



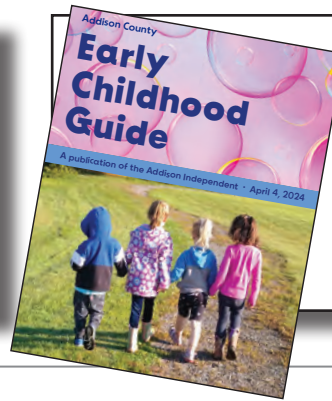
Talented pair

A Lincoln couple is lauded for their longtime contributions to the arts. See Arts + Leisure.



Close call

The undefeated Panther women's lacrosse team survived a challenge. Find out how on Page 1B.



Grow kids

The new childcare law and dedicated early educators have made a difference. Read our pull-out.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Beeman parents worry for students, staff

As with other schools, more help is needed

By MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — Beeman Elementary School parent Morgen Doane had a clear message for the Mount Abraham Unified School District Board at its March 26 meeting: She and other parents are worried students and educators aren't getting the support they need.

Instead, they get emails from the

school about "clear the classroom" events almost daily, they said.

Doane told the *Independent* that classroom evacuations take place across grade levels at Beeman, though largely in the first-grade class. Room evacuations are sometimes used when a student is exhibiting disruptive or dangerous behavior.

"We have heard stories of

teachers asking for help with students and not getting it," she told the board, reading from a letter co-authored by around 30 fellow parents and community members.

"We've heard stories of students having (special education plans) ignored. We've heard stories of parents trying desperately to get their kids help and nothing is done. We've heard stories of students ending up in extreme, emergency situations directly related to

overwhelmed teachers."

Schools across the country are grappling with an uptick in student misbehavior exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and Addison County's learning communities are no exception.

Other local school boards have heard similar accounts in recent weeks. The *Independent* last week reported on a rise in student behavioral problems in (See Beeman, Page 13A)

County schools struggle with resources for misbehavior

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — Staffing challenges are among several obstacles local administrators face in responding to student misbehavior and meeting pupils' needs, according to officials in each of Addison County's three school districts.

Area schools are among those throughout the country wrestling with a growing number of student behavioral issues. Local parents and educators have in recent weeks shared their concerns over such incidents with district officials and asked for more support for (See Struggles, Page 11A)

Citing salary, local House rep. passes on re-election

By JOHN FLOWERS

ORWELL — Rep. Joe Andriano, D-Orwell, has announced he won't seek re-election to another term representing the Addison-Rutland House district. He cited the financial compromise of holding public office as a major reason.

Andriano will thus become a one-term-and-done legislator, leaving an open seat in the House district that includes Orwell, Shoreham, Whiting, Hubbardton and Sudbury.

"Ever since I was younger, it was my dream to be a state representative," Andriano said through a recent statement to his constituents. "I studied Robert's Rules of Order, volunteered on boards and did my best to learn about how government (See Andriano, Page 14A)



Mad dash for Easter eggs

THE JOY OF the hunt overflows from the faces and bodies of kids racing into a field at the Eddy Farm in Middlebury on Sunday at the start of its annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children were invited to find some of the 4,500 eggs that staff hid throughout one field, and then see horses in the open barns. See more photos on Page 12A.

Independent photo/Steve James

RNESU chief is resigning

Hubert to step down on July 1

By STEVEN JUPITER

The Reporter — Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Superintendent Kristin Hubert has submitted her resignation to the RNESU Board and will leave the position on July 1. Hubert took on the role in 2022, following the resignation of Jeanne Collins, having spent three years as RNESU's Director of Curriculum.

"It has been my pleasure to serve the supervisory union as both superintendent and director of curriculum, contributing to its success while serving the students, teachers and staff," Hubert wrote in an email to the RNESU community on March 22.

(See Hubert, Page 11A)

Local lawmakers call for Vekos to resign

By JOHN S. McCRIGHT

ADDISON COUNTY — Ten out of the 11 members of the Addison County legislative delegation on Monday called for the immediate resignation of Addison County State's Attorney Eva Vekos.

Vekos, who is in her first term as the county's top prosecutor, has

been in hot water since Jan. 25, when she was arrested by state police and cited for driving under the influence after she drove herself to the scene of an untimely death in Bridport. After that she sent an email to local law enforcement agencies saying she felt unsafe around police officers.

Then local victims and victims' advocates complained about the way the Addison County State's Attorney's Office was handling cases. Finally, last week, the Vermont Supreme Court suspended Vekos's license to practice law. The lack of a law license doesn't preclude her from being a state's

attorney, but because is not allowed to try cases in court that will decision will pose a challenge.

The group of Addison County lawmakers sent out a press release Monday afternoon calling for Vekos's resignation. The state reps and state senator all won elections (See Vekos, Page 13A)



By the way

On April 19 a group of intrepid Bristol-area high school students will be traveling to Cape Three Points in Ghana, West Africa, for a three-week cultural exchange/service trip at the Trinity Yard School. The visiting students will be teaching a writing/storytelling course using stories and experiences gathered from their community. In turn, the students will study traditional dancing, drumming and art. In addition to bringing their energy and enthusiasm, they also hope (See By the way, Page 14A)

A young life back from the brink

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The devastating event happened 10 years ago, on April 1, 2014, but Karly McConnell relives it every day.

She'd walked her two children across Weybridge Street, from the Otter Creek Child Center (where she was working at the time) to her minivan. Her children — Charlotte and Micah — stood next to

her as she unlocked the vehicle.

While her mom was tending to the vehicle door, two-and-a-half-year-old Charlotte suddenly stepped back into Weybridge Street upon seeing an OCC teacher she recognized and wanted to greet, according to a Middlebury police report.

Tragically, Charlotte was struck and severely (See Charlotte, Page 16A)



JASE ALLEN AND Charlotte McConnell are two Addison County children who've developed a close friendship while each dealing with disabilities. The roots of their relationship goes back to an accident that nearly took Charlotte's life.

Photo from Jace and Charlotte's Facebook page



STUDENTS AT SALISBURY Community School spent time on Tuesday getting ready for the April 8 eclipse that's expected to draw thousands of people to Vermont. Students in teacher Amy Clapp's grades 3-4 class helped their peers make various eclipse-related models. They also, of course, tried on their special eclipse viewing glasses. Here we see Clapp with students Rowan Rheaume and Charlotte Miller donning their specs while glancing skyward.

Photo by Nancy Velez

Are you ready for the solar eclipse?

ADDISON COUNTY — The only time it is OK to look directly as the sun is when it is completely covered. Surely your mother told you that.

On Monday, if you are in the northern half of Addison County and much of Northern Vermont, you will have that opportunity when the moon passes between us and the Sun and casts a shadow on Earth for a

minute or two. But don't look before then unless you have approved solar eclipse glasses — otherwise it will badly damage your eyes!

And don't throw your eclipse glasses away come Monday evening. A group calling itself Astronomers Without Borders is collecting them to use at future eclipses elsewhere. They won't (See Eclipse, Page 13A)

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MALT to showcase Salisbury mill sites

New project to offer exercise, education

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) later this year will lift the historic veil on what was a thriving mill industry near Salisbury Village during the 18th and 19th centuries.

It's called the Salisbury Mills project, and it will include a series of walking trails, two crossings of the Leicester River, wayfinding signs and a variety of interpretive materials — all aimed at showcasing sites on an 80-acre parcel where some of the town's earliest settlers harnessed waterpower to fuel thriving cotton, lumber and other industries that have receded into time and decay.

"It's been this quiet, dormant nugget of history that people don't know is even there," said MALT Executive Director Jamie Jo Horton. "I think this is a cool example of environmental and historical conservation intersecting."

It was around two decades ago that Max and Jim Peterson — both avid historians and preservationists — donated the 80-acre parcel to MALT. Much of what's known about the early industrial activities that took place on the property are due to the Petersons' past documentary efforts. Those efforts, according to MALT officials, included compiling oral and written information, curating early photographs, collecting and curating historic artifacts, and writing multiple books focusing on the histories of Otter Creek, Lake Dunmore and the town of Salisbury itself.

The Petersons believed MALT had the capacity and connections to care for the property and open it up to the general public. Under terms of the agreement, MALT owns the property while the Vermont Land Trust was enlisted to conserve it.

But MALT's efforts to publicly showcase the Salisbury Mills property hit a snag.

"It's basically landlocked," Horton explained. "It was very difficult for a long time for MALT to create public access, because



THE MIDDLEBURY AREA Land Trust is getting ready to provide public access to its "Salisbury Mills" parcel, which will offer visitors a glimpse of what was a once thriving industrial complex — generating iron ore, lumber and fabric products — fueled by waterpower. Here we see one of two bridge crossings of the Leicester River that are part of the project.

there was nowhere for a parking lot and nowhere for people to enter the property."

This triggered a lengthy, but ultimately successful, dialogue among adjacent landowners, a public utility and other nonprofits. MALT worked with Green Mountain Power to get a trail easement across its property that will allow walkers access to Salisbury Mills. And the New England Forestry Foundation gave MALT the right to build a nearby parking lot on its land, at the corner of Rogers Road and West Shore Road.

Meanwhile, the town of Salisbury gave permission to build a pedestrian crosswalk across West Shore Road.

"We've had the land for a long time; now, we can finally put in some public access there," Horton said.

MALT officials and volunteers

have been working behind the scenes to make sure Salisbury Mills' amenities were ready to go once access and parking were solved.

"All the physical infrastructure has been built, including the parking lot. All of the trails have been established on the property," Horton noted. "The two (Leicester) River crossings have been created. All of the historical, interpretive sites have been identified. We're now doing the final editing for the interpretive signs; those will be installed during the late spring/early summer."

"We're now doing the final editing for the interpretive signs; those will be installed during the late spring/early summer."

— MALT Executive Director Jamie Jo Horton

Horton and her colleagues can't wait to share the property with folks. Plans call for combining the grand opening of Salisbury Mills with MALT's annual celebration, to be set for late August or early September. It will be an education, as well as a nice hike, for visitors.

"I think it's unique in MALT's portfolio, having this incredible historical component. We had to reach outside of our internal network to get the expertise for the archaeological history.

MALT's mission is to connect people with the lands we protect," Horton said. "This parcel is rich in history for the town of Salisbury. It was a booming industrial site that created jobs. It was producing all kinds of iron ore products, had various woolen mills. It was incredible. I think the town of Salisbury has been trying, for some years now, to bring more recreational opportunities to their town, and I think this is a great addition."

She credited all the many partners who've helped make the project happen. They include the Salisbury Historical Society, Salisbury Conservation

(See MALT, Page 3A)

ANWSD board eyes next budget steps

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — At a Monday meeting devoted to discussing the 18-vote March defeat of its \$27.2 million spending plan, the Addison Northwest School District Board edged toward presenting a vote on a third budget, possibly one with \$200,000 of cuts, on April 30 or May 7.

The board has asked Superintendent Sheila Soule to present two budget drafts at a board meeting on Monday, April 8. The board could make a decision on a spending plan and a vote date then, or on Monday, April 15.

One draft the board requested could reflect about \$200,000 of reductions, while the other could be a rerun of the defeated \$27.2 million plan. Board members advocated for each of those options at this past Monday's meeting, but none lobbied for deeper cuts.

"We only lost by 18 (votes), so there is some room to navigate and maybe bring down the cost, but there's no appetite for a really big cut," Board Chair John Stroup told the *Independent* on Tuesday.

At Monday's meeting, board members said they'd like to know and then inform the public what deeper cuts might look like if the next budget fails.

"I don't think our community understands what's at stake if we continue down this path," said board member Kristina MacKulin.

Actions taken last week by ANWSD's central office gave a possible preview. Monday's meeting was held with a backdrop of discontent among district teachers and staff, almost three dozen of whom received worst-case

scenario Reduction In Force (RIF) notices on the previous Friday, mostly at the high school.

Soule said in a follow-up email to the *Independent* that it is "less likely" that a budget with around \$200,000 with cuts would result in any program cuts, however. Many or possibly even all of those who received RIF notices could remain with ANWSD, depending on the next vote.

Soule said in a follow-up email it would be "less likely a \$200,000 cut" would affect programs, but at the meeting made it clear the high school would be hard-hit if such a budget were defeated: "There's nothing more (left to do) than cutting programs."

"I don't think our community understands what's at stake if we continue down this path."

— Kristina MacKulin

Soule explained the RIF notices were necessary in case ANWSD cannot pass a budget by July 1. If that's the case, ANWSD by state statute must move forward with a budget equal to 87% of its current spending.

Soule said that'd mean cutting \$5.4 million and meeting that target would mean drastic measures ANWSD must be ready to make. Moves would include deep cuts to most high school departments and their staff, particularly in elective courses and in extracurriculars such as band, chorus and sports.

TOUGH FINANCES

A central problem the board faces remains the district communities' low Common Levels of Appraisals (CLAs). Soaring real estate values have left district towns' grand lists ranging from 70% to 75% of true market value, as determined by the Department of Taxes.

CLAs measure how well grand lists stack up to fair market value. (See ANWSD budget, Page 3A)

Sparrow Art Supply flies to a new nest

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Downtown Middlebury's Sparrow is leaving its nest, but it's building a new one just a few wingbeats away.

Beth Bluestein, owner of Sparrow Art Supply, confirmed last week her store is relocating from 52 Main St. to a larger and more prominent spot at 44 Main St., where Community Barn Ventures was most recently headquartered. Community Barn owners Stacey Rainey and Mary Cullinane recently moved that business to one of their other enterprises — the Stone Mill, a retail/office/lodging establishment at 3 Mill St.

That relocation opened a prime retail spot at 44 Main St., and Bluestein was happy to fly in with Sparrow. She confirmed a "grand reopening" celebration for Sparrow at its new home on Friday, April 5, from 5-7 p.m.

"When a sparrow outgrows its nest, it starts looking for a new one," Bluestein wrote in a short essay signaling the move. "As luck would have it, we found the perfect next home right up the street from

our old nest, a welcoming space where we are excited to flutter our wings as new and returning friends alike stop in."

As previously reported in the *Independent*, Bluestein (then known as Beth Svenningsen) hatched Sparrow two years ago at 52 Main St. — a downstairs spot under Middlebury Mountaineer. An accomplished painter in her own right, Bluestein found plenty of fellow artists in Addison County, but precious few art supply options. She decided to do something about it.

She discovered the Better Middlebury Partnership's Kick Start program, which offered grants of \$15,000 to \$20,000 to entrepreneurs seeking to fill one of several vacant downtown storefronts. Bluestein was among six hopefuls who secured a Kick Start grant.


She found a nice store space at 52 Main St. and stocked it with an eclectic mix of paint brushes of all sizes, easels, canvases, fine paper, X-Acto knives, bookmaking supplies, printmaking essentials, (See Sparrow, Page 3A)




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Sparrow

(Continued from Page 2A)
oils, watercolors, storage boxes, sketchbooks, pottery products and more.

Sparrow has also hosted a mini gallery, workshops and other artists' amenities.

Bluestein was thrilled to see folks embrace her business plan. She was doing well but acknowledged a few shortcomings of her 52 Main St. spot. She needed more room, and the stairs access off Main Street presented some prospective clients with what she called "a significant physical challenge."

That won't be a problem at 44 Main St., she noted.

"The move to this location is an exciting new chapter for Sparrow Art Supply, making its offerings accessible to all," she said through a press release.

"When you arrive at our new nest, you'll find high ceilings, large windows and a bright, airy place to ignite creativity in local and visiting artists. While exploring our new store, loyal customers will recognize our staple products and be dazzled by the new selection we're bringing in."

In addition to its current inventory, Sparrow will soon begin carrying Daniel Smith watercolor and gouache, Blackwing pencils

and accessories, and more, she said.

Bluestein also promised "fresh gallery walls" that will showcase "the inspiring art" of local artists.

"We love weaving themes into each show, encouraging artists and attendees to break new ground as they craft and admire works around these imaginative prompts — our new space will continue to be a vibrant hub where all art is celebrated," she said.

For more information about Sparrow Art Supply, go to sparrow-art-supply.square.site.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

MALT

(Continued from Page 2A)
Commission, New England Forestry Foundation, Vermont Land Trust, MALT and GMP.

She gave a special shout-out to a key person who's helping Salisbury Mills project across the finish line: Merle Schloff. He spent many years making high-quality furniture at a historic blacksmith's shop and mill in Salisbury. He became fascinated with his adopted town's industrial history.

Horton recalled her first encounter with Schloff, a powerfully built, salt-of-the-earth guy whom *Independent* profiled two years ago.

"He marched into my office one day ... and said, 'I want to see MALT bring this project to fruition. Every MALT director I've spoken to hasn't been able

to do it; this is my last attempt,'" Horton recalled with a chuckle. "This project would not have come to fruition without him. He's so passionate about digging up the history and has spearheaded a lot of the physical labor."

In other recent MALT news, the organization announced:

- Creation of an endowment fund, seeded with \$50,000, that'll help the organization move more nimbly in pursuing future conservation projects. The Vermont Community Foundation will manage the fund.

- It's a major step in the maturity of this organization," Horton said.

- A growing staff. When Horton joined MALT in 2017, it had 1.5 staff positions. It now has four, including new education manager Rachel Klatzker. She will oversee

all MALT's youth and adult education programming.

- Liam Hickey, MALT's trails & volunteer coordinator, has started a new "volunteer trail program" on Thursdays for the Trail Around Middlebury, known as the TAM.

- The scheduled launch this fall of a new, free program for middle school students. The program is currently funded by a United Way of Addison County grant and that will provide a safe and productive afterschool setting where youth will plan trail projects, learn to use hand and power tools and "make much-needed improvements to sections of the TAM closest to Middlebury Union Middle School.

- A new, larger office in the Marble Works, where the organization has been based in a smaller spot for a dozen years.

ANWSD budget

(Continued from Page 2A)

If CLAs are low, state officials uses them to increase towns' school property tax rates to the level they would be if grand lists were 100% accurate. It does this so that when the state doles out education tax revenues to towns, it does it on an equal playing field.

ANWSD's low CLAs are wreaking havoc with district school tax rates.

The most recently defeated budget actually lowered the district homestead rate from \$1.5411 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.5371. But once CLAs were applied, the rates in each town would have increased dramatically if the budget had passed.

The breakdown of the increases would have been about 19% in Ferrisburgh and Panton, 11% in Waltham, 12% in Vergennes, and 14% in Addison, according to usually on-point district estimates.

Thus the problem, according to ANWSD Director of Finance and Operations Elizabeth Jennings, cuts that would make an impact on tax rates would essentially gut the high school. ANWSD officials say reductions are much harder to make at the elementary school level, where there are no electives and more mandates.

According to Jennings, if the board cut \$2 million from the district budget, the average ANWSD homestead tax increase would drop to 11%. Ferrisburgh and Panton would still see increases of roughly 15%.

If the district reduced spending by \$5 million and "decimated the staff" Jennings said, "We'd still be at a 10% increase in Ferrisburgh in taxes."

Board member Nikki Bearor was among those who said many residents are probably still unaware how much low CLAs are affecting the district's homestead rates.

"There's still a misunderstanding in the community in regards to the CLAs," Bearor said. "I don't know how to communicate that any differently or any better. Your taxes are going to go up regardless of what this school budget looks like, and that's not within our control."

It should be noted that those who pay based on their incomes, about two-thirds of homeowners, will not feel the full weight of any increase. In the 2023-2024 fiscal year 6,951 Addison County recipients received an average property tax credit of \$1,634.

DISCUSSION

MacKulin, in lobbying for the same budget, pointed to the 18-vote margin and the consequences of deep cuts.

"If we do what Sheila is talking about (the 87% mandate), why the heck would anyone come live here?" she said. "And that's what we're working towards, to make a vibrant school, keep a vibrant school, so people will want to move here, so we'll get more students, so we can continue to have our awesome staff here."

Not all board members agreed with the level budget approach.

Chris Kayhart said the March 26 revote turnout was strong, and suggested the board had to listen to the voters.

"A failed vote means cuts," Kayhart said. "And I don't think it should be \$2 million. I don't think it should be \$5 million. But the voters are asking for something."

Board member Mark Koenig differed, citing the week-long turnaround before the last vote as "problematic," even if well intentioned. Soule and the board were hoping to avoid sending out RIF notices by an April 1 deadline.

"There are a lot of people out there who didn't bother to get off their butts and vote," Koenig said, adding he'd heard from people who were willing to promote a yes vote this time, while "cutting is not going to change those (opponents') minds."

Board members talked about the difficulty of getting the message out about the consequences of further defeats and of the CLAs' impacts. Mike Kane said the board could encourage word of mouth because informational meetings, visiting town selectboards and website posts had been ineffective.

"If we can get a lot of folks out there talking about things in positive ways, I think that would help," Kane said.

Bearor said some voters might have wanted to offset taxes with a surplus that, when available, is dedicated to an Education Stabilization Fund, which auditors recommended to protect the district from a deficit caused by unexpected emergency expenses. The board would have put \$497,000 into the fund if the budget had passed on March 26. But the board and administrators agreed it's critical to protect the district.

"Some education about the purpose of that fund and why it's there might also be helpful,"

Bearor said.

Stroup added voters had also already approved \$1.2 million in other surplus funds to be used for needed work to district buildings.

Student board representative Quincy Sabick was among those who said the board should make it clear how much harm deep cuts could do to VUHS.

"Those are not scare tactics," Sabick said. "Those are reality bullets."

Board member Amy Kittredge had the last word. She addressed staff members:

"I just want to say we're really sorry. This is a terrible position to be in, and we wish contracts could be signed right now."

AGWAY

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Editorials

Elementary school is not what most of us once knew

In last week's *Addison Independent*, reporter John Flowers wrote two insightful stories revealing student behavioral problems within the Addison Central School District, most of which occurred in the elementary schools, with Mary Hogan Elementary School in Middlebury citing the most problems and most urgent need for additional help.

In today's issue, *Independent* reporter Marin Howell picks up that thread by taking a look at behavioral problems within the MAUSD and ANWSD schools, (Bristol and Vergennes, respectively). The upshot is similar: our area school districts need the extra help they have budgeted for. Yes, that means school budgets are up, and taxes will follow.

But it doesn't mean those budgets are up without cause.

In an astute move to understand student unrest throughout its district, leaders at ACSD purchased new software ahead of the current school year to track such incidents. What they found is as alarming to outsiders as it is vexing for school administrators, staff and faculty who are trying to address the problems.

In a report to the ACSD community two weeks ago, school officials said they had documented 1,172 minor or major behavior incidents within the district for the first seven months of this school year. And that number could well be low as teachers and aides don't always document the incidents. The major incidents were broken down into 17 categories, such as fighting/aggression (168 incidents), dangerous acts (64 incidents), threatening (18) and making false threats (14). Other categories included verbal abuse, bullying, harassment, weapons-related offenses and theft.

The minor behavior incidents were broken into 14 categories, such as disruptive behavior, skipping classes, showing disrespect, refusing a request, using bad language, cell phone use, academic dishonesty, leaving school grounds and dress-code violations. If you do the math, that's about 42 incidents per week. For last week's story and the ACSD report go to: tinyurl.com/acsdrepor (the report is at the end of the story).

At Beeman Elementary in the MAUSD, parents are frustrated there's not enough faculty and staff help to address daily problems in the classroom, but they're not necessarily blaming the school, individual teachers or even the MAUSD administration. They understand the school district can't just suddenly hire several more aids or teachers per classroom or approve an extra two or three million in the school budget. But that doesn't diminish their frustration.

Sarah Louer's six-year-old son has been struggling at Beeman and after detailing her efforts to get help from the school, she's at a loss of what to do.

"I just want someone to tell me what to do for my son," she told the *Independent*. "Does this mean alternative education? Does this mean going to the school board? Somebody help me figure out what I need for this kiddo."

The process for navigating special education services and options for additional support, Howell continued in her compelling story, is "arduous and confusing."

"If you've got a kid that goes right through the world, you're fine," Louer said, "but if you've got any little issue, it's exhausting as a parent. I have put hours and hours into this with no results."

These are but snippets of the issues our local schools — and parents — are facing. We encourage every county resident to read through these stories (all the way to the end) to help gain a fuller understanding of what the school systems are facing and why the budget demands are high.

The quick take-away is today's local schools, particularly in the younger elementary grades, are not what many of us once knew. The very idea that elementary schools like Beeman or Mary Hogan could have a disruptive incident two or three days a week that would cause teachers to evacuate the classroom (leaving the disruptive student to work it out with aides) is mind-blowing. In 28 weeks of classes, the notion there could be 168 incidents of fighting or aggression, 64 dangerous acts and 18 threatening, just seems other-worldly.

To that end, voters must look anew at the issues our schools are facing and help them meet the need. And one thing we shouldn't be doing is dumping societal problems on our schools (many of the behavioral problems apparently stem from heavy social media use within the home or outside of class) and expecting them to solve those issues without extra help. We're all in this together: schools and teachers want to educate our children; most children want to learn; parents want their kids to grow up smart and capable; taxpayers want a reasonable cost to provide this generation of students what we've all benefited from previously.

The first step in getting there is for all of us to better understand the problems schools face; then be willing to help address those issues head-on in the most cost-effective way. But we can't do that by choosing to ignore the very real, and different, problems schools face today.

Angelo Lynn

About that amazing eclipse...

Here are two things to remember about the amazing eclipse happening this coming Monday, April 8:

- Be safe. Have appropriate glasses and be sure kids, in particular, don't peek at the sun with their naked eyes.

- Don't throw your special eclipse glasses away. A story on the front page of today's issue gives all kinds of advice on where to go, how to view the eclipse safely, the science, what else to observe during the event, and a little bit of what not to do.

Read to learn, then have fun.

Angelo Lynn

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Natural oddity

THIS TWISTY VINE hangs off a couple trees near the Trail Around Middlebury on Chipman Hill. Look at strange sights like this now, before the summer foliage covers them up.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Hearing aids can be life changing

What? Do you hear and ask this question often? I did, too, until recently. When my daughter visited last summer, I asked her if she thought I needed hearing aids. She said, "Well, you do say 'What?' a lot." I remember learning in nursing school that losing sight causes the loss of things, but losing hearing causes the loss of people.

According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, nearly half of all Americans older than 75 have difficulty hearing. Besides regular conversation, without hearing aids, a person might miss a compliment from a friend, health information from a provider, or a comment from a business colleague. So why have I been resistant to getting hearing aids? Their cost? Their appearance? Admitting that I am aging?

I can't remember what finally tipped me over the edge. I knew from previous assessments my hearing loss ranged from mild to medium. It seemed all right during COVID when I didn't go anywhere or see anyone. Surprise ... My only contacts were on Zoom or my iPhone and those had volume control.

But last fall when I gave a presentation, I could not hear a question from the back of the room. Then I started missing messages at Quaker Meeting. Carrying on a conversation in a restaurant was impossible. I was tired. One of my friends who got hearing aids when she was young said, "Concentrating all day is fatiguing. It makes you so tired you certainly don't want to go out at night to a program." This can lead to decreased

socialization.

I visited many audiologists over the past 10 years. When my trusted friend told me whom she went to, I immediately made an appointment. This time I was determined to follow through. The new test results were the same as ones I took before COVID, but this time I was ready to proceed.

The audiologist explained carefully. I learned there are two shapes for hearing aids. One goes into your ear and runs on removable batteries. I thought of my parents and patients losing them. The other goes behind your ear and has rechargeable batteries like a mobile phone. But it shows. Plus, with glasses, hair and maybe a mask, a lot would be going on behind my ears. I chose the second one anyway. The audiologist matched my hair with a tan color for the plastic case that goes behind my ears. She mentioned that patients can often get financial aid to help with the \$2,000 to \$10,000 price tag.

In a 12-year study of 623 adults, Johns Hopkins University determined that hearing loss can be a risk factor for dementia. It is also a risk factor for falls; without all our sensory information, it is difficult to stay in balance.

My first impression when I walked outside with hearing aids was surprise at the many sounds like the swish of car wheels as I went to the parking lot. The wind, tree branches, motors in my house — the refrigerator, a fan, a heat pump. A leaky water faucet.

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

Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey



Path of totality calls for formality

What does one wear to a solar eclipse?

As you know, we have one coming up Monday, and I want to be dressed appropriately. Vermont won't be in another "path of totality" until May 3, 2106, and I might have other plans that day, so I want to do this one right.

I'm thinking something formal. In Middlebury, totality is only going to last about 55 seconds, which is perfect; I can't wear three-inch heels for much longer than that without limping for two days afterward.

On the other hand, an eclipse is not really a "see-and-be-seen" kind of thing. It's more just "see" (and then only if you have the proper glasses). But it is a special occasion, and I don't get to dress up that often.

I've read that up to 4 million people are going to travel to see the eclipse along its 9,000-mile route. One of those is a friend of mine who is driving up from the Hudson Valley to join me. (Perhaps she will get to experience an equally rare — but related — phenomenon: bumper-to-bumper traffic on Route 22A.)

Originally, we were thinking of heading north to Burlington, where totality will last just over three minutes. Then I found out that around 100,000 people may be descending on the city. I have made it a personal goal never to be in the proximity of 100,000

people under any circumstances, so that's out.

We might just stand out in the yard and call it good enough.

Right now, I'm laying out a few dress choices. I've ruled out my go-to black number; that's a bit too on-the-nose for an eclipse. Something springlike would be nice, but it's not that warm out yet, so it won't be an off-the-shoulder or strapless gown. I want something glamorous but refined, something that says, "This is a breathtaking natural phenomenon," not "I'm losing my mind with excitement."

And I won't be losing my mind. As much as I'm looking forward to seeing the eclipse, I'm not sure why it's such a big deal. It won't last long, we know it's coming and it will be captured on video for posterity. Sure, it will remind us of our own insignificance, but if you've ever been on hold with customer service at a large corporation, you already know that feeling.

I guess it's about awe — being amazed by this striking celestial event that will, however briefly, block the star we depend on for life, the ultimate source of heat and light, the reason for SPF 50.

If you think an eclipse is a big deal now, imagine how ancient people must have reacted when the sky went dark without warning. Until two or three millennia ago, people didn't fully understand eclipses.

(See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Tiny flaw in a journalistic gem

I was pleased to see in the March 28 publication that the *Addison Independent* was named New England's top weekly newspaper. I feel well informed by the various articles and appreciate all the work put in. However, on the same page I noticed that the word "loses" was misspelled in "County prosecutor loses law license." You did catch the error on the web version.

Happy our little newspaper has been recognized for its excellence!
Donna Oliver
Vergennes

Editor's note: Thank you for the praise, Donna, and for the sharp pair of eyes. We too were chagrined when we saw that the mistake had made it into print. The short explanation is that we caught the misspelling in our proofing process, but for reasons we don't understand yet, our printer did not publish the corrected version of that page (and one other!). We published a little explanation of what happened on our website at tinyurl.com/PageITypo.

Get your Maine geography right

I want to congratulate the Addy Indy on the awards won at the New England Newspaper and Press Association awards banquet, as announced in the March 28 edition.

However, as a former resident of Bangor, Maine, for 19 years I would point out that if Ellsworth, Maine, is a suburb of Bangor (the story referenced the "besting the *Ellsworth American*, based in a suburb of Bangor, Maine"), then Middlebury must be a suburb of Burlington!

Kenneth Remsen
Vergennes

Nature dampens clothing swap

A Clothing Swap Flop! Well, not really. This year we collected some really great stuff from costumes to jeans, sweaters to workout gear, sneakers, handbags, and plenty of scarves. But then mother nature had other plans for Saturday, March 23, and unloaded over a foot of fast-falling snow.

We had food and seltzer but not enough people to shop the racks and tables.

Special thanks to a handful of volunteers, American Flatbread, the Congregational Church, IPJ Real Estate, Quimby Country, Vermont Bookshop, Sparrow Art Supply, the Stone Mill and Haymaker Bun Co for contributing to the event.

We collected some donations at the door for Atria Collective (formerly WomenSafe) but we can do better in better weather.

So, be on the lookout this spring for our "Take 2" on the Clothing Swap.

Apologies to all who were looking forward to picking up a few new gems. Also, we cannot take any more donations at this time as we have very limited storage.

Amey Ryan & Lilly Devlin
organizers

Cornwall group gives thanks

The Friends of Cornwall School (FOCS) would like to thank everyone who helped make our second annual Town Meeting Breakfast on Saturday, March 2, a success. As usual, community members were able to catch up while enjoying an affordable, delicious meal before attending the town meeting. Then anyone attending the meeting had access to a variety of beverages and pastries.

First we want to thank Cornwall School and ACSD for once again making the desired space available in the school for us this year. Thank you to Chef Dan Whittemore for all his hard work preparing and

(See *Ross* letter, Page 5A)

Around the bend

By Jessie Raymond



Letters to the Editor

Telephone Gap project targets old-growth trees

My concern is the Telephone Gap project plans, primarily in Rutland County, of the Green Mountain National Forest and the public comment period that ends on April 8. Old growth forest stands are extremely rare in this publicly-owned forest and it is not being managed to promote them in any significant way. At this point in time we need old forest to sequester and store carbon to slow climate change.

Early successional forest created by cutting, releases CO₂, not only in the road building/improving, cutting, transporting, and manufacturing or burning of the wood, but also after the cut in the rotting of roots and soil organisms. We need maximum sequestration and storage of carbon now, not in twenty plus years after cut stands regrow.

Let the "old", "mature", "late successional" (confused yet!?) stands keep growing into old

growth on public land rather than tax subsidized logging. The No Action alternative plan would do this best and be of the most public good. Log on private lands where 95% of the logging is done in Vermont and on the thousands of acres of already approved logging in GMNF. If you are concerned, please make an official comment at tinyurl.com/m8uyf5ye

Alan Coulter
Weybridge

Affordable housing options for seniors sorely needed

Mr. Payne's March 28 letter to the editor got me thinking about a recent article I read in *Seven Days* concerning aging in Vermont (Getting On: An Aging Population Is Transforming Vermont's Schools, Workplaces and Communities). I have been thinking quite a bit lately about our living situation and what is next for us now that my husband and I are retired. Specifically, I have been thinking about the type of living accommodations that

would suit us as we age.

Currently we own our home and live far enough from services that we are required to own a car. As we begin to struggle to keep up with home/property maintenance chores, finding a living situation, such as an in-town condo or senior housing, that could take some of that burden off our shoulders while providing easy access to services, seems ideal. The problem is that the scenario above is unaffordable for us in the current

market. However unaffordable aging in place will become for us, it is at least affordable.

In thinking about options for solving the housing crisis, I do hope quality affordable senior housing options are being given consideration along with the increase of single-family units. If we could find an affordable option that allowed me to stay in the area that we love, we'd move in a minute!

Susan Scott
Salisbury

The best choice in the presidential election is clear

Though a second term for Donald Trump should be unthinkable, it seems possible that he could win a narrow victory if enough traditionally Democratic voters refuse to vote for Joe Biden.

Supporters of the Palestinians in the Israel-Hamas war are angered by Biden's embrace of Israel and Benjamin Netanyahu. Supporters of Israel consider Biden's allegiance insufficient. Though this war is an unspeakable horror and catastrophe, the tragedy will be immeasurably compounded if we allow it to decide our presidential election for Trump.

If you cannot summon enthusiasm for Biden, please consider why it is crucial that reasonable Americans emphatically reject Trump, an indicted felon who molests women, pays hush money to porn stars, steals classified documents, cheats in his business dealings, mocks and slanders anyone who disagrees with him, instigated a violent attempt to overthrow the U.S. government, and still spreads lies about the outcome of the 2020 election.

Trump would give a blank check

to Netanyahu and his right-wing government.

Trump would let Russia devour Ukraine.

Trump would abandon NATO countries who do not pay their dues to his satisfaction and let Vladimir Putin do (in Trump's words) "whatever the hell he wants" to them.

Trump would pardon convicted participants in the 2021 insurrection.

Do you care about reproductive freedom, marriage equality, minority protections, including LGBTQ, the right to read, think and say what you wish?

Do you care who appoints the next SCOTUS justice(s)?

Do you want to keep Medicare and Medicaid (hopefully with improvements)? How about Social Security?

Do you think we should do what we can to save the environment, end homelessness, make healthcare a human right and higher education affordable?

Should we continue to work for equal rights for all?

This of course is just the beginning of a nearly endless list.

We hear people saying, "I wouldn't vote for Trump but I won't vote for Biden." Though far from perfect, Biden is competent and doing a good job under daunting circumstances. You don't have to love Biden, but it must be understood that anything other than a vote for him, e.g. a vote withheld to "punish" Biden for whatever perceived shortcomings, a vote for a third-party candidate, or a write-in for someone not on the ballot IS a vote for Trump. And it's no exaggeration to say that a vote for Trump is a vote for Netanyahu and Putin and others like them. It's good to express our ideals through words, community participation and peaceful demonstrations; but we have to be pragmatic with our presidential ballots.

Dear fellow citizens: We have one more chance to save the country from Trump as we continue to repair the enormous damage he has already done. Please use your priceless vote with utmost care and influence everyone you can to do the same.

Judy Olinick
Middlebury

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

The clear sound of Bluetooth with a cell phone conversation.

A week after getting my hearing aids, I was at a meeting where someone was speaking softly, but I could hear them now. Someone said, "Speak up, we can't hear you." I wondered, is hearing the

responsibility of the person with a soft voice or the person with low hearing?

As many people age in Vermont, it could become routine to get hearing aids, just as we get glasses. I appreciate mine and wish I had gotten them sooner.

Sas Carey of Middlebury is an

energy healer who has traveled to Mongolia 20 times in 30 years to support and preserve the lifestyle of traditional nomadic herders. Her two books are "Marrying Mongolia: A Memoir" and "Reindeer Herders in My Heart." Her website is www.nomadiccare.org.

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A)

A mysterious, possibly malevolent, black blot moving across the sun must have caused more than a little panic.

In a minute or two, the blot would start moving on. But these people would be left confused: Was this a warning? Would it happen again the next day? Should they sacrifice something, just in case?

If nothing else, I hope that instead of staring directly at the sun, they prostrated themselves on the ground in fear of whatever angry god they believed had caused this. The odds of your

average hunter-gatherer having ISO-certified glasses on hand were virtually nil.

As a modern human, I understand what causes eclipses. Still, as the moon begins to block the sun, I will marvel at the sight. Briefly, anyway.

Totality may last less than a minute, but that's more than enough marveling time for me. After 20 to 30 seconds, I'll be trying to remember the name of the maid on "The Jeffersons" or thinking about whether I have time to defrost a pound of ground beef before dinner. My birdlike

attention span limits my capacity for prolonged awe.

After that, the shadow will move away, and 4 million people will go sit in traffic. Their wonder at the miracles of our solar system will be obliterated by rage at the driver in front of them who just won't jockey into the merge line.

My friend and I won't be among those people. In fact, I'm starting to think we should just watch the eclipse from the back porch. As much as I'd like to experience the event in the wide expanse of our hay field, getting out there in three-inch heels wouldn't be any fun.

Timber harvesting strategy steeped in good reasons

I'm writing to express my dismay at the misinformation again being spread about the Telephone Gap timber project. Timber harvesting on the Green Mountain National Forest is good for Vermont and the environment. Stopping harvesting is not a magic bullet to stop climate change, an incredibly complex problem with many possible pieces to the solution. Yelling "Stop harvesting timber and save the planet" makes for a catchy headline and pushes some fundraising but misses the mark. For more on our thinking about timber harvesting go to the Vermont Forest Products Association website video page: vtfpa.org/videos.

I have been working in the forest products industry my entire 49-year career. I have learned that trees 80 to 150 years old are in the prime range for harvesting, providing the best quality forest products and fitting in with sound management practices. We harvest trees in that age range regularly and produce vibrantly healthy forests as a result. These results demonstrate quite clearly that cutting mature trees is not bad for the environment. Anti-timber groups want anything over 80 to 100 years old to be old-growth so they can limit harvesting, regardless of scientific evidence

or economic consequences. They conveniently do not mention the fact that in Vermont, we are harvesting a little less than half of the annual growth. That means we are constantly increasing our carbon storage while supplying a robust forest product economy that supports many jobs and provides products that we use every day.

Housing is a major issue in Vermont and it takes lumber to build houses. When more houses are built, that lumber will come from somewhere. I believe that having sustainably harvested timber from Vermont supplying some of that construction lumber for houses in Vermont and around the nation and indeed around the world, is a very good thing, since we are growing more timber than we are harvesting.

Timber harvesting provides habitat benefits for wildlife that go far beyond the game species the letter writer mentioned so dismissively. The amazing variety of songbirds that we enjoy in Vermont are here in part because of the diverse habitat created by timber harvesting, and the list goes on with many small mammals. Diverse habitat is not just about hunting and brings many benefits that are not found in old growth.

Biomass is another point that I believe is off base. The carbon in

coal was stored 300,000,000 years ago while the carbon in biomass fuel was stored anywhere from 35 to 150 years ago. It makes sense to me that continuing to consume fossil fuels, with their useful energy density (a plus) and very long carbon cycle (a negative), at the high rates we are currently consuming them, will affect the environment. With a dramatically shorter carbon cycle, biomass presents an easier problem for the planet to deal with. For another opinion on biomass, go to www.sustainable-carbon.org/biomass-carbon-neutral-or-worse-than-coal-environment.

Another statement in the letter complains about Vermont forest products sent to other states and other countries as it is "cutting more than our needs." Under that logic, California would not send any food to Vermont, we would shut down most maple syrup production in Vermont and there would be no international trade. This is an astonishingly narrow-minded point of view that fails to acknowledge the complex, interwoven nature of both our supply chains and climate change. We depend on other states and other countries to produce and sell what they are most productive at. Vermont is part of the global (See Johnson letter, Page 7A)

State's sanctioning of gambling is deplorable

Gambling has been unleashed. Apparently, there aren't enough existing addictions. So, why not search for more ways to make life miserable for those who already struggle? We're good at promoting and underfunding destructive behavior.

The tax revenue gained will be used to undo the damage, to pay for rehabilitation among the newly addicted. Maybe, legalizing landmines would make farming more interesting.

Two major networks spent the weekend running non-stop commercials. "Try gambling."

And, of course, kids never watch TV on weekends. What could go wrong?

Your neighbor's next-door neighbor's grandmother, uncle, niece, cousin, brother and aunt were encouraged by the fuzzy chance of winning, followed by dependence, debt and suicide. The house doesn't lose. The household does.

At first, it was only Nevada, where they specialize in illicit acts. The obvious progression: Adopt other deviant "things" Nevada does, increasing employment among the female population.

The dark consequences might be intended.

Athletes involved, the ones whose lives are threatened, were not consulted. It is, however, good for the personal protection industry, and the sale of ammunition.

Yes, there are redeeming qualities. It's inevitable, for example. Of course, automobile accidents are inevitable. Sure, other states do it. Recall your mother's reply to that kind of logic.

Alec Lyall
Middlebury

Ross letter

(Continued from Page 4A) serving the meal. We also want to recognize all the parents who helped make this meal the success that it was. Thank you to the First Congregational Church of Cornwall for again letting us borrow many dishes from your kitchen, and to the generous community members who provided containers to help transport those dishes.

In order to maintain a profitable, affordable meal, we seek to get as many items as possible donated for these events. With that in mind, we want to thank North

Hollow Farm for supplying some sausage and Stonewood Farm for providing turkey sausage this year. We are grateful to Maple Meadow Farm for the egg donation, and to Monument Farm for donating several gallons of milk. We also very much appreciate the donations of potatoes from Burnt Rock Farm, maple syrup from Bread Loaf View Farm, apple cider and cider doughnuts from Sunrise Orchards, and honey from Lemon Fair Honeyworks. Middlebury Floral & Gifts and Cole's Flowers donated the flowers for our centerpieces.

The donations of dry and non-perishable goods from Middlebury Hannaford and a gift card from the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op were also very helpful.

Lastly, we would like to thank the whole Cornwall community for its continued support. You help to make our efforts possible and worthwhile. What profits we made will help fulfill the FOCS mission of supporting the Bingham Memorial School students through intra- and extra-curricular efforts and activities.

Ian Ross
Cornwall

Elderly Services, Inc.

2024 Community Education Series

Session 1:

"How to Age with Purpose and Meaning"
Elder Counseling Options and Resources in our Community.

Presented by Joanne Corbett
Geriatric Social Worker, Elderly Services
Tuesday, April 9, 3:30-5:00 PM
at The Residence at Otter Creek

Session 2:

"Better Safe than Sorry"
Computer, Telephone and Mail Fraud targeting the elderly

Presented by Tom Hanley, retired chief of Middlebury Police Department
Tuesday, April 23, 4:30-6:00 PM
at National Bank of Middlebury

Session 3:

"Keys Bags Names Words"
Inspiring documentary film addressing dementia, how to reduce the risk of developing it, and how to meaningfully connect with loved ones living with it.

Presented by Eileen Lawson
Geriatric Social Worker, Elderly Services
Tuesday, April 30, 4:30-6:00 PM
at Ilsley Library Community Room

Session 4:

"How to Age with Purpose and Meaning"
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 5:

"You are Not Alone"
Caring for an aging loved one with memory loss: signs, symptoms and strategies

Presented by Eileen Lawson
Geriatric Social Worker, Elderly Services
Thursday, May 23, 4:30-6:00 PM
at Middlebury Congregational Church

Register now
802.388.3983



All Sessions are free and open to the public
To RSVP or learn more, call Eileen Lawson at Elderly Services: 802-388-3983
www.elderlyservices.org

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Obituaries



JEAN ELEANOR STAGG

Jean Eleanor Stagg, 85, of Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Jean Eleanor Stagg, a native of Hague, N.Y., and a resident of Shoreham, Vt., passed away on March 24, 2024, at the age of 85.

Growing up in Hague, Jean always enjoyed swimming in Lake George. She also loved to go out dancing with her husband, Rodney. Walking the trails around Vermont, gardening, baking, making special cakes for family birthdays, and socializing with family and friends always brought her joy.

She is survived by her daughter, Patricia (Randy) Stockwell; grandson, Zachary Stagg and fiancée, Samantha Montville;

sister, Ann Frasier; sister-in-law, Marjorie (Norman) Briere; and nephew, Bruce (Andrea) Briere and their daughter, Noel.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband, Rodney Stagg, and son, John Stagg.

In her memory, donations can be made to Elderly Services, 112 Exchange Street, in Middlebury, Vt.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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

Nancy (Clark) Brigan, 88, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Nancy Brigan, 88, joined her husband, John and daughter, Susan in Heaven on March 27, 2024. She was born in Burlington, Vt., on Dec. 18, 1935, the daughter of Robert and Winona Clark.

Nancy graduated from Vergennes High School in 1952. Nancy lived in Vergennes for most of her life and was married to John for 64 years. She worked at Weeks School and Simmonds Precision in Vergennes.

She is survived by her five children, Cindy (Gene), John (Maritza), Laurie (Mel), Tom

(Lynn) and Bob (Laurie), and her loving sister, Linda Stancil. She had eleven grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Nancy was one of eight children. Six of her siblings, Jack, Robert, Larry, Peter, Janice and Mary, will greet her when she arrives in Heaven.

Nancy loved boating and camping. She and John went on many trips over the years, making lots of memories. She loved bingo, her cat Tigger, spending time with her family and knitting.

Nancy had a good sense of humor

and could make a friend wherever she went. She'll be missed by all of us who loved her.

Nancy's family sincerely thanks the staff at Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center for all their kindness and support.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, PO Box 22324, New York, NY 10087.

A graveside committal service and burial followed by a celebration of her life with her family and friends will take place at a later date.

Rosemary (Gero) Horn, 82, Cornwall native

BENNINGTON — Rosemary (Gero) Horn passed away on Saturday, March 30, 2024, after a long battle with dementia at Crescent Manor nursing home in Bennington, Vt. Before that, she resided with her husband Maurice Horn in Brandon.

Rosemary was born Dec. 9, 1941, to Charles E. Gero and Mable E. Gero of Cornwall, Vt. She was one of 13 children. She lived in Cornwall during her school years at Middlebury Union High School. After school she worked many different jobs on and off for years. She loved and enjoyed many different things such as sewing, needlepoint, knitting, puzzles, music, spending

time with her family and her dog Meeko.

Rosemary leaves behind her husband Maurice Horn; daughter Marie Hamlett and husband Chuck, son Peter Chandler and wife Gloria, son Mark Chandler and wife Kathy, daughter Wendy Brigante and husband Dean, son David Warner and wife Lori; five sisters, Maryann, Patty, Connie, Cathy and Caroline; and several grand- and great-grandchildren.

Rosemary is predeceased by her parents, several brothers and sisters, her son Wayne Chandler, and a granddaughter Michelle Webster.

Her wishes were to be placed to rest at the Evergreen Cemetery



ROSEMARY (GERO) HORN

in Cornwall next to her parents, which is where she will be laid to rest.

Wendy Lee Patterson, 57, Salisbury

SALISBURY — Wendy Lee Patterson, age 57, passed peacefully, on March 29, 2024, following a bout with cancer.

Wendy was born in Brattleboro on June 21, 1966. She was the daughter of Arthur and Phyllis (Billings) Kennett. She grew up in the Brattleboro-Springfield area where she received her early education. She graduated from Springfield High School. She began her working career as a waitress at Mr. G's Restaurant in Ascutney. She and her husband moved to Salisbury in 2017. She worked as a cashier at Hannaford's in Middlebury for several years. She enjoyed fishing, cooking and baking, especially cakes, and she



WENDY LEE PATTERSON

loved animals.

She is survived by her husband,

Earl A. Patterson Jr.; a daughter, Crystal Patterson; a son, Earl A. Patterson III; three step-daughters, Kaylee, Kristi and Melissa; and one brother, Arthur Kennett Jr. Eleven grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins also survive her. She was predeceased by her parents and a brother, Raymond Lynds.

Respecting her wishes the funeral service will be private.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made to Addison County Humane Society, 234 Boardman St., Middlebury, VT 05753.

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

David Werle, 80, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — David Werle, 80, of Middlebury, Vermont, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at the Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury after a courageous battle with cancer.

David was born on July 13, 1943, in Pittsburgh, PA, but his formative childhood years were spent on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay in Annapolis, MD, where he learned to pick blue crabs and guitars. He then made his way to New Wilmington, PA, where he attended Westminster College. He spent much of his time before graduation playing bluegrass music and joining in student protests.

The seeds of activism sown, he made his way to the hippie scene in Manhattan, where he taught elementary school in Harlem. He introduced his students to film and photography, which would become a lifelong passion and, ultimately, his profession. Speaking of lifelong passion, he also met Susan, the woman who would become his wife and partner.



DAVID WERLE

The two decided to settle down in Vermont, where they bought a farm, a bull, and a rooster. David then established himself as a small business owner, opening the Middlebury Darkroom at 64 Main Street. That would soon be followed by a number of other Middlebury fixtures, including The Kitchen Shop, True Confections, and Lightning Photo. David and Susan also established themselves

as parents, as they welcomed their children, Jillian and Jonathan, into the world.

David was a warm and thoughtful host who loved to entertain, famous for his homemade pâtés, smoked fish, and barbecue ribs — and the man could pour a mean martini. When he wasn't cooking, he could often be found on the golf course, playing music with family, watching the Sox, throwing Maryland-style crab feasts, or fishing on Lake Champlain with the Frostbite Fleet. With a quick wit and a generous laugh, he was always ready to have a good time with his family and friends. He was a warm and loving husband, father, and grandfather.

David is survived by his wife, Susan, his children Jillian and Jonathan, their spouses Ryan Torres and Anya Hoffman, and his grandchildren Benjamin, Sama, Ruby, and Tema.

A celebration of his life will be held on June 15th at 1 p.m. at CVUUS in Middlebury. Donations in his memory can be made to the Lois McClure - Bee Tabakin Hope Lodge in Burlington, VT.

Louise Gee Philpott, 95, of Bennington

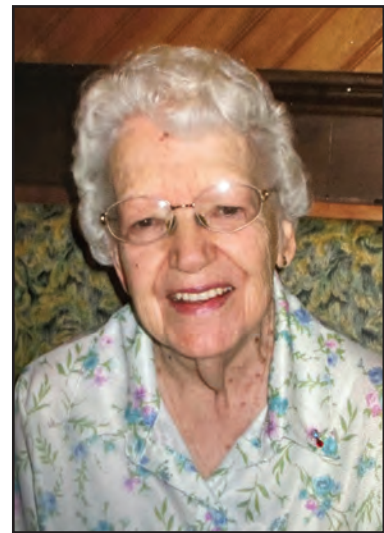
BENNINGTON — Louise Gee Philpott passed away peacefully at the age of 95 and joined her heavenly family on March 12, 2024.

Louise was born on July 6, 1928, to William and Helen (Johnson) Gee in Bennington, Vt. In her early childhood, Louise lived in the house that would become her lifetime residence next to the Horst Farm on Pleasant Valley Road. Her earliest school memories were of her 1st grade teacher Fannie Percy and the red brick schoolhouse at the top of Pleasant Valley Road. Her parents purchased the property from the Horst family, and later rented the house when they moved to work for the Colgates at their estate on Mt. Anthony.

Louise graduated from Bennington High School in 1946, where she sang in the school chorus and served as assistant editor of the *Benhi Catamount* student newspaper. At the University of Vermont, she was a proud member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority. Her parents were very supportive of her pursuit of higher education, even picking up her laundry bag on the bus from Burlington and returning the clean laundry to her on the bus. She majored in Liberal Arts, and graduated in 1950.

When Louise returned to Bennington after graduating from UVM, she worked as a telephone operator at Sibley Manufacturing Company. It was there that she met Raymond Philpott. Louise married Ray on October 8, 1955. They bought the house on Pleasant Valley Road from Louise's parents where they raised their children, Susan and James (Susie and Jimmy). Louise excelled at shorthand and taking notes at meetings. When her children were young she was secretary to the Bennington school boards. In the 1960s Louise typed Robert T. Pell's handwritten manuscript for a book about General Montcalm.

Louise longed to be an elementary school teacher, and took education courses at North Adams State Teachers College for certification. She completed



LOUISE GEE PHILPOTT

her student teaching at the Cora B. Whitney School and began teaching 3rd grade at the Bennington Elementary School in 1968, where she was on the faculty with her 1st grade teacher Fannie (Percy) Horst, who was also her next door neighbor and a dear friend. Louise thoroughly enjoyed teaching reading and cursive writing. After her retirement in 1991, she was always warmly greeted by her former students all over Bennington. Louise was a proud member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International-Alpha Lambda State and ETA Chapter for many years, serving as local and state secretary. She was also active in the Bennington County and Vermont State Retired Teachers Associations.

Louise was a lifelong member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, where she participated in many aspects of the church after retirement including the altar committee, knitting circle, faithful folders, lunch bunch and editing the Keystone. She sang with the (VNA & Hospice) Serenity Singers for many years. Louise volunteered in the Catamount Elementary School library for a number of years.

Louise's greatest joy was attending musicals and concerts, especially when her children and granddaughter were performing. She loved to read, keeping copious notes on hundreds of books that

she read and sharing books with her friends. She learned to knit at age 7, and was still knitting at 95, making blankets, scarves and sweaters for family and various organizations. Louise enjoyed watching a variety of sports on the television. She was an avid Red Sox and NASCAR fan. The soap operas on CBS were daily favorites for Louise, which she would discuss with her friend Diane Roy every afternoon. Talking on the telephone with friends was a favorite pastime for Louise, and she was always happy to contact a list of people for her various organizations. She enjoyed ginger ale, cookies and her son-in-law's homemade applesauce every day.

Louise's family is grateful to Patty Squires, who cared for her in her home, and to the staff at SVMC and at The Center for Rehabilitation and Living (Coolidge and Frost) for their friendship and attention to Louise during a difficult time for many months. Among her caregivers were a number of wonderful former students.

Louise is survived by her children, Susan O'Daniel (Michael) of Vergennes and James of Bennington. Susan married into a large family who loved and embraced "Nana Lou": Cathy Fuller (Chris, Nicholas, Emma) and Sharon O'Daniel (Jason, Grey, Petra Fearon) of Vergennes, and Nancy Zimmer (Mike, Burke, Maggie, Juliet) of Wilmington, MA. Louise's greatest joy was her granddaughter Meghan (Sam Hagen) of Brookfield, VT. Louise was predeceased by Raymond Philpott in 2004 and her daughter's stepson, James O'Daniel in 2019.

A celebration of life will be held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bennington, VT, on Friday, April 12, at 11 a.m. Calling hours will take place an hour before the service. Interment will be at Park Lawn Cemetery. A gathering of family and friends will be held in St. Peter's Parish Hall following the interment.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Louise's memory may be sent to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St., Bennington, VT.

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JEAN ARROWSMITH

Jean Arrowsmith celebration of life

LINCOLN — A celebration of life for Jean Arrowsmith, who died Oct. 30, 2023, will be held April 20, from 11 a.m.-noon at Burnham Hall in Lincoln

This service will be in the manner of Quakers (Friends) facilitated by Sas Carey. All are welcome to share a remembrance of Jean or a reading. Reception immediately following ♦

ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Joseph M. Charest Jr., 72, Ripton

RIPTON — Joseph M. Charest Jr. died Sunday, March 31, 2024, on his 72 birthday, at Helen Porter Nursing Home, in Middlebury, Vt. He was born in Connecticut on March 31, 1952.

He leaves behind the love of his life of 42 years, Carolyn Bridget Malzac, plus many friends.

Joe loved hunting — especially whitetail deer — fishing, including deep sea fishing, salmon fishing, and back in the day, smelt fishing. He was also an avid gardener with a prolific green thumb.

Per his wishes, there will be no calling hours or memorial service. Condolences can be mailed to



JOSEPH M. CHAREST JR.

Carolyn Bridget Malzac at PO Box 374, East Middlebury, VT 05740.

North Branch School play takes stage April 12

RIPTON — Students at the North Branch School, the independent middle school in Ripton, have scripted an epic play set on the high seas. “Lost and Found on the High Seas” is a sprawling production that will be staged for the public on April 12 and 13 in the Ripton Community House.

The tale begins in Stubbsville Harbor, in a new school, and ends far away on the seas, on a ramshackle pirate ship.

“You can’t really plan for a play that 26 middle-schoolers write,” said Tal Birdsey, head teacher and director of the play. “It’s new every year, and that’s what makes it great.”

Every student participates in coming up with a story lines and concept, ultimately, their own character. To begin, the students had what 19th century French architectural students used to call a “charette,” Birdsey said.

“This was when the students had a very short time to complete their projects, which were then picked up by a ‘charette,’ or little cart,” Birdsey continued. “The process encouraged fast problem-solving. Now, charettes are often used for brainstorming for projects that have many viewpoints and stakeholders.”

“In our case, I said, ‘Now take your 50 ideas, use all of them, and come up with your concept—in 25 minutes. Then we will see what

we find in the charette.’” The result is a theatrical adventure that no educator, real or fictional, could have invented or imagined. The play begins with the establishment of a “traditional” school. But when the school founders, it suddenly morphs into a travelling school, setting out on the high seas for educational adventure.

At the heart of the narrative is a corrupt educator, incompetent teachers, a school inspector, and a group of confused teens who are alternately unfocused, sometimes mean or destructive, afraid, hopeful, dysfunctional and brave.

Along the way, students and teachers encounter dangerous storms, three cryptic oracles, Indonesian shamans, medieval knights riding sock-horses, and King “Mentos,” who directs them in a terrifying venture into a labyrinth. Flights into the outer realms, pursuit of the real holy grail, and the greedy accumulation of stolen treasure are packed into the two-act production.

“The kids tend to write into the play their own mythology,” said

Rose McVay, the NBS science teacher and set dresser. “It’s a way for them to project their own longings and aspirations. It’s often very much about themselves, telling a story about their experiences in these times.”

“In many cases they are reflecting in their characters some of what we have learned,” said Birdsey. “But they do it with humor, satire, absurdity and poetry.”

“One of the themes is acceptance and inclusion,” said Colvin Pike, an eighth-grader from Ripton. “Often people join a group to feel connected, but end up separating themselves and excluding others.”

“The longing to be part of something, or belonging to something is a big part of it,” said Carina Brightman, an eighth-grader from Lincoln, who plays the very stressed out Vice Principal Mrs. Weasel.

“Another theme is forgiveness, both of others and yourself,” said Teagan Flinner, an eighth-grader from Ripton. Flinner plays a school psychologist, Mr. Eshenall, who has as many emotional struggles as his students.

The school-wide humanities theme over the course of the year has been comparative religion. Students have regularly walked the school’s labyrinth, studied the quest for the holy grail, and conducted their own variations of meditations and rituals.

“All of those experiences made its way into the play,” said Birdsey. “There’s a joyful connection made between the seriousness of the subjects we studied and the fun enacting and playing with those subjects.”

“Even when we are not on stage rehearsing, we get to watch our classmates creating the play,” said Pike. “It brings the school together because we have to work together to make it.”

The students create their own costumes, find their own props, and manage the backstage, sets and scene changes.

In addition, any student can play or sing during set changes.

“That means incorporating up to 20 mini music performances,” Birdsey noted. “It’s a huge production, but they love the whole thing. Their excitement and anticipation is stratospheric, which is exactly what we want for them.”

The public is welcome. The play begins at 7:30 p.m. both Friday and Saturday nights. Admission is \$10. Call the North Branch School at 802-388-3269 for more information.

Johnson letter

(Continued from Page 5A)

supply chain, exporting maple syrup, cheese, lumber, furniture and a huge variety of other products. We all depend on each other for the products we use in our lives.

Another item mentioned is “let private land cover the need for timber.” Most importantly, our public forests should be serving as an example to the world about how to practice sustainable forestry. Striking a balance between all the competing needs is hard and the Forest Service has done it well. Second, the state recently made it possible to have forestland in the Use Value Program without cutting timber, reducing the available timberland in the private sector. Vermont has some of the finest and best managed hardwood forestland in the world. I feel strongly that it is important to keep the public lands producing timber to make products people use in their lives every day and demonstrate best practices for all to see.

The Green Mountain National Forest team are professionals, dedicated to their jobs and working hard to stay up to date on the best science and forestry practices. Telephone Gap will not be 12,000 acres of clearcuts, there will be selective harvesting with many trees left standing, to produce the wide variety of benefits their team is striving for. They do world-class forestry on the National Forest here in Vermont, and we can be proud of their work. They are not trapped by dogma or outdated science. They are affected by the public

input process, where a concerted effort by the anti-timber crowd produced a lot of negative input about the Telephone Gap project. These professionals have earned our support, not our condemnation. I believe the National Forest should be managed for everyone, not just Standing Trees and Save Public Forests.

What we can do:

1. Submit a comment supporting Alternative B and supporting the work the Forest Service is doing managing our public forests. Go to: cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=60192.

2. Call or write our Senators and Representative. Tell them you support Alternative B and that the Forest Service is doing good work managing our forests and that reduced harvesting is not a good choice.

• Rep. Becca Balint: 202-225-4115, balint.house.gov/contact.

• Sen. Bernie Sanders: 202-224-5141, sanders.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/

• Sen. Peter Welch: 202-224-4242, welch.senate.gov/email-peter

4. Reduce our own carbon footprint and consumption of all sorts. It’s too easy to say, “We made someone else stop harvesting trees, so I’ve done my part.” The climate crisis is driven in part by personal consumption choices we all make every day.

**Kenneth Johnson
General Manager
The A. Johnson Co. LLC
Bristol**

Person cited for disorderly conduct after phone calls

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Cormick Cantwell, 40, who is unlicensed, for disorderly conduct via electronic means, following an investigation into what police called “an excessive number of abusive calls” to local dispatchers on March 25.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

• Responded to a trespassing complaint at a Route 7 property on March 25.

• Interviewed a resident who reported a stolen license plate on March 25.

• Helped defuse a dispute between some Cedar Court neighbors on March 25.

• Responded to a College Street business following a report of a man in a wheelchair “screaming and appearing in need of support” on March 25.

• Assisted with what police described as a “juvenile problem” at Middlebury Union Middle School on March 25.

• Checked the welfare of a child who had been seated alone in a vehicle parked outside a Court Street business on March 26.

Middlebury Police Log

• Investigated a report of a person making threats against a Court Street business on March 26.

• Interviewed a man who had allegedly been involved in an altercation inside a Tri-Valley Transit bus on March 26. The case remains under investigation, police said.

• Responded to a report that someone had left a hoax voicemail at Middlebury Union High School on March 26.

• Ticketed, and served court diversion paperwork to, a juvenile whom they determined to have been driving on Boardman Street after having consumed alcohol on March 27.

• Investigated a report of a person allegedly exhibiting “harassing behavior” in the Seymour Street Extension area on March 27.

• Responded, with the Bristol

Rescue Squad, to a report of an unresponsive person inside a car parked off Munger Street on March 27.

• Assisted a man who had had a mental health episode on the Abby Pond Trail on March 27.

• Received a report about a person allegedly violating a restraining order in the Exchange Street area on March 27.

• Responded, with Middlebury Regional EMS, to the Charter House Emergency Shelter on a report of a medical incident on March 27.

• Received a report of vandalism to a vehicle parked in the Jayne Court neighborhood on March 28.

• Were informed that the Speedi Lube business on Route 7 South had been the victim of unlawful mischief on March 28.

• Cited Joseph Taylor, 48, of Middlebury for driving with a criminally suspended driver’s license, following a traffic stop on College Street on March 28.

• Responded to a dog-related complaint in the Woodland Park area on March 29.

• Assisted state police on a call in the Route 30 area in Cornwall on

March 29.

• Helped a Court Street business deal with a former worker who had been trespassing on March 29.

• Responded to a report of a man “yelling and swearing” in the downtown on March 29.

• Served a no-trespass order on March 29 on behalf of a Court Street business that was allegedly having trouble with “unruly protestors.”

• Received a wallet that had been found by a Good Samaritan on March 29.

• Spoke with a wheelchair bound person who was using the middle of Court and Monroe streets for travel on March 30.

• Assisted Vermont State Police at the scene of a car crash at the intersection of Routes 53 and 7 in Leicester on March 30.

• Investigated a report of a woman passed out in a vehicle that was parked at a North Pleasant Street gas station on March 30.

• Checked on the welfare of a Munger Street resident and a Maxwell Place resident on March 31.

Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — Vergennes police between March 25 and 31 dealt with families having domestic issues, helped Vermont State Police evaluate a driver suspected of driving under the influence of drugs, handled two dog problems, and followed up on a report of a man making a woman feel uncomfortable.

Police during that week conducted 12 cruiser patrols and one on foot and 14 traffic stops, processed seven pre-employment fingerprint requests, and:

On March 25:

• Were told a man acting strangely on First Street had jumped out in front of a moving car. Police said they are not sure who the person was.

• Started looking into a case of a person who was out for a walk with his dog and was bitten while trying to break up a fight between his and another dog, which had gotten loose from its owners while it was being walked.

On March 26:

• At the request of a medical office stayed nearby when a potentially problematic patient

had an appointment.

• Responded to a report of a loose dog near Vergennes Union Elementary School, but found nothing.

• Went to Meigs Road after a report of a pickup truck being driven recklessly. Police spoke to a mechanic who had just worked on the truck and said he believed the owner was just testing it out; he told police he would speak to the truck owner.

• Reached out to a man that a woman reported had made her uncomfortable by following her.

Police said she told the man to stop, and they left a message reinforcing that point.

On March 27:

• Dealt with a minor two-car accident on Church Street.

• Handled two reports of truancy.

On March 28:

• Conducted a pre-employment background check.

• Evaluated, for state police, a driver suspected of operating under the influence of drugs. A city Drug Recognition Expert determined a medical condition,

not illegal drug use, was the issue, according to police.


On March 30 took a report that a woman who lived with a caretaker had wandered off; police learned she returned on her own.

On March 31:

• Responded to a Hillside Drive apartment and calmed a juvenile

female who police reported was acting out.


• Spoke to a woman in the process of separating from her partner. Police said she alleged he had taken her car without permission, among other issues, and they advised her how to obtain a restraining order.



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CFVC hosts dairy workshop on April 10

MIDDLEBURY — As the local and global community increasingly recognizes the importance of addressing climate change, protecting soil health, and improving water quality, the dairy industry has a unique opportunity and responsibility to implement innovative, environmentally sustainable practices.

In an effort to foster dialogue, share insights and empower stakeholders, the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, in collaboration with University of Vermont Extension and Cornell Pro-Dairy, will host a workshop, "Dairy Sustainability: Climate, Soil & Water." The event is Wednesday, April 10, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 27 on Boardman Steet in Middlebury.

Workshop highlights include climate and environmental leadership, whole farm environmental assessments, managing enteric emissions, climate-smart manure management, building sustainability and resiliency in dairy cropping systems, and Vermont resources and policy.

It aims to bring together farmers, industry experts, research scientists, policy makers and the general public to delve into the critical subject of dairy sustainability. Led by esteemed speakers and subject matter experts, attendees will gain valuable insights into the latest advancements, emerging trends, and best practices shaping the sustainable dairy landscape.

"We believe that collaboration

and knowledge-sharing are essential for driving positive change within agriculture, particularly the dairy industry," said Vijay Nazareth, executive director of the Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition. "Through this event, we aim to inspire, educate, and empower farmers and the wider community to embrace sustainability in dairy production."

Attendance is free, but registration is required by April 8. To review the full agenda and register, visit go.uvm.edu/dairysustainability. If you cannot register online or have questions about your registration, call the UVM Non-Credit Registration Office at 802-656-8407.

For program questions, contact Abby Augarten at 802-656-7544 or abigail.augarten@uvm.edu.

Opera house funds come through

Earmark certain; project on for '25

By ANDY KIRKALDY
VERGENNES — A \$1.64 million effort to upgrade accessibility to the Vergennes Opera House and to Vergennes city offices originally scheduled to start this May will instead likely break ground during the spring of 2025, according to Gerianne Smart, the president of the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House (FVOH).

But that delay is not necessarily because of bad news, Smart said. Why? After months of delay, Congress last month finally passed — and President Joe Biden signed — a \$1.2 trillion bill to fund the federal government through a fiscal year that began half a year ago.

Included in that bill were a number of items funded by Congressionally Directed Spending, formerly known as "earmarks," all of which had been held up since last fall.

One of those was \$500,000 that Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-VT, had requested to help fund what FVOH is calling its All Access Project. The project centerpiece is an exterior elevator tower at the end of the alley between Vergennes City Hall, which houses the opera house in its second story, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

At the tower's base will be a new ground-level access to city offices. Smart said with the \$500,000 earmark, FVOH is now within \$250,000 of completing its fundraising goal and having the money needed to pay Naylor & Breen Builders to complete the All Access Project.

FVOH has thus far raised almost \$1.4 million in individual and foundation donations

and government grants. The government money includes the earmark, \$300,000 from the Northern Border Regional Commission and \$30,000 from the Vermont Arts Council.

But the federal funding and earmark delay, and the uncertainty of when that money might arrive, meant FVOH had little choice but to delay the work until next spring.

"The holdup of the federal budget played a key role in our decision to have to suspend the start of our project," Smart said. "It's exactly the same scenario, the same timeline, just one year later."

Also, Smart said, the money is being routed to the opera house through the National Park Service, which requires a National Environmental Policy Act review to assess the environmental impact of the bequest before the award becomes final. That review couldn't begin until the budget was passed, and it could take four to six months to complete, another factor making a 2024 project start problematic.

There is a silver lining to that requirement: Other sources of funding require environmental impact assessments, and Smart said once it's complete the federal review will "take precedence over all the others and just cascade down" to satisfy all granting parties.

Smart said the Friends organization could have pushed hard and asked Naylor and Breen to begin this fall. But as well as doing the work in less favorable weather, Smart said FVOH was reluctant to do so for another reason: Cold-weather months are when the opera house hosts almost all its shows.

"We would have had to shut down an entire season, and that's not ever going to happen," Smart said. "We don't ever want to make our theater dark. We wanted to make it (the project) happen over the summer months, when the weather is on our side."

Some of those events are also sponsored by FVOH and revenue would be lost — including the popular annual Broadway Direct musical revue in December.

"All the ticket sales, the proceeds, (from the coming season) will go right to this project," Smart said.

PROJECT DETAILS
And there's other good news; Smart said the delay hasn't affected the estimated project cost because Naylor & Breen built in a healthy 20% contingency into its project estimates.

"We're still operating on the same numbers," she said. Also, no changes to the design have been required.

"Everything is shovel-ready," Smart said. People coming to the opera house or city offices will reach the elevator tower via an alleyway that will be upgraded with paving bricks. The upgraded alley is also intended to help the neighboring St. Paul's Episcopal Church improve its handicap access.

Access to the tower and thus the theater will be easier via the alley than the current system. Citizens with access challenges must now be dropped off at the end of a private driveway to the right of city hall. From the driveway, they can either make their own way, or manage with help, along a pathway and then a ramp that runs behind city hall.

The ramp leads to a theater-level ADA platform/opera house entrance that stands at the end of the alley. Whoever has dropped them off, however, must return to their vehicles, leave and find parking elsewhere; there's no parking behind or to the right of city hall.

The ground-level entry to city hall offices on the left side of the building will replace the existing handicap access, which is through a door to a level requiring those with access challenges to use a lift down a small flight of stairs to reach the city clerk's and treasurer's desks.

Also, a second elevator inside the theater will link the green room below the theater's stage with both the stage and the audience level. The green room will be renovated with accessible rest rooms.

FUNDRAISING
Smart said city residents' decisive Town Meeting Day vote in support of a new 25-year opera house lease in its city hall home has given fundraising a boost by emphasizing the stability of the theater's future.

"That really has helped us signal to all of our funders that the Friends and the city are in this for the long haul," she said.

Most of the \$250,000 remaining to be raised will supply matching funds for the grants FVOH has received, Smart said, including a 100% match for the Congressionally Directed Spending. That match can come from private foundations as well as individual donors, she noted, or from the sale of the inscribable bricks that will pave the way leading to the exterior elevator.

"They really add up. They are \$125, \$250 or \$500 depending on the size," Smart said. "Our community members are just buying them up."

At this point the bricks are about 20% or 30% sold; if all are purchased, about \$150,000 can be raised. Smart said people are honoring family members, remembering those who have passed, putting on their own or their business's names or images on the bricks, while other bricks are being given as gifts by individuals or groups.

"It's a really nice, affordable way for people to participate," she said.

Other than that, FVOH is leaving no stone unturned in searching for the final funding needed. Smart is confident the goal will be reached during the coming year.

"The core team for the All Access Project has not put their pencils or phones down," Smart said. "When you have a really good project that makes sense, and everybody gets it, how to make it happen is easier to figure out. People just step up and show up and make it happen. And having a city hall and a public space upstairs that is accessible to everyone is a great idea."

Victim of Hamas attack to talk at Ilsley

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury Chabad invites the community to meet and hear from a man who will be in town this week to share his experience during the Oct. 7 Hamas incursion into Israel.

Nikita Soumrov is a 29-year-old who grew up on Kibbutz Nahal Oz. Terrorists attacked the kibbutz while Nikita and his family hid in their safe room.

He will tell his story on

Thursday, April 4, 7:30-9 p.m., in the Community Room at Ilsley Public Library. The event is free; organizers ask for an RSVP at www.middlechabad.com/survivorstory.

Soumrov, his parents and younger brother immigrated to Israel from Russia in 2001. Today he lives there with his wife, Sara, and his 5-year-old son, Aviv. He's a software engineer working at Beeri print.

On Oct. 7, 2023, nearly 100 terrorists attacked their kibbutz, slaughtered or kidnapped most of their surprised defenses, and infiltrated the community to attack civilian residents. Nikita, Sara and Aviv hid in their safe room while entire families were murdered in the homes around them for over nine hours. Terrorists were inside his parents' house for three hours.

Youth and mental health to be discussed April 13

MONKTON — Join local experts at the Monkton Town Hall on Saturday, April 13, for an informative and interactive panel

discussion about youth mental health challenges and community wellness.

A panel will discuss social and digital management for children and adolescents, and ways in which individuals and the community can work toward positive outcomes for young people. A thoughtful Q & A will follow.

Featured panelists will include Dr. Steven C. Schlozman, child psychiatrist and associate professor of psychiatry at University of Vermont Medical Center; Steven Berbeco, director of the Mental Health Initiative, a program of United Way Northwest Vermont;

and Holly Tempini, Monkton Central School counselor. The moderator will be Gus Jordan, former executive director of Health and Counseling Services at Middlebury College.

The discussion will run from 10 a.m. to noon. It will be in the Community Room at the town hall, 92 Monkton Ridge Road.

If you are a parent, caregiver, grandparent, relative, neighbor, coach, teacher, mentor, or friend of a young person, this discussion — courtesy of the United Way of Addison County and the Russell Memorial Library — should be of interest to you.

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Fascinating adaptations of frogs

By REBECCA PERKINS HANISSIAN

Frogs have hopped about Earth since before the time of the dinosaurs, and it shows. Celebrated for their amphibious lifestyle and cacophonous choruses, the long arc of frog evolution has yielded other awesome and efficient adaptations in organs from their lungs to their skin.

Research on green tree frogs demonstrates that frog lungs also assist in hearing. Like noise canceling headphones, frog lungs help dampen extraneous sounds — such as the calls of other frog species, insects, and airplanes — and allow females to hear the calls of their own species through the din. When frogs inflate their lungs, their thin, rib-less body walls vibrate with sound waves.

The Outside Story

The lungs transmit these waves to the inner ear, where they interact with sound waves arriving via the frog's ear. Researchers believe the sound waves of noises other than species-specific calls interact with one another in a way (called "destructive inference") that dampens them and allows females to better hear the males of her species.

Not only do frogs detect sounds with their lungs, but they can also drink and breathe through their skin. Frogs absorb water through their skin when submerged. Some terrestrial frogs also have a highly vascularized surface located near their hind legs — called a seat patch — that is responsible for more than 70% of total water uptake, despite constituting just 10% of the skin area. These frogs change their posture to depress the patch onto moist surfaces to control absorption.

Perhaps the most fascinating frog adaptation is the ability to breathe on land and in water via four respiratory systems. When submerged, adult frogs breathe exclusively through their thin skin (cutaneous respiration), which diffuses dissolved oxygen into blood vessels beneath the skin. Because their lungs are inefficient, frogs rely on supplementary cutaneous respiration while on land. Frogs do not have diaphragms to pull air into their lungs and rely instead on "buccal pumping" — expanding and contracting their closed mouth — to create a vacuum that drives air into and out of their lungs through their nostrils. Moreover, the lining of their mouth is a respiratory surface.

Almost all frogs begin their lives in the water as tadpoles. In this larval stage, frogs extract dissolved oxygen from water as it passes over their gills and skin, especially the highly vascularized skin of their temporary tails. Eventually, the gills and tails (See Frogs, Page 13A)



COMPETING IN THE 10- and 11-year-old age group at the 2024 Addison County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, March 2 in Bridport, were: Bottom row (left to right): Caroline Compagna and Sutton Chittenden, both from Whiting; Thomas Allen, Ferrisburgh; and Rowdy Pope, Bridport. Back row: Sophia Roleau, Bristol; Annie Farr, Richmond; Elianna Venables-Vogel, Ferrisburgh; and Camille and Desiree Plouffe, Bridport. Photo by Martha Seifert/UVM Extension 4-H



SEVEN 12- AND 13-year-olds took part in the Addison County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, March 2 in Bridport. They were: Bottom row (left to right): Kylee Shepard, Panton; Tenley Chittenden, Whiting, and Caroline Allen, Ferrisburgh. Back row: Logan Kirkpatrick, Addison; Ava Wood, Shoreham; Renee Plouffe, Bridport; and Greyson VanderWey, Ferrisburgh. Photo by Martha Seifert/UVM Extension 4-H



TEN TEENS, AGES 14 to 18, were among the 37 Addison County 4-H club members who participated in the 2024 Addison County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, March 2 in Bridport. They were: Bottom row (left to right): Jayden Ploof, Panton; Peyton Ball, Vergennes; Hailee Allen, New Haven; and Samuel Luis and Taryn Burns, both from Whiting. Back row: Mackenzie Chase, Bristol; Ruby Hubbell, Shoreham; Bella Roell, Middlebury; Hailey Chase (hidden), Bristol; and Lola Rollins, North Ferrisburgh. Photo by Martha Seifert/UVM Extension 4-H

Locals make the grade at dairy quiz bowl

BRIDPORT — Bridport Community School was the place to be on March 2 as 4-H dairy members matched wits in fast-paced buzzer rounds at the 2024 Addison County 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl.

The event was open to all county 4-H club members and included a written exam and the buzzer rounds, both designed

to test their knowledge of the dairy industry, including animal nutrition, feeds and forages, reproduction and related topics. The three younger age groups had two rounds of 20 questions per group, and the senior group had three rounds.

Thirty-seven Addison County 4-H club members participated in the contest, which was organized

by Martha Seifert, county 4-H educator, and sponsored by the Addison County 4-H Foundation.

Participants were as follows:

8- and 9-year-olds: 1. Ella Pope, Shoreham; 4. Normandie Cesario, Cornwall; 5. Nora Plouffe, Bridport; 6. Blake Moulton, Middlebury; 7. Hannah Stocker, Bridport; 8. Ellis Chittenden, Whiting; 9. Sophee Shepard, Panton; 10. Leonne Plouffe, Bridport; 11. Clayton Connor, Shoreham.

10- and 11-year-olds: 1. Rowdy Pope, Bridport; 2. Thomas Allen, Ferrisburgh; 3. Sutton Chittenden, Whiting; 4. Caroline Compagna, Whiting; 5. & 6. Desiree Plouffe and Camille Plouffe, both from Bridport; 7. Elianna Venables-Vogel, Ferrisburgh; 9. Sophia Roleau,

Bristol.

12- and 13-year-olds: 1. Caroline Allen, Ferrisburgh; 2. Tenley Chittenden, Whiting; 3. Kylee Shepard, Panton; 4. Greyson VanderWey, Ferrisburgh; 5. Renee Plouffe, Bridport; 6. Ava Wood, Shoreham; 7. Logan Kirkpatrick, Addison.

14- year-olds and older: 1. Taryn Burns, Whiting; 2. Samuel Luis, Whiting; 3. Hailee Allen, New Haven; 4. Peyton Ball, Vergennes; 5. Mackenzie Chase, Bristol; 6. Jayden Ploof, Panton; 7. Lola Rollins, North Ferrisburgh; 8. Hailey Chase, Bristol; 9. Bella Roell, Middlebury; 10. Ruby Hubbell, Shoreham.

To learn more about the 4-H dairy program in Addison County, contact Martha Seifert at (802) 656-7547 or martha.seifert@uvm.edu.

Community Forum

Vt. needs an update of Act 250

Act 250, Vermont's visionary development statute, is over 50 years old. It is often credited as one of the primary reasons that our landscape looks the way it does. The law has been changed here and there over the years but is long overdue for a more substantial update.

H.687, An Act Relating to Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Through Land Use, was passed by the House last week and would make several needed changes. H.687 is a big bill, but the overriding consequence is that it will tighten the oversight of development in places where most of us agree we would rather not see more building, such as in the middle of blocks of intact forest, and loosen oversight in places where we mostly agree that more development is desirable, such as existing downtowns. This revision is urgent now because development pressures have increased remarkably.

This week's writer is Rep. Larry Satcowitz of Randolph, who serves on the Vermont House Environment and Energy Committee.

The bill will create three categories, called Tiers, of land area in the state. Tier 1 is developed areas, like downtowns, village centers, and densely populated residential neighborhoods. Here it will become easier to build.

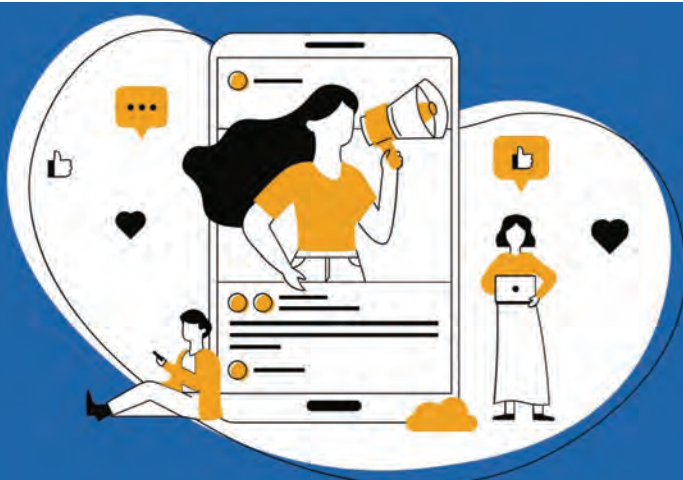
Tier 2 is the rest of the state — farms, forests and residential rural areas. The main change in this Tier would apply when "the length of any single road is greater than 800 feet, and the length all roads and any associated driveways in combination is greater than 2,000 feet." Crucially, this provision would not mean that such roads could not be built, but that they would be subject to review under Act 250, and it would not apply to all to farm or logging roads.

Tier 3 areas "may include river corridors, headwaters streams, habitat connectors of statewide significance," and other areas that contain critical natural resources. These areas, like very steep slopes, are places for which there is broad agreement that development should be subject to increased review. H.687 will make it harder to build here. Tier 2 is the rest of the state — farms, forests and residential rural areas. The main change in this Tier would apply when "the length of any single road is greater than 800 feet, and the length all roads and any associated driveways in combination is greater than 2,000 feet." Crucially, this provision would not mean that such roads could not be built, but that they would be subject to review under Act 250, and it would not apply to all to farm or logging roads.

The forests of Vermont are a great treasure. They provide habitat for a multitude of species, timber and beautiful spaces for us to hike, hunt, and appreciate nature. They are also disappearing. The US Forest Service reports that Vermont's forests are being converted to non-forest use at over 12,000 acres a year. While H.687 won't stop the destruction of our forests, it will slow down this process.

The overwhelming majority of projects that submit Act 250 applications are approved quickly, and Act 250 only covers a small percentage of development. That will not change. Wide-spread development will still take place. We often hear criticism about Act 250 from developers but seldom hear about what that law has accomplished for us. We don't notice the bad development that never happened.

If we allow current trends to continue, Vermont will be a very different place for our children and grandchildren. H.687 is an important and meaningful step in the right direction.



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Struggles

(Continued from Page 1A)
students and staff (see related story, Page 1A).

Officials at county school districts say they have taken steps to better address student misbehavior and meet students' needs and are looking at ways to improve their efforts. But administrators also say they face challenges in doing so, looming large among them staffing shortages.

"Some of the biggest challenges to addressing this have been in our ability to hire and retain staff," Gabe Hamilton, director of learning for the Addison Northwest School District, told the *Independent*.

"Some positions, like (Counseling Service of Addison County) clinicians and school psychologists, have remained unfilled, putting strain on the capacity of our remaining staff. We are also deeply concerned about further reductions in these critical positions as we are amidst a very challenging budget season."

Hamilton said incidents of student misbehavior in his Vergennes-area school district, like in other learning communities throughout the county and nationwide, have been on the rise for some time.

"While it is the general consensus that COVID is the sole cause, research points to the fact that the mental health of our youth (and subsequent trouble with school behavior) has been declining since before COVID," he said.

He referenced a 2018 article published by the National Education Association, that summarized research pointing to the negative impact of technology use and social media on youth mental health.

"COVID ignited a problem that already existed, isolating children and increasing their social media use, resulting in increased anxiety and depression," he said. "Consequently, ANWSD also has seen a greater increase in incidents

in recent years." Hamilton said the ANWSD has taken several steps to better meet student needs in recent years.

Those efforts include:

- Working to improve the district's multi-tiered system of support.

"COVID ignited a problem that already existed, isolating children and increasing their social media use, resulting in increased anxiety and depression."

— Gabe Hamilton

- Building data systems to support access to timely information, allowing the district to better understand and respond to social-emotional needs.

- Strengthening morning meeting and advisory systems to include building skills in social-emotional learning.

- Planning to redesign the district's middle school to include sixth-grade students. Hamilton said that structure is centered around the unique needs of middle level learners and has "proven to be effective at increasing engagement and reducing misbehavior."

"Additionally, there has been an emphasis on restorative practices and anti-bias, anti-racist professional learning across the district," Hamilton added. "Our ability to fund key supportive positions for our multi-tiered systems of support have greatly improved our ability to refine our systems and quickly respond to student needs (both academic and social-emotional) and efficiently direct resources where they are needed."

Hamilton said the district has additional plans to address student needs moving forward.

Those plans include:

- Continuing to refine the district's multi-tiered system of support to simultaneously improve universal instruction and intervention across the district's three schools.

- Partnering with families and students around mental health issues, social media use and other social-emotional issues.

- Continued professional development focused on weaving

social-emotional skills into all subject areas.

"Place-based and community engaged learning, restorative practices, and anti-bias, anti-racist professional learning will support educational opportunities that nurture welcoming and supportive environments for all of our students," Hamilton added.

OTHER SCHOOLS
Other Addison County school districts are also working to meet student needs' in the midst of rising behavioral problems.

The *Independent* last week reported on an increase in student unrest in Middlebury-area schools. As in the ANWSD, Addison Central School District officials have pointed to a lack of support staff as being a challenge they face in equipping students with the skills they need to thrive in a school setting.

The Bristol-area Mount Abraham Unified School District has also faced staffing challenges in working to meet the needs of district students.

Superintendent Patrick Reen said when it comes to supporting students, the district has "a legal, ethical and moral obligation to meet each student's needs in the least restrictive environment possible."

"This means we need to exhaust all efforts to meet these needs in the general education classroom. This can include bringing in additional support, but it also can mean working to help change the classroom environment to be more conducive to the needs of each student," he said.

Reen emphasized the importance of efforts to improve the district's multi-tiered system of supports, noting that the district must continually work to strengthen universal instruction as well as expand its ability to deliver targeted instruction in an effort to reduce the need for intensive supports.

"We simply have too many students needing intensive supports

to be able to meet the need," he said. "When we do decide to add resources the staffing needed to do so is often not readily available, which means we either need to wait while we try to fill the opening or we pull a staff member from somewhere else to meet the need, which creates a need elsewhere."

Reen added that the district must contend with the financial reality of hiring more support staff.

"A typical total compensation for a school year support staff employee is approximately \$65,000. With the most recent change in the way special education is funded we only receive additional funds for the costs that exceed \$66,206," he said. "This means essentially all of this added cost directly impacts our bottom line, which, as we know, is getting tighter and tighter."

The superintendent said yet another challenge stems from a lack of capacity in the partner agencies schools collaborate with for additional support.

"Oftentimes when a school is really struggling to meet intensive student needs, particularly when they are behavioral or mental health related, we reach out to partner agencies who specialize in this kind of support, and too frequently they are not in a position to help due to lack of funding or lack of available personnel," Reen said.

"They want to help us and often are not able to provide the support we are asking for or they wish they could. This leaves the school district to do the best they can, which doesn't always meet the need the way we want to."

Local agencies such as CSAC are, like county schools, working to respond to an increase in mental health challenges with fewer resources. CSAC currently lists 26 vacancies on its website,

"We simply have too many students needing intensive supports to be able to meet the need."

— MAUSD Superintendent Patrick Reen

Hubert

(Continued from Page 1A)

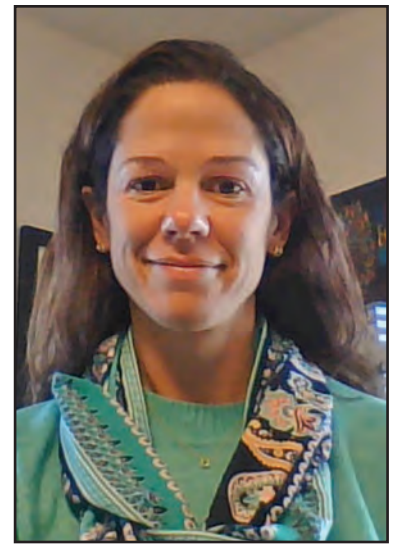
"I am proud of the contributions I have made to the district, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served in this role," Hubert continued.

"We are saddened that Hubert has decided to pursue other interests," wrote Laurie Bertrand, Chair of the OVUU School Board, which oversees public schools in five of the RNESU's eight towns. "During her time here, she has strengthened our processes and led by example, always putting students first."

Hubert will continue to work in education, however. She leaves RNESU to join the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation as Director of Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programming (GEAR UP), an educational nonprofit based in Winooski that helps junior high and high school students prepare for education and training after graduation. She will also teach doctoral-level classes at Northeastern University in Boston.

During her two-year tenure heading RNESU, Hubert has overseen the district's return to pre-COVID life while addressing new challenges, such as school safety and the accommodation of transgender students at Otter Valley.

Hubert's resignation comes in the midst of a difficult budget season as well. OVUU's



KRISTIN HUBERT

proposed FY2025 spending plan was defeated at the ballot box on March 5, and the OVUU Board is preparing a second proposal to put before voters on Tuesday, April 30. Hubert will remain at RNESU through June 30, leaving enough time to shepherd through next year's budget.

Moreover, Hubert's resignation is the third high-level departure in the district this school year. Neshobe Elementary School Principal Vicki Wells and Lothrop Elementary Principal Erica Williams Harryman both tendered resignations as well, with Williams Harryman leaving mid-year.

According to both Hubert and Bertrand, no successor has been named. Bertrand indicated that the position has been posted online and that the RNESU Board, on which she also serves, will begin evaluating applications soon.

including school-based clinicians and behavior interventionists.

Despite these obstacles, Reen said MAUSD has in recent years worked to better meet student needs by increasing its support staff, specifically the number of school counselors, social and emotional learning interventionists, school social workers, behavior assistants and educational assistants.

He said the district is exploring additional ways to support its students moving forward.

"Supporting students social and emotional well-being is ongoing work and we are continually looking for ways we can improve," he said. "One of the things we are in the early stages of is looking across schools to see what is working and gathering a variety of perspectives to build greater continuity across schools in how we support individual student social and emotional needs while working to build a more inclusive, positive learning environment."

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Easter egg madness

The Eddy Farm School for Horse & Rider in Middlebury had great weather for its annual Easter Egg Hunt and Open Barn this past Sunday. Clockwise from top-left: Simon L'Roe, age 2, hitches a ride on his dad Andrew's shoulders; Dan Kane of Cornwall snaps a photo of his son Finn, age 3; the Easter bunny makes a grand, horse-drawn entrance; young Amina Krawczyk pauses the egg harvest to model her nifty lamb hat; Alicia Odell, an Eddy Farm manager, "releases the hounds" to canvass the grounds for eggs; young egg gatherers wait on pins and needles before being released for the hunt; and Megan Weaver and her daughter Rhys rest up after a successful search. Center photo: A child leans through the gate separating the hunters from the prized eggs.

Independent photos/Steve James



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Frogs

(Continued from Page 10A)
of metamorphosing larvae degenerate, and lungs develop, allowing frogs to venture onto land.

As if skin breathing, metamorphosis, and selective lung listening aren't sufficient party tricks, frogs' eyes provide nearly 360 degrees of vision, allow them to see in low light and under water, and help them to swallow their food. Frogs do not chew their food but use modified teeth to hold their prey while they retract their eyeballs to push food into their esophagus.

According to Jim Andrews of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, one of the coolest adaptations of the frogs in our region is freeze tolerance. Freeze-tolerant species, including wood frogs and spring peepers, survive the winter in a semi-frozen state in the leaf litter below the snow. The liver releases sugars that act as anti-freeze within the frog's cells to prevent the cells from freezing and bursting. Meanwhile, the fluid between these cells freezes solid. "They're like frogcicles," Andrews said.

He also admires the resourcefulness of "satellite males." These male frogs, for whatever reason, lack good voices, be it the deep drone of a bullfrog or the high-pitched chirp of a peeper. Sensing their ineptitude, satellite males position themselves next to males with good voices and grab the females that are called in by them. "It's not unlike a junior



high party, where kids jockey to sit with the cool kids," Andrews said.

Despite these remarkable adaptations, there exists some room for improvement. Male frogs embrace female frogs from behind to immediately fertilize the eggs as they are released. Andrews and colleagues have observed male frogs embracing everything from salamanders to trout, the latter being an especially poor choice, as trout eat frogs. "When hormones are raging," Andrews said, "they'll grab just about anything that moves and even sometimes things that don't,

like cattail heads and dead mice."

So, maybe evolution hasn't yet solved all challenges frogs face. But, ready or not, frogs will emerge in the coming weeks eager to get the raucous party started.

Rebecca Perkins Hanissian is the editorial and outreach coordinator at the Center for Northern Woodlands Education. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: www.nhcf.org.

Beeman

(Continued from Page 1A)
Middlebury-area schools, and educators' request for help.

"I'm sure we're not the only school having problems with dysregulation in students since COVID," Doane said at the Mount Abe board meeting. "But since our school is what we know and what we see, this is the one that we can speak to."

CONCERNS AT BEEMAN

Doane, the mother of a kindergartner, told the board her concerns stemmed from a rumor that the school's first- and second-grade classes would be reorganized into two combined first- and second-grade classrooms in the upcoming school year.

She said she and other kindergarten parents are content with the class's current makeup, and asked school and district administrators not to change it.

"We all wrote a letter and asked our principal and superintendent to please keep our class together to continue to grow without the constant 'clear the

classroom' interruptions that we get emailed about almost daily," Doane told the board. "We received a very anti-climactic response that made it clear that we would not be part of the discussion for the class layout, and neither would the teachers."

She told the MAUSD board that the situation has prompted Beeman parents to share more of their concerns with one another.

"We've heard stories of students in urgent counseling because they don't understand the explosive mental stress their peers are going through," Doane said. "We've heard stories of parents who have had to make the tough decisions to pull their kids out of Beeman because no one will listen to concerns and no one will help. The more we talk to people, the more disturbing it becomes."

Several Beeman parents reached out to the *Independent* to express their concerns of a lack of support for students and teachers at the New Haven school.

Sarah Louer has a six-year-old son in first grade at Beeman.

She said her son has had a difficult year and only struggles when he's at school.

"We don't see this at home," Louer told the *Independent*. "This is a kid that has chores, and helps people around the house, and takes care of the animals, and gets on the bus, and the minute he walks into the classroom it all goes out the window."

Louer feels her son's behavior in school is a result of the surrounding environment.

"The (first grade) room is very chaotic, and he easily melts down and then he flees. His behavior has been identified as 'escape,' so he gets stressed out and he escapes," she explained. "He doesn't have a developmental disability. He doesn't even have a learning disability. It's all related to his environment."

LACK OF SUPPORT

She noted that her son has trauma related to past food insecurity and neglect, and as a result, feels nervous about his environment.

"This class has several children like my son who have some trauma in their history, and the school is well aware of it," Louer said. "They know the needs of the kids in the classroom, and, in my opinion, the district leadership continues to not allow, financially or otherwise, the supports that are needed in that classroom."

Louer said her son would benefit from a one-on-one aide or support from additional adults in the classroom.

"They've identified that he does better when he has an adult in the room that he can access for extra support, but they can't put an adult in the room because he doesn't qualify for a one-on-one," Louer said.

She feels her son and other students are suffering from a lack of additional support in the classroom.

"They've set people up for failure, and the people that they've set up for failure are our children," Louer said.

Louer said she's reached out to district officials for guidance on how to better meet her son's needs in school.

"I just want someone to tell me what to do for my son," Louer said. "Does this mean alternative education? Does this mean going to the school board? Somebody help me figure out what I need for this kiddo."

She said the process for navigating special education services and options for additional support is arduous and confusing.

"If you've got a kid that goes right through the world, you're fine, but if you've got any little issue, it's exhausting as a parent," Louer said. "I have put hours and hours into this with no results."

Louer said a behavioral support plan was created for her son but thus far has not been fully implemented, in part due to staff being stretched thin.

She said she feels Beeman staff are doing all they can, and acknowledges that MAUSD, like many other districts, has wrestled with staffing shortages.

"I don't expect them to pull staff out of the sky, or come up with \$3 million more, but why not look at what you have and how we can make that work best for all kids, or most kids," she said.

Staffing challenges are one of several area administrators face in working to meet student needs and respond to misbehavior (see related story).

Another Beeman parent told the *Independent* she has also struggled to get needed support for her first-grader.

She said her son has previously misbehaved, which resumed this past fall after a positive summer break.

"Around October he started to have some behavioral issues again," the parent explained. "There was no rhyme or reason to it, and no one could figure it out."

She said her son's behavioral issues coincided with emerging health problems. Her son would become irritable at school and, without a fulltime nurse at Beeman,

she said it became increasingly difficult to keep her son in school.

The parent said she ultimately pulled her child from Beeman in January and began home-schooling him. A month later he was diagnosed with diabetes.

"I don't think it was Beeman's fault," she said of the situation. "I feel bad that I didn't catch it sooner either."

The parent said her child returned to Beeman earlier this month and that it's been a challenge to ensure her son has the support he needs in school, such as a fulltime nurse.

"In terms of his education in a public school setting, Beeman has a really hard time getting the support it needs for students across the board," she said.

PARENTS HOPE TO HELP

The parent noted her son is one of several who've struggled in the first-grade class.

"It's been kind of a really tough class though we all think the kids are superb," she said. "We love them. They're all a bunch of tiny humans that want to have fun all of the time."

She joined other parents in noting that Beeman teachers are doing what they can with the resources available, and that administrators at the school are stretched thin, balancing responding to student misbehavior with other responsibilities.

She said she and other parents want to be a part of finding a solution for students who need more support.

"Parents want to help in these communities and in these small community schools," she said. "There's a real divide of, 'If this class is so hard and we can't get support, what can we do?' Those solutions are often not presented or if parents present them, it's really challenging to implement those."

The parent said she'd like to see an increase in communication and transparency from district officials, as well as a more community-focused approach to addressing students' needs.

"Beeman seems like it's surviving and not thriving. We're hoping next year is better. We always hope next year is better," she said. "There's hope, but it just seems it's going to be a long experience there if we don't feel everyone is thriving in the community."

The request for more communication between district officials and parents was one echoed by Louer and Doane in her message to the MAUSD board.

"We are a group of determined parents who are asking how we can help, how we can support, and what we can do to fix these problems, and the beginning of the solution is communication," Doane told the board.

Vekos

(Continued from Page 1A)
as members of the Democratic Party, as did Vekos.

Signers of the release included all nine state representatives and one state senator — Sen. Christopher Bray was the only name absent from the list.

Bray, also a Democrat, said in an interview with the *Independent* that he wasn't ready to sign on the letter because he didn't have all the details of the complaints against Vekos. He knew that she had been cited for DUI, but hadn't seen the police report. He heard about a petition calling for her resignation, but hadn't see what specifically the petition had asked.

For several years Bray had been a member of a board that oversaw misconduct allegations against Vermont lawyers. In that work, he said, he found out that in every case there are extenuating circumstances that make the complaints more complicated than they may appear on their face. He is willing to look into the criticisms against Vekos, but he doesn't want to rush into saying that an official elected by the citizens should be fired without first having a thorough examination.

"In four words: lack of due process," he said.

The *Independent* reached out to Vekos but did not hear back from her by deadline.

Here's the legislators' release in full:

"The majority of members of the Addison County legislative delegation call for the immediate resignation of Addison County State's Attorney Eva Vekos.

"Her unprofessional behavior at a crime scene and offensive comments about local law enforcement officers have significantly harmed the trust and respect between the residents of Addison County and their State's Attorney. In addition, the Vermont Supreme Court's temporary suspension of State's Attorney Vekos' law license makes it impossible for her to carry out the complete duties of her office, leaving Addison County without a fully functional county prosecutor's office during a time when the criminal justice system in Vermont is already stressed.

"As elected representatives of Addison County, we have heard loud and clear that our constituents are deeply troubled by their State's Attorney's behavior. We received a petition signed by over 400 of Addison County residents asking that State's Attorney

Vekos be removed from office, along with countless emails and phone calls expressing concern about her behavior. Like us, these constituents want a State's Attorney who can be fully engaged in the essential work of her office.

While we have compassion for the medical issues that State's Attorney Vekos may be facing and believe that an individual is entitled to due process for alleged criminal behavior, her failure to cooperate with an investigation and her publicly documented unprofessional behavior have broken the public's trust in her ability to carry out the duties of her office. It is essential for public safety and justice that the public maintains trust in Vermont's criminal justice system.

Addison County deserves better. It is incumbent upon State's Attorney Vekos to prioritize the safety of Addison County and the vital functions of the prosecutor's office by resigning immediately.

Signed,
Sen. Ruth Hardy
Representatives Joe Andriano, Matt Birong, Peter Conlon, Mari Cordes, Caleb Elder, Diane Lanpher, Jubilee McGill, Robin Scheu, and Amy Sheldon."

Eclipse

(Continued from Page 1A)
be used here, though — Vermont won't see another total eclipse for the rest of this century.

In Addison County, the moon will start moving across the sun at 2:14 p.m. on Monday, April 8. The total eclipse — the only time it is OK to look at the sun without eclipse glasses — will start between 3:20 and 3:30 p.m., and last for less than a minute in Middlebury and last a little longer as you move north.

The partial eclipse will be over by around 4:30.

Lots of people and places will be modifying their schedules that day to accommodate eclipse viewing. We've heard of some businesses that will close early — or all day — and others that will be open for the duration. Call before you shop.

Some Vermont courthouses will be closed on Monday. In Middlebury the Mahaney Courthouse will be open, except

between 3:15 and 3:45 p.m.

Students in the local school districts will be released early that day.

Head online to our website to see a listing of all the local activities going on in advance of and during the eclipse. We have a special page dedicated to it at addisonindependent.com/solar-eclipse-2024.

Happy viewing!

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Vermont State Police kept busy on Addison County highways

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police dealt with several problems on Addison County highways this past week, as well as investigated a domestic assault case.

In the assault case, troopers on March 29 at a few minutes after 5 p.m. received a report that one person was threatening another. Police said their investigation showed that James W. Jannene, 72, of Cornwall had threatened a domestic partner with a deadly weapon.

State police arrested Jannene, took him to the New Haven barracks, cited him for first degree aggravated domestic assault and released him with conditions.

Meanwhile, a road construction site flagger was hospitalized for treatment of injuries to his abdomen and lower extremities after being struck by a truck driven by a Middlebury man on Route 125 in Bridport on Thursday, March 28. State police identified the injured

Vt. State Police Log

flagger as 30-year-old Connor Joy of Bennington. Police said Joy was halting traffic mid-afternoon that Thursday when he was struck by an eastbound, 2014 Dodge Ram truck driven by 75-year-old James M. Ross.

State police said emergency responders took Joy to the University of Vermont Medical Center for treatment of his injuries.

They said Ross — who was wearing a seatbelt — sustained “moderate” injuries that didn’t require a hospital visit. Police reported damage to the passenger-side headlight of the truck.

Following the incident, Ross was interviewed at the Vergennes Police Department, according to state police. They said the crash remains under investigation, and

anyone with information to provide is encouraged to contact the VSP’s New Haven barracks at 802-388-4919. The investigating trooper is Gabriel Schrauf.

Separately, on March 27 just after 5 p.m., troopers from the Vermont State Police-New Haven Barracks responded to the vicinity of Route 17 and Route 125 for a report of a two-car crash with injury. During the course of the investigation police said they determined that driver Jonathon Deming, 65, of Vergennes fell asleep while driving. He subsequently crossed the center line and forced another vehicle off the road, police said. During the course of the events a female was injured and taken to UVM Medical Center for a reported minor injury. Police cited Deming for negligent driving.

In another March 27 incident, at 9:18 p.m. a trooper observed a motor vehicle violation on Colorado Circle near the intersection of Route 7 in Salisbury and stopped

the car. The officer screened driver Clifton C. Jagodzinski, 30, of Rutland Town for drunken driving and cited Jagodzinski for driving under the influence.

Finally, on April 2 just before 8 a.m. troopers responded to a report that a car had struck a utility pole on Hawkins Road, north of Little Chicago Road in Ferrisburgh. Police report that the 16-year-old driver was distracted by their cell phone, causing the driver to let the 2012 Ford Escape they were piloting to leave the roadway and strike a pole. The driver was transported to UVM Medical Center by ambulance for suspected minor injuries. The driver was issued a ticket

for being a “junior operator using a cell phone,” which carries a fine of \$200 and two points on their insurance. The vehicle was a total loss. Troopers were assisted by members of the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad and Ferrisburgh Fire Department.

Gov. Phil Scott’s ensuing veto of the spending plan. “We saw 3,000 Vermonters, including 600 children, (at risk of being) thrown out onto the streets,” Andriano recalled. “I’m so proud to have stood side-by-side with colleagues to say, ‘No, we will not allow our neighbors to go out on the streets when there is a warm place for them to spend the night.’ I will look back on that for the rest of my life and have complete satisfaction of the role I played in that.”

Andriano

(Continued from Page 1A) works. While I can’t continue to serve in this capacity, I still love volunteering in my community and using these skills to help others. I plan to continue to serve in that way for a long time.”

A lawyer by trade, Andriano, 43, explained his household income has taken too much of a hit from having to reduce his legal caseload during the roughly four-month legislative session.

“Legislators in Vermont make approximately \$15,000 per year, plus a taxable stipend for food and lodging, a reimbursement for mileage, and do not receive health insurance,” he said. “When I first decided to run for office, I thought it would be easy to balance my legal practice with the demands of the Legislature, but it has proven to be much more difficult than I expected. This forced me to take fewer cases, which created financial issues for my family. I wish the financial realities were different, but no matter how I cut it, I can’t figure out a way to make it work for another two years.”

Andriano, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, said he would have loved to have run for and earned another term. But he hopes there are other aspiring office-seekers in the Addison-Rutland district who are better positioned financially to serve.

“I’m not aware of anyone at this point (running for the seat),” he said during a recent phone interview. “I welcome anyone interested in running to contact me, and I would be more than happy to speak with them about what the experience was like.”

He said his offer extends to candidates of any party affiliation, including independents.

Andriano’s economic dilemma is not lost on other lawmakers.

Sen Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, has been among those who’ve tried to get raises for lawmakers to broaden the demographics of who’s able to serve.

“Rep. Andriano is one of many people from both parties to leave legislative service due to financial challenges,” Hardy told the *Independent*. “Legislators earn a salary of less than \$15,000 per year, and because the demands of the job limit other employment options, it’s really difficult for many legislators



REP. JOE ANDRIANO

to make ends meet.

“I tried twice this biennium to pass legislation to increase the salaries of legislators to a still modest, but more reasonable level,” she continued. “Unfortunately, the governor vetoed one bill and the other could not garner sufficient support during an election year. The result is that Vermont will continue to lose dedicated public servants and our Legislature will continue to be dominated by older, more financially secure Vermonters.”

WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED While he will continue to represent Addison-Rutland constituents through the end of this year, Andriano allowed himself to reminisce a little about his brief stint as a lawmaker.

He flagged not being able to run for reelection is as his biggest disappointment.

Andriano quickly identified his most rewarding experience as a legislator: Being one of 17 House Democrats and Progressives who last May voted “no” on the FY’24 state budget because it didn’t maintain a motel voucher program that was serving roughly 1,800 low-income, houseless households. That program had been federally funded to safeguard the state’s most vulnerable people during the COVID pandemic.

The budget defectors won leverage in convincing Democrats to extend voucher services in return for their support of an override of

Andriano also listed, with pride, his work on House Judiciary, where he said he’s been able to use his skills as a lawyer to break down complex state statutes and help craft amendments. He added he’s pleased to have worked with a group that’s put party politics aside to craft the best possible legislation for Vermonters.

“I encourage people to come and sit in a committee room and listen to people working together across party lines to make a bill as good as possible,” Andriano said.

Along with working collegially with other lawmakers, Andriano said he placed a premium on being responsive to his constituents. He cited, as an example, his opposition to last year’s Affordable Heat Act (Act 18), which nonetheless became law in spite of a Scott veto.

Among other things, the law requires entities that import heating fuel into Vermont to reduce their amount of greenhouse gas emissions every year. The law establishes a Clean Heat Standard to reduce Vermont’s greenhouse gas emissions from the thermal sector. The Legislature has asked the Vermont Public Utility Commission to report with proposed final rules to implement the Clean Heat Standard by Jan. 15, 2025.

Andriano said the bill was widely panned by his constituents, some of whom feared the law would add to their fuel bills. So, Andriano cast his vote accordingly — even though the majority of his Democratic colleagues embraced the proposal.

“When my constituents called on me to do something, I was an independent voice for them,” he said.

You won’t see Andriano’s name on the November election ballot, but Orwell folks will continue to see his participation on their planning commission, development review board, and as their representative on the Addison County Economic Development Corp. and Regional Planning Commission boards.

“I’m not going to walk away from any of that stuff,” he stressed.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A) to bring donations. Specifically, the students at Trinity Yard School have a passion for soccer and art. So the young travelers are reaching out to the greater community for donations of soccer equipment (cleats, shin guards, balls, soccer apparel) and art supplies, including colored pencils, paint, paint brushes, etc. They also hope to bring donations of laptop computers. Retired but functional laptop computers would be appreciated (please remember to clear your personal information). Donation boxes will be located at Holley Hall, Mount Abraham Union High School and Bristol Elementary School. If you have any questions or ideas of how to help, call Nick Cannon 802-417-7924.

Addison County’s “100+ Women Who Care” organization is inviting new members to join the group, which regularly pools resources to support local organizations. Members of 100+ Women Who Care meet periodically to learn about different nonprofit organizations in Addison County, work together to support good works, and make an impact with their collective giving. Each quarter, members nominate local nonprofits and choose three of them to receive pooled donations that, in 2023, collectively totaled almost \$100,000. Check out the organization’s website at 100wacvt.org.

Tri-Valley Transit notes many people are expected to

converge upon Vermont on April 8 to view the total solar eclipse, which is likely to spur heavy traffic that could cause bus schedule delays. Those who take Tri-Valley buses should be advised that Middlebury Shuttles will pause on April 8 from 3-4 p.m.; the Tri-Town Bristol bus will pause from 3:20-4:25 p.m.; Tri-Town Vergennes bus services will pause from 2:40-3:55 p.m.; the Snow Bowl bus won’t run that afternoon; the Route 116 Commuter bus won’t serve Burlington’s Pine or Battery streets; and the LINK to Burlington bus won’t run its midday 1:45 p.m. loop and will not serve Burlington’s Pine Street. For more info check out trivalleytransit.org.

Two Addison County community libraries are dealing with leadership changes this spring. Alissa Shethar of Bridport is the new leader of the Salisbury Free Public Library. In addition to working in libraries and developing special collections on the West Coast, Shethar has also worked as a linguistic anthropologist, teacher, translator, farmer, researcher, grant writer, cheesemaker, refugee advocate and preschool “environmental interpreter.” She’ll replace Ruth Shattuck Bernstein (who recently left to helm the New Haven Community Library). Shethar will start her new job on April 9. The community is invited to meet Shethar at an open house at the library next Tuesday, from 4-5:30 p.m. Meanwhile, Starksboro Public Library Director Catherine Goldsmith has announced she’ll be leaving that job later this spring. Library trustees have begun the search for her successor. Anyone interested in the job should check out starksborrolibrary.wordpress.com.

The midweek snowstorm notwithstanding, mild

temperatures have prompted areas residents to begin spring cleaning, and the Addison County Solid Waste Management District has some tips in that regard. Keep in mind, as you clean, that certain items should never go into household trash bound for the solid waste transfer station (and ultimately, a landfill). Those items include paints, stains, varnish, paint thinner, waste oil and filters, the mandatory recyclables (plastic #1 and #2, glass jars and bottles, aluminum and steel cans, aluminum foil, cardboard, mixed paper, and newspaper), mercury-added products, electronics, organics (including food scraps, coffee grounds, clean wood, and leaf and yard debris), certain batteries, appliances (white goods), and dangerous or hazardous wastes. Note, however, that most landfill-banned items are accepted at the local solid waste management transfer station on Route 7 South in Middlebury, albeit in specially designated bins and, in some cases, for a separate charge. The district transfer station is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. View the disposal rates and list of accepted items at tinyurl.com/ydbxyh5. If you have any questions, contact district staff at 802-388-2333, or Emily at emily@acswwd.org.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont have risen 0.7 cents per gallon during the past week to \$3.38, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 626 stations. Prices are 15.4 cents higher than a month ago and 1.1 cents higher than a year ago. The cheapest station in Vermont sold at \$3.18 this week, the most expensive at \$3.79. Meanwhile, the national average price of gasoline remained unchanged at \$3.51.

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Weybridge man charged with felonies

MIDDLEBURY — Robert E. Bowdish, 77, of Weybridge pleaded innocent on Monday to seven felony and two misdemeanor counts of possession of child sexual abuse material, the Vermont Attorney General's Office announced. He was arraigned in Addison Superior Court, Criminal Division, in Middlebury.

Prosecutors emphasize that individuals charged with a crime are legally presumed innocent until their guilt is proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Authorities said the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (VT-ICAC) received multiple CyberTipline reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Microsoft passed on the tip after the company noticed someone had uploaded images of child sexual abuse material from an electronic device onto the Bing web search engine to search for similar images of child sexual abuse material, using Microsoft's Bing image search product.

Based on a criminal investigation of that tip, Bowdish was identified as the owner of the electronic device that uploaded the images of child sexual abuse material onto Bing.

The criminal investigation included the execution of search warrants conducted by VT-ICAC, which included people from the Attorney General's Office, Homeland Security Investigations, and Vermont State Police.

After Bowdish pleaded not guilty, Judge David Fenster ordered conditions of release that restrict Bowdish's access to minors, electronic devices and the internet.

VT-ICAC investigates cases of child sexual exploitation occurring over the internet, including the production and online distribution of child sexual abuse materials. The task force also provides forensic examination services, technical assistance, law enforcement training, and public education and outreach.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) is the nation's centralized reporting system for the online exploitation of children. Anyone can make reports of suspected online enticement of children for sexual acts, child sexual molestation, child sexual abuse material, child sex tourism, child sex trafficking, unsolicited obscene materials sent to a child, misleading domain names, and misleading words or digital images on the internet. To make a report, call the 24-hour call center at 1-800-843-5678 or visit report.cybertip.org.

Additionally, if you are recovering from child sexual exploitation, you do not have to navigate it alone. NCMEC can help with emotional and peer support, removing content from the internet, and locating mental health professionals. For more information, visit www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/csam-resources or call the 24-hour call center toll-free at 1-800-843-5678.



S·p·i·l·o·v·e·r
TATUM RAPHAEL, A seventh-grader at Vergennes Union Middle School, at left struggles to spell his word in the final round of the Vermont State Competition of the National Spelling Bee, held at Middlebury College this past Thursday, March 28. Above, Stacy Raphael, Tatum's spelling coach and mother, reacts as he spells a word correctly earlier in the competition. Tatum Raphael earned second place in the bee, which was won by Phoenix Newell of Kirby.
 Photos by Glenn Russell/VTDigger

NJ man jailed for Vergennes arson

VERGENNES — A New Jersey man who police said torched a car and a home in Vergennes in January of 2022 has been sentenced to more than four years in prison.

Eddy Santiago Jr., 30, of Clifton, N.J., was sentenced on March 29 in the U.S. District Court in Burlington following his guilty plea to using extortionate means to collect and punish the nonpayment of a debt. Federal Judge Christina Reiss sentenced Santiago to 49 months in prison, followed by a three-year term of supervised release.

According to court records, police arrested Santiago on Jan. 5, 2022, after he had set fire to a vehicle at 40 Booth Woods in Vergennes at around 5 that morning. The fire destroyed two vehicles in the driveway and damaged the residence itself. Police at the time said the duplex "sustained significant damage to its siding, which had melted due to the intense heat generated by the car fire."

After getting a request to be on the lookout for Santiago, Middlebury police took him into custody without incident less than an hour after the fire was reported, pulling his vehicle over as it headed south on Route 30 in.

Witnesses reported that Santiago had threatened to start a fire if the residents did not pay a large debt he thought they owed him for cocaine he had provided. Police also said in their initial press release that a witness told them, "Santiago had told the owner of the house he would burn his house down, and the neighbors' (houses)."

Federal drug and firearms agents told Vergennes police they had video footage of Santiago filling a red gas can in South Burlington an hour before the fire. Then, Booth Woods security camera footage allegedly showed Santiago carrying a red gas can and torching the 2002 Chevy Malibu. A later search of Santiago's BMW revealed a partially filled red gas can in his trunk, as well as \$4,250 in cash and two cellphones.

Santiago originally pleaded innocent to four counts of attempted murder, one count of first-degree arson, three counts of third-degree arson, and one of unlawful mischief. The attempted murder counts were apparently due to the fact that there were four people inside the homes at the time of the fire.

Several law enforcement agencies participated in the investigation of Santiago, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); and Vergennes, Middlebury and Vermont State police departments. United States Attorney Nikolas P. Kerest commended the mutually supportive efforts of the agencies in their proactive investigation of drug crimes and their reactive investigation of the arson.

Ferrisburgh

Have a news tip?
 Email Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net

NEWS

FERRISBURGH — The Ferrisburgh Historical Society will feature our local history enthusiast Charlie Langworthy, who will present a slide show entitled "One Room Schools of Ferrisburgh." This event will be on Sunday, April 14, 2-3p.m. at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. This will be a fascinating look into how our local schools functioned in the early days of our town.

The "King Pede" card parties are held by the Ferrisburgh Grange are scheduled for the Saturdays of April 13 and 27. These fun get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper and then on to the games! King Pede involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

The Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall is holding a variety of events in April. On Friday, April 12, at 6 p.m., there will be another of their famous Family Movie Nights. This month's selection will be "Sing 2," featuring an all-star cast of vocalists as a follow up to the original film "Sing." My Dentist's Son, using stories for conversation and connecting, will have the next session on Sunday, April 28, 3-4:30 p.m. Additionally, the FUMH is teaming up with the Middlebury Community Music Center to offer music programming for Ferrisburgh. This group is seeking a music instructor

for the Ferrisburgh area, so please reach out if interested. For more information and updates on all these events, visit unionmeetinghall.org or email unionmeetinghall@gmail.com.

Bixby Library is geared up to assist us in preparing for the solar eclipse which will happen on Monday, April 8, beginning at about 2 p.m. On Saturday, April 6, at 11 a.m., the Last Chance Solar Eclipse Program will offer 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, visit www.bixbylibrary.org.

Bixby Library is hosting the second performance in the Freda Fishman Stroh Free Concert Series: Va-et-vient. On Saturday, April 27, 12:30-2 p.m., these Addison County *musiciens* will take us through the centuries from France to Québec and New Orleans with lively dance numbers, touching love songs, kickin' Cajun and Créole tunes, and rollicking Québécois favorites. This Freda Fishman Stroh Free Concert Series is made possible by a generous grant from the Vermont Community Foundation's Freda Fishman Stroh Memorial Fund.

Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is offering a one-week rowing expedition on Lake Champlain this summer for teens ages 13-16. This expedition is a great chance to get outside to

explore and experience the lake from a different perspective. The museum strongly believes in making these unforgettable adventures available to all, so payment is on a "pay what you can" basis. More details are at lcmmm.org/expeditions or contact the expeditionary program manager, Krissy Navrat at krissy@lcmmm.org.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum will be opening on Saturday, May 18. In preparation for the opening, the museum is seeking volunteers for the 2024 season. On Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., there will be a welcome meeting for volunteers at the museum grounds. Current volunteers and anyone interested in learning more about volunteering are invited to preview exhibits, review updates to the volunteer handbook, and share their feedback. Lunch will be provided, and there will be time to catch up and socialize on the museum lawn. For more information, call 802-475-2022.

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

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Charlotte

(Continued from Page 1A)
 injured by an SUV driven by Zachary Bruchmiller, a Middlebury College student from Texas. In addition to various broken bones, Charlotte sustained a traumatic brain injury that left her fighting for her life. She was rushed to Porter Hospital and then airlifted to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H.

In an instant, Charlotte McConnell's life trajectory had gone from unlimited potential to maddening uncertainty.

Karly McConnell still gets attacks of the "what ifs?"

"There's many things I'd do differently if I could turn back the clock,"

Karly McConnell told the *Independent*. "For starters I would have stood my children on the sidewalk while I struggled to open the van door, had I known I was going to have to work hard to get it to open. And in the meantime, Charlotte's life was taken from her. Yes, she's alive, but she's no longer the healthy daughter I gave birth to; she will forever be disabled. I feel robbed, and I think she was too. The guilt comes and goes."

But the waves of guilt recede each time Karly sees Charlotte, now 12 years old, do things that other children and moms might take for granted. Throwing a ball. Speaking in short sentences. Learning new words. Making new friends.

Giving her a big hug. "Every day is a new day," Karly said. "A day to cherish and to be thankful for what we do have." It's been far from easy.

The accident has impaired Charlotte's sight, left her with a severe leg injury and brain trauma that's decimated her ability to learn and function in a conventional classroom. She's a part-time 6th-grade student at Middlebury Union Middle School, where she's particularly fond of music, art and her fellow students.

"The brain is an amazing but mysterious organ," Karly said. Charlotte has been diagnosed with "cortical visual impairment," which hampers her ability to see things underfoot. She's learning to use a mobility cane to help guide her on uneven ground and the unexpected drops in stairs and sidewalks.

"Some days her vision is pretty 'on,' while other days it isn't as good," her mom said. Charlotte has had a number of surgeries on her leg to help guide its growth in the proper direction. She's had a Vagus nerve stimulation device placed in her body that's staving off the seizures that once pummeled her unmercifully.

It's a lot for a child and her family to deal with.

MEETING CHARLOTTE
 Charlotte showed a panoply of emotions as she sat in on this reporter's Monday interview with her mom, a Counseling Service of Addison County employee who coordinates services for adults with disabilities.

An energetic young girl with a quick smile and mischievous brown eyes, she proudly and candidly introduced herself: "My name is Charlotte, I have a brain injury and I've had a tough day."

She settled into her chair with a snack and some music. One sensed she wanted to be part of the conversation, but her healing brain wouldn't allow it. She contributed by asking the reporter his name multiple times and by querying her mom on what they'd be doing next. When she speaks, she holds her right palm next to her chin and flicks her fingers, as if to emphasize her words.

Karly patiently smiled as her daughter crawled into her lap to give her a lengthy bear hug while she conversed. Karly is her daughter's universe, and any planetary shift doesn't sit well with Charlotte. Her demeanor can switch from laughs to tears, on a dime. Even a hint of a departure

from the family routine saddens her.

Caring for Charlotte is more than a single parent can handle and thankfully, she has help.

Her dad Josh, who now lives in another state, cherishes his time with Charlotte during school vacations.

Her grandpa John Duclos (Karly's dad) pitches in, giving Karly the occasional breather.

And then there's Julia Allen, a CSAC personal care assistant who's worked with Charlotte since the accident. In an ironic twist, Karly used to babysit Julia and her siblings back in the day.

Allen picks Charlotte up from school, plays with her and tends to her needs when Karly is working or needs a break. The Allen family even takes Charlotte on their summer camping trips.

Julia said working with Charlotte has been a gift, rather than a gig.

"Working with her has changed my life," she said. "It breaks my heart that the worst possible thing could have happened to her, to change my life forever, and all the positives that have come out of it."

And like Karly, Allen has seen Charlotte progress from the frail toddler once confined to a wheelchair.

She's not only walking now, she's running. And while she can't discern colors or read words, her vocabulary and articulation have grown tremendously, according to her mom.

Allen agrees. "To see her then and now, it's a pure miracle," said Allen, who used to accompany Charlotte to preschool at Middlebury's Mary Hogan Elementary. "It was amazing to seeing the challenges she faced of getting that brain to work and heal. The little milestones were huge — and are still huge."

Charlotte may never understand the full impact she's had on the Allen family.

THE ALLEN FAMILY
 Allen had been caring for Charlotte for around two years when she — then an expectant mother — received heartrending news of her own: Her future son

"Every day is a new day. A day to cherish and to be thankful for what we do have."

— Karly McConnell



STRUCK AND NEARLY killed by a vehicle on Weybridge Street 10 years ago, 12-year-old Charlotte McConnell is making steady progress. Pictured here are, left to right, Karly McConnell (Charlotte's mom); Charlotte; Julia Allen (Charlotte's personal care assistant); and Jase Allen, Julia's son.
 Independent photo/John Flowers

Jase had been diagnosed, in utero, with Down syndrome.

"You're trying to take that all in, you're kind of a mess," she said of her state following the test results. "The next day, I had Charlotte, and we went to Lake Champlain, listened to some music. I just cried."

But Allen's experience with Charlotte had given her a real-life introduction into what it would be like to care for a special-needs child.

"I think Charlotte came into my life and helped me prepare me for this little guy," she said, patting 7-year-old Jase on the head.

"I was like, 'This is a new adventure, and who knew that when Charlotte walked into my life years ago, it would change my life.'"

Jase and Charlotte are best friends. If you have no aversion to cuteness and shedding a few tears, check out their joint Facebook Page at tinyurl.com/h45e2jnu.

"The relationship she has with Jase is amazing," Allen said. "They are so close."

Karly, now 42, has gotten used

to the rigors of caring for a child who may never be ready for independent living. At the urging of others, she's trying to carve out more "me-time" to relieve stress and have distraction-free time for hobbies. She's glad she'll be able to watch the eclipse in its entirety on Monday without hearing, "Hey, mom!" She's looking forward to an upcoming, weeklong vacation, which will allow her to decompress.

But no matter where she goes, her thoughts will be with Charlotte and the village of people who are helping her navigate a life strewn with potential pitfalls and challenges.

April 1 will always be a dark day on the McConnell's calendar.

"I lost my job, my home and my healthy daughter that day, and a month later, my mom," Karly said. "The accident haunts me in different ways. It's made me more aware of pedestrians, especially those dressed in dark colors basically camouflaged to drivers. It's caused me to have PTSD; I struggle when I hear a lot of sirens."

She now reminds herself that the sirens mean whoever is hurt is getting the medical attention they need.

Karly suspects she'll always get attacks of the "what-ifs?" but she isn't one to hold grudges.

On the very night of the accident, Karly had her mom find the driver's contact information so Karly could call him to make sure he knew Charlotte was alive and that she wasn't "hunting him down."

"I wanted to make sure he was emotionally OK," she said. "It was a true accident. He was not drinking and driving, nor on his phone. It's an example of how even with best intentions, we as drivers make mistakes. We don't always see people even right in the road, we don't always do 'the right thing.' He was a young adult at the time and this changed his life forever, too."

Karly continues to stay in touch with Bruchmiller, saying the contact has helped her.

"In the blink of an eye, this accident changed the life of more than one person," she said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

"To see her then and now, it's a pure miracle."

— Julia Allen

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Undefeated women's lax survives challenge

Middlebury erases deficit vs. Wesleyan with three late goals; also thumps St. Lawrence

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College women's lacrosse team found itself in uncharted territory on its home turf on this past Saturday against Wesleyan.

With less than five minutes to go, the Cardinals held a 10-9 lead they had earned by fighting back from an 8-6 third-quarter deficit. This came against a Panther team that was not only undefeated at 7-0 entering Saturday and the winner of 35 straight home games, but this spring had won every outing by at least eight goals.

The Cardinals, a 5-1 outfit with quality victories on its resumé, appeared to have the momentum. Certainly, they were offering the Panthers their first real challenge of the season.

Challenge accepted.

Not only did Middlebury hold the Cardinals scoreless for the last 9:44, but they scored three times in the final 4:32 to rally for a 12-10 victory.

Middlebury followed up with a less dramatic win on Tuesday, 19-3 at St. Lawrence, to improve to 9-0.

In Saturday's nailbiter, junior attacker Hope Shue did the lion's share of the damage down the stretch. First she attacked from the left side to force a foul, and then converted the following free position shot by bolting past two defenders and finishing high into the net.

At 3:01 Shue cut in from the left, took a feed from senior Susan Rowley, led a defender in her wake, and again found the net from close range to make it 11-10.

Wesleyan won the following draw, but two Panther defenders teamed up to draw an offensive foul,

and Shue and Rowley went back to work.

Shue again raced in from the left side, drawing three Cardinal defenders. She spun away from the pressure and found Rowley cutting to the net, and Rowley finished high

from just outside the crease at 1:17. In a span of 3:15, the Panthers had gone from a goal down to two up.

Wesleyan again won the draw, but Panther defenders Chloe Newman and Lucy Bishop sealed the result by causing turnovers as time wound

down, and Middlebury's perfect record and winning streak lived on.

Shue, who topped 200 points for her career (166 goals, 38 assists) with a five-goal, two-assist effort vs. Wesleyan, said the Panthers corrected course in the late surge.

"We were missing some chances and forcing some things we shouldn't have. So in the fourth quarter I thought we took care of the ball, and on those chances capitalized and uplifted each other, playing like we

(See Lacrosse, Page 3B)



PANTHER JUNIOR ANNA Spehr fires the ball high into the Wesleyan net during the Middlebury women's lacrosse team home win on Saturday.

Independent photo/Steve James



MADDIE COUGHLIN, CENTER, is congratulated by her teammates after scoring vs. Wesleyan during the Middlebury women's lacrosse home win on Saturday.

Independent photo/Steve James



PANTHER JUNIOR HOPE Shue goes on the attack during the Middlebury women's lacrosse team's 12-10 home win on Saturday. Shue scored five goals, twice late as the Panthers rallied to preserve their perfect record.

Independent photo/Steve James

Score BOARD

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse

3/30 Midd vs Wesleyan12-10

4/2 Midd vs St Lawrence19-3

Men's Lacrosse

3/30 Midd vs Wesleyan15-8

4/2 Hamilton vs Midd10-4

Baseball

3/27 Midd vs RPI14-7

3/29 Hamilton vs Midd4-3

3/30 Midd vs Hamilton6-4

3/30 Midd vs Hamilton9-8 (10)

4/3 Union at MiddPostponed

Softball

3/27 Castleton vs Midd5-4

3/27 Midd vs Castleton6-1

3/29 Midd vs Wesleyan8-1

3/29 Midd vs Wesleyan7-3

4/3 Union at MiddPostponed

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Lacrosse

4/10 Harwood at MUHS 4:30 PM

4/11 Stowe at VUHS 4:30 PM

4/13 Essex at VUHS 11 AM

4/13 St. Albans at MUHS11:45 AM

Boys' Lacrosse

4/10 OV at Mt. Abe 4:30 PM

4/11 Harwood at MUHS 4 PM

4/12 Fairfax at OV 4:30 PM

4/12 Mt Abe at Stowe 4:30 PM

4/13 MUHS at St. Albans 11 AM

Baseball

4/9 Burr & Burton at OV 4:30 PM

Softball

4/9 Burr & Burton at OV 4:30 PM

Boys' Tennis

4/12 CVU at MUHS 3:30 PM

Girls' Tennis

4/10 U-32 at MUHS 3:30 PM

4/13 MUHS at Harwood 3:30 PM

Track & Field

4/11 VUHS/Mt Abe at MMU 3:30 PM

4/11 MUHS at Burlington 3:15 PM

Ultimate

4/12 Burlington at MUHS 4 PM

COLLEGE SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse

4/4 RPI at Midd 5:30 PM

4/6 Colby at Midd Noon

4/13 Midd at Tufts Noon

4/14 Hamilton at Midd Noon

Men's Lacrosse

4/6 Midd at Colby 1 PM

4/13 Tufts at Midd 2 PM

Baseball

4/6 Bowdoin at Midd 3:30 PM

4/7 Bowdoin at Midd (2) Noon

4/10 RPI at Midd 3:30 PM

4/12 Williams at Midd 4 PM

4/13 Williams at Midd (2) Noon

Softball

4/6 Bates at Midd (2) 1 PM

4/6 Bowdoin at Midd (2) Noon

4/13 Midd at Colby (2) Noon

4/14 Midd at Tufts (2) Noon

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.

MUMS students embrace volleyball 'Madness'

By ANDY KIRKALDY
MIDDLEBURY — More than 100 Middlebury-area 6th-, 7th- and 8th-graders gathered in the Middlebury town gym this past Thursday and Friday, March 28 and 29, for intramural volleyball

tournaments that capped a month of play and instruction in a sport that is growing in popularity in the community.

They were participating in a statewide coed "March Madness" youth volleyball program that is

in its third year in Middlebury, according to Middlebury Union High School assistant volleyball coach Amanda Young.

Interest was so strong this year that organizers had to stage two program-ending tournaments,

Young said, one for 6th-graders on Thursday and one for Middlebury Union Middle School students on the next afternoon.

"This year was epic," Young said. "We had over 100 athletes

(See Volleyball, Page 2B)



AN ATHLETE USES a no-look approach to knocking the ball back over the net during the MUMS "March Madness" coed volleyball tournament in the Middlebury town gym on March 29.

Independent photo/Steve James



HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER Ida Blackwell explains some of the finer points of the game to MUMS players during the "March Madness" coed volleyball tournament in the Middlebury town gym on March 29.

Independent photo/Steve James



A HITTER GOES high to knock the ball over the net during the MUMS "March Madness" coed volleyball tournament in the Middlebury town gym on March 29.

Independent photo/Steve James



A FRONTLINE HITTER sends the ball over the net during the MUMS "March Madness" coed volleyball tournament in the Middlebury town gym on March 29.

Independent photo/Steve James

Volleyball

(Continued from Page 1B) participating."

Young said many schools have participated around the state over the years in the March Madness program, which locally helped develop the varsity girls' program that debuted at MUHS this past fall.

Around 15 high school players and what Young called "a handful of willing adults" helped the younger athletes learn the sport in after-school practices and both intramural and interscholastic games throughout the month.

"The focus is on introduction to the sport for our MUMS students and leadership development for the high-schoolers," Young said.

The Middlebury program during the month hosted Brown River Middle School and traveled to St. Albans and Colchester, and on Saturday, March 30, the program also sent four teams to Essex to compete against squads from the other Vermont middle schools that are also participating in March Madness.



A PLAYER USES a two-handed bump to return the ball during the MUMS "March Madness" coed volleyball tournament in the Middlebury town gym on March 29.

Independent photo/Steve James



MEMBERS OF ONE of the MUMS teams that played in a coed "March Madness" tournament in the Middlebury town gym on March 29 celebrate a victory. The tournament capped a month-long instructional program.

Independent photo/Steve James

Let's consider spawning salmon and hydropower without a dam

The phrase "wicked problems" has been around since at least the early 1970s. It refers to challenges that typically have no correct solution, but only different options of tradeoffs and costs: problems for which any proposed solution will have likely negative consequences even if they address and mitigate the central issue that prompted them.

Although the phrase was initially used with respect to social policy issues, several years ago my friend David O'Hara — an environmental philosopher and former Vermont resident and Middlebury College graduate — first got me thinking about wicked problems in an environmental context, especially as we taught a couple classes together in Alaska going back to 2015 and also did some research together in Alaska's Bristol Bay.

Writing about Bristol Bay (and the proposed Pebble Mine) for journals such as *Ethics, Policy, and Government*, Dave notes several features of so-called wicked environmental problem. Among them are multiple stakeholders with competing interests, a changing or volatile landscape, and the tendency for "solutions" to add to the complexity of the problem or to create new problems.

I was brought back to this recently by a proposed development project in Bristol Bay that I learned about in 2022 and have been following since. The majority of remote villages in the Bristol Bay region — many of which are native villages, and have elements of traditional subsistence harvesting lifestyle — are dependent on diesel fuel to power electric generators. One such group of a half dozen villages along the Nushagak River collectively uses approximately 1.5 million gallons of diesel fuel annually. In addition to the burning of fossil fuel in the generators, it also needs to be shipped by tanker to the town of Dillingham and then trucked up haul roads to villages. This carries a significant carbon footprint, and human-caused climate change (largely a result of burning fossil fuels) may be the most serious existential threat to the world today. Among the many negative consequences of climate change is that it continues to upset global food security. The challenges of shipping the diesel and maintaining remote generators also make for energy insecurity in those villages.

One proposed solution is the construction of a hydro generator on the Nuyakuk River, a tributary of the Nushagak flowing out of Wood-Tikchik State Park, the largest state park in the country and where I served as Artist-in-Residence in July 2022. The proposed project would generate 12 MW of power year-round potentially replacing the burning of 1.5 million gallons of diesel fuel. (A description of the proposed Nuyakuk Hydro Electric project can be found at www.nuyakukhydro.com.) The facility would sit just inside the current boundary of Wood-Tikchik State Park downstream of Tikchik Lake.

Why is it a wicked problem? The Bristol Bay drainage is the spawning

habitat for roughly half of the world's wild-caught sockeye salmon, and by some estimates nearly a third of all wild-caught salmon of all species. And the Nushagak drainage is one of the most important tributaries of Bristol Bay. Global food supply and food security is perhaps the most important issue in the world today. Any time we think about a hydro project on important salmon spawning habitat, we should consider the long history in both the Pacific Northwest and New England of anadromous fisheries destroyed by dams and loss of spawning habitat. Consider, for example, the decimation of Connecticut River Atlantic salmon runs caused by the numerous dams along that watershed, and the failure of efforts to restore that fishery while those dams persist. I have written articles about the importance of removing dams in many places. So one must approach any proposed hydro project on such important salmon water with a critical eye.

Enter some creative problem solving. One aspect of the proposed hydro project on the Nuyakuk that is most promising is that it

would not require a dam or complete impoundment of the river; the natural course of the river would be maintained. The features of the geography at the proposed site that enable this include a 26-foot elevation drop over a stretch of river less than one kilometer (about 2,500 feet) long, and a sharp bend in the river requiring a flow diversion of only 1,500 feet. Of course, with a considerable amount of flow diverted through generators, there would be less water in the main river channel. Interestingly enough, though, that lower flow could actually help the salmon migration, especially during high water years, requiring less energy from the salmon to move up the river.

It isn't a perfect solution. In addition to the carbon footprint of building the hydro facility, such a project requires roads and infrastructure that necessarily affects the landscape (and possibly the salmon spawning), and would require a shrinking of the state park boundaries and its protected lands and waters. But it might be the sort of solution we need to effectively address climate change.

In the end, though, creative problem solving (including engineering solutions) is important, but it won't be enough. Individuals and regions will need to make lifestyle changes also. That will involve some sacrifice. I think often of what Frodo Baggins said near the start of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" when he was asked to take on the quest to destroy the evil ring of power. "I should like to save the Shire, if I could — though there have been times when I thought the inhabitants too stupid and dull for words ... I feel that as long as the Shire lies behind, safe and comfortable, I shall find wandering more bearable: I shall know that somewhere there is a firm foothold, even if my feet cannot stand there again."



MATTHEW DICKERSON

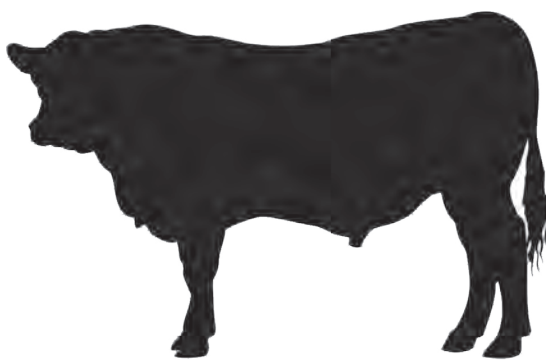
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Lacrosse

(Continued from Page 1B) normally play," Shue said. "It was definitely a good mental flip in the fourth quarter to not be scared and be on the attack."

That last point might have been the most critical. The Panthers seemed tentative at times against Wesleyan's tightly packed defense, and a more aggressive mindset paid off in those waning minutes.

"We realized we could just go to goal and exploit some stuff, find where their slides were looser," Shue said. "That was definitely a big difference maker."

She said the team ultimately responded well to its first adversity of the spring, and credited the Panther defense for its steady play.

"We hadn't had a close game yet this season, and I think we're not really used to that. We had three quarters under our belt getting used to a real tie game, and then we were able to pull through at the end," Shue said. "The defense was the backbone of the team, and we have so much trust in them. That's how we were able to get to that fourth quarter."

Coach Kate Livesay was not pleased with the Panthers' 20 turnovers, even if in turn they forced 18 Cardinal miscues.

"That was the message to the team. You were lucky to survive against a team like that when you give the ball away as many times as you did. And if we want to be the team we want to be we have to play a much cleaner game," Livesay said. "We're hoping this is a game they learn from."

Still, she added the team could learn from the challenge.

"We do have to give ourselves credit ... and take some positives from being in a tight spot and working our way out of it," she said.

Wesleyan (last week ranked No. 8 in NCAA Division III to the Panthers' No. 1, served notice early it would not roll over for Middlebury.

The Panthers took a 4-3 lead after one period on two goals by Shue, one assisted by Rowley; one by sophomore middle Maggie Coughlin on a free position earned after a transition feed from Shue; and finally a transition tiebreaker by draw specialist Caroline Adams with 0:06 left in the quarter. But Wesleyan kept answering and picking the corners against Panther goalie Gina Driscoll. Cardinals Laura Baine, Brook Nelson and Lindsey Diomedé scored in the period.

Early in the second period, Anna Spehr converted a Kelcey Dion right-to-left pass across the goalmouth to make it 5-3. That was one of three instances the Panthers took a two-goal lead, but each time the Cardinals did not allow them to extend it. Midway through the quarter Baine and Shue traded goals,

and it was 6-4 at the half. Shue's was another transition goal set up by a long Spehr run.

In the first 2:24 of the second half, Baine and Diomedé each scored and assisted each other, and the game was knotted at 6-6. Then Coughlin, from Shue at 8:09, and Spehr, from Skylar Lach behind the net at 7:02, gave the Panthers another two-goal lead.

Again, it didn't last. At 5:03 Wesleyan leading scorer Olivia Lai found the net, and 45 seconds later Dylan Green converted a Dibble feed, and the teams entered the fourth quarter at 8-8.

Rowley made it 9-8 at 11:46 on a great individual effort. She knocked the ball loose at midfield, raced in 50 yards, dodged the last line of defense and whipped the ball home.

The Cardinals were undeterred. A minute later Dibble dodged through the middle of the fan and found a corner, and the game was tied. Shortly afterward a Panther was sent off for a foul, and at 9:44 Lai got loose in the fan and fired a shot in for the 10-9 lead.

For the next five minutes neither team could break through, in part because the Middlebury defense stood tall: Nikki Mormile, Madison Paylor, Chloe Newman, Grace Mumford, Kylie Wilson and Lucy Bishop all played well in the back, and middle Caroline Messer was key in transition. But finally the Panthers found their footing.

Livesay explained.

"We have some really great attackers who know that's the time to step up. I think you saw people like Susan Rowley and Hope Shue knowing they can do it. They just need the ball in their hands and

those opportunities," she said.

Livesay also credited the Cardinals and talked about the experience her team gained.

"They played very well, and it was a good game, but we're happy to be in those games," she said. "It's good for everybody to feel that and know what it takes in those moments."

On Tuesday the Panthers had no trouble with host St. Lawrence, bolting to a 12-1 halftime lead on the way to their 19-3 victory.

Rowley led the assault with four goals, and Shue and Spehr were next with three each. Lach and Maddie Ocampo each scored twice, and Kate Motley, Adams, Messer, Britt

Nawrocki and Burdine Atherton chipped in a goal apiece. Driscoll made six saves, and the Saints' Courtney Lynn made four.

The Panthers were set to host RPI on Wednesday in a game moved from Thursday due to the impending snowstorm, and Colby (7-2) will visit on Saturday.

Colby is ranked No. 9 and owns an early-season win over Wesleyan and could pose a challenge. But Shue said on this past Saturday the Panthers expect to improve.

"I know we didn't give it our best game today," Shue said, "and we know we have to clean a couple things up."

TOWN OF SALISBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold Public Hearings in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, to consider the following:

Application 2024-02

This proceeding involves review of an application for a Conditional Use/Site Plan Review submitted by property owner, Town of Salisbury, applicant, Christian Bowdish, (Parcel ID #1001032), located at 25 Schoolhouse Road, in connection with a proposed permit to operate a Day Care Center located at the above referenced location. This property is located within the High Density Residential (HDR) District. This application requires DRB approval under §2.4.1 D of the Salisbury Uniform Development Regulations.

This application is pursuant to §2.4.1 D, §3.4.1-§3.4.8, and §3.8.1-§3.8.4, and §4.2.1-§4.2.3, of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

Participation (either oral or written) is a prerequisite to an interested person's right to take any subsequent appeal from the DRB's decision. See 24 V.S.A. §4465(b) and §4471.

These hearings will be conducted with in-person and remote access. Those wishing to participate remotely must obtain the necessary remote access codes. Access codes (for on-line or phone) are available by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk during regular business hours prior to 3:00 PM on April 23, 2024. The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

Anna Scheck
DRB Clerk



MIDDLEBURY SOPHOMORE MIDFIELDER Caroline Messer bolts up the field in transition during the Middlebury women's lacrosse team's home win on Saturday.

Independent photo/Steve James



SENIOR SUSAN ROWLEY scores the first Panther goal during the Middlebury women's lax win over Wesleyan on Saturday.

Independent photo/Steve James

Public Notices

can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 3B and 10B.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middlebury Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 22, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room at the Town Offices, 77 Main Street, to consider the following application(s).

1. Application (file #2024-25:141.000-A) being an appeal by John McPartland of an administrative action by the zoning administrator regarding the letter of opinion dated February 21, 2024. This appeal is specific to the property owned by Richard Tinsley property located at 13 Washington Street Ext. in the Residential 8 zoning district, parcel ID# 025141.000.
2. Application (file #2024-012012.000-amend PUD/SD) is a request by Jack Brown (applicant) dba Daisy Lane Properties, LLC, seeking approval for the development of lot 4C and final closeout review of the Daisy Lane subdivision PUD. The property is identified as parcel #012012.000 in the R-2 zoning district located on the west side of Lower Plains Road.

The hearing will also be available to participants via Zoom video link. The link will be provided on the meeting agenda posted on the Town's website. Plans and additional information regarding these application(s) may be viewed at the Planning and Zoning Office in the Town Offices or by calling 388-8100, Ext 226. Participation in this public hearing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

David Wetmore
DRB Coordinator, AZA

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING Room 116 – Large Conference Room Town Offices – 77 Main Street Tuesday, April 9, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85006593189>
By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 850 0659 3189

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 26, 202- Regular Selectboard Meeting
 - 3b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
 - 3c. Approval of Renewal Applications for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Class Liquor Licenses, Outside Consumption Permits and Entertainment Permits
 - 3d. Approval of Letter of Support for Summit Housing's Application for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) for the Stonecrop Housing Development
 - 3e. Consent Agenda Placeholder
 - 3f. Consent Agenda Placeholder
 - 3g. Town Manager's Report
 - * Scoping Report for Route 7-Exchange Street-Happy Valley Road Intersection Improvement Presentation scheduled for Infrastructure Meeting April 16
 4. *Citizen Comments
- 7:10
5. *Emmalee Cherington, Director of Public Works Planning with request for approval of Wright-Pierce On-Call Engineering Services for Solid Waste Certification Assistance
- 7:20
6. * Nominations to Appointed Boards, Committees, Commissions & Official Positions
- 7:30
7. *Bill Kernan, Director of Public Works Operations
 - 7a. *Requests for Approval of Purchase Orders to replace the Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) Pump and redevelop Well #4
 - 7b. *Request for Five-Year Approval for Purchase of Diffuser Assemblies
- 7:40
8. *Jeremy Palmer, South Ridge Homeowners' Association, with a request for enforcement of the "No Parking" zone along South Ridge Drive and/or alternative parking solutions for sporting events at the Middlebury Union Middle School Recreation Fields
- 7:55
9. * Phyllis Stinson, Middlebury Skatepark Project, with an update on progress from 2023
- 8:10
10. *David Sophrin, Assistant Town Manager, with updates and recommendations from the Policy Review Committee Meeting of March 28, 2024, including a recommended policy change for the Town's Parking Appeals process
- 8:20
11. **Agenda Placeholder
- 8:25
11. **Agenda Placeholder
- 8:30
12. **Agenda Placeholder
- 8:35
13. * Approval of Check Warrants
 14. **Board Member Concerns
 15. *Executive Session – Not Anticipated
 16. **Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
- 8:50
17. *Adjourn
- * Decision Item ** Possible Decision



AUCTIONS

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

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Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — An eclipse party will be held at the library on Monday, April 8, from 3 to 4 p.m. If the weather cooperates, viewers will see the shadow of the moon completely over the sun. The celebration will feature eclipse themed games, activities and snacks.

Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy the view. To aid in safe viewing, materials to make a pinhole box viewer, safety binoculars, eclipse glasses and a special refracting telescope (thank you, ECHO Center) will be available.

April is the Month of the Young Child and the library is celebrating. The children's room walls will feature some of the wonderful artwork of our youngest folks, the preschoolers. Come enjoy the vibrant, colorful energy of these youngsters!

Don't pack away your winter plaid just yet! A special feature is happening at the library April 10-20. Receive a free book when you wear plaid to the library during this 10-day period. Limit one free book

per person. A craft session will be held at the library on Wednesday, April 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. Crafters will be making sock puppets. After completion, crafters can enjoy performing a little skit in the puppet theater.

The senior meal will be held on Thursday, April 18, at Burnham Hall. Music will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Enjoy pulled pork, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, homemade rolls, veggies and dessert. The cost of the meal is by donation.

Lincoln Community School and the Creative Spark Program invite the community to A Very Merry Theatre's production of "Peter Pan" on Thursday, April 18, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Burnham Hall. With special thanks to Friends of Lincoln Community School Inc. for funding this production.

Until next time ... Hope Is The Only Thing Stronger Than Fear. Do What Is Right, Not What Is Easy. Be Patient And Trust Your Journey.

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Addison County Parent/Child Center
info@addisoncountypcc.org • addisoncountypcc.org • 388-3171

- 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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Helping Young Families Get The Right Start


Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Bristol writes:

"The Independent continues to be a bright light for us each week. Be proud of your achievement."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

community calendar

THURSDAY

Right Tree, Right Place: A Spring Walking Tour and Presentation in Middlebury. Thursday, April 4, 5:30 p.m., College Park, across from Shiretown Market, 54 College St. Join Tim Parsons, Landscape Horticulturist at Middlebury College, on a walking tour of the trees of College Park and nearby Twilight Green. The talk will include tips on how and where to plant trees as well as care of the tree in the first year and beyond. Free. More info at middleburytreecommittee@gmail.com.

"Sharing the Trail: Get to Know the Mammals of the TAM" in Middlebury. Thursday, April 4, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join us for a talk on the different habitat preferences and activity levels of mammals on the TAM and learn how human activities can affect them. Explore the activity of these mammals through photos and videos from trail cameras set by Middlebury College students this past fall and hear what they can tell us about the trail's community.

"Remembering The Dawn Land": A virtual presentation on the historical novel by Joseph Bruchac. Thursday, April 4, 6 p.m., virtual on Zoom. The area we now refer to as Western New England has been the homeland of Native people for at least 10,000 years. Relying on oral traditions and the related elements of natural history, archaeology, cultural survival, indigenous language and the living land itself, Bruchac takes us back to that ancient time. Donations appreciated. Register in advance at tinyurl.com/Dawn-Land-Bruchac. Questions? contact programassociate@abenakiart.org.

An Oct. 7 survivor's story in Middlebury. Thursday, April 4, 7:30-9 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Come hear first-hand testimony from the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas from Nikita Soumrov, a 29-year-old who grew up on Kibbutz Nahal Oz. Terrorists attacked the kibbutz while Nikita, and his family hid in their safe room. Free. RSVP www.middlechabad.com/survivorstory.

FRIDAY

"Why Erica Garner also Couldn't Breathe: Maternal Grief and Black Politics," in Middlebury. Friday, April 5, 4 p.m., Axinn Center 232, Old Chapel Rd. Brown University Professor Juliet Hooker will speak about the key role that political mourning has historically played in Black politics, drawing from her recently published book "Black Grief/White Grievance: The Politics of Loss." Her talk will highlight the history of Black maternal grieving to explore the costs and injustices that accompany the instrumentalization of grieving activism as a democratic resource. Free and open to the public; participation in a discussion following the talk will be welcomed.

Exhibit opening and grand reopening celebration in Middlebury. Friday, April 5, 5-7 p.m., Sparrow Art Supply, 44 Main St. Celebrate Sparrow Art Supply's new location at this grand reopening party with a reception for the exhibit "Green Gold." The exhibit celebrates new beginnings featuring the works of seven local artists. With a nod to Robert Frost's iconic poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay," this collection shares the excitement of a fresh start and appreciation for life's golden moments.

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.

"Celebrating the Moon" in Vergennes. Friday, April 5, 7 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Vermont Youth Orchestra Ensembles featuring Vergennes students Jing Williams on trumpet, Grey Fearon on trombone, and Megan Mentzer on percussion will celebrate the excitement of the upcoming eclipse. Tickets \$15/adults, \$5/students. A fundraiser for the VOH All Access Project. Info: VergennesOperaHouse.org.

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.

Med47 Foundation Garage sale fundraiser in Bristol. Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 3319 S 116 Rd. The Med47 Foundation is holding a garage sale at their home. If you have been to one of our sales, you know we have a lot of great stuff at great prices. Rain or shine. More info at www.Facebook.com/med47foundation or call Cindy at 802-233-8334.

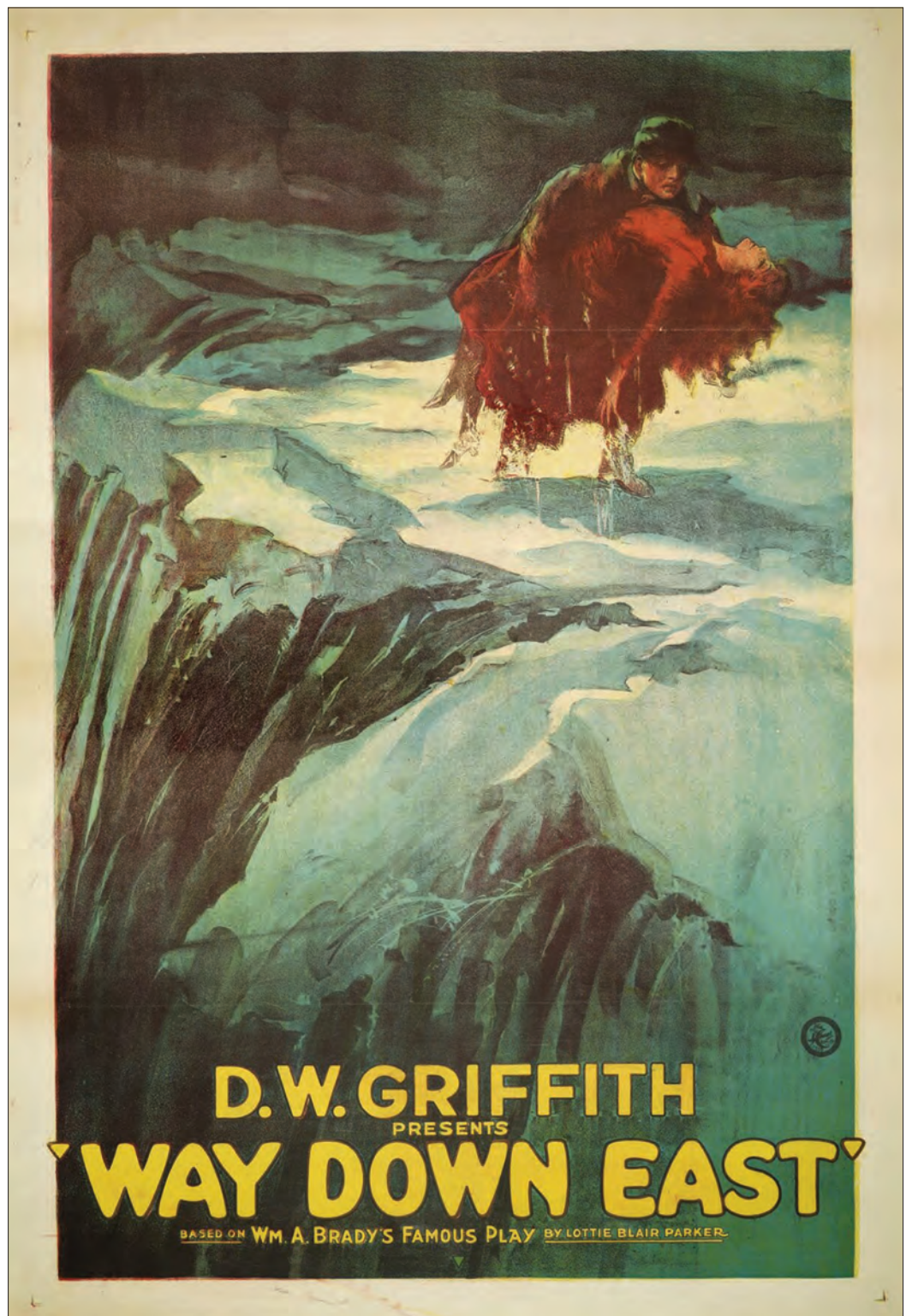
Music with Anna in Orwell. Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Immerse your little ones (ages 3-6) in the joy of music with early childhood music educator Anna Laufenberg. Through hands-on instrument exploration, interactive sing-alongs, and creative movement, cultivate a love for music while fostering creativity. Free.

Book Sale in Middlebury. Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St.

Eclipse prepary in Bristol. Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Pick up free solar eclipse glasses and enjoy some solar eclipse activities before the event. Glasses on a first-come, first-serve basis, one per person or three per family. A special Eclipse display will teach community members all about this once-in-a-lifetime. Family-friendly activity upstairs.

"Solar Eclipse Storytime" in Brandon. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Brandon Public Library, 1 Conant Square. Storytime this week will focus on the solar eclipse.

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



Green Mountain films

AMANDA KAY GUSTIN of the Vermont Historical Society will provide background and share clips of films in "Vermont vs. Hollywood: 100 Years of Vermont in Film" in Middlebury next Wednesday, April 10, 10:30 a.m., at Ilsley Public Library.

Photo courtesy of Jeannette Armell

SUNDAY

Spring breakfast in Middlebury. Sunday, April 7, 8-10 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Menu includes pancakes, sausage gravy/biscuits, bacon, hash, sausage, hash browns, eggs to order, scrambled eggs, toast, coffee and orange juice. Adults \$12/ children \$ 6. Open to the public. All benefits support Veterans programs.

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.

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/4GmxWscgpFRG49j6. 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.

Solar Eclipse Viewing with Middlebury Area Land Trust in Middlebury. 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 party in Lincoln. Monday, April 8, 3-4 p.m., Lincoln Library. Eclipse themed games, activities and snacks. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy the view.

TUESDAY

"Often mistaken: an Economist editor reflects on 50 years of far-flung journalism" in Middlebury. Tuesday, April 9, 4:30 p.m., Dana Auditorium, 356 College St. Middlebury College's 2024 Robert W. van de Velde Jr. '75 Memorial Lecture will be presented by Xan Smiley of *The Economist*. Half a century on the job, Smiley will analyze the success and failures of *The Economist's* (and his own) coverage of events that have shaped the world. More info contact ralph@middlebury.edu or 802 443-5320.

WEDNESDAY

"Vermont vs. Hollywood: 100 Years of Vermont in Film" in Middlebury. Wednesday, April 10, 10:30 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Amanda Kay Gustin of the Vermont Historical Society will provide background and share clips of films ranging from 1919's "Way Down East" to 2005's "Thank You for Smoking." A Vermont Humanities Council Program. Free and open to the public.

THURSDAY

"Feminism, Fascism and the Future" conference in Middlebury. Thursday, April 11, 5-7 p.m., Franklin Environmental Center, The Orchard-Hillcrest 103, 531 College St., and Abernathy Room, Axinn Center, Old College Rd. 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. More info at tinyurl.com/Gensler2024.

"Eat, Poop, Die" author talk in New Haven. Thursday, April 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Joe Roman, free-range conservation biologist, marine ecologist, and editor 'n' chef of *eattheinvasives.org*, will talk about his fascinating new book "Eat, Poop, Die: How Animals Make our World," which has been called "an exhilarating and enlightening global adventure, revealing the remarkable ways in which the most basic biological activities of animals make and remake the world." More info contact New Haven Community Library at 802-453-4015, or librarian@nhcl.org.

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CALENDAR ONLINE

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County kids do well at chess tourney

CRAFTSBURY — Two Addison County children placed in the Vermont State Scholastic Chess Tournament March 24 in Craftsbury. Asa McCallum of Weybridge placed first in the 2nd-grade division, with four wins and a draw. Jack Simpson of Middlebury placed second in the 4th-grade division, with four wins and a loss.

Both boys frequent the Ilsley Library Chess Club, which is open to everyone and meets on Fridays at 3:30 p.m. during the school year. In the final weeks leading up to the tournament, they practiced together, often at Haymaker Bun Co. McCallum credits Simpson with being his "kid coach."



PROUD CHESS WINNERS Asa McCallum, right, and Jack Simpson hold the impressive trophies they won at the Vermont State Scholastic Chess Tournament March 24 in Craftsbury. McCallum took home first in his division and Simpson finished second in his. Photo by Erin Davis

My Bugle, My Flag

The state suggests I bring in my bird feeders. If I don't want to find myself

staring into two dark eyes. If I have enough courage. To step onto my porch.

With my bugle. My flag. To make of this morning a spring parade. Enough American

noise. To scare its shadow away. His or hers. I don't want to

be able to say. Come closer. Letting fear take

its course. The space between us. My house and a den

back there in the woods. Or miles from here

on Mount Independence. Where the stone reads "On This Date

Our Men Battled like Bears. Taking Their Lives and The Life of Our Nation

Into Their Own Hands." Without having to note the Flickers and Bluebirds

foraging the ground for sunflower seeds. Someone like me forgot

to bring into his tent. Pushing back even then

on what the state was suggesting. To keep safe.

To do what could be needed for the common good.

Gary Margolis
Cornwall

Smiley to discuss far-flung journalism

MIDDLEBURY — Xan Smiley of *The Economist* will deliver the 2024 Robert W. van de Velde, Jr. '75 Memorial lecture on Tuesday, April 9, at 4:30 p.m., in Dana Auditorium on the campus of Middlebury College. His topic will be "Often mistaken: an *Economist* editor reflects on 50 years of far-flung journalism."

Xan Smiley joined *The Economist* in 1983 as Middle East editor and became political editor and "Bagehot" columnist in 1992. In 1995 he became Europe editor, starting the "Charlemagne" column, and in Oct. 2003 he became the Middle East and Africa Editor. Previously he was Washington correspondent of the *Sunday Telegraph* (1989-92), Moscow correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* (1986-89), an editorial leader writer at *The Times* (1981-83), and the editor (and later



XAN SMILEY

co-owner) of *Africa Confidential*, a specialist newsletter.

In this lecture, Smiley will analyze the success and failures of *The Economist's* (and his own) coverage of events that have shaped the world.

Robert W. van de Velde Jr. attended Middlebury College, where he majored in Sociology, and was an active member of the staff of WRMC-FM, the college radio station. Not long after his graduation, he died suddenly. Shortly after his death, family members and friends established the Robert W. van de Velde, Jr. '75 Memorial Lecture. This lecture provides an annual opportunity for a searching examination of the confluence of public affairs and journalism.

For further information contact Jim Ralph, Dean of the Faculty at Middlebury College, ralph@middlebury.edu, 443-5320.



Tina and friends

2012 MIDDLEBURY UNION High School grad Tina Friml, whose fame as a comic is skyrocketing, joined MUHS last week to deliver a hilarious, joyful talk about reaching our dreams by embracing our true selves. The March 26 presentation was a highlight of a dynamic "Neurodiversity and Inclusion Week" at the Middlebury high school. Friml, who recently appeared on "The Tonight Show," is joined in this photo by MUHS students Rainie, Dante and Iver.



Pansies and flowering, potted bulbs are here!



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OPINION?
news@addisonindependent.com

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Greta Jennison

Mt. Abraham Union High School is pleased to announce Greta Jennison as our student of the week. Greta lives in Starksboro with her mom, dad, brother and two dogs.

Greta has achieved academic high honors every year of high school. Her two favorite classes include Anatomy and Physiology at Mt. Abe and Medical Terminology, which she took through the Community College of Vermont dual enrollment program. Throughout high school, Greta has been involved in a wide range of activities. She served as vice president of her class in 10th grade and was president of the music department in 9th and 10th grade. She was also an integral member of the varsity field hockey team for four years and served in the role of captain this fall. In addition, she has been an athletic training intern the last three spring sport seasons for Meg Quiet, our school's athletic trainer. Greta has accumulated over 200+ hours of internship experience!

Greta spends a significant amount of time on stage, participating in Mt. Abe's fall and spring musicals. Some notable roles include Amariyllis (Music Man), Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre (Spelling Bee), Gretchen Wieners (Mean Girls), and most recently Morticia Addams (Addams Family). She also supports the Mt. Abe Middle School Musicals as a choreographer and recently began work on this year's production of "Frozen." When Greta is not on stage or balancing her academic and athletic commitments, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, and visiting their seasonal home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

When asked about an experience or important lesson that she has had while at school, Greta said, "Throughout my time in high school I have taken advantage of many opportunities that helped me follow my interests, but I also generated experiences for myself to further my learning. I believe it is very important to advocate for yourself and create opportunities that weren't previously offered."

After high school, Greta will attend the University of New England (UNE) in Biddeford, Maine, to study athletic training and play for the UNE field hockey team. Her dedication and commitment to the Mt. Abe community will be missed. We wish her all the best with her future endeavors.



Greta Jennison
MAUHS

Otter Valley Union High School

Dana DiPietro

Otter Valley Union Middle and High School's Student of the Week is Dana DiPietro. Dana was born and raised in Pittsford, where she still lives with her mother and older brother.

Her favorite part about school has to be the social aspect. Dana likes having the ability to collaborate and help peers. Her favorite class is Chemistry because it is challenging and pushes her to form a better work ethic. Dana does not have a favorite teacher; she says they are all equally amazing and she has formed great relationships with each and every one of them. Dana has frequently been on the honor roll as well as earned various academic awards from teachers.

A class called Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together as well as Up for Learning have both given Dana opportunities for learning about and exercising leadership. She enjoys the classes and having the opportunity to ensure that student voices are heard. She also enjoys working with adults and grasping a better understanding of their feelings.

Dana has worked at Maclure Library in Pittsford for almost two years. She enjoys the job because she gets to socialize with the public and help assist people. She also enjoys working with the community when she helps with the events that the library provides. When she's not working or studying, Dana's favorite things to do in her free time include kayaking, reading, running and spending time with friends and family.

After high school Dana will attend Keene State College in New Hampshire, where she will work toward a major in biochemistry. She is very passionate about anything science related and would love to be able to work in a lab one day or possibly even become a teacher.



Dana DiPietro
OVUHS

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Middlebury

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

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Brad@LawDCVT.com
28 North Street - Bristol Village



Way to go,
Greta and Dana

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Keep up the great work,
Greta and Dana
877-3118
Vergennes, VT

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Well Done!
We're Impressed!

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www.addisonindependent.com

Congratulations,
Greta and Dana



802-388-1338
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Cheers to the Students of the Week!



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CLASSIFIEDS

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THANK YOU ST. JUDE for prayers answered. JER

Public Meetings

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennesfree thinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalananonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

VERMONT SUPPORT LINE Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT-TALKS.

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Free

DIGITAL ACCESS View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at addisonindependent.com. Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

Help Wanted



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Warehouse Worker
Loading and assisting with customer orders from the yard, warehouse and store; Stocking shelves and Filling propane tanks. Skills/Qualifications: Ability to lift 50 lbs repeatedly throughout the day. Ability to demonstrate strong organizational skills. Valid Driver's License. Weekends and dependability a MUST! Forklift & Skid steer experience a plus. Preferable age 18+.

Cashier - Customer Service
Immediate Openings available. Must be able to work until 6pm. Weekdays and Weekends a MUST. Up to 40 hours per week. Wage commensurate with experience.

Please send resumes to info@middleburyagway.com or fill out an application at **Middlebury Agway**, 338 Exchange Street, Middlebury VT.
Please no phone calls.

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted


Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Addison County Parent/Child Center

VAN DRIVER JOB OPENING
Addison County Parent/Child Center
We are seeking a van driver who will transport children, youth, and parents to our center from around Addison County.
Strong candidates must have a clean driving record and experience with children and families.
Great working environment and benefits. This is a 20-hour position with hours split between mornings and afternoons.
Please contact **Donna Bailey** at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org




Addison County Parent/Child Center

Join the Parent/Child Center Team
CHILDCARE WORKER/PARENT EDUCATOR
Childcare Staff Position: We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their families.
Strong candidates must have knowledge of **child development, family systems**, excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a Bachelor's degree preferred.
Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to **Donna Bailey** at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Work at the Sheldon Museum Store Assistant
The Henry Sheldon Museum seeks an outgoing and friendly Museum Store Assistant to join its dynamic team. The Museum Store Assistant welcomes all visitors to the Museum and provides assistance to customers in the Museum Store.
This is a part-time, seasonal position early May through early January, 3 days (20 hours) per week, Saturdays a must. Occasional evenings during special events. \$17-\$19/hour.
For a full job description and more information about how to apply, please visit henrysheldonmuseum.org/work-at-the-sheldon.
The Henry Sheldon Museum is an equal opportunity employer.

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Opportunities

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To learn more, call us at (802) 388-1007 or visit our website at www.maltvt.org/volunteer.



United Way of Addison County



Assistant Store Manager
Position Based in Bristol, VT

Position Description

The primary role of the Assistant Manager/ Manager in Training is to develop and demonstrate the skills necessary to successfully oversee operation of a Maplefields Store in the absence of a manager. This individual is also to assist the Store Manager in the day-to-day activities associated with the store and the development and training of store sales associates, while ensuring that company standards are met at all times. The goal of this position is to be ready to step into a Store Manager role or another leadership role.

For additional benefits and further job description apply to: Maplefields.com/employment

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles |
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For Rent

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Seasonal Help Needed

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- Excellent communication skills and comfort conducting business over email, phone, and in person.
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Christy Lynn, Director of Sales
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christy@addisonindependent.com

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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.

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COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.

For Rent

DRY, WINTER/SUMMER STORAGE SPACE in Addison. Available storage space in my barn for summer/winter storage. The barn is structurally sound and weather-tight with electricity. No heat or running water. The barn is also available for lease. The entrance door measurements are 8' wide by 7' high. For more info: 802-363-3403 or rochon_m@yahoo.com.

For Rent

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.

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VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No smoking/no pets. Income limits apply. Rent rate based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191. www.SummitPMG.com.

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Full-Time Positions Available including snowplowing, light shop work, equipment operation, & landscaping

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To apply, call 802-352-9088
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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.

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the Addy Indy.



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Production Team Members

Vermont Soap is looking for attentive, reliable and responsible people to work in our production department.

This position requires basic computer skills, attention to detail, the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time and the ability to lift up to 50lbs. Must be a team player and also able to work independently.

This is a full time position (Mon-Fri 7-3:30) with paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k with employer match, and more!

Please send cover letter and resume to nichole@vermontsoap.com.

For Sale

For Sale

For Sale

For Rent

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2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited

\$9,000 or best offer

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Available to see in Middlebury.

Call Angelo: 802-349-7069

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

For Rent

FOR RENT

RELAX AT LAKE DUNMORE



This newly renovated 4-season cottage has availability for graduation, Memorial Day and a few weeks still open this summer. Bright, spacious and private with a huge deck, views and terraced gardens, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home comes with two 2-person kayaks. Email lisagksis@yahoo.com for direct pricing discounts.

Full listing and availability: AIRBNB.COM
Search "Beautiful Lake Dunmore Ski Chalet / Cottage"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Looking for employees who worked at Bread Loaf Construction located in Middlebury, VT from 1970-1984.

Please call (618) 973-2090
www.mrhfmaw.com

GAGE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.
Ferrisburgh Town Offices
3279 Route 7

TOWN OF CORNWALL

The Town of Cornwall is looking for a Scope of Work Proposal.

The Town of Cornwall is looking to upgrade the Town Maintenance garage. The existing garage needs to be modified to allow additional and larger equipment to be housed inside. There also is the need for additional space for maintenance work inside. The existing space is now quite limited for the above-mentioned needs.

Objective: The Town is considering adding on 2 work bays. We are also looking at bringing the restroom and break room up to standards. At this time, we will also need to address the current septic layout to accommodate expansion.

The work stated above is open for suggestions and advice or other ideas. We want to discuss proposals and ideas to decide whether or not this project is feasible or if other options need to be looked at.

The project implementation timeline is proposed for fiscal 2025/2026. All interested parties, please respond to:

Town of Cornwall
2629 Rt. 30 • Cornwall, VT 05753
or 802-989-0514 or 802-989-5776

TOWN OF ADDISON PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Addison Development Review Board will convene a public hearing on Monday, April 22, 2024 at 7:00PM at the Addison Community Center. **Please note there is a site visit at 6:00PM at the applicants' property at 390 Owl's Head Harbor.**

- Application (#24-02) from SRA Engineers for David Kritz and Randi Schweriner for a Conditional Use Application changing seasonal camp to year-round residence. The property is located at 390 Owls Head Harbor, West Addison, VT 05491.

***Deliberation was postponed for this and to be warned for Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6:00PM with a site visit before the regular meeting at 7:00PM.

The applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during normal office hours. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard must attend the hearing or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearings.

N.B.: Participation in a hearing is necessary to establish status as an "interested party" and the right to appeal a decision rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 S.S.4464 (a) (1) (C), 4465(b) and 4471 (a). Participation consists of offering through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Spencer, Chair
Starr Phillips, Board Secretary
Michael Wojciechowski, Zoning Administrator

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).

Unused Drug Repository Rule.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P013

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services, Department of Health

CONCISE SUMMARY: This rulemaking establishes the requirements for the administration of, and participation in, the Unused Drug Repository program. The purpose of this program is to get medicine to those who need it and who may have difficulty affording it. This Program will collect, inspect, and dispense medicine to patients, with priority given to those who meet the statutory criteria. This rulemaking outlines the program requirements for the Program Administrator, Collection Sites, Dispensing Sites, donors, and recipients.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Brendan Atwood, Department of Health, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-8300 Tel: 802-863-7280 Fax: 802-951-1275 E-Mail: ahs.vdhrules@vermont.gov URL: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/laws-regulations/laws/public-comment>

FOR COPIES: Natalie Weill, Department of Health, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-8300 Tel: 802-863-7280 Fax: 802-951-1275 E-Mail: ahs.vdhrules@vermont.gov

Reportable and Communicable Diseases Rule.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P014

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services, Department of Health

CONCISE SUMMARY: This rulemaking does the following: 1) Modifies the content contained in reports to include additional information if requested; 2) Removes the requirement to report negative and indeterminate SARS-CoV-2, the lab test for COVID-19, results to the Department of Health (Department); 3) Changes the required reporting period for positive SARS-CoV-2 results and COVID-19 from "immediately" to "within 24 hours"; 4) Adds Mpox to the list of reportable diseases and the associated laboratory finding, Non-variola Orthopoxvirus, to the list of reportable laboratory findings; 5) Clarifies that immediate reporting for identified diseases and laboratory findings means they must be reported by telephone to the Department; 6) Requires additional organisms to be sent to the Department Laboratory; 7) Updates and clarifies various other human and animal diseases, syndromes, and laboratory findings required to be reported to the Department; and 8) Reorganizes the rule for clarity.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Natalie Weill, Department of Health, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-8300 Tel: 802-863-7280 Fax: 802-951-1275 E-Mail: ahs.vdhrules@vermont.gov URL: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/laws-regulations/laws/public-comment>

FOR COPIES: Brendan Atwood, Department of Health, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-8300 Tel: 802-863-7280 Fax: 802-951-1275 E-Mail: ahs.vdhrules@vermont.gov

Improved Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P015

AGENCY: Department of Labor

CONCISE SUMMARY: OSHA is amending its occupational injury and illness recordkeeping regulation to require certain employers to electronically submit injury and illness information to OSHA that employers are already required to keep under the recordkeeping regulation. Specifically, OSHA is amending its regulation to require establishments with 100 or more employees in certain designated industries to electronically submit information from their OSHA Forms 300 and 301 to OSHA once a year. OSHA will not collect employee names or addresses, names of health care professionals, or names and addresses of facilities where treatment was provided if treatment was provided away from the worksite from the Forms 300 and 301. OSHA intends to post this information - after redacting appropriate personal and medically protected information - on its website accessible by the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Daniel A. Whipple, Department of Labor, Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration, PO Box 488 Montpelier VT 05601-0488 Tel: 802-828-5084 Fax: 802-828-0408 E-Mail: dan.whipple@vermont.gov. URL: <https://labor.vermont.gov/vermont-occupational-safety-and-health-administration-vosha/rules-publications/rules-regulations>

FOR COPIES: Karl P. Hayden, Department of Labor, Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration, PO Box 488 Montpelier, VT 05601-0488 Tel: 802-828-5085 Fax: 802-828-0408 E-mail: karl.hayden@vermont.gov

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found on **Pages 3B & 10B.**

Addison (1)	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (1)
Addison Central School District (1)	Ferrisburgh (1)
Addison Northwest School District (1)	Gage Cemetery Association (1)
Bridport (1)	Middlebury (3)
Bristol (1)	Salisbury (1)
Cornwall (1)	State of Vermont (1)

ANWSD BOARD MEETING NOTICES FOR APRIL 2024

Monday, April 8	4:50 PM	Facilities Committee Meeting Via Zoom only
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting Via Zoom only
Monday, April 15	3:50 PM	Policy Committee Meeting VUMHS Library
	4:50 PM	Finance Committee Meeting VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Wednesday, April 17	5:30 PM	Community Engagement Committee Meeting

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.

TOWN OF BRIDPORT PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Bridport Zoning Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing on April 17th at 7pm in the Bridport Town Office, at 82 Crown Point Road, on each and to consider each of the following application(s):

- At 7:00 PM on Application (#24-10) by Al Wilkinson and Anna Wilkinson are requesting a Variance to build a 36'X24' 2-car garage within 50' of property lines. Tax ID# 06-057 owned by Al Wilkinson and Anna Wilkinson. The property is located at 1978 Lake Street, Bridport, VT 05734

Plans and additional information regarding any such application may be viewed at said Town Office or by calling (802) 758-2483, Ext. 2. Participation in the Bridport Zoning Board of Adjustments proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal on any decision of it on an application.

Dinah Bain (Chair)
Al Zaccor (Secretary)
Michael Wojciechowski (Zoning Administrator)

FERRISBURGH PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

APRIL 17TH, 2024

7:00 P.M. MEETING AT TOWN HALL

- 7:00 P.M. Call regular meeting to order and determine quorum.
- Meeting Minutes - Review, approve and sign Minutes of March 20th, 2024.
- Adjustments to and adoption of the agenda
- PUBLIC HEARING: Application 24-027: Final Plat Review for a Two (2) - Lot Subdivision; Applicant(s): Spillane & Curley, LLC; 7175 US-7; Highway Mixed Use (HMU-2) district; tax id no. '05/01/9.2'
- Other business
 - Town Plan Update
- Confirmation of next meetings and events of interest.
 - May 15th, at 7:00 p.m. - regular monthly PC meeting
- Adjourn

The above files are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator.

PLEASE NOTE: Participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION

7 Mahady Court,
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-7741
www.vermontjudiciary.org

ADDISON UNIT

Case No. 24-PR-00892

IN RE: GUARDIANSHIP OF L.M.

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

TO: **LONNY JAMES MCCRAY, JR.,**

Biological father of L.M., child born in Middlebury, VT on 08/12/2021.


WHEREAS, the following petition has been made to the Probate Court for the District of Addison:

Petition to Appoint Custodial Guardian for a Minor Child

WHEREAS, the Court has assigned the **24th day of April, 2024** at the Probate Court in Middlebury, Vermont at **1:00 p.m.** to hear and decide upon said petition, and ordered that notice thereof be given by publishing this notice in the **Addison Independent**, a newspaper circulating in Middlebury, Vermont. Services by publication to be complete at least 14 days prior to the day assigned for hearing;

THEREFORE, you are hereby notified to appear via Webex (remote hearing) before said Court, at the time and place assigned, to make objections, if you have cause. This is the first action in this proceeding. If you wish to receive notice of future events in this matter you must formally enter your appearance with the Court. **IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THE HEARING YOU MUST CONTACT THE COURT FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ACCESS THE WEBEX SYSTEM.**

Dated this 25th day of March, 2024


Judge Karl C. Anderson

Name of Newspaper: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 04/04/24

TOWN OF BRISTOL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Bristol Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on April 23, 2024, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The hearings will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 1 South Street. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

Permit #24-300: The Willowell Foundation of Harvey Road (Parcel #090219 Lot #3) is requesting Conditional use permit for an educational facility per Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article VIII, Section 807.

Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/85786761083> • Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823
Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 • Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85786761083?pwd=RFWISGFwamJRG5K0EoPCalNITDczdz09>

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT WARNING

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MAY 6 AND MAY 7, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Middlebury, in the County of Addison, the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Large Conference Room, Middlebury Town Offices, 77 Main Street in Middlebury, with access via videoconference also available (see below), on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. for an informational meeting on Article 1; and on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 from 7:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M. at the Town Offices, 77 Main Street in Middlebury, to vote by Australian ballot on Article 1 as provided by the Middlebury Town Charter.

Article 1 Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Middlebury in an amount not to exceed Sixteen Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$16,995,000), subject to an anticipated reduction of Eight Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$8,500,000) from available alternate sources of funding (including fundraising, grants, and energy efficiency rebates), and the anticipated use of local option tax receipts to make annual bond payments in an estimated amount of Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000), be issued for the purpose of renovating and expanding the Ilesley Public Library at an estimated cost of Sixteen Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$16,995,000)?

The legal voters of the Town of Middlebury are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting shall be as provided in Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Middlebury, Vermont this 26th day of March 2024.

Brian Carpenter, Chair Andy Hooper, Vice Chair Heather Seeley
Farhad Khan Dan Brown Isabel Gogarty
Fred Dunnington

MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD

To view and participate in the informational meeting on Article 1 on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Videoconferencing:

Zoom URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86173899263>

By phone: 1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 861 7389 9263

For view-only access: For those wishing to watch but not participate, the hearing will be livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV Vermont> and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

New England Hydropower Company, LLC Project No.15327-000

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY PERMIT APPLICATION ACCEPTED FOR FILING AND SOLICITING COMMENTS, MOTIONS TO INTERVENE, AND COMPETING APPLICATIONS

(March 26, 2024)

a. On October 11, 2023, New England Hydropower Company, LLC, filed an application for a preliminary permit, pursuant to section 4(f) of the Federal Power Act, proposing to study the feasibility of the Middlebury Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 15327 (project), to be located on Otter Creek in Addison County, Vermont. The sole purpose of a preliminary permit, if issued, is to grant the permit holder priority to file a license application during the permit term. A preliminary permit does not authorize the permit holder to perform any land-disturbing activities or otherwise enter upon lands or waters owned by others without the owners' express permission.

b. Project Description: The proposed project would consist of the following: (1) a new 12-foot-wide, 60-foot-long, and 6-foot-deep intake channel equipped with a 12-foot-wide, 6-foot-high sluice gate and 20-foot-wide, 20-foot long trashrack; (2) a new 30-foot-wide, 40-foot-long, 50-foot-tall powerhouse that would include a new 500-kilowatt Kaplan turbine-generator unit; (3) a new powerhouse access way; (4) a new transformer and a new 150-foot-long underground transmission line that connect the project to the electric distribution grid; and (5) appurtenant facilities. The project would use the natural flow of Otter Creek and would not include a dam or impoundment. The estimated annual generation of the project would be 3,100 megawatt-hours.

c. Applicant Contact: Mr. Michael Kerr, New England Hydropower Company, LLC, 100 Cummings Center Drive, Suite 451C, Beverly, MA 01915; telephone at (978) 360-2547; email at michael@nehypower.com.

d. FERC Contact: Arash Barsari, Project Coordinator, Great Lakes Branch, Division of Hydropower Licensing; telephone at (202) 502-6207; email at Arash.JalaliBarsari@ferc.gov.

e. The preliminary permit application has been accepted for filing.

f. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, competing applications (without notices of intent), or notices of intent to file competing applications: 60 days from the issuance of this notice, **May 25, 2024.**

Competing applications and notices of intent must meet the requirements of 18 C.F.R. § 4.36.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, notices of intent, and competing applications using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/ferconline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov, (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-15327-000.

g. The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members, and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

h. More information about this project, including a copy of the application, can be viewed on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number (P-15327) in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Acting Secretary

ARTS & RECREATION

The Addison Independent

April 4, 2024



5-TOWN FRIENDS SEE THE MAGIC IN LINCOLN

Lincoln couple Janet Fredericks and Tom Verner have for decades contributed to the arts in the Bristol 5-town area and abroad as the founders of that organization Magicians Without Borders. The pair will be recognized for their creative efforts at the 5-Town Friends of the Arts annual gathering on April 7.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK CEBALLOS

The contributions of Lincoln's Tom Verner and Janet Fredericks to the arts abroad are undeniable — Fredericks through her visual artwork in galleries from New Haven to Nagoya, Japan, and both together with magic shows in more than 40 countries through their nonprofit,

BY **MARIN HOWELL**

Magicians Without Borders. But, through the years, Fredericks and Verner have been equally vested in

their local arts community. For that reason, the 5-Town Friends of the Arts, or 5TFA, will honor the pair at the organization's April 7 annual gathering.

Each year the nonprofit invites residents to gather, meet its board, and celebrate individuals who enrich the arts in the Bristol 5-town area.

"They have been contributing to the arts in our five towns for a long, long time," said Rick Ceballos, co-chair of the 5-Town Friends of the Arts board. "One of the things that we look

for is people who have been in the arts and contributing mightily for many, many years, and so they were an obvious choice."

The imaginative duo has spent much of their lives working in the arts. For over five decades, Fredericks has worked as a graphic designer, illustrator, educator and exhibiting artist. She specializes in drawing and painting, as well as hand stitching and other illustrations. Making art has offered Fredericks a way to better understand herself and the world around her.

"It was always a learning experience. I always

"I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN INTERESTED IN USING MAGIC TO FOOL PEOPLE, IT'S REALLY TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE."

— Tom Verner

thought my artwork was my greatest teacher about life," she said.

Fredericks's work is often a reflection of her own curiosity, with many pieces embodying explorations of local animals, plants and waterways. "Tom always likes to say, 'What is speaking to you right now?' and that's a question I ask myself, and that's generally where I go," Fredericks said of her inspiration. "It's usually about what's in my immediate environment."

Fredericks's investigations of the world around her have resulted in several bodies of work over the years, many of which have ended up in galleries. Recent exhibitions include an ongoing display at Tourterelle restaurant in New Haven, where community members can view a collection of her paintings and drawings through May.

Her artistic endeavors have also led to numerous artist-working residencies, as well as collaborations with other artists and with

SEE MAGIC ON PAGE 3

THE MONTH IN POETRY



I am pulled in by the first lines of Judith Janoo's poem "Bear Cub" and how its close up imagery of the bear's slow awakening, his belly crawl, his lumbering out into the light. I notice how, through these images, I feel more connected to my own human body; a little more acceptance for however it is. Yes, this is what it can be like in spring, especially in the northeast — a little slow, a little lumbering, a little disorienting.

I think of the bear who lives in the forest where my house is and feel a new kinship with him, and deepening appreciation of his intelligence, his wise body ways. I want to wake to spring slowly, like him, but eagerly too, alive to every sound and scent and texture. Remembering, like him, "insects, beeswax, and purple berries." And, I would add — soft green forest light, warm breezes, and songbirds.

I love the shift in the last stanza with its qualifying phrase: "But it takes time/to open our eyes/once we've shut them." It gives us permission to take things slowly and to be gentle with ourselves, as the bear in our poem appears to. At the same time, a whole new layer and dimension to the poem is created in just this one line, offering to us what could be seen as a challenge. What might our human minds and eyes have been closed to, that we might or might not have realized? What truths and realities, but also perhaps, to what is beauty and possibility? There is still so much to open our eyes to.

SUSAN JEFTS is a poet, editor, and writing mentor from the southern Adirondacks. Her poetry book, "**Breathing Lessons**," was published this fall by Shanti Arts Publishers of Maine and can be found on the publisher's site, the usual online outlets, and in local bookstores. Her poems have been published in the anthologies *A Slant of Light*, *Quiet Diamonds*, *Birchsong*, *Poems in the Time of Covid*, and *Every Drop of Water*, and in the journals *BlueStone Review*, *Blue Line*, *Parnassus*, *Big City Lit*, *Zig Zag*, *The Literary Gazette*, and *Fired Up*, among others. She is currently taking new clients for editing their manuscripts and individual works, and offers workshops using poetry to explore our connections to the vital wisdom of the natural world. Her website is SusanJeffs.com.

JUDITH JANOO won the Soul-Making Keats Award, the Vermont Award for Continued Excellence in Writing, the Anita McAndrews Prize for Human Rights Poetry and the Carol Vail Prize for Poetry. She's a contributing editor of *The Mountain Troubadour*. Her poetry has appeared in journals including *Pedestal Magazine*, *Sow's Ear*, *the Fish Anthology*, *Euphony* and *The Bangalore Review*. Her chapbook, *After Effects*, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2019. Her poetry collection, *Just This*, was released by Kelsay Books in 2023. She lives in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.

Town Hall Theater opens the Poetry Cafe, April 21

April is the perfect time of year for National Poetry Month. Town Hall Theater is celebrating by inviting seven local poets to share their work with the community. A free event, the THT Poetry Café will have a relaxed vibe, with table seating and drinks and snacks on offer.

Local poets include Ruth Farmer, Karin Gotshall, Cindy Hill, Nathaniel Hutner, Tricia Knoll, Laurie Patton and David Weinstock.

"I think poetry can be so effective when read out loud," said THT artistic director Doug Anderson. "The language really starts to sing, and the personality of each poet adds a dimension you don't get on the page."

The Poetry Café will take place at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater on Sunday, April 21, at 2 p.m. Admission is free and no ticket is needed, but a \$5 donation is suggested. For more info call 802-382-9222.

ON WAKING SLOWLY

BEAR CUB

Eyes closed at first,
wintering inside the earth,
black matted fur

dampness pressing soft eyelids
shut to outlast frost
heaving around him.

he belly crawls, paws
a way out, his store of chest,
ribs and shoulder flesh lost;

the long dormant yearling
recalls insects, beeswax,
purple berries pouring

into grasping claws, juice
drooling his chin, less greed
than strength and instinct.

Orphaned by a poor
beechnut fall, left
with the unfed restiveness

of his lumbering;
he'll hunt the old trail,
the new, with purblind eyes,

dig through waste,
the lingering scent
of bacon grease, fish

entail, knocking loose
his dim view—
weakened, disoriented

after so much darkness,
he—and we—long
to see the sun.

But it takes time
to open our eyes
once we've shut them.

— Judith Janoo

MAGIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Verner. The couple's work together has included hosting retreats and workshops at their Lincoln home, such as a multi-day "dream retreat"

in which participants work with Fredericks and Verner to explore their dreams through creative projects.

Before becoming a magician, Verner worked for several decades as a clinical psychologist and professor of psychology at the former Burlington College. He was first introduced to magic around 50 years ago, when he met a former professional magician while working at an alcohol and drug treatment center in Hartford, Conn. Verner's drawn to how magic can evoke a person's sense of wonder.

"I don't think I've ever been interested in using magic to fool people, it's really to connect with people," he said. "My main hope in doing a magic show is that people won't feel like, 'Boy, he really fooled us,' but that they feel like a child again."

For over two decades, Verner worked simultaneously as a psychologist, professor and professional magician. He ultimately was inspired to start Magicians Without Borders, or MWB, in 2001 after a fateful trip to eastern Europe. He was performing shows at refugee camps in Kosovo and Macedonia when he realized magic was a universal language that could do more than entertain audience members.

"(Harry Houdini) once said 'Whenever I do my magic for people in difficult situations, it not only amazes and amuses, but it awakens hope that the impossible is possible,' Verner recalled. "I thought, 'Oh my goodness, that's what I saw today.'"

Verner and Fredericks founded MWB shortly after that trip. Through the nonprofit,



Lincoln magician Tom Verner performs for children at a recovery camp in Ukraine. Such magic shows are part of Verner's work with Magicians Without Borders, a nonprofit he co-founded with his spouse and local visual artist Janet Fredericks.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM VERNER

the couple and their fellow performers travel around the world to inspire and uplift audiences in hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps. During performances, Fredericks joins Verner on stage as "LaFleur," an assistant and mime. "We love performing together and we do that as much as we can," Fredericks said.

The duo has also enjoyed watching how magic can bring joy and hope to audiences of all ages. Verner recalled a trip to Ukraine this past November, when he and other MWB performers visited several recovery camps.

"A mother came up to me. She was crying, and she said, 'It was wonderful seeing our kids being kids again and laughing,'" he said. "Kids in refugee camps and in the midst of war, they are just really sad and suffering, and they don't get to be kids. During the magic show, they're kids again."

Verner and Fredericks have begun bringing more of their work with Magicians Without Borders to the 5-town area. They've spent the past several months leading a magician's

CELEBRATE!

For those interested in learning more about Tom Verner and Janet Fredericks' contributions to the arts at home and abroad, the 5-Town Friends of the Arts annual gathering will highlight the pair's individual and collaborative careers, as well as feature a video presentation and testimonials of some of those influenced by their work.

Attendees can also look forward to music by local acoustic trio DaddyLongLegs, snacks and an introduction to the 5TFA. The nonprofit is committed to providing opportunities for residents in Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro to engage in and appreciate the region's arts and cultural heritage.

It's scheduled for this **Sunday, April 7, at 1 p.m. at Bristol's Holley Hall**. More information on the 5TFA Facebook page and at 5townfriendsofthearts.org.

training course at the Lincoln Community School. Students have so far performed at a handful of local shows. "What people comment on is not so much the magic, which they're getting pretty good at, but their presence and their self-confidence and their increased sense of self-esteem, and that's our hope," Verner said.

MWB offers similar magic training for nine groups of disadvantaged teens around the world, courses aimed at empowering participants and encourage them to pursue their passions. Verner and Fredericks are hoping to continue the magic training course at Lincoln Community School this coming school year, as well as bring another MWB offering called "Warrior Wizards" to the Bristol area. The eight-week program this summer will train military veterans to become magicians and perform for fellow vets.



Lincoln's Tom Verner and Janet Fredericks have for years contributed to the arts locally and in countries around the world through their nonprofit Magicians Without Borders and Fredericks's visual artwork. Pictured here are Verner using magic to captivate a crowd in Bangladesh, left, and Fredericks entertaining as the mime "LaFleur."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JANET FREDERICKS AND TOM VERNER

ART ON EXHIBIT

Eight Edgewater artists present: 'Solitude'

"Solitude," is the newest exhibit at the Edgewater galleries in Middlebury. The show is on view in both of Edgewater Gallery's Middlebury locations.

A state of "solitude" can be felt in different ways. One can crave time alone, and revel in the tranquility of the absence of people and the usual commotion of life. However, one can experience solitude as a loneliness that is unwelcome and oppressive. As we journey through life many of us will experience solitude in both ways.

In the gallery's first large group show of the 2024 season, eight Edgewater artists have interpreted the theme of solitude. Some describe feelings of being alone in nature, while others experience the solitude of their studios and their process of creation. Some see both joy and melancholy in the vast landscape when it envelopes them. In the isolation of the studio artists describe feeling liberated and unencumbered by outside influence but also at times craving connections with people and the outside world. The collections from each of the eight artists for "Solitude" will invoke a range of emotions from the viewer, perhaps helping the observer to better understand their definition of the word.

"Solitude" will be on view through April 30. Edgewater Gallery on the Green will feature artists Kim Alemian, Bonnie Baird, Tracy Burtz and Kathleen Kolb. Edgewater Gallery at the Falls will feature artists Hannah Bureau, Ellen Granter, Jill Matthews, and Sasha Meyerowitz.

For more information visit edgewatergallery.com, call the gallery at 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.



TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE ART

Deborah Holmes painted this new piece "Eclipse" in light of Monday's big event. Image size 12" x 16". For more info follow Holmes at deborahholmesart.com.

COURTESY IMAGE



BONNIE BAIRD



TRACY BURTZ



KATHLEEN KOLB



KIM ALEMIAN



SASHA MEYEROWITZ



JILL MATTHEWS

ART ON EXHIBIT

ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

For more info visit artonmainvt.com or call 802-453-4032.

"Community eclipse/Earth Day." This exhibit will be on view April 5-27, with a community closing reception on the 27th from 5-7 p.m.

BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center Street, Brandon

For more info visit brandonartistsguild.org or call 802-247-4956.

"In the Path of Shade" a celestial celebration that captures the awe-inspiring essence of a solar eclipse. On view March 1-April 28, with a reception on Friday, April 5, from 5-7 p.m.

DAVIS FAMILY LIBRARY

110 Storrs Avenue, Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/library or call 802-443-5494.

"The Lesbian House (1972-1973): Photographs by Bee Ottinger, class of 1970." Middlebury College Special Collections's new exhibition of photographs by alumna Bee Ottinger. On display in the atrium through April.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call (802) 458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com for more info.

"Solitude." Eight Edgewater artists have interpreted the theme of solitude in this first large group show of the year. The collections from each of the eight artists for "Solitude" will invoke a range of emotions from the viewer, perhaps helping the observer to better understand their definition of the word. Edgewater Gallery at the Falls will feature artists **Hannah Bureau, Ellen Granter, Jill Matthews, and Sasha Meyerowitz.** On view through April 30.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

Visit edgewatergallery.com, call (802) 989.7419 or email 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.

"Solitude." Eight Edgewater artists have interpreted the theme of solitude in this first large group show of the year. Edgewater Gallery on the Green will feature artists **Kim Alemian, Bonnie Baird, Tracy Burtz and Kathleen Kolb.** On view through April 30.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. There is more to any situation than the money factor, Aries. When a new opportunity comes your way, look beyond the payoff to see what the heart of the offer entails.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Look to your family members if you need inspiration on a new project, Taurus. Use loved ones as a sounding board for all of the ideas that are bouncing around.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. The willpower that you have been relying on lately is still going strong, Gemini. That is excellent and it's having a profound effect on other areas of your life.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, gossip is not something you usually delve into, but you may get roped into a conversation this week. Try not to give any weight to the rumors swirling around.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, you shouldn't be boastful about your abilities, but try not to be too modest. Accept the credit you are given. Graciously embrace all of your good press.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. An interesting invitation might come your way, Virgo. It could open the door to a very busy social calendar if you accept and do some key networking.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, an issue that you were worrying about is unlikely to surface. Stay in the present instead of looking ahead to all of the things that might go wrong.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. It may seem as if you are operating on autopilot, Scorpio. Days seem a carbon copy at this point. Do something to alter your routine.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. It's best if you avoid crowds for the time being, Sagittarius. You will benefit from some quiet time that only comes with being alone or within small groups of close friends.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. You are not normally characterized as "impulsive," Capricorn. But you may surprise everyone this week. An opportunity to travel or another adventure could drop in your lap.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, if you are not feeling challenged, you have to find activities that will get your brain moving again. Do whatever you can to spark some excitement.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. The choices coming your way are quite varied, Pisces. It can be overwhelming, so do not make any rash decisions until you work through all of your options.

Don't be in the dark about yarn! Make sure to have a project ready while you wait for the eclipse to start!

Wed-Thurs 11am-5pm
Fri 11-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm
Sun 12-4pm
Closed Mon-Tues

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 5 — Booker T. Washington, educator (d)

APRIL 6 — Leigh Bardugo, author (49)

APRIL 7 — Ravi Shankar, musician, composer (d)

APRIL 8 — Mary Pickford, silent film actress (d)

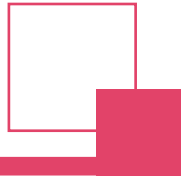
APRIL 9 — Lil Nas X, singer (25)

APRIL 10 — Joseph Pulitzer, journalist & publisher (d)

APRIL 11 — Jeremy Clarkson, broadcaster (64)

CALENDAR

APRIL 4-12
2024



THURSDAY, APRIL 4

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN SALISBURY. Thursday, April 4, Silver Lake. Join Morris Earle on the trail of the trailing arbutus and his search for wildflowers. Easy to moderate pace hike of less than 4 miles round trip and a few hundred feet of elevation change. Contact Morris for details at 802-734-0984 or morrisearle@gmail.com. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"SHARING THE TRAIL: GET TO KNOW THE MAMMALS OF THE TAM" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 4, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join us for a talk on the different habitat preferences and activity levels of mammals on the TAM and learn how human activities can affect them. Explore the activity of these mammals through photos and videos from trail cameras set by Middlebury College students this past fall and hear what they can tell us about the trail's community.

"HUNDRED DAYS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. An uncensored, exhilarating and heartrending true story about embracing uncertainty, taking a leap, and loving as if you only had 100 days to live. Created by Abigail and Shaun Bengson, this performance features Grace Experience and her partner Stephen Shore. The show explores a fundamental question: How do we make the most of the time that we have? Produced by the Middlebury Acting Co. Tickets \$25-\$44, available at

townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222.

"THE FOUND DOG RIBBON DANCE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theatre at Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Middlebury College Theatre Department will present Dominic Finocchiaro's modern comedy about love and longing and the power of touch. The show presents Norma, the professional cuddler who has found a dog! Her quest to return the dog to its rightful family leads Norma to curious encounters with unpredictable people and the possibility of a new chance at love. Tickets \$15 general public; \$10 for Middlebury College ID card holders; \$8 for youth under 21; and \$5 for Middlebury College students; call 802-443-6433 or go to middlebury.edu/college/box-office. Repeats Friday and Saturday.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

PHOTOGRAPHY OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 5, 3-7 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery, 3 Park St. This exhibit highlights all genres of landscape: natural, urban, industrial and abstract.

EXHIBIT OPENING AND GRAND REOPENING CELEBRATION IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 5, 5-7 p.m., Sparrow Art Supply, 44 Main St. Celebrate Sparrow Art Supply's new location at this grand reopening party with a reception for the exhibit "Green Gold." The exhibit celebrates new beginnings featuring the works of seven local artists. With a nod to Robert Frost's iconic poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay,"

this collection shares the excitement of a fresh start and appreciation for life's golden moments.

ART OPENING IN BRANDON. Friday, April 5, 5-7 p.m., Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St. The guild member show "In the Path of Shade" is a celestial celebration that captures the awe-inspiring essence of a solar eclipse. Join us for the opening reception. The show runs through April 28.

"CELEBRATING THE MOON" IN VERGENNES. Friday, April 5, 7 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Vermont Youth Orchestra Ensembles featuring Vergennes students Jing Williams on trumpet, Grey Fearon on trombone, and Megan Mentzer on percussion will celebrate the excitement of the upcoming eclipse. Tickets \$15/adults, \$5/students. A fundraiser for the VOH All Access Project. Info: VergennesOperaHouse.org.

"NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD" ON SCREEN IN BRANDON. Friday, April 5, 7-9 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Zombies rise from the grave in this 1968 horror film classic. Was this due to an eclipse? Come find out.

"HUNDRED DAYS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See April 4 listing.

"THE FOUND DOG RIBBON DANCE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theatre at Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See April 4 listing.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

ECLIPSE PREPARTY IN BRISTOL. Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Pick up free solar eclipse glasses and enjoy some solar eclipse activities before the event. Glasses on a first-come, first-serve basis, one per person or three per family. A special Eclipse display will teach community members all about this once-in-a-lifetime. Family-friendly activity upstairs.

"THE 1932 ECLIPSE" EXHIBIT IN BRANDON. Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Brandon Museum & Visitors Center, 4 Grove St. Stop in and learn about what happened when the skies went dark on Aug. 31, 1932, and other Brandon facts and pick up a free pair of viewing glasses. Free planetary popcorn and beverages will be provided throughout the day.

"OBSERVING CELESTIAL PHENOMENON" PRESENTATION IN BRANDON. Saturday, April 6, 11 a.m., Brandon Museum & Visitors Center, 4 Grove St. Join local historian John Peterson as he explores how people have responded to heavenly spectacles through the ages.

"THE FOUND DOG RIBBON DANCE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 6, 2 and 7:30 p.m., Seeler Studio Theatre at Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See April 4 listing.

"MOONLIGHT IN VERMONT" IN BRANDON. Saturday, April 6, 5:30-
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Friday, April 5 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Telecom Plan Public Input 2 6:06 a.m. Senator Peter Welch 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 1:30 p.m. Legislative Breakfast 3 p.m. Energy Week 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Telecom Plan Input 2 6:36 p.m. Senator Peter Welch Saturday, April 6 Overnight: Press Conf., Public Affairs 5 a.m. Telecom Plan Input 1&2 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. Public Affairs Sunday, April 7 Overnight: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Selectboard 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 9:30 a.m. Public Affairs 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Energy Week 1:30 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service	6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 8:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell 9:30 p.m. NEK Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast Monday, April 8 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. Burlington Mayors and other Press Conferences Tuesday, April 9 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 6 a.m. Vote for Vermont 7 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard 11:46 a.m. Telecom Plan Input 1&2 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Selectboard (LIVE) 11 p.m. Energy Week Wednesday, April 10 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Energy Week 6 a.m. Senator Peter Welch 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass	10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4:30 p.m. Press Conferences 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Thursday, April 11 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 6:54 a.m. Telecom Plan Input 8 a.m. Congregational Services 9:30 a.m. League of Women Voters 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8:24 p.m. Telecom Plan Input 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Vote for Vermont Channel 1091 Friday, April 5 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:30 a.m. A Total Solar Eclipse 7:30 a.m. Barbie's Reflection of our World 9 a.m. Naomi Hodde - On Being Enough 10 a.m. VT Humanities Lecture: Through A Sheep's Eyes 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. Hannover N.H. High School Play 6:04 p.m. Barbie and our World 7:30 p.m. On Being Enough Saturday, April 6 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 1:30 p.m. Hannover N.H. High School Play 3 p.m. A Total Solar Eclipse 4 p.m. The History of Coinage 5:09 p.m. A Total Solar Eclipse 6:09 p.m. On Being Enough 7:01 p.m. Barbie and our World 8:30 p.m. Author Talks Sunday, April 7 5 a.m. A Total Solar Eclipse 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 11 a.m. The History of Coinage 12:08 p.m. Barbie and our World 1:30 p.m. On Being Enough 2:23 p.m. EEE The Politics of Dysfunction 3:25 p.m. Cabin Fever Lecture Series - Mosquitos Suck! 4:42 p.m. Barbie and our World 6:04 p.m. History & Restoration of the East Monitor Barn 7:17 p.m. African Variety Show - Women's Celebration 11 p.m. The Politics of Dysfunction Monday, April 8 Through the Night: African Variety Show 8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	8:58 a.m. The Politics of Dysfunction 10 a.m. Author Talks 12 p.m. The History of Coinage 2:35 p.m. Tai Chi 3 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 7 p.m. Author Talks 9 p.m. Barbie and our World Tuesday, April 9 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 8:05 a.m. Tai Chi 9 a.m. Mosquitos Suck 10 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 2 p.m. East Monitor Barn 4:41 p.m. Author Talks Wednesday, April 10 5:30 a.m. Mosquitos Suck 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8:05 a.m. Tai Chi 8:30 a.m. Word Time With Miss Markee 12 p.m. School Board Meetings Hannover N.H. High School Play 8 p.m. Mosquitos Suck 9:17 p.m. The History of Coinage Thursday, April 11 5 a.m. Music in the Morning 7:05 a.m. Tai Chi 7:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 12 p.m. Author Talks 4:15 p.m. Word Time With Miss Markee 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ	

6:30 p.m., The Brandon Inn, 20 Park St. American tenor Joshua Collier, accompanied by piano and bass, will perform some of his favorites from The Great American Songbook, a canon of American popular songs and enduring jazz standards written mainly during the first half of the 20th century.

"AMONG THE STARS CABARET" IN BRANDON. Saturday, April 6, 7-10 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. An upscale evening of music and fun. Savory tidbits and sweet treats will be provided. Tipples available for purchase including a signature "Solar Eclipse cocktail." Doors open at 7; festivities to follow. Tickets \$15, available in advance at Carr's Gifts, 21 Center St., or at the door the night of the show.

THE CHAMPLAIN PHILHARMONIC IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 2 Main St. The philharmonic's spring concert includes Symphony No. 3 in C minor, Op. 78, by Camille Saint-Saëns; pianist, composer and UVM Professor David Feurzeig's "Stride Rite" based on Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring" but with a ragtime twist; and PDQ Bach's clever and humorous "Grand Serenade for an Awful Lot of Winds and Percussion." Tickets \$15 general admission/\$10 seniors/\$5 students, available at champlainphilharmonic.org or at the door.

"HUNDRED DAYS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See April 4 listing.

RANI ARBO & DAISY MAYHEM IN LINCOLN. Saturday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. This musical ensemble consists of Rani Arbo (fiddle, guitar), Andrew Kinsey (bass, banjo, ukulele), Anand Nayak (electric and acoustic guitars) and Scott Kessel (percussion). Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets general to generous \$15/\$20/\$25. All funds after expenses go directly to the performers. More info at burnhampresents.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

"THE 1932 ECLIPSE" EXHIBIT IN BRANDON. Sunday, April 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Brandon Museum & Visitors Center 4 Grove St. See April 6 listing.

SUMMIT WINDS - U.S. Army Band Ensemble of the 10th Mountain Division in Vergennes. Sunday, April 7, 2 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Summit Winds is a chamber woodwind ensemble from the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) Band located at Fort Drum, N.Y. Through their impeccable military bearing, professionalism and excellent musicianship, their aim is to build community, steward tradition, honor the fallen and bolster morale by engaging local, regional, national and international audiences through world-class musical performances. Free.

ZOMBIE WALK IN BRANDON. Sunday, April 7, 1 p.m., top of Park Street to The Brandon Inn, 20 Park St. Grab some friends, classmates, sport teammates, family members, dress up like a zombie. Gather at the top of Park Street and walk/stagger/moan your way to the lot in front of the Brandon Inn to participate

TOP PICK ECLIPSE 2024 ZOMBIE WALK! APRIL 7, 1-3 P.M.

Come join in the fun and laughter as the Eclipse creates a horde of Zombies staggering down Brandon's Park Street. Led by the Neshobe School band, former friends and neighbors, now turned into drooling, moaning undead will gather in Central Park at the end of their march of terror to stumble through a mob dance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller"! The Pittsford Fire Department's BOO-MOBILE will follow at the end picking up any left over body parts...

Gather at the top of Park Street at 12:30 p.m.

Walk, stagger and moan your way to the lot in front of the Brandon Inn to participate in a flash mob dance of "Thriller."

Head to the park to enjoy photo ops, vendors, music and food.

Awards for creative costumes!



in Flash Mob dance of "Thriller." There will be prizes, so be creative. Immediately after, shuffle into Central Park to enjoy vendors, music and food.

"NATIVE AMERICAN ECLIPSE BELIEFS" IN BRANDON. Sunday, April 7, 2 p.m., The Brandon Inn, 20 Park St. Abnaki Peggy White Buffalo Moon Rozell will be dressed in full regalia to tell us about traditions of local Native American tribes celebrating and honoring celestial occurrences.

"HUNDRED DAYS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 7, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See April 4 listing.

NESHOBE ART SHOW IN BRANDON. Sunday, April 7, 2:45- 3:30 p.m. Conant Square Gallery, 4 Conant Sq. An exhibit of Neshobe School students work focused on the essence of a Solar Eclipse.

MAIDEN VERMONT AND MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHORUS IN BRANDON. Sunday, April 7, 7-9 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. An evening of music with two talented choruses from Central Vermont — Vermont's own women's barbershop chorus and Middlebury College students, alumni, staff, faculty and community members joining together.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB SYZYGY WATCH: A SOLAR ECLIPSE HIKE. Monday, April 8. Location TBD. Expect a moderate to difficult hike of 1-2 miles and great views. Be prepared for winter hiking conditions, bring plenty of warm layers and snacks and something comfortable to sit on. The duration of the eclipse is approximately 2.5 hours, with totality occurring between 3:26 and 3:29 p.m. Eclipse glasses will be

provided. Limit 8 participants. Contact betheliason@gmail.com for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

THE GREAT MIDDLEBURY SOLAR ECLIPSE CELEBRATION IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, April 8, 12:30-4 p.m., Middlebury Rec Park, Mary Hogan Drive. Get your eclipse glasses and join the big event, organized by the rec departments of Middlebury and Brandon, Isley Public Library, Brandon Free Library, Better Middlebury Partnership, ACSD & MESA. Food Trucks, disc golf, music, games pump track and mini ramp.

MONKTON'S SOLAR ECLIPSE PARTY. Monday, April 8, 1-4:30 p.m., town hall. 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. The event will also feature food vendors, including Queen Bee and ReMarcAble Bakery.

ECLIPSE WATCHING AT LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM IN FERRISBURGH. Monday, April 8, 1-4:30 p.m. Picnics welcome; limited glasses available.

ECLIPSE VIEWING FUN IN BRANDON. Monday, April 8, 2-4 p.m., Estabrook

Park, 760 Grove St. The Brandon Recreation Department will be having games to keep the kids busy leading up to the eclipse, including a "Nerf War" from 2:30-3 p.m.— chase any lingering zombies away. Battle your way through an obstacle course. (Nerf only, no paint pellets or other ammo). Open to all, with plenty of parking and restrooms.

"RING IN THE ECLIPSE" IN BRANDON. Monday, April 8, 2-4 p.m., Brandon area churches. Solar eclipses have been viewed as a sign of the divine throughout history. Our downtown churches will be open from 2-4 p.m. for reflection, or just to enjoy these historical buildings. They will ring in the eclipse at 2:14 p.m., leading to the peak of the eclipse, which starts at 3:26 p.m.

SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING WITH MIDDLEBURY AREA LAND TRUST IN MIDDLEBURY. 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 PARTY IN LINCOLN. Monday, April 8, 3-4 p.m., Lincoln Library. Eclipse themed games, activities and snacks. Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy the view.

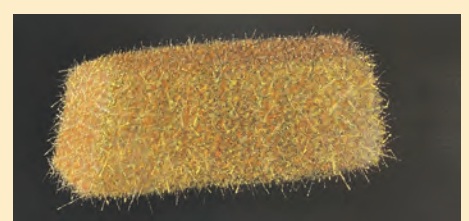
SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 14

Community Eclipse/Earth Day Exhibit

Art on Main in Bristol April 5-27th
Closing reception April 27th. 5-7pm



Henry safely watching the eclipse by Colossal Sanders



Hay bale by Bruce Conklin

Art on main
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UPCOMING MUSIC

Vergennes Opera House offers two events to celebrate the solar eclipse: Friday and Sunday

To celebrate the upcoming solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House have planned two events, one Friday evening and one Sunday afternoon.

CELEBRATE THE MOON ON FRIDAY

Vermont Youth Orchestra Ensembles Concert (VYO) will perform on Friday, April 5, at 7 p.m. The VYO involves about 17 exceptional musicians from Vermont, the Adirondacks and New Hampshire. This concert will have a local flair featuring Vergennes students Jing Williams on trumpet, Grey Fearon on trombone, and Megan Mentzer on percussion. Opening the concert will be a piano solo by the very talented, 12-year-old Owen Clevestine, playing "Rhapsody in Blue" on the grand piano center stage.

Founded in 1963, the Vermont Youth Orchestra (VYO) is the flagship and most advanced ensemble of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association. It presents three major concerts each year at Burlington's Flynn Center for the Performing Arts and also performs at community events, school tours

and in small-ensemble recitals. In the past decade, VYO has performed concert tours to China, France, Germany, Czech Republic, Iceland, Spain, Portugal, and Greece. The VYO added this special concert to their schedule to help the FVOH raise funds for the All Access Project.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students either in advance online or at the door. The doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the concert begins at 7 p.m. General seating.

CELEBRATE THE SUN ON SUNDAY

On the eve of the total solar eclipse, Sunday, April 7, there will be a free daytime concert at 2 p.m., featuring the Summit Winds Chamber Woodwind Ensemble from the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division (light infantry), located at Fort Drum, N.Y. They have an eclectic and engaging repertoire of music that spans all genres from classical to jazz and Broadway to rock.

Through their impeccable military bearing, professionalism, and excellent musicianship,

SEE MUSIC ON PAGE 15

MORE TUNES

CHAMPLAIN PHILHARMONIC HOSTS PRE-ECLIPSE CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY, APRIL 6

The Champlain Philharmonic Orchestra will perform "In the Key of Spring," at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, April 6 at the Middlebury Congregational Church. This hour-long concert will feature

the spectacular "Organ Symphony #3 in C Minor" by Camille Saint Saëns and two humorous short pieces; one by the infamous "de-composer" PDQ Bach, aka Peter Schickele, (complete with kazoo!) and the other featuring Vermont pianist and composer, David Feurzeig with his ragtime arrangement for orchestra of Stravinski's "Rite of Spring." This concert demonstrates not only how fun and entertaining classical music can be, but also showcases some of the most powerful and exhilarating music written that promises to be just as breathtaking and stratospheric as the eclipse itself. Come hear many of your neighbors and friends playing in this local orchestra that is celebrating 20 years performances in and for our community. If you can't make Saturday's concert, it will be performed again on Sunday, April 7, at 4 p.m., at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland.

For tickets and more information visit champlainphilharmonic.org.

Miles Donahue Quartet and students give free jazz and pop concert

Experience an exciting collaborative concert featuring eclectic music from classic jazz to classic rock including reharmonized standards. Middlebury College Affiliate Artist Miles Donahue and his students Scott Li '24, Terry Luongo '25 and Julia Ulsh '24 will showcase their skills in listening, harmony, accompaniment, and improvisation as they perform the music of Depeche Mode on Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m.

The students will be joined by guest artists of the Miles Donahue Quartet: Chilean electric bass player Gerson Lanzo-Quiroga; Berklee College of Music pianist Steve Hunt; Berklee percussionist Larry Finn; and local guitar great Brian Maple.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Gerson Lanzo-Quiroga — electric bass

From Concepcion, Chile, he is the 2014 winner of the Presidential Scholarship at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Steve Hunt — piano

An instructor of piano at Berklee College of Music. He has toured widely with many jazz greats including Freddie Hubbard and guitar legend Allan Holdsworth.

Larry Finn — percussion

A professor of percussion at Berklee College of Music and an international performing artist who has toured with Al Cooper, Tiger Akoshi, and Paula Cole.

Miles Donahue

A Middlebury College Affiliate Artist who teaches jazz improv for all instruments and pop piano, and has taught a winter-term course: *The Music of Motown*. He has authored "The Jazz Workbook" published by Mel Bay Books, has been published multiple times in *Jazz Ed* magazine, and is a prolific composer.

Brian Maple — guitar



Listen to live jazz for free on Saturday, April 6.

COURTESY PHOTO

A local guitar great will join the pop music portion of the concert.

The concert will be held in the Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Hall, and is free and open to all. For more information visit middlebury.edu/events/event/jazz-and-pop-together.

PUZZLES

sponsored by **SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

ACROSS

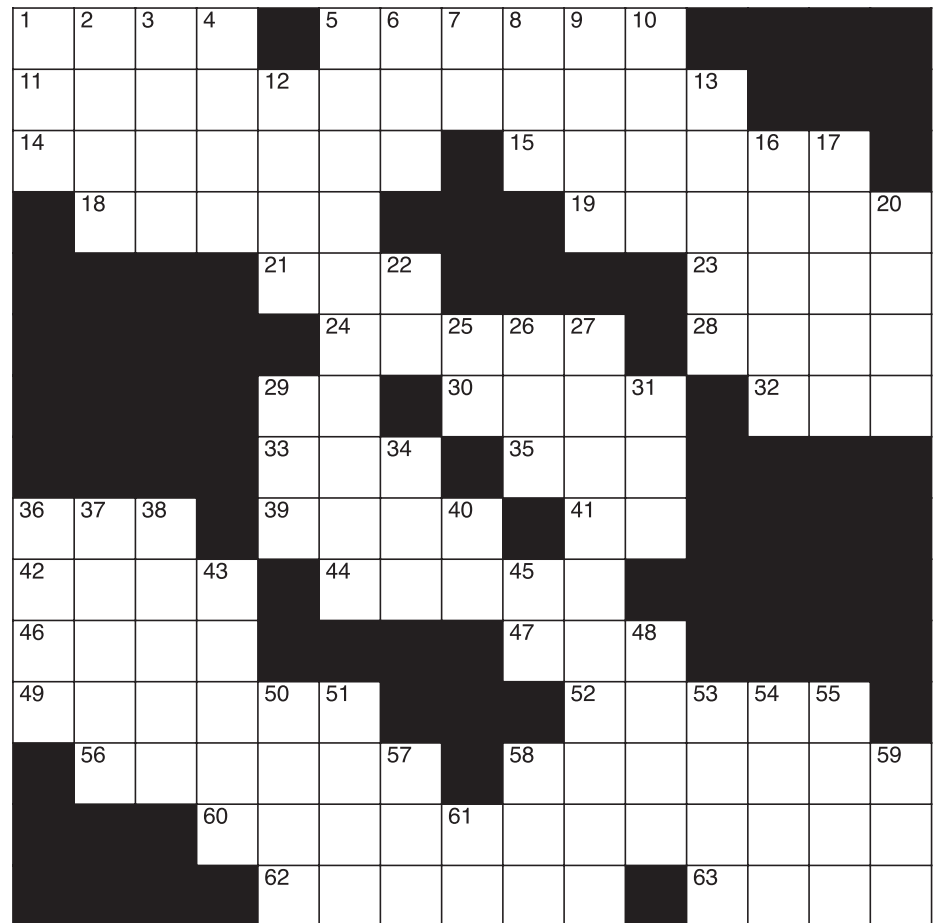
- 1. A minute amount (British)
- 5. Mystical or magical
- 11. Shortening
- 14. More satisfying
- 15. Other side
- 18. Philippine island
- 19. More unnatural
- 21. Mutual savings bank
- 23. Famed designer Chanel
- 24. Makes less wild
- 28. At some prior time
- 29. The cops who investigate the cops
- 30. Immune system response

- 32. Distress signal
- 33. Engine additive
- 35. "No Scrubs" trio
- 36. Very fast airplane
- 39. A reward (archaic)
- 41. Commercial
- 42. Spots where golfers start
- 44. Polite form of address (Indian)
- 46. French river
- 47. Reduce the light
- 49. Blood-sucking fly
- 52. A way to categorize
- 56. Procrastinates
- 58. Tall slender tower
- 60. Where

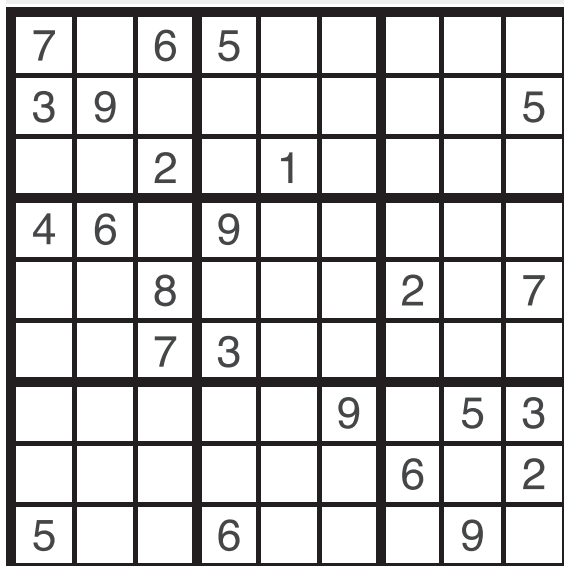
- researchers work
- 62. Office of the Pope
 - 63. Office furnishing

DOWN

- 1. Possesses
- 2. American Board of Orthopedic Surgery
- 3. Ancient Syrian city
- 4. Clip
- 5. In a way, misleads
- 6. Human gene
- 7. The Golden State (abbr.)
- 8. Lizard genus
- 9. Parasites that invade the skin



- 10. Took apart
- 12. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 13. S. California town
- 16. Suffix plural
- 17. Painting technique
- 20. Small Eurasian deer
- 22. Mr. T character
- 25. Microsoft
- 26. Shock therapy
- 27. Able to be sold
- 29. A doctrine
- 31. These three follow A
- 34. Pulse
- 36. Quantitative fact
- 37. Doctor __: children's book author
- 38. Hebrew calendar month
- 40. Designated hitter
- 43. Northern Poland village
- 45. A passport is one form
- 48. Hand (Spanish)
- 50. Hit with the open hand
- 51. Actor Idris
- 53. Shakespeare's nickname "The __"
- 54. Northern U.S. lake
- 55. Marvin and Horsley are two
- 57. Soak
- 58. Partner to cheese
- 59. Expression of disappointment
- 61. College dorm employee



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.

44 MAIN STREET, MIDDLEBURY, VT



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FRIDAY, APRIL 5
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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

— HOW TO SHARE YOUR YARD WITH NATURE —



Amy Simone is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from South Burlington.

Your home landscape can be an amazing opportunity to collaborate with nature. With thoughtful plant choices, you can invite more biodiversity into your yard. Even established landscapes will benefit from plant additions that can increase traffic from your favorite birds or provide forage for bees and other pollinators.

BY **AMY**
SIMONE

Most home landscapes are a monoculture of grass plants. While turfgrass certainly has its advantages in areas with high foot traffic, its shallow roots and growing habits tend to require more inputs with regards to nutrients, water and time to maintain it.

Consider letting the “weeds” take over your lawn. The key is to choose the plants that you would like to have growing in your lawn versus allowing the truly undesirables to establish themselves.

Interplanting broadleaf plants such as Dutch white clover (*Trifolium repens*) amongst your turfgrass will fix nitrogen from the air and

enrich your soil, as well as attract pollinators to your sunny lawn areas. Creeping thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) and ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) are other plants that can coexist nicely with turfgrass.

If you would prefer to keep your turfgrass pure, then consider other areas of your lawn that might benefit from groundcovers. They can save you from having to mow a steep bank while also creating a thick green carpet that prevents soil erosion.

Likewise, in the shady areas of your lawn where turfgrass simply will not take root, there are groundcovers that will gladly move in. Some options for plants here include cranesbill geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), spotted deadnettle (*Lamium maculatum*), Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex Pensylvanica*) and foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*).

If you have room for trees in your landscape, consult your local nursery to select the right ones for your property. Trees are hard workers, sequestering carbon in their deep roots and offering habitat to many different animals.

Another idea to welcome more biodiversity into your yard is to increase your planting area by adding perennial beds. Determine how you use your turfgrass and carve out beds that complement your needs for play zones and walking paths.

If you have a tree on its own surrounded by a circle of mulch, shape a planting bed around it. Perhaps the bed can connect two lone trees together.

Use sheet mulching (go.uvm.edu/sheet-mulching) to naturally suppress the grass in the designated areas and build up the beds with organic matter in preparation for planting.

Once ready, plant the beds with perennials and shrubs chosen as much for their beauty as for their biodiversity credentials. Prioritize native and/or pollinator-loving plants that offer a variety of bloom times and flowering longevity so you are feeding pollinators from early spring through late fall.

As the plants mature, the need for bark mulch should be reduced or eliminated. Any bare spots can be filled in with groundcover plants.

Sharing your yard with nature can be as beautiful as it is beneficial to the environment.



No-dig perennial beds can be strategically placed to frame a path of turfgrass.



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Middlebury College offers free dance opportunities for all

Looking for dance opportunities? Check out these three events this month at Middlebury College — they're free and open to the public.

WEST AFRICAN DANCE AND DRUM CLASS April 8 and 15

A rich taste of African culture that provides amazing, vigorous, high energy, and powerful movement. Let the beat of the drum move your body. Participants will learn songs, rhythms, dances, and culture as we embark on a journey of dances from the African diaspora.

Class is accompanied by live musicians to help participants understand the communication between the music and the dance.

Open to students, faculty, staff and community members age 13 and up.

Mondays, April 8 and 15, 5-6:30 p.m.
Mahaney Arts Center, room 110.

FACULTY DANCE CONCERT Thursday, April 11 7:30-9 p.m.

Mahaney Arts Center Dance Theatre,
Middlebury

An evening of performance from the Dance Department's faculty and staff along with several special guest artists. Open to the public.

Tickets \$15/10/8/5; available at
middlebury.edu/college/box-office.

DID YOU KNOW?

The American Kennel Club reports that the most popular dog names of 2023 were "**Luna**" for girl dogs and "**Max**" for boy dogs. Luna beat out "**Bella**" for the top spot, while Max bested "**Charlie**." In a nod to the popularity of football and the personal life of the world's most recognizable pop star, "**Kelce**" was the top trending dog name of 2023 according to data compiled by the online pet ownership marketplace Rover. Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce was already wildly popular among Chiefs fans, but he rose to even greater prominence when he began dating pop star Taylor Swift during the 2023 National Football League season. Rover reports that trending names for felines included "**Norbert**," "**Soju**" and "**Snoop**."



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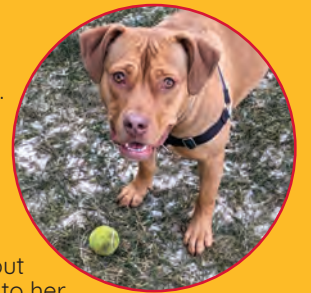
— MetroCreative



Pets In Need HOMeward BOUND Addison County's Humane Society

Iris

Iris is a young, 60-pound pit bull mix. Iris is dog-friendly but should not live with cats. She enjoys basking in the sun and going for walks. Iris is a young dog with a lot of energy, but also enjoys lazy days, taking long naps on her bed. She rides well in a car and seems content to just look out the window. Tennis balls are the key to her heart. She would do best in a quiet home without much traffic where she can get to know new people slowly.



Julius

Julius is a wiggly 2.5-year-old who weighs 63 pounds. Julius has previously lived with dogs, but has a rough play style. We have no information about Julius's interaction with cats. Julius has grown insecure around people in hoods/hats and things on wheels like bikes, skateboards, etc. We are working hard with Julius to feel comfortable when exposed to these triggers and he is showing good progress. He is very strong and will need a family that can handle his strength on a leash.

Nachos

Nachos is a 66-pound black lab mix bursting with energy and charm! At 2.5 years old, he is a silly goofball who would best thrive in a quiet home environment, ideally with one dedicated person. He has previously lived with dog-savvy cats. His playful, affectionate demeanor ensures he will keep you entertained, and will shower you with love and snuggles. We prefer that he is the only dog in the home. He is best suited for a household with older children, as smaller ones will overwhelm him.



Potato

Potato is a 2.5-year-old, 62-pound, Boxer/Terrier mix longing for a loving, low-key home, where he can bask in endless cuddles and attention that he so well deserves. Potato yearns for a serene environment, free from the stressors of cats or small children. His affection is boundless, and he absolutely loves car rides. This dog's heart is made of solid gold, and is the ideal shoulder to lean on during your most stressful of days.

Ronan

Ronan is a 7-year-old lab mix with a happy, goofy, and friendly personality. He is dog-friendly but seems to be selective with male dogs. Ronan could benefit from some extra walks to help slim down some of his 90 pounds! We are unsure about how he is around cats, but has been around children and he was fine with them.



Want to learn more?

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you!
802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT



296 KING FARM ROAD, NEW HAVEN
\$865,000

THE HOME

A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

Classic New England home just for you

Stunning post and beam farmhouse filled with rustic charm, warmth, character, and all the modern amenities you could desire. From the covered porch, stone patio, or while working amongst the raised bed gardens, you'll be looking out across an undulating pastoral landscape with a breathtaking view of the Adirondack Mountains beyond. This is the picture of classic New England. Inside is a spacious, inviting interior with soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, wooden beams, and oversized windows that flood the space with natural light. A modern kitchen is equipped with high-end appliances, ample storage space, and a large center island, making it a chef's dream. Add an open flow between kitchen, living, and dining, and you've got a recipe for inspired entertaining. Fantastic built-in storage spaces, clean lines, massive sliding barn doors, steel staircases, woodburning stove and heat pumps, loft spaces and extra spaces, and the list goes on. You'll sink into this tranquil rural lifestyle while remaining within easy reach of amenities, whether at your fingertips or in nearby Middlebury or Vergennes.



*This week's property is managed by IPJ Real Estate.
More info at middvermontrealestate.com.*





MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
105 COURT STREET
 MLS #4989307 | \$699,000
 3810 SF | 1.23 ACRES
 COMMERCIAL

Three full floors of usable space, tons of parking, and incredible Route 7 exposure. First floor offers two half baths, direct and flat access from parking area, and a versatile collection of storage/ utilities/break room. Second level offers retail and office space. Third level presents additional bath, offices, and an additional bathroom. Large lot. Showings during business hours preferred: Monday - Friday, 8 am - 6 pm, Saturday 8 am - 4pm, and Sunday 10 am - 3pm. Huge potential for so many types of businesses in this versatile commercial property!



NOW UNDER CONTRACT

SHOREHAM NEW LISTING!
LOT 3, OLIVER HOWE COURT
 MLS #4988807 | \$69,000
 0.51 ACRES

A great opportunity to build in the village! This Green Woods Village lot is in walking distance to the elementary school, town green, basketball courts and library. Easy hook up to town water, town sewer, and electric.



MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
74 COURT STREET
 MLS #4989606 | \$735,000
 4-UNITS | 1440 SF | 0.30 ACRES

This 4-unit apartment building is located in the heart of Middlebury. It offers curb appeal, off-street parking, and a smart opportunity to invest in much needed rental housing.



NOW UNDER CONTRACT

NEW HAVEN NEW LISTING!
296 KING FARM ROAD
 MLS #4989220 | \$865,000
 4 BD | 4 BA | 3018 SF | 5.90 AC

Stunning post and beam farmhouse with rustic charms, character, warmth, an abundance of natural light, and modern amenities. Take in the breathtaking sunsets over the Adirondacks from the patio!

ipjrealestate.com

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 info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242



CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

"VERMONT VS. HOLLYWOOD: 100 YEARS OF VERMONT IN FILM" IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, April 10, 10:30 a.m., Illesley Public Library, 75 Main St.

Amanda Kay Gustin of the Vermont Historical Society will provide background and share clips of films ranging from 1919's "Way Down East" to 2005's "Thank You for Smoking." A Vermont Humanities Council Program Free and open to the public.

PAINT 'N SIP FUNDRAISER IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, April 10, 6-8 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Help raise funds for Veterans' programs at this artsy event. Paint on a 10" x 24" piece of wood or a 10" x 20" canvas with a gnome and sunflower. Cost \$35. All painting materials are included during the 2-hour step by step event as well as a meal at half time. Drinks are available for purchase. All ages welcome. More info at tinyurl.com/VFW-Gnome-paint-n-sip.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

"EAT, POOP, DIE" AUTHOR TALK IN NEW HAVEN. Thursday, April 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Joe Roman, free-range conservation biologist, marine ecologist, and editor 'n' chef of eattheinvaders.org, will talk about his fascinating new book "Eat, Poop, Die: How Animals Make our World," which has been called "an exhilarating and enlightening global adventure, revealing the remarkable ways in which the most basic biological activities of animals make and remake the world." More info contact New Haven Community Library at 802-453-4015, or librarian@nhcl.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

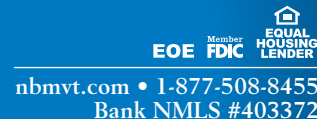
ART OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 12, 5-7 p.m., Jackson Gallery, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Come meet artist Leigh Harder and view her exhibit of paintings, "The Blue Between Day and Night." Harder's chosen medium currently is alcohol ink, a relatively new medium for fine artists. Exhibit runs through June 8.

"LEGALLY BLONDE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 12, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Come see Middlebury College Musical Theatre's production of this high-energy musical, based on the beloved novel and film, following the journey of Elle Woods, a fashionable sorority girl who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend. Tickets \$10 adult/45 student, available at townhalltheater.org. Plays again on Saturday, April 13.

"LOST AND FOUND ON THE HIGH SEAS" PLAY IN RIPTON. Friday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Community House, Route 125. This year's North Branch School play is sprawling production that begins in Stubbsville Harbor, in a new school, and ends far away, on the seas, on a ramshackle pirate ship. Written and performed by 26 middle-schoolers. Public welcome. Admission \$10. More info at 802-388-3269. Repeats Saturday, April 13.



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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street,
Middlebury
For more info visit
photoplacegallery.com.

“Quiet Landscape.”

An exhibition of photographs that show landscape: natural, urban, industrial, and abstract. Photographers show us how they see the world, in a quiet mode. Jurors Jacob and Alissa Hessler selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view April 5 - April 26.

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.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main Street, Middlebury,
For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com or call
802-989-7225.

“Green Gold,” Sparrow Art Supply’s debut exhibition at 44 Main Street, is a celebration of new beginnings. In this exhibit seven artists explore growth, transition and renewal. An opening reception and celebration of the new space will be held Friday, April 5, from 5-7 p.m., free and open to the public, with treats by Thistle and Honey Baking and complimentary wine by Dedalus Wine. The exhibit will be on view through May 11



Vermont Youth Orchestra Ensembles Concert (VYO) will perform on Friday, April 5, at 7 p.m., at the Vergennes Opera House.

COURTESY PHOTO

MUSIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

fortunate to be the host of several U.S. Army bands over the years. They seem to be drawn to this small community as well as to the acoustic richness of our historic theater.

their aim is to build community, steward tradition, honor the fallen, and bolster morale by engaging local, regional, national and international audiences through world-class musical performances.

The Vergennes Opera House has been

This concert is free with ticket reservations available online. This is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with family, neighbors and friends. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. The Summit Winds concert begins at 2 p.m. General seating. Tickets and information for all VOH events can be found online at VergennesOperaHouse.org.

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FOR RENT

RELAX AT LAKE DUNMORE





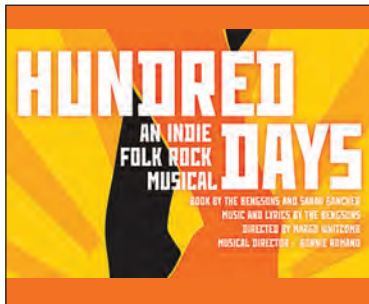

This newly renovated **4-season cottage** has availability for graduation, Memorial Day and a few weeks still open this summer. Bright, spacious and private with a huge deck, views and terraced gardens, this **3 bedroom, 2 bath** home comes with two 2-person kayaks. Email lisagskis@yahoo.com for direct pricing discounts.

Full listing and availability: AIRBNB.COM
 Search “Beautiful Lake Dunmore Ski Chalet / Cottage”



April Showers of Arts and Culture at Town Hall Theater

68 S. Pleasant St. | Middlebury, VT 05753
802-382-9222



MACo Presents
Hundred Days
April 4, 5, 6 @ 7:30pm
April 7 @7pm



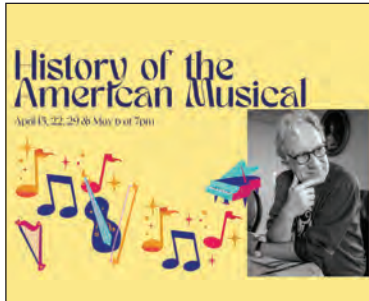
THT Presents
Daly, Coons & Cassels-Brown
April 19 @ 7:30pm



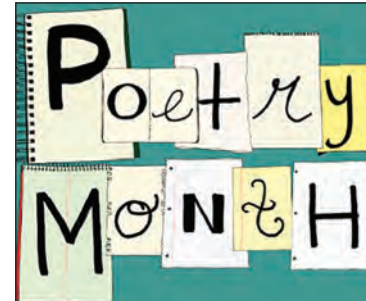
MCMT Presents
Legally Blonde
April 12 & 13
7:30pm & 2pm



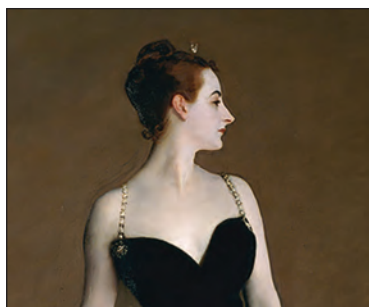
MetOpera Presents
La Rondine
April 20 @ 1pm
pre-show talk 12:15pm



THT Presents
History of the American Musical
April 15, 22, 29 & May 6
7pm



THT Presents
Poetry Celebration
April 21 @ 2pm



Great Art Wednesday
John Singer Sargent
April 17 @ 11am



Vermont Children's Museum
Grand Friends Gala
April 26 @ 4pm



MNFF Selects Presents
Beyond Utopia
April 18 @ 7pm



THT Presents
Keeping It Inn
April 27 @ 7pm
April 28 @ 2pm

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Addison County

Early Childhood Guide

A publication of the Addison Independent • April 4, 2024





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Changing the narrative from 'going it alone'

By **MEGAN JAMES**
Minibury Editor

When it comes to raising kids, it can feel like the Wild West out there. I remember the feeling of helplessness when, halfway through maternity leave with my first baby, my husband and I were still searching unsuccessfully for childcare. Were we supposed to have gotten on a waitlist way back when we found out I was pregnant?

Sociologist Caitlyn Collins, author of “Making Motherhood Work,” said on the “Ezra Klein Show” that parents in the U.S. “seem to be defined by a great deal of stress and overwhelm, unfortunately. For parents today, there’s an expectation that they are largely going to go it alone when it comes to working in the paid labor force and caring for their children.”

April is the National Month of the Young Child. My family survived the youngest “young child” years, despite the stress and overwhelm. But I still care deeply about the issues in the spotlight of this celebration month: early childhood education, home childcare educators, and postnatal healthcare.

These things matter to all of us. Childcare is a necessity if young parents are going to be part of the workforce. Supporting families at every stage makes us all stronger. We should be doing everything we can to cultivate a community that doesn’t make parents — or children — feel they have to go it alone.

In this special section, you can read about the 2023 Childcare Bill, which goes a long way toward making Vermont’s childcare system the most expansive in the country.

You can peruse a full directory of early education and childcare providers across Addison County.

You’ll hear from Darla Senecal of Building Bright Futures about the state of Addison County’s young children and families (spoiler: reading levels are down; poverty is up).

Local pediatrician Elizabeth Coogan writes about the countless benefits of reading aloud to your little ones and why bedtime with books is her favorite time of day with her own children.

And you’ll hear from Wren’s Nest Forest Preschool Educator Jen Olson about why the language around “daycare” has shifted.

“We have always recognized that education is at the heart of our work,” she writes. “We see ourselves for who and what we are: trained educators who carefully design developmentally appropriate, play-based learning opportunities for young children, and who continue our professional development and learning throughout our careers. That’s why we call ourselves early childhood educators.”

The goal Olson describes shouldn’t be hard to get behind: “Our audacious vision is a state and nation where each and every child, beginning at birth, has the opportunity to benefit from high-quality, affordable early childhood education, delivered by a diverse, effective, well-prepared, and well-compensated workforce.”





The Ilsley Public Library renovation and expansion doubles the space for youth services!

Children and families will enjoy expanded collections, additional programs, and light-filled, dedicated gathering spaces for each age group.

New spaces include:

- Early Learning “Wiggle” Room
- Library Activity Room
- High School Students Room
- Middle School Students Room
- Roof Garden
- Family Restroom
- Lactation Room



Learn more

about the designs, funding plan, and project timeline at our informational meeting on April 15th at 7pm at MUHS or at ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

The bond vote will be at the Middlebury Town Offices on

**May 7th, from
7am to 7pm.**



The state of Vermont's children

By **DARLA SENEAL**,
Building Bright Futures
Regional Manager for
Bennington, Rutland and
Addison Counties

Each year, Building Bright Futures and Vermont's Early Childhood Data and Policy Center release a report on the well-being of young children and families in Vermont. "The

State of Vermont's Children: 2023 Year in Review" includes data specific to Addison County as well as a wealth of statewide data. The report also features the 2024 Policy Recommendations from Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network on how best to improve outcomes for young children and their families.

Spotlight on Third Grade Reading Levels

At recent meetings of the Addison County Early Childhood Regional Council, one set of data from "The State of Vermont's Children" has come up more than any other: our area's third grade reading levels. In Addison Central School District, 48.7% of all students and 26.3% of historically marginalized students were reading at or above a proficient level in spring 2022. In Mount Abraham Unified School District, these figures were 51.7% of all students and 26.3% of historically marginalized students, and in Slate Valley Unified Union School District, 33.3% of all students and 10.5% of historically marginalized students were proficient or above in reading.

Third grade reading proficiency is low not just in Addison County, but across Vermont. Statewide, 41.17% of all students and 25.3% of historically marginalized students were proficient or above. The numbers may not be a fully accurate measure of the reading ability of Vermont's third graders, however. Data collection was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. The Vermont Agency of Education notes that in 2022, "there were pandemic-related challenges, such as educator shortages leading to insufficient resources to properly administer the assessments and the need to balance academic assessment with critical activities related to students' social emotional well-being. These issues may have impacted student performance or test participation, which makes comparing 2022 data to previous years far more difficult."

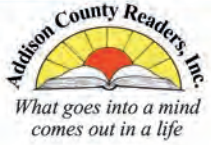
Poverty and a Living Wage

In 2022 (the most recent year for which this data was available), 23.4% of Addison County's families with children under 12 were living below the Federal Poverty Level, down from 30% in 2017. State-level data also show a decrease in the percentage of Vermont families with children under 12 living in poverty, from 17% in 2015 to 13% in 2020.

These figures do not tell the whole story, however. In 2023, the Federal Poverty Level for a family of four was \$30,000. Two adults working at Vermont's minimum wage of \$13.18 make \$54,828 a year, but the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's living wage calculator shows that the necessary annual income to meet the basic needs of an Addison County household with two adults and two children (before taxes) in 2023 was \$103,680. There are many families who are not classified as "living in poverty" under federal standards who nevertheless struggle to make ends meet.

As we observe The Week of the Young Child, I encourage parents, educators and anyone else who is invested in the well-being of Vermont's children to check out "The State of Vermont's Children: 2023 Year in Review," along with the many other early childhood resources at buildingbrightfutures.org. Addison County Early Childhood Regional Council meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Friday of each month. We often meet via Zoom, but our May 10 and June 14 meetings will be in person. I hope to see you there! To learn more, feel free to contact me at 802-377-0119 or dseneal@buildingbrightfutures.org.








Free Books!

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EVERY child under 5 in Addison County can get a free book in the mail each month from local **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** sponsor, Addison County Readers!

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Upcoming classes with CSAC

Mindful Parenting Group

A parenting group emphasizing self-care and mindfulness as a means to self-compassion, and a more curious and effective interaction with kids.

The group will meet for 6 weeks, starting soon! Open to parents of kids of any age who are interested in receiving services at CSAC.

For information or to sign up, call Paul
 (802) 388-6751 ext. 475

Resource Parent Curriculum (RPC+) TIPS for Tuning In

A 10-week workshop for foster, adoptive and kin caregivers about the impact of trauma on the development, attachment, emotions and behaviors of the children and youth in their care.

The workshop provides a safe space for caregivers to access compassionate training; learn concrete strategies to manage daily and ongoing challenges; enhance relationships with their children; and build a network of support with fellow caregivers.

Wednesday evenings this Spring, 5:15 pm-7:30 pm.
 Facilitated by CSAC Youth and Family Outreach Clinicians.

Questions or want to register?
 Call Heather: (802) 388-6751 ext. 438 or Donna: (802) 388-6751 ext. 587

Breakthrough Parenting Curriculum (BPC)

A 10-week course for biological parents struggling to understand their child's behavior. Similar to the RPC+ class.

Contact Sarah for details on upcoming offerings:
 (802) 388-6751 ext. 274

Giving Voice to our Educator Identity

By JEN OLSON, Early Childhood Educator
Wren's Nest Forest Preschool
Vermont Advancing Early Childhood
Education as a Profession Task Force

Chances are you or someone you know have a connection to a young child. Perhaps you're a parent or grandparent, or a colleague, friend or neighbor of someone with a young child. It's also likely that you've heard or asked, "What are you doing for childcare?"

Over the years the verbiage has changed from daycare to childcare; with many people

and news outlets still using "daycare" in conversations and reporting.

I'm going to let you in on a ... not so little secret. Those terms are out of date. Whether you call it school, preschool or by its official name, **"early childhood education" — it's education and we're early childhood educators.**

We have always recognized that education is at the heart of our work. In the company of children, we call ourselves teachers and often refer to our programs as school. Many educators who've previously referred to themselves as daycare providers have had the courage to rebrand their programs with new names and invited families to join them in adopting more respectful language. We see ourselves for who and what we are: trained educators who carefully design developmentally appropriate, play-based learning opportunities for young children, and who continue our professional development and learning throughout our careers. That's why we call ourselves early childhood educators.

Within our programs, we post signs and write newsletters to invite families to join us; "Instead of 'daycare', we call it 'school.'" In conversations with community members we kindly offer, "You know, we've actually chosen to call ourselves early childhood educators."

I don't write "we" lightly.

I am a member of a task force of early childhood education professionals from all over the state, representing programs based in public schools, public and private centers, and family homes. In 2020, our task force began leading our fellow Vermont early childhood educators in learning about the nationally recommended roles and responsibilities of being an early childhood educator within an early childhood education profession.

While this work continues at a national level with key leadership from The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Vermont is a leader among several individual states already working to gain consensus from their workforce regarding alignment with the national recommendations for establishing an early childhood education profession.

In Vermont, our task force has been working since 2019 to build a shared knowledge base and gain consensus among our statewide workforce. This year, the task force's work continues with workforce engagement and outreach to build our professional identity. This includes envisioning the systems design and policy work needed to create a profession that works for all children, families, and early childhood educators.



JEN OLSON, WHO teaches youngsters at Wren's Nest Forest Preschool, is proud to call herself an Early Childhood Educator, and she urges others in her line of work to take pride and professionalism in their jobs.

In addition, early childhood education programs across Vermont are updating their websites, family handbooks, job titles and social media to reflect the professional language that the Vermont workforce has identified. We're setting the stage for families and community members to know who we are and what we do from their initial interactions with us, be it online or face to face.

Our audacious vision is a state and nation where each and every child, beginning at birth, has the opportunity to benefit from high-quality, affordable early childhood education, delivered by a diverse, effective, well-prepared, and well-compensated workforce.

Every day we partner with children and families. Today is no different. We're asking you to join us, to call us by our professional name, early childhood educators, and help us elevate our work and our audacious vision.



Home-based care provides lots of learning

By **HEATHER ARMELL, Registered Home Childcare Provider**

Spring has sprung and the children are blooming in their thirst for knowledge. How do young children learn at registered home programs? Children are a part of a mixed age group learning from each other. They are not only learning while playing, but also by the teacher offering engaging learning experiences that make learning exciting.

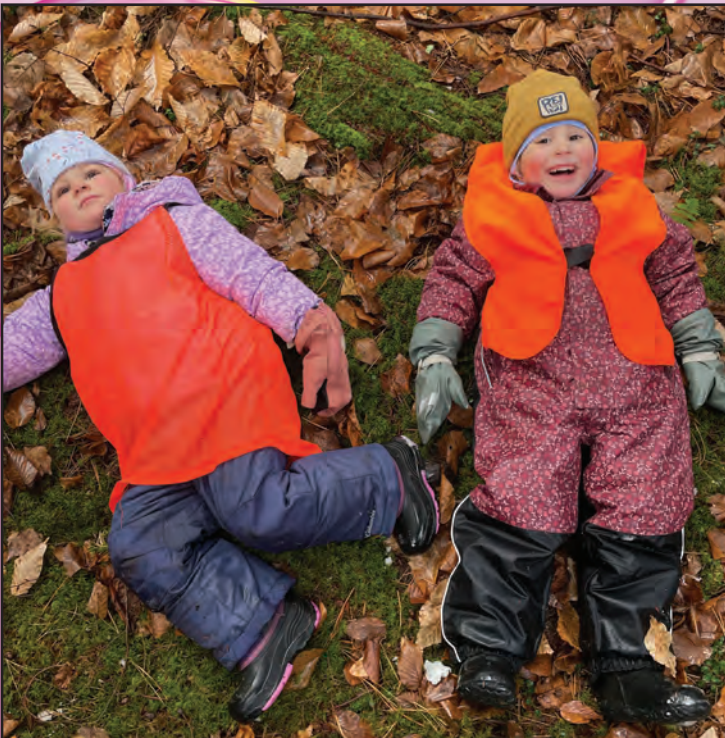
What child wants to sit looking at workbooks to learn their letters or colors, when they could be singing a song or playing a matching game that is interactive and fun. If a child is playing and talking about having read the book “The Jack and the Beanstalk,” the teacher can facilitate extended learning. The children can plant beans, measure their growth and the teacher can ask the children open-ended questions such as, “What do beans need to grow?” This builds stronger language and facilitates full participation and involvement. The teacher may ask, “I wonder how many blocks tall the beanstalk will grow?” which can lead to the children to build with blocks and even measure each other. The older children can count the blocks while building. The younger children can bring more blocks, make smaller towers, and observe what their friends are doing.

Having a mixed age group gives the oldest children in the group the opportunity to take on leadership skills. They can introduce

ideas on how to start a group role play such as, “Do you want to be the mommy bear, and I’ll be the daddy bear? Who wants to be the baby bear?” Being together, they learn to include all their friends, even if it’s bringing an infant a toy to play with. The older children enjoy being a “helper” by getting a burp cloth or setting up paper and crayons for all to enjoy. The youngest children are learning skills by watching their older friends. They quickly want to learn to crawl and walk to keep up with their bigger friends. These bigger friends are there to cheer them on at every milestone and there to offer empathy for every bump and bruise.

Home childcare is more than just a place for your child to learn. It is a second home where they can grow, learn, and become part of an extended family. By being in a home childcare, children can bond with their teacher for up to five years or more if the provider offers afterschool care. Through these nurtured, reliable relationships with their provider and peers, each child has a foundation to promote learning, skill building and independence along with social skills to make them future successful adults.





We believe

All children and families should have access to high-quality care and education to ensure they become happy, engaged community members.



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 MISSION AEROSPACE OPEN THRU MAY 12	 CIRCUIT CIRCUS FESTIVAL APRIL 20 - 28	 HANDS-ON SCIENCE EXHIBITS

This outdoor classroom provides tools for social-emotional learning

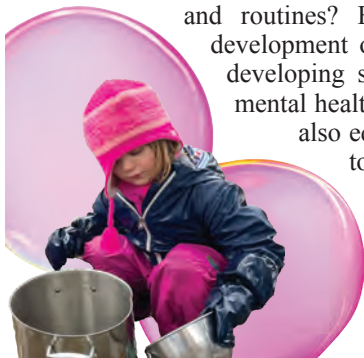
By JESSICA CURTO

Beneath a tree, at the edge of our outdoor classroom, there is a blanket with a box filled with self-regulation tools. There is a feelings chart, a breathing ball, books, and sensory toys. This is “the calm corner,” a safe place to feel big feelings and learn how to self-regulate. At the beginning of the school year our class made a community agreement that the calm corner is a one-person space, meaning only one student at a time may occupy it. When a child needs space or is having a challenging feeling, they may choose to go to the calm corner. When the teachers see someone in the calm corner it’s a signal for us to check in and see if they want or need adult support. The calm corner is a safe haven for everyone and it is deeply loved by the teachers, students, and families at our school.

The calm corner is just one of the many ways we incorporate social emotional learning into our everyday experiences at Wren’s Nest. We also focus our curriculum towards this lens by reading stories that help students process challenging feelings and social situations that arise in our community. Mindful breathing is a tool we use throughout the day, especially during transitions. We have social and emotional tools attached to our backpacks, so we can lean on these supports when we need them on our daily hikes into the forest.

Here’s the catch though, you can’t teach what you don’t know. Teaching self-regulation skills often requires educators to learn those skills themselves and to make sure they are regulated when supporting children with big feelings and emotions. Our team is committed to doing this work ourselves and creating a system that supports this. Part of that system is “checking in and checking out” when one of our teachers needs support or space to regulate. We have a code word we use when we need to take a break. When another member of the team hears it, they step in with no questions asked. We take space and use the same tools we teach our students, to ensure that we are showing up mindfully and responsively.

Why do we make such an intentional effort to incorporate social-emotional learning into our everyday experience and routines? Because we value supporting the development of the whole child and believe that developing self-regulation skills leads to better mental health outcomes for people of all ages. It also equips students with the skills needed to be in an optimal state for learning. Our hope is that with our guidance and support, the students at Wren’s Nest will gain the skills they need to be resilient, confident, and independent long after they leave our care.



MiniBury

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ADDISON INDEPENDENT

*Stay in the Loop with MiniBury:
Your Ultimate Guide to Family
Fun in Addison County!*

For more than a decade, MiniBury has been the go-to source of local information for folks raising children in Addison County. Parents and caregivers rely on MiniBury to give them the latest scoop on local family-friendly events, playgroups and storytimes, after-school programs and summer camps.

The most-visited page on MiniBury.com is the events calendar, which is updated regularly and includes recurring events such as playgroups, story times, after-school drop-in programs, open gyms, plus all the special family-friendly events that make our community such a great place to raise kids. Check it out!



Did you know MiniBury sends out a weekly email newsletter — and that it was named the No. 1 Outstanding Newsletter by the New England Newspaper and Press Association in 2021?

Each newsletter is packed with the latest news that local parents and caregivers can use, plus a little heartfelt, sometimes silly, intro from MiniBury's Megan James about life as a parent in our little corner of Vermont.



Sign up at minibury.com/sign-up-for-our-e-newsletter or scan the QR code!



Follow MiniBury on Instagram and Facebook to keep tabs on all things baby and kid-related in Addison County. We post alerts when summer camp and after-school program registrations open, when playgroups are canceled, or when Junebug is clearing out its winter gear. Our most popular posts are the events roundups we publish every Thursday morning so you can plan your weekend.





WHEN SHE TALKS with parents, Porter Pediatrician Elizabeth Coogan, M.D., encourages them to read to their children daily, which aids brain development and builds language skills.

Reading to your kids is a lifelong gift

By **DR. ELIZABETH COOGAN**

One of my favorite times of day as a parent is curling up with my kids to read to them at bedtime. In addition to being a rare time in our busy lives when we can have a quiet moment together, this routine helps ensure that my kids are exposed to books and language every day. In my practice as a pediatrician at Porter I also make sure books and reading are part of my daily routine with patients.

I make this a priority because reading out loud to children, especially in the first three years of life, is critical for healthy brain development. Research shows that reading with children from birth is associated with improved language skills in kindergarten, increases interest in reading, and makes children more motivated to learn when they enter school. Reading, along with singing and talking, is also a wonderful way to strengthen parent-child relationships and creates positive parenting experiences through which children learn from their parents and those around them.

Unfortunately, the majority of kids in the United States are not read to daily, and children from low-income families are significantly less likely to be read to daily. Furthermore, one-third of American children start kindergarten without the appropriate language skills they need, which continues to impact their learning through elementary school and beyond.

To help address these disparities and promote early literacy in our office at Porter Pediatrics in Middlebury, we participate in a program called Reach Out and Read, or ROAR. ROAR is a national nonprofit organization that provides books to give out at routine visits. At every

check-up from age six months through five years providers give children a new book to take home. In addition to adding a fun, positive spin to visits (that can otherwise sometimes be scary at this age), we use this opportunity to discuss the value of reading out loud with parents and children. Since we started this program in October of 2022 we have given out more than 2,000 books. Funding comes primarily from ROAR directly and is supplemented by Porter Pediatrics and local community donors.

Here are some tips for families to help children love to read:

- Make reading part of your everyday routines, including car rides, bedtime and waiting for appointments. Keeping a book handy in your car or diaper bag can make this easier.

- Visit your local library. We are lucky to have wonderful libraries in Addison County with librarians dedicated to having a full collection of books for kids of all ages. Bringing kids to the library and letting them choose books that interest them will help keep them engaged.

- Remember, any reading is good reading! Reading a few minutes at a time, letting children hold and turn the pages of books, and simply talking with them about the pictures on the pages are all valuable.

Editor's note: Elizabeth Coogan, M.D., works with babies, children and families at Porter Pediatrics.



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Coming Soon: Childcare tuition assistance for more Vermont families

Progress toward Vermont's childcare solution is underway as Act 76 rolls out. This year, over 7,000 more families will become eligible for childcare tuition assistance from the state. Here's what you need to know:

How Act 76 Lowers Childcare Costs:

Act 76 expands the income eligibility criteria for Vermont's childcare tuition assistance program (known as the Childcare Financial Assistance Program, or CCFAP). Beginning in April 2024, the state will help more Vermont families pay for childcare as a result of this eligibility expansion. In October, the eligibility criteria will expand again. The result is more affordable childcare for the majority of Vermont families.

In April, eligibility expands from 350% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 400%. By October 2024, families earning up to 575% of FPL will be eligible for tuition assistance. That means a family of four earning up to \$179,400 may qualify. Read more about the eligibility criteria online at tinyurl.com/ChildcareEligibility.

How Do I Access Lower Childcare Tuition Payments?

Newly eligible families will need to apply for tuition assistance (CCFAP). After a family enrolls, the state directly reimburses the childcare programs that their children attend. As a result, the family's out-of-pocket tuition bills are lower.

Visit the state website tinyurl.com/ChildCareMoneyHelp to view the eligibility requirements and contact your regional community childcare support agency (CCCSA) for assistance.

What Else Do I Need To Know About Tuition Assistance?

The true cost of childcare is unaffordable for most families, and many childcare programs survive on tight margins trying to make their programs affordable to families. This is unsustainable for families and childcare programs, resulting in many parents leaving the workforce and program closures.

That's why Vermonters asked for long-term, sustainable investments in childcare. It gives our youngest children the best start and provides families with access to a critical service so they can thrive and participate in the workforce.

Many families already qualify for Vermont's tuition assistance program and use it to access more affordable childcare. With the expanded income eligibility, the state is helping thousands more families afford this essential service. And because Act 76 invests directly into childcare programs by reimbursing childcare providers closer to the true cost of care, program quality and capacity will also grow.

Investing in childcare is not only the right thing to do for our children, but it will also allow hundreds of Vermont parents to reenter the workforce, boosting the state's economy in the long run as well.

Additional resources:

- Learn how Act 76 will impact your family online at tinyurl.com/Act76Vt.
- Learn more about childcare financial assistance from the state and how to apply online at tinyurl.com/ChildCareMoneyHelp.
- Find your local childcare support agency here to help navigate Vermont's childcare system online at tinyurl.com/AgencyPartners.
- Learn about tax breaks, employer reimbursements, and other potential resources to help pay for childcare online at tinyurl.com/HelpPayingChildcare.

Editor's note: This article came from Let's Grow Kids.



Addison County Early Childhood Sites

Name	Ages	Schedule	PreK Partner	Town	Notes/Contact Info
Quarry Hill School	3-5	School Year/school day	Yes	Middlebury	quarryhillschool.org office@quarryhillschool.org
Otter Creek Child Center	6 weeks-5	M-F Year Round	Yes	Middlebury	ottercreekcc.org office@ottercreekcc.org
College Street Children's Center	6 weeks-3	M-F Year Round	No	Middlebury	cscdirector228@gmail.com
Evergreen Preschool	3-5	School year/half day and full day	Yes	Vergennes	Evergreenpreschoolvt@gmail.com
MAUSD Early Education Program	3-5	School year. 10 hour/week program	Yes	Bristol	lindsay.hance@mausd.org
MAUSD Early Education Program	3-5	School year. M-F 8am-5pm	Yes	Bristol	heidi.bullock@mausd.org
Wren's Nest Forest Preschool	3-5	School Year M-F 8am-4:30pm	Yes	Bristol	info@willowell.org
Carolyn Fogg ★	Birth-12	School year M-F 7am-4:30pm	No	Monkton	cfogg1979@gmail.com
Starksboro Cooperative Preschool	3-5	School year + summer program half day (7:30am-1pm) + full day 7:30am-4:30pm	Yes	Starksboro	starkscoop@gmail.com
Aurora Preschool	3-5	Year Round 7:30am-5pm	No	Middlebury	auroralearningcentervt@gmail.com
Bristol Family Center	6 weeks-6 years	M-F Year Round	Yes	Bristol	bristolfamilycenter.org, awhitcomb@bristolfamilycenter.org
Addison County Parent Child Center	0-5	School year, 8am-4pm and M-F, 8-4 in summer	Yes	serving Addison County in Middlebury, with transportation	dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org
Bridge School Preschool	3-5	Full year 8am-3:30pm (hopes to include aftercare until 5 by next year)	Yes	Middebury	emilylambert@bridgeschoolvermont.org
Mountain Road Preschool ★	0-5	Full year 7:15am-4:45pm M-F	Yes	Addison	mountainroadpreschool@yahoo.com
Misty Scott ★	6 weeks - 12 years	Full Year, M - F 7am-5pm	No	Vergennes	ckcc@comcast.net 802-877-6977 3 STAR Provider facebook.com/ CuriousKidsChildCareMistyScott
Evelyn Burlock ★	6 weeks - 12 years	Full Year, M-F 7am-5pm	No	Vergennes	eburlock27@yahoo.com 802-877-2506
Mary Johnson Children's Center	3 months - 5 years	Full Year	Yes	Middlebury	office@mjcvt.org mjcvt.org
Middlebury Cooperative Nursery School (MJCC)	3-5	Full Year	Yes	East Middlebury	office@mjcvt.org mjcvt.org
Orwell Early Education Program (MJCC)	3-5	School year	Yes	Orwell	office@mjcvt.org mjcvt.org

★ = Home provider

Middlebury Afterschool Program (MJCC)	K-5th grade	Afterschool School Year Summer Weeks are FT	No	Middlebury	school-age@mjcvt.org mjcvt.org
Heather Armell ★	6 weeks-5years	Full Year, M-F 7:15am-4:30pm	No	Monkton	littleykes2007@yahoo.com
Bethany Hallock ★	Birth to 12	Full year, M-F, 7:30am-4:30pm	No	Ferrisburgh	gbthallock@juno.com
Donna Meacham ★	Birth to 12	Full year, M-F, 7:30am-4:30pm	No	New Haven	dondarmea@gmavt.net 802-453-5383
Lincoln Cooperative Preschool	3-5	7:30am-3pm some aftercare available	Yes	Lincoln	preschool@gmavt.net
Sunshine Childcare ★	Birth-5years	Full year, M-F, 7am-5pm	No	Addison	sunshinecc21@gmail.com
Jennifer Cyr Family Child Care ★	Birth-4 years	Year Round, Monday-Thursday	No	Middlebury	jennifercyr2@gmail.com jennifercyrfamilychildcare.com
Addison County Early Learning Center (Head Start)	16 months-5 years	preschool-school year, toddler classroom-year round, both M-F 8:30-2:30pm	Yes	New Haven	Peg Sutlive psutlive@cvoeo.org
ANWSD Early Education Program	3-5	School Year only 8:15am-1:15pm Extended Care 1:15pm-4:30pm	Yes	Ferrisburgh	Marcie Tierney mtierney@anwsd.org
Laura Weber ★	Birth - 12 years	Year round, M-F, 7am-4:30pm	No	Hancock	lmw15vt@yahoo.com
The Ark Preschool/Kindergarten	3-5	School year and summer program, M-F, 7:30am-5am	No	Waltham	arkdirector@victoryvt.org AGES: 3 years old to kindergarten during school year; 3-10 years old during summer
Cornerstone Preschool	3-5	School year M-F 7:30am-5am	No	Vergennes	office@cornerstone-prek.com
Bridport Central School Preschool	3-5	School year M-Th 7:45am-2:45pm	Yes	Bridport	Heather Adams, Preschool Director (802) 758-2331 hadams@acsdvt.org
Mary Hogan Preschool	3-5	School year M-Th 8:15am-2:15pm	Yes	Middlebury	Kim Forbes, Preschool Director 802-382-1438 kforbes@acsdvt.org
A.R.K. Child Care at Whiting	6 weeks - 5 years	M - F Year round 7:30am-5pm	No	Whiting	Rebecca Kerr, Program Director 802-623-7991 arkchildcare2018@gmail.com
Muffy's Family Child Care and Preschool Program ★	Infants - school age	M - F Year round 8am-4:30pm	Yes	Orwell	muffykgart@gmail.com 802-948-2561 (Leave message on answering machine)
Discovery Hill Child Care and Preschool ★	Infant - school age	Year Round - Monday-Friday 7am-4:30pm	Yes	Bristol	kidsfirstdhfcc@yahoo.com 802-989-1225
Stacey Rheaume ★	6 weeks to 12 years	M-F Year Round 7am-4:30pm	No	Salisbury	rrheaume5@yahoo.com 802-349-5082
Bridge School Preschool	3-5	M-F 8am-3:30pm with aftercare offered until 4:30pm, year round	Yes	Middlebury	emilylambert@bridgeschoolvermont.org 802-388-3498

Life can be heavy.

Our muscles are strong, willing and ready to help shoulder the load.



At Addison County Home Health and Hospice, we support families during joyful and difficult times and assist in making decisions about health care needs and lifestyle changes.

We collaborate with numerous community organizations and health care providers to offer supportive and preventive services to families with newborns and young children who are at risk for medical and psychosocial problems. Some private insurance policies have postpartum benefits which include skilled nursing visits and/or homemaker services. Maternal-child health nurses perform home visits prenatally and postpartum to women to provide teaching relating to pregnancy, labor and delivery, breastfeeding and newborn care.

You don't have to be alone, we're here with you.



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Realizing the Promise of all Vermont's Children

Help Me Grow Vermont creates strong families, which promotes healthy child development, and ensures that all children reach their greatest potential.

Who is it for? All Vermont families with children under age eight, caregivers, individuals who are pregnant, and anyone who works with young children.

What does Help Me Grow do?

- Connects families and children to community resources that promote physical and mental health.
- Educates parents and caregivers about child development and offers free, online developmental screening.
- Trains educators and providers to do developmental monitoring and screening with the children in their care.

How do you get in touch?

- Call 211, option 6 • Text HMGVT to 898211 • Email info@helpmegrowvt.org



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Spotlight on Family-Style Eating at the Head Start Addison County Early Learning Center

It's 11:30 a.m., and children and teachers are washing their hands and gathering around child-size tables to share a meal. Bowls of delicious home-cooked food are passed around and conversations unfold. "Please pass the green beans." "Johnny, would you like some chicken?" This homey scene is an important aspect of building community at Addison County Early Learning Center (ACELC) in New Haven.

This approach is called Family Style Meals. Head Start provides two meals and one snack per day, offering the five food components to promote children's health. Betsy, the cook on site, provides nutritious meals, including whole grain bread and pasta, fresh fruit and vegetables, and many homemade dishes.

Betsy has a contagious enthusiasm, a quick laugh, and a deep passion for caring for children and their health. She lives out her philosophy and approach through the work she does with children. Betsy shares her thoughts and experiences feeding children at ACELC:

Q. Why do you think family style meals are important?

Betsy: Family Style Meal service allows children to be more independent in their choices and portion sizes. They can regulate food intake and learn about a variety of different foods. Mealtime is a fun time for children to learn language and vocabulary and practice all kinds of developmental skills, including self-regulation and building community.

Q. Can you share a nugget or two from any recent professional development?

Betsy: At a recent workshop, a nutritionist was speaking about fussy or picky eaters. She said instead of calling them "fussy or picky eaters," let's call them "selective eaters." That just stood out to me because it sounds

humble and respectful too. I also learned that involving children with the mealtime by creating a list, shopping, preparing meals, setting the table, and cleaning up helps build their self-esteem and independence. I have learned so much at workshops, but just observing the children has taught me a lot.

Q. Can you tell a story that illustrates how your job brings you joy?

Betsy: Watching the children grow and change brings me joy, which is hard to put into words. There have been times when a family member has come to me and shared how much their child enjoyed the food that was prepared at Head Start, or asked for a recipe because the child loved it. The families are always excited when they hear that their child tries new foods. When they see the changes in their child's eating habits, they are encouraged. And that makes me smile.

Q. Any advice for parents about how to support children's healthy eating habits?

- Children may need to see a new food offered 10-15 times before they try it.
- Show enthusiasm! Comment on color, texture, taste, and where the food comes from.
- Avoid insisting that your child eat the food. Keeping mealtimes positive is important.
- Show your child how to tune in to how their belly feels to support reading their own body.
- Appetites can change day to day; focus more on weekly habits.
- Sit together as a family, have conversations, and most importantly ... have fun!



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Maternal child health at ACHHH

Meet Barb Beatty, PT, and Megan Smits, RN, BSN, CTC, two professionals who work strictly with pediatric patients in the Maternal Child Health program at Addison County Home Health and Hospice, known as ACHHH. Smits has recently joined ACHHH and Beatty has been with ACHHH for 11 years.

As a registered nurse, Megan Smits assesses children, coordinates their care and provides support for families. She consults and collaborates with other professionals within the agency, other local agencies as well as health care providers.

She sets up care plans for each patient and aims to improve health care outcomes.

A certified lactation consultant, Smits works with moms before and after birth to assist with breastfeeding. She provides collaborative visits that can support moms throughout the entire time they're breastfeeding.

Smits reminds us that early intervention equals better outcomes and she encourages parents to get in touch with their physician if they have any questions or concerns. ACHHH's care begins with a physician referral.

"Working with families from the start and seeing growth and improvement in a few weeks is amazing," Smits said. "I know that I have used my skills to help parents actually learn to parent. I love to watch new parents become more confident and independent and knowing that I was a part of it is very gratifying. When

you are a first-time parent there is a lot that you don't know ... until you do!"

Barb Beatty has worked as a physical therapist at ACHHH for more than a decade. She provides care in patients' homes or other care settings. She focused on increasing flexibility and strength and helping children maximize their functional mobility and quality of life. Her patients included children with the diagnoses of torticollis, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and other muscular skeletal challenges. An important part of Beatty's job is providing education to parents and she is delighted when parents become more empowered as a result of their work with her.

Beatty also collaborates with other professionals in the agency and in other community agencies.

Children are referred to her when they're not meeting developmental milestones, frequently identified by their doctors.

"I feel like most children, even those with significant challenges, progress over time and it is exciting to see kids get stronger and moving more easily," Beatty said. "I love the collaboration with different agencies for the benefit of the children under my care. We work together for their benefit and provide each child and family with wrap-around support. If you need that BIG HUG, we're there! I feel privileged to work in Addison County, where we all deeply care for children and want to do the right thing for them."



MEGAN SMITS



BARB BEATTY

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Early childhood education is now a viable career choice

By **HEATHER DUHAMEL** and **SHARRON HARRINGTON**

When Vermont's Legislature passed Act 76 in May 2023, it represented a major step toward fully funding our state's child care system as a public good. While the law takes effect, our organizations and others are working in partnership to build up the well-prepared early childhood education workforce Vermont needs. Public investment, plus programs and resources that support access to education and training, make a career in early childhood education more attractive than ever before.

Act 76 promises a \$125 million annual investment in Vermont's child care system. The law is being implemented in stages: over 2024, child care programs, families, educators, and businesses will all experience relief. The part that took effect in January sent funds to programs to meet needs like staff compensation, facility repairs and learning materials. In April, more families will become eligible for tuition relief; in October, eligibility criteria will expand again.

As each piece of the new law takes effect, it supports a high-quality child care system that is more affordable and easier for families to access. To meet the demand for care, Vermont needs more early childhood educators. The successful implementation of Act 76 relies on Vermont preparing a steady influx of early childhood educators to enter our workforce.

Organizations like the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children, state agencies and higher education programs, like Vermont State University and the Community College of Vermont, have made it easier for early childhood educators to enter the field, continue their education, reduce student debt and advance their careers. Resources are available for currently working educators and career changers as well as traditional students. Our innovative programs are essential to ensuring Vermont has well-prepared educators ready to work in our child care system.

Some of these pathways and resources include:

- In 2017, Vermont State University launched its Early Childhood Education Online Completion program, which allows students to complete a bachelor's degree online, at their own pace, and in just five semesters. In its first year, the program had 12 graduates. Since then, it has grown exponentially, and graduated 65 early childhood educators in 2023. More graduates means more prepared teachers and open child care slots throughout Vermont.

- The Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program for Early Childhood Educators helps retain educators who have already earned degrees. Working educators can receive up to \$4,000 annually in repayment assistance. In December 2023 alone, this program helped pay down \$120,000 in Vermont early childhood educators' student loan debt. Reducing this financial burden helps educators stay in the workforce while compensation catches up.

- The Curtis Fund Commitment scholarship offers students a chance to get paid to earn a Childcare Certificate from Community College of Vermont. The program covers the cost of tuition and fees



**SHARRON
HARRINGTON**



HEATHER DUHAMEL

and provides a generous stipend each semester.

- Comprehensive scholarships through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Vermont Program supports working early childhood educators earning associate and bachelor's degrees, apprenticeships and Agency of Education Teacher Licensure with early childhood education/special education endorsement.

- A revamped Youth Apprenticeship Program for high school students interested in an early childhood education career provides paid, on-the-job training at sponsor programs.

- Gap grants offer up to \$1,000 to early childhood educators who face a financial obstacle that could keep them from continuing or completing college-level coursework.

- Vermont's higher education programs have worked together to align, so students preparing for a career in the childcare system can transfer credits more easily as they continue their education.

Vermont is rewriting the story about careers in early childhood education. You've heard the old story about the talented and beloved early childhood educator who wasn't paid enough to make ends meet, so she left the work she trained for to earn a few more dollars working at a big box store.

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That happened too many times, with too many talented educators, to the detriment of too many families and our economy, for far too long. When public investment in child care lags, families face unaffordable high tuition that still doesn't cover what it actually costs to provide care to each child, and educators face below-living-wage salaries for specialized work.

Here's the new story: For the first time, young people considering career options can envision early childhood education as a viable and respected career, with low or no student debt, a living wage and opportunities to grow within the field.

And we know the workforce is there, because enrollment in these early childhood education preparation programs is strong and growing. Well-prepared, well-compensated early childhood educators support children, families, businesses and all of Vermont. The successful implementation of Act 76, and the future of our state, depend on them.



Sharron Harrington of Arlington is the executive director of the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC). Heather Duhamel of St. Albans is a faculty member at Vermont State University and the program director of VTSU's Early Childhood Education Online.



Q: How Young is Too Young?

A: There is no "too young."

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The 2023 Child Care Bill

The 2023 Child Care Bill makes Vermont's child care system one of the most expansive in the nation.

This legislation will stabilize the sector and make a quantum leap in providing access to affordable, quality child care for all Vermont families who need it. The bill includes long-term, sustainable, public investment in Vermont's child care system. On an annual basis, the bill will invest \$125 million into the child care sector.

Affordability

About 7,450 more children and their families will have access to child care financial assistance!

Accessibility

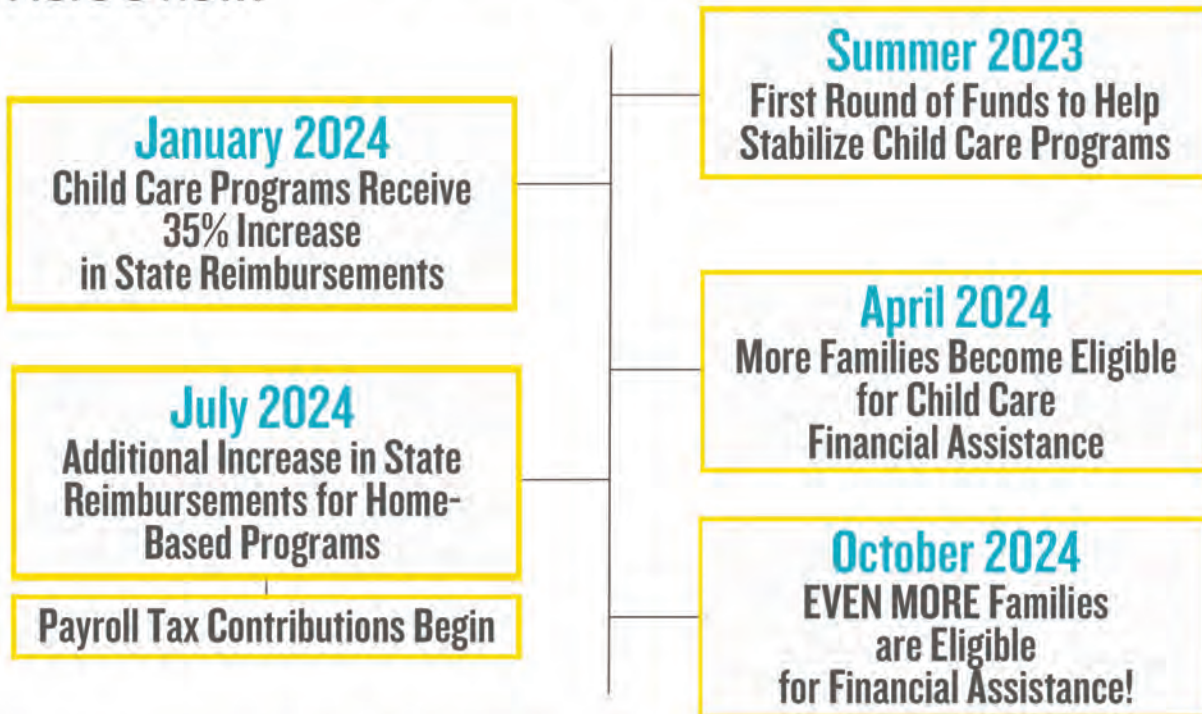
Increased state funding will help bolster child care programs' staffing and capacity.

Quality

Sustainable funding will lead to increased investment in Vermont's early childhood education workforce.

Implementation Timeline

The 2023 Child Care Bill will help families and child care programs utilize significant additional investment in Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program. Here's how:

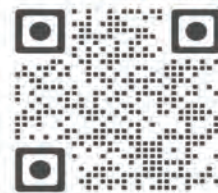


Laying the Foundation for Future Success

The 2023 Child Care Bill also:

- Sets the stage for minimum pay standards for early childhood educators
- Addresses resource shortages for children in child care with special needs

Learn more about the bill here.



WIC: A program designed to give you a healthy start

You've probably heard of "WIC," a program that helps families with young kids. Formally, it is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, or WIC.

WIC is for income-eligible Vermont residents who are pregnant or just had a baby, and children up to age 5. Parents, grandparents, foster parents, and legal guardians can apply for their children.

Since it began in 1974, the WIC program has helped millions of families get a healthy start. In 2024, WIC is celebrating 50 years of service providing nutrition support during pregnancy, postpartum, and the first years of life.

WIC is a public health nutrition program coordinated through the USDA. WIC provides nutrition education, nourishing foods, breastfeeding/chestfeeding support, and healthcare referrals.

New families are welcomed to the program in person at their nearest WIC clinic. After the first visit, WIC appointments are scheduled about every six months and can often be completed over the phone or by video. During these appointments, families talk with a nutritionist about health and nutrition, infant and child feeding, and learn about resources in their community. Between WIC appointments, families complete a nutrition education activity, choosing from a variety of offerings such as cooking workshops, grocery store tours, help with picky eating, playtime activities for kids, and other online options.

WIC provides families with healthy foods to buy each month on a WIC EBT card that can be used at WIC-approved grocery stores. Participants choose foods their family likes to eat, including fruits and vegetables,

cheese, milk, yogurt, eggs, breakfast cereal, whole grains, beans, peanut butter and infant foods. Vermont WIC offers local and organic options.

When a family chooses WIC, they have access to Vermont state parks and museums, farmers market coupons, and nutrition professionals to support their growing family.

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dedication to being a lifelong learner and a strong advocate, and the ability to adapt to a constantly evolving environment.

There are a few fundamentals that are consistently at the heart of our field, and they include the ability to build authentic trusting relationships with every child we work with and support each child in feeling valued and capable each day. As an educator, we work hard and take great pride in carefully observing the children in our care, noticing the development of their abilities, and, alongside their families, we develop goals.

Believing in the true capabilities of children and presenting them with real opportunities to explore and create is monumental in how we support children's learning. There is a tremendous amount of joy in introducing the arts of needle felting and sewing to four- and five-year-olds, and supporting them in independently using real tools. It's not always easy but we are there beside them to wonder, challenge, support, and celebrate each milestone great or small.

I am grateful that my career allows me to support children in discovering the world around them, taking new risks, and finding comfort in a safe, accepting environment. The relationships that are forged as an early educator hold so much meaning and create a lifelong impact, I am grateful to live in this small community where I have the opportunity to see the awesome adults that these incredible children grow to become.

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Local ECE networks provide support and connection

By QUARRY HILL SCHOOL

Childcare directors and family home providers have access to local networks that provide time for collegiality and connections every month.

The Addison County Directors Network and the Addison County Home Providers Network monthly meetings are facilitated by local leaders in the profession and offer opportunities for our local early educators to network and share professional development. Collectively we stay abreast of state issues regarding regulations and new protocols as well as pending or legislative changes.

Our local networks are part of a statewide system of networks that is funded by grants administered by the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC).

Being connected locally, regionally, and at the state level means we have conversations that bring the early childhood education (ECE) professional cohesion and a broad understanding of issues that impact children, families and educators in Addison County and Vermont.

Local network initiatives this year include promoting the Week of the Young Child (April 6-12) and professional development. Topics of early special education, reflective supervision, and working with clay in an early childhood setting are a few of the workshops that have been offered. These professional development opportunities mean Addison County early educators are collaborating with and deepening relationships with local experts as we learn more about specific areas of interest. And the learning and the connections mean higher quality and better outcomes for the children in our programs.

Monthly meeting topics also include discussions of quality, capacity, subsidy, nature based curriculum, waitlists, and licensing questions.

The professional connections we have through our networks means we are better equipped to support each other, families and children.

The Addison County networks are led and facilitated by Su White and Linda January of the Directors Network and Cookie Danyow of the Family Home Providers Network.



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Home Visiting Program	<p>Weekly visits with a Home Visiting educator at your home for 90 minutes.</p> <p>For families with children from birth up to age 5 in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. Also available for pregnant individuals.</p>
Family Connections Program	<p>Parents and children meet twice per week for enrolled playgroup in downtown Burlington.</p> <p>For families with children from birth up to age 3 in Chittenden County. Also available for pregnant individuals.</p>



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