accurate assessments.

With the recent statewide surge in real estate values, most CLAs are low. As a result, for example, the ANWSD homestead rate of \$1,5371 divided by the Vergennes CLA becomes \$2,171.

The new spending proposal as compared to the defeated budget does mean lower average increases for the five municipalities: about 15% compared to the than more than 19% triggered by the first plan, according to ANWSD Director of Finance and Operations Elizabeth Jennings.

Jennings quantified the amounts in an email: "The new draft reduces the total estimated taxes for each town a little more than \$200 on a \$300,000 home."

For example, according to the ANWSD estimates, in Vergennes if the second budget passes the owner of a \$300,000 home could expect to pay \$713 more in taxes. But if the original budget had passed, the same owner would have faced a \$940 increase.

In both cases homeowners who pay based on their incomes would receive rebates and not bear the full brunt of the increases.

See chart for information on all communities and comparison to current homestead rates. Panton is reappraising, and officials there believe that project will be complete by the time the town sends out tax bills. They acknowledge taxes and assessments will be higher, but the particulars are likely to be different than the ANWSD estimates.

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# Mt. Abe

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 district's member towns by 13-15.89%.

District officials on Monday acknowledged that the revised budget, if approved by voters in April, is only a short-term solution to ongoing education funding challenges, and that more work lies ahead in addressing those issues.

"It's not a long-term solution by any means," Board Member Mike Dash said on Monday. "But I think it does the trick for next year, and I think what it then means is that we as a board and you as a community and everybody else who isn't here need to spend the next year to really think about what are the essential services that we as a community absolutely want to maintain, and how do we do that in a fiscally responsible way?"

## REVISED FY'25 BUDGET

Superintendent Patrick Reen on Monday presented board members with two revised budget options; a \$36.3 million spending plan that would increase the homestead school tax rate in Bristol by 12.5%, and a \$35.6 million plan that would raise the Bristol rate by 9.9%.

District officials used Bristol as a benchmark as it is the town with the highest anticipated education tax rate increase.

The tax rate hike would be slightly lower in Monkton and New Haven, and Starksboro residents who pay education taxes based on the value of their home will likely see a decrease in their rate as the town is undergoing a town-wide reappraisal that's expected to be completed by July 1 and bring the town's CLA closer to 100.

Both options factor in the Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office's revised yield estimate of \$9,830, \$55 higher than the January estimate. The yield estimate is a measure of how much in education taxes the state will collect to distribute to towns. Reen said that slight increase in the yield reduced needed savings by over \$130,000.

In both options, the district would achieve around \$710,000 in savings by:

- Not filling 3.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) vacated positions at Mount Abraham Union High School (including three classroom positions).
- Not filling two positions from the alternative education Addison Consortium Program due to discontinuing the program. "That project is something that we've been attempting to evolve over time. It's not quite evolved where it needs to be over several years, so that project is going to be put on hold," Reen explained. "We're going to be providing similar services in different ways, but it does enable us to take advantage of some savings from that program not continuing."
- Removing \$160,000 earmarked for a potential elementary Addison Consortium Program.
- Removing teletherapy funds for speech-language pathology

support due to hiring SLP staff.

- Not filling a fulltime vacant maintenance position.

"The plan right now is that we can achieve the savings in both scenarios without a reduction in force, which is great news, and part of the way we do that is by taking advantage of attrition," Reen noted.

The \$35.6 million budget option would achieve an additional \$652,165 in savings by:

- Not filling a vacant Social and Emotional Learning intensive coach position.
- Reducing budgeted construction services by \$250,100.
- Using \$305,000 from the district's Education Reserve Fund, which has a balance of \$1,024,563.

Reen noted there are a couple of potential challenges that come with using money from the Education Reserve Funds, notably creating a one-time source of revenue that the district would need to make up in future years.

## UPDATED TAX IMPACT

Board members on Monday voted unanimously to adopt the \$35.6 million spending plan, which would achieve the most savings of the two options.

According to district estimates, the proposed spending plan would lower the district-wide homestead tax rate by 3.22 cents, or 2.15%, from \$1,499.1 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1,466.9.

However, low CLAs are still 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, except Starksboro.

School district officials have no control over the CLA, which is a ratio that the state uses to make adjustments when assessing education property taxes to make the level of taxation equal among all Vermont towns. If a town's grand list (list of the value of all its properties) is less than 100 that indicates that fair market value for the properties is higher than the grand list values, so then the tax rate is increased.

According to the figures presented by Reen on Monday, after CLAs are applied:

- Bristol would see an 18.46-cent increase in its FY'25 tax rate, or an additional \$184.56 per \$100,000 of assessed home value.
- Monkton: 18.04-cent increase, or an additional \$180.43 per \$100,000.
- New Haven: 13.52-cent increase, or an additional \$135.23 per \$100,000.
- Starksboro: 47.98-cent decrease, or \$479.80 less per \$100,000.

According to district estimates, the proposed spending plan is expected to result in an increase of around \$295, or 14.89%, for the approximately two-thirds of residents who pay education taxes based on their income. That estimate is based on the Addison County 2021 median income of \$77,978.



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# Bristol Police Log

BRISTOL — Bristol police responded to multiple dog complaints in recent weeks, a couple of which are expected to be reviewed at upcoming hearings with the town's selectboard.

On March 1 Bristol police issued an ordinance violation to a dog owner on Brook Drive whose dog was running at large.

On March 6 police received multiple complaints about a dog running free on Brook Drive. Police planned to forward information regarding the complaints to town's selectboard for a hearing at the request of the complainant.

On March 7 another nuisance dog complaint hearing was scheduled with the Bristol selectboard to address a concern of ongoing, excessive barking on Lower Notch Road.

Between Feb. 25 and March 9, Bristol police completed 38 foot patrols, conducted 14 traffic stops, and checked the security at Mount Abraham Union High School 14 times, at Bristol Elementary

School 14 times and at local businesses 11 times.

Police also processed 20 fingerprint requests, conducted one welfare check and responded to one 911 call that turned out to be a misdial.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Feb. 26 responded to a family fight on Main Street and cited Christopher Roy, 29, of Bristol for domestic assault.
- On Feb. 27 helped someone in need of transportation on Main Street.
- On Feb. 27 picked up a lost dog on Dan Sergeant Road. The owner was later located and they retrieved the dog.
- On Feb. 27 helped someone remove personal information posted in store fronts on Main Street.
- On Feb. 29 issued a ticket to a minor in possession of tobacco on Airport Drive.
- On Feb. 29 assisted Bristol Elementary School with a truancy concern.

- On March 1 investigated an altercation between juveniles on North Street. Police said the minors' parents were expected to address the incident.

- On March 2 responded to a report of an intoxicated person on Airport Drive. Police determined the individual was being assisted by friends and no police action was required.

- On March 3 recovered and disposed of an uncapped hypodermic needle on Plank Road.

- On March 5 monitored traffic on Mountain Street during bus drills at Bristol Elementary.

- On March 5 diffused a citizen dispute on Pine Street and helped those involved come to an agreeable solution.

- On March 5 recovered a discarded tire on Mountain Street.

- On March 7 assisted a driver with a disabled vehicle on Route 116 North.

- On March 9 investigated an attempted break-in on Route 116 South.

# By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)  
**music." Among them will be 2003 VUHS grads Andy Chugg, lead singer in a band called "Sunrise Patriot Motion"; and Willow Ryan, a member of "Body Void" and a 2006 VUHS grad. Details at roadburn.com.**

The Vermont Supreme Court Gallery in Montpelier and Weybridge artist Victoria Blewer are hoping that the third time is the charm when the gallery early next month kicks off this season with an exhibit of Blewer's hand-colored and black and white photographic images and mixed media collage. This exhibit is the third attempt to show her work without a major catastrophic event demanding that it be taken down or delayed. First it was the pandemic, and the second was the 2023 flooding in Montpelier. Blewer's "Material Matters" show runs April 4-June 28 at the Supreme Court building, with an opening reception on April 5 from 4-7 p.m.


Interested in donating to a good cause while adding to your wardrobe? The Congregational Church of Middlebury on Saturday, March 23, will host a clothing swap at which gently worn, unwanted clothing will be given away to others. Participants can make a donation, with the proceeds going to the Atria Collective (formerly WomenSafe), a Middlebury-based nonprofit serving people across the gender spectrum who experience stalking or sexual, domestic, or dating violence. Swap organizers will accept clothing donations at the Congregational Church this

Friday, March 22, from 3:30-6 p.m.; and on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. The clothing swap will take place from 3-6 p.m., also at the church. Questions? Email Lilly @ lillydevlin@gmail.com, or amey@middvermontrealstate.com.

Do you love to learn and teach others about Vermont's natural plant and animal communities? Are you interested in wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, or general exploration of natural lands? The Dead Creek Visitor Center in Addison is looking to expand its volunteer team for the coming season. Volunteers act as ambassadors in the Visitor Center to welcome and interpret the natural world with visitors. The Dead Creek Visitor Center is located on a Wildlife Management Area that stretches across more than 3,000 acres of habitat and hosts a diversity of flora and fauna. The visitor center is filled with information and learning tools to help volunteers engage with the greater community. Volunteers — who need only possess a curiosity for the natural world and a willingness to interact with a diversity of visitors — will receive training and educational opportunities. The Visitor Center will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning April 13. Shifts will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., on both days.

Hours will expand during the fall to accommodate school groups and an expected increase in visitors during bird migration. Officials ask for a time commitment of one four-hour shift per month, and a commitment to volunteer through October is preferred. Please email Rose Watts at Rose.Watts@vermont.gov with any questions or inquiries.

Does your family need help paying for childcare, preschool, or afterschool services? The Child Care Financial Assistance Program helps Vermont children access quality child care by covering some or all childcare costs for eligible families. To be eligible for financial assistance families must have child(ren) age 6 weeks to 13 years (19 years for those with special needs); have an approved reason for needing child care, such as work or training; meet Vermont's income guidelines (even a family of four making \$105,000 qualifies); be a Vermont resident; have less than \$1 million in assets; and have child(ren) with an eligible citizenship status (not required starting July 1). Visit [def.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap](http://def.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap) to learn more. The Child Care Financial Assistance Program is a service of the Child Development Division, a part of the Vermont Department for Children and Families.




Middlebury College

## Layli Long Soldier Reading

Thursday, March 28th, 2024  
 7pm-8:30pm  
 Axinn Center, Abernethy Room

Layli Long Soldier holds a B.F.A. from the Institute of American Indian Arts and an M.F.A. from Bard College. Her poems have appeared in *POETRY Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The American Poet*, *The American Reader*, *The Kenyon Review*, *BOMB* and elsewhere. She is the author of *Chromosomy* (Q Avenue Press, 2010) and *WHEREAS* (Graywolf Press, 2017). She is a mentor in the MFA Creative Writing Program at the Institute of American Indian Arts and resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



All are welcome.

For more information, visit [www.middlebury.edu/college/academics/english/upcoming-events](http://www.middlebury.edu/college/academics/english/upcoming-events)



## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Food from the Heart Food Drive

Your Local Middlebury Lions Club will be collecting food for our two local food shelves

# Saturday, March 30 9am to 3pm

- ♥ Donate canned and/or boxed foods
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- ♥ We want to thank these donation locations for their support in making this event possible:

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- Shaws of Middlebury
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### The Addams Family

THE TALENTED ACTORS at Mount Abraham Union High School this weekend will present a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family with toe-tapping tunes, wickedly witty lyrics, and a cast of characters that will leave you in stitches. "The Addams Family" will appear on stage in Bristol Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., and also at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Shown at rehearsal last week are, clockwise from below, Ben MacDonald as Gomez and Greta Jennison as Morticia; Charlie Prouty playing Uncle Fester leads a song; Sarah Heath as Wednesday stretches out her brother Pugsley, a.k.a. Jillian Cousino; the Beinekes — Lexy Gordon as Alice (left), Sam Mangini as Lucas and AJ Donlon as Mal — size up the situation; Heath pulls Mangini's tie; and the full cast wraps up the show.

Photos by the talented Buzz Kuhns





## Maple sugaring adapts to climate change

By MICHAEL J. CADUTO

Boiling maple sap into syrup is a time-honored tradition in the Northeast, to the olfactory delight of anyone who has spent time in a steamy sugarhouse while inhaling the sweet maple scent of the season. It used to be that trees were tapped in late March, and evaporators in sugar houses fired up in early April. In recent years, however, both the timing and management of sugaring season have shifted to match the earlier onset of sap flow in the trees.

“For the last five years, we’ve been tapping earlier than we ever have. The season still lasts as long as it has, but we’re setting taps about a month earlier than we used to, and finishing up two to three weeks earlier,” said Curt Allen, manager of Spring Brook Farm in Reading, Vt.

“In the early 1980s to 2000s, we wouldn’t tap until well into March, and the sugaring season lasted well into April,” said Allen. He said they now tap trees starting in early February and complete the sugaring process by early April, when maple buds begin to swell and the flavor of the sap changes.

This mirrors trends seen over a broad geographic area by researchers at University of Vermont’s Proctor Maple Research Center in Underhill Center, Vt. According to Extension Maple specialist Mark Isselhardt, data gathered from maple producers from the 1960s through the early 2000s revealed that, by the end of that span of years, the sugaring season was arriving one to two weeks earlier, and the duration

was about 10% shorter. Milder temperatures, drastic weather events, and changes in growing conditions are impacting maple sugaring in myriad ways. Optimal sap flow occurs when

### The Outside Story

temperatures are in the 20s at night and rise into the 40s during the day. “The immediate threats are the weather and its influence on the number of ideal sugaring days,” said Isselhardt. “Some of the colder sugarbushes are probably going to weather the changes better.”

Isselhardt also noted that “natural disturbances, extreme wind events, heavy rains, and drought throughout the year” have an impact on tree health. “Unnatural disturbances can be accentuated by extreme weather, like the severe precipitation we had in December of 2023,” he said. “The western side of the Green Mountains had 80- to 90-mile-per-hour gusts and people lost crop trees. These trees are perennials that have been growing, in some cases, for 200 years.”

The particular conditions that trees experience as a stretch of cold weather sets in can have a profound impact on how they respond. “The way a tree goes into a freezing event can dictate how much sap is taken up into the tree,” said Isselhardt. “A long, slow freeze, and a tree will take up more sap into the tree. A short, quick freeze, there is less time for an uptake.”

Abnormally high late-winter temperatures, such as we saw in 2012, and to a lesser extent in

2021, can stop sap flow abruptly. Under these conditions, producers have fewer days in which to produce their crop of syrup. “Ten to 20% of your annual crop can be impacted by one or two big events,” said Isselhardt.

Sugaring operations are also responding to the changing environment by adopting new technologies. These include vacuum pumps, which allow sugar makers to harvest more sap per tree; reverse osmosis, which concentrates the sugar in the sap before boiling; and more energy efficient evaporators. “We used to get about a quart of syrup per tap,” said Allen, “but because of vacuum pumps we’re now getting about half a gallon of syrup per tap.” With these new systems, Spring Brook Farm has been able to reduce the amount of wood burned by two-thirds while still increasing syrup production.

In an age of shifting climate, the old adage of “time waits for no one” applies even to venerable rural traditions such as maple sugaring. The relatively rapid transition being made to the earlier timing and unpredictable nature of the sugaring season reveals how farmers are acclimating to our increasingly capricious environment.

Michael J. Caduto is a writer, ecologist, and storyteller who lives in Reading, Vt. He is author of “Through a Naturalist’s Eyes: Exploring the Nature of New England.” The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: [www.nhcf.org](http://www.nhcf.org).

## Castleton University to host ‘1-Day University’

CASTLETON — Castleton University is hosting a new event: A 1-Day University.

Free and designed for the greater Rutland community, the inaugural event will take place on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the VTSU Castleton Campus.

Registration opened Monday, March 11, and over 100 people signed up within the first few hours of the offering. The one-day event is aimed at bringing the community together to explore, enjoy and learn.

There will be presenters —

neighbors, students, and faculty — who will share their passions and expertise. The subjects will span a wide variety. Including fiber arts, biking tips, 3D scanning, public speaking, international folk dancing, yoga and living off the grid. Sessions are 50 minutes long and people can sign up for as many sessions as they like.

Lunch can be purchased in town, or in the university cafeteria with more time to meet and chat.

1-Day University is a free — the attendees do not pay and the presenters do not get paid. The

goal is simply to bring community members from the greater Rutland County together and for everyone to be inspired, enlightened and entertained, to discover new ideas and interests — and have a great time doing it. Plus, no tests or grades — just the pure joy of learning.

1-Day University is organized by the Castleton Bridge Initiative and the VTSU Castleton Student Government Association. Registration and a list of classes is now open at: [bit.ly/Castleton1DayU](http://bit.ly/Castleton1DayU).

## Sugarmakers open doors to the public on open house weekend

With sugaring season in full swing, Vermont Maple Sugarmakers throughout the state are hosting a Spring Maple Open House Weekend. Join them in a celebration of the current season’s crop of liquid gold.

On March 23 and 24, more than 90 sugarhouses and maple partners will open their doors for pancake breakfasts, sugar-on-snow, tours, syrup samples, and so much more! Around a dozen of those open houses are in Addison County.

A full map and list of participating sugar makers and partners are available on the Vermont Maple webpage, [vermontmaple.org/mohw](http://vermontmaple.org/mohw). Travel to a corner of Vermont you haven’t been to before and join in the sweet celebration! Head out for sweet adventures in March, and stock up on your favorite sweet treat. See how maple producers make their time-honored products with family and friends. Learn all you want to know, from tree to bottle. Enjoy pancake breakfasts, sugar-on-snow, sugarhouse tours, maple syrup, maple product samples and more. Many of the sugarhouses are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days; but visit the Vermont Maple webpage, which has links to each sugarhouse where you’ll find hours and direction.

The Addison County sugarmakers participating are:

- **Bread Loaf View Farm**, 486 Cider Mill Road, Cornwall. 802-373-7000.
- **Champlain Orchards/Douglas Orchards**, 1050 Route 74, Shoreham. 802-897-2777.
- **Foxglove Farm**, 777 Delorm Road, Leicester. 802-247-4379.
- **Purinton Maple**, 190 Pond Road, Huntington. 802-434-4385.
- **Red Rock Valley Maple Farm**, 160 Sugarhouse Lane, Starksboro. 802-434-2858.
- **Republic Of Vermont**, 234 Cape Lookoff Road, Goshen.
- **Sunset Sugar Shack**, 18 Shoreham Depot Road, Orwell. 802-236-4085.
- **Taft’s Milk & Maple Farm**, 683 Camels Hump Road, Huntington. 802-434-2727.
- **The Gateway Farm**, 506 North Route 116, Bristol.
- **The Vermont Flannel Co.**, 5467 Route 7, Ferrisburgh.
- **Vermont Trade Winds Farm**, 884 Route 74 East, Shoreham. 802-897-2448.
- **Village Mapleworks**, 505 Main St. Orwell.



### Nourishing neighbors

VERGENNES COMMUNITY FOOD Shelf recently received \$4,000 worth of gift cards from the Vergennes Shaw’s. The money was raised through community-wide donations to the store’s Nourishing Neighbors program. Pictured from left: Flo Bessette, assistant store director; Paul Vachon, Food Shelf manager; and Sara Hancock, store director.

Photo courtesy of Jeanne Peters



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

# Elder

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 (violin, viola), is currently a self-employed solar sales consultant, working as Elder Energy Services LLC. When the legislature is adjourned, he divides his time between energy consulting and musical performances.

His entry into the state Senate race sets up a Democratic primary election this August. Incumbent state Sens. Chris Bray of Bristol and Ruth Hardy of East Middlebury told the *Independent* on Thursday they plan to seek reelection to the two-seat senatorial district that includes Addison County, Huntington, Rochester and Buel's Gore.

Elder said he's told both Bray and Hardy about his planned Senate run. He stressed his candidacy is based on a desire to serve in the state's highest chamber and isn't "an attack on either one of the incumbents."

"I have warm admiration for their work, but I will come with my own policy message and believe voters will appreciate an additional choice and a campaign that helps flesh out what policies are most important to this constituency," he said.

It was last fall that Elder intimated a shift in his political future, but few anticipated he'd opt for a state Senate bid. He told *VTDigger* in October he was considering a run for governor. He ruled that out in January when Middlebury Democrat Esther Charlestin announced her gubernatorial run.

"I feel (Charlestin's) candidacy is an important one, and an element of my decision had to do with making space for that important candidacy," Elder said.

His state Senate decision is also a reflection of his frustration with not being able to influence

House policy on major issues like renewable energy and land use planning.

"(House) leadership appears to be unwilling to let me sit on an energy committee, because I have a professional background in renewable energy," Elder said.

At the same time, Elder said potential conflicts of interest don't seem to be policed on other House committees.

"House Judiciary is full of lawyers; there are doctors, nurses and medical billers on the Health Care Committee," he noted. "But this is the reality of the House. Since around 2016, they've been very skittish to do anything on renewable energy that's not signed off on by the administration, for one thing, and also that might involve anyone who's been in the industry. There's nobody from the industry I work in that is able to work on those issues in the House."

But that's not quite as much the case in the Senate, at least that I know of."

Elder said current House leadership also has an "unwritten rule" that the General & Housing Committee can't weigh in on policy related to Act 250 or local zoning.

"I think that's a limitation that doesn't serve us well," he said. "I have a strong environmental background and a strong dedication to protecting our natural resources. But I also see there are clear places in Act 250 where we could just get out of the way of the type of development we want to see, and it would be to our advantage. But there are some political realities that get in the way of that."

Elder called himself an "interdisciplinary," adding he's concerned the House is currently taking a "siloe approach" in dealing with housing, education, energy, climate change, transportation and other big issues.

"These things are all part of the same problem and potentially draw from the same solutions," he argued. "To have this very siloe approach be enforced is kind of anachronistic and doesn't answer the needs of the moment."

Rather than continue to be frustrated, Elder said he's "reading the writing on the wall for what it is, and seeing if I can reposition myself to a place where some of my skills in these areas could land with greater effect."

That place, he's convinced, is the Senate.

### COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

If elected to that chamber, Elder said he'd like to serve on the Education and Finance committees.

"I think I'm a collaborator who can bring a pragmatic voice to those conversations and try to really make sure everyone's voices are being valued," he said. "I think in this very challenging moment for education, there's a risk of people retreating to their corners and their turf. I'm concerned the necessary integration (of student services) that can be the real salvation of a lot of our critical systems is at risk of not happening."

Elder's campaign priorities are



**DEMOCRATIC** State REP. Caleb Elder of Starksboro, shown at the recent Starksboro town meeting, will leave the Vermont House of Representatives at the end of this year. He's decided to run for one Addison County's two Vermont Senate seats and believes he could have a bigger impact in the state's highest chamber.

Independent photo/Steve James

still taking shape, but he plans on stressing:

- Planning for the future of public education in Vermont, a state with declining enrollment and only 646,000 residents. Elder said he's pleased the state changed the "pupil weighting system" that affects the way public education funds are distributed, but believes more work needs to be done — particularly as it relates to making schools better equipped to respond to the growing roles that society is asking of them to play in a child's life.

"The school system can never say 'no.' They always pick up those costs. We need to fundamentally address that, because with the weight that our school budgets are carrying ... it's no wonder we're seeing the kinds of budgetary increases that we are."

- Acknowledging and improving the close working relationship between public schools and human services, so that "the whole child is taken care of, instead of four or five abstractions of that child that land in different systems," Elder said.

- Planning a housing policy "that reflects climate resiliency efforts"

and that recognizes the urgency of creating housing stock to make Vermont a more attractive landing spot for young families.

"I want to see interim exemptions to Act 250 that give communities greater ability to move quickly to build in their downtowns," he said. "I want to see Starksboro be able to bring in more houses and get more kids in our excellent school."

- Leveraging grants for career and technical education, while encouraging voc-tech centers to "lean into private partnerships to give kids real job experiences that can inform the direction of their careers."

- Making more progress in reducing Vermont's carbon footprint.

Elder said he'll soon establish a Senate campaign website and looks forward to meeting with voters. He said he'll be forever proud of his service in the House, but it's time to move on.

"I've been able to move the needle on some issues that are important to me," he said, adding, "Taking a break from that chamber makes sense for me right now."



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# Bridport

(Continued from Page 1A)

horrendous last summer, their collective breeding area didn't amount to the minimum 1,000 acres required to make the helicopter service financially viable for a larvicide drop.

District officials believe the ultimate solution will involve larvicide drops by drone, but that's a practice that's yet to take off in our region.

So beyond hand spraying larvicide on small patches of bug breeding and advising district households on how to reduce their respective mosquito populations, there wasn't much else LFICD officials could do to make the three towns less of an informal community blood-draw.

"As a farmer, I know it's kind of a blend between art and science, and it feels like the 'art' piece of mosquito management has left the building and we're left with science that may, or may not, be doing an effective job of controlling," Bridport selectboard Chair Tim Howlett told the *Independent*.

"As of late, we've been told about some movement toward drones that can carry the larvicide and cover a lot more area," he added. "I don't think anyone on the selectboard is disagreeing with that technology coming on board. But in the meantime, we're feeling like we're putting our money in every year, and are we getting a bang for our buck? We aren't sure that we are."

Bridport residents at their March 5 annual town meeting decided, by voice vote, to have an Australian ballot vote later this year on whether their town should exit the LFICD. The three member towns formed the district in 2006, in conjunction with the Vermont Agency of

Agriculture, in light of a growing mosquito problem. The LFICD's current annual budget is around \$126,000, with most of it coming through the Agency of Ag. Each of the three member towns kicks in \$6,000 annually.

During its earlier years, the LFICD dropped mosquito larvicides by plane. It then transitioned to a helicopter service to better direct the drops to specific mosquito trouble spots.

According to the LFICD's guidelines, larvicides are used only "after monitoring indicates they are needed, according to established guidelines; treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, as well as the environment."

Craig Zondag began as an LFICD volunteer in 2008, then became the district's paid field coordinator/biologist in 2011. He holds a degree in natural resource management and biology from the University of Wisconsin.

The district includes 1,400-1,600 areas of potential mosquito breeding ground, between the Lemon Fair River and Cornwall Swamp.

The LFICD used to hire a helicopter service out of New Hampshire, "but for the past two years, they haven't returned our calls," Zondag lamented. So the district now uses a helicopter service out of North Fork, Long Island, N.Y.

The 1,000-acre threshold for ordering the service has been confounding for Zondag and his colleagues. That elusive target

has translated into no helicopter drops in the LFICD since 2017.

"Mosquitos that hatch don't hatch at the same time; it's always a moving target," he said. "The Catch 22 for us is we haven't been able to connect enough dots to prescribe a treatment. Last year, I had enough things lined up in the Lemon Fair Valley that I called North Fork, gave them a heads up, they were available, and they would come in two days. I went out the next day to do surveillance, and ironically, the Lemon Fair had receded to a point where I couldn't find any larvae. The larvae ended up dying in the floodplain."

It takes around five days for a mosquito to transition from egg to adult. Floodplain mosquitoes' eggs can lay dormant for up to three years. Multivoltine mosquitoes can lay around a dozen batches of eggs a year, with up to 120 eggs in each batch.

So Zondag hauls a backpack sprayer capable of treating 15-20 acres each day with Bti larvicide. The spraying centers on roadside ditches and puddling areas in the floodplain.

"We're not reaching all those other hotspots, clearly," Zondag acknowledged. "This is where a mechanical drone would be very valuable to the district."

There are drones that can carry, and drop, up to a 40-pound payload of larvicide, according to Zondag, who believes such technology would serve the LFICD better than a plane or helicopter.

"We could treat around 500 acres in three days and that would be stamping out a lot of fires," he said. "We could stay on top of these successive hatches that are so sporadic."

But creating a drone program is not a simple matter of making a purchase at an electronics store and reading the manual.

In order to effect area drops via drone, the operator needs to be certified by the FFA and as a pesticide applicator.

Zondag possesses the latter,



CRAIG ZONDAG, THE longtime field coordinator/biologist of the Lemon Fair Insect Control District, is hoping Bridport decides to remain in the three-town LFICD. Bridport will vote later this year on a possible exit from the district, which hopes to enlist drones to drop larvicide in mosquito breeding areas.

File photo

but he learned — through a recent, two-day training session at UMass Amherst — that FFA certification is tough. Very tough.

"There's a lot of information regarding drone operation that has nothing to do with what we would actually be using a drone for," he said.

And given his mosquito surveillance, administrative chores and supervision of a variety of LFICD interns, Zondag said he doesn't have the bandwidth to be a drone pilot.

"Given the opportunity we could find someone who's (certified) to operate one of these (drones)... it could be a great tool for our program," Zondag said. "Our board is currently looking for that person."

### A COUPLE YEARS

Unfortunately, there are no real templates for the LFICD to use. Zondag said he hasn't found any mosquito districts in New England that are using drone technology.

"This would be breaking new ground for the New England

area," he said.

But Howlett — who said he believes Zondag is doing a "phenomenal job" — noted mosquito drone programs are likely a couple years away, with no assurances one could lift off for the LFICD. In the meantime, he believes Bridport residents should be allowed to weigh in the town's future with the district. He added the district's mosquito larvicide drop area is largely on the east side of Bridport, so those residing on Route 22A and west "aren't really directly seeing the benefit, other than we do have the complaint line open and (LFICD officials) field complaints and do homeowner visits and give mitigation recommendations."

Howlett added the state of Vermont owns more than 80% of the Lemon Fair floodplain. As such, he suggested the state take more responsibility for mosquito abatement in that area, as a public safety measure.

Per the LFICD charter, a town that votes to exit the district would remain a dues paying member for

one more year. Howlett believes the Bridport vote on whether to leave the district could be held on Aug. 13 (primary day) or during the Nov. 5 General Election.

"If you want as many votes as possible, those are the ones to aim for," he said. "There's a bunch of moving parts, but we want to put the town in a position where we could make an informed decision based on as many constituents as possible."

Could the LFICD survive without Bridport?

Zondag believes LFICD could, but notes the resulting, smaller district could find it more difficult to establish a drone program.

And the LFICD board wants Bridport to remain in the fold.

"Bridport currently has a dog in the fight and could be part of the evolution of the program," Zondag said. "Should they pull out, they no longer have a dog in the fight, and it could hamper our ability to obtain best management practices."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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# Fish & Game ask you to slow down for amphibians

VERMONT — The spring amphibian breeding season is upon us, and Vermont Fish and Wildlife is asking drivers to slow down and be cautious when travelling at night, or even seeking alternate routes to avoid driving roads near wetlands and ponds that salamanders and frogs cross during at this time.

Every year, typically in early spring, many of Vermont's amphibians leave their overwintering sites and migrate to the wetlands and ponds where they will breed and lay eggs. The timing of this annual event, termed Big Night(s), coincides

with melting snowpack, thawing soils, relatively warm evening temperatures, and rainfall. Due to this year's mild winter, these conditions are expected to align and trigger spring amphibian migration earlier than usual.

"One of the benefits of checking out amphibian road crossings," says Fish and Wildlife herpetologist Luke Groff, "is that you can see many individuals and species in a short period and small area, and some species may not be seen the rest of the year." The spotted and

blue-spotted salamanders, for example, belong to a group called the "mole salamanders," because after breeding, they retreat underground or under logs or stumps, and are rarely seen until the next spring."

Groff is encouraging Vermonters to explore the roads near their home and report amphibian road crossings to the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas at [www.vtherpatlas.org/sighting-submission-form](http://www.vtherpatlas.org/sighting-submission-form). If it is safe to take pictures of the migrating amphibians, please include them



in your report. This information is used by Fish and Wildlife, the Agency of Transportation and other conservation partners to assess the need for wildlife passages and barriers that allow all wildlife, not just frogs and salamanders, to more safely cross roadways.

Vermonters who wish to contribute to the Fish and Wildlife Department's work to conserve frog and salamander populations can donate to the Nongame Wildlife Fund on their state income tax form or on the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website.

# Brett Brisson awarded Farm Bureau scholarship

VERGENNES — Brett Brisson, a 2023 Graduate of Vergennes Union High School and the Hannaford Career Center, was awarded a \$500 Addison County Farm Bureau scholarship. He is attending South Dakota State University, where he is enrolled in the top Precision Agriculture program in the country. He is minoring in Mechatronics.



BRETT BRISSON

Brisson grew up on his grandfather Alan Brisson's 2,200 dairy cow farm in Ferrisburgh. When COVID arrived and school was closed, he developed a work ethic working on the farm, a real love of farming, and an interest in Custom Manure Application and Nutrient Management to protect Lake Champlain from farm runoff. During this time he and his father Dan developed a networking engineering and consulting company called

Brett + Dan. They install Wi-Fi wireless networks and internet. His leadership skills were developed as a member of the Vergennes FFA Chapter and Hannaford Career Center's Sustainable Agriculture program.

Scholarships applications for the coming year may be acquired from your local Addison County high school guidance counselor or agriculture instructors.

# Lake encroachment permits are required

VERMONT — During the spring fish spawning season the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reminds Vermonters that permitted lake encroachment construction projects on public lakes and ponds are typically not allowed from March 15 to July 1.

"Vermont's public waters offer us many benefits, from clean drinking water and recreation to outstanding fish and wildlife habitat," said DEC Commissioner Jason Batchelder. "By pausing permitted projects during the spring fish spawning season, we can help support the health and breeding success of fish populations statewide."

Examples of projects that

are not allowed during this period include adding rock or other material to the water for shoreline stabilization (such as riprap or seawalls), boathouse reconstruction, dredging, or other projects that disturb the lakebed.

If you have not finished your project before spawning season, you must stabilize the area. You must also make plans to finish the work after July 1 when spawning season ends, as required in individual Lake Encroachment Permits. Please reach out to your regional Lakes and Ponds Permit contact with questions.

Projects that do not add rock or concrete to the lake and that do not disturb the lakebed (like installing docks, floats, rafts, or buoys) can

continue during spawning season.

DEC staff will continue to accept and review permit applications during the spring spawning season. After July 1, permitted construction projects may resume or begin as identified in the permit.

"From northern pike to smallmouth bass, thousands of eggs develop and hatch between March 15 and July 1," said Fish Program Manager Maureen Lynch with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. "Protecting and promoting fish populations mean not only a healthy aquatic environment but also healthy wildlife populations, a healthy tourism economy, and a higher quality of life for those who value our state's fisheries."

DEC staff review permit

applications and assess any impacts to habitat, water quality, recreation, and other uses. Permitted projects must minimize impacts to fish and wildlife habitat.

Any project that proposes work at, below, or beyond mean water level of public lakes or ponds may require a Lake Encroachment Permit. To learn about other state environmental permits, visit the Permit Navigator at [tinyurl.com/LakeEncroachment](http://tinyurl.com/LakeEncroachment).

If Misha Cetner is not available (Misha.Cetner@Vermont.gov, 802-490-6199), contact Laura Dlugolecki (Laura.Dlugolecki@Vermont.gov, 802-490-6133) or Maureen Lynch (Maureen.Lynch@Vermont.gov, 802-498-4780).

# Climate Catalysts Leadership Program to be held in Montpelier

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) is seeking applicants for its fifth Climate Catalysts Leadership Program. Over the past four years, Climate Catalysts have worked to implement projects such as building a county-wide Farmer

Climate Network; establishing community-wide weatherization efforts; facilitating the development of community solar projects; starting a town energy and climate committee; and more.

The Climate Catalysts Leadership Program participants arrive with, or develop, transformative, community-scale climate economy related projects and work toward developing their concepts into reality while building peer connections, strengthening leadership skills, and receiving project development support. VCRD strives to support locally-generated ideas and projects and the outstanding local leaders who champion them.

"This program provides the opportunity for people at various stages of life to come together across the state and across networks," states program manager, Laura Cavin Bailey. "Each participant works through their own place-based project while also engaging in rich dialogue around the larger state and global implications of the climate disruptions."

New this year, interested participants may also choose to focus on a group project to be determined at the first session, or may be paired with flood-impacted (or flood-susceptible) communities to implement community resilience projects.

Applications are now open for the fifth cohort of Climate Catalysts, which will begin in May. This cohort will focus on new and emerging leaders from a variety of large and small communities who care deeply and want to take community action to reduce energy use and lessen climate impacts in their communities. There is no cost to participate in the program and a small stipend will be offered to participants.

To learn more and apply visit [tinyurl.com/VCRD-climate-catalyst](http://tinyurl.com/VCRD-climate-catalyst). The application deadline is April 15, at 5 p.m.



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# ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Sam Tropp of Bristol was named to the dean's list at Bates College for the fall/winter semester ending in December 2023. This is a distinction earned by students whose grade-point average is 3.92 or higher. Tropp is still considering a major at Bates.

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# SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs



## Elite racer

**FORMER BRISTOL RESIDENT** Alia Johnson recently placed 37th out of 81 elite women skiers in the 50K skate race at the American Birkebeiner Nordic races in Wisconsin. Johnson started competing with Ripton's Frost Mountain Nordic in high school, and then went on to ski for the Middlebury College Nordic ski team. Another local Nordic racer, Britta Clark, formerly from Goshen, placed 23rd in the women's elite 50K skate.

Photos courtesy of The American Birkebeiner

## Panther men's lax topples Bobcats to stop short skid

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men's lacrosse team on Saturday snapped an early-season three-game skid by topping visiting Bates, 17-10.

The Panthers improved to 2-3 heading into a Wednesday evening game against Union, ranked No. 9 in NCAA Division III. That game was set to be played at the U.S. Lacrosse Headquarters in Sparks, Md.

That game was the third Middlebury has played against a team ranked in the top 10 in six outings, and the Panthers (2-3, 2-1 NESCAC entering Wednesday's game) were still ranked No. 16 entering this week's action. On this coming Saturday they will host NESCAC rival Connecticut at 1 p.m.

Against Bates (2-4, 0-3 NESCAC) this past weekend, Panther Billy Curtis set a program single-game record with seven assists to help Middlebury knock off Bates after the Bobcats took a first-half lead. The Panthers went on a pair of six-goal runs to secure the victory.

Two goals from Gray Doyle helped Bates take a 5-3 lead with 11:02 remaining in the first half. The Panthers answered with goals from John McCarthy, William Ryan (from Curtis) and Tom Conley to take a 6-5 advantage into the halftime break.

Russell Thorndike then scored the first three goals of the second half, two with the Panthers a man up, and one assisted by Curtis and one set up by Patrick Jamin as the Panthers' lead stretched to 9-5.

Bates went on a 3-1 run over the next five minutes, pulling to within 10-8 at 6:56 of the third period when Doyle scored on a quick-stick goal from just outside the crease. But the Panthers responded with a decisive 6-0 run that concluded at 7:41 of the fourth quarter, when Curtis found the back of the net for a 16-8 Middlebury lead. Ryan scored three goals in that surge, and Curtis set up three of the scores.

Doyle led Bates with four goals, and Connor Hartman and Riley McClure added two apiece. Goalie Andrew Toland made 21 saves for the Bobcats.

Ryan led Middlebury with five goals, and Thorndike scored three. Curtis and McCarthy each finished with two apiece.

Drew Dummer scooped a career-best five groundballs and caused two turnovers for the Panther defense, which is still playing without injured senior captain Luke Simpson. Junior middle William Munroe won 14 of 23 faceoffs and led the Panthers with seven groundballs, and goalie Hayden Kern added six groundballs to his 16 saves.

## Panther women's hockey falls to Elmira, 1-0, in NCAA semifinal

By ANDY KIRKALDY

RIVER FALLS, Wis. — The NCAA Division III championship dreams of the Middlebury College women's hockey team were dashed on Friday, March 15, mostly by the glove, blocker and pads of Elmira goalie Chloe Beaubien.

Beaubien made 31 saves, many of them outstanding, in her team's 1-0 victory over the Panthers in an NCAA semifinal played in the

University of Wisconsin-River Falls rink.

The Panthers had erupted for 21 goals in five previous NESCAC and NCAA tournament games, but couldn't solve the Soaring Eagles' goalie and defense, frustration that included failing to score during five power plays.

Middlebury, which finished 18-7-4, also played well, moving the puck crisply and forechecking hard. Defensively, the Panthers limited Elmira to 21 shots, most of them from the perimeter. But one defensive breakdown came with 4:26 left in the game and proved to be costly — it led to Claire Meeder's game-winner.

The play started when Elmira's Holley Riva won a puck battle in the right corner of the Panther zone. Riva skated behind the net to the left side and slid the puck out to Meeder, who was open cutting in toward the left post. Meeder one-timed the puck into the upper left corner, giving Middlebury goalie Sophia Will no chance. It was the first goal she and the Panthers had allowed in five postseason games and second in six overall.

Elmira improved to 22-7-1 with the victory, but the Soaring Eagles lost two days later to Wisconsin-River Falls, 4-1, in the title game. W-RF finished its season at 30-0, in the process becoming only the second D-III women's hockey team to complete an undefeated and untied season with a win in an NCAA final. The first was Middlebury in 2022.

Middlebury's hopes for a second championship in three years looked bright for most of the game. The Panthers outshot the Soaring Eagles by 16-7 in the opening period, and Beaubien made several big saves on a power play that began at 5:06, including robbing Jordan Hower on the doorstep at 5:25.

With 12:01 on the clock, Sabrina Kim had a breakaway chance, but Beaubien made a butterfly save to thwart Kim's low shot. Beaubien also denied Katie Flynn from the right circle twice later in the period, and stopped Hower again with 2:40 remaining. Elmira's best chance in the period came from Alayna Toole from the right circle at 10:30, but Will smothered her bid.

Elmira applied pressure early in the second, and Will denied Meeder's solo rush at 1:15 and gloved Piper Andrews' bullet from between the circles at 3:16.

(See Hockey, Page 3B)

## Score BOARD

### COLLEGE SPORTS

#### Women's Hockey

NCAA D-II Final Four at Wis-River Falls  
3/15 Elmira vs Midd ..... 1-0  
3/15 Wis-River Falls vs Adria ..... 3-2  
3/17 Wis-River Falls vs Elmira ..... 4-1

#### Women's Lacrosse

3/16 Midd vs Bates ..... 16-2  
3/19 Midd vs Frank & Marshall ..... 18-9

#### Men's Lacrosse

3/16 Midd vs Bates ..... 17-10  
3/20 Midd vs Union (MD) ..... Late

#### Baseball In Florida

3/16 TCNJ vs Midd ..... 7-2  
3/17 Endicott vs Midd ..... 8-6  
3/19 Midd vs Wm. Paterson ..... 7-1  
3/20 Midd vs Lawrence (FL) ..... Late

#### Softball

3/16 Midd vs Milwaukee Eng. .... 5-4  
3/16 Midd vs Worcester State ..... 7-3  
3/17 Wellesley vs Midd ..... 9-4  
3/17 Midd vs Carleton ..... 6-3  
3/18 Grinnell vs Midd ..... 12-3  
3/18 Ramapo vs Midd ..... 16-1  
3/20 Midd vs St. Lawrence (FL) ..... Late  
3/20 Midd vs W. Paterson (FL) ..... Late

## Schedule

### COLLEGE SPORTS

#### Women's Lacrosse

3/21 Midd at TCNJ ..... 4 PM  
3/23 Midd at Conn ..... 11 AM  
3/30 Wesleyan at Midd ..... Noon

#### Men's Lacrosse

3/23 Conn at Midd ..... 1 PM  
3/26 Midd at Springfield ..... 5 PM  
3/30 Midd at Wesleyan ..... 1 PM

#### Baseball

3/22 Midd vs J. Hopkins (FL) ..... 9:45 AM  
3/23 Midd vs Kalamazoo (2, FL) ..... Noon

#### Softball

3/21 Midd vs Kalamazoo (FL) ..... 11:30 AM  
3/21 Midd vs S. Virginia (FL) ..... 1:45 PM  
3/22 Midd vs Endicott (FL) ..... 9:10 AM  
3/22 Midd vs Wis-River Falls (FL) 1:45 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.*

## Top-ranked women's lax wins two more

SPARKS, Md. — The Middlebury College women's lacrosse team, ranked No. 1 in NCAA Division III, kept up its winning ways in recent play, picking up two road victories in the past week.

The Panthers, who have won three straight NCAA titles, improved to 5-0 by winning at Bates on Saturday, 16-2, and defeating No. 5 Franklin & Marshall, 18-9, on Tuesday in a game played at U.S. National Lacrosse headquarters in Sparks, Md. They stretched the program's winning streak to 33 games and are looking to extend that mark at the College of New Jersey on Thursday and at Connecticut on Saturday.

On this past Saturday, the Panthers breezed past NESCAC rival Bates, taking leads of 6-0 after one quarter, 10-0 at the half, and 14-0 after three periods.

Susan Rowley tossed in five goals to lead the Panthers, Kate Motley scored three, and Hope Shue and Anna Spehr each scored twice. Caroline Adams led with three assists, and Niki Mormile's three ground balls were a team high.

Goalie Gina Driscoll made two saves and was unscored upon in the Panther net through three periods, and Elizabeth Savage made two saves in the fourth quarter. Avery Lehman made seven saves for Bates (2-4, 0-1 NESCAC).

On Tuesday, Franklin & Marshall (5-2) hung with the Panthers for most of the first period, but with the score tied at 3-3 Middlebury blew the game open by scoring the next eight goals. The Panthers led at the half by 11-4 and scored the first four goals of the second half before the teams traded goals the rest of the way.

Adams led the way with four goals and two assists, and Rowley's three goals gave her 100 for her career. Shue and Kelcey Dion also scored three goals apiece, and Motley added a pair. Maggie Coughlin chipped in a team-high three assists, and Adams also controlled 10 draws. Driscoll made six saves for the Panthers, and Alyssa Moran stopped a dozen shots for the Diplomats.

## Bridport's St. Louis sparks Vt. motorsport hall of fame

BARRE/BRIDPORT — A Bridport man is taking a lead in founding the Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame. This new Hall of Fame makes its public debut at the Vermont Motorsports Expo at the Barre BOR arena on Saturday, March 30.

Thirteen members of the Hall's 19-person founding group — which includes current and former media members, competitors, promoters and industry stakeholders — met on March 5, setting in motion plans to incorporate as a non-profit organization and elect officials. Justin St. Louis of Bridport was elected president, with North Bennington's Marty Kelly Jr. as treasurer. Immediate goals for the new organization are to establish organizational bylaws and rules, nominate and vote on the first Vermont Motorsports Hall of Fame Class, to be announced in the fall/winter of 2024.

Induction of the Hall's inaugural class will take place in the spring of 2025.

All disciplines of motorsport will be eligible for induction, including stock car, sports car, hill climb, motocross, snowmobile, truck/tractor pull, karting and demolition derby, with additional plans to present an annual VMHoF "Vermont Racer of the Year" award.

"This organization is long overdue," St. Louis said. "The Green Mountain State has a lengthy and distinguished motorsports tradition, and it has been gratifying to see the enthusiasm expressed for our new endeavor. The green flag has barely flown on this project, but we are already up to speed."



## Camden goes up

TIGER JUNIOR CAMDEN Whitlock gets some serious air as he attacks the basket against Mount Abraham and gets by defender Chase Atkins, but also meets a serious obstacle in six-five Eagle defender Ian Funke. Camden's bid was not successful in a game this winter, but it was gallant, and Steve well captured everyone's athleticism with this shot. See more of our best winter sports photos on Page 2B.

Independent photo/Steve James



VUHS JUNIOR ISAAC Preston was one of three local wrestlers who won Vermont titles — he pinned all his foes, as did senior teammate Jamison Couture, while Otter Valley senior Chase Cram picked up a couple decisions in his championship run. This shot of Preston captured the elemental nature of the sport. Technique matters, but so does imposing your will on your foe.

Independent photo/Steve James



THIS WAS THE prettiest goal of the winter. MUHS Senior Gus Hodde worked a slick give-and-go with teammate Landon Kean in the left side of the Burr & Burton zone, and Hodde made no mistake picking the top right corner from a sharp angle, nicely framed by Steve shooting from the platform at the east end of the stands.

Independent photo/Steve James



I HONESTLY DON'T remember how this duel between two of the county's best power forwards turned out. Did Tiger sophomore Cooke Riney, right, manage to score over the determined defense of Commodore senior Oakley Francis? But that's the beauty of this Mark Bouvier image: It captures the suspenseful moment in which two athletes are giving it their competitive best and the outcome remains in doubt.

Photo by Mark Bouvier

## Winter photos told stories

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — Words are my job. I like to say I'm off to the word factory when I head to work. And, yes, my long-suffering better half is probably tired of hearing that.

But while I joke about it, I do believe it to be true that a well-crafted story can go a long way to bringing the reader to the scene and into the action. Pictures can be painted with words. Emotions can be captured. Drama can be described.

That said, there is nothing like a visual image to make some messages hit home.

Those of us of a certain age, for example, will never forget the opening of ABC's Wide World of Sports and the "Agony of Defeat" — the unfortunate ski jumper who loses his balance at the bottom of the jump, falls, and slides sideways off the end of the ramp. (Kudos to those who remember the less compelling image of the "Thrill of Victory" — a race driver shaking a bottle of bubbly on the winner's podium.)

Let's put it this way: To finish our shout-out to that long-gone TV show, photos capture "The Human Drama of Athletic Competition" and sometimes tell a story more effectively than can words.

Or in other cases words and images work in tandem to complete the storytelling package.

Once again, this past winter season I collected a number of the photos that I felt best told stories.

Most came from *Independent* photographer Steve James, but clutch pinch-hitter Mark Bouvier also came through.

Some photos just showed the suspense of a moment: Was that shot blocked or not? Others show athletes' competitive spirit. Others show the environment in which they

competed, or the technique or focus that led to success.

All of Steve's and Mark's images added irreplaceable elements to our sports coverage, as did many submissions for which we were grateful. These five offered more than most.



THE TIGER NORDIC team, especially the three-time champion girls led by Beth McIntosh, Ava Schneider and Mary Harrington made the headlines this winter. But a couple Eagle independents did well, too, June Yates-Rusch, seen here, and Lorenzo Atocha. Steve's photo captured the calm and technique that Nordic skiers require as well as endurance, and also the unseasonable warmth competitors dealt with in the two-day championship meet. Also, great shades.

Independent photo/Steve James



THIS WAS A common sight at MUHS girls' hoop games this season, sophomore guard Solstice Binder blazing down the court with the ball and leaving defenders in her wake, in this case all five Missisquoi players watching helplessly.

Independent photo/Steve James

# VERMONT Sun

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# Vermont offers opportunities to see swimmers and creepy crawlies

Earlier this week, my wife and I took our two-year-old grandson B to the ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain to see some fishes and turtles and frogs and snakes. And we saw all of the above. We even saw them in that order. B sat with me for several minutes mesmerized by three large lake sturgeon swimming past us behind a large glass. On his own, he then discovered a little crawlspace where he could watch turtles underwater. Of course, he made his grandfather crawl down into the toddler-sized tunnel with him to appreciate his discovery. Then he sat with DiDi (his name for his grandmother) and admired the impressively long neck of a common musk turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*) named Stinkpot standing on the bottom of his tank and reaching his nose all the way to the surface to sip some air. As its common name, species name, and nickname suggest, the turtle is sort of the reptile version

of the skunk, warding off potential predators by making bad smells. I think B was as fascinated by that description as by the turtle itself.

And that brought us to the end of B's attention span for sitting still. After very brief stops to admire the snakes and turtles, and a little time at the exhibit on the upcoming solar eclipse, the rest of our visit was spent on the more interactive exhibits, which were also quite well done and interesting even for his two older chaperones. Indeed, it was after a visit to ECHO last summer and discovering how fun it was that we decided to get



**MATTHEW DICKERSON**

a family membership for the year. The focus of the ECHO Center is on creatures and habitats of the Lake Champlain Basin, but they have several more general exhibits and a few creatures from other parts of the world, including numerous frogs from Central and South America. Seeing all the aquatic creatures native to our area was a good reminder of how much there is to explore in the Vermont outdoors and natural habitats. And that brought me to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife webpage after I returned home from ECHO to see what some of those opportunities are. Although I write about the outdoor and am active in many outdoor sports, I didn't realize until a couple years ago — when my wife and I went to a Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department talk on beavers in Vermont — just how many education events the department offers throughout

the year and the state. Although the hunter education class this weekend was nearly full, and to my disappointment the introduction to spring turkey class had already filled before I spotted it, the calendar of events at [vtfishandwildlife.com/calendar](http://vtfishandwildlife.com/calendar) is worth checking out. A few, like the fly-tying class, have a modest fee, and others that may be free still require advance registration, but many are just educational events open to anybody. A webinar with F&W aquatic habitat biologist Will Eldridge on April 9 will focus on Vermont's "Resilient Rivers" and another on April 16 with F&W botanist Grace Glynn offers "An Introduction to Vermont's Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants." (Both are free but require advance registration.) When grandson B grows older, the Green Mountain Conservation Camp, [vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc](http://vtfishandwildlife.com/learn-more/gmcc), looks like a

great opportunity for "hands-on learning experiences about fish, wildlife, ecology, botany, [and] forestry," as well as skills such as hunter firearm safety, outdoor first aid, hiking, canoeing and fishing. Vermont state game wardens, foresters, and fisheries and wildlife biologists are involved in these weeklong programs, which run mid-June through mid-August at camps on Buck Lake (Woodbury), and closer to Addison County on Lake Bomoseen in Castleton. Although Vermont's catch-and-release fishing season now runs year-round in most waters, the traditional second Saturday of April still marks the opening day of the harvest season for trout. It will be May before the state starts updating its stocking reports, but stocking will start much earlier. Fingerling lake trout, landlocked Atlantic salmon, and steelhead trout are stocked in many lakes and ponds late fall and March,

though those fish — usually only about seven inches long — will need to grow before they are worth catching or can legally be harvested. I was delighted to learn that B's other grandfather bought him a lifetime Vermont hunting and fishing license. These can be purchased for infants up to their first birthday for only eight times the cost of that year's annual license, which is a fantastic deal. (For Vermonters 16 to 24 years old, the cost is 31 times the current adult seasons license.) Although I also felt like a dud with my first grandson since I didn't think of that myself, I now have a second grandson, and a lifetime fishing license for him is now on my Christmas shopping list. By the time he's old enough to get much use out of it, I'll be old enough to get my free permanent fishing license as a senior citizen.

## Girls' basketball stars named

**ADDISON COUNTY** — A number of athletes from the Mount Abraham, Vergennes, Middlebury and Otter Valley union high school basketball teams received postseason recognition. Mount Abe junior forward Mackenzie Griner and VUHS sophomore guard Ashtin Stearns

were named Lake Division First Team All-Stars. Stearns was also named to the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association's Division III and IV Dream Dozen of freshman and sophomore players. MUHS sophomore guard/forward Solstice Binder and Mount Abe junior guard/forward Abba

Parker were named Lake Division Second Team All-Stars. OV Sophomore Guard Breanna Bovey earned Southern Vermont League B Division Honorable Mention, and VUHS sophomore Ava Francis and MUHS freshman Isabel Quinn received Honorable Mention from the Lake Division.

## Hockey

*(Continued from Page 1B)*  
The Soaring Eagles had a power play, their only one of the game, that began at 6:54, but the Panthers killed it with relative ease. Middlebury had two power plays later in the period. On the first Cat Appleyard circled in front from the left, but Beaubien held firm and then covered the loose puck. Then shortly afterward Cece Ziegler picked up a loose puck at the top of the circles and fired through traffic, but Beaubien found the shot and held on. During the second of the power plays, the Panthers locked the puck in the offensive zone for almost the entire two minutes, but could not break through despite a flurry of shots on net. In the first minute of the third period, Flynn intercepted a pass

and skated into the zone through the right circle, but Beaubien gloved her blast that was ticketed for the upper right corner. Will made saves on a Meeder wraparound bid and an Emily Lenzen bid from the left side after that, and then the Panthers had more golden chances. With 8:47 expired, Avery McNerny rifled a shot that bounced off Beaubien's pads and bounced to Ziegler, who fired on goal, only to see a defender block the puck and clear it away. At the 12:19 mark on another power play, Kim had a quick shot from near the left pipe, but Beaubien came up big again with a butterfly stop. After Meeder put Elmira in front, Middlebury had two late power plays, and had two great chances in the final minute of play

on the final one. The first attempt came at 19:11 when Kim sent a pass to Flynn, but Beaubien just managed to kick away Flynn's one-timer. The last opportunity came with six seconds left on the clock. Flynn had a tip-in attempt on an initial bid by Ziegler from the top of the circles. The puck looked like it might trickle in, but Beaubien just got her stick on it on the right pipe and flicked it away. Middlebury asked for a video review, but the review showed that the entire puck did not cross the line, and another outstanding Panther women's hockey season came to an end — it was the program's 19th NCAA appearance and 11th in a semifinal, and the team won the NESCAC playoffs.

## Boys' hoop all-stars recognized

**ADDISON COUNTY** — Eleven members of the Vergennes, Mount Abraham, Middlebury and Otter Valley union high school boys' basketball teams received postseason recognition. VUHS senior forward Oakley Francis was named the Lake Division Player of the Year. Joining Francis on the Lake First Team were Mount Abe senior

forward Ian Funke and MUHS sophomore forward Cooke Riney. OV junior Logan Letourneau was named to Southern Vermont League B Division first team. Named to the Lake Second Team were VUHS senior swingman Devin Brisson, Mount Abe junior guard Hayden Lutz, and MUHS junior forward Kyle Stearns. SVL B Division Honorable

Mentions from OV were junior forward Drew Pelkey and sophomore guard Connor Denis. Earning Honorable Mention from the Lake Division were two Commodores: sophomore forward Ryker Mosehair and junior guard Reese Paquette. Also, VUHS Coach Eric LeBeau was named the Lake Coach of the Year.

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# BASH

## at the Snow Bowl

New Day! Friday, March 22nd!

a fundraiser for the Middlebury Ski Club

Torchlight Parade down the Cameron!

Join us for a special celebration of the Middlebury Ski Club and the Middlebury Snow Bowl

Friday, March 22nd!

We'll be celebrating starting at 4pm with live entertainment, food, beverage, and of course the incredible night skiing now offered at the Snowbowl!

A BIG thank you to this year's event sponsors!



# Pig Race revival!

By Angelo Lynn

GOSHEN — Party cloudy skies with temps in the high 40s — and a recent 8-inch snowfall the weekend before — created a near-perfect setting for the revival of Blueberry Hill's famous Pig Race, which had run continuously from 1972 through 2007 under the direction of the late Tony Clark.

With conditions "as is," the event this year was based on the motto, "Rain or shine, snow or no, the race will go on!"

And go on it did! About 50 racers entered the 7.5K or 15K events that started in the grassy meadow opposite Blueberry Hill Inn, with most racers running across the road with skis in hand, then stepping into bindings to ascend the first pitch just past the pond. From there, just enough snow covered the trail, or edges along the trail, to make it possible to "ski" most sections of the shorter course, and much of the longer course — if you didn't mind using your skis to plod through muddy sections of the trail (some racers took them off and walked those sections) particularly on the loop around the south and west sides of Hogback.

More treacherous, however, were the sections of downhill through  
(See Race, Page 5B)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP left, are: Elsa Bradley setting off in the 2.5K kids race; 50 skiers take off in the grassy meadow for the 7.5 km and 15 km race; Tessa Westbrook laughs on the downhill; the snow was thin in spots but usually enough on the trail edges; Steve Kerr of Portland, Me. braves the race in shorts; this downhill provided plenty of thrills for Abi Jewett (who's raced in world cup alpine events); Elsa swings at the pig pinata; race director Britta Clark; Ashar Nelson and Eben Punderson (both board members of the Moosalamoo Association) clown it up at the finish; Shari Brown and Emily Rockwell prepare the pizza; Lisa Lynn tucks the finish downhill; and this racer sports an appropriate pig nose for her costume!

Photos by John Lazenby





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP left: Racers make their way up the first pitch behind the Inn; and cross one of many streams; Seth Westbrook sports vintage gear and clothing; some new skis and some vintage adorn the finish area as racers chowed on roast pig, applesauce, slaw and pizza slices; Joel Bradley carries son James during the kids race; the pond plunge was an option, but most opted out.



## Race

(Continued from Page 4B) 4-plus inches of heavy, sloppy snow, mixed with mud, rocks, sticks and the occasional streambed to hop across or downed tree to step over — all of which kept the skiing “exciting” and much in the spirit of a race known for past hijinks, trail obstacles, jumps, and a devil-may-care attitude among the participants.

Falls were expected, challenges accepted, and every one of the 80-plus in attendance was there for a fun time on skis, camaraderie with good friends, a great pig roast and

the Inn’s famous pizza cooked in its outdoor pizza oven.

The race was self-timed and prizes were awarded accordingly, including to the dozen or so kids who kicked off the event with their own 2.5 km race in the meadow, including obstacles and an egg hunt with prizes.

Shari Brown, current owner/manager of the inn, and mother to Britta and Ollie Clark, put on this year’s event to revive the memory of those earlier years of the race.

“As climate change continues to make snow harder to come by,” said Britta Clark, who served as

race director. “I think events like this are crucial — they remind us that the spirit of cross-country skiing is ultimately about being outside and moving together with friends and family, and we can maintain that spirit regardless of snow conditions.”

“We went into the race a bit concerned that people would be disappointed with the lack of snow and frustrated with the new scratches on their skis,” Shari and Britta said after the race, “but we could not have been more wrong!”

Everyone showed up with such amazing energy and costumes and rolled with the punches and river crossings. This attitude and support give us hope that small places like Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, who are relying on natural snowfall, will be able to adapt to these less-than-ideal winters we have been faced with in recent years. We had so much fun putting this event together and are so grateful for the support of this wonderful community of skiers.”



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## Stay clear from falcon nesting sites along trails

VERMONT — Hiking Vermont’s hillsides is a great way to enjoy a spring day, but the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Audubon Vermont recommend people check to see if the area they are planning to hike or climb is open. In addition to trail closures to reduce impacts during mud season, several cliff areas are also closed to protect nesting peregrine falcons.

“Peregrine falcons are very sensitive to human presence during their breeding season, so we ask climbers and hikers to please maintain a respectful distance from their nests,” said Nongame Bird Biologist Jillian Kilborn with Fish and Wildlife. “The areas closed include the portions of the cliffs where the birds are nesting and the trails leading to cliff tops or overlooks.”

Over the next couple months, biologists and community scientists will be identifying cliffs occupied by peregrines this year. Sites listed will remain closed until Aug. 1 or until Fish and Wildlife determines the risk to nesting falcons has passed. The majority of the sites are visited in April, and nesting falcons can choose new sites, so additional sites may be added or removed from the closed list which will be updated and provided on Fish and Wildlife’s website. Sites

in Addison County include:

- Deer Leap, Bristol: cliff-top and climbing closed.
- Mt Horrid, Rochester: Great Cliff overlook closed.
- Rattlesnake Point, Salisbury: southern overlook closed.
- Snake Mountain, Addison: entire western trail closed.

Audubon Vermont conservation biologist Margaret Fowle works with volunteers and other conservation professionals to monitor the sites throughout the nesting season. “Peregrine falcons were removed from Vermont’s endangered species list in 2005, and the population continues to thrive thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers and partners,” said Fowle. “In many cases the lower portions of the trails remain open, and we encourage people to enjoy watching peregrine falcons from a distance that requires using binoculars or a spotting scope.”

What you can do to help Vermont peregrines:

- Respect cliff closures, and retreat from any cliff where you see peregrines.
- Report any disturbance of nesting peregrines to your local State game warden.
- Report any sightings to Margaret Fowle at [margaret.fowle@audubon.org](mailto:margaret.fowle@audubon.org).

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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.

**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.*

**Addison County Parent/Child Center**  
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- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

**Community Playgroups**

Middlebury 9:30 - 11 am Saturdays at the Addison County Parent/Child Center 126 Monroe St.	Vergennes 9:30 - 11 am Thursdays at the Congregational Church 30 S. Water St.
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**ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT**

# community calendar

## mar 21 THURSDAY

**American Red Cross blood donation in Ferrisburgh.** Thursday March 21, noon-4:30 p.m., Cross Life Church, 1759 Route 7. Join the Red Cross Month celebration by visiting [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) to make a financial donation, give blood or platelets, become a volunteer or take a lifesaving skills course.

**American Red Cross blood donation in Bristol.** Thursday March 21, 12:30-5 p.m., Bristol Federated Church, 37 North St. Join the Red Cross Month celebration by visiting [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) to make a financial donation, give blood or platelets, become a volunteer or take a lifesaving skills course.

## mar 22 FRIDAY

**Lenten fish fry in Bristol.** Friday, March 22, 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.

## mar 23 SATURDAY

**Vermont Maple Open House weekend.** Saturday, March 23, Locations around Addison County. Learn, taste and explore Vermont's sweetest season and the first crop of 2024, hosted by the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association. More details at [www.VermontMaple.org/MOHW](http://www.VermontMaple.org/MOHW).

**Attic and rummage sale in New Haven.** Saturday, March 23, 8 a.m.-noon, New Haven Congregational Church, Town Hill Rd. New Haven Ladies Union will hold this sale. Items include plants, clothing, toys, games, linens, Rada ware, bake sale, kitchen ware, books and so much more.

**Little City Easter Egg Hunt in Vergennes.** Saturday, March 23, 10:30 a.m., City Park. Hundreds of eggs will be scattered throughout the park and on St. Paul's newly established outdoor space. Hidden in the golden eggs are prizes and surprises from Rockers Pizzeria, Lu.lu ice cream, Daily Chocolate, MALABAR, Diddle & Zen, Sweet Charity, Ten Stones Emporium, Red Mill at Basin Harbor and more. Meet the special guest — the Easter Bunny! Rain, snow or shine. Free to the public.

**Eclipse Party for Kids in Vergennes.** Saturday, March 23, 11 a.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Join the Bixby to learn about moon craters, see a solar telescope demonstration, and make "corona craft."

**"Better Strategies for Pluralism" in Middlebury.** Saturday, March 23, 1 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join Meg Mott, PhD., for a "How to Trust the People with Reproductive Rights," 3rd in a three-part series examining the history and strategy of securing reproductive rights in the United States.

**Clothing swap in Middlebury.** Saturday, March 23, 3-6 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. Interested in donating to a good cause while adding to your wardrobe? Come to the clothing swap. Gently worn, unwanted clothing will be given away to others. Participants can make a donation, with the proceeds going to the Atria Collective (formerly WomenSafe). Swap organizers will accept clothing donations at the Congregational Church on Friday, March 22, from 3:30-6 p.m.; and on Saturday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. More info at [lillydevlin@gmail.com](mailto:lillydevlin@gmail.com) or [amey@middvermontrealstate.com](mailto:amey@middvermontrealstate.com).

**Community potluck in Lincoln.** Saturday, March 23, 5 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E River Rd. Show up with a dish to share or come as you are. The meal will go as long as there is food and people. If you can't make it but would like a meal, email [reedprescott@gmavt.net](mailto:reedprescott@gmavt.net) to make arrangements for takeout.

**Military Whist in Lincoln.** Saturday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E River Rd. Join fellow card players upstairs at Burnham Hall for a game of Military Whist.

**"Invasive Jumping Worms: What We Know, What We Can Do" in Middlebury.** Saturday, March 23, 7 p.m., Unity Hall, The Congregational Church of Middlebury, 30 N. Pleasant St. Jumping worms are an invasive species that consume and degrade the soil in gardens, lawns and forests. This talk will provide essential information on the identification and biology of jumping worms, as well as actions to control their spread and negative impact on our ecology and economy. Free. All are welcome.

**Mad Hatter Masquerade Ball in Brandon.** Saturday, March 23, 8-11 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Celebrate the ending of the dark with a grand masquerade ball. Dress as a character in Alice in Wonderland in any of the seasons of the Lewis Carroll classic. Bring out your creativity and steampunk influence to dance amid the smoke and lights and mystery. Tea snacks and beverages for your enjoyment, and prizes for the most clever costumes. Ages 18 years and up. Costumes are encouraged. Select snacks and adult beverages for purchase with ID, strobe lights, smoke machines and lasers will be in use. Tickets \$25 include a party favor for the first 100 ticketholders, available at [Brandonvt.myrec.com](http://Brandonvt.myrec.com).

## mar 24 SUNDAY

**Waffle breakfast and silent auction in Bristol.** Sunday, March 24, 7-11 a.m., American Legion, Airport Rd. A great breakfast with friends and family. Bid on a silent auction item and take a selfie with the Eagle mascot. Help support the 2024 Mount Abe softball team and get them to spring training in Myrtle Beach. Tickets \$9 adults, 13+/\$7 seniors/kids under 6 free.

**Vermont Maple Open House weekend.** Sunday, March 24, Locations around Addison County. Learn, taste and explore Vermont's sweetest season and the first crop of 2024, hosted by the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association. More details at [www.VermontMaple.org/MOHW](http://www.VermontMaple.org/MOHW).

## mar 25 MONDAY

**Legislative breakfast in Shoreham.** Monday, March 25,



**Maple madness**  
THE WEEKEND OF March 23 and 24 is Vermont Maple Open House weekend. A number of Addison County sugarmakers are participating in the festivities. Take a ride and sample Vermont's annual liquid gold. See listings here and read a story on Page 13A.  
Photo courtesy of The Gateway Farm

## apr 2 TUESDAY

**Addison County Riverwatch field season orientation.** Tuesday, April 2, 7 p.m., Zoom. Join us for a one-hour virtual orientation to Addison County River Watch's upcoming busy field season. River watch starting in April comprises both water quality monitoring and river buffer plantings. We have a wide variety of fulfilling outdoor opportunities for volunteers who wish to engage in the cause of enhancing water quality. This orientation will go over River Watch's goals, tasks and how volunteers can help. Contact us for the Zoom link at [acrcp.org/regional-programs/natural-resources/acrcw](http://acrcp.org/regional-programs/natural-resources/acrcw).

**Bingo in Vergennes.** Monday, March 25, 1:30-4 p.m., American Legion Post 14, 100 Armory Ln. Bingo starts 2 p.m. Game packets of one sheet of 3 cards for each regular game, \$15. No limit to the number of packets purchased. Special "Winner Take All" games are \$1 extra. Bring your own daubers or borrow one of ours. Payouts depend on attendance. Food available. More info contact Michelle Eastman 802-349-6370 or at [auxiliaryunit14@gmail.com](mailto:auxiliaryunit14@gmail.com).

## mar 26 TUESDAY

**"Snapshot — Barbie's Reflection on Our World" in Middlebury.** Tuesday, March 26, 4 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 757 Main Street. St. Michael's theater professor Peter Harrigan has collected Barbies for over three decades, amassing a personal collection of over 500 of the figurines. In this talk, he takes a dive into the fantastic world of plastic and how it echoes our own world. A Vermont Humanities program.

**Milk & Honey Quilters Guild meeting in Middlebury.** Tuesday, March 26, 6 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Learn new techniques at the 20-minute learning stations presented by four guild members, who will demonstrate new, different and useful techniques such as facing vs binding, log cabin rulers for easy construction, using a folded corner clipper, and quick, easy and useful fabric boxes. Bring show and tell, name tag and anything to share for the free table (but please do remember to take back anything no one picks up!).

**Rokeby online book discussion.** Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m., ZOOM. Rokeby's Winter Book Discussion Group is back for 2024. This month's books is "Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts," by Rebecca Hall and illustrated by Hugo Martinez. Free. Registration in advance is required at [rokeby.org/2024-virtual-winter-book-discussion-group](http://rokeby.org/2024-virtual-winter-book-discussion-group). Attendance at all three discussions is not required.

## mar 28 THURSDAY

**Solar eclipse preview in Middlebury.** Thursday, March 28, 4-5 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join Vermont Astronomical Society to learn about the total eclipse on April 8, how to view it safely, and other interesting topics.

**Palliative Support Volunteer Training on Zoom.** Thursday, March 28, 4-5:30 p.m. The Palliative Care Department and Palliative Support Services at Porter Medical Center will host a new Palliative Support Volunteers training, which will conclude April 16. Includes six scheduled group Zoom sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4-5:30pm, conversations with subject matter experts, self-study, and dyad learning, connecting with current volunteers, exploring the art of presence and listening, and practices that will increase your own confidence around entering an intense experience. Once volunteers complete this training, they will be able to be matched with folks living with a serious illness to provide companionship and support and bring comfort to those at end of life by sitting vigil. More info: Louella Richer at [lricher@portermc.com](mailto:lricher@portermc.com). Advance registration required. Must commit to six sessions.

## mar 30 SATURDAY

**Bake sale in Orwell.** Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m., Buxton's Store, 499 Main St. Come to the Orwell Fortnightly Club's bake sale and find delicious baked goods for your Easter table: pies, cakes, cupcakes, breads/rolls and more. Come early for the best selection. All proceeds support Orwell Fortnightly Club's mission to give back to the community. Community service projects, local scholarships, and homemade desserts without the extra work? Yes, please!

**Solar telescope and sun spotter demonstration in Vergennes.** Saturday, March 30, noon, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St.

## apr 2 TUESDAY

**Addison County Riverwatch field season orientation.** Tuesday, April 2, 7 p.m., Zoom. Join us for a one-hour virtual orientation to Addison County River Watch's upcoming busy field season. River watch starting in April comprises both water quality monitoring and river buffer plantings. We have a wide variety of fulfilling outdoor opportunities for volunteers who wish to engage in the cause of enhancing water quality. This orientation will go over River Watch's goals, tasks and how volunteers can help. Contact us for the Zoom link at [acrcp.org/regional-programs/natural-resources/acrcw](http://acrcp.org/regional-programs/natural-resources/acrcw).

## apr 5 FRIDAY

**Community dinner in New Haven.** Friday, April 5, 5:30 p.m., New Haven Congregational Church, Town Hill Rd. Enjoy a free meal of spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread and a cookie while mingling with fellow community members. More info contact Dawn at 802 349-0352.

## apr 6 SATURDAY

**Spring Breakfast in Shoreham.** Saturday April 6, 8:30-10 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, School Rd. Feast on plain or blueberry pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, home fries, quiche and beverages. Cost \$10 adults/\$5 children/ \$30 families. A great chance to enjoy good food as you chat with your neighbors and friends. Raffle off a spring basket of goodies; tickets \$1 each or 10 for \$5. Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the Food Shelf to help those in need.

**Music with Anna in Orwell.** Saturday, April 6, 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.

**Last chance solar eclipse program in Vergennes.** Saturday, April 6, 11 a.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. A variety of activities and also information on how to safely view the eclipse. Free eclipse sunglasses are available to library card holders (limit three per family). For more information on these fun and informative eclipse events, visit [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org).

**Youth Ministry Bingo in Vergennes.** Saturday, April 6, 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.

## apr 8 MONDAY

**Legislative breakfast in Weybridge.** Monday, April 8, 7-8:45 a.m., Weybridge Congregational Church, 2790 Weybridge Rd. 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.

**The Great Middlebury Solar Eclipse Celebration in Middlebury.** Monday, April 8, 12:30-4 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park, Mary Hogan Dr. Get your eclipse glasses and join the big event, organized by the rec departments of Middlebury and Brandon, Ilsley Public Library, Brandon Free Library, Better Middlebury Partnership, ACSD & MESA. Food trucks, disc golf, music, games, pump track and mini ramp.

**Solar Eclipse party in Monkton.** Monday, April 8, 1-4:30 p.m., Town Hall, 280 Monkton Ridge. Get your eclipse glasses and join in. Food vendors Queen Bee and ReMarcAble Bakery will be there. Please RSVP to help us better plan for the party at [forms.gle/4GmxWscgpFdR4G9j6](https://forms.gle/4GmxWscgpFdR4G9j6). The library and the town hall have a limited number of eclipse glasses to distribute, and a limited number of glasses will be available at the event.



## Middlebury Union High School honor roll

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury Union High School has released its honor roll for the second quarter of the 2023-24 academic year. Students named to the roll include:

**Grade 9**  
**High Honors:** Abigail Andres, Toby Baker-Rouse, Ida Blackwell, Julia Connolly, Alice Livesay, Maggie Morter, Isabel Quinn, Jason Sperry, Isla Weaver and Adelena Young.

**Honors:** Taylor Altemose, Violet Anderson, Maxwell Ayer, Sarah Bevere, Ava Bienvenu, Cora Blair, Cora Bliven, Ryan Brouillard, Emilia Bullock, Taryn Burns, Sedona Carrara, Ezra Choudhury, Nate Cook Yoder, Caden Cousino, Leah Duguay, Annan Duquette-Hoffman, Truth Fetterolf, Luke Galera, Charlotte Gates, Miles Gemignani, Noah Gillespie, Caitlin Gillett, Kayla Haugan, James Hellyer, Lila Hescoock and Landon Hunt.

Also, Thea Jackson, Nataly Johnson, Jase Kozak, Kate Kozak, Rowdy Malcolm, Adalaide Markowski, Henry McDonnell, Julia Morrissey, Cullen Myers, Sophia Nicolai, Levi Nuceder, Gabriel Quesnel, Ruby Reed, Charlie Reiderer, Isaiah Robinson, Jordyn Rushton, Ariberto Santiago, Evelyn Schoelzel, Greta Suter,

Nason Watson, Alexis Whipple and Charles Young.

**Honorable Mention:** Sophie Allen, Wyatt Bigelow, Makenna Cram, Rudy Devoid, Hayden Dunakin, Sawyer Malzac, Micah McConnell, Raphael Mitchell, Sabastian O'Rourke, Ellington Patterson, Gwenneth Rheume, Ana Sansone, Samuel Sherman, Isabella Shimel, Deionna Sprague, Es Voorhees and Sophia Wright.

**Grade 10**  
**High Honors:** Alexander Almeida-Perez, Solstice Binder, Maya Breckenridge, Lia Calzini, Matias Citarella, Peter Conklin, Kenyon Connors, Navah Glikman, Max Goodfellow, Berkeley Graham-Gurland, Kaden Hammond, Mary Harrington, Avery Hohenschau, Grace Ritter, Nathan Stefani.

**Honors:** Marilyn Almeida-Perez, Mattisen Austin, Kirin Biancosino, Hex Bingham, Izzy Blake, Candace Bloom, Gunnar Boe, Linc Bonner, Katelyn Busby, Cooper Cannon, Lyle Carey, Nick Carpenter, Spencer Copeland, Levi D'Avignon, Kisung Davis, Ben DeBisschop, Jonathan Deering, Quinn Doria, Noah Drake, Oscar Drake, Marshall Eddy, Logan Edmonds-Beattie, Theodore Fallis, Josie Gaiotti, Ivy Gates, Austin Gero, Claude Godard, Finch Goetz,

Gabriel Hamel, Ireland Hanley, Emily Johnson, Ripken Johnson, Jonathan Kafumbe, Olivia Kearley, Jonathan Kehoe, Maryam Khan, Kendall Leno, Benjamin Longman, Quinn Mackey, Callan McDowell, Sole Pareja, Cooke Riney, Maren Shubert, Laila Sunderland, Alexis Williams, Sawyer Witscher and Anna Wolosinski.

**Honorable Mention:** Barlow McWilliams, Vivian Mott, Molly Thalen, Sarah Tolgyesi, Jordan Wood, Nachuan Zhang.

**Grade 11**  
**High Honors:** Sarah Benz, Aaron Carr-Perlow, Quinn Collins, Addison Dunakin, Independence Fetterolf, Lucas Flinner, Sara Kent, Elizabeth McIntosh, Margaret Orten, Lucy Poduschnick, Ava Schneider, Jacques Snell, Ethan Spritzer, Jackson Trupp and Ronan Young.

**Honors:** Ryte Akramaite, William Aranguiz Schroeder, Matthew Berg, Merisa Bergeron, Joseph Bergevin, Michael Betourney, Angus Blackwell, Jessie Bodette, Keil Broderson, Cassidy Brown, Elsa Burrows, Avery Carl, Michaela Charbonneau, Peter Chiles, Oliver Choudhury, Lila Cook Yoder, Jordan Couture, Lily Dame, India Danyow, Greyson Dennison, George Devlin, Jillian Dragon, Piper Farnsworth, Javier Fernandez Garcia, Aven Frankovic, Austin Gendron, Christopher Gile, Avery Hamilton, Anika Heppell, Bea Hooper, Meredith Horne and Jazmyn Hurley.

Also, Gavin Jones, Joshua Kafumbe, Landon Kean, Georgie Kiel, Dylan Kolesnik, Ella Kozak, Mirabelle Markowski, Elen Melkonyan, Jake Mitchell, Emma Morrissey, Tucker Morter, Elijah Munson, Jackson Murray, Baker Nelson, Marguerite Noble, Luke Nuceder, Lexi Orleans, Aiden

Pellerin, Cooper Quinn, Silas Quinn, Addison Schnoor, Pelagia Slater, Alex Sperry, Nel Stein, Leila Stillman-Utterback, Avery Vant, Ada Weaver, Erin Whipple and Camden Whitlock.

**Honorable Mention:** Kylie Bean, Kayleigh Beane, Sophia Boise, Joey Cross, Monserrat Garcia Ramirez, Zackery Ho, Dominic Jones, Margaret Klingensmith, Sophia Lawton, Tassilo Luksch, Georgia Peach Parmelee-Varkoutas, Gabriel Schmitt and Alexis Whitney.

**Grade 12**  
**High Honors:** Dante Beck, Maura Connelly, Tobias Draper, Baxter Harrington, Diana Herasim, Jacob Kemp, Aidan Nelson, Bea Porter, Harper Werme and Dinah Whitmarsh.

**Honors:** Iver Anderson, Asa Baker-Rouse, Kellan Bartlett, Hope Bellinger, Brandy Bishop, Emersyn Brookman, Kaitlyn Brown, Caleb Burrows, Audrey Carpenter, Max Carpenter, Addison Copeland, Julian Cotell, Andre Davio, Skylee Devoid, Riley Disorda, Noah Doherty-Konczal, Simone Duquette-Hoffman, Gabrielle Ellis, Edward Fallis, Lily Finn, Stella Hardy-Mittell, Eliot Heminway, August Hodde, Morgan Jenne, Zach Jette, Harley Leno, Connor McNamara, Gavin McNulty, Zachary Nevins, Caroline Nicolai, Stephen Nucio Jr., Elias Pike, Milo Rees, Sienna Rubright, Sara Sansone, Jude Smith, Wyatt Stearns, Silas Taylor, Benjo Torres, Zuri Voorhees, Cole Warren, Shyanne Wedge, Henry Weston, Christopher White and Isabella Wilbur.

**Honorable Mention:** Emma Deering, John Jennings, Aiden LaDuke, Brady McDonough, Lucy Valley and Timothy Whitney.



**HERPETOLOGIST JIM ANDREWS** will speak on Selected Reptiles and Amphibians of the Central Green Mountains, including this Spring salamander (*G. porphyriticus*) at the Green Mount Club Breadloaf Section's annual James P. Taylor Outdoor Adventure Speaker Program on Friday, March 29, at Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court in Middlebury.

## Reptiles & Amphibians take the stage March 29

MIDDLEBURY — Green Mountain Club (GMC) Bread Loaf Section's 2024 "Selected Reptiles and Amphibians of the Central Green Mountains" will be held on the evening of Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m., at Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court in Middlebury, featuring Herpetologist Jim Andrews.

Andrews will discuss the identification, natural history, distribution, and conservation of the salamanders, frogs, snakes, and turtles that we are most likely to encounter in the Green Mountains of Central Vermont. Andrews graduated from UVM with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and later received his master's degree in biology from Middlebury College. He has been working full time as a herpetologist/wildlife biologist in Vermont since 1990. He has worked closely with state, federal, and private agencies, and individuals on herpetile conservation throughout Vermont.

He currently serves as chair of the Reptile and Amphibian Scientific Advisory Group to the Vermont Endangered Species

Committee. He also coordinates the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas and serves as a research and teaching associate with Vermont Family Forests in Bristol, Vt. In addition, he teaches courses on Vermont reptiles, amphibians, trees, and birds, at a variety of institutions. He also runs herpetological research and education projects and provides independent consulting and herpetological survey.

Andrews is a founding member of the Salisbury Conservation Commission and has been compiler and organizer of the Middlebury Christmas Bird Count since its inception. In addition, Andrews has been working with the Vermont Agency of Transportation to help minimize the impacts of transportation infrastructure and traffic on wildlife. Conservation of Vermont's wildlife and wildlife habitat through education, field experience, and science is a common theme running through all his activities.

Doors open to the public at 6:30 p.m. More about GMC's Bread Loaf Section activities can be found at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

## Leicester

Have a news tip? Call the Addison Independent at 388-4944.

### NEWS

LEICESTER — Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds dog owners of the need to register dogs before April 1. Cost information is available on the town website or by calling office at 802-247-5961. To avoid possible penalties and fees, get this done before the

dog census is completed. Leicester Historical Society is once again sponsoring Prize Bingo at the Senior Center at the Four Corners on Saturday, April 13, at 1 p.m. All are welcome and refreshments served.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Mount Abraham Union High School

### Natalie Atkins

Mt. Abraham Union High School has chosen Natalie Atkins as our Student of the Week. Natalie lives on her sixth-generation family farm in Lincoln with her dad, stepmom and two younger brothers. Natalie has been on the high and highest academic honor roll every year of high school. She has a passion for reading and writing poetry and this year she is taking advantage of the Early College program through the Community College of Vermont (CCV). Notably, she received the President's Honor Status from CCV last semester, by earning a cumulative GPA of 4.0. This semester, she is enrolled in five college courses — Comparative Religion, Creative Writing: Poetry, Global Issues in the Media, Intercultural Communications, and Moving Toward Sustainability. Natalie particularly enjoys Global Issues in the Media because it challenges her and gives greater insight into journalism and how bias plays a crucial role in our world.

Natalie has been a member of the Mt. Abe varsity girls' soccer team since 9th grade. She served as a captain this year and was recognized with Lake Division second team honors. In addition to athletics, Natalie has worked at Bristol Fitness since the spring of her sophomore year. Her work experience at the gym has fostered a strong interest in fitness. She also works at Lewis Creek vegetable farm seasonally. She appreciates her coworkers and the opportunity to be out in nature. Natalie values being active and loves to hike, ski, run and lift weights. She also likes to spend time with her cousins and friends.

When asked about the most important lesson she has learned in high school, Natalie says, "It's important to find opportunities that intrigue and challenge you. Early College is a really good opportunity for those looking for a change in their final year of high school. I think it has served as a steppingstone for me and prepared me well for college in the academic sense. Also, it is necessary to strike a balance of work and school with adventure and social activities. Try not to overwork yourself. Just do what you can to the best of your ability."

After graduation, Natalie plans to attend college and major in English. Her leadership, competence and strong work ethic will be missed at Mt. Abe. We wish Natalie all the best in her future endeavors!



Natalie Atkins MAUHS

## Otter Valley Union High School

### Chase Cram

Otter Valley Union Middle and High School's Student of the Week is Chase Cram. Chase lives in Leicester with his parents Matt and Marcy and siblings Tayah and Tucker. Chase also has two older brothers, Tyson and Levi.

Chase has attended Stafford Technical Center for the past two school years in the welding and metal fabrication program. He has enjoyed everything that he has been able to do in the program and is planning on pursuing welding as a career after graduation.

Chase is an exceptional athlete. He has been a member of Otter Valley's football, wrestling and lacrosse teams throughout high school. He received all-state honorable mention for running back in football. His wrestling skills have propelled him into the elite group of wrestlers in the state. He is a two-time all-Southern Vermont League first team wrestler and one-time honorable mention wrestler. Chase is a three-time Vermont place winner, one-time New England wrestling championship qualifier, and 2024 Vermont champion wrestler at 157 pounds with an undefeated season record of 33-0.

Chase travels to Bristol to work at Mainly Metals, as a machinist and metal fabricator. In his spare time he likes to hang out with friends and family, hunt and fish, and play sports.

He says his most important experience in high school was finally trusting that the teachers were there to help him. Putting the same amount of effort in return made school a whole lot easier. Stafford Technical Center has been a really good fit for Chase, and he has enjoyed his time there. His recommendation to his peers is to understand that "Life is short and the days are long. Enjoy the time you have and do what makes you happy."

After graduation, Chase has committed to attending Hobart Welding Institute in Troy, Ohio, to further his education and career in welding and metal fabrication.



Chase Cram OVUHS

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Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration. Best of luck to all Addison County students!

If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact [advertising@addisonindependent.com](mailto:advertising@addisonindependent.com)

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Congratulations, Chase and Natalie

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Cheers to the Students of the Week!



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# ADDISON COUNTY Agriculture News

## Group promotes talk on ag, climate

LEAWOOD, Kan. — The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) designated March 19, 2024, as National Agriculture Day with the theme of “Agriculture: Growing a Climate for Tomorrow.”

Activities planned for March 19 featured a virtual Ag Day program, and in-person events in Washington, D.C. ACA invited students to interact virtually with legislators and agency representatives, delivering the Ag Day message. A core leadership team of college students participated in the D.C. events, along with representatives of national farm and commodity organizations, as well as representatives of the food, fuel and fiber communities.

ACA President Jenny Pickett note that students from AFA, 4-H, FFA and MANNRS demonstrated, through their participation in 2023 National Ag Day, that they are interested in advocating on behalf of agriculture and their future roles in the industry.

“Their participation in National



Ag Day activities provides a glimpse of the future of agriculture,” Pickett said. “It’s exciting to learn from the students what they think agriculture will be like in the years ahead, and how their involvement will shape the industry and America as a whole.”

According to USDA Economic Research Service, more than 22 million full- and part-time jobs were related to the agricultural

and food sector, or roughly 10% of all U.S. employment. On-farm jobs represented about 2.6 million jobs, or a little over 1% of U.S. employment. Take that a step further, agriculture- and food-related jobs totaled more than 19 million.

“More and more, students and individuals are finding careers in agriculture. The industry needs scientists, biologists, food safety technicians, livestock nutrition specialists, arborists, conservationists — one doesn’t have to be a farmer or have a direct on-farm job to be involved in the agriculture industry,” Pickett said.

2024 National Ag Day marks the 51st year of the nationwide effort to share real stories of American agriculture, and remind citizens that agriculture affects everyone.

“From the food we eat and the fuel for our vehicles, to the fiber in the clothes we wear, and the oil used to make kids’ crayons, agriculture touches everyone in some way,” Pickett said.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food, fiber and fuel products are produced.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.

Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

In addition to the events on March 19, the ACA will offer the Ag Day Essay Contest. Interested students would create video essays on the topic of “Agriculture in the Future: If I had two minutes to talk to a farmer.” The winning video essay will be presented in March.

Agriculture Council of America, a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, organizes the annual activities that are part of a national effort to increase the public’s awareness of agriculture’s role in modern society.



### What’s up?

WHILE HER MATES head to the fields for some rest and relaxation, this cow at a New Haven farm pauses to check out the nosy human.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Opportunities exist in farm loan appeals process

SOUTH ROYALTON — July 2022; spanning 14 years, three Farmers who had been denied federal loans won only 17% of

Farm Bills and three presidents.

It also reveals that farmers with innovative and nontraditional operations often face more barriers to a successful outcome. The Farm Service Agency may use inaccurate information to assess the feasibility of farm plans for these operations.

“The USDA is a lender of last resort, so often farmers have no other options,” Spiegel said.

Farmers who are successful in their appeals can often go through the appeals process and win, only to have their loan denied for an entirely separate reason. This can lead to successive appeals, prolonging the time that farmers wait for vital assistance.

Opportunities for reform exist at every step of the appeals process, authors say.

“We are hopeful that USDA will improve the process for farmers, leading to fewer upheld denials, less opportunity for discrimination and unpredictable outcomes and more transparency,” said Jennifer Fahy, communications director at Farm Aid.

“USDA Farm Service Agency officers have significant discretion in approving or denying loans,” said Emily Spiegel, senior research fellow at the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems. “But these numbers show that initial process is incredibly important to get right, because farmers have little chance of getting a better outcome when they appeal.”

— Emily Spiegel

The report, “Appealing for Relief: An Analysis of Appealed Direct Farm Loan Decisions 2009-2022 and Opportunities for Reform,” analyzes National Appeals Division cases concerning direct farm ownership and farm operating loans between January 2009 and

when they appeal.”

The report shows that the agency has wide discretion that could lead to different outcomes for similarly situated farmers in the loan approval process.

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ADDISON COUNTY

# Agriculture News



### Typical farm scenery

OLD AND USED tires have long been used to cover silage bunks because they are plentiful, heavy and do not have sharp edges. The hay under the plastic and tires on this New Haven farm is protected from spoiling by greatly minimizing exposure to air, water, disease and mold.

Independent photo/Steve James



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## Farm grants available to local farmers

ADDISON COUNTY — The Champlain Valley Crop, Soil & Pasture Team at UVM Extension in Middlebury wants to make farmers and growers aware of some grants and funding opportunities. The team at UVM Extension is available to help navigate the various programs and grants.

Food producers who have questions or would like assistance with an application, are invited to reach out to UVM Extension at 23 Pond Lane, Suite 300, Middlebury, or at 802-656-7540.

### Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP)

Deadline for Spring Practices-April 15

The Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program uses state funding to help Vermont farms implement soil-based agronomic practices that improve soil quality, increase crop production, and reduce erosion

and agricultural waste discharges. Eligible practices include crop to hay, no till, no-till pasture and hayland renovation, manure injection, and more.

Get more info online at [agriculture.vermont.gov/fap](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap).

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Open year-round

Vermont's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary program designed to reduce sediment runoff and improve water quality by removing land from agricultural production and establishing vegetative buffers.

Get more info online at [agriculture.vermont.gov/crep](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/crep).

### Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program

Open year-round

The Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program can provide technical and financial assistance to Vermont farmers for

in-field agronomic best practices to address critical source areas, erosion, and surface runoff.

Get more info online at [agriculture.vermont.gov/gwfs](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/gwfs).

### Pasture and Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

Open year-round

The PSWF Program provides pasture management technical and financial assistance to Vermont farmers to improve water quality and on-farm livestock exclusion from surface waters statewide.

Get more info online at [agriculture.vermont.gov/pswf](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/pswf).

### Upcoming VAAFM reporting deadline

Medium Farm Operation annual reporting due April 30. Head online to [agriculture.vermont.gov/mfo](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/mfo) for more details.

Annual reporting for Certified Small Farm Operations was due Jan. 31, and for Large Farm Operations was due Feb. 15.

## It's almost time to inspect your scale

The Weights & Measures Section of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets will host multiple scale inspection events around the state during April for anyone who uses scales at farmers' markets or farm stands to sell produce or other commodities.

The testing and licensing of these scales is required by law, if you need an application form to license the scale it can be found on our website, [agriculture.vermont.gov](http://agriculture.vermont.gov). This will allow the agency to perform these inspections in a more efficient manner in a way that creates less disruption to you and the farmers' markets.

The scale testing event in Addison County will take place April 24, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the

*You can come anytime during our open hours, and no advance appointment is necessary. The test should take 5 to 10 minutes per scale. Look for the yellow "Scale Check Here" signs.*

Agency of Transportation garage at 341 Creek Road, Middlebury. Bring your legal for trade scale, and any accessories that you use with it for weighing items for sale.

You can come anytime during our open hours, and no advance appointment is necessary. The test

should take 5 to 10 minutes per scale. Look for the yellow "Scale Check Here" signs.

Vermont's Weights and Measures Program coordinates inspection and testing of devices and products in commerce, such as scales, gas pumps, heating oil and propane delivery truck meters, scanners used in retail stores, and firewood. The work of the Consumer Protection Section touches every consumer in Vermont and many beyond Vermont's borders.

Questions regarding the Consumer Protection Section's Weights and Measures Program should be directed to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets State Metrologist at 802-828-2433.

## MEET Our Farmers

Dan + Elyse Wulfkuhle  
Wood's Market Garden, Brandon

Dan and Elyse Wulfkuhle's experience as Vermont farmers can be measured in months, but their passion for organic farming and their newfound community is boundless. Having arrived here from Washington, they purchased the iconic Wood's Market Garden in Brandon in January 2023. When we visited them last August, it was almost like dropping in



on the parents of a new baby: We found them proud, enthusiastic, a smidge tired, but none the worse for wear.

Dan and Elyse are grateful for the outstanding team of employees who support them in their complex farming operation. It sits upon 160 acres of spring-fed land, growing a wide variety of vegetables, berries, herbs, flowers, and hanging plants. At the time of our visit, sweet corn, watermelon, peppers, eggplants, and tomatoes were in full swing.

The Wulfkuhles grow their bountiful crops with soil health, water quality, and climate change top of mind. Although this was their first growing season, they have a clear sense of what the future holds.

They plan to rotate their crops regularly to ensure greater soil fertility and higher yields. Planting cover crops, such as winter rye and vetch, in the fall is on the agenda so that soil nutrients remain in place through Vermont's snowy and wet winter. They also pay close attention to the fertilizer they apply, testing each field to determine the appropriate type and amount of nutrients needed.

While many farmers engage in no-till practices to support soil health and promote carbon sequestration, this looks a little different for the Wulfkuhles because they do not use herbicides to control their weeds.

"We're very cognizant of our tillage, but as organic vegetable farmers, it's a tillage-intensive type of farming," shares Dan. "We try to reduce it as much as possible. We pick our tools and implements quite wisely."

On the water quality front, Dan and Elyse use drip irrigation with plasticulture, which helps retain moisture, heats up the soil, and relieves weed pressure. Because this practice does involve plastic, they try to limit it only to crops that truly need it.

Down the road, Dan and Elyse are eager to build more greenhouses to extend the growing season and produce higher yields of food throughout the year. They're particularly interested in doing more wholesale and selling to institutions, such as schools and hospitals, to make organic produce more widely available to people, irrespective of their socioeconomic status.

Overall, Dan and Elyse are proud to create a local source of food, which cuts down on greenhouse gas emissions from shipping. They strive to grow high-quality varieties adapted to our climatic region with the best flavor.

"We're producing something humans need in a less a harmful way," says Elyse.

Dan concurs.

"Hopefully, our little farm can be one of many examples of what you can do to push the envelope at this scale."



To read more farmer stories and learn what they're doing to protect water quality, support soil health, and promote climate smart farming, visit us at [cvfc-vt.com](http://cvfc-vt.com)

## Reed's Equipment



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BRIDPORT 4-H'ERS ROBERT Whipple, left and Hannah Stocker placed third and second, respectively, in the Grade 3-4 salad contest at the Addison County 4-H Foods Day, Feb. 24, while Ella Pope, Shoreham, took first.

Photos courtesy of Martha Seifert/UVM Extension 4-H



4-H'ERS IN GRADE K-2 entered desserts for judging at the Addison County 4-H Foods Day, Feb.24. The top three winners were, left, Edward Gordon, Bristol; Case Pope, Shoreham; and Ellis Chittenden, Whiting.



HAILEY CHASE, BRISTOL, left, Shyanne Wedge, Shoreham, and Erin Whipple, Bridport, took the top three places in the appetizer category for 4-H'ers, Grades 8-12, at the Addison County 4-H Foods Day, Feb. 24, in Middlebury.



ADDISON COUNTY 4-H Foods Day winners in the entrées category for Grades 5-7 were, left, Emma Lucas, Orwell, Mia Mitchell, Middlebury, and Payton Lucas, Orwell. The annual event took place Feb. 24 in Middlebury.

## Local 4-H'ers do well at Foods Day

MIDDLEBURY — The annual Addison County 4-H Foods Day, which featured an Italian theme, was held on Feb. 24 at the Middlebury Union Middle School. Forty-nine youths took part in the event, which included three workshops and a buffet lunch, followed by an awards ceremony.

Susan Bodette, a retired nutrition educator for the University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, presented

a nutrition lab about spices. Participants enjoyed line dancing for an exercise workshop and prepared food for lunch in a foods lab.

The youngest group (Grades K-4) made homemade pasta, which the middle group (Grades 5-7) used to make lasagna. The older 4-H'ers (Grades 8-12) made bruschetta, all of which was served at lunch along with dishes that participants made in advance. The latter were evaluated by food service people from the

community on taste, appearance and nutritional information, among other criteria. Rosette ribbons were presented to the top three winners in each age group.

The winners were:

**Grades K-2 — desserts:** 1. Ellis Chittenden, Whiting, maple blanc mangle; 2. Case Pope, Shoreham, chocolate raspberry cream trifle; 3. Edward Gordon, Bristol, Italian Christmas cookies.

**Grades 3-4 — salads:** 1. Ella Pope, Shoreham, broccoli salad;

2. Hannah Stocker, Bridport, strawberry spinach feta salad; 3. Robert Whipple, Bridport, pepperoni pasta salad.

**Grades 5-7 — entrées:** 1. Emma Lucas, Orwell, fettuccine; 2. Mia Mitchell, Middlebury, zucchini rollatini; 3. Payton Lucas, Orwell, venison-baked ziti.

**Grades 8-12 — appetizers:**

1. Hailey Chase, Bristol, Italian slow cooker pizza dip; 2. Shyanne Wedge, Shoreham, bacon deviled eggs; 3. Erin Whipple, Bridport, baked garlic parmesan potato wedges.

The 4-H'ers donated nonperishable foods for the Addison County Emergency Food Shelf in Middlebury. They also each

received a 4-H apron, oven mitt and lunch bag from the Addison County 4-H Foundation, which sponsored the event.

For information about the 4-H cooking project or Addison County 4-H, contact UVM Extension 4-H educator Martha Seifert at (802) 656-7547 or martha.seifert@uvm.edu.

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**Public Meetings**

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**Public Meetings**

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## Help Wanted

## Help Wanted

**RIDE NEEDED** from Vergennes to Porter Nursing Home with assistance. Willing to pay. Call 802-870-7033.

## For Sale

**TROYBILT HORSE TILER** for sale. New tires, new seals, new 6hp engine. \$725, 802-598-2476.

## For Rent

**5,000 SQUARE FEET** available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

## Help Wanted

## For Rent

**COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE** - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.

## For Rent

**CORNWALL: SHARE HOME** with lovely views with senior gentleman who enjoys classical music and reading. No rent (just utilities share) in exchange for cooking evening meals and lending a hand around the house/yard. Private bath. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

## Help Wanted



## 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 Eye Associates, Inc. is seeking team members who are quick learners, have a positive attitude, and are team players.

Qualified candidates should have excellent customer service skills, enjoy working with patients, and the ability to follow up consistently. Expectations include working well in a fast-paced environment, strong multi-tasking skills, and outstanding attention to detail. Prior experience in health care, working with electronic medical records, and working with patients is strongly preferred. The position is 32-40 hours a week and offers benefits including healthcare, paid time off, disability, life insurance, and a retirement plan.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to [kgallison@middleburyeye.com](mailto:kgallison@middleburyeye.com).

## 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.

**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.

## Help Wanted

## For Rent

**FURNISHED ROOM:** East Middlebury. Separate entrance. All included; w/d, wifi, kitchen, & parking. Security and references required. \$600 per month. Text Rochell 802-989-8941.

**GOSHEN: SPACIOUS HOME** in peaceful, rural location, 14 miles to Middlebury. \$650/month, all included, plus light snow removal. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

**LIGHT INDUSTRIAL/RETAIL.** 1,250 sq.ft. Exchange Street, Middlebury. 802-388-4831.

**MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS** is currently taking waitlist applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

**MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING** available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

## Help Wanted

## For Rent

**VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

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.

## 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](mailto: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

### Part-Time Office Assistant

WowToyz, a successful and established manufacturer of high-quality, educational toys for over 30 years, is looking for a motivated individual to be part of our growing company! The successful candidate must be dependable, eager to learn new processes, and willing to jump in when a need is observed. This is a position for a detail-oriented team player with confidence, energy, and great organizational and communication skills.

**Retirees are welcome and encouraged to apply!** We offer flexible work schedules and competitive wages.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Enter purchase orders into our proprietary computer software system
- Answer phone, transfer calls, and assist with customer service
- Friendly, professional, and service-focused positive attitude

#### SKILLS & REQUIREMENTS

- Ability to organize and prioritize tasks with minimal supervision
- Ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with all levels of the organization
- Analytical abilities and aptitude in problem-solving
- Experience in Microsoft Office Suite or data entry software is beneficial but not a requirement

### Part-Time Warehouse

WowToyz in Vergennes is seeking part-time help for the morning shift in our warehouse, picking and packing orders and unloading trucks. Ideal candidates are organized, dependable, and able to work 20-30 hours/week, Mon-Fri. **Retirees are welcome and encouraged to apply!** We offer flexible work schedules and competitive wages.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccinations required for all employees

To apply email contact information and work history to: [resumes@wowtoyz.com](mailto:resumes@wowtoyz.com)

### 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.

## Help Wanted

# GREAT WORK!

## You found your dream job...

**We're HIRING!**

### 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](mailto:christy@addisonindependent.com)

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT  
Serving Addison County VT. Since 1981

**Learn more about us at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)**

## Seasonal Help Needed

Looking for extra income this spring?

**\$20 an hour**

- \*NO Heavy Lifting\*
- \*NO Customer Facing\*
- \*Flexible Schedules\*

Seedsheet is looking for seasonal help in processing customer orders. We are looking for team members with strong attention to detail and a desire to create a great product for our customers.

**Full and Part-time schedules are available.**

Available shifts:  
Evening shifts available starting at 4pm

Please email: [jobs@seedsheets.com](mailto:jobs@seedsheets.com) for more information.

38 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT 05753

## Elderly Services, Inc.

### Project Independence Adult Day Center

Do you enjoy older people? Elderly Services is looking for compassionate, skilled employees, part-time or full-time. Enjoy rewarding work, great coworkers, delicious meals, and an uplifting environment in a beautiful setting.

**Activity Leader/Caregiver** Join our team of caregivers in creating a loving community. Bring fun and joy into elders' lives by leading group programs, connecting individually, and assisting with mobility and care needs. Applicants should be patient, flexible, cheerful, tolerant, fun-loving, and thrive in a team setting.

**Kitchen Assistant** Assist cooks with preparation of delicious and inviting meals, dishwashing in an upbeat, positive, fast-paced kitchen environment.

**Application forms online.**  
<https://elderlyservices.org/job-opportunities/>  
Please send resume and references to [mail@elderlyservices.org](mailto:mail@elderlyservices.org) or Elderly Services, P.O. Box 581, Middlebury, VT 05753

**Elderly Services**  
Supporting Elders and Families since 1981

**Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 13B and 14B.**

# Passed out driver cited in Ferrisburgh

ADDISON COUNTY — At around 11:30 p.m. this past Saturday night, Vermont State Police investigated a suspicious vehicle on Stage Road near the intersection of Route 7 in Ferrisburgh. Troopers found the driver passed out behind the wheel and eventually cited him.

## Vt. State Police Log

Police identified the driver as 33-year-old Benjamin Emmons, who they described as homeless. While speaking to Emmons, troopers observed indicators of impairment. Emmons refused screening, so they arrested him and took him to the Middlebury Police Department for an evaluation by a Drug Recognition Expert. Emmons refused to participate, police said.

State police cited Emmons for driving under the influence of drugs and released him.

In other recent activity, state police:

- On March 5 — Town Meeting Day — at a little before 1 p.m. received several calls about a woman acting disorderly at the Leicester Town Clerk's Office. The callers told police that the woman using obscene language and disturbing people in a public place. On March 13, state police reported

that they had caught up with the woman, identified as Jill Booska, 59, of Leicester, and they cited her for disorderly conduct.

- On March 12 at 10:41 a.m. logged a report of a man causing a disturbance near a home on Middlebrook Road in Waltham. Troopers responded and observed several broken items belonging to Maple Broadband at the residence. State police later located the person of interest, identified as Richard Fisher, 88, of Waltham. After investigation, police cited Fisher for unlawful mischief.

- On March 14 at 9:19 p.m. got word of a of a one-car crash on Route 74 in the vicinity of Audet Road in Shoreham. Troopers located the driver, Andrew Malzac, 31, of Middlebury, in the vicinity of his vehicle after it had struck a guard rail. Police took Malzac into custody for suspicion of drunken driving. After being taken to the New Haven barracks and cited for driving under the influence, police released Malzac.

- On March 17 at around 5:45 p.m. observed a motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near Round Barn Road in Ferrisburgh, and stopped the car. Troopers cited

the driver, identified as David B. Ambrose, 58, of Shoreham, for driving with a criminally suspended license and violating court ordered conditions of release.

## MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT  
Sales for 3/14/24 & 3/18/24

		COST	
BEEF	LBS. /LB		\$
Gosliga Farm	1480	1.22	\$1805.60
Goodrich Farm	1810	1.20	\$2172.00
Vosrteveld Farm	1970	1.19	\$2344.30
M. Hayward	1855	1.18	\$2188.90
Blue Spruce	1640	1.18	\$1935.20
Woodnotch	1855	1.14	\$2114.70
J. Farrell	1885	1.14	\$2148.90

		COST	
CALVES	LBS. /LB		\$
H. Sunderland	85	9.05	\$769.25
A. Brisson	98	8.70	\$852.60
Barnes Bros.	104	8.30	\$863.20
J. Fifield	81	8.20	\$664.20
Wilson Farm	95	8.00	\$760.00

Total Beef - 115 Total Calves - 208  
We value our faithful customers.  
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.  
call 1-802-388-2661

## Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found on **Pages 15B and 16B**

- Addison Central School District (2)
- Addison Northwest School District (1)
- Middlebury (2)
- Monkton (1)
- Orwell (2)
- Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (2)
- Ripton (1)
- State of Vermont (1)
- Tri-Valley Transit (1)
- Vermont State Housing Authority (1)

## AUCTIONS

## NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC HEARING TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT INC.

Tri-Valley Transit Inc. gives notice that, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 5311 Non-Urbanized Transportation Program, Preventive Maintenance Program, Rural Technical Assistance Program and Marketing; Vermont State Operating Assistance Program, Capital Program and RTAP Program; 49 U.S.C. § 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program; 49 U.S.C. § 5304 Statewide Transportation Planning; 49 U.S.C. Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities, the opportunity is offered for a public hearing on a proposed Public Transit Program throughout the Counties of Addison, Orange and Northern Windsor.

Projects are described as follows: General public deviated-fixed-route and commuter bus services within Addison, Orange and Northern Windsor Counties and connecting to major employment and medical centers in Burlington, Rutland and the Upper Valley, and to provide transportation services for elders and persons with disabilities living in Addison, Orange and Northern Windsor Counties. TVT would also administer State/Federal capital funds to purchase public transportation buses, spare parts, office equipment, and other capital items.

Persons desiring a hearing to be held should submit written requests to Tri-Valley Transit and to the Vermont Agency of Transportation at the addresses below within 14 days of publication of this notice. Upon a receipt of a request, a date will be scheduled and a notice of hearing will be published. A copy of the proposal may be seen at the Project Manager's Office. Persons desiring to make written comments should forward to the addresses below within 14 days of publication of this notice.

**Project Manager:**  
Jim Moulton  
Executive Director  
Tri-Valley Transit  
297 Creek Road  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
jim@trivalleytransit.org

**State Agency:**  
Dan Currier  
Public Transit Program Coordinator  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
Public Transit Section  
219 North Main Street, Barre, VT 05641  
Dan.J.Currier@vermont.gov

Dated at Middlebury, County of Addison and State of Vermont this 21st day of March, 2024.

## Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — Between March 11 and 17 Vergennes police handled a variety of incidents, including looking into allegations of contractor fraud and simple assault, and directing traffic around a disabled truck downtown.

During that week Vergennes police conducted six cruiser patrols and 21 traffic stops, processed five pre-employment fingerprint requests, responded to two false alarms, and also:

- On March 11 took a call from a concerned resident about a relative not returning home, but were soon afterward informed the person had done so.

- On March 12:  
Directed traffic for about 45 minutes until a wrecker could remove a broken-down tractor-trailer unit from Main Street in the city center.

- Took a phone report of a car accident on South Water Street.

- On March 13:  
Conducted a pre-employment background check.

- Went to First Street for a reported family argument. Police said an adult son was unwanted at his parents' residence and was gone by the time they arrived.

- On March 14:  
Accepted for disposal prescription meds that had been found in a plastic bag on Main Street after apparently being run over by a vehicle.

- Provided information to a caller about how long a no-trespass order

is enforceable.

- Took a complaint from a Green Street homeowner that a painter had taken \$275 to complete work on the property, but had never finished the job. Police are looking into the allegation.

On March 15:

- Accepted a credit card found on Main Street and reached out to the bank that issued it to contact its owner.

- Responded to a report of a simple assault case at Northlands Job Corps. Police spoke to the alleged victim, but did not issue a citation to the assailant, who had been dismissed from the program.

- Spoke to a woman at the station who said people were following her. Police asked for more information and told her to contact them if necessary.

- Checked a report of a man in a pickup truck parked on Armory Lane possibly needing medical attention. The Vergennes Area Rescue Squad was on the scene and told police he was OK.

- On March 16 went to Walker Avenue after being told a man outside the apartments there was yelling. Police said the man, who was waiting for a ride, was arguing with his girlfriend, and that they told him to quiet down.

- On March 17 checked out a report of a vehicle leaking gas in the St. Peter's Church parking lot. Police said city firefighters were dealing with the issue.



**ATTENTION FARMERS!!!  
ANNUAL SPRING DAIRY/FEDDER  
CONSIGNMENT SALE**

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD**  
AT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES BARN  
RT. 125, EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

**11AM SHARP EXPECTING 200 HEAD!!**  
\*\*Something for everybody! Don't miss this opportunity\*\*

**ACCEPTING QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS NOW!!!**

**\* FOLLOWING DAIRY \***

**ALSO CONSIGNING BEEF FEEDERS  
ANGUS-HEREFORD & BF CROSSES  
ALL BF BREEDS WELCOME!!**

**DON'T MISS THIS ANNUAL SPRING SALE**  
**ALL QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS WELCOME**  
\*\*CASH IN ON YOUR OVERSTOCK\*\*

**A MUST SALE TO ATTEND!!!**  
**For More Info Call 802-388-2661 (ACCS)**  
**Sale Manager: T.G. Wisnowski & Sons- 802-989-1507**  
**Auctioneer - John Nop www.accscattle.com**

\*Annual Machinery Sale Will Be Held Saturday, May 11th  
**ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS NOW!**

**ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPRING DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING  
FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN**

April is screening month for preschool children from Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge!

The ACSD Early Education Program provides services to children identified as having disabilities or delays in meeting developmental milestones. We also collaborate with area preschool and childcare programs to address the needs of our local preschool children. Screenings help to identify children who would benefit from additional support before entering kindergarten.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's developmental progress, your district early education program is offering screening for children ages 3-5 who are not enrolled in kindergarten. Screening is conducted in a playful environment, and provides information on your child's speech and language development, motor, social and early academic skills.

The screening will take place at the Mary Hogan Elementary School, 201 Mary Hogan Drive, in Middlebury and will happen on April 5, 12, and 19, 2024.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Deb Martin at 802-382-1761.

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT  
TO APPLY MOSQUITO LARVICIDES**

On or after April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) will be applying ground and possibly aerial treatments of mosquito larvicides on surface waters in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control mosquito larvae populations. Those treatments will use Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti), Bacillus sphaericus (BS), and Spinosad, which are bacterially derived larvicides. Ground applications of Cocobear (mineral oil) and Methoprene may also be used in selected wet areas to target mosquito pupae and prevent adult emergence.

Exclusion requests need to be renewed annually. Please send a written request to the OCW mail or email address below.

In accordance with paragraph 6.06 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has been granted a permit to conduct larvicide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from:  
Jeff Schumann, OCW Board of Trustees Chair or  
Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator  
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
P.O. Box 188  
Brandon, VT 05733  
(802) 247-6779  
ocwicd@gmail.com  
https://ocwicd.com

Comments or complaints about OCW larvicide operations should be addressed to:

Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management  
Division  
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets  
116 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901  
(802) 522-6973  
Steve.dwinell@vermont.gov

## TOWN OF MONKTON SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF INSPECTION REGARDING THE LAYING OUT AND ACCEPTANCE OF OLD AIRPORT ROAD

By notice of the Selectboard Hearing Laying out of Old Airport Road provided on February 13, 2024 pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 709, a hearing to receive testimony on the layout and acceptance of Old Airport Road (OAR) has been set for March 28, 2024 beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the Monkton Town Offices located at 92 Monkton Ridge Road.

The Town of Monkton Selectboard hereby supplements its previous notice pursuant to 19 V.S.A. § 709 by setting a date and time to inspect OAR described as follows:

The 0.9 miles of a currently traveled private road 50' in width known as Old Airport Road (OAR) as the traveled surface of OAR is currently located on the ground starting at OAR's southern terminus at its intersection with Hardscrabble Road (T.H. #5) and running to OAR's northerly terminus at its intersection with Hardscrabble Road (T.H. #5).

Notice is hereby given that on April 21, 2024 the Monkton Selectboard shall conduct a site inspection of OAR at 10:00 a.m. beginning at OAR's southern terminus with Hardscrabble Road (T.H. #5).

For more information, please contact Stephen Pilcher, Monkton Selectboard Chair at (802) 598-1931; spilcher@monktonvt.com.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD  
/s Stephen Pilcher  
Selectboard Chair

March 12, 2024  
Date

## PUBLIC NOTICE VERMONT STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Beginning April 1, 2024 at 8 am, Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) will be opening its waiting list for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program to receive applications from families qualifying for VSHA's Disaster and Move-up Preference, as defined below. We continue to accept applications for the Project-Based Voucher (PBV) program.

**Disaster Preference:** This preference is available to Vermont families displaced from their Vermont home, due to fire, flood, natural disaster, or condemnation by a local, state, or federal agency.

**Move-up Preference:** This preference is available to families who are currently receiving rental assistance through a time limited program administered by VSHA and in compliance:

- VSHA Continuum of Care Program- Rapid-Rehousing
- VSHA Family Unification Program for Youth in Transition (FUP-Y)
- VSHA Foster Youth to Independence (FYI)
- VSHA Continuum of Care Program- Shelter + Care

Information on how to apply on-line or complete a paper application can be found by visiting VSHA's website at Applications for Section 8 Assistance - Vermont State Housing Authority (vsha.org)

"Applications can also be obtained at our office located at One Prospect Street, Montpelier, VT between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Monday - Friday, or by contacting affordablehousing.com at 888-406-4003

This Notice is being provided in accordance with VSHA's Administrative Plan for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, which mandates the Authority to provide public notice when opening its waiting list.

For Additional information call: 802-828-3295 (voice); 800-798-3118(TTY); 800-820-5119(messages)

## TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

Each year at this time the Town of Middlebury Selectboard makes its annual appointments to volunteer positions required by State Statute, and local and regional boards and commissions. If you are interested in any of the following positions, please submit an Application for Appointment available on the Town's website [https://www.townofmiddlebury.org/government/boards\\_and\\_commissions/index.php](https://www.townofmiddlebury.org/government/boards_and_commissions/index.php), or by contacting Beth Dow at bdow@townofmiddlebury.org. Please submit Applications for Appointment to the Manager's Office, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, or e-mail to bdow@townofmiddlebury.org, by Monday, April 1, 2024. If you would like to find out more about any of these positions, please contact Beth Dow at 388-8100, Ext 202.

- The number in ( ) indicates number of positions open
- Four Year Term**  
Conservation Commission (2)
- Three Year Terms**  
Planning Commission (2)  
Design Advisory Committee (2)  
Development Review Board (3)  
Downtown Improvement District Committee (2)  
Parks and Recreation Committee (1)  
Deputy Health Officer (1) (Will require Vermont Health Dept. training.)
- One Year Term**  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission Delegate (3)  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission Alternate (2)  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee Delegate (1)  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee Alternate (1)  
Fence Viewer (3)  
Maple Broadband Communications District Delegate (1)  
Maple Broadband Communications District Delegate Alternate (1)  
Sports Commission (3)  
Town Agent (1)  
Town Grand Juror (1)  
Town Service Officer (1)  
Tree Warden (1)

**PROPOSED STATE RULES**

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Aboveground Storage Tank Rules.  
Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P012

**AGENCY:** Agency of Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation

**CONCISE SUMMARY:** This rule is required by 10 V.S.A. section 1929a(c). The existing rule sets tank design and installation standards, tank inspection requirements, and protocols for reporting and managing noncompliant tanks. The proposed amended rule includes additional requirements for new tank system installations, adds phased in installation requirements for existing tank system, and proposes a new yellow tag provision for addressing noncompliant tanks by allowing limited fuel deliveries to noncompliant tanks that do not pose an immediate threat to the environment. Although continued operation of noncompliant tanks is potentially problematic, an immediate prohibition of further deliveries of fuel oil (i.e., red tagging) is a major concern, as existing rules jeopardize the health and safety of Vermont residents that rely on oil heat. Additionally, the proposed amended rules provide additional rule applicability clarifications and new technical definitions and modify the tank inspection interval from 3 to 4 years.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Anna Bourakovsky, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 1, Montpelier VT 05620-3704 Tel: 802-477-2981 Email: anna.bourakovsky@vermont.gov URL: <https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/storage-tanks>.

**FOR COPIES:** Matthew Chapman, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 1, Montpelier VT 05620-3704  
Tel: 802-249-4393 Email: matt.chapman@vermont.gov.

**ADVERTISE**      Email us at:  
ads@addisonindependent.com

# Public Notices

can be found on Pages 15B and 16B.

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY MOSQUITO ADULTICIDES

On or after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCW) may be making ground applications of adulticides along the public and private roads in the towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Proctor, and Salisbury to control adult mosquito populations. Applications of PermaSease (a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide) and Fyfanon (in the malathion family) will be made with ultra-low volume truck-mounted sprayers. Zenivex E-4 RTU (a non-ester pyrethroid) may be substituted for PermaSease or Fyfanon.

At least six hours in advance of spraying to control adult mosquitoes, specific route information and the pesticide(s) to be used will be posted to <https://ocwid.com/public-notice>. The OCW also provides email notifications of all planned spraying. To subscribe to the spraying notification email list, please send a request to: [ocwid@gmail.com](mailto:ocwid@gmail.com).

The OCW's published spray routes can be viewed at: <https://ocwid.com/route-maps>.

The OCW call center phone number is (802) 247-6779; the call center will take requests for treatment during the season.

If you wish to opt out of all adult mosquito treatment and not have the road(s) abutting your property sprayed, please send a written request to the OCW. If you submitted an opt out (No Spray Zone) request for your property last year AND there have been no changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, an email to the OCW containing your 911 address and requesting No Spray Zone status again this year will suffice. If you did not submit an opt out request last year and/or there have been changes in ownership, contact information, or property boundaries, please send a letter to the OCW address given below listing the name(s) of the property owner(s), his/her/their contact telephone number(s), the 911 address of the property, and a property map which clearly shows the property boundaries along the public right of way. Property maps can be obtained from Town Clerks or online at <https://maps.vcgi.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer>. Upon receipt of your request an OCW employee will contact you and then will mark your property as a No Spray Zone. Opt out requests must be renewed annually.

In accordance with paragraph 6.07 (a) of the Vermont Rule for the Control of Pesticides, the OCW has applied for a permit to conduct truck-mounted mosquito adulticide applications from the Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets.

Further information can be obtained from:

Jeff Schumann, OCW Board of Trustees Chair or  
Will Mathis, OCW Operations Coordinator  
Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
P.O. Box 188  
Brandon, VT 05733  
(802) 247-6779  
[ocwid@gmail.com](mailto:ocwid@gmail.com)  
<https://ocwid.com>

Comments or complaints about OCW adulticide spraying operations should be addressed to:

Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division  
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets  
116 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901  
(802)522-6973  
[steve.dwinell@vermont.gov](mailto:steve.dwinell@vermont.gov)

# Middlebury woman arrested for a warrant

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police on March 15 went to North Pleasant Street at a little after 11:30 p.m. and arrested Moriah Donahue, 36, of Middlebury for an active instate arrest warrant.

Police said Donahue was later released after posting bail.

Between March 12 and early on March 18, Middlebury police also:

On March 12:

- Helped a female experiencing a mental health crisis on Court Street.

- Went to a Court Street business after receiving a report of a possible counterfeit bill and took the bill to the station.

- Assisted the Addison Central School District with a fraud case.

- Helped a John Graham Court resident concerned about an ex-partner engaging in stalking behavior.

- Heard from a Lindale Circle resident who reported receiving harassing text messages.

On March 13:

- Checked the welfare of a juvenile on Mayapple Lane.

- At the station helped a resident with unwanted ammunition.

- Went to South Village Green after getting a report of a vehicle with a child in it being operated by a possibly impaired driver. Police determined the operator was not impaired.

- Took a report from college officials of a hoax email received.

On March 14:

- Responded to Porter Hospital to help after being told of a mental health patient assaulting staff.

- Took an intoxicated male into protective custody in the North Pleasant Street area and turned him over to a sober party.

- Took a request for patrols on High Street due to traffic issues.

- Went to Gorham Lane to do a welfare check on behalf of the Essex (N.Y.) County Sheriff's Department. The person sought



## Time to nest

A BLUEBIRD RETURNING from its wintering grounds inspects a house at the edge of a Weybridge field.

Photo by Susan Humphrey

## TOWN OF ORWELL REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Town of Orwell is soliciting proposals for the replacement of the roof at the Orwell Town Office Building by qualified roofing professionals. Taking bids for Architectural Shingles. The project includes the removal and replacement of the existing roof. Completion date November 1, 2024. For complete RFP, interested parties can contact the Orwell Town Office at 802-948-2032 or by emailing [selectboard@townoforwellvt.org](mailto:selectboard@townoforwellvt.org). RFP submission deadline is May 13, 2024.

## ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUEST FOR BIDS

Addison Central School District is accepting bids to renovate the MUHS Learning Lab. Any interested General Contractors can request the project information from Bluprints etc. [orders@blueprintsetc.com](mailto:orders@blueprintsetc.com). This project will be at Middlebury Union High School. Work can begin June 24th, 2024, and be completed by Aug. 23, 2024. All bids are due by March 26, 2024, by 3:00 p.m.

## ADDISON NORTHWEST SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING MARCH 25, 2024

The legal voters of the Addison Northwest School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Vergennes Union Middle/High School in Vergennes, VT on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM, for a Public Information meeting to discuss Australian Ballot article warned for vote on Tuesday, March 26, 2024.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2024.

Margaret Carrera-Bly, District Clerk  
Addison Northwest School District  
John Stroup, Chair of Board of Directors  
Addison Northwest School District

## WARNING MARCH 26, 2024

The legal voters of the Addison Northwest School District, consisting of the towns of Addison, Ferrisburgh, Pantton, Vergennes, and Waltham, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the following polling places on March 26, 2024, to vote by Australian ballot on the following article of business:

Municipality	Hours	Location
Addison	7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.	Addison Former School building
Ferrisburgh	7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.	Ferrisburgh Town Office
Pantton	7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.	Pantton Town Hall
Vergennes	9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.	Vergennes Fire Station
Waltham	10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.	Waltham Town Hall

Article 1: Shall the voters of the Addison Northwest School District approve the Board of School Directors to expend \$27,507,737 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

Dated this 18th day of March, 2024

Margaret Carrera-Bly, District Clerk  
Addison Northwest School District  
John Stroup, Chair of Board of Directors  
Addison Northwest School District

# Middlebury Police Log

investigate a report of a missing juvenile.

- Helped Vermont State Police at their New Haven barracks evaluate a driver for being under the influence of drugs.

- Responded to a report of someone attempting to break into an apartment at South Village Green.

- Responded to East Main Street after hearing a report of a loose dog.

- Went to Court Street to look into a report of a male screaming outside of the National Bank of Middlebury just before 6 p.m.

- Responded to a report of possible drug activity on MacIntyre Lane.

- Checked out a report of a suspicious male asking about a guest at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel at 12:30 at night.

On March 17:

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Looking for employees who worked at Bread Loaf Construction located in Middlebury, VT from 1970-1984.

Please call  
(618) 973-2090  
[www.mrhflaw.com](http://www.mrhflaw.com)

## STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 24-PR-01080

IN RE ESTATE OF:  
HELEN KAHRIS  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Helen Kahris, late of Middlebury, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.  
Dated: 03/13/24

Lawrence E. Kahrs  
% Anthony R. Duprey, Esq.  
11 Main Street, Suite B110F  
Vergennes, VT 05491  
(802) 870-6563

[anthony@dupreylaw.com](mailto:anthony@dupreylaw.com)  
Publication: Addison Independent  
Publication Date: 3/21/24  
Address of Probate Court:  
7 Mahady Court  
Middlebury, VT 05753

- Seized drug paraphernalia from two individuals during a traffic stop on Route 7 South.

- Provided a courtesy ride home from Porter Drive to a man without transportation.

- Went to North Pleasant Street to help a woman get back personal belongings from an acquaintance who was refusing to return them.

- Provided help and support to a woman who had received threatening emails.

- Went to Abbey Pond Road to help MREMS respond to, evaluate and transport a patient.

- Took a call reporting a domestic disturbance on Case Street. Police said an investigation is continuing.

- Checked on a man experiencing a possible mental health crisis on Court Street Extension.

- Took a call from a Sugarwood Court resident who requested help in getting his personal property back from his ex-girlfriend.

- On Main Street offered resources to a woman stranded in Middlebury.

On March 18:

- Went to Abbey Pond Road to help MREMS with a male experiencing mental health issues.

- At the station helped Brandon police process an impaired driver.

## TOWN OF ORWELL REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Town of Orwell seeks bids from licensed electricians to perform electrical installation in new municipal storage building.

Please contact the Town Office @ 802-948-2032 or email [selectboard@townoforwellvt.org](mailto:selectboard@townoforwellvt.org) to request plans and additional information. Bids must be returned by 4:00 PM, Monday, April 8th and will be opened at the Select Board Meeting that evening.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RIPTON TOWN PLAN

The Town of Ripton Selectboard will hold a public hearing at 7:00 PM April 8, 2024 in the Ripton Community Church 1329 VT Rte 125, to review and hear comments on the 2023/2024 Ripton Town Plan. The proposed Plan addresses the following topics: Land Use; Natural, Historic, Scenic and Natural Resources; Population; Transportation; Energy; Education; Housing; Employment and Economic Development; Relationship of the Plan to Neighboring Towns; Implementation. The proposed Plan is available for review from the Ripton Town Clerk. This notice is given pursuant to the requirements of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, §4385.



## Town of Middlebury Selectboard Meeting

Room 116 – Large Conference Room  
Town Offices – 77 Main Street  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88263785570>  
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)  
Webinar ID: 882 6378 5570

For those wishing to watch but not participate:

Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV Vermont>  
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

### AGENDA

- 7:00 1. \*\*Call to Order
- 2. \*Approval of Agenda
- 3. \*Approval of Consent Agenda
- 3a. Approval of Minutes of the March 12, 2024 Selectboard Meeting
- 3b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes (if any)
- 3c. Applications for Liquor Licenses, Outside Consumption Permits, and Entertainment Permits
- 3d. Approval of Grant Agreement for Urban Forestry Grant
- 3e. Consent Agenda Placeholder
- 3f. Consent Agenda Placeholder
- 3g. Town Manager's Report: TM Report - Current Correspondence - Received March 13 - March 22, 2024
- 4. \*\*Citizen Comments [Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda]
- 7:05 5. \*\*Agenda Placeholder
- 6. \*Agenda Placeholder
- 7:10 7. \*\*Emmalee Cherington, Director of Public Works-Planning - Updates and Recommendations from the Infrastructure Committee Meeting of March 14, 2024
- 7a. \*Recommendation on Award of Paving Contract
- 7b. \*Recommendation on Application for State Class II Roadway Funding to reclaim and pave Halladay Road, after the culver project is completed
- 7c. Recommendation on Award of Archeology Assessment Contract for the Bakery Lane and South Street Projects
- 7d. \*Recommendation on Award of Historical Resource Identification for the Bakery Lane Project
- 7e. \*Opportunity to ask questions on project update which will be submitted in writing due to the length of the agenda for this meeting
- 7:30 8. \*\*Downtown Update
- 8a. \*\*Welcome to Kathryn Torres & Kelly Flynn, Co-Directors of the Better Middlebury Partnership
- 8b. \*Approval of Request for Public Assemblage Permit for Car Show, October 13, 2023
- 8c. \*\*Update from the Homelessness Task Force (if available)
- 8:00 9. \*Dana Hart, Library Director, and Joe McVeigh, Ilsley Public Library (IPL) 100 Project Team -
- 9a. \*Approval of Grant Application for Congressionally Directed Spending for Library Renovation/Expansion Project
- 9b. \*Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Weybridge and the Town of Middlebury Regarding Membership at the Ilsley Public Library for Weybridge Residents
- 9c. \*Request to Reserve funds received from MOU with Weybridge for Library capital improvements (FY25 ONLY)
- 8:15 10. \*Approval of Warning for May 6, 2024, Special Town Meeting and May 7, 2024 Bond Vote on Library Renovation/Expansion
- 8:25 11. \*\*Agenda Placeholder
- 8:30 12. \*\*Agenda Placeholder
- 8:35 13. \*\*Agenda Placeholder
- 8:45 14. \*Approval of Check Warrants
- 15. \*\*Board Member Concerns
- 16. \*\*Executive Session - Negotiation of a Contract
- 17. \*\*Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
- 18. \*\*Executive Session - Evaluation of a Public Employee
- 19. \*\*Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
- 9:00 20. \*Adjourn

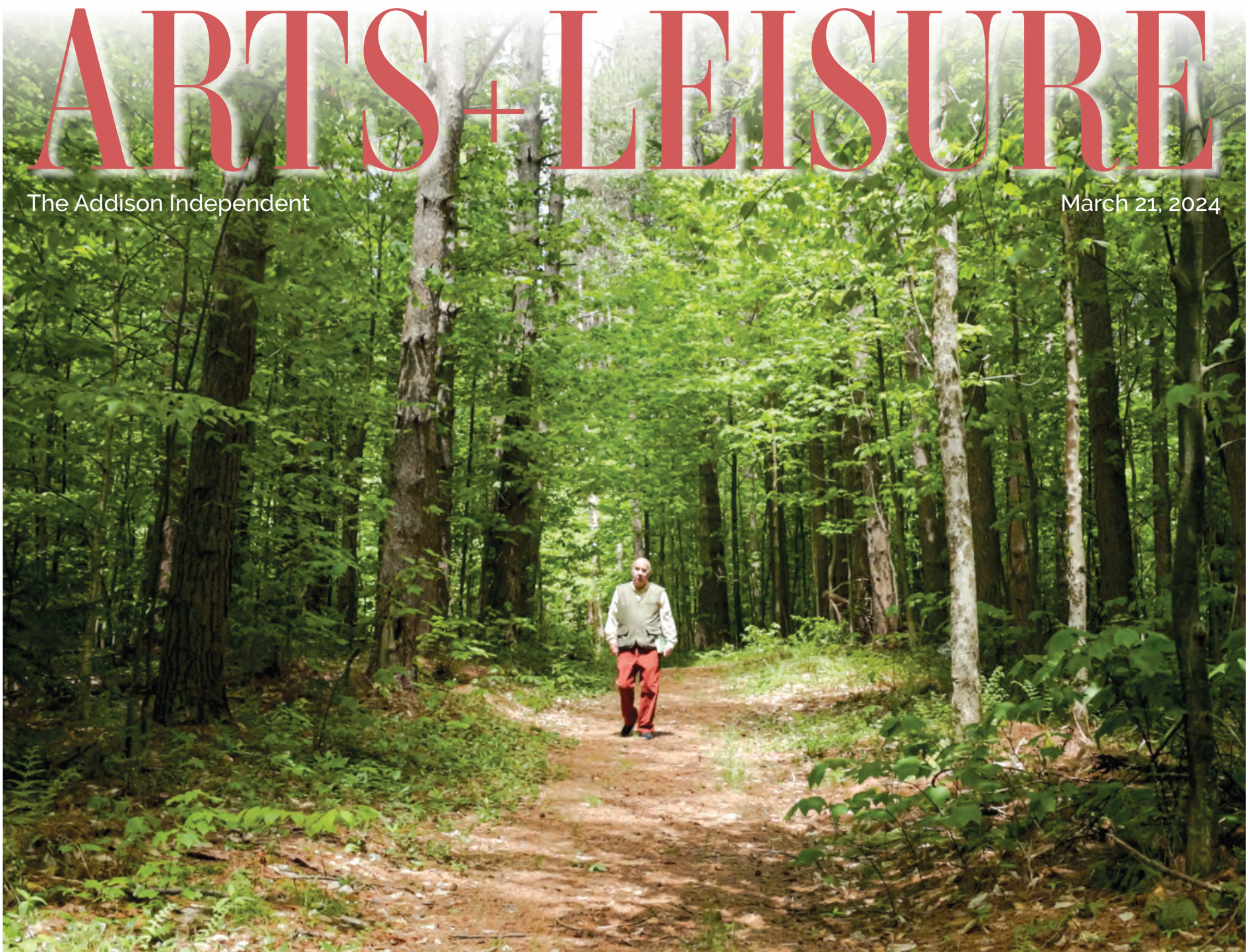
\* Decision Item \*\* Possible Decision

NOTE: The Public Hearing on Application to the State of Vermont for an Implementation and Planning Grant under the Vermont Community Development Program for renovation and expansion of the Turning Point Center of Addison County's Office Building, 54A Creek Road, has been postponed until a later date.

# ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

March 21, 2024



Weybridge author Jay Parini, shown here on the Robert Frost Trail in Ripton, will take part in a March 29 literary event at Town Hall Theater celebrating the life and work of legendary poet Robert Frost. The evening will feature some of Frost's most famous pieces, selected from Parini's "Robert Frost – Sixteen Poems to Learn by Heart."

PHOTO / OLIVER PARINI

## Robert Frost at age 150 still warrants recollection

**R**obert Frost famously said 'If a poem won't stick to me, I won't stick to it,' because he would always recite his poems from memory," observed Weybridge author Jay Parini.

He should know. For around five decades, Parini has returned to Frost's poems as a reader, a fellow writer, an academic and a biographer. He spent more than 20 of those years poring over Frost's work and interviewing those close to the poet to compile his 1999 biography "Robert Frost: A Life."

BY **MARIN HOWELL**

Parini will be on hand next week when The Vermont Book Shop and Town Hall Theater team up to honor the life and work of legendary poet Robert Frost, and all are invited to take part in the festivities. The March 29 literary event hosted by the two entities at Town Hall Theater will celebrate Frost's 150th birthday (which actually takes place a on March 26) and feature some of the writer's most famous pieces.

Sixteen Frost poems will be presented by community members, each directed by Middlebury College Associate Professor of Theatre Michole Biancosino. The poems were all selected from Parini's "Robert Frost – Sixteen Poems to Learn by Heart," a new

collection of Frost's writings edited by and interspersed with commentary from Parini.

During the free event, Parini will be on hand to share stories of the legendary poet and dive deeper into Frost's writing during a Q&A.

"The best way to celebrate Frost at 150 years is to put your mind right on his best poems and, in fact, to put those poems into your own mind, so you can say them to yourself at night," Parini said. "That's what poetry is about: words that have meaning, words that help to explain our lives, words that move us."

Parini is no stranger to the power of words.

SEE FROST ON PAGE 3

# 'Just Getting By' takes a stop in Middlebury on statewide tour

A NEW DOCUMENTARY BY BESS O'BRIEN SCREENS AT TOWN HALL THEATER, THE EVENING OF MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>

**O**n Saturday, March 30, come to Town Hall Theater in Middlebury to see Bess O'Brien's new documentary "Just Getting By." This film is a sweeping, and yet intimate look at the lives of Vermonters who are struggling with food and housing insecurity.

Vermont has the second highest rate of homeless people in the United States, right after California. One third of Vermonters struggle to put food on the table. These are big issues for a small state. "Just Getting By" focuses on these issues in the lives of everyday people.

The film tells the stories of working families, folks who are homeless and are accessing food shelves and soup kitchens, people who are living in the temporary hotel/motel program, New Americans grappling with the cost of living in America, Native people creating innovative farming practices and folks on the ground providing services to their fellow Vermonters in need.

"Just Getting By" explores the day to day challenges and incredible resiliency that low-income Vermonters bear witness to every day.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$17 (plus fees); available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).



"THIS FILM PUTS OUR SOCIETIES' REALITIES INTO A VISIBLE AND REAL FORMAT FOR PEOPLE TO SEE. **IT IS SUCH CRITICAL WORK.**"

— Vermont LT. Governor David Zuckerman



# New exhibit by Anna Fugaro on view at the Bixby Library

**I**f you missed her exhibit at Middlebury's Ilsley Library this winter, experience the original, mixed-media artwork of Middlebury artist Anna Fugaro on display now at the Bixby Memorial Free Library.

Her "Tapestry of Dreams" collection presents surrealist mixed-media artwork from imagery collected over 50 years, oil and chalk pastels, and acrylic paints. Fugaro's work has received international acclaim. She has held shows in Reykjavik, Iceland, where her work was purchased by the Queen of Denmark and the former president of Iceland. Her artwork is layered with texture and meaning, conjuring a diverse spectrum of emotions upon viewing.

See Fugaro's exhibit in the Bixby Library's Community Room anytime during open hours now through mid-May. A portion of the proceeds of artworks sold will benefit the Bixby Library.

Visit [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org) for more information.



See Middlebury artist Anna Fugaro's work on display now through mid-May at the Bixby Memorial Free Library in Vergennes.

**FROST**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The successful author has written poems, screenplays and over 30 books, ranging from biographies to historical novels. Several of his books

have centered around influential American writers like John Steinbeck and William Faulkner.

Frost and his poetry have been particularly meaningful to Parini, who has lived much of his life in the same parts of New England that Frost once called home, from Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., to the Middlebury area. "Frost's poetry has always offered imagery and phrases that are very closely connected to my own life," he noted.

"Frost has a poem called 'Choose Something Like a Star,' just to stay your mind on and be stayed. I feel like I've chosen Frost as kind of a star. He's like the North Star in my life," Parini added. "He's always there. He's reliable. I can go back to him for comfort, for inspiration, for critique."

Thus, when an editor at the publishing house Library of America approached Parini around a year and a half ago with an idea for a book focused on the work of a famous poet, it seemed like a no-brainer who Parini would choose for the project. "The deal was that a poet selects a poet that they love, a classic poet, and does a commentary on a small number of (their) poems," he explained.

The team settled on 16 poems for the collection, each accompanied by Parini's commentary to help readers better understand the piece and how it fits into Frost's oeuvre. Among the poems included in the collection are the well-known "Mending Wall" and "The Road Not Taken."

"I really did choose what I think are Robert Frost's greatest hits," Parini said.

The book also includes an introduction on Frost and a guide to the work of memorization. The collection's focus on poems to memorize is one Parini feels lends itself well to Frost's work. "He was a great believer in memorizing poems, and I've been a believer of that myself," Parini said.

Parini feels Frost's work fits into poet W. H. Auden's definition of poetry as being "memorable language."

"Frost was one of the great writers of poems and lines of poetry that stick in the brain," Parini said. "So many of his poems are built around a kind of aphorism, such as 'good fences make good neighbors' or 'one could do worse than

**JAY PARINI**

PHOTO / OLIVER PARINI

**ROBERT FROST**

PHOTO / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

be a swinger of birches."

Folks who attend the celebratory event at Town Hall Theater will get to hear some of Frost's most memorable poems and learn more about the famous poet through Parini's stories and Q&A. "I'm going to throw in a comment here and there, maybe throw out an anecdote about Frost and his life, maybe talk about the poem a little bit," Parini said. "I'm there as a kind of occasional commentator and guide."

While the event will likely appeal to longtime Frost fans, Parini said the evening is just as much intended for those new to the poet's work. "You don't have to know anything about Frost to come," he said. "Hopefully those that know Frost well will enjoy it, but it's really aimed at a very general audience."

The show is free, though registration is required. Those interested in attending can register and find more information at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org). The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. on March 29 at Town Hall Theater.

In addition to live poetry and Parini's commentary, attendees can look forward to complimentary cake in honor of Frost's 150th

**DETAILS****FRIDAY, MARCH 29****7 P.M.****TOWN HALL THEATER****MIDDLEBURY****TICKETS: FREE** (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)**TOWNHALLTHEATER.ORG**

birthday. Copies of "Robert Frost – Sixteen Poems to Learn by Heart" will also be available for purchase and signing. The upcoming literary event is one that promises community members an opportunity to get to know the poet who, decades after his passing, still remains a part of Addison County.

"Frost is here, and his language is here. You just drive down Seymour Street and you see a restaurant called Fire and Ice, that's a Frost poem," Parini said. "In my mind, Frost is not only with us, but the more you know about Frost, he's a field guide to the area; to its flora and fauna, to the way people talk, the attitudes."

**"ROBERT FROST IS LIKE THE NORTH STAR IN MY LIFE. HE'S ALWAYS THERE. HE'S RELIABLE. I CAN GO BACK TO HIM FOR COMFORT, FOR INSPIRATION, FOR CRITIQUE."**

— Jay Parini

**MIDDLEBURY PERFORMING ARTS SERIES**  
WINTER/SPRING 2024 SEASON

Fri., March 29 • 7:30 PM  
**Sophie Shao and Friends**  
\$25/20/10/5

802-443-MIDD (6433) [go.middlebury.edu/pas](http://go.middlebury.edu/pas)

# UPCOMING MUSIC

## Cellist Sophie Shao and Friends to perform at the Mahaney Arts Center on March 29

### CELESTIAL-THEMED PROGRAM IS INSPIRED BY THE UPCOMING SOLAR ECLIPSE

Applauded by the New York Times for her “eloquent, powerful” interpretations, world-renowned cellist Sophie Shao has a gift for assembling impromptu chamber ensembles that are brimming with passion and talent. Shao returns to the Mahaney Arts Center on Friday, March 29 with her extraordinary companions Jennifer Frautschi on violin, Bixby Kennedy on clarinet, and Orion Weiss on piano.

Shao is a perennial favorite for Middlebury’s Performing Arts Series, returning year after year with new and exciting ensembles, playing works that are uniquely suited to their talents. This year’s celestially-themed concert program, inspired by the upcoming solar eclipse, will feature “Messiaen’s Quartet for The End of Time” and Vermont composer David Ludwig’s “Spiral Galaxy.”

Audiences are invited to meet Ludwig and learn more about “Spiral Galaxy” in a free pre-concert lecture at 6:15 p.m. on the evening

of the performance. The composer is Dean and Director of Music at the Juilliard School and composer and New Music Advisor for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

#### SOPHIE SHAO

At the age of 19, cellist Sophie Shao received the prestigious Avery Fisher career grant, and has since performed as soloist at major halls throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Winner of top prizes at the Rostropovich and Tchaikovsky competitions, she is known for her expressive and dynamic interpretations of a wide-ranging repertoire.

A dedicated music educator, Shao has been an artist-in-residence at the Zeta Charter Schools in the Bronx, and has presented masterclasses at University of Michigan, Juilliard, and Indiana University. She is currently on faculty at the University of Connecticut, where she teaches cello and chamber music, and organizes an annual UConn Cello Day. She has previously been on the faculty of Vassar College, Princeton University, and Bard Conservatory.



Cellist Sophie Shao leads a world-class chamber ensemble for a celestially-inspired concert at Middlebury’s Mahaney Arts Center on Friday, March 29.

PHOTO / NEDA NAVAAE

#### DAVID SERKIN LUDWIG

Composer David Serkin Ludwig enjoys a diverse career collaborating with many of today’s leading musicians, filmmakers, and writers. His choral work “The New Colossus” opened the private prayer service for President Obama’s second inauguration. The next year NPR Music named him in the world’s “Top 100 Composers

SEE MUSIC ON PAGE 16



The Krishna Guthrie Band and Helen Hummel will play at the Vergennes Opera House on Saturday, March 30.

COURTESY IMAGE

## KRISHNA GUTHRIE BAND TO ROCK IN VERGENNES

The Krishna Guthrie Band is coming to Vergennes for an evening of “hard rockin’, folkin’, blues” on Saturday, March 30. Bristol native Helen Hummel will open at 7 p.m.

The Guthrie family story is interwoven into the fabric of American music. While Krishna Guthrie incorporates elements of his lineage, from the folk roots of his great-grandfather, Woody, to the masterful storytelling of his grandfather Arlo, he’s not afraid of adding influences from his own generation as he carves his own initials in the family tree. Krishna Guthrie and his band are a hard rockin’, folkin’, blues outfit based in the Green Mountains of Vermont.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Cash bar and doors open at 6:30 p.m. More info and tickets at [vergennesoperahouse.org](http://vergennesoperahouse.org).

# ART ON EXHIBIT

## BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center Street, Brandon

For more info visit [brandonartistsguild.org](http://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](http://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](http://edgewatergallery.com), call (802) 458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto: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.

## EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

Visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call (802) 989,7419 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com) for more info.

**"Introducing Bonnie Baird."** Baird's paintings are filled with an emerging fullness of heart. In her paintings, light infuses life into atmosphere, becoming the magic that conjures a personal memory. Her paintings simultaneously evoke a simple lament and heartfelt joy. On view through April.

## PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit [photoplacegallery.com](http://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, 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.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15

# Cosmic Forecast

**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. Aries, communication with a spouse or a loved one is vital this week; otherwise, you risk arguments for no reason at all. Sit down and have some frank conversations about your needs.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. Taurus, when you face adversity you should rest assured that you can handle anything that is thrown at you. Although, you may need a little help from some close friends or family.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Gemini, others may not understand who you are and could make assumptions that are inaccurate. They may just need some more information to get a clearer picture.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Cancer, many elements of your life are starting to level out this week. That can be a comfort to you because you seemingly have been running around for some time and could use a break.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, others have nothing but good things to say to you this week. Bask in their kind words and adoration, and use this as motivation for future endeavors.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. With no big events on the horizon, you may want to manufacture one to have a reason to party, Virgo. Start planning your guest list and come up with a fun theme to get behind.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, while you should be mindful of your goals, you also can support those around you as they pursue their own. Serve as inspiration to people in your life right now.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, this is a good time to start tackling some projects around the house that have been put off for some time. Redecorating and remodeling can be an inspiration right now.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Take a step back and reevaluate your approach to a situation because the way you have been doing it just hasn't yielded the results you expected, Sagittarius. Take suggestions and tips.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, high energy may have you swinging at the fences every time you try to tackle something. You may want to dial things back and take a more measured approach.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Various transitions in your life could temporarily disrupt your daily activities, Aquarius. You'll find a new groove soon enough that will feel comfortable and provide you with what you need.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. Don't take stock of what all the naysayers have been dishing out, Pisces. You know yourself better than others and recognize what you are able to accomplish. Get started on plans.

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## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 22 — Reese Witherspoon, actor (48)  
MARCH 23 — Akira Kurosawa, filmmaker (d)  
MARCH 24 — Jessica Chastain, actor (47)  
MARCH 25 — Aretha Franklin, singer (d)

MARCH 26 — Tennessee Williams, playwright (d)  
MARCH 27 — Sarah Vaughn, singer (d)  
MARCH 28 — Mario Vargas Llosa, writer (88)

# CALENDAR

MARCH 21-30  
2024



## THURSDAY, MARCH 21

**BOOK LAUNCH IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, March 21, 5:30 p.m., Vermont Book Shop, 38 Main St. Join facilitator Greg Dennis and author Gail Marlene Schwartz in a conversation about her new novel, "Falling Through the Night." Protagonist Audrey Meyerwitz wants to fall in love and have a family. But for this queer 30-something insomniac who's struggled with Generalized Anxiety Disorder since childhood, it's a goal that's far from simple.

**"THE CONSPIRACY" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Peasant St. The latest film in the MNFF Selects series, "The Conspiracy" is an animated documentary that stunningly depicts how a centuries-old myth, that Jews are plotting to take over the world, moved from the fringe to the mainstream, becoming a pillar of modern anti-Semitism. Tickets \$14 advance/\$16 at the door, available at townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222.

**"THE ADDAMS FAMILY" IN BRISTOL.** Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m., Auditorium, Mt. Abraham Union High School, Airport Dr. Come see Mt. Abe's spring musical, a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in

every family with toe-tapping tunes, wickedly witty lyrics, and a cast of characters that will leave you in stitches. Our talented middle and high school performers are ready to transport you to the mysterious and macabre world of the Addams Family. Tickets \$15 adults/\$12 seniors and children under 12, available online at [www.showtix4u.com/event-details/79393](http://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/79393). More info contact [fmafminc@gmail.com](mailto:fmafminc@gmail.com) or 802-377-3335. Parental Guidance suggested.

**NATE GUSAKOV IN NEW HAVEN.** Thursday, March 21, 7:30 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Singer-songwriter and musician Gusakov plays clawhammer banjo and explores new directions in sound with a solid-body electric banjo. Free. Part of the 5-Town Musical Library tour.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB WALK IN SHOREHAM.** Friday, March 22, Lemon Fair Sculpture Park, Route 74. Enjoy an inspiring and easy 1.5-hour walk among the sculptures in the Lemon Fair Sculpture Park. Less than a hundred feet elevation gain. Engage with others in some artistic interpretations of modern and post-modern sculptures. Contact leader Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or [kencorey53@gmail.com](mailto:kencorey53@gmail.com) to

register, and for questions. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**"THE ADDAMS FAMILY" IN BRISTOL.** Friday, March 22, 7 p.m., Auditorium, Mt. Abraham Union High School, Airport Drive. Details in March 21 listing.

**LENA JONSSON TRIO IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, March 22, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Peasant St. This multi-award winning trio continues to break new grounds around the world with their unique mix of deeply rooted Swedish folk, jazz, American old-time and electro-acoustic sounds. Tickets \$22, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) or 802-382-9222.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23

**MAPLE FOOD FEST IN SHOREHAM.** Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m., Douglas Orchards, 1050 Route 74. A celebration of all things maple. Experience a maple-inspired brunch menu. Sample maple-flavored beer and hard cider (non-alcoholic beverages too). Watch sugarmakers in action, tour the sugarbush, compete in a maple-chugging contest, kick back around the firepit, listen to a bluegrass band and shop the farm market.

**"THE ADDAMS FAMILY" IN BRISTOL.** Saturday, March 23, 2 and 7 p.m., Auditorium, Mt. Abraham Union High School,

Airport Drive. Details in March 21 listing.

**GRAND FRIENDS GALA IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, March 23, 4 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Peasant St. Vermont Children's Museum invites you to a magical evening of dancing, live music and kid-friendly appetizers. Dress your best and have fun supporting this fundraiser for Vermont Children's Museum. Tickets \$50/\$30/\$22/\$15. Sliding scale pricing available. More info at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org) or 802-382-9222.

**MAD HATTER MASQUERADE BALL IN BRANDON.** Saturday, March 23, 8-11 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Celebrate the ending of the dark with a grand masquerade ball. Dress as a character in "Alice in Wonderland" in any of the seasons of the Lewis Carroll classic. Bring out your creativity and steampunk influence to dance amid the smoke and lights and mystery. Tea snacks and beverages for your enjoyment, and prizes for the most clever costumes. Ages 18 years and up. Costumes are encouraged. Select snacks and adult beverages for purchase with ID, strobe lights, smoke machines and lasers will be in use. Tickets \$25 include a party favor for the first 100 ticketholders, available at [Brandonvt.myrec.com](http://Brandonvt.myrec.com).

## SUNDAY, MARCH 24

**ZIG ZAG LIT MAG RELEASE PARTY IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, March 24, 2-4 p.m., Swift House Inn. An afternoon of literary celebration featuring readings from Issue.16, networking opportunities and a showcase of local talent. The bar will be open, but the restaurant will not serve food during the event. More info at [zigzaglitmag.org](http://zigzaglitmag.org).

## TUESDAY, MARCH 26

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN WAITSFIELD.** Tuesday, March 26, Mad River Glen, Route 17. Steep walk on ski trails to Stark's Nest with beautiful views throughout. Moderate pace for about 4 miles round trip and 2,000 feet of elevation gain. Contact Morris Earle at [morrisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com) or 802-734-0984 with questions or to register. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

**"SNAPSHOT — BARBIE'S REFLECTION ON OUR WORLD" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, March 26, 4 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 757 Main Street. St. Michael's theater professor Peter Harrigan has collected Barbies for over three decades, amassing a personal collection of over 500 of the figurines. In this talk, he takes a dive into the fantastic world of plastic and

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753	
<p><b>Channel 1071</b> <b>Friday, March 22</b> Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Dr. John Campbell 6 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 3 p.m. Energy Week 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Legislative Breakfast 8 p.m. Selectboard <b>Saturday, March 23</b> Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Legislative Breakfast, Public Affairs <b>Sunday, March 24</b> Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Selectboard 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. League of Women Voters</p>		<p>9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, State House, Public Affairs 5:30 p.m. Legislative Breakfast 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs <b>Thursday, March 28</b> Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 8 a.m. Congregational Services 9:30 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 12 p.m. Selectboard, State House, Public Affairs 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Vote for Vermont  <b>Channel 1091</b> <b>Friday, March 22</b> 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:25 a.m. Songwriter's Notebook 7:30 a.m. At The Ilsley - Bonsai 8:40 a.m. Moccasin Tracks 9:20 a.m. Me2/ Burlington Orchestra 10:30 a.m. VYO Mid-Winter Concert 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5:30 p.m. VYO Mid-Winter Concert 7 p.m. Novelist &amp; Historian Jack Kelly: "God Save Benedict Allen" 8:09 p.m. Author Talks</p>	
<p>11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Energy Week 1:30 p.m. Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7:00 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 8:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell <b>Monday, March 25</b> Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Vote for Vermont 5 p.m. League of Women Voters <b>Tuesday, March 26</b> Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Selectboard 11 p.m. Energy Week <b>Wednesday, March 27</b> Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Energy Week 6 a.m. Legislative Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service</p>		<p>6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. Me2/ Burlington Orchestra 8:30 a.m. At The Ilsley - Bonsai 9:40 a.m. Moccasin Tracks 10:20 a.m. Me2/ Burlington Orchestra 11:30 a.m. VYO Mid-Winter Concert 1 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 6:30 p.m. VYO Mid-Winter Concert 8 p.m. "God Save Benedict Allen" 9:09 p.m. Author Talks <b>Sunday, March 24</b> 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. Me2/ Burlington Orchestra 9:01 a.m. Great Vermont Flood 2023 10 a.m. First Tuesdays 11 a.m. Moccasin Tracks 12 p.m. "God Save Benedict Allen" 2:30 p.m. Author Talks 7:30 p.m. VYO Mid-Winter Concert 9:30 p.m. At The Ilsley - Bonsai <b>Monday, March 25</b> Through the Night: State House Education 8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 1 p.m. Author Talks 4 p.m. Me2/ Burlington Orchestra</p>	
<p>5:06 p.m. Word Time with Miss Markee 5:30 p.m. VYO Mid-Winter Concert 7 p.m. At The Ilsley - Bonsai <b>Tuesday, March 26</b> 6:45 a.m. Word Time With Miss Markee 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8:05 a.m. Tai Chi 8:30 a.m. VYO Mid-Winter Concert 10 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. "God Save Benedict Allen" 5:21 p.m. Moccasin Tracks 8 p.m. Great Vermont Flood of 2023 8:57 p.m. Moccasin Tracks <b>Wednesday, March 27</b> 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 12 p.m. Great Vermont Flood 2023 8 p.m. Festival On the Green 10 p.m. The Songwriter's Notebook <b>Thursday, March 28</b> 5 a.m. Music in the Morning 7:05 a.m. Tai Chi 7:30 a.m. State House Recordings on Education 4 p.m. Moccasin Tracks 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. School Board Meeting/s</p>		<p>Please see the MCTV website, <a href="http://www.middleburycommunitytv.org">www.middleburycommunitytv.org</a>, 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.</p>	

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**MILK & HONEY QUILTERS GUILD MEETING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, March 26, 6 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Road, Middlebury. Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Learn new techniques at the 20-minute learning stations presented by four guild members, who will demonstrate new, different and useful techniques such as: facing vs binding, log cabin rulers for easy construction, using a folded corner clipper; and quick, easy and useful fabric boxes. Bring show and tell, name tag and anything to share for the free table (but please do remember to take back anything no one picks up!).

**ROKEBY ONLINE BOOK DISCUSSION.** Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m., ZOOM. Rokeby's Winter Book Discussion Group is back for 2024. This month's books is "Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts" by Rebecca Hall and illustrated by Hugo Martinez. Free. Registration in advance is required at rokeby.org/2024-virtual-winter-book-discussion-group. Attendance at all three discussions is not required.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27**  
**"DOUBLE INDEMNITY" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, March 27, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury Community Classic Film Club begins its Billy Wilder Series. Join fellow movie lovers in the Jessica Swift Community Room for screening of some of Wilder's most popular films followed with a bit of discussion. This series runs March through June one film per month.

**GOOD TIME LINE DANCING IN ORWELL.** Wednesday, March 27, 7 p.m., Farmers Haven, 318 Route 22A. Join in a fun night of line dancing taught by the amazing Andrea Warren at Good Time Line Dancing. Cost \$10 per person (cash or Venmo). All ages welcome. Beginners lessons 7-8 p.m., open dance 8-8:30 p.m. Continues every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29**  
**JAY PARINI'S "ROBERT FROST - SIXTEEN POEMS TO LEARN BY HEART" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, March 29, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Come celebrate Frost's 150th Birthday with Town Hall Theater and the Vermont Book Shop, by paying homage to Frost's greatest work. Featuring live poetry, book signing and birthday cake. Free, but registration required at townhalltheater.org.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB LECTURE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, March 29, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Herpetologist Jim Andrews will present "Selected Reptiles and Amphibians of the Central Green Mountains." He will discuss the identification, natural history, distribution and conservation of the salamanders, frogs, snakes and turtles that we are most likely to encounter in the Green Mountains of Central Vermont. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

**OCTET PERFORMANCE OF HAYDN'S "THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, March 29, 7 p.m., Memorial Baptist Church, 97 S. Pleasant St. An hour-long work that sets each of the last sayings of Jesus to music. Since 1991, a group of Vermont musicians has carried on a tradition of offering this piece to Vermont audiences during Holy Week. Sung in German with English translation provided. Free and open to all. More info contact membaptistvt@gmail.com.

**SOPHIE SHAO AND FRIENDS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, March 29, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Cellist Sophie Shao has a gift for assembling impromptu chamber ensembles that are brimming with passion and talent. The concert program will include Messiaen's Quartet for The End of Time, and Vermont composer David Ludwig's Spiral Galaxy. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5 available at go.middlebury.edu/tickets or 802-443-MIDD (6433).

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 16

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 <b>Climate Technology &amp; Competition</b> <i>with Gary Winslett</i> March 27, 3:00 pm	 <b>High Seas Treaty</b> <i>with David Rosenberg</i> May 2, 3:00 pm
 <b>The Future of NATO</b> <i>with Elizabeth Shackelford</i> April 17, 3:00 pm	 <b>Pandemic Preparedness</b> <i>with John Berninghausen</i> May 8, 3:00 pm
 <b>Understanding Indonesia</b> <i>with Orion Lewis</i> Date and time TBD	 <b>Israel - Gaza</b> <i>with Elizabeth Shackelford</i> May 22, 3:00 pm
 <b>Mideast Realignment</b> <i>with Russell Leng</i> April 25, 3:00 pm	 <b>U.S. - China Trade</b> <i>with Jessica Teets</i> May 29, 3:00 pm

Series is based on the Foreign Policy Association's program \*Please call (802) 989-7501 for Zoom link

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# Pets In Need

## HOMeward BOUND

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### Coconut

**Coconut** is a sweet, shy 2-year-old who has lived an indoor/outdoor lifestyle and enjoys the company of other cats. She loves chicken treats and cuddling with her cat friends in hidey spots.



### Tobi

**Tobi** is 1.5 years old with a constant look of shock! He is very affectionate and gets along well with kids. Tobi had not gotten along with the other un-neutered male cat in his home, but has since been neutered and may be more open to the idea of making cat friends. He has not been around dogs.



### Philbert & Remy

**Philbert** and **Remy** are a Chihuahua/Dachshund mixed duo looking for a loving home together. They are affectionate lap dogs who enjoy the company of people. Philbert is white, 10 years old, and weighs 17 pounds. Remy is 4 years old and weighs 8 pounds. They are good with other dogs and cats but we are unsure about young children. Philbert and Remy are housebroken and know some basic commands.



### Wheel

Meet adorable 4.5-year old-rabbit, **Wheel!** She is a female, 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.



## Want to learn more?

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## Prevent pets from getting poisoned

**M**arch 17 to 23 marks National Pet Prevention Week. While most people think about how they can protect themselves and their loved ones, it's important to not overlook your furry companions, who often don't know any better.

The best way to avoid this type of pet emergency is to fool-proof your house. That means keeping food items in cupboards that your dog can't get at and making sure not to leave medicine on

tables or counter tops.

In the event that your dog does end up eating something that is poisonous, the first step is to not panic and contact your vet immediately. Below are the steps people should take if they think their dog has been poisoned:

- Stay calm and move your dog away from the source of poison.
- Contact your vet immediately — inform them when, where and how the poisoning happened. If possible, take the packaging, plant, or substance to the vet, but only if

you can do this safely. If you cannot reach a veterinarian, contact a veterinary poison control hotline immediately.

- Don't attempt to treat or medicate your dog yourself.
- Never attempt to make your dog vomit without first consulting a veterinarian.
- If the skin or fur is contaminated, wash with a mild shampoo and water, then rinse profusely and dry.
- Keep dogs away from other animals to avoid cross-contamination.

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# PUZZLES

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## ACROSS

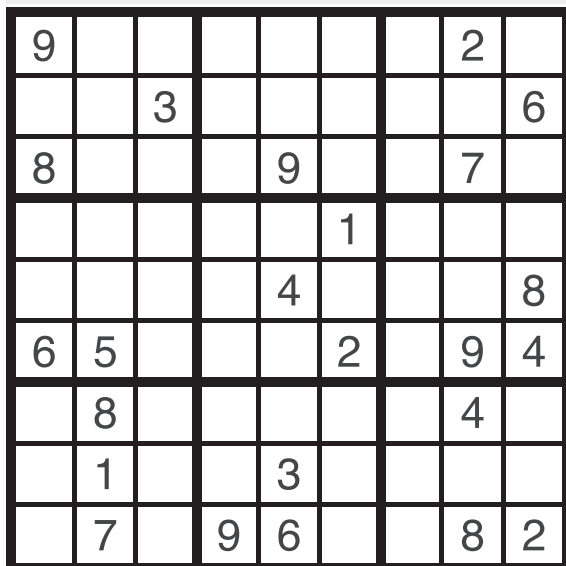
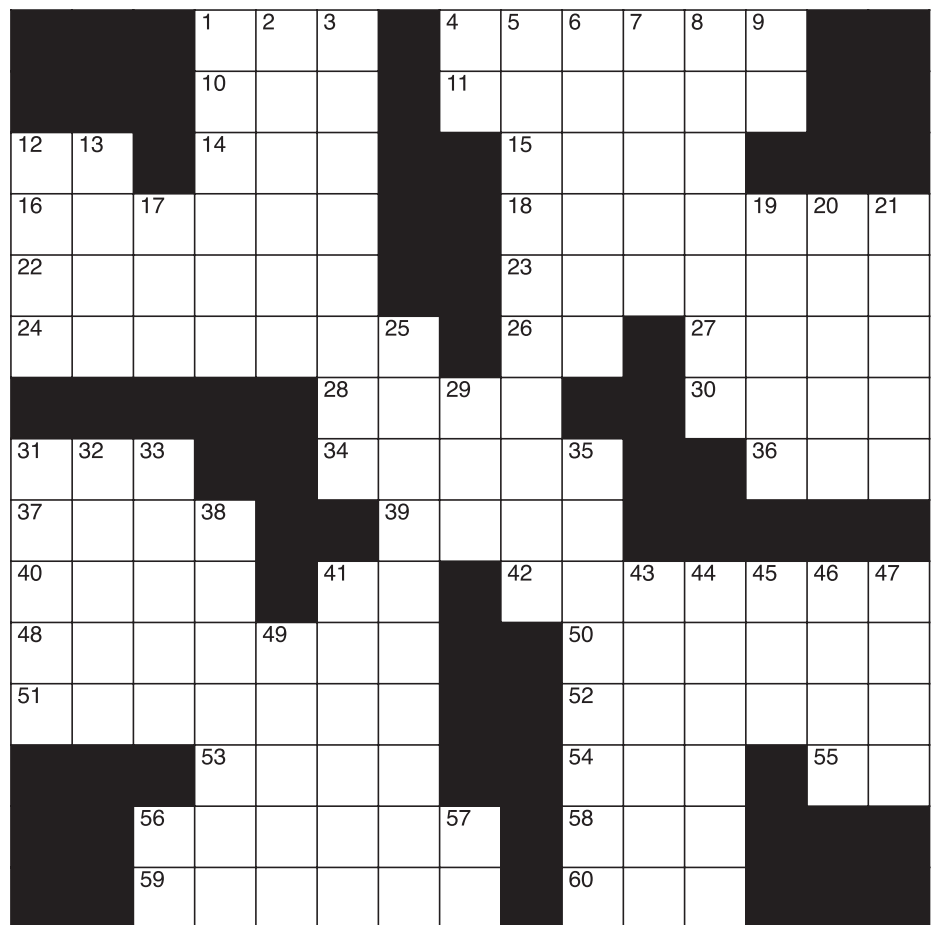
- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province (abbr.)
- 14. Human gene
- 15. Two
- 16. A famous one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Ring-shaped objects
- 23. Spoils
- 24. Occurs

- 26. Commercial
- 27. Near
- 28. Products you may need
- 30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge
- 31. TV network
- 34. Silk or cotton garments
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republics
- 37. Retired American football coach Dean
- 39. Hot dish
- 40. A type of gin
- 41. Atomic #84
- 42. Sawhorse
- 48. About ground
- 50. Medicine man

- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge
- 55. By the way (abbr.)
- 56. Bicycle parts
- 58. Barbie's friend
- 59. Moved one's neck to see
- 60. Commercials

## DOWN

- 1. Make up for
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Salary
- 4. Influential world



## Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

**Level: Medium**

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

body

- 5. Engravers
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. One who steals
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee
- 17. Value
- 19. A fake name
- 20. Sheep in their second year
- 21. Town in Surrey,

England

- 25. Appropriate for a particular time of year
- 29. Creative works
- 31. Recesses
- 32. W. Pacific island group
- 33. Tolkien character
- 35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
- 38. Pioneer
- 41. Scribe

- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Lowest members of British nobility
- 45. Actress Thurman
- 46. Type of sugar
- 47. Crest of a hill
- 49. N. American people of British Columbia
- 56. Device
- 57. The Mount Rushmore State



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*Pictured artwork by Jim Bruce*

# Winter 2024 **Cosmic Coloring**

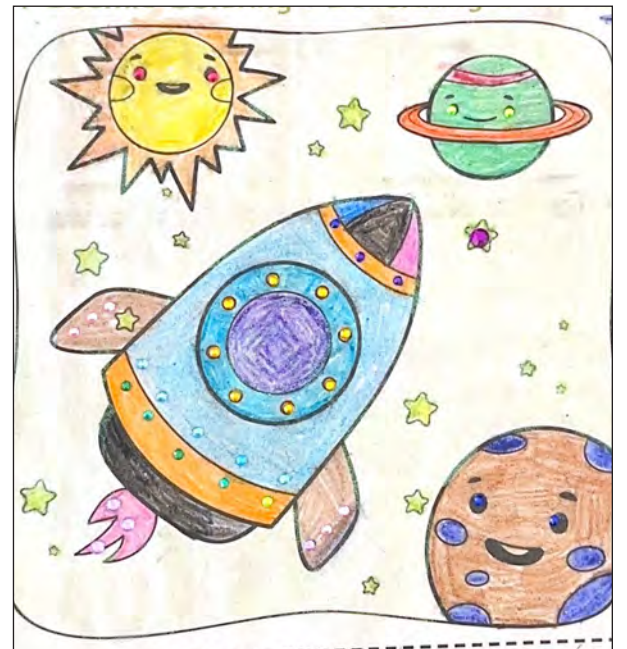
We received over 60 stellar entries in our Winter 2024 Cosmic Coloring Contest. Featuring whimsical aliens, star-studded galaxies, and adventurous astronauts, each submission was an exciting artistic journey through the cosmos.



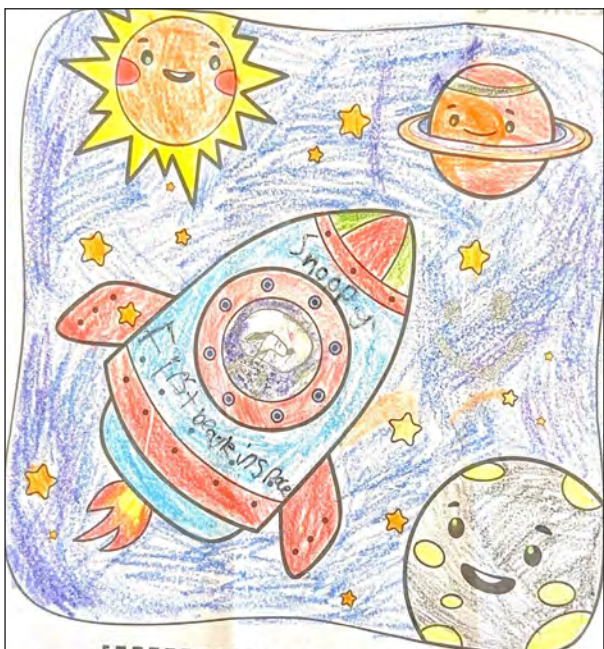
Josie Deppman, Cornwall  
Age 3



Samantha McCarrick, Vergennes  
Age 4



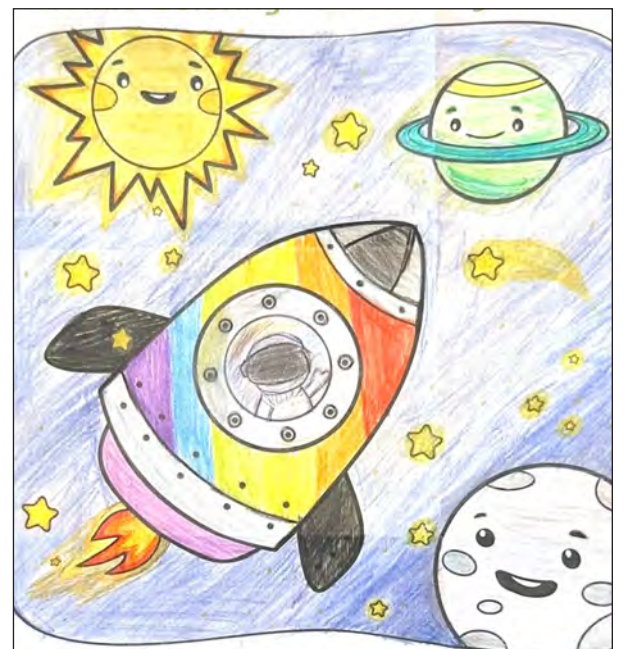
Skyler Bushey, Vergennes  
Age 6



Mary McGuire, Vergennes  
Age 9



JessLyn Meader, Ferrisburgh  
Age 11



Autumn Spritzer, Middlebury  
Age 12

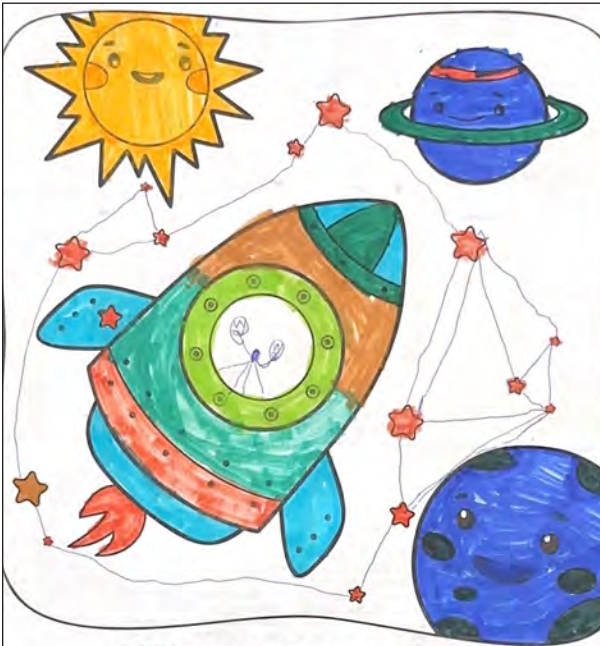
This contest was made possible through the support of:



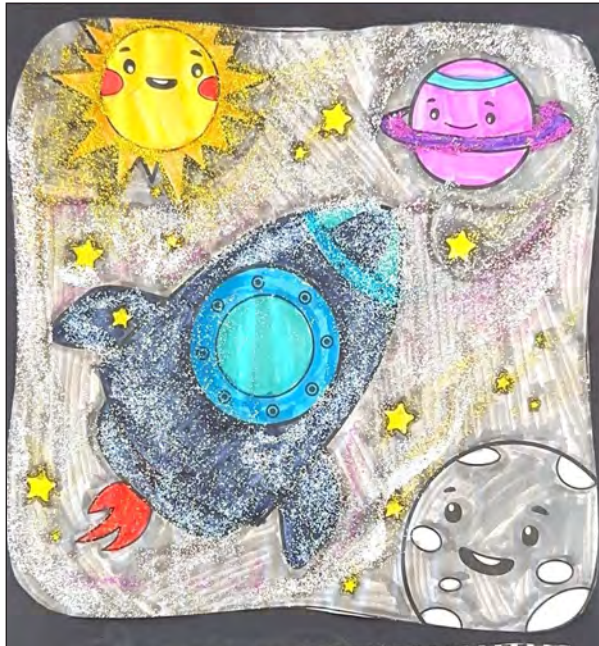
ADDISON COUNTY  
**INDEPENDENT**

# & Decorating Contest

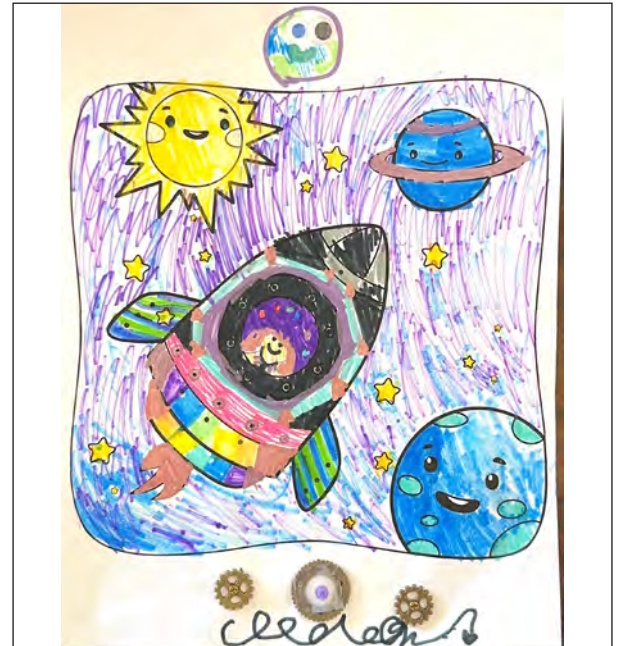
Congratulations to the winners below and thank you to all who participated!



Theo Ayers, Middlebury  
Age 6



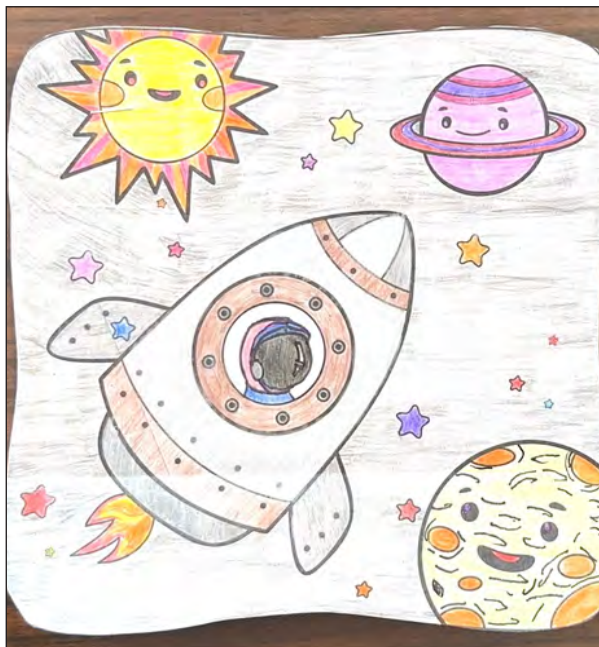
Evie Wilson, Middlebury  
Age 7



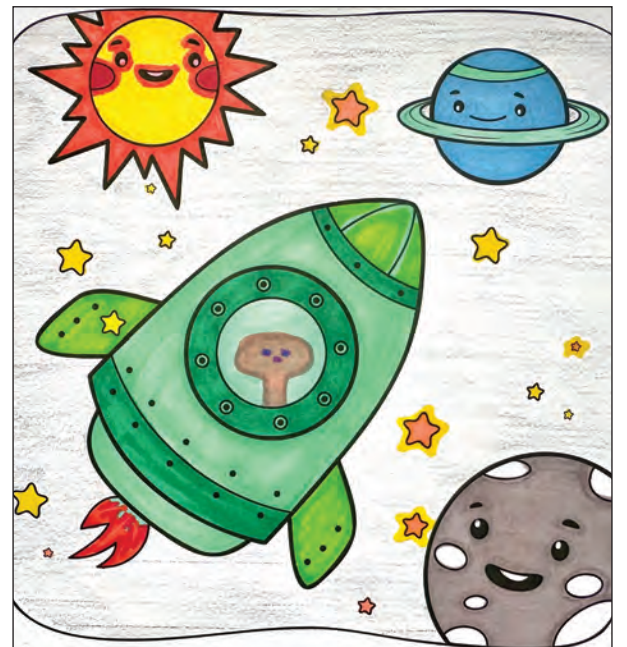
Clodagh Murphy Berthiaume, Weybridge  
Age 7



Ila Corrigan, Bristol  
Age 12



Deanna Willenbaker, Vergennes  
Adult



Elissa Eckhardt, Cornwall  
Adult

**All participants are encouraged to visit our office at 58 Maple Street in Middlebury, to pick up their artwork and/or prizes before 4 pm on April 25<sup>th</sup>.**



# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

— IS IT TOO LATE TO PRUNE FRUIT TREES? —

**T**his time of year, when plants are normally in their dormant stage, usually finds gardeners conducting late-winter pruning of apple and other fruit trees. However, recent warmer temperatures may have encouraged many trees to prematurely wake up, causing gardeners to ask, "Is it too late to prune?"

BY **DEBRA**

**HELEBA**

The answer is no, it's not too late. In fact, waiting until the end

of the winter to prune your fruit trees helps protect them from winter injury, so March is a great time to prune. Apple trees have several stages of bud growth that orchardists use to properly time disease and insect sprays.

Trees that have recently broken dormancy are in the "silver tip" stage when buds turn from a dark brown to a fuzzy-looking silvery gray. Home orchardists should prune their apple and pear trees in this stage, before the tips turn green, to avoid diseases such as fireblight. Delay pruning cherry, peach and plum trees until a little later, just before they bloom until

about two weeks after petal fall (again to avoid diseases).

Annual pruning of tree fruit is important to the health of your home orchard. Pruning allows the building of the tree's structure to support a heavy load of fruit later in the season and into the future. It also allows light and air flow into the tree, which are important for healthy growth and for limiting diseases.

To get started, gather and prepare your tools. You will need a pair of loppers (long-handled pruning shears) and a hand saw. They should be sharpened, sanitized (especially if you've used them with diseased plants) and in good condition.

As a general rule of thumb, aim to remove no more than one-third of the tree's branches in any given year. Pruning is a balancing act because, with each branch you remove, you are reinvigorating the tree but are also pruning away potential fruit.

First, remove any dead, broken and diseased branches. Next, you will want to prune any



*Debra Heleba lives in Lincoln and heads up the Master Gardener Program and Community Horticulture Program at UVM.*

branches that cross or rub together. Apple and pear trees are typically pruned to maintain a central trunk with branches radiating around the trunk, again allowing for air and light to penetrate the tree.

Remove suckers, which are the vertical shoots coming out of the ground, as well as "water sprouts," the vertical shoots on branches.

Aim to keep branches that are angled 45 to 60 degrees from the trunk but remove downward leaning branches and those with tight angles. You also will want to remove shaded branches, those located directly underneath other branches and branches located directly across from one another.

When making a pruning cut, you need to cut the branch just beyond the collar. This is the area that looks wrinkled as it comes from the trunk. This will allow the cut to mend properly. You don't want to leave a stub as it can be an entry for disease. Painting the wound is not necessary.

Pruning details that go beyond these basics are available from many resources including at [go.uvm.edu/pruning](http://go.uvm.edu/pruning). With some practice, home orchardists can combine the art and science of tree pruning to create healthy trees capable of a bountiful fruit harvest.



*Apple and pear trees can be pruned in the "silver tip" stage when buds turn from a dark brown to a fuzzy-looking silvery gray.*



## PLANT YOURSELF HERE.

Reach readers who are interested in all things gardening and advertise on this page.

Contact us today.

[ADS@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:ADS@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM)



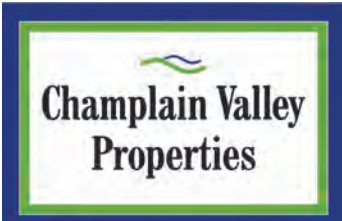
118 THREE MILE BRIDGE RD, MIDDLEBURY  
\$449,000

# THE HOME

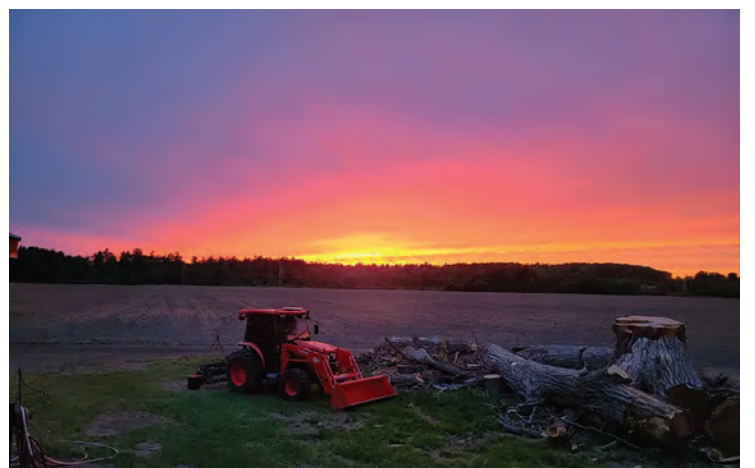
A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

## Middlebury home offers many possibilities

This unique property is located just south of Middlebury right off of Route 7, making it a very convenient commute to Middlebury, Rutland and/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. The house has 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 four cars. There is another building that has even more space. A wonderful place to call home with extra space for toys and equipment.



*This week's property is managed by Champlain Valley Properties.  
More info at [champlainvalleyproperty.net](http://champlainvalleyproperty.net).*




# REAL ESTATE

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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 1-800-669-9777.




Make the dream of home ownership a reality. **We can help. Contact us today or apply online.**  
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## the REAL ESTATE COMPANY of VERMONT

### 51 So. Bingham Street, Cornwall

Sited on almost an acre lot in West Cornwall, this gothic revival antique farmhouse offers 3 bedrooms and 1 bath with charming living room and spacious eat-in kitchen. Take in the western mountain view from the welcoming front porch and eastern mountain views the spacious back deck and fenced yard of this lovely house! This home has undergone many improvements and is ready for the new owners to move in and make their own. Only 10 minutes to Middlebury. Make sure to also check out the 3-D Virtual Tour of the home's interior on our website.

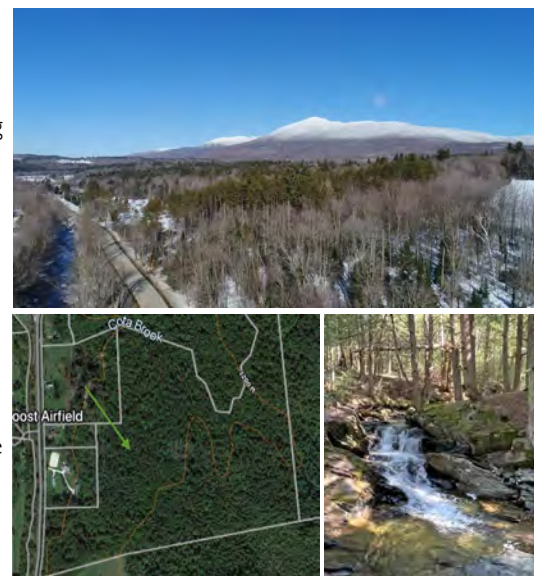
MLS No. 4987156 | \$ 385,000




### TBD So. Lincoln Road, Lincoln

Undeveloped 62.3 acre parcel of mostly wooded land in Lincoln. The parcel's northern boundary follows Cota Brook, a lovely winding creek with waterfalls and swimming holes, and enjoys a western facing slope with view potential. This entire lot is enrolled in VT's Current Use Program, a portion could be removed from the program to accommodate a home site with a fee for the portion being removed. Or, continue to be a steward of the land and spend your time recreating on this beautiful piece of earth. Located within close proximity to several swimming spots along the New Haven River, hiking, elementary school, general store, and both Nordic and alpine skiing within a 1/2 hour drive.


MLS No. 4971457 | \$ 475,000




for more information, contact one of our agents:




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# PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

MARCH 21, 2024



**ADD YOUR PIECE!**  
BE THE NEXT SPONSOR OF THE PUZZLE PAGE.

EMAIL [CHRISTY@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:CHRISTY@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM) TO FIND OUT HOW.

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6	5	1	3	8	2	7	9	4
5	8	6	2	1	7	3	4	9
2	1	9	8	3	4	5	6	7
3	7	4	9	6	5	1	8	2



**NEW HAVEN NEW LISTING!**  
2569 SOUTH STREET

MLS #4988002 | \$389,000  
3 BD | 1 BA | 1232 SF | 2.08 ACRES

Looking for something easy and ready to move into, this is it! Open concept layout, wood floors, pellet stove, private backyard, oversized attached garage, a retired sugarcorn in the backyard, and views!



**CORNWALL NEW LISTING!**  
ROUTE 74

MLS #4988325 | \$275,000  
4.28 ACRES

Minutes from Middlebury and surrounded on three sides by Land Trust acreage. State permitted for a 4 bedroom mound septic system. Build on the high point for lovely pastoral views!



**MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!**  
76 COURT STREET

MLS #4988342 | \$799,000  
2 BD | 3 BA | 4607 SF | 0.55 ACRES

Located in the hub of Addison County and central to shopping, schools, public transit and recreational opportunities, this property would be well suited for a conversion to full residential or continued use as a compartmentalized office space with a residential apartment on the 2nd floor. Plenty of paved parking to accommodate a wide variety of uses. The building has been modified and updated in a quality way over the years, has a generous monthly cash flow (NNN on office space @ 6072.27/mo, \$1200/mo on res unit). Main floor heat/air conditioning is a high velocity system, 2nd floor apartment is baseboard hot water. Plan your conversion while you collect rent for the next year! Showing appointments are limited to outside of business hours, please allow at least 48 hour notice when making a request. Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri showings after 5pm only. Thursday/Sat/Sun fully available. **Listed also as Commercial MLS#4988341**



ipjrealestate.com

34 Main Street, downtown Middlebury  
info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242



**CALENDAR**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

**WILLOWELL BOOGIE BENEFIT IN LINCOLN.**

Saturday, March 30, 6-9:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd. Come to the Willowell Foundation's benefit dance and silent auction. Live music by The Almendros, a cash bar, and a silent auction packed with exciting items from local businesses and artists. All funds raised will support Willowell's scholarship fund for youth programming for programs such as Pond Brook Middle School, New Roots, Wren's Nest and summer camps. All are welcome to this fun-filled, family friendly evening in support of nature-based programming in Addison County. Tickets \$10 at the door. Kids age 12 years and younger are free.

**KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH.**

Saturday, March 30, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, 3279 Route 7. Sandwich supper followed by the games. King Pele involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts, Spades or Pitch. This is a game of skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

**"JUST GETTING BY" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.**

Saturday, March 30, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. A sweeping, and yet intimate look at the lives of Vermonters who are struggling with food and housing insecurity. "Just Getting By" focuses on everyday people: working families, folks who are homeless and are accessing food shelves and soup kitchens, people who are living in the temporary hotel/motel program, New Americans grappling with the cost of living in the U.S.A, Native people creating innovative farming practices and folks on the ground providing services to their fellow Vermonters in need. Tickets \$17, includes applicable fees, available at 802-382-9222, www.townhalltheater.org or tickets@townhalltheater.org.

**KRISHNA GUTHRIE BAND IN VERGENNES.**

Saturday, March 30, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. The Guthrie family story is interwoven into the fabric of American music. While Krishna Guthrie incorporates elements of his lineage, from the folk roots of his great-grandfather Woody to the masterful storytelling of his grandfather Arlo, he's not afraid of adding influences from his own generation as he carves his own initials in the family tree. Tickets \$15 advance/\$20 at the door, available at vergennesoperahouse.org.

**EXHIBITS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

**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.

## MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Under Forty." This year Ludwig was honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters as recipient of their annual award in music. Ludwig holds positions and residencies with nearly two dozen orchestras and music festivals in the U.S. and abroad, including New Music Advisor for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. He served on the composition faculty of The Curtis Institute of Music for nearly two decades before being appointed Dean and Director of Music of The Juilliard School in June 2021.

### JENNIFER FRAUTSCHI

A two-time Grammy nominee and Avery Fisher career grant recipient, violinist Jennifer Frautschi has garnered worldwide acclaim. Cleveland Classical called her "a stunning presence, her playing a breathtaking conflation of grace and grit, and at times downright ferocious." Frautschi has appeared as soloist with innumerable orchestras including the Cincinnati Symphony, Chicago Symphony, and the LA Philharmonic. She is an Artist Member of the Boston Chamber Music Society and has performed at virtually all of the premier chamber music series and festivals in the United States.

### BIXBY KENNEDY

Admired for his "marvelous ringing tone," Bixby Kennedy is one of the most versatile clarinetists of his generation. He has performed concerti with orchestras including the Minnesota Orchestra, Houston Symphony, and New Haven Symphony Orchestra. As a chamber musician, Bixby has performed throughout the US and Europe in venues including Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, The Kennedy Center, and the Marlboro Music Festival. He is the clarinetist for the "explosive" New York City based chamber ensemble Frisson.

### ORION WEISS

Pianist Orion Weiss, a highly sought-after soloist and chamber music collaborator, is widely regarded as a "brilliant pianist" (New York Times) with "powerful technique and exceptional insight" (Washington Post). He has performed with dozens of orchestras in North America including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, and at prestigious concert halls and festivals around the world. Weiss's impressive list of awards includes the Classical Recording Foundation's Young Artist of the Year, Gilmore Young Artist Award, and an Avery Fisher Career Grant, among others.

Don't miss Sophie Shao and Friends performing at the Mahaney Arts Center's Olin C. Robison Concert Hall on Friday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. Composer David Ludwig will present a free pre-concert lecture at 6:15 p.m., at the MAC, room 125. Concert tickets are \$25 for the general public, \$20 for Middlebury faculty/staff and alumni, \$10 for youth, and \$5 for Middlebury College students. For tickets or information, call 802-443-MIDD (6433) or go to [middlebury.edu/arts](http://middlebury.edu/arts).

## TWO DREAMS COME TRUE ON THIS PROPERTY!



### 3139 Lake Street, Bridport

Live on Lake Champlain and cultivate the land for agricultural business. This 343+-acre parcel includes 503' of Lake Champlain frontage. Access to the lake is on the southern end of the property and is from a gentle slope for easy access. The land comes with a 4 bedroom historic brick home, farm buildings and a 3 BR home that needs rehab work or rebuilding. The parcel is in the Vermont Land Trust with 2 homestead parcels as well as an unbuilt farm worker house site. The land is presently in current use and offers a combination of highly productive farmland, barns and good forest production. The beauty of this parcel can't be described in words, green pastures, blue skies, the lake, distant mountains... come live your dream!

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2024

*Worship  
Directory*

A Special Publication of the Addison Independent  
Thursday, March 21, 2024



*We commit ourselves to knowing God and making God known. We will follow Jesus by loving God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and by loving our neighbors as ourselves.*



**97 South Pleasant St  
Middlebury, VT**

**The Rev. Dr. Stephanie Allen, Pastor**  
802-388-7472 [membaptistvt@gmail.com](mailto:membaptistvt@gmail.com)  
[www.memorialbaptistvt.org](http://www.memorialbaptistvt.org)

YouTube Channel/Memorial Baptist Church

Podcast/Memorial Baptist Church - Sermons

***For info, links, and updates:***  
**[www.memorialbaptistvt.org](http://www.memorialbaptistvt.org)**

▪ **Discipleship Opportunities**

Classes for all ages;  
Small Groups for Adults and Youth;  
3-day Summer Bible Adventure Day Camp  
(B.A.D. Camp) at Lake Dunmore for K-6th gr.

▪ **Community Opportunities**

Sr. Rock's Lunch; Men's Breakfast;  
All-Church Summer Picnics;  
Bone Builders; Quilters & Crafters;  
Host families for Midd. College students

▪ **Mercy and Ministry Missions**

Service Opportunities;  
Local and Worldwide Missions Supported

*Welcome Back College Student Chili Party*



*Easter Sunrise Service*



*One group at Bible Adventure Day Camp*



**Sundays**

**Service at 10am**

In-Person and  
Live-stream on YouTube  
Nursery for 0-4 yr olds  
Children's Church thru age 10

**Sunday Classes at 9am**

Kindergarten thru Adult  
Nursery for 0-4 yr olds

**Holy Week Schedule  
March 24 - 31, 2024**

**Palm Sunday Service 10:00am**

**Morning Devotionals**

7:00-7:30am Mon-Fri

**Maundy-Thursday Service 7:00pm**

**Concert**

Good Friday, 7:00pm

**Haydn's "Seven Last Words of Christ"**

for 4 singers and string quartet  
more info on our website

**Easter Sunrise Service**

6:45am, 1126 Halpin Rd, Middlebury

**Easter Breakfast for**

**College Students 8:30am**


**Easter Sunday Service 10:00am**

*Easter Service 2023*



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## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



### *Our Purpose*

To grow in God's love and serve  
Christ in all people.

### *Our Mission*

To be an inclusive community, awake  
to God in worship, learning, and service.

*Christ is risen!*

*Christ is risen indeed!*

3 Main St. on the Green • Middlebury, VT  
**802.388.7200**

Visit [ststephensmidd.org](http://ststephensmidd.org) for Zoom  
login information and to learn about  
our Programs for Children and Youth,  
Meditation, and other offerings.

*All are welcome!*

### **Palm Sunday, March 24**

8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist\*

### **Wednesday in Holy Week, March 27**

12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### **Maundy Thursday, March 28**

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Eucharist  
w/ Foot-washing\*

### **Good Friday, March 29**

12:00 p.m. Ecumenical Good Friday Service  
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy\*

### **Holy Saturday, March 30**

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

### **Easter Day, March 31**

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Festive Eucharist with Choir\*

\*These services are also available on Zoom

**Holy Week Services 2024**

## The Congregational Church of Middlebury, UCC

**Rev. Andrew Nagy-Benson  
and Rev. Elizabeth Gleich**

No matter who you are  
or where you are  
on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!

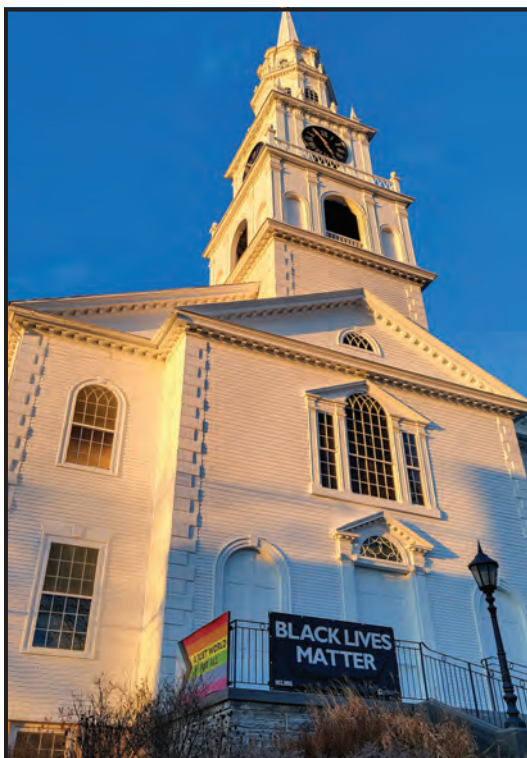
### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

Palm Sunday	10:00 a.m.
Maundy Thursday	7:00 p.m.
Easter	6:30 a.m. Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service (Alumni Stadium, Middlebury College)
	10:00 a.m. Easter service

Visit [MiddUCC.org](http://MiddUCC.org) for streaming details.



802-388-7634 • **Church:** 2 Main St., Middlebury, Vt. 05753  
[www.midducc.org](http://www.midducc.org) • [office@midducc.org](mailto:office@midducc.org)





The Addison Independent prints these free listings on a space-available basis throughout the year. Send new and updated information including schedules, staff, phone numbers, e-mail and web addresses, to sarahp@addisonindependent.com, or by mail or in person to our office.

This religious service listing is also online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com).

NOTE: Plans may change. Contact your pastor for more information.

## ADDISON

**ADDISON COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH.** Addison Four Corners, Routes 22A and 17. Worship, Sundays 10:30 a.m.

**HOPE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP.** Kauffman's Farm, 2867 Mountain Rd. Pastor Jeff Kauffman, [hcfpastor@gmail.com](mailto:hcfpastor@gmail.com), 802-759-2922 or [hopecommunityfellowship.org](http://hopecommunityfellowship.org). Sundays, 10 a.m.

**WEST ADDISON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** 18 Church St., West Addison, off of Route 17 & Jersey Street. The Rev. Paul Hoffman & Rev. Mike Doran. Sunday worship, 9 a.m.

## BRANDON/FOREST DALE

**BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH.** Routes 7 and 73 West, Brandon. Pastor Bob Bove. 802-247-3339 or [brandonbaptistchurch.org](http://brandonbaptistchurch.org). Sunday services, 11 a.m.

**BRANDON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.C.C.,** 1 Carver St., Route 7, PO Box 97, Brandon. The Rev. Sara Rossigg, Pastor. 802-247-6121. [brandoncongregationalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:brandoncongregationalchurch@gmail.com). Sunday worship 10 a.m. year-round.

**BRANDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** 1 Franklin St., PO Box 55, Brandon, 802-282-7532, Rev. John Hardman-Zimmerman, [hzfam@hotmail.com](mailto:hzfam@hotmail.com), [www.brandonumc.com](http://www.brandonumc.com). Main service, Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

**FOREST DALE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.** 1895 Forest Dale Road, Brandon. Barry Joe Tate, pastor. [communications@wesleyan.org](mailto:communications@wesleyan.org). Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m. Fully accessible. 802-465-8565.

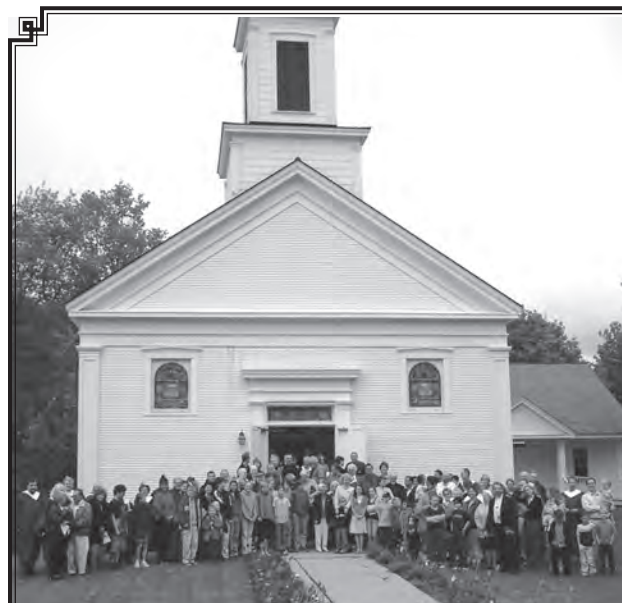
**ONE CHURCH (formerly Lifebridge Christian Church).** 97 Frog Hollow Road, Roger Foster, pastor, [roger@church.one](mailto:roger@church.one), [www.church.one](http://www.church.one). 802-247-5433. Sunday, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

**LIVING WATER ASSEMBLY OF GOD.** 76 North St., Forest Dale. Scott Carlson, pastor. [pastorscott@livingwaterog.org](mailto:pastorscott@livingwaterog.org). 802-247-4542. Sunday worship in-person, 11 a.m. and via Facebook. Thursday Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**OUR LADY OF GOOD HELP ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (ST. MARY'S).** 38 Carver St. Fr. Maurice Moreau, OFM Cap. [ourladyofgoodhelp@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:ourladyofgoodhelp@vermontcatholic.org). Mass schedule: Saturday, 4 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. Reconciliation Saturday, 3:15-3:45 p.m. or by appointment. 802-247-6351.

**SAINT THOMAS & GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** Route 7, Brandon village, corner of Prospect Street, 802-247-6154. Contact: Franci Farnsworth, Senior Warden at [standg1820@gmail.com](mailto:standg1820@gmail.com). [www.standg.org](http://www.standg.org). Sunday worship at 10 a.m. Other worship opportunities and activities are announced through our weekly email newsletter (sign up through the website).

*(Continued on Page 5)*



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF LINCOLN

23 QUAKER STREET | LINCOLN, VERMONT

**Sunday Worship 9:45** (in person and live-stream)

**Children Sunday School 10:15 – 10:45 | Adult Second Hour 11:00 – 12:00**

*Serving our neighbors for over 100 years, UCoL is a true community church.  
With our doors and hearts open, there is always room at the table.*

## WHO WE ARE

The United Church of Lincoln family is a warm and loving congregation where absolutely everyone is welcomed, affirmed, and celebrated! We are a faith community made up of many different traditions yet bound together by our collective commitment to loving our neighbor passionately. We are dedicated to serving our community, growing in our faith, and offering a Christ-centered, love-centered spiritual home. If you've been hurt by church before, are unsure about church, or are simply looking for a vibrant faith community to explore - we welcome you with open arms and open hearts.

**Church Office: 802-453-4280**

**Email – [ucol@gmvat.net](mailto:ucol@gmvat.net) | Online at [unitedchurchoflincoln.org](http://unitedchurchoflincoln.org) and on Facebook**



## BRIDPORT

**BRIDPORT CHURCH CCCC.** (Conservative Congregational Church Conference). 54 Middle Rd. The Rev. Tim Franklin, pastor. 802-758-2227 or [bridportchurch.com](http://bridportchurch.com). Sunday worship service, 10:30 a.m.

**ST. BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.** Part of the combined mission of St. Mary's in Middlebury. Father Luke Austin, Pastor; Father Brandon Schneider, Parochial Vicar. St. Bernadette in Bridport offers Mass Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Confession, First Friday, 6:30-7:00 p.m. or by appointment. 802-388-2943, [www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org), [abvmay@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:abvmay@vermontcatholic.org).

## BRISTOL

**BRISTOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.** 802-453-4773 or 802-453-8473. Home church Meetings. Worship Sundays, 10 a.m. Location varies.

**BRISTOL FEDERATED CHURCH.** 37 North St., Chris Heintz, Interim Minister. 802-453-2321. [www.bristolfederated.org](http://www.bristolfederated.org). Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. (except 3rd Sunday of the month when we offer our 3rd Sunday Children's Church at 9 a.m., pancakes served at 8:30 a.m. Every Sunday in person and on Zoom via link at. Messy Church four times/year. Check website for dates.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRISTOL (behind the park).** 10 Park St. Isaac Dzomeku, pastor, 802-453-2551. [fbc.bristol.vt@gmail.com](mailto:fbc.bristol.vt@gmail.com). Sunday service, 9:30 a.m. Puppet Ministry every 4th Sunday. A welcoming, family-oriented church. Contact person Mary Purinton.

**SAINT AMBROSE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.** 11 School St. Fr. Steven R. Marchand, pastor. Call 802-453-2488. Masses, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 8:30 a.m., Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., Fridays 12:05 p.m. Confessions: Sunday, 7:30-8:20 a.m., Tuesday, 7-8 p.m. or by appointment.

**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH.** 839 Rockydale Road. Tom Ferguson, pastor. 802-453-4712, [BristolVt.AdventistChurch.org](http://BristolVt.AdventistChurch.org), [tferguson@nnec.org](mailto:tferguson@nnec.org). Bible Study Saturday, 9:30 a.m.; worship, Saturday, 11 a.m. or by Zoom.

## CHARLOTTE

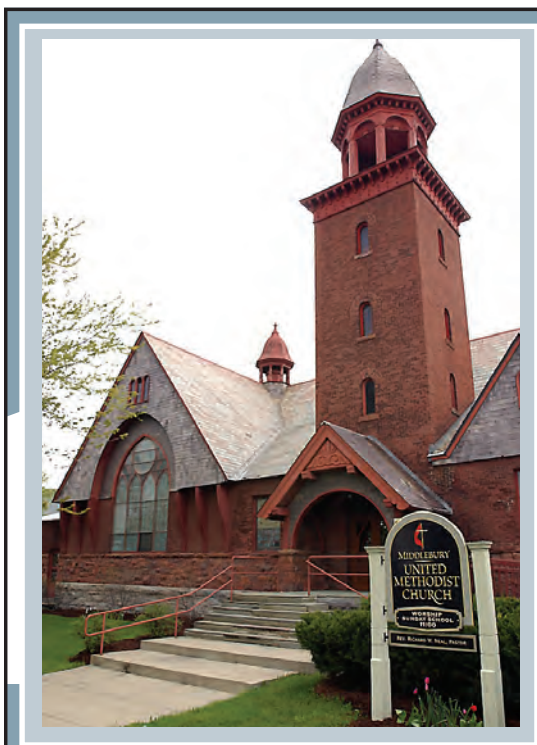
**CHARLOTTE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.** 403 Church Hill Road. Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, pastor. 802-425-3176, [charlotteucc@gmavt.net](mailto:charlotteucc@gmavt.net), [www.charlotteucc.org](http://www.charlotteucc.org). Services in-person or via Zoom. Sundays 10 a.m.: Worship service and Sunday school.

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.** 2894 Spear St. Rev. James E. Zuccaro, 802-425-2253, [carmel@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:carmel@vermontcatholic.org). Sunday Masses, 8 and 11 a.m. Weekday Masses, Wednesday, 8 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday, 5:15 p.m. Confession, Saturdays, 4 p.m. at St. Jude's in Hinesburg, or by appointment.

## CORNWALL

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CORNWALL.** 2598 Route 30. 802-462-3111 or [CornwallCongregationalChurch@gmail.com](mailto:CornwallCongregationalChurch@gmail.com). Sunday worship 10 a.m.

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### OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS

Together with our neighbors we work for social and personal transformation, justice, healing, and peace. As a reconciling congregation, our intention is to love our neighbor in the spirit of God's reconciling love.



### Holy Week Services:

**Good Friday -**  
Self-Guided Prayer Stations from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**Easter - Sunday Morning Service**  
at 11:00 a.m.



### WORSHIP SERVICE: SUNDAY AT 11:00 A.M.

Worship with us in-person or on Zoom.

**MIDDLEBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
43 North Pleasant Street, (corner of Seminary Street) Middlebury

[middumc@gmail.com](mailto:middumc@gmail.com)  
[www.umcmiddlebury.org](http://www.umcmiddlebury.org)

Pastor: Myungso Lee | Minister of Music: Dr. Kevin Parizo



### EAST MIDDLEBURY

**EAST MIDDLEBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** Corner of Routes 125 and 116. Myungso Lee, pastor, myungohope@gmail.com. Sunday Worship, 9 a.m. All are welcome.

**VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH.** 322 East Main St. Rev. Ed Wheeler, pastor. 802-388-7137. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:45 a.m.

### FERRISBURGH

**NORTH FERRISBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** 277 Old Hollow Rd. The Rev. Sunjae Lee, pastor. 802-425-2770, nfumc@gmavt.net or nfumchurch.org. Sunday worship, 10 a.m., in the sanctuary or via YouTube. Sunday school, 10 a.m. Call for information on youth group and adult education.

### HINESBURG

**SAINT JUDE THE APOSTLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.** 10759 Route 116. Rev. James E. Zuccaro, 802-425-2253. Saturday Mass, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m. Weekday Masses Monday, Friday, 8 a.m. Confession, Saturday, 4 p.m., and by appointment. 802-482-2290, stjude@vermontcatholic.org.

### LINCOLN

**SUNRAY MEDITATION SOCIETY AND SUNRAY PEACE VILLAGE.** 2202 Downingsville Rd. 802-453-4610 or sunray.org. Home of the Green Mountain Ani Yunwiwa and Vajra Dakini Nunnery. Cherokee Ceremonial Cycle on new moons; Cherokee and Tibetan Buddhist teachings offered. Come join us to renew the Sacred Hoop in these times.

**UNITED CHURCH OF LINCOLN.** 23 Quaker St. Rev. Co'Relous C. Bryant, pastor. 802-453-4280, email: ucol@gmavt.net, on the web at unitedchurchoflincoln.org. In-person and streaming services Sundays, 9:45 a.m.

### MIDDLEBURY

**ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (SAINT MARY'S).** 326 College St. Father Luke Austin, Pastor; Father Brandon Schneider, Parochial Vicar. Masses: Saturday, 5:15 p.m., Sunday 8 and 10 a.m., Weekday Mass, Tuesdays, 5:15 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday, 8 a.m. Adoration, Mondays 5:30-6:30 p.m. Confession, Tuesdays, 5:45-6:15 p.m., Saturdays, 4:30-5 p.m. 802-388-2943, www.stmary.vermontcatholic.org, abvmmary@vermontcatholic.org.

**BREAD LOAF MOUNTAIN ZEN COMMUNITY.** Gather, 48 Merchants Row. Gathering of Joys and Concerns. Sundays, 9-10 a.m. An informal circle in which people can share a joy or a concern, or just listen. It is an opportunity to express feelings in a safe and welcoming space. Followed by coffee and cookies gathering/social hour. People may come in and leave as they wish. Middy Mindfulness, Wednesday-Saturday, noon-12:30 p.m.

**BUDDHIST SANGHA IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday evenings, 5-6 p.m. on Zoom led by Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society's Dinah Smith. Open to the public. All meditation practices and levels of experience welcome. Zoom link and more info at cvuus.org/connection/sangha.

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## St. Peter's and St. Ambrose Catholic Churches

Fr. Steven R. Marchand,  
Parish Priest



**St. Peter's, 85 S. Maple Street, Vergennes: (802) 877-2367**

**St. Ambrose, 11 School Street, Bristol: (802) 453-2488**

#### Lord's Day Services

**Saturday: 4:30pm**

**Sunday: 11:00am**

Monday: 9:00am

Friday: 12:05pm with adoration - 3pm

#### Lord's Day Services

**Saturday: 6:30pm**

**Sunday: 8:30am**

Tuesday: 6:30pm with adoration - 8pm

Wednesday: 9:00am

[stambrorespeter.vermontcatholic.org](http://stambrorespeter.vermontcatholic.org)



# Assumption of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**ST. MARY'S - ST. BERNADETTE - ST. GENEVIEVE**

St. Mary's Church - 326 College Street, Middlebury, VT  
St. Bernadette Church - 9 Crown Point Road, Bridport, VT (Mission)  
stmary.vermontcatholic.org | Parish Office: 802-388-2943

## Celebrate Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 24  
Regular Mass Schedule  
Penance Service - St. Mary's - 2:00 pm

Monday of Holy Week – March 25  
Chrism Mass – St. Joseph Cathedral – 11 am

Holy Thursday – March 28  
Mass of the Lord's Supper – St. Mary's – 7:00 pm  
Adoration – 8:15 – 9:15 pm

Good Friday – March 29  
Ecumenical Service – St. Stephen's – 12:00 pm  
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion – St. Mary's – 3:00 pm  
Stations of the Cross – St. Mary's – 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday – March 30  
Easter Vigil – St. Mary's – 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday – March 31  
St. Mary's – 7:30 am & 9:30 am  
St. Bernadette's – 11:00 am

## Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalists



Our vision is to be a truly Beloved Community - welcoming people of all backgrounds, all religious and spiritual inclinations, and every age. Bring yourself, your family, and all your questions. Join us for a joyful, music-filled celebration of life and hope!

**NURTURE** your spirit.  
Help **HEAL** our world.

**Sunday worship at 10 am onsite and online.**

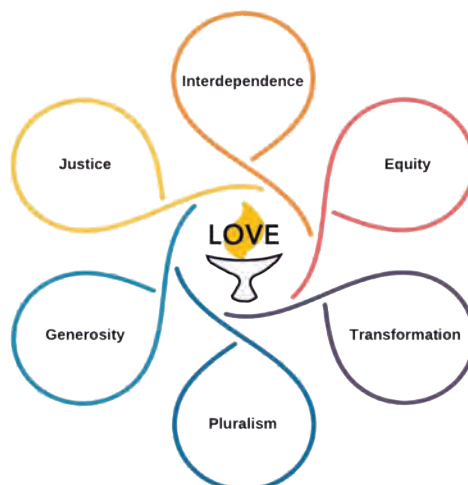
Stay for Social Hour in Fellowship Hall.  
See [cvuus.org](http://cvuus.org) for pathways to connect, more on our award-winning religious exploration programs for children and to reserve space.



Scan this code to view our video.



Rev. Tricia and Rev. Christina





**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY.** Corner of Duane Court and Charles Avenue. Rev. Patricia Hart and Rev. Christina Sillari interim pastors. 802-388-8080. [cvuus.org](http://cvuus.org). Sunday service onsite and online, 10 a.m. Programs for children explore social justice, a study of other faith traditions, human sexuality, and more. Small Group Ministry and Vespers services offer other options.

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MIDDLEBURY, UCC.** 2 Main St. The Rev. Andrew Nagy-Benson, sr. pastor; The Rev. Elizabeth Gleich, associate pastor. 802-388-7634. [www.midducc.org](http://www.midducc.org). Services at 10 a.m. in person and on [livefacebook.com/MidUCC](https://www.facebook.com/MidUCC). Masks optional. Our mission is to live as Jesus taught, loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves. We are an open and affirming church of The United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS.** 133 Valley View Drive, Buttolph Acres. Clerk's Office: 802-388-3102. Travis Park, Bishop, Middlebury Ward. Sunday meetings: Sacrament Meeting 9 a.m.; Organization meetings 10 a.m.

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH.** 52 Merchants Row. Pastor Bob Henley. 802-453-3003. [gracebaptistmiddlebury.com](http://gracebaptistmiddlebury.com). Sunday morning worship and Sunday school, 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible study and prayer, 7 p.m. via Zoom (email for invitations). Visitors welcome.

**HAVURAH, THE ADDISON COUNTY JEWISH CONGREGATION.** 56 N. Pleasant St. Middlebury. Shabbat services and Torah Study in-person (and Zoom). Weekly Hebrew School. Holiday celebrations and Community events contact [hheddirector@gmail.com](mailto:hheddirector@gmail.com) or visit [havurahaddisoncounty.org](http://havurahaddisoncounty.org). We are a lay led, non-denominational and inclusive Jewish community. Online links at [havurahaddisoncounty.org](http://havurahaddisoncounty.org). on Facebook at [HavurahofAddisonCounty](https://www.facebook.com/HavurahofAddisonCounty).

**MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH (AMERICAN BAPTIST).** 97 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury. The Rev. Dr. Stephanie Allen, pastor. [www.memorialbaptistvt.org](http://www.memorialbaptistvt.org), 802-388-7472, [membaptistvt@gmail.com](mailto:membaptistvt@gmail.com). Sunday Services at 10 a.m. (also live-streamed on [youtube.com/@memorialbaptistchurch5157](https://www.youtube.com/@memorialbaptistchurch5157)) with Sunday School for K-adult at 9 a.m. Nursery available for 0-4 (9a.m.-11:15a.m.) Hepa air purifiers in each room and in the sanctuary. Small groups during the week. Monthly Prayer and Praise service.

**MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING (QUAKERS).** Havurah House, 56 North Pleasant St. (Route 7). 802-989-7034. [middleburyquakers.org](http://middleburyquakers.org). [tomrbaskett@gmail.com](mailto:tomrbaskett@gmail.com) 802-388-6453, [jrosenbe@middlebury.edu](mailto:jrosenbe@middlebury.edu). Meetings for worship and children's programs, Sundays, 10-11 a.m., both in-person and or via Zoom.

**MIDDLEBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** Corner of Route 7 and Seminary Street. Pastor Rev. Myungso Lee. [middumc@gmail.com](mailto:middumc@gmail.com). 802-388-2510. Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. A Reconciling Congregation. Worship, Sundays, 11 a.m., in-person or via Zoom. Links at [www.umcmiddlebury.org](http://www.umcmiddlebury.org).

**ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** On the green in Middlebury at 3 Main Street. The Rev. Paul V. Olsson, priest-in-charge. [www.ststephensmidd.org](http://www.ststephensmidd.org) and [ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com). Sunday Services: 8 a.m., in-person only; 10:30 a.m., in-person and via Zoom. Link at <https://zoom.us/j/360635588>. Compline Services, Tuesdays, Nov. 12, 14 & 28, 2023 Join us for a brief evening service each Tuesday evening, to light a candle and pray for peace in the Holy Land. All are welcome.

## MONKTON

**MONKTON FRIENDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** 78 Monkton Ridge. Paul Hoffman, pastor, 802-453-3020. [monktonfriendschurch@gmail.com](mailto:monktonfriendschurch@gmail.com). Sunday worship/youth education program, 9 a.m.

## NEW HAVEN

**NEW HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.** 91 Town Hill Rd. Pastor Abigail Diehl-Noble. 802-282-6944. [pastornewhavenchurchvt@gmail.com](mailto:pastornewhavenchurchvt@gmail.com) and [www.newhavencongregationalchurch.com](http://www.newhavencongregationalchurch.com). Worship and Sunday School in our Children's Church, Sundays at 10 a.m.

**NEW HAVEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH.** 1660 Ethan Allen Highway (Route 7). Rev. Andrew Knott, pastor. 802-388-1345. [newhavenvermonturc@gmail.com](mailto:newhavenvermonturc@gmail.com), [www.nhurc.org](http://www.nhurc.org). Morning Worship Sundays, 10 a.m. Sunday School/Catechism, 11:15 a.m. Evening Worship, 7 p.m. Also available on YouTube and SermonAudio.

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## ORWELL

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.** The Rev. David Anderson, pastor. 802-948-2900. [firstcongregationalchurchorwell.com](http://firstcongregationalchurchorwell.com); [orwellcongregationalchurch@gmail.com](mailto:orwellcongregationalchurch@gmail.com). In-person Sunday worship service, 10 a.m.

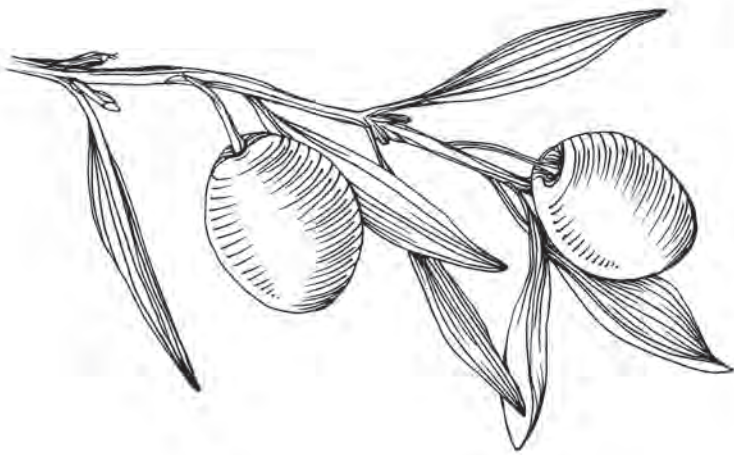
**SAINT PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.** 75 Church St., Fr. Kevin Chalifoux. 802-468-5706. [kchalifoux@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:kchalifoux@vermontcatholic.org) or general parish, [olsdvt@yahoo.com](mailto:olsdvt@yahoo.com) [www.ourladysevendolors.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.ourladysevendolors.vermontcatholic.org). [www.facebook.com/olsdvt](http://www.facebook.com/olsdvt). Mass, Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

## PANTON

**PANTON COMMUNITY CHURCH.** 49 Adams Ferry Road, just north of the Panton Town Hall. Contemporary and traditional hymns, Biblical preaching, loving community. Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. with Junior Church for 3rd grade and under. Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Tom Lupien 802-734-8573. For more information including our beliefs, visit [pantonchurchvt.org](http://pantonchurchvt.org).

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# HAVURAH OF ADDISON COUNTY



## WHO WE ARE

We are a volunteer-driven, non-denominational, inclusive Jewish community for individuals, couples, and families, including multifaith and LGBTQ+.

## JOIN US

Shabbat services, holiday celebrations, Jewish learning for all levels, vibrant opportunities for kids of all ages, and a commitment to tikkun olam — to repair and improve the world.

## CONNECT WITH US

Our address: 56 North Pleasant St. Middlebury  
Online: [havurahaddisoncounty.org](http://havurahaddisoncounty.org)  
Email: [HHEdDirector@gmail.com](mailto:HHEdDirector@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [HavurahOfAddisonCounty](https://www.facebook.com/HavurahOfAddisonCounty)



**The Bridport Church • CCCC**  
54/72 Middle Road • Bridport, VT

*Pastor Bob Bushman*

# Holy Week

Good Friday Prayer Service: 12-3PM

Easter Sunrise Service: 6:30AM

375 North Cream Hill Road, Bridport, VT

Breakfast at the Vestry: 7:30AM

Easter Sunday Worship: 9AM

Call 802-388-7423





## PITTSFORD

**SAINT ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH**, 2918 Route 7. Mass Sundays, 9 a.m.

**FURNACE BROOK WESLEYAN CHURCH** 3325 Route 7. Sundays, 9 a.m.

**PITTSFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**. 121 Village Green, Sundays, 10:15 a.m.

## RIPTON

**RIPTON COMMUNITY CHURCH, UNITED METHODIST**. No regular services, but the facility is available for religious and social events. 802-388-0338.

## ROCHESTER

**FEDERATED CHURCH OF ROCHESTER**. The Rev. Gregory Homan, pastor. 802-767-3012. fdchroch@myfairpoint.net. Sunday worship, 10 a.m. Sunday school during the school year.

**SAINT ELIZABETH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**. 169 South Main St. Rev. Father Scott A. Gratton. 802-728-5251. OLAOLV@vermontcatholic.org. ourladyvt.org. Mass Saturday, 4 p.m. Adoration, Saturdays, 3-3:45 p.m. Confession, Saturdays, 3-3:45 p.m.

## SALISBURY

**SALISBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)**. The Rev. John Grivetti, pastor. Sundays, 10 a.m.

## SHOREHAM

**SHOREHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH-UCC**. Marion Paquette, pastor. Intersection of Main Street and School Road. 802-897-2687. Sunday service, 10 a.m., downstairs in Fellowship Hall during winter months.

## STARKSBORO

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARKSBORO**. 2806 Vermont Route 116. Services conducted by laypersons, Sunday mornings, 10 a.m. Sunday school, 9 a.m. Food share, Sundays. 2:30 p.m., Age Well Grab & Go meals/ Everybody Eats, Fridays, 3:30 p.m. www.starksborobaptistchurch.org.

## VERGENNES/WALTHAM

**CROSS LIFE CHURCH (formerly Assembly of God Christian Center)**. 1759 Route 7, Vergennes. Pastors Guy Miller and Tana Miller. 802-877-3903, office@crosslifechurchvt.org, www.crosslifechurchvt.org. In-person services Sundays, 10 a.m. Wednesday prayer group, 9-10 a.m.

**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**. 73 Church St., Waltham. Pastor Philip VanderWindt. 802-877-2500. Sunday worship services are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. in person.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF VERGENNES (UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)**. 30 S. Water Street. The Rev. Elliott Munn, pastor. 802-877-2435, vucc@vergennessucc.org, www.vergennessucc.org. In-person and online services, Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Yoga, second Saturdays; 9-9:45 a.m., gentle/ chair yoga, 10-11:15 a.m., flow yoga.

**SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**. Corner of Main and Park streets, Vergennes. The Rev. Nancy Hauser. 802-877-3322. saintpaulsvergenness@gmail.com, www.saintpaulsvergenness.org. Worship services in person or via Zoom, Sundays, 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

**SAINT PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**. 85 South Maple St. Fr. Steven R. Marchand, pastor. 802-877-2367. Masses: Saturdays, 4:30 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.; Mondays, 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 12:05 p.m.; Confession, Monday 7-8 p.m.; Saturday, 3:30-4:20 p.m. or by appointment.

**VERGENNES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**. 121 Main St., Vergennes, across from the Vergennes Opera House. Street parking. The Rev. Mike Doran and Rev. Paul Hoffman. 802-877-3376. Sunday worship, in person & online, 10:30 a.m. vergenneswestaddisonumc@gmail.com.

**VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH**. 862 Route 7. Senior pastor Tim Taylor; Youth and Music pastor John Kaufman. 802-877-3393. victoryvt.org Sunday services: Bible hour 9:30 a.m., Worship services 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Prayer and Bible study for adults. Deaf interpretation available.

## WEYBRIDGE

**WEYBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**. 2790 Weybridge Rd. Rev. Caryne Eskridge, pastor. 802-545-2579. weybridgechurch@gmail.com, www.weybridgechurch.org. Worship Sundays, 10 a.m.

## WHITING

**WHITING COMMUNITY CHURCH**. Brett Cody, pastor. In-person services, Service Times: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m., Sunday Morning: 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday Night Kids & Youth, 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Night Bible Study, 7 p.m. No masks required.



# Holy Week Services

NOTE: Plans may change. Please call your church to confirm.

## ADDISON

**ADDISON COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH.** Easter service, Sunday, March 31, 10:30 a.m.

**WEST ADDISON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** Palm Sunday service, Sunday, March 24, 9 a.m. Easter service, Sunday, March 31, 9 a.m. More info at [vergennewestaddisonumc@gmail.com](mailto:vergennewestaddisonumc@gmail.com).

## BRANDON

**SAINT THOMAS & GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 10 a.m., Procession with palms and Eucharist. Maundy Thursday, March 28, 6 p.m., Eucharist followed by the stripping of the altar. Good Friday, March 29, 12 noon, join Christians in Brandon for Walk of The Cross from center of town to Saint Mary's Church. Easter Sunday, March 31 10 a.m., join us to celebrate the Risen Christ. Throughout Holy Week, feel free to visit our Faith Community Garden, with its shrouded cross, to sit quietly or pray.

## BRIDPORT

**THE BRIDPORT CHURCH CCCC.** Prayer service, Friday, March 29, noon-3 p.m. Easter service, Sunday March 31, 10:30 a.m.

*(Continued on Page 12)*



## NEW HAVEN Congregational:

An Open and Affirming Church  
with a Heart for our New Haven Community



### MISSIONS

Pollinator gardens • Food shelf  
Migrant support

## Easter Services

**Sunrise Service 6:30 am**  
on the Green in New Haven  
(breakfast to follow in the church)  
**10 am in the Church**

91 Town Hill Road  
On the Green in New Haven  
802-282-6944  
[pastornewhavenchurchvt@gmail.com](mailto:pastornewhavenchurchvt@gmail.com)  
[www.newhavencongregationalchurch.org](http://www.newhavencongregationalchurch.org)



Regular Worship Services: 10am  
Pastor: Abigail Diehl-Noble

# Holy Week Services

**SAINT BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.** Palm Sunday Mass, Saturday, March 23, 7:30 p.m., Easter Mass, Sunday, March 31, 11 a.m.

## BRISTOL

**BRISTOL FEDERATED CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:15 a.m.. Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, 6-7:30  
Potluck Dinner and Service of Tenebrae in Education Wing. Easter Service, Sunday, March 31, Easter Breakfast at 9:15 a.m. followed by service at 10:15 a.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRISTOL.** Good Friday Service, March 29, 6:30 p.m. Easter Sunrise Service, March 31, 6 a.m., 188 Purinton Road, dress warm; Fellowship breakfast at the church, 7:30 a.m., Easter Worship Service with communion, 10 a.m.

**SAINT AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.; Good Friday Liturgy, March 29, 7 p.m.; Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, Saturday, March 30, 8 p.m.; Easter Mass, Sunday, March 31, 8:30 a.m.

## CHARLOTTE

**CHARLOTTE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.** Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, 10 a.m. (livestreamed), services of Palms and Passion with a dramatic retelling of the Passion of Jesus Christ. No fellowship time after service. Stations of the Cross, Monday, March 25- Friday, March 29, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m., Service of Tenebrae (Shadows) in the vestry including music, candlelight readings, and a reenactment of the Last Supper. Easter Vigil, Thursday, March 28-Friday, March 29, 8 p.m.-3 p.m. Holy Saturday, March 30, noon, Easter Egg Hunt for families in the community. Easter Sunday, March 31, Sunrise service, 6:15 a.m., Church lawn; Worship services, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., can be livestreamed on church's YouTube channel.

**OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.** Palm Sunday Mass, March 24, 8 and 11 a.m.; Good Friday at 3 p.m.; Easter Sunday Mass, March 31, 8 and 11 a.m.

## EAST MIDDLEBURY

**EAST MIDDLEBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 9 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 31, 9 a.m. All are welcome.

*(Continued on Page 13)*



FRITZ EICHENBERG

## MIDDLEBURY FRIENDS MEETING

A WELCOMING QUAKER COMMUNITY  
DEDICATED TO PEACE, JUSTICE,  
AND CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Meeting for Worship on Sundays, 10-11am  
Havurah House, 56 North Pleasant Street, Middlebury

**Choose to attend  
in-person or on Zoom.**

*At the center of Quakerism is Meeting for Worship,  
when Friends sit in silence opening their hearts  
and minds to the leadings of the Spirit.  
This may move any one of us to give a short message  
as together we feel the presence of the Spirit.*

[www.middleburyquakers.com](http://www.middleburyquakers.com)

FOR INFORMATION CALL 802-388-8024

# Holy Week Services

## HINESBURG

**SAINT JUDE THE APOSTLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.** Palm Sunday: Saturday Mass, March 23, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday Mass, March 24, 9:30 a.m.; Holy Thursday at 7 p.m., Good Friday at 7 p.m.; Easter: Saturday Mass, March 30 at 8 p.m.; Sunday Mass, March 31, 9:30 a.m.

## LINCOLN

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF LINCOLN.** Palm Sunday Service, March 24, 9:45 a.m. Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m., Communion and Tenebrae (a service of shadows and darkness). Good Friday, March 29, noon, Foot-washing ritual. Easter Sunrise Service on Gove Hill, Sunday, March 31, 6:30 a.m. (call United Church of Lincoln at 453-4280 for details); Easter Service at 9:45 a.m.

## MIDDLEBURY

**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY.** Easter Sunday, March 31, 10 a.m. Rev. Patricia Hart asks “can we still be startled into joy” and “how can we practice resurrection” in these times.

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MIDDLEBURY, UCC.** In-person worship Palm Sunday, March 24, 10 a.m.; Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, March 31, 6:30 a.m. Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service (Alumni Stadium, Middlebury College), 10 a.m. Our Palm Sunday and Easter services will also be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. More info at 802-388-7634 or [www.midducc.org](http://www.midducc.org).

**MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH.** Holy Week devotionals, Monday-Friday, March 25-29, 7-7:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall; Maundy Thursday

service, March 28, 7 p.m.; Concert “The Seven Last Words of Christ” by Haydn, Friday, March 29, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, March 31, 6:45 a.m., 1126 Halpin Road; Easter Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Sunday services also live-streamed on YouTube. [www.memorialbaptistvt.org](http://www.memorialbaptistvt.org).

**MIDDLEBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 11 a.m.; Self-guided Prayer Stations: A Lenten Devotion for Good Friday, Friday, March 29, visit anytime between 1-3 p.m.; Easter Sunday, March 31, 11 a.m., hybrid (in-person and Zoom).

**SAINT MARY’S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION).** Palm Sunday: March 24, 8 and 10 a.m.; Holy Thursday, March 28, Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7 p.m., Adoration 8:15-9:15 p.m.; Good Friday, March 29, ecumenical service, noon, (at St. Stephen’s), Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion, 3 p.m., Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m.; Holy Saturday, March 30, Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.; Easter Sunday, March 31, 7:30 and 9:30 a.m.

**ST. STEPHEN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** Palm Sunday, March 24, Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist, 8 a.m.; Godly Play, 10:30 a.m.; Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist\*, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Wednesday, March 27, Simple Said Eucharist in the nave, 12:15 p.m.; Maundy Thursday, March 28, Holy Eucharist with Foot-Washing and Stripping of the Altar\*, 7 p.m.; Good Friday, March 29, Ecumenical Good Friday Liturgy, noon; Good Friday Liturgy\*, 7 p.m.; Holy Saturday, March 30, Morning Prayer in the Chapel, 9 a.m.; Easter Sunday, March 31, Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.; Godly Play 10:30 a.m.; Festive Holy Eucharist with choir\*, 10:30 a.m. \*These services are also available on Zoom. Please see website, [ststephensmidd.org](http://ststephensmidd.org), for Zoom links.

## ORWELL

**SAINT PAUL’S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.** Palm Sunday Mass, March 24, 11:15 a.m. Holy Thursday, March 28, Last Supper Mass at 4 p.m. followed by Adoration until 10 p.m. Good Friday, March 29, 3 p.m., Passion of Our Lord service. Holy Saturday, March 30, 4:30 p.m., Easter vigil. Easter Sunday Mass, March 31, 11:15 a.m.

## PANTON

**PANTON COMMUNITY CHURCH.** Good Friday service, March 29, 7 p.m. Easter breakfast, Sunday, March 31, 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m.

## SHOREHAM

**SHOREHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.** Palm Sunday worship service, March 24, at 10 a.m.; Good Friday prayer vigil, March 29, 1 to 2 p.m.; Easter Sunday worship service, March 31, at 10 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

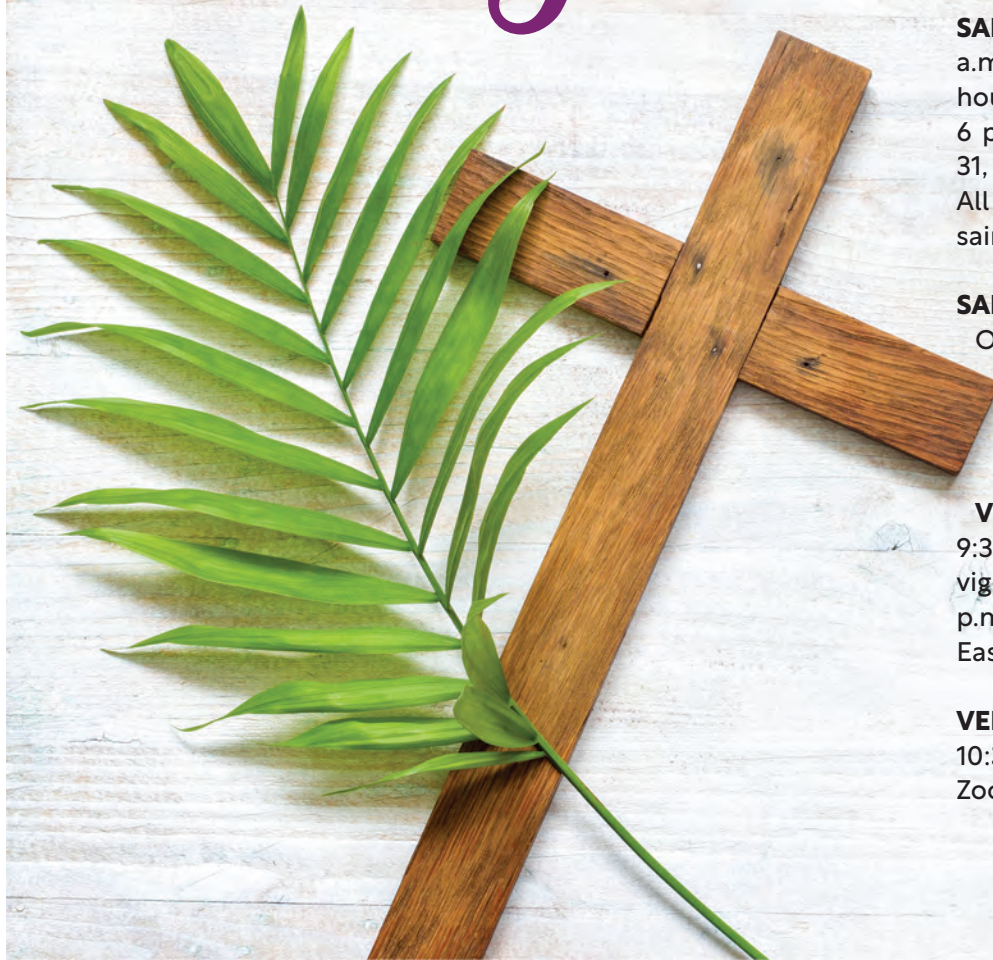
## VERGENNES

**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH.** Palm Sunday Service, Sunday, March 24, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Good Friday Service, Friday, March 29, 6:30 p.m.; Easter Service, Sunday, March 31, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

(Continued on Page 14)



# Holy Week Services



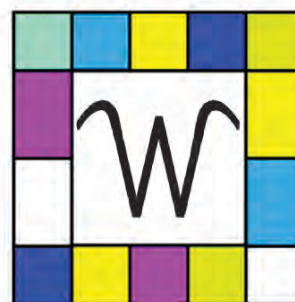
**SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 9:30 a.m., Service of Holy Eucharist with Blessing of the Palms and coffee hour to follow. Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Eucharist, March 28, 6 p.m. Good Friday Service, March 29, 6 p.m. Easter Sunday, March 31, 9 a.m., Service of Holy Eucharist with Easter coffee hour to follow. All are welcome, both in person and via Zoom. Zoom link at [www.saintpaulsvergennes.org/services](http://www.saintpaulsvergennes.org/services).

**SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 11 a.m.; Office of Tenebrae, Wednesday, March 27, 8 p.m.; Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper, Holy Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.; Stations of the Cross, Good Friday, March 29, 2:30pm; Easter Mass, Sunday, March 31, 11 a.m.

**VERGENNES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 9:30 a.m.; Maundy Thursday service and dinner followed by all-night vigil, March 28, 6 p.m.; ecumenical Good Friday service, March 29, 3:00 p.m.; Eggstravaganza egg hunt, Saturday, March 30, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Easter service, March 31, 9:30 a.m.

**VERGENNES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. For Zoom access link contact [vergenneswestaddisonumc@gmail.com](mailto:vergenneswestaddisonumc@gmail.com).

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**Weybridge  
Congregational  
Church**  
United Church of Christ

**We celebrate our rich history as we actively respond to the challenges in today's world.** Our current brick-and-stone house of worship was built in 1847 and this congregation has been worshipping on Weybridge Hill since 1794.

We are known for our commitment to social and environmental justice, inspiring worship for all, and mission and outreach to serve others in the community, both locally and globally. **Consider paying us a visit!**



Rev. Caryne A. Eskridge

## VISIT THE CHURCH WEBSITE

[weybridgechurch.org](http://weybridgechurch.org)

or email [weybridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:weybridgechurch@gmail.com) to receive our worship (including a Zoom option), newsletter and fellowship offerings.

*We invite you to come — and celebrate God's presence, seek God's word for your life, offer your gifts, and share in a caring and inclusive community of God's people.*



Weybridge Hill on Weybridge Road, or Rte 23, 3 miles north of Middlebury and 4 miles south of Rte 17

**Pastor:** Rev. Caryne A. Eskridge

**Church Office:** 802-545-2579

**Email:** [weybridgechurch@gmail.com](mailto:weybridgechurch@gmail.com)

**Address:** 2790 Weybridge Road, Weybridge, VT 05753

# Holy Week Services

**VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:30 a.m., free palm crosses. Easter egg hunt, Saturday, March 30, 10–11 a.m., bring your own basket for the egg hunt that will include hundreds of eggs, a craft, games, snacks, and a Bible story. Easter services, Sunday, March 31, 7:30 a.m. early service, 9:30 a.m. Bible hour, 10:30 a.m. Easter morning worship.

## WEYBRIDGE

**WEYBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.** Palm Sunday, March 24, 10

a.m.; Maundy Thursday Soup Dinner and Worship, March 28, 5:30 p.m.; Easter Pancake Breakfast, March 31, 7 a.m., Weybridge Church; Easter Sunday, March 31, 9 a.m.

## WHITING

**WHITING COMMUNITY CHURCH.** Palm Sunday service, March 24, 10:30 a.m. Good Friday service, March 29, 7 p.m. Resurrection Sunday Sunrise service, March 31, 6:30 a.m.; community-wide breakfast: 7:30–8:30 a.m.; Easter Worship service, 9 a.m.

## The Vergennes Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Elliott Munn, Pastor



We are an Open and Affirming Christian Community seeking to be a place of sanctuary, healing, inclusion, challenge and compassion. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



### MISSION

- Community Food Shelf on premises.
- Assistance with fuel, rent, car repairs, electricity, dental and medical bills.
- Laundry Love — Free laundry once a month.



- Sunday services in the Sanctuary, and on livestream
- Adult Spirituality Groups, Wednesdays 9:30 am in-person and 7:30 pm on Zoom
- Weekly youth group meetings
- Sharing meals together

**Easter Eggstravaganza! Sat., March 30, 9:30-11:30**  
Egg hunt at 10  
Hands-on interactive games  
Snacks and allergy-friendly alternatives  
*Free Event - All ages welcome*

Sunday services (9:30 am) at 30 South Water St., Vergennes  
Rev. Elliott Munn on leave. Contact: Guest Minister Ava Bilton for assistance or details.

802-877-2435 | [vucc@vergenesucc.org](mailto:vucc@vergenesucc.org) | [www.vergenesucc.org](http://www.vergenesucc.org)

## NORTH FERRISBURGH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### *Celebrate Spring!*

Celebrate the arrival of spring with us at our upcoming event, ***Celebrate Spring!*** Join us for an evening of music and poetry, featuring the talented neighbors and North Ferrisburgh UMC church members.

**Date:** Thursday, April 4, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Location:** North Ferrisburgh UMC, 227 Old Hollow Road, North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473



*This event is open to all and free to attend, but we welcome donations.*

*All proceeds will support the mission of the Dismas House, a non-profit organization that provides transitional housing for those who were previously incarcerated, facilitating their reintegration into society.*

# VICTORY BAPTIST MINISTRIES

*"On the outskirts of Vergennes, with an outreach to the world."*



## Victory Baptist Church

### Home of The Ark Preschool & Kindergarten

We strive to be a friendly congregation providing ministry to all ages.

Over 50 years of ministry in Addison County! On the outskirts of Vergennes with an outreach to the World.

Please join us for a service!

Scan this QR code to visit our website: [victoryvt.org](http://victoryvt.org)



### When Do We Meet?

Sunday 9:30 am: Bible Hour - Age-divided classes from nursery through senior saints.

Sunday 10:30 am and 6pm: Worship Services

Wednesday 6:30 pm: Prayer and Bible Study

**AWANA Clubs Kids' Program** for children ages 3 years-6th grade during the school year

**Kids programs** during the summer


**Youth Group 180** for junior high and high schoolers


**Prayer & Bible Study** for Adults


*Nursery provided for infants up to 3 years old for all services*

### CONTACT US

802.877.3393 

[www.victoryvt.org](http://www.victoryvt.org) 

[victoryvt@gmail.com](mailto:victoryvt@gmail.com) 

862 US Route 7, Vergennes, VT 05491 

#### ARK PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN

A local church ministry of Victory Baptist Church

The Ark is a Monday-Friday academic-based program for 3-5-year-old Preschool and Kindergarten. Our program is a State recognized program, subsidy-eligible, and has a 4 STARS rating. We offer full-time, half-time and school-plus options, from 7:30 to 5:00 pm.

#### SUMMER ADVENTURE DAY CAMP

The Ark offers a summer day camp, 7:30 to 5:00 daily for boys and girls ages 3 years to 10 years. Field trips, swimming, swimming lessons, fishing, crafts, cooking, gardening, games, reading and much more! This year's theme is Destination Asia. Each week we will explore Asian locations, architecture, culture and more through a fun-filled summer experience.

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 8-11 – Vacation Bible School – 9:00 to 11:00 am daily – ages 3-10 years. Free to all and all are welcome!

### Easter Services and Activities

Palm Sunday, March 24 – 10:30 am | Free palm crosses.

Saturday, March 30 – 10 to 11:00 am | Free Easter Egg Hunt – bring your basket and join us! Crafts, games, snacks, Bible story and HUNDREDS of eggs for a great egg hunt!

Sunday, March 31 – 7:30 am Early Service  
9:30 am Bible Hour | 10:30 am Easter morning worship  
No evening service.

