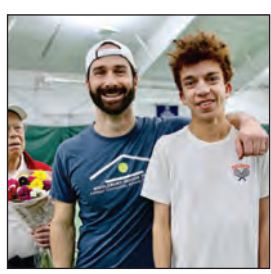




Line 'em up

Andrea Warren brings country-style line dancing to Woodchuck Cidery weekly. See Arts + Leisure.



Youth prevails

The MUHS boys' tennis team beat more experienced players in a friendly rematch. See Page 1B.



True story

A local love story started when they were five; they just got married. See our Wedding Section.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 78 No. 15

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, April 11, 2024 ♦ 50 Pages

\$1.50

Eclipse: Cool enough to yell about

People of all ages entranced by the celestial display

By INDEPENDENT STAFF

ADDISON COUNTY — Groups of Vermonters and visitors spread themselves around town greens, highway pull-offs, community parks, school grounds, cemeteries, parking lots and back yards on Monday afternoon. The vibe was generally laid-back.

While some people fiddled with telescopes, others chatted with friends and neighbors. Many relaxed in folding chairs or on blankets on the ground. Kids flitted about playing. Music was in the air.

As darkness slowly descended across the land, special sunglasses were placed on faces; some had fancy decorations.

Then, a few minutes before 3:30 p.m., the moon completely obliterated the sun — a unique experience for most people — everyone looked to the sky and many spontaneously began to cheer.

Five-year-old Elwood Ostrow-Lynn in Middlebury may not have had a grasp on the magnitude of the eclipse until he actually saw it.

“OK, that was cool enough to yell about,” he announced at his family’s (See Eclipse, Page 11A)

A FUNNY THING happened in the skies over Vermont on Monday afternoon — the moon eclipsed the sun. Photographer Mike Conley captured the whole show and presented it in this composite on the right. Thousands of people, including these below at the Middlebury Recreation Park, enjoyed the experience. Photos by Mike Conley and Steve James



Lincoln man helps rebuild Notre Dame

Woodworker restores cathedral roof

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Will Wallace-Gusakov is well-versed in the art of timber framing. The 40-year-old carpenter has spent much of his life designing, building and restoring wooden structures in and outside of Vermont.

Recently, the seasoned woodworker has found himself newly inspired after completing a once-in-a-lifetime project.

For six months in 2023, Wallace-Gusakov was in France helping rebuild the 700-year-old Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, which was severely damaged by a fire in 2019.

The experience allowed Wallace-

Gusakov to practice traditional woodworking techniques and has given him a fresh perspective with which to approach future projects.

“It’s still kind of happening, it’s still in process,” he said of how the trip has inspired his work. “I would love to somehow get a call to build a medieval, French-style timber frame in Vermont or in the U.S. So far that hasn’t happened, but the kind of design and technical genre that I was working on is certainly influencing some of my design ideas and where those are going.”

Working on Notre-Dame was not the first time Wallace-Gusakov has helped tackle a restoration project (See Gusakov, Page 16A)



A WOODEN TRUSS constructed by Lincoln’s Will Wallace-Gusakov and other carpenters is flown on to the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral. Wallace-Gusakov and a team of woodworkers last year rebuilt several trusses for the cathedral’s nave roof frame, which was destroyed by a fire in 2019. Photo courtesy of Will Wallace-Gusakov

ANWSD reduces spending, sets vote

About \$1M cut since first defeat

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — After a challenging discussion about what spending cuts could mean to students and what level of spending might be acceptable to voters who have already defeated two budget proposals, the Addison Northwest School District Board on Monday voted to advance a \$27.25 million plan with \$257,737 more in budget reductions.

The board scheduled the

ANWSD budget vote, its third this spring, for Tuesday, April 30, with an informational meeting at 6 p.m. in the Vergennes Union High School library the day before.

The latest proposal represents a decrease of 1.15% from the spending plan defeated on March 26 — and almost \$1 million from the March 5 budget setback. It preserves all educational programs and jobs except that of one (See ANWSD, Page 8A)

MAUSD voters will field new budget on Tuesday

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Voters in the Mount Abraham Unified School District on Tuesday will head back to the polls to weigh in on a revised district spending plan for fiscal year 2025.

The proposed budget reflects \$35,957,401 in total district spending, around \$1.36 million

less than the spending plan district voters defeated, 1,341 to 1,113, on Town Meeting Day.

The new budget proposal would lower the district-wide homestead tax rate by around 3 cents. However, due to low Common Level of Appraisals (CLAs), property taxes are still expected to rise in each of (See MAUSD, Page 15A)

Documentary puts Vermont food security at center stage

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The hunger pangs have subsided but are still fresh in Val’s mind.

The Addison County resident tearfully recounted how, while in economic crisis during the early stages of the COVID pandemic, she’d go without food to ensure her daughter had the resources she

needed for school.

Dark days indeed for Val and thousands of other Vermonters whose livelihoods were essentially suspended by the worldwide economic shutdown associated with the pandemic.

Perhaps that’s why Val described Bethanie Farrell — founder of (See Ramen Day, Page 12A)

Healthcare, housing top concerns at leg. breakfast

By JOHN FLOWERS

WEYBRIDGE — Efforts to protect pollinators, grow affordable housing and pass healthcare reform were among the hot topics of the final legislative breakfast of 2024, held Monday at the Weybridge Congregational Church.

Rep. Jubilee McGill, D-Bridport, provided insights into the Legislature’s latest healthcare reform efforts. She serves on the House Committee on Healthcare. She listed a series of bills this year (See Lawmakers, Page 8A)



By the way

Haymaker Buns on Bakery Lane in Middlebury is preparing to open a second location this summer — at Burlington’s Soda Plant in a space formerly occupied by Tomgirl. Haymaker founder/CEO Caroline Corrente announced the news through an April 7 post on Haymaker’s Facebook page. “We are beyond excited for this opportunity for growth ... As I reflect on the chapter of my life that is Haymaker, I think back to when I started this little bun company out of my home kitchen with my newborn in a front pack as I baked. I used to dream about the day when I would have my own bakery ... I love this community. I love your support. I love my amazing staff. See you (See By the way, Page 12A)

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Regional planning survey affirms housing crisis

Community strongly in favor of creating new dwellings through zoning changes

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — With a great majority of Addison County residents agreeing that we are in a housing crisis, there's broad support for creating new dwellings through zoning changes. People here also favor authorizing more accessory apartments and offering other incentives for startups.

Those were some of the takeaways from the recently tabulated Addison County Regional Housing Survey. Spearheaded last summer by Katie Raycroft-Meyer of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC), the online survey drew a respectable

"Across the board, people who did own a home still felt like we had a housing problem, and that we needed more housing in certain areas."

— Katie Raycroft-Meyer

the ACRPC website and word of mouth.

In an effort to expand the demographics of the survey, planners offered \$25 gift certificates to local households served by the Addison County Relocalization Network's Pharmacy program, as well as the federal nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Raycroft-Meyer said the gift certificate incentive helped ACRPC garner more than 40 responses from young households that otherwise might not have been aware of the survey. This helped broaden the overall response beyond what is currently a senior-heavy population in our area. Still, roughly 67% of respondents were age 50 and older. Raycroft-Meyer said 79% of those who responded live in single-family homes.

Here are some survey highlights:

- 83.6% of respondents acknowledged a housing shortage in their community.
- 78.6% indicated they'd like to see more housing options in their village center.
- The top priorities for respondents when choosing a place to live were reliable internet service; being close to amenities such as shopping, health care and dining; availability of water and sewer systems; and close proximity

to family and friends.

• Respondents identified the current sky-high price of housing as the biggest impediment for those seeking to lay down roots in Addison County. Those completing the survey also cited a lack of housing options and the prevalence of second homes as major deterrents for prospective settlers.

• Overall, respondents agreed (320 votes) or "strongly agreed" (300) there's a need for more housing of all kinds in their communities, with single-family homes and senior housing ranked as the highest priorities.

• 59% of respondents said they'd consider creating an accessory apartment at their own home to accommodate a family member, or for rental income. An additional 20% said "maybe," but wanted to learn more.

• More than 70% of respondents said they'd been able to keep their housing expenses below 30% of their total household income for more than 20 years. But 48% also confessed to having had to spend more than 30% of total household income on housing for five to 10 years during their lifetime.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, a household is "cost-burdened" when it spends more than 30% of its income on rent and utilities, and "severely cost-burdened" when it spends more than 50% of its income on these expenses.

Raycroft-Meyer said the results of the survey accurately reflect

the current housing market and underscore the need not only for more single-family homes, but for less-expensive remedies — such as accessory apartments — in or near village centers.

"It reinforced a lot of the ideas people are talking about," she said. "I wasn't necessarily surprised (by the results); I was kind of relieved, or happy, to hear what people were saying."

For example, Raycroft-Meyer noted that housed Addison County residents have empathy for others.

"I was relieved and happy that across the board, people who did own a home still felt like we had a housing problem, and that we needed more housing in certain areas, for a range of reasons," she said.

So how might the survey results lead to change?

Raycroft-Meyer said the findings will provide helpful background for housing grant applications and for municipal officials considering bylaw changes to spur residential development. The info will hopefully send signals to developers considering housing subdivisions, and to homeowners able to adapt their abodes to take in others who've been searching for a place to reside in Addison County.

"Now comes the outreach," she said.

Look for the report on the Addison County Regional Housing Survey with this story on addisonindependent.com.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Weis tapped to lead Robinson Elementary

By MARIN HOWELL
STARKSBORO

Starksboro's Robinson Elementary School will welcome a new principal in July.

Andy Weis has been hired as the elementary school's next top administrator. The Hinesburg resident will succeed Principal Edorah Frazer, who has helmed the school for the past nine years and will step down on June 30.

Weis expressed his excitement for his new position in a March 28 announcement shared by Jennifer Bauer, executive administrative assistant for the Mount Abraham Unified School District.

"I am thrilled to be joining Robinson Elementary School as the new principal," Weis wrote. "It is a special place that is a vital thread in the strong fabric of the Starksboro community. I am looking forward to connecting with students and families and collaborating with the caring, expert staff. Together, we will strive to uphold the values and traditions that make people proud to belong to the Robinson Elementary School community."

Weis has spent the past 10 years at South Burlington's Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School, most recently serving as an instructional coach. Prior to

that, Weis taught seventh- and eighth-grade math at the middle school.

He's also head coach of the alpine ski team at South Burlington High School. He's previously coached soccer teams at the high school and served in various other coaching positions in and outside of Vermont.

"I place great importance on being active in nature and have spent the better part of two decades coaching skiing and soccer at various levels," Weis wrote in the March 28 release. "Outside of school, you can find me on the hill with my family at Mad River Glen, catching live sports or music, or exploring the woods near my home in Hinesburg, where I live with my wife, Cristin, and our two children, Ellie (5) and Charlie (1)."

In the announcement, Bauer noted the screening committee was unanimous in its support for Weis as the next principal of Robinson Elementary.

"The committee feels strongly that his thoughtful approach, calm demeanor and strengths as an instructional leader are a great fit for Robinson and the Starksboro community," she wrote.

College invites community input on land use

Wants public help in determining future of 3,000 acres of undeveloped property

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College is working on a plan for the 3,000 acres of land it owns in the Champlain Valley, and community members are invited to take part in the effort.

"College land-use decisions are guided by the Lands Stewardship Initiative, which encourages us to recognize and consider land's multiple values and numerous potential uses," reads a narrative for the Middlebury College Lands Comprehensive Plan. "During our planning process, we will be seeking input from the public — both individually and through local and regional organizations — to help us understand opportunities and potential uses of these lands. At the end of the process, we plan to share the information we've gathered with the general public via a new interactive website."

The plan will examine every parcel of "undeveloped" land

owned by the college in and around Middlebury, documenting current uses and values to help inform future decisions about college lands.

The 3,000 acres included in the project are primarily located in Middlebury, Cornwall and Weybridge, with smaller amounts in New Haven and Bristol. The plan will not include residential or commercial parcels, but rather land that is currently used privately and by the public for various purposes, such as agriculture, recreation, forest products and nature conservation.

"We will look at biophysical characteristics such as soils, hydrology and position in the landscape, along with town and county plans, Vermont regulations and policy directives, and New England regional initiatives," reads the college webpage. "By the end of the process, we plan to have an information-rich database of our

landholdings that will consider a variety of perspectives and societal values, and guide future decisions about the variety of alternatives and uses."

The college is looking to gather public input for the plan and will hold two lands planning listening/visiting sessions — one on April 16 and the other on April 24 — both from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Kirk Alumni Center. An online survey will also be available at go.middlebury.edu/landsplan.

"Our public information-gathering will give us a broad view of values that our local communities and citizens perceive for these 3,000 acres," reads the college webpage. "We are also interested in understanding organizational and individual visions and ideas, and look forward to hearing first-hand ideas about these lands."

The outreach process will take place throughout the month of April,

during which listening sessions will be held and the online survey will be available.

All input received through the process will be discussed and evaluated by the planning team and used to inform the development of recommendations related to land parcels or areas.

"Blending the public input with the biophysical land data and currently available maps from the State of Vermont and various organizations, we will develop an interactive map that will be available as a web-based resource and will help guide future land-use discussions and decisions," reads the webpage for the plan.

College officials noted that once complete, the plan will not serve as a template for actions nor a design plan to dictate specific management decisions.

"Rather, it provides us with analyses and recommendations. As we examine the biophysical and social aspects of the different parts of the landscape, we will analyze various alternatives for each parcel and present recommendations in a several decades-long timeframe (a typical timeframe for master plans)," the webpage reads.

The project is being conducted by the college's Land Advisory Committee and Addison County Regional Planning Commission staff members Hannah Andrew, Deron Rixon and Adam Lougee.

More information about the initiative can be found at go.middlebury.edu/landsplan.



Capturing totality

FOR A BRIEF moment when the solar eclipse was at its peak, viewers could remove their eclipse glasses and view the spectacle with the naked eye. This viewer in Addison took advantage of the moment to snap an image on his phone.

Independent photo/Marin Howell



Panorama

THE GREEN MOUNTAINS serve as a backdrop for these eclipse viewers in Middlebury.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

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Ilsley's storied history unfurled

Novel scavenger hunt will help inform library bond vote

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — While Ilsley Public Library boosters are seeking to write a new chapter in the Middlebury institution's 100-year history — one they hope will be based on a major makeover of the institution's longtime headquarters at 75 Main St. — they're also asking patrons to take a trip down memory lane to appreciate the long history and progression of public literacy programs in the county's shire town.

And a colorful history it is. Thirty-four of Middlebury's early settlers pooled their resources (and books) to form the town's Centre Library back in 1795, initially in the Middlebury United Methodist Church. Local historians believe the modest collection might have also been housed for a short while at Mattock's Tavern — site of the current Middlebury Inn — where members could have devoured a colorful tale while quaffing a pint of mead and then returning to the inn on Sundays for worship services.

In what was a patriarchal sign of the times, a "Men's Reading Association" was born in 1848, nestled in the home of former Middlebury Postmaster Emerson R. Wright in the Brewster Block downtown.

Not to be outdone, 40 Middlebury women formed the Ladies' Library Association in 1866 in the home of Abby Wainwright. Each member paid \$2 in annual dues.

After a somewhat nomadic run, Middlebury in 1924 established a permanent base for its library — at 75 Main St., thanks to a \$25,000 bequest from Col. Silas Ilsley and an equal match that followed from his widow, Mary.

Voters on May 7 will be asked to support a \$16.4 million bond that would retain and restore the 1924 building; remove two later additions that are now deteriorating; and install a new two-story addition that would accommodate the library's growing programs.

The National Bank of Middlebury has invited the Ilsley to temporarily relocate its public facing operations — rent-free — to the first floor of the bank's historic Duclos building, at the intersection of Main Street and Printer's Alley, during construction at the library site.

In the buildup to the bond vote, Ilsley boosters are challenging patrons to find out more about the library's origins. To that end, the Friends of the Ilsley Library have designed and installed series of 11 posters, each one describing a phase of the library's life, along with photos and fun facts.

The "Look How We've Changed" campaign will include a tasty scavenger hunt that will confer a creemee upon folks who locate and read all 11 posters that are chronologically displayed in store windows along Main Street — beginning at Two Brothers on the west side and ending at the town offices on the east side.

"All the credit goes to the Friends of the Library," Ilsley Director Dana Hart said of the poster promotion. "They are the

library's greatest cheerleaders, and they came up with this wonderful idea to celebrate our history and get people excited about what's next for us."

She added "part of the brilliance of the project is showing people that ... relocation is nothing new for the library. We've been through it many times before. I hope it gets people excited about our upcoming move to the National Bank of Middlebury, and then hopefully back into the new building."

The posters were indeed a labor of love for the Friends, according to Barbara Doyle-Wilch, who on March 5 left the group to begin an elected term on the Ilsley library board. In addition to providing folks with an interesting retrospective, she noted the poster project is part of a larger ongoing celebration of the Ilsley's 100th birthday.

Rather than limit the retrospective to the Ilsley's first century, the Friends wanted to dig deeper. Their research led them to the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History and a review of Glenn Andres's informative book, "A Walking Tour of Middlebury." Led by Pam Shafer, Doyle-Wilch, John Murray and Ilsley Operations Manager Royce McGrath researched and compiled a list of all the library's past physical locations, which included an assortment of private homes, a building where the Battell Block now stands,

the second floor of the building that is now the Hubbard Agency (adjoining the Middlebury Inn), and a spot above the National Bank of Middlebury.

They then set to work creating the posters, each detailing a fork in the road of the library's rich past.

"It was a fun project," Doyle-Wilch said. "We found that libraries have been here for a long time and have been honored for a long time."

Renee Ursitti, the Ilsley's adult services and circulation librarian, came up with the scavenger hunt idea. She's making a bunch of buttons that'll be placed at each poster location. Anyone who walks the approximately six blocks to collect a button from each of the 11 poster sites between April 22 and May 7 will be able to redeem them for a creemee at ShireTown Marketplace at 54 College St.

"Scavenger hunts are fun," Ursitti said of her inspiration. "I saw it as all wins, and no losses."

More information about the "Look How We've changed" poster project and the related scavenger hunt can be found at tinyurl.com/mur9v4rw.

The *Independent* will offer an overview of the library project — as well as a financing plan that could limit taxpayer exposure to around \$4 million — prior to the May 7 vote.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



A moment of stillness and awe

MANY ECLIPSE VIEWERS chose Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison for their viewing spot. Couple Alistair and Joan McCallum of Ludlow, Vt., paused to admire totality together. McCallum was able to capture a telephoto shot with his large telephoto lens. See page 10A for the image.

Photo by Angelo S. Lynn

Middlebury DRB OKs FW Webb building

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Development Review Board has given its unanimous approval for FW Webb to erect a 25,235-square-foot building in the town's industrial park.

The parcel in question is owned by the Delineation Corp. — aka Middlebury College — and sits next to Beau Ties Ltd. Of Vermont at 69 Industrial Ave.

FW Webb Co. is a wholesaler of plumbing and HVAC products to plumbers and mechanical contractors. While the new building will have a 2,350-square-foot showroom, the FW Webb location won't be a retail outlet. Its clients will largely be contractors with whom FW Webb maintains accounts.

Brian Bradley, a Rutland-based FW Webb general manager, said the Middlebury location will include the "Frank Webb Home Kitchen/Bath Center," designed for contractors and homeowners

to come in and design their "dream bathroom, picking out lighting and kitchen fixtures. The bath center will have working displays for people to try out, and bathroom setups to show what their bathroom could become."

The building will also feature a 20,872-square-foot warehouse and storage area and 2,262 square feet of office space, according to the FW Webb application. Plans call for the showroom to be open Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., with the contractor/wholesale component to be open the same hours Monday-Friday.

The structure — described by company officials as "mostly gray, with a red stripe" — will be served by 32 parking spaces. The property will be landscaped.

Bradley said the Middlebury location will initially employ 10 people, a number expected to reach around 15 within five years.

Middlebury's DRB began reviewing the FW Webb proposal

on March 11. The review extended to a second hearing, on March 25, when the board voted 6-0 to approve the plan. The applicants were able to satisfy the town's initial concerns about screening, the building's color scheme, parking (and its location on the parcel), and exterior lighting.

In other action at its March 25 meeting, the Middlebury DRB unanimously approved a plan by Shoreham's Kathleen and Randall Brisson to renovate the historic Means House, a 208-year-old, nine-bedroom estate at 51 Seminary St. Ext.

As previously reported by the *Independent*, the Brissons are proposing to convert the existing home into two upscale, 4,000-square-foot condominiums. They'd eventually like to add to the property additional dwellings in barn-style structures similar to those that once stood at the site.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Look How We've CHANGED!

a celebration of our libraries in Middlebury

Then...

Collection of Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History

Beckwith to Buttolph to Battell

In 1870, the Ladies Library Association rented space in the Buttolph Building on the corner. Access was three flights of stairs on the outside of the building. The collection increased to 673 volumes.

Now...

Photo by John Flowers

INTERESTING NOTE:
A room "comfortable and convenient of access" was rented for \$40.00 a year in Buttolph Block.

Learn more about Ilsley's history

Friends of the Ilsley Public Library

ILSLEY LIBRARY BOOSTERS have created a series of 11 posters detailing past physical locations of Middlebury's public library — this one is called "Beckwith to Buttolph to Battell." The posters will inform patrons of their library's past as it marks its 100th birthday and as local voters prepare to field a bond to renovate and expand the Ilsley at 75 Main St.

Graphic courtesy of Ilsley Library

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Editorials

School budgets deserve OK, but process needs tweaking

Voters within the Mount Abe Unified School District return to the ballot box next Tuesday, April 16, while Vergennes-area voters face their third vote on a school budget Tuesday, April 30. Otter Valley Unified Union voters, with the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, will also face a second budget vote on April 30.

All three budgets should garner voter support. As voters within MAUSD learned this past week, defeating such budgets have real consequences: The school district sent out 17 RIF (reduction in force) notices to teachers, many within the school's art department in preparation for what administrators called "a worst-case scenario" if a new budget can't be passed before July 1. While it's unlikely that worst-case scenario will be a forced option, the board did propose cuts of about \$1.36 million to what is now a \$35,957,401 proposed budget.

In the Vergennes area, the ANWSD board was smart to heed taxpayers' two previous defeats of the budget and cut an additional \$257,737. That latest cut brings the total amount of cuts to just less than a million dollars since the Town Meeting Day budget was shot down; voters this time will consider a \$27.25 million plan. A budget of \$28.25 million was defeated March 5; a second vote for \$27.5 million failed on March 26.

In the Brandon area, the Otter Valley Unified Union board proposed cuts of \$268,751 off the defeated March 5 budget of \$27,247,823. The cuts represent a 1% decrease in spending. Voters will cast their votes on this second budget plan on Tuesday, April 30. Board members said they had proposed a streamlined budget on the first go-around and further cuts would have more severe impacts on student outcomes.

While we urge voters to cast votes in favor of this round of school budgets, we also strongly encourage boards throughout the three school districts of Addison County, along with RNESU, to start the public discussion on these significant budgets far earlier. It's a disservice to taxpayers to recommend budgets of \$28-\$53 million in mid-January and give voters only a few weeks to study the information and have any meaningful input before Town Meeting Day.

In Franklin County, school boards develop their budgets more openly in mid-to-late summer, followed by regular public comment periods throughout the fall into winter. By mid-January, when budgets are warned, taxpayers are fully aware of what's in the budget and the choices that were made to get there.

That's a superior budgeting process to what we see here.

Angelo Lynn

'Cool enough to yell about'

Wherever you were in the path of the total eclipse this past Monday at quarter past three in the afternoon, the world seemingly stood still for a moment or two, and the vibe was noticeably different. People felt connected by something greater than themselves.

A viewer in Burlington said this in the story posted by Seven Days: "That moment where you really realize how small you are in the universe and yet a part of all the forces around you; it's not an everyday feeling."

No matter where you were — in a crowd of hundreds dancing and singing to the music, with a small family gathering, or in your backyard alone — the moment of totality exceeded expectations.

"I expected the eclipse to be an equally breathtaking and unnerving experience, and it was," *Addison Independent* reporter Marin Howell observed. "What I didn't expect was the brief chain reaction it set off; the mosquitos that emerged almost instantaneously and the quick drop in temperature as the sky descended into darkness. Bugs and all, it was an indescribable experience I won't forget."

One viewer described the experience as being "so viscera." Others said it so personally moving it brought them to tears.

But it was also incredibly social. It reminded me that we are, at heart, social creatures. We love to gather and celebrate. We (some more than others) love to dress up, be a little goofy, relax, enjoy each other, dance to the music and have a good time.

It was the opposite of today's extreme political partisanship that too often overwhelms public life.

The journalist in me asks, "How is that so? What personal choices do we make each day to embrace such strife in our lives? Why are we drawn to grievance and conflict in politics, when our social selves are more drawn to unity, neighborliness and good times?"

If the eclipse had a teaching moment it surely is that nature rules. And that the laws of nature are those we should be holding in greatest esteem.

My wife and I were lucky enough to join a fun-loving group at the Swift House in Middlebury for a pre-eclipse party with space-themed attire. Clever costumes were often blouses or jackets of shiny silver, some poofy, some sleek, some star speckled, several creative dresses, and a few fun wobbly eyes resembling aliens with painted faces — of the pleasant sort with glitter. Serena kept everyone gleeful and entertained as DJ extraordinaire.

Then we slipped out to our assigned post at the Dead Creek bird viewing area in Addison for the moment.

The unobstructed view west to the Adirondacks allowed us to watch the darkness sweep over the mountains and across the lake toward us. The swirling colors in the low wispy clouds cast an idyllic sunset against the blackness behind. The air cooled. The peepers peeped. And the world stopped for a couple of moments as we all watched in awe, unified in the wonder of the moment.

Then the sky brightened in a burst of sunlight and that was that. Miraculous. Stunning. And, as five-year-old grandson Elwood Ostrow-Lynn exclaimed afterward: "OK, that was cool enough to yell about."

And people did. In unity and good cheer.

Angelo Lynn



Double special day

LISA GATES, SHOWN with her husband Michael Roy, hosted a party to celebrate her actual birthday on Monday afternoon. Since it happened to coincide with the total solar eclipse, the party was held outside with protective eye ware and eclipse-themed cupcakes on offer.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Kite flying proves a fun reminder

This Easter, feeling so sad about the ways of the world as well as recent personal losses, we skipped our usual family Easter. Instead, we walked across the Lake Champlain Bridge at Chimney Point on that sunny blustery day. On the way we pondered what solidarity with those who are suffering might look like in our lives. To our granddaughter, it means giving up something other people don't have so that your experiences are more like theirs and you can understand them better. This certainly makes sense when thinking about the way overabundance for some has caused pain for so many others.

I had just read a piece in the AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) newsletter about solidarity with Palestinians. For decades, flying kites has been a tradition for children in Gaza and a symbol of hope and resilience. AFSC suggested flying kites in the U.S. the day before Easter and posting the images on their website. The idea was intriguing, but we had missed the suggested day, and we didn't have kites.

However, when we got across the bridge, we met a small family happily flying kites while their two dogs leaped and bounced. They live in Springfield, Vermont, and had come to spend the holiday weekend with grandparents. They were avid and skilled kite flyers who said they loved the wide-open fields at Crown Point. They noticed how wistful we looked and offered our girls a chance to join the fun. It turned into a joyous celebration of kindness, being outdoors in a beautiful place and enjoying the company of brand-new friends.

Crown Point State Park is the site of two ancient, crumbling forts, one British and one French. The irony of having such a joy-filled experience on the site of old military installations reminded me how little we know about what drives people to harm or care for one another, to harm or care for the environment, to harm or care for other creatures. How little we know about how to turn the tide of hate and violence into peaceful endeavors.

For many years the local Quaker Meeting used to hold a "Celebration of Life" in the spring at the home of Burt and Honey Knopp in Shoreham. The main events were singing, blowing huge bubbles and flying the incredible kites made by local artist Win Colwell. Honey Knopp, a Quaker minister in the early twentieth century, dedicated her life to ending violence in all forms: especially racial violence, the abuse of children, and mistreatment of prisoners. Despite the sorrowful and difficult challenges she faced every day in her work, she expressed her vision of a better world by respecting and recognizing joy as a common denominator in our humanity. I'm hoping her example has permeated my own way of living, and I plan to fly a kite in her honor when the summer rolls around.

Cheryl Mitchell is president of *Treleven*, a retreat and learning program located on her family's sheep farm in Addison County. She does freelance consulting on issues related to children, families, social policy and farm to community work. She can be reached at cheryl.w.mitchell@gmail.com.

Ways of Seeing

By Cheryl Mitchell



Poverty causes trauma in children

Ninth in a series

Jeanne Montross has been head of the Addison County poverty-fighting organization HOPE, *Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects*, since 2000.

I've been reading with appreciation the thoughtful, well written pieces that my colleagues have submitted to this series on homelessness. I would like to offer an additional perspective.

As we have seen, homelessness is a deep and complex issue, with many contributing factors — economics, addiction, mental health disorders and more. Another factor, interwoven with all of these, is childhood trauma.

Poverty, in and of itself, is traumatic. People in poverty have limited choices, limited personal agency. A parent working two or three low-wage jobs, with unpredictable schedules, is faced with terrible options. Leaving children alone versus with perhaps unsafe minders. The parent, always racing from job to job, is unable to help their child with homework, cook dinner for them, help them sort out the challenges of daily life, ensure they get to bed on time, and get up to go to school in the morning. When a child is ill, do they stay home to care for them, and risk losing a job? When they lose pay, what bills get skipped? Rent, the electric bill, the internet service that a child needs for schoolwork? What to feed the kids when grocery prices

place healthy diet out of reach. What to say when a child wants to participate in activities that cost scarce dollars?

In my decades of work with disadvantaged Vermonters, I have seen assistance programs come and go, and funding commitments rise and fall, dependent on the economy, political administrations, and government priorities. Welfare reform, sequestration, increases in nutritional programs, stimulus payments, child tax credit payments, increases and then reductions in housing subsidies, the American Relief and Recovery Act, and so on. Recently, pandemic-era programs provided some real security for families — help with rent and mortgage payments, utility assistance, expanded unemployment and food benefits. Children in low-income families were able to have a couple of years of relative stability and safety. And now, once again, they will experience the uncertainty, deprivation and risk that come with poverty.

Trauma has long-lasting effects, and it is particularly detrimental to young children, whose brains are still developing. Trauma, an extreme form of stress, has a physical impact on the body, and also on the brain, as stress hormones are released and neurotransmitters are altered. Enter key words into a search engine — trauma, poverty, homelessness, adverse childhood experience

(See *Living Together*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Town support of paper touted

Having recently attended a selectman's meeting to request they look into the possibility of the town including in their budget, funds to the *Addison Independent*. I write to those citizens to ask they join me in supporting such an action. This would be done yearly on behalf of our citizens and their need in a democracy for unbiased, solid, reliable information on a regular basis.

Newspapers across the country are folding due to rise of the digital world and decreased use of newspapers for advertising. Through use of the local retail tax, we might regularly contribute to funding this local source of so much knowledge about our community activities — especially groups like selectmen whose decisions are vital to our function as a town in a democratic manner.

For years, the *Independent* has served us in this manner in an outstanding way — witness the regularity with which they win journalism awards! And what a help their information was for all Addison County towns in the recent time of annual town meetings.

Send a letter, email, go on the town website — and join me in calling for such a use of some our local tax funds. Our operation as a community is enhanced weekly by the "Addy Indy!"

Thanks in advance.

Natalie Peters Middlebury

Trump is the better choice

I may only be writing this letter with half a brain according to Salisbury's Bruce Acciavatti (*Addy Indy* March 28th). If you read the nastiness of his letter, it shows that his political party cannot reach across the aisle for compromise. They also hate everyone that has a different opinion. He mentions Trump should be put down like a rabid dog. A person walking around in society with that amount of hate should be locked up himself.

Under his man Biden, we lost 13 forgotten soldiers due to Biden's Afghanistan pull-out. People were chasing U.S. war planes down the runway to jump on and fall to death.

Biden's America is a very dangerous place to live. Our streets are full of crime, murders, beatings, car jackings and theft.

Bruce mentions the inflation reduction act — has he been to the gas station or grocery store in the past four years? The Trump haters can't get past their hate to admit how good they had it under four years of President Trump.

Stanley Bigelow New Haven

Give students needed support

Dear Slate Valley Community: One of the most important things we can do as a community is educate our children. Providing an education and support is the most affordable way to ensure that our future young adults will be valuable contributors to society. As taxpayers, we should look at it as an investment. I understand that there are residents who would like to spend less to pay fewer taxes. I also know some would like to see more in the budget to offer more for our students. It costs to educate our children.

I believe all kids have the right to a good education. I substitute teach. It can be an exhausting and stressful day. I know about both because I am a farmer, but I sub because I love to help out and see what a typical school day looks like. At the end of the day, I go home without the constant worries teachers carry for their kids, such as where the students are with their work, thinking of various level lesson plans to suit each student for the week, and making sure they're ready and prepared for the next grade or even for what the world has in store for them. My point is, teachers have

(See *Stone letter*, Page 5A)

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT
Periodicals Postage Paid at Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Postmaster, send address change to Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, Vt. • 802-388-4944 • Fax: 802-388-3100 • Web: www.addisonindependent.com
E-Mail: news@addisonindependent.com • E-Mail Advertising: ads@addisonindependent.com

Editor/Publisher: Angelo S. Lynn	
Assistant Editor: John S. McCright	Business Manager: Elsie Lynn Parini
Reporters: John Flowers	Production Manager: Susan Leggett
Andy Kirkaldy	Graphic Designers:
Marin Howell	Sue Miller
Multimedia: Megan James	Copy Editor: Sarah Pope
Photographer: Steve James	Circulation: Harris Gerner
Front Office: Vicki Nolette	Driver: Dennis Smith

Published every Thursday by the Addison Press, Inc. Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspaper Association.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: All print subscriptions include online access. 6 Months \$35.00, 1 Year \$65.00, 2 years \$125.00. Discounted rate for Senior Citizens and students call for details. 802-388-4944.
Online Only — 1 Week \$3.00, 1 Month \$10.00, 1 Year \$50.00
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The Addison Independent USPS 005-380

Letters to the Editor

Courage, innovation needed in public education

One third of towns not passing school budgets this year is indicative of real obstacles facing Vermont. I, too, feel the pressure of mounting school costs compounded by the rising costs to live in our state. At the same time, I wonder how, as caring citizens, we can unite to envision a sustainable path forward for our educational system.

In a March 7 letter to the editor, Patrick Lawrence shared his dilemma in voting for the school budget. He accurately understood how a “no” vote in our current schooling structure whittles away staff and programs that directly

support students, yet he posed and pondered the question, “What is education for?” I agree with Lawrence that we should consider an education not focused on what comes after school, but an education focused on the present — one that fosters students’ connection to their community.

Perhaps it’s time to get creative and extend the notion of “school” beyond the confines of traditional classroom settings.

Addison County is rich in local resources such as a college, museums, businesses, artists, outdoor recreation, and organizations, not to mention its

people. Through partnerships, could community organizations work with teachers to provide enriching opportunities for children that also supplement schools’ budgets? In doing so, we genuinely knit together the classroom and the community to empower today’s youth to become deep thinkers and engaged citizens. It will take courage and innovation to forge a vibrant path forward for our schools, yet our children are worthy of this love and dedication.

**Devin Schrock
Lincoln**

Voter registration key to preserving democracy

I am a concerned voter in Addison County. I believe that all citizens who are 18 or over should have the right to vote and I am doing all I can to help in that effort.

The Freedom to Vote Act (S.1/H.R.11) will be a crucial step in protecting our right to vote and combating undemocratic practices like partisan gerrymandering and election sabotage. This legislation, which nearly passed before, is a testament to the ongoing struggle for justice and equality. As we honor the sacrifices of Black leaders who paved the way for progress, let us also recognize our responsibility to build public

support for the transformative proposals within the Freedom to Vote Act.

I am continuing to urge high school students to run their own non-partisan voter registration drives and to encourage their peers to vote. Four million young people turn 18 in this country each year and voting gives them a voice in decisions about their future.

I am also urging all voters to check the status of their registration since work is under way to cull lists of Vermonters. Some of this is legitimate when citizens may have moved away or died, but mistakes can be made. I would not want to show up at the

polls and find I suddenly have to re-register. The Vermont Secretary of State’s office makes this easy to do by going online to <https://mvp.vermont.gov/> (My Voter Page), where there is a prominent green button that says Check Status. It only takes seconds to do, and the site gives lots of other useful information on voting in Vermont. There will be a voter guide coming out this summer, specific to each voting district, that will give information on candidates and what they hope to accomplish.

Help our democracy thrive!
**Sally Roth
Bristol**

Stone letter

(Continued from Page 4A) a lot expected of them to get our students ready for the next steps in life.

I went to Orwell Village School from 1976 to 1980. Then Fair Haven Union High School until 1984. To say the least, I did not have a very good school experience. I look at school now and feel it is a better place and

that I would have had a better education. I feel I would have been happier. I look at the kids now and they are ready to learn. The students like being in school and learning. Slate Valley has a good group of teachers and staff all around. If we want to retain our personnel and attract new ones, we need a budget. People are not going to want to move

into our school district or come work for the school if we have uncertainty. We need to come together as a community for our children, grandchildren and future children. As a community of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District, we need to give our students the support they deserve.

**Peter Stone
Orwell**

Tri-Valley Transit to add new EZ Trip service

MIDDLEBURY — Tri-Valley Transit recently announced that it will be adding EZ Trip Middlebury microtransit service to its services. EZ Trip is a door-to-door, on-demand ride service that will be free and accessible to anyone in the large EZ Trip Middlebury Trip Zone. Two public outreach meetings are scheduled on Wednesday, April 24 to provide information to the community about the service:

- In-person at the Ilsley Public Library from 1-2 p.m. in the Community Room. If transportation to the Ilsley meeting is needed, rides

can be provided. Please call TVT at 802-388-2287 at least 48 hours in advance to arrange.

- By Zoom from 7-8 p.m. Dial in at 305-224-1968 or join online. Meeting ID: 844 8941 0201 and Passcode: 350216

“We’re eager to significantly expand our Middlebury service area with EZ Trip,” said Executive Director Jim Moulton. “The new service will provide greater frequency for current riders and bring new access to many more homes and places in Middlebury. This helps Middlebury residents

who don’t live near a bus line as well as residents who are older or disabled and rely solely on Dial-a-Rides. Unlike Dial-a-Ride (limited by funding availability to six rides per month), there are no set limits on EZ Trip rides and availability will be governed by demand.”

May 8 is the tentative launch date. TopreviewtheEZTripMiddlebury service area and comprehensive weekday and Saturday travel options in Middlebury, visit www.trivalleytransit.org/ez-trip-middlebury/.

Living Together

(Continued from Page 4A) — and find hundreds of articles on how the stress of childhood trauma often leads to lifelong struggles and a higher risk of homelessness.

Think about a traumatic experience in your past. How that impacted you at the time. Fear, confusion, inability to concentrate? Now imagine that happening over and over again. How would that impact a young child? Not enough food, lack of safety, being unable to sleep well. Continual worry and distraction. The knowledge that they might not even have a place to live tomorrow. Children who experience this cannot be expected to grow into self-sufficient adults, to be able to make sound decisions, to go from point A to point B to point C and to be able, in turn, to

raise their own children in safety and stability.

Abby Sessions’ piece a number of weeks ago mentioned a guy in a truck who, as he passed the group assembled on the Middlebury town green to call attention to homelessness, rolled down his window and shouted, “Get a job!” Well, some people can’t. We all know the old trope “pull yourself up by your bootstraps.” When you’ve known poverty and trauma since you were a small child, you may have no boots.

Unless and until we make a sufficient and sustained commitment to families, to ensure that all children grow up safe, well-fed, secure and able to learn, unless and until we stop providing a little help and then pulling it

back, retraumatizing kids in the process, we will never end the cycle of homelessness, poverty, and everything else that comes with it.

The late Jack Craven, Middlebury College Economics professor and long-time HOPE board member, once said to me, “We could end poverty in this lifetime if we had the political will.”

Only through a deep commitment, morally, socially, and politically, will the problem of homelessness ever be solved. I’m not holding my breath.

In the meantime, let’s all keep doing what is in our power to do, to help, and to understand. Let’s not judge someone for being poor, for being homeless, for just doing what they have in them to do to get by.

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Elderly Services, Inc. 2024 Community Education Series

April 23:

“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

April 30:

“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

May 14:

“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

May 23:

“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

All Sessions are free and open to the public

**Register now
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Dr. Megan Swasey earned her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Purdue University and served the last several years in the United States Army as a veterinarian. Dr. Swasey has returned to Vermont to live with her husband on a dairy farm in Shoreham.

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Dr. Swasey is offering appointments for dogs and cats including annual wellness/prevention, sick or injured treatment, end of life care with in-home euthanasia, and by the end of 2024 she expects to expand the practice to include large animals.



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ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Ashley Brook Whipple, 40, of Brandon

BRANDON — It is with heavy heart that we announce the passing of Ashley Brook Whipple (Morcombe) Whipple, age 40, on March 31, 2024, at Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Ashley, aka "Coolwhip," was born in Middlebury on Oct. 10, 1983. She was the only child of Barbara Whipple. She grew up in Addison County and Brandon. She graduated from Otter Valley Union High School and the Diversified Occupations program at the Patricia Hannaford Career Center. Ashley always loved school. She also loved being a part of Special Olympics for a long time. She dearly loved the friendships she made there.

Ashley loved Camp Thorpe, which she attended since age 9. She loved music, dancing, making art, swimming and volunteering at Homeward Bound and fostering kittens for The Feline Connection.

Ashley had a wonderful sense of humor and made everyone's day better — wisecracks with perfect timing and just a laugh that melted



ASHLEY BROOK WHIPPLE

all of her "favorite" cousins, Amy Sweet and her family, Rob Whipple and his family, Zoe Smith and her family, Jackson Smith, Harper and her family and Christopher Gingras; her grandmother Marie Whipple and her family; and her friends Amy and Steven.

Ashley had some extremely important friends in her life. Warren Burbo, who became a dad to her, Andrea Galiano and her family, Ann Chartrand and her family, Debbie Lloyd, Mary Mitchell, Michael Bright and Bashir Abdulaziz. These people enriched her life on a daily basis. Ashley was a unique spirit that truly was a light in the world.

A gathering in celebration of Ashley's life, will be held on Saturday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m., at the Brandon Congregational Church. Following the ceremony the family will receive friends at the Brandon Inn for a time of remembrance. Donations to thefelineconnection.org or Camp Thorpe in Ashley's honor would be appreciated. Both were important to her.

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

hearts.

She is survived by her mother, Barbara Whipple; her dog, Cali; and cats Dusty and Henry who were very important to her; a brother, Jason Fitzsimmons and his family; her sweet boyfriend, Greg; Aunt Joy and Uncle Butch; Uncle Steve and Aunt Heidi; Aunt Sue and her family; Uncle Mike; Auntie Lisa;

Sandra Jean Dwire Bourgeois, 79, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — It is with tremendous sadness we share the passing of our beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Sandra Jean Dwire Bourgeois of Vergennes, on April 2, 2024. She is at peace in the loving arms of our dear lord and savior. She was 79.

Sandy was a multi-generational Vermonter through and through from the Huntington area. She was born in Richmond, Vt., to Frank Dwire and Marion Beane.

She is survived by her husband, Claude Bourgeois; her brother, Wendal Dwire and his wife, Sharon Dwire; her sister, Bonnie Humphrey and her husband, Bruce Humphrey; daughter, Susanne Parent and her husband, Mark Parent; Timothy Bourgeois and his wife, Penny Bourgeois; three granddaughters, Emma Parent, Lindsey Parent and Morghan Bourgeois; one great-grandson, Rocco Gene Buffo; and several nieces and nephews.

Sandy was wed to Claude Bourgeois in the chapel at the Cathedral in Burlington, Vt. and had the reception at the historic



SANDRA JEAN DWIRE BOURGEOIS

Vergennes family farmhouse. On March 30, they celebrated their loving 56th wedding anniversary.

Sandy graduated from Richmond High School. No surprise, one year she won the award for Miss Congeniality. She went on to graduate from the Jeanne Mance School of Nursing.

Sandy held many different positions through the years. She

worked at the DeGoesbriand hospital, Shaw's supermarket, Vergennes Pharmacy, the Hercules plant (Simonds Precision/BF Goodrich), Middlebury Family Health, and most recently at Middlebury Foot Care. During her early years, while raising her children, she took in boarders and was a fantastic domestic engineer.

Funeral services will be held Monday April 15, at 11 a.m., at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 85 So. Maple St., Vergennes, Vt., 05491.

Donations can be made to: St. Anne's Society c/o St. Peter's Catholic Church, PO Box 324, Vergennes, Vt., 05491.

The family would like to invite you to calling hours on Sunday, April 14, from 2-5 p.m., at the Brown McClay Funeral Home, 48 Maple St., Vergennes, Vt., 05491.

Please join the family after the funeral service on Monday, April 15, at the Parish Hall for a celebratory luncheon.

Special thanks to Porter Medical Center and Dr. Marian Bouchard for the care shown to Sandy over many years. ◊

Janet Vanwoert Cole, 87, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Janet Vanwoert Cole, 87, of Ferrisburgh, passed away in the early morning on March 26, 2024, at the Helen Porter Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury, Vt., with her husband Carl at her side. She was born on April 15, 1936, in Oneonta, N.Y., the daughter of John Van Woert and Harriet Byard Van Woert. Janet grew up in Oneonta, attending the Bugbee Elementary School, which was a part of the New York State Teachers College, (now SUNY Oneonta) and Oneonta High School. One of her greatest joys was being a Majorette with the marching band, where she won many awards as a baton twirler.

Janet came to Vermont during the summers of 1948 and 1949, attending Camp École Champlain, a French language camp that was located in what is now the Kingsland Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh. She returned to Vermont in 1954 to visit Middlebury College, graduating from Middlebury in 1958. It was during her initial visit in 1954 that she met Carl Cole. The two were married in 1962.

After graduating college, Janet wanted to make Vermont her home and began her teaching career in the Weeks School in Vergennes. At the time, it was the Vermont reform school for delinquent and socially dependent youth. She taught an ungraded classroom for six years, with students ranging from 10 to 20 years old. Janet hated the term "reform" school as she was always a strong advocate for children, no matter their background. She spent the next 24 years teaching in the South Burlington and Addison Northwest School districts specializing in Special Education, gaining a Fifth-Year Certificate from UVM in the field before retiring from public education after



JANET VANWOERT COLE

30 years.

While in the South Burlington District she met Dr. Patricia Stone, Clinical Psychologist, with whom she would work for 27 years. Together they performed testing and evaluating services — both educational and psychological — with Janet being responsible for the educational aspect. Their clients came from all over the United States, as well as an occasional foreign country and ranged from small children to adults. In addition, they spent time working for the Vermont court system, determining the competency of those accused of crimes, to assure they received a fair judgement.

Janet served on the boards of Addison County Home Health & Hospice as well as Addison County Fair & Field Days. She was a true horsewoman, having a lifelong love of horses, both riding and driving. While on the Field Days board she was in charge of the "horse" area, where she organized and supervised the various horse shows.

Janet also was instrumental in the organization and growth of what would become the Addison Otter

Swim Team when her boys were old enough to join. The team was in its infancy when she became involved. She played a large administrative role, scheduling home meets and away invitations as well as writing the highlights of every event for the local newspaper.

She was a voracious reader, consuming book after book in a short time, on any number of subjects — geography, history and historical fiction were of particular interest to her. She was always very inquisitive. An Amish friend once told her that "she knew more about the Amish than he did." Coupled with her reading was a mind that seldom forgot. Those who knew her will remember and miss her sometimes lengthy discussions on any number of subjects.

Janet is survived by her husband of 62 years, Carl; her son Roderick "Doc" Cole of Ferrisburgh and his partner Heidi and her two children, Cyran and Hayden; and her son John and his wife Tricia, also of Ferrisburgh. She was the proud grandmother of Shannon Cole of Asheville, N.C., and stepgranddaughters Marissa Ouellette of Vergennes and Amanda Brigant of Ferrisburgh. She was predeceased by her parents and two brothers, David and Peter.

Per Janet's wishes, there will be no formal services. A gathering in her memory will be held at the Kingsland Bay State Park later in the summer.

Her family wishes to express their gratitude to the staff at Helen Porter Rehabilitation for the exceptional care they gave Janet the last few weeks of her life. With great patience, they showed her dignity and gave her comfort.

For those wishing to do so, please consider a donation to Addison County Home Health & Hospice in Janet's memory. ◊

Caleb Reynolds 4/11/2006 - 9/27/2023



God's painting!!!

Some stars shine brighter than others!! You know the stars that shine the brightest are the ones with the shortest life!! And when they die they explode into supernova!! It's the most beautiful thing!! Happy 18th birthday, Caleb!! We miss you and love you so very much!!!

Love Wryker and Mckinzie Bryant



NANCY MYRICK

Nancy Myrick celebration of life

BRIDPORT — We invite family and friends to join us in our celebration of life service for Nancy Myrick, who died Sept. 26, 2023.

This will be held on Saturday, April 20, at 1 p.m., at the Community/Masonic Hall in Bridport, with light refreshments to follow.

We welcome your thoughts and memories to share. ◊

Michael Corey celebration of life

NEW HAVEN — The Corey family will hold a celebration of life for Michael William Corey on May 18, 2-4 p.m. at Tourterelle Restaurant in New Haven.



MICHAEL L. GRACE

Michael L. Grace, 67, formerly of Bristol

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Michael L. Grace, formally from Bristol, Vt., passed on March 19, 2024, at his home in Columbus, Ohio, at the age of 67.

A celebration of life will be observed at a later date. Read further details online at tinyurl.com/MichaelGraceObit. ◊

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Joan Kinney celebration of life

MIDDLEBURY — A celebration of life for Joan Kinney, who died on Jan 13, 2024, will be held on April 13 at St. Stephen's Church in Middlebury, Vt., from 10 to 11 a.m.

Obituary Guidelines

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

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

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Five community members receive McCardell Citizen's Award

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College on Tuesday honored a group of Addison County residents by naming them recipients of the Bonnie and John McCardell Citizen's Award, which the college established in 2003 to recognize exceptional service to the community.

The recipients are Angelo Lynn, editor and publisher of the *Addison Independent*; Sarah Soule, postsecondary planning coordinator at Middlebury Union High School; David Shaw, fire chief for the town of Middlebury and facilities manager for Co-operative Insurance Companies; and Bethanie Farrell, founder of Vermont's Giving Fridge and Everything Nice. These four represented the class of 2022, as the college catches up on recognitions announced during the pandemic.

Also honored Tuesday as a 2021 McCardell Citizen's Award winner was Sadie Brightman, founder and executive director of the Middlebury Community Music Center.

"We are always inspired by the work our award recipients do to improve our community," said Middlebury President Laurie Patton. "Their efforts make our community stronger, safer, more compassionate, healthier, and connected."

Following are the McCardell Citizen's Award recipients for 2022:

ANGELO LYNN

Over the past four decades, Angelo Lynn has played a crucial role in promoting an informed citizenry. He purchased the *Addison County Independent* in 1984 and has served as editor and publisher ever since. He has

worked individually and through the *Addison Independent* to serve the community's greater good in myriad ways. Over the course of his career he has served on the Addison County Chamber of Commerce board of directors, as president of the Middlebury Business Association, as a board member of Porter Medical Center, and as president and longtime executive board member of the Vermont Press Association.

Lynn served on the board and, for seven years, as president of the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area. He was on the start-up board of trustees for the Middlebury Maple Run, a half-marathon that has become a signature community event in Middlebury. He has also helped launch and sustain several organizations that have added to Middlebury's creative culture, including Town

Hall Theater, Opera Company of Middlebury, and the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival.

One nominator for the award noted his colleagues' remarks about Lynn's achievements with the *Addison Independent*: "For a town and county our size, it is really uncommon and remarkable to have a quality newspaper like the Addy Indy, providing a real intellectual forum for the exchange of ideas and for the discussion of sometimes difficult issues. How many local or even regional newspapers have had exclusive interviews with the Dalai Lama? How many have had weekly columns on political thought or on philosophy?"

SARAH SOULE

Sarah Soule has spent her long and happy career helping students in Vermont find their place in college, both in admissions work at Champlain College and Vermont Commons School and as a postsecondary planning coordinator at Middlebury Union High School.

Soule is known by many in Addison County as the supervisor of Middlebury College Access Mentors (MiddCAM), a partnership between the high school and College. MiddCAM pairs college students with high schoolers, mostly first-generation college-bound students, as they navigate the college admissions process.

"What makes Sarah so remarkable is that she is so much more than a college counselor," wrote one of her nominators. "Sarah works individually with every single MUHS junior and senior, and she is a champion of all kids — those who might be headed to an Ivy League school and also those who have more immediate professional goals, using the Hannaford Career Center to jumpstart a career in a trade, for example. Sarah invests her whole self in helping young people find their paths, use their voices, and be their best selves as they transition from high school to whatever is next for them. She has made a remarkable impact on our local teenagers."

DAVID SHAW

Middlebury Fire Chief David Shaw has been instrumental in protecting life and property in Middlebury and around Vermont for decades. A member of the Addison County and Vermont State Fire Associations, Shaw has volunteered his life-saving and leadership services while maintaining his position as facilities manager for the Co-operative Insurance Companies.

Among his many community service positions over the years, Shaw has served as coach and director of the Middlebury Youth Football Program, a member of the Vermont State High School Wrestling Officials Association, and as a board member of Addison County Home Health and Hospice.

He has spent countless hours mentoring Middlebury College student firefighting volunteers. In a 2022 interview with the *Middlebury Campus*, Shaw described some of the great benefits of bringing students under his wing, noting that they're always asking questions, often sparking change and innovation at the station. "Every once in a while, we wonder, 'Well, why do we do this?'" he said to the *Campus*. "They challenge the way we do business, and by challenging us, it makes us a better department."

One of Shaw's nominators noted, "Chief Shaw is a consummate role model to everyone involved in the Middlebury Fire Department, including young cadets from the high school and a long (and growing) list of College students who have volunteered."

BETHANIE FARRELL

Bethanie Farrell is founder of Giving Fridge in Middlebury, a nonprofit collaborative that works with local restaurants to supply weekly fresh, high quality meals to anyone in need. She operates the meal service from 51 Main Street in Middlebury, where she also runs a houseplant boutique business called Everything Nice, which helps fund the nonprofit, along with donations and grants.

Farrell launched Giving Fridge in 2020 as a way to address both food insecurity in Addison County and the struggles of local

restaurants to stay in business during the pandemic lockdown. Farrell pays the local vendors \$10 for each meal. Since her first distribution of meals in December of 2020, Giving Fridge has donated more than 35,000 meals—typically about 450 per week—and put more than \$350,000 back into the local economy. The meals are available to anyone and she makes them available for free to those in need, while suggesting a \$10 donation for those who can afford it.

SADIE BRIGHTMAN

Sadie Brightman is the founder and executive director of the Middlebury Community Music Center (MCMC), an institution that has become an important artistic and educational asset for the community since it opened in 2014. The nonprofit offers year-round music lessons in 24 instruments and voice, classes, camps, and workshops for all ages. The organization also offers a scholarship program, hosts performances, and partners with local childcare centers and school programs to provide music education experiences.

The community and the MCMC board, which includes Brightman, have responded to the center with enthusiasm and support. The center serves as a musical ecosystem by providing a place for music learners and teachers to inspire each other. Brightman encourages students to improve their skills through performance, and this effort has led to MCMC students performing regularly in the community in locations ranging from the Residence at Otter Creek and the Town Hall Theater to school assemblies. She is also a member of the Vermont Creative Network.

"It was Sadie's vision and her passion for music education that made MCMC possible," said her nominator for the award. "For her, this work has only begun. She and the other teachers at MCMC are constantly looking for ways to have their budding musicians perform, to create new programs that excite their students, and to give instructors a platform to develop their educational goals."



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PRESIDENT Laurie Patton congratulates recipients of the Bonnie and John McCardell Citizen's Award during a banquet at the Kirk Alumni Center on the college campus Tuesday evening. Shown from left are Sadie Brightman, Bethanie Farrell, Angelo Lynn, Laurie Patton, Sarah Soule and David Shaw.

Middlebury College photo/John Olender

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ANWSD

(Continued from Page 1A) unidentified administrator. Reductions also include \$94,000 in lower-than-previously-estimated special education tuition. The board will also apply about \$39,000 from a Fiscal Year 2022-2023 surplus.

If the latest spending plan passes, officials project the ANWSD district homestead rate to drop by 2.17 cents to \$1.5194 per \$100 of assessed property value from the current level of \$1.5411.

But because of state-determined ANWSD communities' low Common Levels of Appraisals (CLAs), homeowners can still expect increases after CLA adjustments to the district rate (see details below).

Board members chose April 30 in part because if the district doesn't have an approved budget by May 1 it must send out Reduction In Force (RIF) notices to district support staff.

After the March 26 budget defeat, the board had to send out RIF notices to almost three dozen teachers, a move that reportedly has not helped morale and has led some educators to seek work elsewhere.

Those RIF notices were necessary; if the district doesn't have a voter-approved budget by July state law limits ANWSD to spending only 87% of its current budget level. Superintendent Sheila Soule has said that would mean cutting \$5.4 million from current spending, which would result in drastic measures such as cutting all elective courses and extracurricular activities at VUHS.

With that backdrop, ANWSD officials pointed out they've done more than reduce their spending proposal by almost \$1 million since voters defeated a \$28.23 million plan on Town Meeting Day. They

cut about \$724,000 before March 26, when a second board proposal of roughly \$27.5 million lost by 745-727. Now they proposed another \$257,737 in reductions.

But officials also noted that even before March 5, the board had taken out \$750,000 intended to fund ANWSD capital projects. The board did so after the Legislature threatened to change school funding laws to

"There's still a misunderstanding in the community in regards to the CLAs ... Your taxes are going to go up regardless of what this school budget looks like, and that's not within our control."

— School board member Nikki Bearor

penalize districts that added such spending to their budgets.

Soule, in a Tuesday email, made sure ANWSD board and community members understood all that math.

"Since beginning their budget work in the Fall of 2023 the board has reduced \$1.7 million from the strategic budget adopted by the board on 1/18/24," Soule wrote.

BUDGET DEBATE
Given all the prior reductions and the close vote on March 26, board members and some of the four-dozen district residents attending on Zoom believed the board should rerun a \$27.5 million budget vote.

Board members Kristina MacKulin, Nikki Bearor and Carol McBride joined some residents in lobbying for minimal or no further cuts.

Their arguments included that a get-out-the vote effort could drum up support; the short run-up to the March 16 vote didn't allow for some residents to vote with absentee ballots, or for more board educational efforts; and cuts already made to administrators and social workers were placing too much of a burden on remaining staff.

MacKulin moved, with McBride seconding, a motion proposing a budget that would have cut spending by 0.5 percent. After about 45 minutes of debate, it was clear most board members thought more

cuts were needed. The motion was withdrawn.

Board member Martha DeGraaf said she'd come to the painful conclusion the board had to put out a lower budget.

"The reaction I've gotten from the community is they voted no for a reason," DeGraaf said. "We have to cut."

Board member Chris Kayhart concurred that even minimal cuts would create a perception that the board was "insensitive to voter concerns." One way to support the students, he said, was to present a budget with at least \$250,000 of cuts because it would pass, retain staff, and allow board members to point out they'd cut \$1 million since the first defeat.

"That's how we help kids," Kayhart said. "That's why we need to go to 1%."

Board members Chrystal Little, Mark Koenig, Mike Kane and Mimi Clark also spoke for the 1%/\$1 million option, as did Chair John Stroup.

"This is a cost matter," Stroup said. "I want to get out there with a big effort that we're trying to cut costs."

Koenig moved for the \$27.25 million plan, and all voted in favor except Bearor.

TAX RATES
A challenge the board faces remains the district communities' low CLAs. Soaring real estate values have left district towns' grand lists ranging from 70% to 75% of true market value, as determined by the Vermont Department of Taxes.

An exception could be where officials believe the state will accept a new grand list and CLA before tax bills are sent out. But ANWSD estimates assume the town's current CLA.

CLAs measure how grand lists stack up to fair market value so that the state can distribute education funding with a level playing field for all Vermont towns. If CLAs are low, state officials use them to increase towns' school tax rates to where they would be if grand lists

were 100% accurate. ANWSD's low CLAs are thus pushing its school tax rates higher by roughly 25-30%, depending on the community.

According to estimates prepared on Monday by ANWSD Director of Finances and Operations Elizabeth Jennings, the latest budget will help lower homestead school taxes by between 1.1% and 1.2% in each town compared to the budget defeated on March 26. More complete tax data will likely be available before balloting.

It should be noted that those who pay based on their income — 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.

According to Jennings's historically accurate estimates, if the budget is passed, residential school taxes would increase:

- In Addison by 13%.
- In Ferrisburgh by 18.1%.
- In Pantown by 17.9%.
- In Vergennes by 11.2%.
- In Addison by 11.9%.

If the board had cut \$500,000, projected homestead tax increases would have still been substantial, ranging from 7.6% to 15.7%.

After the March 26 budget defeat, Bearor was among those who said many residents probably still are not aware how much low CLAs, over which the board has no say, 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."

In her email, Soule urged residents to make their votes and opinion count.

"Early voting can begin as early as tomorrow morning. This provides three full weeks for early voting, absentee ballots, and information sharing," she wrote.

Lawmakers

(Continued from Page 1A) aimed at increasing access to, and reducing the costs of, healthcare. Among them: H.721, which seeks to increase eligibility for the state's Dr. Dynasaur health insurance program for children, and for Dr. Dynasaur-like coverage to include income-eligible young adults up to 26 years old.

The bill would also increase the income eligibility thresholds for adults in the Medicaid program over time until they reach the same level as Dr. Dynasaur. The bill would require increased reimbursement rates to providers for delivering primary care, mental health, substance use disorder treatment, long-term care, and dental services to Medicaid beneficiaries.

H.721 has passed the House and rests in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

Established in 1989 under former Vermont Gov. Madeleine Kunin, Dr. Dynasaur currently provides low-cost or free health coverage for children and teenagers younger than 19.

"There's some work being done on how we could expand Medicaid for Vermonters," McGill said, adding the Legislature this year created a healthcare caucus to invite feedback on the issue to tee up additional bills for the 2024 session.

"I know that for a lot of legislators, (healthcare reform) is one of our number-one priorities," she said.

Sen. Chris Bray, D-Bristol — who listed healthcare costs as the leading cause of bankruptcy filings in the U.S. — said he's spent the past decade introducing healthcare reform proposals, mainly focused on promoting universal access to

primary care in the state.

"It's always been stopped by concerns about the possible costs and difficulty in implementing," he said. "But primary care is the most cost-effective care and the only part of the healthcare system that's helping keep people healthy and reducing costs, as opposed to responding to an illness we have."

Other topics discussed at Monday's legislative session included:

- The so-called "pollinator-protector bill (H.706)," which proposes to prohibit the sale, distribution, or use of any neonicotinoid treated seed for soybeans or for any crop in the cereal grains crop group.

The bill would also prohibit seed application or treatment with a neonicotinoid pesticide for multiple other uses.

Neonicotinoids are highly toxic in small quantities to bees, noted Weybridge resident Fran Putnam, a longtime advocate for pollinator gardens.

Putnam noted H.706 easily passed the House.

"The testimony indicated it's not going to hurt crop yields, but it is going to help our native pollinators, our honeybees, and keep them safe," she said, while urging the Senate to take up the bill.

Bray noted regulation of pesticide use has been a big topic since he first joined the Legislature in 2007.

"There's been slow progress, which has been disappointing to some people," he noted.

Bray said H.706 currently sits in the Senate Ag Committee. He urged supporters of the bill to reach out, via email, to Senate leaders and members of the Ag Committee. (See Montpelier, Page 15A)







"There's some work being done on how we could expand Medicaid for Vermonters."

— Rep. Jubilee McGill, D-Bridport


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Local cited for domestic violence

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Beau A. Lyons, 42, of Middlebury following their investigation of an alleged domestic disturbance in the Kings Row area on April 2.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Responded to a vehicle-versus-deer collision at the intersection of Quarry Road and Orchard Lane on April 1.
- Checked on the welfare of an elderly McIntyre Lane resident on April 1.
- At the request of Age Well officials, checked on the welfare of an elderly Seymour Street resident on April 1.
- Spoke with a Washington Street Extension resident on April 1 about a possible scam involving apartment rentals in the area.
- Responded to a report of a loose dog in the North Pleasant Street area on April 1.
- Conducted a foot patrol downtown during the night of April 1.
- Assisted Middlebury Union Middle School staff following an April 2 report of a student issue.
- Investigated a reported road rage incident that allegedly occurred on Seymour Street on April 2.
- Investigated a theft complaint on Weybridge Street on April 2.
- Gave a ride to a woman who was stranded on Route 7 South on April 2.
- Seized a small quantity of crack cocaine as a result of a traffic stop near the intersection of Court and Monroe streets on April 2. Police have reported no arrest in this case.
- Were advised that a tree had been blocking Foote Street during the afternoon of April 3. Police said the debris was soon cleared.
- Helped a drunken man who had been walking on North Pleasant Street on April 3.
- Responded to a report of an "irate" man downtown on April 3. Police helped the man who they determined was having a mental health issue.
- Helped a Pinewood Road resident who had been the target of a possible phone scam on April 3.
- Continued an investigation on a fraud case at a local bank on April 3.
- Responded, along with Vermont State Police, to a report of a domestic dispute at a South Village Green apartment on April 3. Police said they determined no crime had occurred.
- Cited Christopher M. Hart, 33, of New Haven for driving with a criminally suspended license on Court Street on April 4.
- Checked the welfare of a resident of The Commons off Buttolph Drive on April 4.

Middlebury Police Log

- Received a noise complaint related to trash pickup in the Ossie Road area during the afternoon of April 4.
- Received information on April 5 from some concerned residents about what police described as "ongoing suspected criminal behavior" downtown.
- Investigated a report of a package being stolen from a Court Street home on April 5.
- Were informed that a MUMS student had been caught with a vape device on campus on April 5.
- Investigated a truancy complaint at MUMS on April 5.
- Received a report about a loose dog on North Pleasant Street on April 5.
- Warned a man who had been publicly consuming alcohol in the Bakery Lane area on April 5.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS on an emergency call to the South Pleasant Street area on April 5.
- Returned, to its owner, a credit card that had been found in the Bakery Lane area on April 5.
- Helped a person who was receiving unwanted contact through social media on April 6.
- Responded to a report of a loose dog in the Grey Lodge Road area on April 6.
- Received a report about a man allegedly yelling obscenities in the Main Street area on April 6.
- Received a report about suspicious activity at a Halladay Road residence on April 6.
- Gave a courtesy ride on April 7 to a person who had just been discharged from Porter Medical Center.
- Responded to a barking dog complaint in the Jackson Lane area on April 7.
- Were asked to check out a suspicious looking package that had been left in a Washington Street parking lot on April 7. Police determined the package contained an electrical box for a street light repair.
- Responded to a verbal domestic dispute at a Jayne Court residence on April 7.
- Investigated a reported dispute between some South Pleasant Street neighbors on April 7.
- Received a report about a man operating a wheelchair on Court Street and Charles Avenue on April 7.
- Took a drunken person into protective custody and took them to Porter Hospital for evaluation at a little before 1 a.m. on April 8.

Historic site has new website

MIDDLEBURY — The public is invited to view and make use of the Friends of Crown Point State Historic Site, Inc. website at www.CrownPointHistoricSite.org/. This new website includes information about the registered national historic landmarks on the Crown Point peninsula and includes direct links to other relevant internet sites such as "Crown Point Road Association," Chimney Point State Historic Site, "campagnes franchises de la marine," Crown Point bird banding association, the Champlain Memorial Lighthouse, Nouvelle France, New York State 250th Commemoration, etc.

Crown Point State Historic Site, whose location was within the path of totality for the April 8 solar eclipse, hosted thousands of guests during that total eclipse of the sun. Two weeks after is April 22, the 114th anniversary of the official acceptance by New York Gov. Charles Evans Hughes of the 25-acre land gift from Witherbee, Sherman & Co. to the State of New York, including the ruins of both a towering French fort and a vast British-built fort, which formed the "Crown Point Reservation" public property in 1910.

This historic site, which was an active military location especially for the half-century from 1734 through 1783, will open its staffed museum next month and will also welcome back the migrating bird banding operation in May 2024, for its 49th consecutive year of volunteer service.

The site's friends group will hold an on-site meeting, open to new and prospective Friends members, in the picnic pavilion, on Monday, June 3 from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. Friends of Crown Point State

Historic Site, Inc. is an all-volunteer non-profit membership organization that was established in 1985 to help to promote, conserve, develop, and interpret both national Historic Landmark fort ruins at Crown Point Historic Site, for the benefit of the public.

Editor's note: This story was provided by Middlebury resident Tom Hughes, president of the Friends of Crown Point State Historic Site.



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Climate matters

Perspectives on Change

While CO2 reduction effort progresses, more work is needed

By RICHARD HOPKINS

On Feb. 14, chair Howard Widelitz and I presented, on behalf of the Middlebury Energy Committee, our annual report to the selectboard on progress toward the town's goal (adopted by the selectboard in 2021) of an 80% reduction by the year 2030 in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from town-owned properties and operations. You can see a version of that presentation, with text and graphics online at tinyurl.com/MiddCO2Report.

The town uses energy to power vehicles, to power off-road equipment (including water pumps and wastewater treatment facilities), and to heat buildings.

Here are the main points from that presentation:

- Compared to the 2018-19 baseline, our 2022-23 GHG production from the town's municipal operations is down more than 40%.
- This change is almost entirely due to reductions in the amount of fossil fuels that Green Mountain Power burns to produce the electricity the town uses for its operations.
- The observed reduction was limited to the period 2018-2021, with no substantial decline from 2021 to 2023.
- The amount of energy we use has been essentially flat over the five-year time period of the report.
- No one fossil fuel dominates the sources of GHG — we produce roughly equal amounts of GHG from gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas, propane, fuel oil and electricity.
- Our use of gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, natural gas, and fuel oil has fluctuated some year by year, but is not yet clearly declining.
- The strategy to get to an 80% reduction in GHG has three components:
 - Decarbonize the electricity. This is what Green Mountain Power is doing for us. The town also benefits from shares in three solar arrays.
 - Electrify everything.
 - Reduce consumption of fossil fuels when we can't electrify yet.

For town operations, the second component means replacing equipment that uses fossil fuels with electric equivalents whenever possible — basically, every time a piece of fossil-fuel-burning equipment needs to be replaced.

The fact that we use roughly equal amounts of the five main fossil fuels means that we have to address several of them to get to an 80% goal.

While conservation and efficiency are important components of an overall strategy to get to our GHG reduction goal, we can't get to an 80% reduction by conservation and efficiency alone. Consider our fleet of cars and trucks: assuming we continue to drive them about the same number of miles, we can't reduce the fuel consumption of those vehicles by 80% by making them more efficient. Maybe 30 or 40%, but not 80%. We can only get to 80% by switching most of them to low-carbon electricity. Similarly, even with the draftiest and most poorly insulated building, it would be very hard to get to an 80% energy reduction from weatherproofing alone.

We have the technology now to replace fossil-fuel heating systems in buildings with cold-climate or ground-source heat pumps, and to replace fossil-fuel-burning light vehicles (sedans and pickups) with plug-in hybrid or fully electric equivalents. The town has made real progress with respect to vehicles (buying two electric vehicles for the Public Works Department, for example), and plans for the new Ilsley Library building call for it to be all electric and very energy-efficient. Several town vehicles are now powered with diesel fuel that is 20% from sources other than fossil fuels (known as B20 diesel).

Electric replacements for heavy-duty vehicles



RICHARD HOPKINS

are not as readily available. And the town has special requirements for some of its vehicles that are hard for current EVs to meet. For example, the town would like to buy a new, class 6 heavy truck, of the kind used for snow plowing. Electric vehicles in this weight class are only just becoming available. Even if we could buy one tomorrow, such a truck needs to be available for continuous use over longer periods than it could go without being taken out of service for recharging. Technological improvements may change this picture in future — with longer battery life, faster charging, and/or batteries that can be swapped out for charging. Recognizing technological limitations like this is one major reason why our goal for 2030 is for an 80% reduction in GHG production, not 100%.

While every organization is different in detail, the town of Middlebury is not very different from many other organizations that have an opportunity to reduce their GHG gas emissions and that have both vehicles and buildings — other towns and cities, school districts, county sheriff's departments, businesses with service or delivery vehicles, and so on. The general strategy for all of them should be similar to that for the town of Middlebury: replace all fossil-fuel-burning equipment with electric equivalents as it needs replacing, and reduce the consumption of fossil fuels by equipment that can't be replaced yet, e.g. by weatherizing buildings, use of smart thermostats, and use of B20 diesel fuel.

Richard Hopkins, a retired epidemiologist, is a member of the town of Middlebury Energy Committee and a board member of the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County.

Welfare checks, alleged harassment keep Vergennes police busy

Vergennes Police Log

- Avenue resident that an unknown vehicle had left ruts on a lawn.
- Checked on the welfare of a resident on behalf of AgeWell and determined the person was OK.
- On April 2:
- Checked the welfare of an Armory Lane resident and determined the person was OK.
 - Looked into the untimely death of a West Main Street resident, Sandra Bourgeois, and determined it was due to natural

- causes.
- On April 3:
- Checked the welfare of an Armory Lane resident and determined the person was OK.
 - On behalf of one member of a separated couple checked on the welfare of children in a Hillside Drive apartment and determined they were OK.
 - Heard from a Hillside Drive resident for future reference that her adult son had been disrespectful and disruptive before leaving her apartment.
- On April 4:
- Responded to a North Main Street accident in which a car slid off North Main Street during a

- snowstorm. Police said two people were transported to Porter Hospital to be treated for minor injuries.
- Took a report from a VUES parent for information purposes that a child there had been subjected to derogatory remarks that were at least partly racially based.
- On April 6 counseled a woman who said her ex-boyfriend was sending her threatening and harassing texts. Police said they tried multiple times unsuccessfully to contact the alleged offender, advised the victim how to obtain a restraining order, and told her to call 911 in the event of any future incidents.

New manual aids with stormwater management

CHARLOTTE — Lewis Creek Association has released this new guidance manual to help answer questions about stormwater and how it can be managed to promote healthier watersheds. "How To Manage Stormwater To Promote Healthier Watersheds: An Ahead of the Storm Guide" was recently published to help assess and understand where problems might be occurring and what opportunities there are to improve these areas.

Over the course of the past year and a half, LCA has collaborated with a variety of partners to develop

materials, photos, and examples of how to assess the land near you, and what solutions to better manage stormwater and improve water quality may be possible. The manual is now available on LCA's website, other partners websites, and in local libraries in the Lewis Creek and LaPlatte watersheds: Bristol, Charlotte, Hinesburg, Monkton, Shelburne, Starksboro, Vergennes, and Williston. It is applicable to properties in the Lake Champlain Basin, including New York. However, the concepts contained within it apply to any area

in the Northeast or beyond. You can learn more about the problem and what landowners can do to improve water quality in a brief 17-minute presentation on LCA's website at bit.ly/lca-wq videos. These include things like slowing water down, spreading it out, and sinking it into the ground ("the three S's" that are central to LCA's Ahead of the Storm program. You can learn more about the Ahead of the Storm program at bit.ly/lca-aots). It is crucial that we all do our part to improve water quality in small ways in order to

improve Lake Champlain's water quality and beauty, and to protect the animals and plants that live in our waterways. The funding for this project also allowed LCA and partners to hold workshops to help landowners in neighborhoods with poor water quality understand the connection between their actions on the land and the quality of the water in their area. They introduced neighbors to some of the wildlife (bats, and amphibians and reptiles) that depend on clean water for their life cycles.



22nd Annual Middlebury Bridal Show

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More show info 802.459.2897

VWA MIDDLEBURY INN 1827 Presented by the Vermont Wedding Association



ADDISON COUNTY RESIDENTS and visitors came out in droves to witness Monday afternoon's total eclipse of the sun. Left, "Queen Connie," the VW Beetle-bearing gorilla statue off Route 7 in Leicester, was adorned with eclipse glasses and a commemorative sign, while youngsters Willow and Holden got in on the act. Also, two people settled into their lawn chairs for maximum comfort at Monkton's eclipse party; Middlebury Parks & Rec Superintendent Scott Bourne shoots an eclipse photo through his protective eye ware.



ADAM SILVER, LEFT, of New Jersey goes full-tech to enhance his appreciation of the celestial event at the Middlebury Rec Park; professional photographer Alistair McCallum created this view of the eclipse from his landing spot at Dead Creek in Addison; John Kilbourn shows off his custom-made "Total Eclipse 2024" T-shirt at a big gathering on Bristol's town green.



THREE-YEAR-OLD RUBY HUNSINGER of Ripton actually has her protective glasses on while glancing skyward; a young child crouches while sporting her protective spectacles at Monkton's eclipse celebration; seven-year-old Boy Scout Emmitt Hasselton models his tricked-out eclipse glasses at a viewing event at Bristol's recreation field.



MORE THAN 200 people turned out for Starksboro's eclipse party behind Robinson Elementary School and gathered for a group photo just after the moon first touched the edge of the sun. Shown here is the special commemorative eclipse t-shirt that the Starksboro Fire Department Auxilliary offered as a fundraiser — they sold 275!

Photos by Jonathan Blake, Buzz Kuhns, Steve James, Megan James, Alistair McCallum, John Flowers, Jenna Hunsinger and Chris Runcie

Eclipse

(Continued from Page 1A)
 the viewing party in Middlebury.

The Addison Independent staff spread out to gather anecdotes from the eclipse (and to experience themselves). Here is some of what went on in Addison County Monday afternoon.

A forecast for clear skies drew an estimated 160,000 out-of-staters to Vermont to see the eclipse. It felt like a sizeable portion of them were on the roads in Addison County. Normally state parks are not open this early in the season, but Gene Nolette saw tents set up at Branbury State Park in Salisbury with eclipse chasers claiming spots. The parking lot at Ferrisburgh's Kingsland Bay State Park saw many cars bringing viewers looking for an open space to congregate.

Nolette said it took five minutes to pull onto Route 7 in Leicester because traffic headed north was so heavy at midmorning. He talked to a guy in a pickup with Texas plates and a grill in the back who told him that his family left the Lone Star State a few days earlier because the weather report was cloudy for eclipse day, and they headed to Vermont to see the eclipse with clear skies.

Megan James met Adam Silver in the Middlebury Recreation Park on Monday. He had brought his telescope with him from New Jersey and was setting it up to get a front-row seat for the spectacle.

Marin Howell had family visiting from New Hampshire at her home in Addison. The crew gathered in the backyard for hot dogs as the moon moved over the sun.

"I expected the eclipse to be an equally breathtaking and unnerving experience, and it was," Howell observed. "What I didn't expect was the brief chain reaction it set off; the mosquitos that emerged almost instantaneously and the quick drop in temperature as the sky descended into darkness. Bugs and all, it was an indescribable experience I won't forget."

Jenna Hunsinger called it "truly incredible." That was for the eclipse. Chasing around her three-year-old daughter, Ruby, may have brought Hunsinger back down to earth.

"I'm assuming there's some connection between the eclipse and child behavior because, geez Louise, there wasn't much time

to relax and truly appreciate the wonder of it all between chasing Ruby and reminding her to put on her glasses," Hunsinger said. "Regardless, it was an amazing experience."

At Bristol's recreation field, John Flowers saw around 60 people eventually settle on lawn chairs or blankets to view an eclipse. Among them were members of Bristol Cub Scout Troop 453, led by Greg Grover. Some of the about 10 eager Scouts tricked out their eclipse glasses with colorful cardboard extensions. Grover added a hands-on, educational dynamic to the occasion — he had each Scout hold a large, colorful bouncy ball, representing the sun or one of the eight planets in the solar system. At one point, the students began to spin and circumnavigate the sun to mimic the dynamics of the solar system.

It produced cute and at-times humorous bedlam, as the planetary players occasionally collided with each other during the impromptu exercise.

"I think our solar system has collapsed," Grover sighed at one point.

Meanwhile, more than 200 people assembled at the Bristol Town Green to witness the rare eclipse event. Children gleefully played on the slide and swings, grateful for an extra day off from school. Some adults aimed specially equipped, long-lens cameras at the sun as it gradually became obscured by the moon.

John and Calissa Kilbourn, and their baby daughter Cassie, each sported hand-made "Total Eclipse 2024" T-shirts.

Some watchers dashed to their vehicles to retrieve sweaters or jackets as the sun's rays became more muted. Ample exclamations of "Oooohh" and "Awwww" rang out to the heavens in appreciation of the rare celestial sight.

A reader, Barbara Deal, told us that her community at the Bristol CoHousing project took advantage of last week's snow to roll up a huge snowball (estimated weight 800 pounds) on the Co-Housing green. Deal's cousin Jane Myers noticed that if she crouched down the snowball would blot out the sun just like the moon, though not as dramatically.



SEVERAL HUNDRED LOCALS and visitors who were gathered behind the "new" Monkton Town Hall on Monday afternoon took a break from the eclipse preparations to take a group photo.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns

In Starksboro they held an Eclipse Party behind Robinson Elementary School. The Fire Department and the Auxiliary sold hot dogs and snacks, and people brought many different kinds of homemade eclipse-theme desserts. Local musician Patrick Melvin provided live entertainment.

At least 200 people showed up — probably more. Most were from Starksboro, Jim Runcie told us, but some were from nearby states.

"Some of them were driving by looking for a good place to watch the eclipse and stopped when they saw the bright yellow sign," he said.

The Fire Department Auxiliary had eclipse T-shirts made and sold 275 of them before and during the event. They took a group photo just after First Contact, when the moon first touched the edge of the sun. Many people in the group photo could be seen wearing these T-shirts.

Not far away, a couple hundred people gathered behind the Monkton town office for music, socializing, photos and a hillside seat to watch the eclipse.

Angelo and Lisa Lynn gathered with tons of people who pulled off at the bird-viewing area at Dead Creek in Addison. There they happened to meet Alistair McCallum, a professional scenic/landscape photographer and Okemo resident who came to Addison with his wife, Joan. Alistair set up his rig ready to take some photos of the heavenly show. The hype did not disappoint.

Back in Middlebury, people were gathered in by the scores and even hundreds on Triangle Park, on the banks for the waterfall in the Marble Works, in College Park, across the Middlebury College campus, even at the cemetery of South Main Street.

Andy Kirkaldy chose his deck overlooking the Middlebury Rec Park to view the eclipse. He has had good luck viewing the annual fireworks displays on Independence Day and New Year's Eve from this perch.

"What better place to watch another display in the sky?" he said.

As bonuses, there was music playing, kids happily running around the park, and announcers periodically counting down the time to totality. One guy was especially excited. The eclipse totally had a hype man.

When the appointed hour arrived he put down his laptop and put on the fancy green 802 shades to view the twice-in-a-lifetime event. Twice? In 1962 in Massachusetts Kirkaldy saw his first totality. Unlike this one, for which you kids had all the modern gewgaws like those special Devo glasses, back in the day they had cardboard-box viewing contraptions held together with string, Wrigley's and Duck Tape that they made in their Cub Scout troops.

At Christy Lynn's home near the Marble Works the mosquitos all descended and peepers started up just before totality in the midst of that strange half-light. "We could hear the college students across the river on campus, who must have reached the apex 30 seconds or so before we did because they all started whooping and hollering.

"It was hard not to!" Lynn said. "I didn't expect to be quite as enthralled by the event as I was. At one point during the partial eclipse I was apparently vocalizing my excitement more than I realized."

At that point, Elwood didn't get the yelling. But a few minutes later he sure did.



MANY PEOPLE, LIKE this couple out behind the Monkton Town Hall, took a relaxed approach to eclipse viewing. With nothing else to do, this offered many people a chance to really unwind.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns



THIS FELLOW IN Monkton went old school, turning a cereal box into an eclipse viewing device by cutting a pinhole and a viewing port. Not sure how it works? Google it.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns



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Bright Day Memory Cafe

**Wednesday, April 17,
 from 10:00-11:30 AM**

**And every 3rd Wednesday
 at Ilsley Public Library**



A memory café is a welcoming place for people with forgetfulness or other changes in their thinking and for their family and friends. This monthly program is will offer a variety of activities such as music, speakers, art and more. We will be asking for suggestions from attendees as well. We hope to create a community for folks to feel seen, safe and engaged.

This month's program: Jeopardy (with prizes!)

This is a drop in event - no reservations needed. All folks with memory issues and their care partners are welcome to participate. Need transportation? Call 388.4095 ask for Renee.

**An initiative of
 Dementia Friendly Middlebury.**



By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
this summer, Burlington.”

Maple Broadband will be launching broadband service soon in portions of Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Waltham, Monkton, and New Haven. It will help explain that effort through an upcoming screening of a 35-minute documentary film called “Connected: Vermont’s Grassroots Effort for Rural Broadband,” at the Vergennes Opera House on Friday, April 12. Doors open at 6 p.m., screening starts at 6:30 p.m., with a post-screening mixer at 7:15 p.m. And there are some tantalizing inducements to show up: Free tickets to the event and entry into a raffle for \$500 of Vergennes Green, as well as free appetizers and treats from 3 Squares Café and Daily Chocolate, along with free “Maple Broadband”-flavored ice cream from lu•lu. The Maple Broadband team will be on hand to explain the group’s efforts. Maple Broadband is a nonprofit municipal internet service provider serving member towns in Addison County. Learn more at maplebroadband.net.

Middlebury College is inviting your input and vision to help influence its new Lands Comprehensive Plan. There will be in-person and online opportunities to participate. The college will host two listening/ visioning sessions for the local and regional community of town governing bodies, interest groups, and individuals to gather knowledge and thoughts on specific land values and a comprehensive vision for 3,000 acres of college land in the Champlain Valley. The sessions will be held on April 16 and 24, both from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Kirk Alumni Center at 317 Golf Course Rd. Please visit tinyurl.com/bddf9fj to learn more about this important planning.

Would you like to help shape Bristol’s present and future as a welcoming and inclusive community? The Bristol selectboard is gauging community members’ interest in serving on an “Equity Committee.” Citizens with lived experience as a member of an historically marginalized group or other underrepresented community are encouraged to respond. The purpose of a Bristol Equity Committee, according to Town Administrator Valerie Capels, would be to explore ways to ensure and bolster the town’s standing as a welcoming and inclusive community; advise the town staff and officials on equity issues; make recommendations for action to the selectboard; assist residents and businesses in

understanding equity and reducing harm from discriminatory practices; develop practices to put the town’s 2021 Declaration of Inclusion into action at all levels within government and the community; and other potential initiatives. Interested? Please send a letter to Capels at P.O. Box 249, Bristol, Vt., 05443, or email townadmin@bristolvt.org by Friday, April 26. Questions? Contact Capels at (802) 453-2410, or townadmin@bristolvt.org.

The Middlebury Community Players is holding auditions for two plays, “Love/Sick” and “Steel Magnolias,” to be presented this summer at the Vergennes Opera House. Auditions will be held on April 17 at Town Hall Theater, 68 South Pleasant St., Middlebury, and on April 18 at the Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St., Vergennes. Both auditions will begin at 7 p.m., with registration beginning at 6:30. Auditions will consist of readings from the scripts. Love/Sick will play from June 20 to 23, and Steel Magnolias will play Aug. 15 to 18. All rehearsals will be held in Weybridge. Love/Sick consists of nine scenes of contemporary love by John Cariani, the author of Almost, Maine. The cast can be anywhere from four to 18 actors, depending on doubling. The scenes can accommodate a wide variety of types and ages. Steel Magnolias has a cast of six women: Truvy, 40-ish; Annelle, 19; Clairee, late 60s to early 70s; Shelby, 25-ish; M’Lynn, early 50s; and Quiser, late 60s to early 70s. Get all the details at www.middleburycommunityplayers.org.

Middlebury’s Open Door Clinic (ODC) has received a \$25,000 rural initiative award through Farm Credit East, a member-owned cooperative with 24 locations in its eight-state service area, which includes Vermont. The clinic was nominated for the award by Champlain Orchards in Shoreham in appreciation for the organization’s work in caring for its employees and local agricultural workers throughout Addison County. The \$25,000 award will provide support to the clinics, including necessary supplies for managing chronic conditions and home monitoring,” according to Farm Credit East board chair Laurie Griffen. The ODC is a free health clinic for uninsured and underinsured adults in Addison County. Heidi Sulis, the ODC Executive Director, and Clinical/Program Director Julia Doucet traveled to Albany, N.Y., on March 25 to receive the award at the Farm Credit Annual Meeting.

Ready, Set, Repair!

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is hosting a spring **REPAIR FAIR!**

When: Saturday, April 20th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Where: American Legion Post 27
49 Wilson Rd, Middlebury, VT 05753
Cost: FREE!

Come get your favorite items fixed, learn repair skills, and enjoy refreshments with your neighbors in Addison County!

For more information go to
AddisonCountyRecycles.org/Repair-Fair

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THE NEW DOCUMENTARY “Ramen Day” documents how people came together during the COVID pandemic to distribute prepared meals that would feed hungry people and support local food businesses.

Ramen Day

(Continued from Page 1A)

Middlebury’s Giving Fridge — as a “rainbow of light,” who employed dogged determination and resources from the Vermont Everyone Eats (VEE) program to make sure she and her daughter never went to bed hungry.

“To have healthy meals that would give me energy and my daughter the energy to continue her education, was huge,” she said. Val and Farrell are among several people whose pandemic-era, food insecurity stories and observations have been immortalized in a new film by Middlebury filmmaker Corey Hendrickson. His new documentary — to premiere at Montpelier’s Capitol Theater next Tuesday, April 16 — is called “Ramen Day.” It charts the evolution and impacts of the wildly successful Vermont Everyone Eats program that kept Vermonters fed, restaurants afloat and farmers cultivating during the COVID crisis.

Funded by FEMA and the Vermont Legislature, VEE was a statewide, \$49 million pandemic relief program that provided resources to farmers and restaurants to produce healthy meals for food-insecure people during the pandemic.

According to Southeastern Vermont Community Action, which served as fiscal and administrative agent for VEE, the program involved more than 270 Vermont farmers and food producers and some 320 restaurants who made almost 4 million meals for hungry people between August 2020 and March 2023.

Several Addison County restaurants were part of the collaboration, including Jessica’s, Two Brothers, Bar Antidote, and American Flatbread, among others. It proved a critical infusion of funds for many restaurants at a time when they were shuttered — or had severely reduced seating capacity — due to COVID protocols.

VEE’s dual investment in both food security and the local food economy resulted in a \$78 million increase in local spending by restaurants and farms outside of income received through the program, according to state officials.

“Maybe I’m kind of a ‘softy,’ but I don’t cry a lot while I’m working, but there were several times I was full waterworks ... The amount of bravery people had to share that stuff was incredible.”

— filmmaker Corey Hendrickson



MIDDLEBURY FILMMAKER COREY Hendrickson’s new film, “Ramen Day” will premiere at Montpelier’s Capitol Theater on April 16. The documentary, featuring interviews from those who engineered and benefited from the Vermont Everyone Eats pandemic-relief program, includes testimonials from several Addison County folks.

Hendrickson’s introduction to VEE came through Bethanie Farrell and the Giving Fridge — a community refrigerator in downtown Middlebury that took off in a big way. Giving Fridge became a close ally of VEE, and Farrell worked with its various players to get food to area residents hit hard by the pandemic.

“My world had kind of been put on ice,” Hendrickson said, harkening back to 2020. So, he decided to make a film about the Giving Fridge — which he called “an amazing story” unto itself.

As he got into the project, Hendrickson began to see the broader impact of VEE. With encouragement from Farrell and support from Southeastern Vermont Community Action and other entities, he broadened his film’s scope to include other VEE associates, including nonprofits and restaurants in Springfield, Hardwick, Burlington, Montpelier and Bennington.

He conducted around 40 interviews in soup kitchens, homes, food shelves, restaurants, offices and the streets. His local interviewees included Farrell; the VEE program beneficiary named Val; Dottie Neuberger, a Congregational Church of

Middlebury volunteer who spearheaded a series of weekly community suppers during the pandemic; and Prof. Molly Anderson, director of Middlebury College’s Food Studies program.

In the film, Anderson offers insights into the various stages of hunger and how the state and federal social services safety net has evolved — and largely failed.

“The charitable system was originally set up as an emergency system,” Anderson explains in “Ramen Day.” “We should start building up the social safety net, so people never slip off into food insecurity again.”

Also quoted in the film is a Brandon-area resident named Miranda. She tells Hendrickson that she only has a microwave and mini fridge, meaning she can’t do much, if any, healthy food prep at her home. The VEE meals came fully prepared, which she called a huge benefit.

“(VEE) helps me and my family get fresh vegetables, fresh meals — and they’re healthy,” she said.

Having received a ton of quality input, Hendrickson found it tough cutting “Ramen Day” down to its 30-minute documentary length.

“You really had to kind of come down to ‘Who said it best,’” he said.

Hendrickson was clearly touched by what his interviewees told him. He said he’d come home drained after a day filming in the field, experiencing feelings of gratitude, compassion and motivation after hearing from those implementing and receiving VEE benefits.

“To see the amount of work that was being done just so people could get through the day and not go to sleep hungry, was so moving,” he said. “Every time I’d get tired of the editing, I’d take a step back and listen to the stories and get completely reinvigorated. “THE BEST DAMN FILM”

“Maybe I’m kind of a softy, but I don’t cry a lot while I’m working, but there were several times I was full waterworks,” Hendrickson confessed of the impact some of his interviewees’ testimonials had on him — particularly accounts of children going without food, or parents going without so their kids could have enough.

“The amount of bravery people had to share that stuff was

incredible, so I had to make this the best damn film I ever made.”

Hendrickson’s film/photography clients have included American Express, Apple, Facebook, Food & Wine, HBO, Johnson & Johnson, the New Yorker, Patagonia, Phish, Smithsonian Magazine, Travel & Leisure, Vanity Fair and the Wall Street Journal. He currently serves as the director of photography and editor of “Weekends with Yankee,” a nationally broadcast adventure travel show for PBS, and has also filmed for several forthcoming documentaries as well as for PBS’s “American Masters.”

While VEE wrapped a year ago, the state last August launched a similar offering to assist those affected by massive flooding that affected parts of nine Vermont counties in July of 2023. It’s called Vermont Emergency Eats, and — like VEE — will be temporary.

Farrell, in “Ramen Day,” laments that hunger will be a perennial problem that needs a permanent fix.

“I think all of us who work in food insecurity are trying to yell from the mountaintops that it’s only gotten worse. Things are more expensive now, (the cost of) living is more expensive now than it’s ever been. These issues of trying to make ends meet aren’t going anywhere.”

Farrell said she was pleased to work with Hendrickson and believes his film can do a lot to raise awareness about food insecurity.

“VEE is the type of program that, I believe, should be a permanent fixture in our communities, not just an emergency response, and this film will help to showcase the need as well as the success of the program,” she said. “It’s not just a food insecurity program, it’s an economic development and local food systems program. It touches the lives of so many. Giving Fridge’s model has always dovetailed nicely with VEE and continues to provide these services throughout Addison County, but my hope is that this film will help to bolster the idea that programs like VEE and Giving Fridge could be permanent programs in communities throughout Vermont and the U.S.”

The Tuesday, April 16, showing of “Ramen Day” at Montpelier’s Capitol Theater will begin at 5 p.m.

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The tale of a lake tsunami

By DECLAN MCCABE

The sharpest contrast between rivers and lakes is in water movement. While rivers flow inexorably downhill, lake water movement is more subtle. Anyone who has weathered a storm on a lake, however, can attest that less consistent water movement does not mean no water movement at all. In fact, at one point, about 5,000 years ago, it seems a tsunami formed on Lake Champlain.

The Outside Story

still lake waters allow the sediment to settle out and sink to the lake floor. Precipitation and river flow patterns affect how sand and silt accumulate in lake beds over the years. Spring snowmelt swells rivers dramatically, washing impressive quantities of material from the landscape into a lake. This means that proportionally more sand and silt is deposited early in the year. Wind and wave action

Geologists use lake sediment cores to study lake conditions from past years. Cores are long columns of lake-floor mud sampled by driving a hollow pipe deep into the lakebed, sometimes from a boat, other times through thick winter ice. The layers of sediment collected in these cores help scientists determine past weather and environmental events.

When turbulent rivers carry sediment into lakes, the relatively

keep the very finest of materials suspended in lake water through fall. Lake ice puts a lid on things in midwinter, allowing very fine clay-size particles to settle out.

These seasonal differences in material settling onto lake floors appear as paler and darker stripes, called “varves,” in lake sediment cores. The cores yield a limited perspective, because each one samples just one point on the lake floor. To get the bigger picture, geologist Patricia Manley, a professor at Middlebury College,



and her long-time collaborator and husband, Tom Manley, broadcast “compressed high intensity radar pulses” (CHIRPs) into the lake water and the sediment below. Detectors record radar pulses bouncing from subsurface varves and use these to build three-dimensional, X-ray-like images of sediments laid down over centuries. These images can record sediment layers as far back as the end of

the most recent ice age — and they suggest that tsunamis are part of Lake Champlain’s history.

Varves are not just monotonous layers of crud. Similar to tree rings, there’s quite a bit of variability from year to year. Melt from one year’s deeper snowpack may leave a thicker sandy layer. A year with little lake ice may obscure the clay layer. Extended ice and reduced melt, as happened during 1816, the infamous “year without a summer,” would leave a unique signature with less deposition because of reduced river flows. All of these basin-wide patterns combine to produce a barcode-like pattern of consistently varying relative varve thickness across the lake floor.

To the trained eye, departures from this barcode stand out. Manley and her collaborators noticed a particularly spectacular departure just south of the Bouquet River on the New York side of Lake Champlain. A dramatic upheaval was evident approximately 5,000 years back — a large swath of sediment was missing from a shallow slope.

Above and below this gap in the record, there was a normal accumulation of older sediments. Professor Manley found six such masses of displaced sediment, all in the same time frame.

To explain this mysterious dramatic movement of sediment, Manley looked deeper in Lake Champlain. There she found that tons of sediment had gone downhill in catastrophic underwater mudslides that upended many decades of accumulated sediment, causing the historic barcode to read backwards from older sediment down through younger varves that had been rolled under. Above the topsy-turvy misplaced sediment pile, additional centuries of sediment had accumulated in the normal way, encapsulating the record of the mudslide.

So much mud had cascaded downhill that Manley calculated the resulting pressure waves would have produced a tsunami. According to Manley, the wave would have been large enough to wash ashore on the eastern side of Lake Champlain more than 25 feet above the water line.

What might cause sediment that had sat quietly for a millennium to suddenly and destructively take flight? Manley suggests an earthquake was the likely culprit. While researching her findings, she found published records of above-water landslides in the Western Quebec Seismic Zone. The timing of these landslides matched up with that of the Lake Champlain mudslides.

While tsunami risk is not going to keep me off Lake Champlain, I find it fascinating that forces beyond our current perception have shaped our lakes in ways I never would have guessed.

DeclanMcCabeteachesbiology at Saint Michael’s College. His book, “Turning Stones: Discovering the Life of Water” will be published by Down East Books in June and is available for pre-order. 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.

Haiku contest winners announced

WEYBRIDGE — Weybridge’s Sixth Annual Haiku Contest asked Vermonters to reflect on these challenging times. Reflect they did with 51 writers submitting 443 haikus. As in past contests, the themes ranged widely — despair over fickle weather, the challenges in growing old, the perils of climate change, the beauty of Vermont in all seasons.

“Winning” is secondary, say the contest’s three Weybridge judges — Susie Davis, Gwen Nagy-Benson, and Martha Winant—all past contest winners. The contest’s purpose is to celebrate the joys of poetry for everyone, especially during April, National Poetry Month.

“We each had different favorites, but a few rose to the top for all of us — those that were clever,

spoke simply of a universal truth, or pointed to something truly lovely. What a joy to read these musings from all across our beloved Vermont!” said Nagy-Benson about the choices facing the judges.

“I was struck by the breadth of the topics and the reflections that revealed such deep awareness, sensitivity, feeling, and sharing,” Davis added.

“I was particularly pleased to see many of the same poets from previous years. Julia Alvarez (Weybridge’s co-poet laureate and founder of the contest) would be pleased at how the contest has grown, from nine Weybridge writers and 70 haikus the first year to 51 writers from all over Vermont today.”

Like previous contests, there were three winners in each of the three divisions: youth under 18, Weybridge residents, and Vermont residents. In the youth division, five 7th graders from the Lake Champlain Waldorf School submitted eight haikus. Nine Weybridge residents submitted 104 haikus. Thirty-nine Vermonters submitted 331 haikus. There was one limerick.

Reflecting the quality of the submissions, the judges also selected eight writers for Honorable Mention and created four new categories — Best Haikus About Haikus, About the Seasons, About Life, and Best Haiku Lament on Climate Change.

The winners and their haikus today:

YOUTH

1st: Liam Gourlay, Shelburne
*Here is a circle
There are more everywhere
But they are all pointless*

2nd: Ella Thompson-Rose, Richmond
*The lanky puppy’s
Paws twitch; as in a dream
he
Bounds, with ears flapping*

3rd: Isaiah Witkin-Frishman, Richmond
*Below water flows
As if a stone has been thrown
Suddenly, I jump!*

Honorable Mention:
Addysen Fowler, Richmond
*Chubby fat ponies
Trot in fields of grass all-day
Forever peaceful.*

Emmett Fechter-Leggett, South Burlington
*The alarm goes off
the defining loudness is
a painful awakening.*

WEYBRIDGE

1st: Spence Putnam
*Small town gatherings
Help build strong
communities
Potlucks and picnics*

2nd: Barbara Brosnan
*Smooth icy fingers
Of Otter Creek spread
mirrors
Across Weybridge fields.*

3rd: Matt Brown
*Singing with those sheets
Of paper we hold up high
Song is in my heart.*

Honorable Mention:
Elsie Lynn Parini
Bobcat
*We named her Autumn.
She moved at dusk through
the fields.
Tufts. Bobtail floats by.*

Gretchen Singh
*The gravel washed down
the hill in search of other
gravel washed downhill*

Alison Nurok
*Driving kids to school
Gleaming webs steal my*

*gaze, ooops!
Eyes on the road, mom!*

VERMONT

1st: David Mook, Poultney
*Each word, a needle,
poetic acupuncture,
pen pricks on a page.*

2nd: Katherine Chase, Burlington
Forsythia
*Sun’s reflection shines
On your saffron colored
blossoms
Warmth, mirroring warmth.*

3rd: Bettie Barnes, South Burlington
*Lean into your strengths
and find others to fill in
where frustrations lie*

Honorable Mention
Bill Schubart, Hinesburg
*Luminescent snakes
Summer in my woodpile
I can’t burn my fear*

Patricia LeBon Herb, Middlebury
*The early morning
glory periwinkles
at us from the vine*

Ellen Bodin, North Chittenden
*A grandson’s brushstrokes
his paintbrush-broom
makes pictures
on the snowy pond*

BONUS CATEGORIES

Best Haikus about Haikus:
Martha Sanborn, Vergennes
*My midnight haiku
resembling sheer brilliance
now;
garbage in morning.*

Andrew Marks, Cornwall
*Take these syllables
Chew thoroughly and
swallow
There - feel better now?*

George Bellerose, Weybridge
*Basho, can I write
a haiku with four lines and
more than seventeen
syllables just once?*

Best Haikus about the Seasons:
Beth Glaspie, Essex Junction
*forsythia burst
on the scene shouting she’s
here
she’s here spring is here*

Jenn Nixon, Middlebury
*Snowsnakes on tree limbs
Imaginations soaring
Winter wonderland*

Best Haikus about Life:
Lloyd Graf, Brattleboro
*Somewhere in the world
Is a right-hand glove and a
match
Pair of socks, but where?*

Susan Leigh Babcock, Middlebury
Short Story
*The first gasp of air
The life well led or
squandered
The agonal breath*

Walt Deverell Jr., Middlebury
An Accounting Truth
*Debits and Credits.
Thus it was ever so.
Balancing each other out.*

The Best Haiku Lament on Climate Change:
Peter Langella, Moretown
*black bears won’t sleep, as
bird feeders are too
scrumptious
in these warming woods*

For a file with all 443 haikus contact the contest administrator George Bellerose at georgebellerose@gmavt.net or call 802 545-2035.

N.J. earthquake felt in Vt. on Friday

ADDISON COUNTY — A magnitude 4.8 earthquake centered this past Friday morning near Lebanon, N.J., produced some aftershocks that could be felt in parts of Addison County.

The *Independent* received reports of minor rattling and shaking at homes in Cornwall and East Middlebury that coincided with the Lebanon quake.

A public safety alert issued at

12:15 p.m. on Friday, April 5, by New York State Emergency Management indicated the earthquake was “felt throughout New York State. Aftershocks may occur. Call 9-1-1 only if you or others are injured or have an emergency.”

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the earthquake occurred at around 10:23 a.m. on Friday morning.

The *Associated Press*,

quoting the USGS, indicated the earthquake might have been felt by more than 42 million people, especially those in the New York metropolitan area.

There were no reports of fatalities or major injuries.

It is not unusual for the USGS to report 20-40 earthquakes somewhere in the world each day, though many of them are of a magnitude of between 2.5 and 4 on the Richter Scale.

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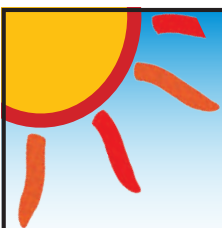
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Monkton, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

For over 20 years we have had a goal of owning a solar system. Bristol Electronics helped us to reach that goal by installing a (16) panel system. All of our goals were met. The price was right. The installation and quality of work was professional. Most importantly, we have not had to pay an electric bill since the installation.

Chris mentioned that I could use a roof rake to remove snow from my array but I taped a cloth mop to a 20' closet rod that I had hanging around. I store it under the array and when the array is covered with snow I use it to gently brush the panels off. My array starts producing power quicker and I am very happy with my electric bills.

If we buy the electric car that we have been thinking about, we will have Bristol Electronics return and add to our system, and cover the cost of the added electricity. Solar has been a good investment for us.

John & Beverly Teer – Monkton, VT



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FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — 5 Town Friends of the Arts presents The Winter into Spring Musical Library Tour. On Thursday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. Sam Kuhns will be performing a free acoustic concert at the Lincoln Library. Sam is a singer, songwriter, guitarist and 2017 graduate of Mt. Abraham Union Middle/High School who processes life through music and hopes that his tunes can help others do the same. He writes original tunes with emotional depth, as well as exhibiting vibrant guitar work.

As part of the library's focus on Lincoln's cemeteries this spring, there will be a sharing/story telling afternoon on Wednesday, April 24 at 1 p.m. with Linda Barnard. You are invited to come and share any stories or memories about Lincoln's seven cemeteries, ancestry or genealogy. Tea and cookies will be served.

FROM LCS 3/4 WELLNESS CLASS

The Lincoln Community School 3/4 class would like to invite you to participate in an exciting fundraising opportunity. After working on their northern forest unit this fall, Devon's 3/4 students were able to explore the subject even deeper in wellness class. They used their fresh knowledge to compare and contrast how trees and forests connect to our very own lungs and respiratory systems. We spent further time in wellness exploring the environmental impact of global deforestation and how that ultimately influences global health.

Having purchased two "tree kits" through an organization called ForestNation, students have started growing two blue spruce saplings that will eventually be transplanted on school grounds. To support their mission of creating a brighter outlook for future generations, ForestNation will be planting ten trees (per tree kit!) in areas like Tanzania and Haiti, places that have significant experience with

the detriments of deforestation and industrial agriculture.

LCS will be running a "You Plant, We Plant" fundraiser to further support this organization and our planet. Please consider getting a tree kit (or a few!) of your own. Just like ours, each tree kit sold will result in ten more trees planted somewhere in need. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly toward the development of a student-cultivated vegetable garden next year, whose fruits of labor will be served back to those students right here in the LCS kitchen!

There are a few tiers of donation options you can choose from to benefit this cause. For a \$15 donation you will receive one tree kit and recognition on our garden plaque. A donation of \$25 will get you up to two tree kits, garden plaque recognition, and a thank you note from a 3rd or 4th grader. For a donation of \$50 or more you will receive up to three tree kits, garden plaque recognition, a thank you note from a 3rd or 4th grader, and an honorable mention at our all-school assembly.

Donation slips will be available in the LCS front office, at the Lincoln Library, and at the Lincoln General Store. Cash or check made payable to Lincoln School District will be accepted at that time. Orders will be accepted through the month of April. Please expect to receive your tree kits and extras starting May 8th. Please contact Cat Mannigan at cmannigan@lincolnsd.org with any questions. Thank you so much for considering!

SAVE THE DATE

The Ladies Aid Industria will once again hold their spring rummage sale at Burnham Hall on Thursday, May 2, from 1 to 7 p.m., Friday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, May 4, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Donations will be accepted on the lower level of the hall on Wednesday, May 1 from 1 to 7 p.m. Donations should be spring and summer items in clean, undamaged condition. Helmets, electronics, car seats and teeter totters cannot be accepted.

Until next time ... Laugh Out Loud. Follow Your Heart. Enjoy The Little Things.

Bristol startup aims to help kids learn key skills

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — When Carleen Haylett founded EnrichedHQ Marketplace four years ago, the Bristol resident was hoping to address an ongoing challenge she and other working parents faced: getting their children involved in enriching extracurricular activities.

"I'm a single mother," Haylett said during a recent interview. "I have a 12-year-old boy, and ever since he was little it's always been this nightmare of trying to find and schedule and book and manage all of the things I wanted him to be involved in and all of the things he wanted to be involved in beyond what he was getting in school."

At the time, Haylett had spent over 20 years working in information technology designed to help managers oversee and direct operations at their organizations. She saw the industry as offering a potential solution.

"As a technologist and businessperson, I just knew that this problem that I was having, and that every parent I know has, could be solved easily with technology," she said.

Thus, EnrichedHQ was born.

The online marketplace offers virtual classes and activities targeted at children age 5 and up. Available courses cover a range of topics, including music, computer science, and new languages.

"We're a technology platform that brings together life-skills-building programs from an ecosystem of partners that help kids gain access to learning and enrichment opportunities for things that they aren't learning in school," Haylett explained. "Things like financial literacy, 'how do I prepare for college applications,' specialized STEM. Things that kids need beyond school but aren't being delivered through traditional education."

LIFE SKILLS FOR KIDS

To provide such programs, EnrichedHQ partners with corporations like Signet Education



CARLEEN HAYLETT, A single mom living in Bristol, founded the EnrichedHQ Marketplace to offer youth enrichment activities and lessons online to kids like hers.

and CodeWizardsHQ, listing programs offered by its partners on an online marketplace. Parents can browse offerings from various providers, as well as book and manage activities directly through the marketplace.

Haylett said each activity partner is vetted by the EnrichedHQ team based on several quality and safety standards. Input from EnrichedHQ clients also helps determine what offerings appear on the site.

"We get a lot of feedback from families around things their kids are interested in or topics they want their kids to learn," Haylett said. "Our team goes out into the world and finds the best companies that are providing that." Available activities range in price, age-level and duration. For example, parents can book a single one-on-one Spanish lesson for \$18 or opt for a package of 10 hour-long digital animation classes for \$499.

Some courses are offered asynchronously, while others consist of virtual lessons live with an instructor. Haylett said available activities can fit nicely into homeschool curriculums but are also "intended to be programs that augment and extend what's happening in traditional school."

EnrichedHQ also collaborates with companies to offer access to its marketplace and discounted packages as part of employee benefit programs. Haylett said often such corporations offer

programs for younger kids, like daycare vouchers or nannies.

"Employees who work with companies that do provide those (programs), but have kids older, generally get nothing by way of family support," Haylett said. "(Enriched HQ) becomes a huge, valuable addition to a company's family support programs and benefits."

Haylett launched EnrichedHQ in February 2020, just weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic forced schools throughout the country to pivot to remote learning. She said the timing offered a silver lining for the young business.

"Everybody was in scrambles," Haylett said. "It was really great for us because parents were desperate for ways to keep their children engaged, not necessarily academically, but just everybody (was) trying to figure it out."

Haylett noted that even after students returned to the classroom, EnrichedHQ saw an educational chasm in need of filling.

"There's a huge gap between what kids are learning in school and what they need to thrive beyond school," she explained. "Parents are struggling trying to find really great programs for their kids that not only get them the skills they need but ignite what could potentially be a lifelong passion."

Over the years, EnrichedHQ has narrowed its focus to offering programs that allow kids to dive further into areas of interest and learn skills not offered in a traditional school setting. Haylett said the online marketplace helps parents find activities for their children to do just that.

"In the past, what's happened is a parent has had to go out and find a program that is geographically available, something they can drive to or in their region," Haylett said. "What we found positively with the pandemic is that virtual learning works in a lot of ways and for a lot of kids who don't thrive with in-person school."

The Bristol resident acknowledges that running her own company has not always been easy going.

"Starting a startup company

is probably the hardest thing that I have ever done in my life, aside from having a child," Haylett said.

Still, she's found the work to be worth it, particularly in helping working parents navigate shared challenges.

"Having been in a professional environment, and trying to balance it all and the stress that's involved in that as a parent, knowing that I legitimately may be able to help another parent eliminate that stress is greatly satisfying," Haylett said.

She added that growing EnrichedHQ in the Green Mountain State has also been a highlight of running the business.

"There are a lot of really positive things happening here from a legislative perspective, from a funding perspective, from an innovation perspective, around building the technology ecosystem in the state," Haylett said.

LAUNCHVT ACCELERATOR
She pointed to the Lake Champlain Chamber's LaunchVT Accelerator Cohort as one of those positive happenings.

Each year eight Vermont startups are selected to participate in the LaunchVT cohort, which provides business development support to selected companies through workshops, coaching and access to a variety of other services. Throughout the 11-week program, participants receive mentorship from experts and have the opportunity to connect with other entrepreneurs.

EnrichedHQ was among the startups chosen to participate in this year's program, which kicked off on April 3.

Haylett noted she is particularly looking forward to connecting with other Vermonters in the tech industry through LaunchVT.

"Really getting to know the folks that are driven by growing this tech ecosystem, having access to them. It's a small community

and becoming part of that is really important to me," she said.

Haylett sees those connections as being a key part of EnrichedHQ's plans for growth in the months ahead.

"We want to bring on some key folks around technology marketing, partner alliance, and being able to tap into the Vermont scene would serve a lot of checkboxes for me," she said.

Other priorities for the business include working with more Vermont companies to incorporate EnrichedHQ into their employee benefits and expanding the marketplace's reach to marginalized communities, such as those living in rural areas.

"Rural areas might not have advanced STEM offerings, but now that they're available and highly effective virtually, all of a sudden these kids have access to programs they might not have had before," Haylett said. "When you can bring that to diverse communities that may not have previously been able to afford them as well as access them, that's really important to our mission going forward, and we'd like to start those programs here in Vermont."

More information about EnrichedHQ can be found online at enrichedhq.com.

"What we found positively with the pandemic is that virtual learning works in a lot of ways and for a lot of kids who don't thrive with in-person school."

— Carleen Haylett

"We get a lot of feedback from families around things their kids are interested in or topics they want their kids to learn. Our team goes out into the world and finds the best companies that are providing that."

— Carleen Haylett

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Bristol Beat

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Supported in part by the Addison County Independent.

MAUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)
the district's member towns but Starksboro.

Ahead of the April 16 vote, community members had a few opportunities to hear from the MAUSD board about the revised budget and provide feedback.

Multiple parents, students and staff members shared their spending priorities and budget concerns with the board during its April 2 meeting.

Several community members expressed discontent over Reduction in Force (RIF) notices issued to 17 MAUSD teachers prior to the meeting. The notices reflect a "worst-case scenario" in which the district is unable to pass a budget by July 1 and would be forced to operate with a budget equal to 87% of its current spending in accordance with state statute.

"Many people I know still plan on not voting 'Yes' on this budget, and it's not because they don't want to save teachers. It's because they're not happy about where the money is and what's not being cut and what is being cut," said Deb Mager Rickner, a Monkton resident and art teacher at Bristol Elementary School. "I think it's very important that the message needs to be understood that a lot of people aren't unhappy about the money and the fact that they have to pay taxes. They're unhappy about where the money is going and where it's not going."

MAUSD community members on April 2 shared their concern with how RIF notices were issued to staff in student-facing positions and the potential impact those reductions could have on various programs.

"I was a little shocked to see that half of our arts department was on the chopping block," Ryan Strobel, an art educator at Mount

Abraham Union High School, said of the RIF notices. "Ultimately, when we're voting, we're voting for our values. I personally value the incredible community that we have and the way that the arts are embedded in that community, so I would encourage everybody to vote 'Yes' and approve the budget."

District officials offered some clarity on the RIF notices in an April 9 post shared by Superintendent Patrick Reen to the district's social media and a message from the MAUSD Board shared on Front Porch Forum on April 8.

"A lot of people aren't unhappy about the money and the fact that they have to pay taxes. They're unhappy about where the money is going and where it's not going."

— Deb Mager Rickner

Despite disagreement from the community about who was issued RIF notices, the RIFs that have been issued are taking into account the worst-case scenario," the board's message reads. "There are still approximately \$500K worth of savings to realize from other budget areas in this same worst-case scenario. A passed budget makes these RIFs, and all other potential RIFs, unnecessary to consider."

NEW SPENDING PLAN

The revised budget voters will field on Tuesday achieves a total \$1,362,165 in cost savings by not filling 7.5 vacant positions, reducing teletherapy support due to filling related positions, reducing \$250,100 in funds for construction services and removing \$160,000 earmarked for creating alternative programming at the elementary school level.

Additional savings would be achieved by using \$305,000 from the district's Education Reserve Fund, which has a current balance of \$1,024,563.

With those reductions factored in, district officials project the proposed budget would translate to a homestead tax rate increase of 7.27-9.9% in each of the district's

member towns except Starksboro, after Common Level of Appraisals (CLAs) are applied.

The spending proposal defeated by voters on March 5 was expected to raise post-CLA education tax rates in those towns by 13-15.89%.

The new budget would lower the district-wide homestead tax rate by 3.22 cents, or 2.15%, from \$1.4991 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.4669.

That's around 7.87 cents less than the \$1.5456 homestead tax rate district officials had estimated would result from the initial budget shot down by voters.

Despite the decrease in the district tax rate, the majority of MAUSD's member towns are still expected to see tax increases due to low CLAs.

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

According to district estimates, after CLAs are applied:

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

MAUSD officials have noted that most taxpayers pay property taxes based on their income. District officials project the proposed spending plan would result in an increase of around \$295, or \$14.89%, for the approximately two-thirds of residents who pay education taxes based on their income. That estimate is based on the Addison County 2021 median income of \$77,978.

Montpelier

(Continued from Page 8A)
"I think if we get 10-20 individual emails, it has a meaningful impact," he said.

• The Salisbury Fish Hatchery. Only a month ago, it appeared that the hatchery — which breeds older fish and collects brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and steelhead trout eggs to help stock area lakes and streams — was going to close due to financial reasons. But Bray announced on Monday that the closing will likely be averted, thanks to Senate approval of resources to maintain the facility, which — through its trout stocking program — attracts anglers from throughout Vermont and the nation, who in turn help fuel the state economy.

The fish hatchery bill must still pass the House and be signed into law.

• Recent clear-cutting of timber on the eastern side of Snake Mountain. Weybridge resident John Myhre lamented the recent harvest, which decimated a walking trail on the mountain's eastern slope.

"It is past 'scarring' and on to destruction," he said of the harvest's impacts. "It was (through) a set of actions that were approved, but that doesn't mean that there's not some accountability within the realm of what's in the best interests, in general, of that area."

Officials noted the A. Johnson Lumber Company retained timber-harvesting rights on the property when the state acquired it in 1958.

Kenneth Johnson, in a recent letter to the editor in this paper, said that "while harvesting, we ensure the work complies with the Acceptable Management Practices for maintaining water quality in the state of Vermont. Before the harvest, our team was in discussions with state biologists, who flagged sensitive areas for the logger to avoid."

Bray said he received a "number of phone calls" when the Snake Mountain logging was underway last summer. He acknowledged the

endangered plants and species that had settled in that area. Bray said he contacted state environmental authorities, who determined the logging had met stewardship obligations for the land.

He noted the company wasn't advised to put down new seeds to replenish what had been taken from the harvested area; rather, the land is being left to "rejuvenate."

"Vermont is 75% forested and there is still active logging, but it's diminishing, because there's not that much money in the logging world anymore," said Bray, who noted A. Johnson recently altered its business plan. "And it's very difficult and dangerous work."

• Expanding the Bottle Bill. The state Senate in January chose not to override Gov. Phil Scott's veto of a bill, H.158, which would have updated the legal definitions of "beverage" and "container" to expand the types of products in the existing 5-cent deposit system by 2027. For example, wine bottles would have been added to the list and have a 15-cent deposit.

The legislation, among other things, would have also raised the handling fee, established a producer responsibility organization, and expanded the number of redemption locations.

"The arguments against it seem so flimsy to me," Weybridge resident Daniel Wright said. "What's the future (of the Bottle Bill)?"

Bray likened the Bottle Bill expansion effort to Groundhog Day, in terms of a repetitive cycle of developing a plan, only to see it fail to become enacted. He said a new Bottle Bill will need to be created, pass both chambers, and then earn Scott's or another governor's signature.

"We have a business model that says, 'Take ease over performance,'" Bray said.

• Affordable housing efforts. McGill pointed to bill H.829, which proposes, among other things, to raise taxes on the top 1% of Vermonter earners to generate

\$990 million to support housing needs over the next decade. The bill, according to McGill, would also raise funds through a supplemental property transfer fee on properties selling for more than \$750,000.

McGill said the state is looking to increase its investment of "permanent supportive housing" and in emergency shelters, rather than giving vouchers for houseless folks to stay in motels.

She said state officials lamented the extent to which homes are being turned into Airbnb's and other short-term rentals, thus resulting in a decline in the state's permanent housing stock. Lawmakers are looking at ways to incentivize property owners to reverse course and maintain permanent housing.

"We are having conversations on how we can find a balance," she said.

Bill Scott, of the Addison County Farm Bureau thanked the Bridport Grange and overseers of the various venues at which the 2024 legislative breakfasts were held. He and other devotees of the breakfasts — a give-and-take exercise in democracy between Addison County residents and their legislative delegation — suggested switching the gatherings from Mondays to Saturdays next year, in an effort to increase participation.

The half-dozen breakfasts held this year drew 20-40 people and very few legislators. Bray was alone in attending each breakfast and was often the sole legislator present. Legislators have noted that Mondays are their only off-day during the session, which they use to do their "regular" job and/or tend to family matters. And many of the county's lawmakers hold committee leadership positions, which require additional work — sometimes on Mondays.

"They suggested (Saturdays)," Scott said of the delegation. "But we've tried Saturdays before and it was a complete flop." Stay tuned...

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Gusakov

(Continued from Page 1A)
abroad. He previously worked in France around a decade ago and has remained connected to many of the friends and colleagues he met during his time there.

Those connections led him to join Charpentiers sans Frontières, or Carpenters Without Borders, an international nonprofit that volunteers its expertise in traditional woodworking to restoration projects throughout the globe.

His ties to Carpenters Without Borders are also what led him to return to France last year. Wallace-Gusakov said following the 2019 fire, he and other carpenters within the group became active in public discourse about how the cathedral would be rebuilt.

Notre-Dame, constructed in the 12th and 13th centuries, is a treasured example of medieval Gothic architecture. The oak timbers making up the cathedral's roof frame, fondly known as "the forest," had stood for upwards of

800 years prior to being engulfed by the 2019 blaze.

"In the weeks and months following the fire, there was this public narrative that was being promulgated that there wasn't the trees and the know-how, and that it would be impossible to rebuild the cathedral as it had been rebuilt, which was false," he explained.

Wallace-Gusakov said that in the midst of that debate a group of traditional timber frame carpenters, largely from France, banded together to construct a full-scale wooden truss with the same materials and techniques medieval carpenters would have used. They aimed to sway public opinion and French officials toward rebuilding Notre-Dame using traditional methods, and they proved to be successful.

In fact, the decision was made to even have timbers for the reconstruction project hand-hewn from a log into a beam using ax or chisel.

"That's a really huge deal in

France; no significant public building has had that as part of its back anytime in recent memory," Wallace-Gusakov said.

The decision to reconstruct the cathedral using traditional methods enabled some of Wallace-Gusakov's friends from Carpenters Without Borders to submit a bid for a part of the project.

"Their company in France (Ateliers Desmonts) applied for and got the contract to rebuild the nave and choir roof timber frames in the traditional manner," Wallace-Gusakov recalled. "They called and asked if I would be interested in participating even while they were responding to the bid request, and I said 'Yes, I would be really happy to if it could all work out.' Lo and behold, it did."

WORK IN FRANCE

In France, Wallace-Gusakov joined a crew of around 20 carpenters tasked with recreating the cathedral's nave roof frame. The oak structure consists of 57 trusses and is roughly 125 feet long, by 45 feet wide, by 35 feet tall.

"This is basically the triangular roof structure that sits at the very top of the cathedral's stone walls and creates the roof supports, the roof boards and roofing material itself," Wallace-Gusakov explained.

When he arrived in January of 2023, the Lincoln builder's work on the project largely consisted of hewing logs transported to the crew's workshop in Normandy, France, from forests throughout the country.

Wallace-Gusakov and other crew members used broadaxes to turn the logs into beams for the project.

During the latter three months of his trip, Wallace-Gusakov led construction of the principal trusses for the cathedral's nave.

"I was doing a lot of laying up different timbers and mapping their intersections with one another in and cutting that joinery and assembling them," he said of the process.

Wallace-Gusakov said the crew used over 1,000 oak timbers to complete the nave roof frame, which was test-fitted at the workshop in Normandy before being disassembled and shipped

to the cathedral on an island in the Seine River in the heart of Paris.

A NEAR CARBON COPY

For the project, Wallace-Gusakov was able to lean on many of the traditional woodworking skills he's acquired over the years and uses regularly at Goosewing Timberworks, the carpentry business he runs in Lincoln.

Still, he noted the monumental effort presented certain challenges, such as the complexities of reconstructing a near carbon copy of a centuries-old structure.

"I didn't know until I got over there the extent to which we were creating as exact as possible a replica of the relatively idiosyncratic medieval frame that had been," Wallace-Gusakov said.

Each of the 57 trusses the crew created were unique and required the team to recreate particularities based on historical documents and other reference material. Additionally, the crew had to account for the fact that the stone walls the nave roof frame would rest on are not perfectly straight or level.

"Our frame needed to be really precisely mapped to the actualities of the site, which meant that nothing was straight plumb or level," Wallace-Gusakov said. "That added a huge amount of complexity and difficulty to what we were doing, and it was quite a challenge."

Still, the timber framer noted that he's always up for a challenge and is grateful for the opportunity to help restore the iconic structure.

"I've never worked at a scale like this, and I've certainly never worked on a project that was so important, and inspiring, and full of energy in every direction," Wallace-Gusakov said. "It was very clear over and over again that we were part of an extraordinary project."

Later this year, Notre-Dame visitors will get a chance to see the work of Wallace-Gusakov and the around 1,000 other craftspeople who have helped restore the cathedral. The historic structure is set to partially reopen to the public in December.

A MAGICAL TIME

Looking back on his time in France, Wallace-Gusakov said getting to connect with fellow



WILL WALLACE-GUSAKOV credits the support of his family in enabling him to take on a project helping rebuild the iconic Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris last year. The carpenter was joined by his wife, Emily French, and two young children in France.

Photo courtesy of Will Wallace-Gusakov



LINCOLN CARPENTER WILL Wallace-Gusakov uses a broadaxe to hand-hew an oak beam for the Notre Dame cathedral's nave roof frame. The same technique would have been used by the medieval carpenters who constructed the original frame nearly 800 years ago.

Photo courtesy of Will Wallace-Gusakov

carpenters and others in the field was among the highlights of his trip.

He said he and fellow crew members would regularly enjoy an hour-long lunch "à la française" with each other.

"We all cooked and ate together, which was a pretty sweet thing for our crew," he said. "Every day, two carpenters would stop work early to cook lunch for everyone and another two would wash dishes afterward in a communal, rotating way. We all had a really good time getting to know one another and sharing in that."

The carpenter said he is also thankful to have gotten the opportunity to share the experience with his wife, Emily French, and two young children, who joined him in France.

"I really wouldn't have been able to take part without the support of my wife and family for moving over to France for six months," Wallace-Gusakov said.

"It really enabled me to take part in this, which was so meaningful personally and professionally."

Since returning stateside, Wallace-Gusakov has resumed operations at Goosewing Timberworks. He said working on the cathedral has opened his eyes to the range of future projects he and other Vermont woodworkers can take on.

"Just the idea that my colleagues and I back here in Vermont can tackle and perform various types of projects and can work at different scales and at different capacities and in different countries is pretty exciting," he said.

Wallace-Gusakov has also spent the past several months sharing photos and details from his work on the cathedral at talks throughout the county. For those interested in learning more about his time in France, Wallace-Gusakov is set to offer another presentation at the Worthen Public Library in South Hero on July 17 at 6:30 p.m.

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MUHS boys' tennis team takes on community all-stars

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury Indoor Tennis (MIT) on Saturday afternoon hosted the second annual inter-generational Community Tennis Match, pitting members of the Middlebury Union High School

boys' tennis team, a contender for the Division I championship this spring, vs. many of the area's top adult players, who competed under the banner of Community Team MIT, or CTMIT.

CTMIT won a year ago, 7-5, but

this time around youth prevailed over experience, 8-4, in an event jointly organized by MIT and MUHS team coach Ken Schoen.

Schoen said the final score was closer than it looked, noting the Tigers prevailed in five tiebreakers after players had split two sets. He was pleased with his high school team's poise against veteran competition, including parents of some of his team's members.

"The Community team were very good, accomplished tennis players. It was quite an accomplishment for the boys. It was exceptional how emotionally

tough and composed the Tigers were throughout this match," he said. "(I'm) looking forward to this season with this wonderful group of athletes."

The scores were:

- 1st Singles: Jackson Murray (MUHS) defeated Aaron Crystal (CTMIT), 6-3, 6-2. This was a duel of current and former Tiger No. 1 players.

- 2nd Singles: Kellan Bartlett (MUHS) defeated Jeff Lu (CTMIT), 6-4, 3-6, 1-0 (10-5).

- 3rd Singles: Charles Young (MUHS) defeated Luis Camacho (CTMIT) 3-6, 6-1, 1-0 (10-7).

- 4th Singles: Steve Young (CTMIT) defeated Iver Anderson (MUHS), 6-1, 6-2.

- 5th Singles: Nate Cook-Yoder (MUHS) defeated Ben Marshall (CTMIT), 6-1, 1-6, 1-0 (10-8). Marshall is another former Tiger

No. 1.

- 6th Singles: Brian Newton (MUHS) defeated Colin Kriwoy (CTMIT), 1-6, 7-6, 1-0 (10-7).

- 7th Singles: Avery Hamilton (MUHS) defeated Chris Eberly (See Tennis, Page 3B)



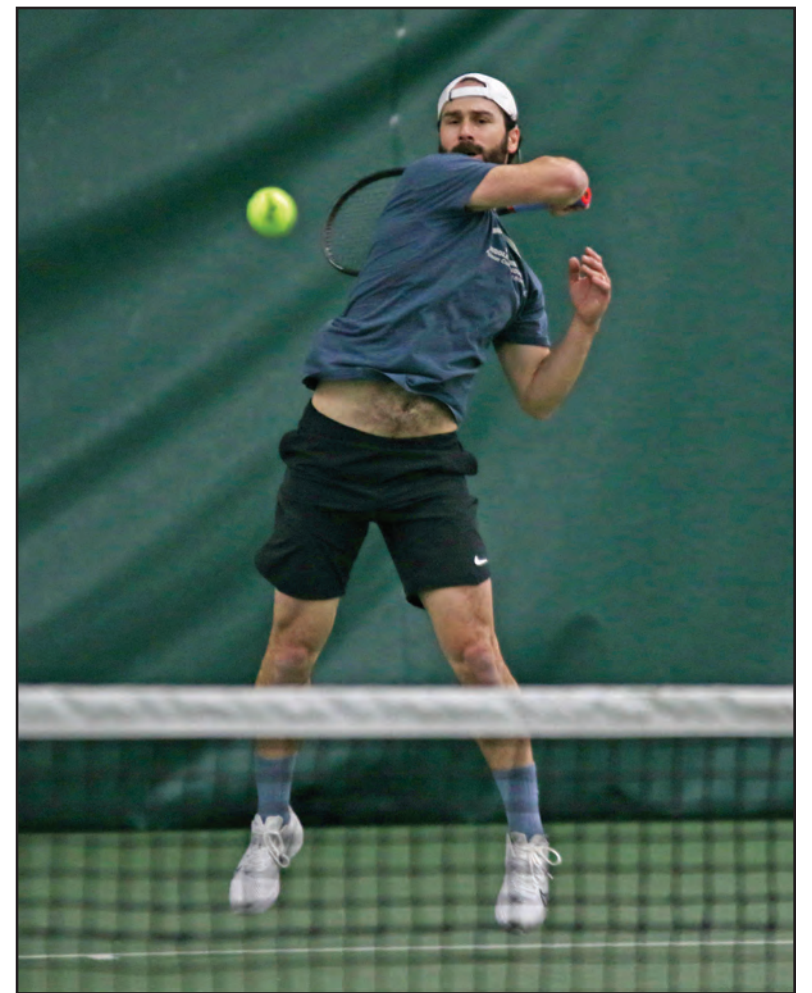
JACKSON MURRAY SENDS a backhand over the net toward former Tiger No. 1 Aaron Crystal in Saturday's Community Tennis Match duel between current and former MUHS No. 1 boys' tennis players. Murray won, 6-3, 6-2.

Independent photo/Steve James



FORMER MIT OWNER David Ignat, with flowers, was honored at during Saturday's Community Tennis Match at MIT for his contributions to tennis in the area, including turning over his business to a nonprofit. Also pictured are MUHS Coach Ken Schoen, left, and MIT employee Heather Potter next to Ignat. Ignat's wife, Eleanor, was a co-honoree, but was unable to attend.

Independent photo/Steve James



AARON CRYSTAL RIPS a forehand toward current Tiger No. 1 Jackson Murray in Saturday's Community Tennis Match duel between current and former MUHS No. 1 boys' tennis players.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panther softball sweeps Bowdoin on new field

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College softball team so far seems to be enjoying its new home field.

With Sunday's 5-2, 7-0 doubleheader sweep of NESCAC rival Bowdoin, the Panthers are now 5-1 (4-0 in league play) on their newly installed field-turf surface off South Street.

As well as the weather-proof field, the facility also includes bullpens and batting cages with protective netting, seating behind home plate, and an enclosed press box — the same as the baseball program's new facility next door.

Coach Kelly Bever said the team, as it did on Sunday, has been getting timely hitting, clutch pitching, solid defense, and contributions from its veterans and younger players. Meanwhile the Panthers' overall quickness had served them well defensively on the fast surface.

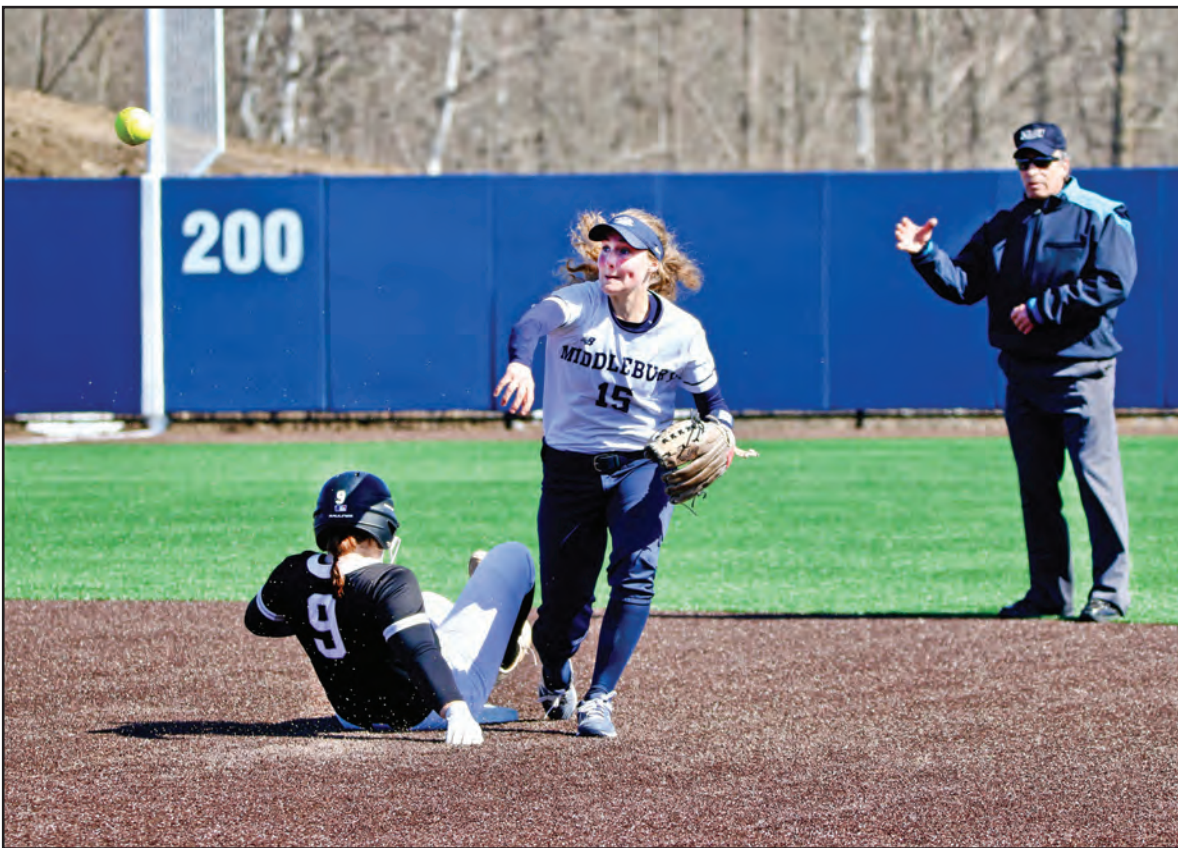
"We've got a pretty good mix of speed and young and old, so it's been a pretty good couple of weeks here for us," Bever said.

In Sunday's opener the Polar Bears jumped on senior starter Jewel Ashbrook for a pair of runs. Anika Ewert led off with an infield hit, stole a base and scored on JK Bradley's single, and with two outs Chloe Garcia doubled Bradley home.

With two outs in the Bowdoin third, two batters singled, and Bever called for sophomore Samantha Hausman to take over in the circle. She induced a groundout to end the threat, and tossed 4.1 innings of scoreless ball to earn the win, allowing two hits, striking out three and walking none.

Middlebury tied the game with two runs in the bottom of the third. Junior Nina Schroeder singled to lead off, and senior shortstop Cece

(See Softball, Page 3B)



PANTHER SOPHOMORE SECOND baseman Marina Lyon fires to first hoping for a double play on Sunday during the second game of the Middlebury College softball team's doubleheader sweep of visiting Bowdoin.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panther nine takes three from visiting Polar Bears

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College baseball team swept three games from visiting Bowdoin this past weekend, and then defeated Norwich in a non-league game on Tuesday to improve to 14-7. The Panthers scored in double digits in all four outings.

The Panthers swept the Polar Bears on Saturday, 17-3 and 10-2, and then outslugged them on Sunday, 18-11, before besting the Cadets, 11-1.

Middlebury remained at 2-1 in the NESCAC West standings, trailing Amherst (15-4, 4-2) and Wesleyan (13-4, 4-2). Bowdoin (10-10) remained at 0-2 in NESCAC East. Norwich dropped to 4-15.

The Panthers are scheduled to host NESCAC West rival Williams for a three-game set this weekend, with a 4 p.m. game on Friday and a doubleheader set for noon on Saturday at the team's new field-turf stadium off South Street, which was dedicated in a ceremony before this past Sunday's baseball and softball games.

Against Bowdoin in Saturday's

opener the Panthers plated 14 runs in the first three innings, starting the parade across home plate by scoring eight two-out runs in the second inning. Kyle McCausland, David Byrne and Mitchell Schroeder homered in the inning; Schroeder's was a grand slam.

Middlebury added six more runs in the third. Schroeder belted a two-run homer, and Borter and Byrne drilled two-run doubles.

The Polar Bears got on the board in the fourth on a Chris Dirks three-run homer, but that was all winning pitcher Owen Tross would allow in five innings. Tross struck out five, while two relievers tossed shutout innings in the seven-inning win.

In Saturday's second game, the Panthers scored once in the first on a McCausland sacrifice fly. Then they added six runs in the second. Andrew Ashley socked a two-run double, and after the Panthers loaded the bases Schroeder capped the inning with his second grand slam of the afternoon to make it 7-0.

In the fourth, the Panthers made

(See Baseball, Page 3B)



MIDDLEBURY HURLER SAWYER Duarte went five innings on Sunday, striking out five, to earn the win against Bowdoin and help the host Panthers sweep three weekend games against the visiting Polar Bears.

Independent photo/Steve James.

Schedule

SCHEDULE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls' Lacrosse	
4/11 Stowe at VUHS.....	4:30 PM
4/13 Essex at VUHS.....	11 AM
4/13 St. Albans at MUHS.....	11:45 AM
4/15 Stowe at MUHS.....	4:30 PM
4/16 VUHS at Hartford.....	4:30 PM
4/17 CVU at MUHS.....	4:30 PM
4/20 VUHS at St. J.....	11 AM
Boys' Lacrosse	
4/11 Harwood at MUHS.....	4 PM
4/12 Fairfax at OV.....	4:30 PM
4/13 Stowe at Mt. Abe.....	11 AM
4/13 MUHS at St. Albans.....	11 AM
4/16 Hartford at Mt. Abe.....	4:30 PM
4/19 Randolph at OV.....	4:30 PM
4/19 St. J at Mt Abe.....	4:30 PM
Baseball	
4/15 Leland & Gray at OV.....	4:30 PM
4/20 OV at Springfield.....	11 AM
4/20 VUHS at Thetford.....	11 AM
Softball	
4/16 Oxbow at VUHS.....	4:30 PM
4/20 VUHS at Thetford.....	11 AM
Boys' Tennis	
4/12 CVU at MUHS.....	3:30 PM
4/15 Stowe at MUHS.....	3:30 PM
4/17 MUHS at Colchester.....	3:30 PM
Girls' Tennis	
4/13 MUHS at Harwood.....	3:30 PM
4/17 Spaulding at MUHS.....	3:30 PM
4/19 MUHS at St. Albans.....	3:30 PM
Track & Field	
4/11 Mt Abe at MMU.....	3:30 PM
4/11 MUHS at Burlington.....	3:15 PM
4/15 VUHS at CVU.....	3:30 PM
4/17 Mt Abe at Burlington.....	3:15 PM
Ultimate	
4/12 Burlington at MUHS.....	4 PM
4/17 Rice at MUHS.....	4 PM
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Women's Lacrosse	
4/13 Midd at Tufts.....	Noon
4/14 Hamilton at Midd.....	Noon
4/20 Trinity at Midd.....	Noon
4/24 Midd at Williams.....	6 PM
Men's Lacrosse	
4/13 Tufts at Midd.....	2 PM
4/20 Midd at Trinity.....	6:30 PM
4/24 Williams at Midd.....	5 PM
Baseball	
4/12 Williams at Midd.....	4 PM
4/13 Williams at Midd.....	Noon
4/16 Midd at Plattsburgh.....	4 PM
4/19 Amherst at Midd.....	4 PM
4/20 Amherst at Midd (2).....	Noon
Softball	
4/13 Midd at Colby (2).....	Noon
4/14 Midd at Tufts (2).....	Noon
4/20 Midd at Williams (2).....	1 PM
4/21 Trinity at Midd (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.

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS	
Girls' Lacrosse	
4/10 Harwood at MUHS.....	Late
Boys' Lacrosse	
4/10 OV at Mt. Abe.....	Postponed to 4/29
Baseball	
4/9 Burr & Burton vs OV.....	12-2
Softball	
4/9 Burr & Burton vs OV.....	5-4 (8)
Girls' Tennis	
4/10 U-32 at MUHS.....	Late
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Women's Lacrosse	
4/3 Midd vs RPI.....	19-1
4/6 Midd vs Colby.....	17-6
Men's Lacrosse	
4/6 Midd vs Colby.....	7-5
4/9 Midd vs. St. Lawrence.....	13-7
Baseball	
4/7 Midd vs Bowdoin.....	17-3
4/7 Midd vs Bowdoin.....	10-2
4/8 Midd vs Bowdoin.....	18-11
4/9 Midd vs Norwich.....	11-1
4/10 RPI at Midd.....	Late
Softball	
4/6 Bates at Midd (2).....	Postponed
4/7 Midd vs Bowdoin.....	5-2
4/7 Midd vs Bowdoin.....	7-0

Middlebury women's hoop has a record breaker: Alexa Mustafaj

In the quarterfinals of the NESCAC women's basketball tournament on Feb. 17, Middlebury was down by four in the third quarter to the dreaded Amherst Mammoths.

At the 5:13 mark, Middlebury's Alexa Mustafaj was fouled going to the hoop and stepped to the line for two free throws.

She made the first — and the PA announcer informed the crowd that she had tied the career scoring record of 1,602 points held by Middlebury Hall of Famer Sladja Kovajanic '93.

No problem. She calmly sank the second to become the leading scorer in the 45-year history of women's hoop at Middlebury.

She ended the season with 1,628 points and led the NESCAC conference in scoring with 23.6 points a game. She scored 43 in a game against MIT and had four 30-point games: Union (36), Williams (33), Amherst (33), Tufts (31). Alexa earned a raft of postseason honors, including first team All-NESCAC and honorable mention All-American.

Now, here's the good news: Alexa is a junior!

She will back next year — along with other starters from this year's team including Augusta Dixon, the leading rebounder in NESCAC, who had 24- and 22-rebound games. Only two seniors are departing.

Of course, Alexa made that foul shot against Amherst — she shoots from the line at an 83.1% rate, second in the league. She made four more foul shots near the end to ice a tough 56-48 tournament win.

Alexa Mustafaj is a shooter with nearly Caitlin Clark range. At 5'5",

she is a diminutive dynamo, who plays the off-guard (or, aptly, the "shooting" guard) position. Junior Callie Messina capably plays the point. Alexa led the conference in three-point hoops (52) and had the best percentage in the league (.331) from the arc.

She shoots right-handed, but "I actually prefer going to my left and finishing on the left side of the court. I feel more explosive on the left side. When my dad played basketball, it was the same way with him."

So, how did a girl from a "big Albanian family" in Yonkers, N.Y., decide to come to rural Vermont for college? "Middlebury was the first school to contact me," she explained. "KJ (Middlebury coach KJ Krasco) and Savannah Morgan (assistant coach, at the time) saw me in a tournament in my sophomore year when I was playing for an AAU team, the Empire State Blue Flame."

The recruiting was complicated by COVID. "We spent a lot of time zooming," KJ Krasco said. Alexa came to Middlebury without ever having been able to visit formally as the campus was "closed." Her family, however, did drive up to Middlebury just to get a look at the place.

The human factor was important. "I just clicked with the players on the team," she says now. "I wanted to play basketball in college, but also have a life outside basketball."

Alexa's family has nurtured her

talent. "We are a big basketball family. When we played in Hoboken last winter against Stevens Tech, the stands were filled with my uncles and aunts and cousins!" Her older brother, Avni, was an All-Liberty League player on the Vassar College team, graduating last year.

"We live on a dead-end street, a cul de sac," she told me, "and my cousins' house is on the top of the street. We have a hoop out on the street, and I played with my cousins and my brother (three older boys) every day after school until the sun went down. We

still do!

"One day, I went home and I was crying. My mother said, 'You can't come in here and cry. Stick it out' — and I didn't cry anymore."

This story likely contributes to why her coach, KJ, calls Alexa "the most competitive player I have ever coached — the way she competes is infectious. She plays aggressively; that's why her foul shooting is so important. Her teammates see how hard she works."

KJ is also quick to note how "humble and kind-hearted she is. She always has the team in mind." She speaks glowingly of this team's "culture": "This group loves to be in the gym, either alone or collectively."

Alexa also has great admiration for her coach: "KJ has instilled so much confidence in me. She has been a mentor to me on and off the floor! We have a great relationship and trust each other. I will forever be grateful."

A sociology major, Alexa's plan

for the future at this point is to pursue a career in the sports world. In Winter Term '23, she took the course "Coaching and Issues in Sports" led by Midd alumnus and Philadelphia Phillies scout Erick Dalton '04. In that class, students were introduced to a number of Middlebury alums making their lives in sports-related fields.

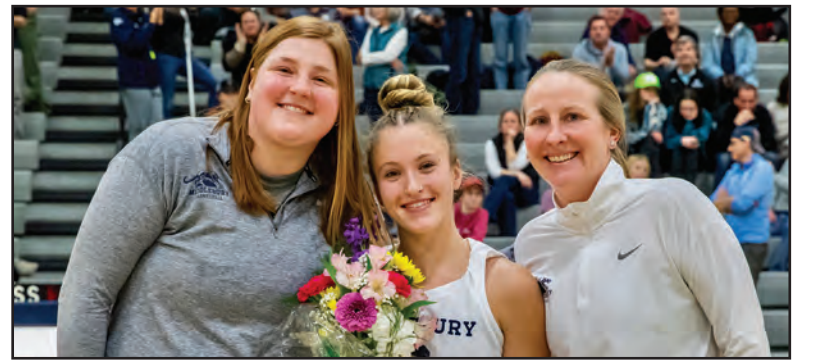
Last fall, Alexa undertook an internship in the athletic department at Middlebury with Athletic Director Erin Quinn and Director of Athletic Communications Alexis Paquette. This upcoming summer she has an internship with the David Ortiz Children's Foundation.

The expectations for next year are high indeed for Alexa and her teammates and coaches. Each of the last three years, the team has improved its record: 12-11 ('22), 15-11 ('23), 17-9 ('24). This year's team is back largely intact. The goal is a NESCAC Championship and an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

Team goals are paramount. Barring injury, however, Alexa next year will likely break the men's scoring record of 1,844 points, set by John Humphrey '88, and perhaps become the first 2,000-point scorer in Middlebury basketball history.

Have you jumped on the women's college basketball bandwagon, inspired by Caitlin Clark? Were you one of the 14 million people who watched Clark's Iowa team play LSU in the national tournament?

Well, then, let's get together next Nov. 17 in Pepin Gymnasium to watch this D3 version of exciting women's college hoop.



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE COACHES Catherine Harrison, left, and KJ Krasco, right, celebrate Panther guard Alexa Mustafaj and her record-breaking performance — and the Panthers' victory over the Amherst Mammoths — in the NESCAC Tournament.

Photo by Will Costello

Karl Lindholm, Ph.D., is the Emeritus Dean of Advising and Assistant Professor of American Studies at Middlebury College. He can be contacted at lindholm@middlebury.edu.



ALEXA MUSTAJ GOES to the hoop! Mustafaj established the career scoring record in Middlebury women's basketball this winter — as a junior! She averaged 23.3 points a game, leading NESCAC, for the 17-9 Panthers and earning All-American recognition.

Photo by Will Costello

Bulldogs topple OV baseball

BRANDON — Visiting Burr & Burton on Tuesday dealt the Otter Valley Union High School baseball team a 12-2 setback in the opener for both teams.

The Bulldogs jumped on OV for 10 runs in the second inning off losing pitcher Isaiah Wood, a rally sparked by two-run hits by Seb Dostal and JT Wright and aided by four Otter errors.

Dostal earned the pitching win

for BBA, striking out 10 in four innings of the five-inning contest.

Jacob Warrell and Wood had the only hits for OV, both in the fourth inning. Warrell scored on a passed ball, and Wood raced home from third when another OV runner was caught in a rundown.

Jackson Howe tossed 2.1 innings of scoreless relief for OV in his first varsity outing.

Sports BRIEFS



BBA nips OV softball in 8 innings

BRANDON — Visiting Burr and Burton Academy defeated the Otter Valley softball team on Tuesday, 5-4, in eight innings.

Bulldog Madison King singled with one out in the eighth and eventually came around to score the winning run on an error.

Winning pitcher Malayla Greene, who tossed the final five innings, then retired the Otters in

order in the bottom of the inning to nail down the victory.

BBA took a 3-0 lead in the first on two hits and two OV miscues.

OV scored twice in the bottom of the inning, using hits from Sophia Parker and Adyson Humiston off BBA starter Moriah Heberts, plus a walk and a passed ball.

OV took a 4-3 lead in the fourth on a Humiston RBI hit, which

plated Noelle Seigle. Humiston led OV with two doubles and a single. But Greene shut down the Otters the rest of the way.

BBA tied the score in the sixth on two errors and Allie Aubin's RBI hit.

Sierra Cormany took the hard-luck loss for OV, striking out seven and walking none in eight innings while allowing six hits.

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Softball

(Continued from Page 1B)

Ziegler's sacrifice bunt moved her to second. Sophomore Kristyn Carroll singled, with Schroeder holding at third. Sophomore Caitlin Viola's RBI grounder and a double by sophomore McKenna Long plated the tying runs.

The Panthers scored three more in the fifth. Schroeder again sparked the rally, this time with a double off losing pitcher Anna Halliday, and freshman Skylar Wong pinch-ran. Ziegler singled, with Wong reaching third, and Ziegler then stole second. Carroll walked to load the bases, and Viola singled home two runs. Polar Bear reliever Ellie Sullivan then walked McKenna Lott and senior catcher Megan Fox to force in the third run.

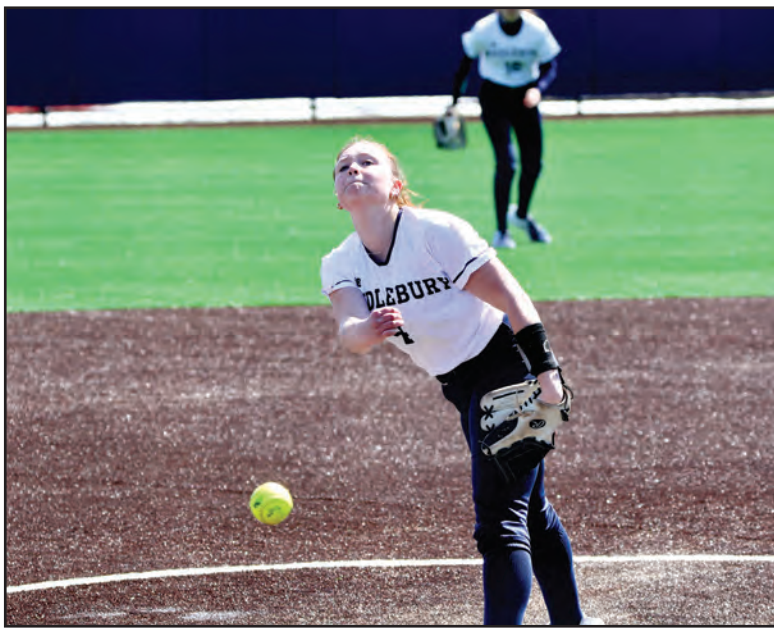
No rally was necessary in the nightcap, as Lott tossed a four-hit shutout, walking three and striking out three. Lott occasionally had to work out of jams, but made pitches when she had to, while the Tigers played errorless defense and made a couple of sparkling plays behind her. In particular freshman Kelley Dever in right field made a nice running catch, and Ziegler at shortstop made handling a tough hop look easy.

The Panthers made only one error on the day; it was in the first game and didn't figure in the scoring.

"We've been pretty sharp defensively this year. It's been a big difference between this year and last year," Bever said.

Two of Lott's three walks came with two out in the first inning, but Lott fanned the next batter to snuff the threat. Middlebury then took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the inning on Carroll's leadoff hit, a double Fox scorched into the left-center gap, and a passed ball and throwing error that allowed Fox to come around to score.

The Panthers stretched their lead to 4-0 in the second inning. Losing pitcher Maddie Current, who went the distance, walked Wong and Ziegler. With two out, Schroeder's opposite-field hit landed in front of



PANTHER SOPHOMORE PITCHER McKenna Lott fires a pitch during the second game of the Middlebury's softball Sunday doubleheader sweep of visiting Bowdoin. Lott tossed a four-hit shutout for the pitching win.

Independent photo/Steve James

and spun away from the Bowdoin left fielder, who had a tough day, and it went for a two-run double.

Middlebury made it 6-0 off Current in the fourth. Carroll legged out an infield hit and stole second, and scored when Viola doubled to left. Lott then blooped a single down the right-field line to score Viola.

The Panthers made it 7-0 in the sixth when freshman Olivia Scholes singled and scored on what was ruled an opposite-field triple by Wong after discussion in the press box over whether the ball should have been caught. Regardless, the point was moot with Long tossing a shutout and the Panthers cruising.

One statistical quirk in the second game pleased Bever: All seven of the Panthers' runs were scored with two outs, an indicator of timely hitting.

"We just talked about it," she said after the game. "That's a pretty important thing for us."

Overall, Bever said she's "feeling pretty good" about her team and its chances, but is mindful that typically stronger NESCAC teams such as Tufts and Williams are lying in wait.

"We haven't faced the meat of the NESCAC," Bever said. "The teams we've faced, it hasn't been perfect, but we've done what we needed to do. We've gotten timely pitching when we needed to get timely pitching. If we continue on that path and continue to score with two outs, we're going to be in a good spot."

Bever had nothing but praise for the program's new facility, which she calls "really amazing," and not just because of true hops and fewer weather postponements.

She said it means the team's athletes no longer have to share time in the spring in indoor facilities, or set up bases on a turf soccer field while waiting for their field to dry off after snow or rain. The field's earlier and more predictable availability is not just about sports, she said, but also allowing the athletes to better focus on their studies.

"For them academically it's life-changing. They're able to practice at 4:30 instead of six o'clock. They're able to go to dinner at 7:30 instead of 8:30," Bever said. "They're able to get more time in the academic world."

Midd teams celebrate new diamonds

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College on Sunday celebrated its newly renovated Baseball and Softball Complex with a ceremony that included donors, parents, both teams and college officials. The event capped a multi-year project to replace the natural fields with synthetic turf, create bigger covered dugouts with better seating for home and visiting teams, and many other improvements.

"This magnificent new facility represents an exceptional partnership between donors and the college," said College President Laurie Patton. "We are grateful to the alumni and parents who contributed \$2.8 million to help create one of the finest facilities in Division III, and to the many who have supported Middlebury baseball and softball over the years. Their dedication has given our student-athletes a facility that matches their tenacity and commitment to their sport."

The project included adding the following upgraded items at each venue:

- Covered dugouts with seating and storage for home and visiting teams.
- Synthetic turf field surfaces.
- Batting cages and bullpens.

- ADA-compliant pedestrian walkways and grandstands.
- Enclosed press boxes.
- Public address and sound system.
- Stands behind home plates.
- Fencing and netting to protect stands and other amenities.
- Padded outfield fencing and backstops.

Director of Athletics Erin Quinn said the college's Department of Athletics has worked over the past few years to enhance and upgrade athletics facilities for many teams and the broader Middlebury College community.

The projects would not be possible without the support of generous donors, Quinn added. Athletics opted for turf over more traditional grass and dirt fields to better weather the New England climate, he said.

"These new enhancements have already exemplified their worth, with our teams being able to practice outside as early as February and host early March games," Quinn said. "We are excited to bring a better experience to our student-athletes, coaches, facilities staff and fans."

Head softball coach Kelly Bever said the new turf field has enabled

the team to practice much earlier outside and to start practices earlier.

"We were outside practicing on the field on Feb. 8," she said. "The ability to start practices right after classes and labs are over at 4:30 p.m. instead of waiting until after 6 p.m. to practice inside has given our student-athletes more time for studying and proper nutrition."

Head baseball coach Mike Leonard said upgrading Forbes Field to turf also has changed the baseball experience for players and coaches. The team had their first practice on the field in mid-February. In previous years, the team was not on the field until early April.

"The new facility has improved our ability to develop players, prepare our team for competitions, and has allowed us to play more home games," Leonard said. "It has been nothing short of a game changer for our program."

As of early this week the teams were each 5-1 in home games on their new fields heading into games scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Editor's note: This story was provided by Middlebury College Sports Information.

Tennis

(Continued from Page 1B)

(CTMIT), 6-1, 7-6.

• 8th Singles: Burge Ayres (CTMIT) defeated Baxter Harrington (MUHS), 6-4, 6-3.

• 1st Doubles: Caleb Kenna & Justin Smith (CTMIT) defeated Milo Rees & Eddie Fallis (MUHS), 6-0, 6-3.

• 2nd Doubles: Eliot Heminway & Cook Yoder (MUHS) defeated Ben Marshall & Charlie Biss (CTMIT) 3-6, 6-1, 1-0 (10-7).

• 3rd Doubles: Alan Colthorpe & David Hamilton (CTMIT) defeated Silas Taylor and Nathan Stefani (MUHS), 6-2, 6-3.

• 4th Doubles: Jeff Lu and

Steve Young (CTMIT) defeated Matias Citarella & Emery Richards-Lindoke (MUHS), 6-0, and defeated Kirin Biancosino & Yankee Rheume, 6-0, in the second set.

HONOREES

As well as lively, but friendly, competition, the event also honored pivotal figures in the development of tennis in Addison County.

They were, as related by Schoen: Middlebury Indoor Tennis founders David and Eleanor Ignat, who eventually turned their business over to the Vermont Community Foundation. "That generous donation has reaped huge

benefits in advancing tennis and fitness for all ages," Schoen wrote in an email.

• Former MUHS Tennis Coach Bob Crystal, now battling Parkinson's Disease. Crystal coached the Tiger boys' team for nine years starting in 2000, and during one of those years did double duty as the girls' team coach.

• Bob Rathburn, who Schoen said "has been instrumental in developing tennis in Shoreham" and in "influencing MUHS boys to play" the sport.

Baseball

(Continued from Page 1B)

it 9-0 on a Gus Parker homer and Borter RBI double. McCausland singled in the final Panther run in the sixth. Bowdoin spoiled the shutout with two runs in the seventh. Justin Lessing earned the win with six scoreless innings, allowing four hits and fanning seven batters.

On Sunday, the Panthers took a 10-2 lead after three innings and tacked on five more in the fifth on the way to another big win. McCausland's three-run homer in the first gave Middlebury the lead, and the Panthers added seven more runs in the third on four hits, an error, two walks and three hit batters. Beau Root, Borter, Nathan Samii and Byrne poked the hits.

In the fifth, Sammy Smith followed a Byrne single with a homer to start the five-run outburst. McCausland had an RBI hit, and the Panthers scored unearned runs on a sac fly and groundout. Later, RBI hits by Zip Malley and Isaac Rosario keyed the Panthers' three-run eighth.

By then winning pitcher Sawyer Duarte's day was done. He struck out five and allowed four runs on five hits, including a two-run homer by Ben McKenzie, who in the ninth added a grand slam to make the final score look a bit more respectable. Luke Chessie also homered earlier for Bowdoin.

On Tuesday, the Panthers used the long ball to jump to a 7-0 lead in the first three innings. McCausland hit a two-run shot in the first, Schroeder plated three runs with a homer in the second, and Anthony Pellagrini launched a two-run dinger in the third inning.

Norwich got its only run off winning pitcher Emmet George in the fifth. George tossed five innings, allowing four hits and fanning four batters. Three Panther relievers teamed up to blank the Cadets the rest of the way.

Middlebury added two runs in the sixth on RBI hits by Borter and Schroeder, and two more in the seventh on Parker's two-run double.



MIDDLEBURY RIGHT FIELDER Kyle McCausland makes a catch during the Panther baseball team's Sunday home win over Bowdoin. Middlebury also swept a Saturday doubleheader vs. the Polar Bears.

Independent photo/Steve James.

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Leicester

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

NEWS

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., Apr 13, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center at the Four Corners. Refreshments sold and all are welcome!

Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds dog owners of the requirement to register dogs. Cost information is available on the town website. To avoid penalties and fees, be sure to register your dog(s) before the dog census is scheduled.

Green Up Day is Sat., May 4. As usual, a free volunteer luncheon for workers will be held at the Senior

Center from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Lunch tickets double as raffle tickets. Filled Green Up bags can be left at the trailer at the Town Shed that morning. Volunteers are eligible to pick up a free Leicester grocery bag as well as choice of a Leicester cap or visor. The state of Vermont is attempting to achieve a Guinness World Record by gathering at least 5,000 pledges to help clean up trash. You can sign up at the Town Office to be part of the effort. For more information, or to volunteer to clean a particular segment of roadway, contact Diane Benware at 247-3786.

Monkton

Have a news tip? Call Liz Pecor at 453-2180

NEWS

MONKTON — The Monkton Museum & Historical Society is pleased to announce a presentation on Stephen Bates, the first black sheriff in Vermont, who held his position for many years in Vergennes. Jane Williamson of the Rokeby Museum and research assistant Alicia Grangent will discuss how they brought him back to life through recognition with a state sign and displays at the Vergennes Bixby Library and Police Department. In person at the Monkton Town Hall Community Room, Monday, April

15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more info or questions contact monktonmhs@gmail.com

There will also be an announcement on Monkton's Front Porch Forum before this meeting that will include a Zoom link for those who are unable to attend.

Also the Monkton Museum & Historical Society is sending out membership renewals. If you are interested in becoming a member for the 2024-2025 year, please reach out via email to monktonmhs@gmail.com.

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- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

9:30 Wednesdays - Methodist Church
9:30 Thursdays - Congregational Church
10:30 Fridays - Lincoln Library

Helping Young Families Get The Right Start

Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Middlebury writes:

**"Very positive!
10 out of 10!!!"**

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

community calendar

april 11 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 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 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 at 802-453-4015 or librarian@nhcl.org.

april 12 FRIDAY

"Feminism, Fascism and the Future" conference in Middlebury. Friday, April 12, 9:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m., Franklin Environmental Center, The Orchard-Hillcrest 103, 531 College St. See April 11 listing.

Knights in Italy spaghetti dinner in Bristol. Friday, April 12, 5-7 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish, 11 School St. The St. Ambrose Knights offer meals available for dine-in or take-out. Menu includes spaghetti with sauce, garlic bread, salad, and dessert. Cost \$12 adults/\$6 children 12 and under/\$30 for a family All proceeds will go toward furthering the Knights' mission of aiding the community in a variety of ways including a donation of winter coats to 5-town schools. No pre-order necessary.

Family Movie Night in Ferrisburgh. Friday, April 12, 6 p.m., Ferrisburgh Union Meeting Hall. This month's selection will be "Sing 2," featuring an all-star cast of vocalists as a follow up to the original film, "Sing."

"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.

april 13 SATURDAY

Monthly wildlife walk in Middlebury. Saturday, April 13, 7 a.m., Otter View Park, Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. Please take common sense COVID-19 precautions. Stay home if you are feeling ill, and wear a mask if you are unvaccinated. For more information, call 802-388-6019.

Forest management walk in Brandon. Saturday, April 13, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Wolf Tree Forest, 1630 Country Club Road. Join Coverts Cooperator Len Schmidt, Wolf Tree co-owner Jennie Masterson and Rutland County Natural Resource Conservation Service staff for a look at on-the-ground conservation practices. See and discuss a combination of past, in-progress, and planned projects including erosion control on logging trails, mast/crop tree releases, a patch cut for early successional regeneration, forest density reduction for wildlife, both mechanical and chemical control of invasive species, and brush piles for wildlife habitat. Sturdy shoes and tick protection strongly recommended. The pizza oven will be going for those who wish to stay for a bite to eat. Register online at tinyurl.com/ForestWalkBrandon. E-mail Len with questions at woodwork@gmavt.net.

Spring Fling crafters market in Middlebury. Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., VFW 530 Exchange St. The Middlebury Farmers Market will have regular winter market vendors selling produce, prepared foods, cbd products, maple products, jams and breads. Crafter vendors will sell jewelry, bath and body products, calendars, prints, cards, wooden products, knitted items, maple products, goat soap, herbal products, resin art, tie dye clothing and more. Live music by Oh'Anleigh. Vendor gift raffle.

Youth mental health discussion in Monkton. Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.-noon, Monkton Town Hall Community Room, 92 Monkton Ridge. Join local experts for an informative and interactive panel discussion about youth mental health and community wellness. Panelists include Dr. Steven Schlozman of UVM College of Medicine; Steven Berbeco, director of United Way of Northern Vermont Mental Health Initiatives; Heather Bessette of Counseling Service of Addison County; Monkton Central School counselor Holly Tempini. Gus Jordan, former executive director of Health and Counseling Services at Middlebury College, will be moderator. Discussion of youth mental health challenges, social and digital management for children and adolescents, and individual and community opportunities to positive outcomes. Q&A will follow.

Dead Creek Visitor Center opening weekend in Addison. Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 966 Route 17. The Dead Creek Visitor Center opens for the season. Come by to learn about Vermont's ecology and observe some beautiful displays. Kids can do a scavenger hunt to enter their names in a fall drawing for binoculars and a microscope. The Visitor Center will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Prize Bingo in Leicester. Saturday, April 13, 1 p.m., Senior Center, Leicester Four Corners. All are welcome and refreshments served.

Takeout only turkey and all the fixin's supper in Vergennes. Saturday, April 13, 5 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main



Tie some flies

ORWELL FREE LIBRARY will host an introduction to fly fishing with local fly-fishing guide Liz Orr on Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m., at Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Orr will explain fly fishing flies and demonstrate basic techniques.

Photo/Metro Creative

Street, across from the Vergennes Opera House. Menu includes roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, roll and dessert. Adults \$12. Take out preorder only. Must place order by 7 p.m., Thursday, April 11, at 802-877-3150.

"Lost and Found on the High Seas" play in Ripton. Saturday, April 13, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Community House, Route 125. See this year's North Branch School play. Admission \$10. See April 12 listing.

april 14 SUNDAY

Masons breakfast in Bristol. Sunday, April 14, 7:30-10 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 4 Elm St. Sausage gravy with homemade biscuits, scrambled eggs (or over easy if you ask us to flip them), bacon, sausage patties, sausage links, home fries, pancakes, blueberry pancakes, French toast, all with Vermont maple syrup and Cabot butter, assorted juices, homemade apple bread pudding, fresh fruit salad and coffee. Adults \$9/children under 12 \$5. All profits donated to a person or group in need within the Five Town Area.

Breakfast Buffet in Vergennes. Sunday, April 14, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Omelets to order, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, fruit, plain and blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, corn bread, home fries, mini muffins, juice, milk and coffee. Adults \$12/children 8-12 \$7/immediate family \$32 (maximum). Offered by Vergennes Knights of Columbus to support their community service programs.

"One Room Schools of Ferrisburgh" slideshow in Ferrisburgh. Sunday, April 14, 2 p.m., Ferrisburgh Community Center, Route 7. Join the Ferrisburgh Historical Society and Charlie Langworthy and see what the schools looked like before consolidation. Hint, it was a much simpler time.

Choral Evensong in Middlebury. Sunday, April 14, 4 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Music of Bach, Stanford and Ayleward. Much music is sung by the choir alone, with the congregation joining for two hymns. Many find that this style of service can help give a meditative gateway as the day comes to a close.

april 15 MONDAY

Presentation on Stephen Bates in Monkton. Monday, April 15, 7-8:30 p.m., Monkton Town Hall Community Room, Monkton Ridge. Join Jane Williamson of the Rokeby Museum and research assistant Alicia Grangent for this talk about Stephen Bates, the first black sheriff in Vermont, who held his position for many years in Vergennes. They will discuss how they brought him back to life through recognition with a state sign and displays at the Vergennes Bixby Library and Vergennes Police Department. More info from the Monkton Historical Society, monktonmhs@gmail.com.

april 16 TUESDAY

"Container Gardening" with Charlie Nardozi in Middlebury. Tuesday, April 16, 1 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury Garden Club welcomes Charlie Nardozi back this spring to talk about container gardening and some of his favorite annual flowers to help get ready for planting season. Free and open to the public.

"Finding Jesse: A fugitive from slavery in Vermont" presentation in Orwell. Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Trace Jesse's life from enslavement in North Carolina to freedom in Vermont. This illustrated talk brings the narrative of one slave out of anonymity and explores his life and pursuit of freedom. Presented by Jane Williamson. A Vermont Humanities Council Lecture.

100+ Women Addison County quarterly meeting in New Haven. Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m., Tourterelle, Route 7. Three presenters are: Addison County Community Action Food Shelf, Ruth Stone House and Open Door Clinic. Each presenter will give a five-minute presentation; voting will follow. Cash bar, snacks provided. Any woman who would like to join 100+ Women to vote at this meeting can find information at 100wacvt.org.

"Female Leadership Perspectives on Navigating Intercollegiate Athletics Today" in Middlebury. Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. The American Association of University Women host Cornwall native Julie Power Ruppert, who will share her inspiring success story in a field largely dominated by men. Ruppert made history by being named the first woman NCAA Northeast-10 Division II commissioner, and now has the longest tenure in Northeast-10 Conference history.

april 17 WEDNESDAY

Middlebury Community Players auditions in Middlebury. Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Auditions for two plays, "Love/Sick" and "Steel Magnolias" to be presented this summer at the Vergennes Opera House. Auditions will consist of readings from the scripts. There's no need to prepare anything, and you need only come one night. Callbacks, if necessary, will be scheduled after auditions. "Love/Sick" will play June 20-23, and "Steel Magnolias" will play Aug. 15-18.

Fly fishing flies and basic techniques in Orwell. Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Local fly-fishing guide Liz Orr will explain fly fishing flies and demonstrate basic techniques.

"The Missing Piece of the Good Life" in Middlebury. Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Think there is more to the Good Life than happiness and meaning alone? Join Professor Lorraine Besser to discuss her research on psychological richness and how you can make your life better by making it more interesting. Part of Vermont Public Philosophy Week. Visit www.publicphilosophyweek.org for the full listing of events.

april 18 THURSDAY

Middlebury Community Players auditions in Vergennes. Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See April 17 listing.

"Should we geoeengineer the planet in response to climate change?" in Middlebury. Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join Professor Tim Juvshik to discuss ethical questions about the costs, risks and benefits of geoeengineering fixes to the climate change problem. This event is part of Vermont Public Philosophy Week. Visit www.publicphilosophyweek.org for the full listing of events.

Sam Kuhns in Lincoln. Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m., Lincoln Library. Kuhns is a native Vermont singer songwriter who is a graduate of Mount Abe. His heartfelt original tunes are informed by the people and places of his life in rural Vermont. He is a fine guitarist and canjo player (a banjo with a can for the body) who is a warm and engaging performer. Free. Part of the 5-Town Musical Library Tour.

april 19 FRIDAY

Rutland/Addison Medical Reserve Corps emergency preparedness survey in Orwell. Friday, April 19, 9-11 a.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Stop by to participate in an emergency preparedness survey with the Rutland/Addison Medical Reserve Corps. Help shape community preparedness efforts by completing a brief survey.

april 20 SATURDAY

Red Cross blood donation in Bristol. Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bristol Rec Department, 1 South St. Donors of all blood types — especially type O blood donors and those giving platelets — are needed now to keep the blood supply strong enough to support critical patient care this spring. Book a time to give lifesaving blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Those who come to give April 8-28 will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered to win a \$7,000 gift card.

Repair fair in Middlebury. Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. A family-friendly event with fabulous raffle prizes where one can enjoy refreshments, learn basic repair skills and get their favorite items fixed by their neighbors in Addison County. To volunteer or pre-register an item for repair, call 802-388-2333 or go to www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org/repair-fair. Free.

Twist O'Wool auction in Monkton. Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m., Monkton Central School, 1036 Monkton Rd. The Twist O' Wool guild is holding its annual auction of fiber art supplies and tools. Everyone is welcome. Come and get some new supplies or pick up a new craft.

Around TOWN

Woodland mgt. education walk to be held Saturday

BRANDON — Members of the public are invited to take a guided walk in Brandon's Wolf Tree Forest next week and get a look at on-the-ground conservation practices implemented in the woods there. The forest owners have implemented close to a dozen Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) cost-share practices implemented under both the Environmental Quality Incentive and Conservation Stewardship programs.

The Woodland Management Walk at Wolf Tree Forest will take place on Saturday, April 13, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Wolf Tree Forest access is at 1630 Country Club Road in Brandon. The walk will be led by Vermont Coverts Cooperator Len Schmidt, Wolf Tree Forest co-owner Jennie Masterson and Rutland County NRCS staff.

As time permits, participants will see and discuss a combination

of past, in-progress, and planned projects, including erosion control on logging trails, mast/crop tree releases, a patch cut for early successional regeneration, forest density reduction for wildlife, both mechanical and chemical control of invasive species, and brush piles for wildlife habitat. Organizers said this is a great follow-up to the March 15 webinar on NRCS Cost Share Programs.

Arrive any time after 9 a.m., with the walk into the woods beginning at 9:30. The walking is mostly on flat, well-maintained trails, but sturdy shoes and tick protection are strongly recommended. Rain or shine, walkers will be back around noon, and the pizza oven will be going for those who wish to stay for a bite to eat after. Register online at tinyurl.com/ForestWalkBrandon. E-mail Len with questions at woodwork@gmavt.net.

Discussion set on mental health challenges and our youth, April 13

MONKTON — Local experts will be at Monkton Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge, on Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. to noon for a panel discussion on youth mental health and community wellness.

These experts will discuss youth mental health challenges, social and digital management for children and adolescents, and individual and community opportunities to further positive outcomes. A thoughtful Q & A will follow.

Featured panelists include:
 • Steven C. Schlozman M.D., Chief, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Medical Director, Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families; Associate Professor of Psychiatry,

University of Vermont Lerner College of Medicine.

• Augustus "Gus" Jordan Ph.D., former Executive Director of Health and Counseling Services, Middlebury College, Moderator.

• Steven Berbeco, Director of United Way of Northern Vermont Mental Health Initiatives

• Heather Bessette, Family Outreach Clinician and Clinical Team Leader, Counseling Service of Addison County.

• Holly Tempini, Counselor, Monkton Central School.

The discussion is designed for anyone interested in youth mental health, whether parents, caregivers, grandparents, relatives, neighbors, coaches, teachers, mentors or friends of a young person.



SIXTEEN COVERTS COOPERATORS and their instructors gathered recently to learn how to become Bear Ambassadors, the program was recently launched by Vermont Coverts of Vergennes

Group learns about being Bear Ambassadors

VERGENNES — Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife, a leading conservation organization that works to educate landowners and others about sound forest management and wildlife stewardship, has launched a Bear Ambassador Program. This innovative initiative is designed to equip Coverts Cooperators with the knowledge and tools necessary to address human-bear conflicts and promote strategies for coexistence in their communities.

Sixteen Coverts Cooperators completed the program this past week.

Partnering with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Coverts

Bear Ambassadors course is tailored to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of bear biology, behavior, and strategies for mitigating conflicts. Through a combination of interactive sessions and expert-led discussions, participants gained valuable insights into bear ecology, habitat management, and community engagement.

Seeing a black bear in its natural surroundings is exciting. But when bears end up in human territory like our yards, problems can occur. "Vermont Coverts recognizes the importance of community outreach promoting coexistence between humans and bears. If neighbors

share about taking in bird feeders, securing garbage, and taking other bear aware measures we can help reduce nuisance bear issues," says Lisa Sausville, Executive Director of Vermont Coverts.

The Bear Ambassador Program curriculum emphasized practical strategies for reducing human-bear conflicts while promoting safe and sustainable coexistence. Participants learned how to effectively communicate within their communities about implementing proactive measures to mitigate conflicts. "With the Bear Ambassador Program, we aim to empower Coverts peer leaders to become informed advocates

to reduce human bear conflicts," added Sausville.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife bear biologist Jackie Comeau was excited about the opportunity to train Cooperators in community outreach. The Bear Ambassador Program reflects Vermont Coverts' and Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's commitment to conservation education and community engagement.

To learn more about living with bears visit the Department's website at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

For more information about Vermont Coverts, visit www.vermontcoverts.org.

Several local students make Champlain College's honor lists

BURLINGTON — Champlain College has released its honor lists for the fall 2023 semester. A number of local student have been included in those lists, including:

DEAN'S LIST (achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for one semester)

Bristol: Danny Campbell-Dickerson, Natalie Chase, Kaia Companion, Wisdom Edwards,

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Cole Kouwenhoven and Ezekiel Savage.

Lincoln: Bradley Ploof.

Middlebury: Afshin Belar and Lili Boe.

North Ferrisburgh: Neo

Weaver

Vergennes: Isaiah River and Mabel River.

PRESIDENT'S LIST (achieving a grade point average of 4.0 or higher for one semester)

Monkton: Tyler Chasse, Computer Science and Innovation.

North Ferrisburgh: Maeve McGuinness, Graphic Design & Visual Communication; and

Antonio Socinski, Integrative Professional Studies.

Starksboro: Kenneth Moran, Computer and Digital Forensics Computer Science and Innovation.

TRUSTEE'S LIST (achieving a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters)

Monkton: Tyler Chase
North Ferrisburgh: Maeve McGuinness and Antonio Socinski.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Middlebury Union High School

Caroline Nicolai

Caroline Nicolai of Weybridge is Middlebury Union High School's latest Student of the Week. She is the daughter of Laura Ann and Samuel Nicolai. She has two sisters, Sarah, a junior at RPI in Troy, N.Y., and Sophia, a ninth-grader at MUHS. The family has two cats, Hunter and Luna.

As Caroline reflects on the 2023-24 school year she describes it as "exciting." She adds that it is hard to believe how "quickly the four years of high school have gone" and she is looking ahead to college with enthusiasm. She says it would be hard to select a favorite moment from her senior year. However, registering and casting her first vote on Town Meeting Day was definitely special. She looks forward to November and voting in the U.S. Presidential election. Caroline has been active in theater at MUHS, most notably behind the scenes as a member of the tech crew in *Footloose*, *Music Man*, and *The Sound of Music*. This year she opted to try out for a part in the senior play and landed the leading role of Elle Woods. She loved being on stage with her classmates. As a ninth-grader, Caroline was the recipient of the Proscenium Award, for her outstanding contributions to our drama program.

As co-president of student council, Caroline enjoys planning student activities, most especially Spirit Week, and collaborating with students from across the grades throughout the year. She is especially grateful to Ms. Slater for her leadership as the group's advisor and mentor. Caroline enjoys her part-time job at Flatbread and she has volunteered to care for young children in the nursery at the Memorial Baptist Church in Middlebury.

Caroline plans to make the most of her final weeks at MUHS, including taking her IB exams and going to the prom in May. She is excited for a summer trip to Spain, where she will spend two weeks visiting Elena, an exchange student who lived with her family. Caroline says, "I have studied French at MUHS, so it will be interesting trying to get around!" In the fall she will enroll at Northeastern University in Boston, where she plans to study Business and Marketing. We wish her well in the future!



Caroline Nicolai
MUHS

Vergennes Union High School

Matilda Seyler

Matilda Seyler is Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week. She divides her time between her mom's house in North Ferrisburgh and her dad's house in Vergennes. Her brother Cal is a sophomore at UVM.

Matilda has been challenged by her classes at VUHS. Unlike previous semesters, this one has been pretty chill and she has many different creative outlets: Chorus, AP Art, Project Workshop, and open blocks where she can spend time on her hobbies. Her favorite classes have been her English classes, especially AP Language last year and Humanities last semester. Her favorite teacher, Mr. Thomas, helped her grow the most she ever has in a class, not only in her writing, but also as a student and a person who thinks in general. Matilda's hard work has been rewarded, with regular appearances on the honors and high honors lists throughout high school. She has also gotten underclass recognition awards in English, German, STEM, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and Chorus. A talented singer, Matilda was selected for Districts, All-State, and New England choir. She's the president of the school chorus and has had lead roles in the VUHS musical both last year and this year.

Matilda is also on the rowing team, is in GSA, the National Honor Society, and the German National Honor Society. Her favorite activity is the school musical because of how exciting it is and how close fellow cast members get. Matilda is very artistic. She loves to paint, draw and animate. She also loves reading books, writing, playing video games, kayaking in the summer, baking and hanging out with family and with friends.

Of lessons learned at VUHS she says, "There have been a couple times where I underestimated myself to the point where I almost didn't go for something, only to do it and succeed... I thought I'd fail, but I proved myself wrong, which made me more confident in myself and my abilities. I'd tell underclassmen to never let underestimating yourself stop you from going for something you really want."

Matilda plans on attending a four-year, liberal arts college in the fall, where she plans on exploring her interests and see where her life takes her. All of us at VUHS wish her well!



Matilda Seyler
VUHS

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Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration

Best of luck to all Addison County students!

If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact advertising@addisonindependent.com

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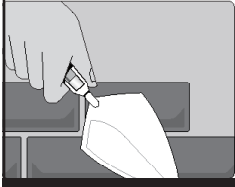
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Public Meetings

else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennes-free thinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

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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.



Part-Time Office Assistant

WowToyz, a successful and established manufacturer of high-quality, educational toys for over 30 years, is looking for a motivated individual to be part of our growing company! The successful candidate must be dependable, eager to learn new processes, and willing to jump in when a need is observed. This is a position for a detail-oriented team player with confidence, energy, and great organizational and communication skills. **Retirees are welcome and encouraged to apply!** We offer flexible work schedules and competitive wages.

RESPONSIBILITIES
Enter purchase orders into our proprietary computer software system
Answer phone, transfer calls, and assist with customer service
Friendly, professional, and service-focused positive attitude

SKILLS & REQUIREMENTS
Ability to organize and prioritize tasks with minimal supervision
Ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with all levels of the organization
Analytical abilities and aptitude in problem-solving
Experience in Microsoft Office Suite or data entry software is beneficial but not a requirement

Part-Time Warehouse

WowToyz in Vergennes is seeking part-time help for the morning shift in our warehouse, picking and packing orders and unloading trucks. Ideal candidates are organized, dependable, and able to work 20-30 hours/week, Mon-Fri. **Retirees are welcome and encouraged to apply!** We offer flexible work schedules and competitive wages.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccinations required for all employees

To apply email contact information and work history to: resumes@wowtoyz.com

Help Wanted



Full-Time Positions Available including snowplowing, light shop work, equipment operation, & landscaping

Seasonal Positions Available including lawn care & landscaping

Immediate positions available working Monday – Friday and some Saturdays. Paid Holidays, partial uniforms, new bonuses available, & competitive pay.

To apply, call 802-352-9088 Salisbury, VT



Town Of Monkton Highway Crew

The Town of Monkton is seeking qualified applicants to join the Highway Department road crew. This position requires experience in highway maintenance and repair, mechanical ability, record-keeping, and communication skills. The position is full-time, 40 hours per week, requiring a flexible schedule that may include nights, weekends, and holidays, as well as overtime. Must have CDL, pass a drug test, and be dependable and willing to be on call during winter hours. Full job description is available at [Town Hall](http://TownHall.org) or online at monktonvt.com/road-crew. For more information or to submit a resume please contact Sharon Gomez, Town Clerk, at 802-453-3800, email TownClerk@monktonvt.com, or mail at P.O. Box 12, Monkton, VT 05469-0012.

Help Wanted

PART-TIME PERSONAL CARE assistant wanted to help 75 year old man in Addison for three hours a day. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Help with light housekeeping, cooking and chores. \$25 an hour. Reply to eresnik@rcn.com.

For Rent

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

For Rent

ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

For Rent

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.

For Rent

CORNWALL: SHARE HOME with lovely views with senior gentleman who enjoys classical music and reading. No rent (just utilities share) in exchange for cooking a few evening meal/week and lending hand around the house/yard. Private bath. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

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.

Help Wanted

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.

For Rent

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL/RETAIL. 1,250 sq.ft. Exchange Street, Middlebury. 802-388-4831.

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

MIDDLEBURY SUGAR-WOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

For Rent

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

For Rent

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

Wood Heat

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.


Att. Farmers

HORSE BLANKET WASH and repair. Accepting non-leather (for now) horsewear of all kinds for cleaning and repairing at my Weybridge location. Call or text Sue Miller at 802-377-5945 or email svdwmiller@cloud.com with "horse" in the subject line for more information.

Wanted

WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

Wanted



OLD & USED GUNS WANTED

Rifles, Hand guns, Shot guns
Top prices paid.
P: 802-775-2859
C: 802-236-7213

EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS

College Street Children's Center, 228 College Street in Middlebury is looking for enthusiastic, flexible, and energetic teachers to join our early childhood team. This is a permanent full time position, Monday thru Friday. *Must enjoy spending time with young children and being a team player.* Please email, cover letter and resume to cscdirector228@gmail.com

For Rent

For Rent

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 4/4/24 & 4/8/24

		COST	
BEEF	LBS. /LB		\$
P. Mach	1550	1.40	\$2170.00
Monument Farms	1235	1.36	\$1679.60
Ethan Allen Farm	1845	1.35	\$2490.75
Four Hills	1850	1.35	\$2497.50
Nop Bros.	1225	1.35	\$1635.75
Goodrich Farm	1465	1.25	\$1831.25
A. Brisson	1670	1.20	\$2004.00
CALVES	LBS. /LB		\$
Barnes Bros.	79	10.00	\$790.00
A. Brisson	97	9.00	\$873.00
P. Doton	82	8.50	\$697.00
Sunderland Farm	110	8.25	\$907.50
R. Scholten	83	8.00	\$664.00

Total Beef - 154 Total Calves - 185
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661



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 lisagksk@yahoo.com for direct pricing discounts.

Full listing and availability: AIRBNB.COM
Search "Beautiful Lake Dunmore Ski Chalet / Cottage"

For Sale

For Sale

For Sale

For Sale

YOUR NEXT RIDE!

2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited


\$9,000 or best offer

Great in the snow!

Available to see in Middlebury.

Well maintained, black leather seats and interior are in excellent shape. New brakes, studded snow tires, 4WD, sunroof, heated seats, etc. \$9,000 with just over 150,000 miles. Single owner (who bought a newer model). Call today! 802-349-7069

Call Angelo: 802-349-7069



Auction

Saturday, April 20, 2024 • 10:00 AM

Selling excellent equipment, tools, and furnishings for Sweet Tree Farm of 1656 US Route 5 in East Dummerston, Vt 05346-9300. Farm located on Route 5, 2 miles south of Exit 4 of I91.

2009 John Deere 7130 4x4 tractor with full cab-ser #L07130H615092-left hand reverser-460/85R-38 rears-380/85R-24 front-only 800 hrs-1 owner, JD 2350 4x4 tractor with 245 loader & canopy-ser# L02350U548226-10415 hrs, NH LS160 skid steer with 4500 hrs, JD pallet forks, JD 318 garden tractor, GMC 4x4 3500 farm dump truck, H&S Heavy Duty 27 manure spreader like new, JD 630 MoCo disc mower, Kuhn GF5000T tedder, Kuhn GA 4120TH Master Drive gyro rake, Kuhn GA300GT gyro rake (needs repair), JD 328 baler with #40 kicker, 5 steel kicker wagons, SnoCo 20' elevator, JD 24' elevator, Salsco bale grabber, JD 2600 4 bottom reset plows, Brillion 14' Culti-packer, Brillion 10' seeder with slip-on wheels, Vicon 3pth fert spreader, 4' & 8' chain drag harrows, JD 609 bush hog, Farm Force 3pth scraper blade, Arps 3pth auger, Super Lor 3pth sickle bar mower, Timber Wolf TW-P1 wood splitter, 500 gal fuel tank with pump, Silver King squeeze chute with scales, other squeeze chute, large corral with 36 panels & 2 walk through gates to be sold complete, several head locks, round bale feeder, water tubs, gates, sheep feeders, woven wire and fencing supplies, ladders, chain saws, pressure washer, Wagner paint sprayer, several tool boxes & tools, anvil, air comp, Honda generator, drill press, Forney welder, many hand & garden tools.

Oak hutch, drop leaf table, 2 bookcases, music stand, 2 game tables, very nice bedroom set, oak dresser, several rockers, Waterbury Ginger Bread clock, hurricane lamp, paintings and prints, kerosene lamps, some Flo Blue china, plus many more items.

Special: horse-drawn wagonette (excellent), several English & Western saddles & tack

Viewing as per owner's request: Sunday, April 14 10:00 to 4:00, Friday, April 19 10:00 to 4:00, and 8:00 sale day. Please respect these hours, we will be there for any questions or concerns.

Terms: Cash or Good Check on Sale Day
No Buyer's Premium
Lunch • Walk-around Sale

Owner: Deb Titus, 1656 US Route 5, East Dummerston, VT 05346-9300
Auctioneers: Lussier Auction Service Lyndonville, Vt Reg Lussier 802-535-6100
Jon Lussier 802-371-7403, Toby Lussier 802-535-9567, Roland Ayer 802-343-3750

www.lussier.com for pictures, updates, and mailing list.
This is an excellent sale to start the season with most items in excellent condition.

NEWS?

Email it to: news@addisonindependent.com

**TOWN OF NEW HAVEN
INVITATION TO BID
BIDS FOR:**

The Town of New Haven is accepting bids for Town of New Haven Depot Slate Roof Replacement. All bids will be due on 6/01/24, 3pm via email in PDF format to Steve Dupoise stevedupoise@yahoo.com. Late bids will not be accepted. There will not be a public bid opening. The owner reserves the right to award the project in the best interest of the owner and based on best value. The owner also has the right to waive or correct any irregularities in their best interest. Specifications for bidders and bid forms may be obtained without charge at the New Haven Town Offices, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472; or on our website www.newhavenvt.com.

**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 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

**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@nehdropower.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/FERCOOnline.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 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

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Page 10B.

Addison Central School District (1)	Hancock (1)
Addison County Courthouse (1)	Lincoln (1)
Cornwall (1)	Middlebury (1)
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (1)	New Haven (1)
Green Mountain Power (1)	Shoreham (1)

**STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
ADDISON UNIT
DOCKET NO.: 24-PR-00654
IN RE ESTATE OF:
PETER QUESNEL**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the Creditors of: Peter Quesnel, late of Middlebury, Vermont. I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.
Dated: 04/3/24

Executor/Administrator:
Pamela Stevens,
c/o Langrock Sperry & Wool,
111 S. Pleasant St.,
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-6356
frbarlow@langrock.com
Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 4/11/24
Address of Probate Court:
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT 05753

**TOWN OF HANCOCK,
VERMONT**

Seeking Bids for culvert repairs on Shampeny Hill Rd. Bidding information at www.hancockvt.org. Dan Perera / 802-431-5158

Email your Public Notices to legals@addisonindependent.com and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

**FULL PASSPORT
SERVICE**

The Addison County Clerk located in the **Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury** is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS
Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm
Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday - **Closed**
Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm
Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED
For appointment, go to www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com or call 802-388-1966.

TOWN OF LINCOLN PUBLIC NOTICE

Wednesday, May 1, 2024, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Town Office (62 Quaker Street, Lincoln, VT) and virtually using Zoom

The Lincoln **Development Review Board** will hold public hearings for:
1. Subdivision Application #23-095 as requested by Deina & Patrick Olstad for their property located at 296 West Hill Road, Lincoln, VT, Parcel I.D. 06070333.00. Description: Proposed 3-lot subdivision for estate and financial planning.
2. Conditional Use Application #24-019 as requested by Benjamin and Trish Shepard for their property located at 1720 Lincoln Gap Road, Lincoln, VT, Parcel I.D. 27100115.200. Description: New construction of a residential home greater than 3,500 square feet.
3. Subdivision Application #24-024 as requested by Karen A. Lueders, Esq. on behalf of the Taylor Family Real Estate Trust for their property located in Lincoln, VT, Parcel I.D. 31100180.000. Description: To create a 5.3 acre parcel from the larger family parcel for the construction of a three bedroom home.
Participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeals. Please call the Town Office at (802) 453-2980 to arrange a time to view the complete applications.
The Zoom link will be included in the agenda which can be found on the Town's website the week prior to the hearing: <https://lincolnvemont.org/agendas-minutes>
Nicole Lee, Lincoln DRB Chair

STATE OF VERMONT

**SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION
ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO: 21-CV-02595**

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC.
PLAINTIFF
VS.
TREVOR MATTON AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 34 MIDDLEBROOK ROAD, FERRISBURGH, VT 05456
DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Trevor Matton, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for North Country Federal Credit Union, dated September 5, 2017, and recorded in Book 159, at Page 160, of the Town of Ferrisburgh Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by Assignment of Mortgage recorded in Book 163, Page 399, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at May 8, 2024 at 11:00 AM at 34 Middlebrook Road, Ferrisburgh, VT 05456 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
To Wit:
Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Trevor Matton by Warranty Deed of Elaine M. Charillo and Gary J. Santimoro dated September 5, 2017 and recorded September 8, 2019 in Book 159, at Page 158 of the Town of Ferrisburgh Land Records and further described therein.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc.

Sheldon M. Katz

Sheldon M. Katz
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
23 Messenger Street, 2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Sheldon.Katz@brockandscott.com

Starksboro man cited for domestic assault

ADDISON COUNTY — This past Sunday, April 7, Vermont State Police responded to a disturbance on States Prison Hollow Road in Starksboro at around 9:20 a.m. Trooper investigated and said they determined that Chase Gibbs-Emilo, 25, of Starksboro assaulted a family member. Police took Gibbs-Emilo into custody, cited him for domestic assault and interference with access to emergency service, and released him.

Separately, on April 5, state police announced that six months after the killing of 77-year-old Honoree Fleming of Castleton their investigation into her death remains active and ongoing. Fleming, a former Middlebury resident and former professor at Middlebury College, was shot to death on the Rail Trail in Castleton in the late afternoon or early evening of Oct. 5, 2023. Police have not found the shooter.

Detectives assigned to the case continue their work pursuing and developing leads, state police said last Friday. Investigators are receiving tips from the public and following up on that information. Evidence analysis remains underway. The Victim

**Vt. State
Police Log**

Services Unit continues to provide assistance and support to the family.

VSP is aware of a privately funded financial reward for information in this case but has not received any tips that can be specifically tied to the availability of this money.

"We want to reassure the public that this case remains a priority, and the state police has devoted and continues to devote significant resources to the investigation," said Capt. Jeremy Hill, commander of the Vermont State Police Major Crime Unit, in a press release. "Our thoughts remain with Honoree's family, friends, loved ones and community."

Anyone who might have information that could assist investigators should call VSP's barracks in Rutland at 802-773-9101 or send a tip anonymously online at vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit.

**TOWN OF SHOREHAM
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Shoreham Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Town Office (297 Main St.) to consider a conditional use of application #24-003 in accordance with the Town of Shoreham Unified Development Regulations. The applicant (ARK Child Care, LLC) requests a conditional use for operation of an after-school child care facility pursuant to \$4.307 of the Unified Development Regulations.

The application is available at the Town Office and on the town website for review. Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal.

Contact the Town Office at (802) 897-5841 or shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us for information on attending the hearing by videoconference or by phone.

John Kiernan, Chair

**PUBLIC NOTICE
INTENT TO APPLY HERBICIDES**

Green Mountain Power Corporation, 2152 Post Rd Rutland, Vermont 05701 has applied for a permit from the Vermont Secretary of Agriculture to apply herbicides. All herbicides will be applied by ground-based, hand-held equipment. This notice constitutes a warning to residents along the right-of-way that water supplies and other environmentally sensitive areas near the right-of-way should be protected from spray and that it is the resident's responsibility to notify the contact person of the existence of a private water supply near the right-of-way. The contact person at GMP is Jarod Wilcox, (888) 835-4672. Further information may also be obtained from Plant Industry Division, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, 116 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901, telephone (802) 828-5667.

Operations will commence on or about June 3, 2024 using one or more of the following herbicides: Garlon 4 Ultra, Escort XP, Polaris & KreniteS
Maintenance will be conducted on the following transmission lines in the following towns:

LINES: SILVER LAKE - ROCHESTER
TOWN(S): SALISBURY, GOSHEN



Green Mountain Power
2152 Post Rd Rutland, VT 05701

**SPREAD THE WORD
calendar @ addisonindependent.com**

**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 Isley 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.

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

April 11, 2024



HAVE A GOOD TIME LINE DANCING

Woodchuck Cider House was bumpin' with boot-stompin' dancers, including Emma Carter of New Haven, last Thursday evening. Instructor Andrea Warren hosts these Good Time Line Dancing evenings every Thursday from 7-9 p.m., in Middlebury.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

You might be surprised to know that every Thursday evening, the Cider House at Woodchuck Cider turns into a boot stompin' line dancing floor. Regularly about 50 guests show up in their dancin' duds ready for a good time.

BY **ELSIE
LYNN PARINI**

"If you can walk, you can line dance," encouraged Andrea Warren, the owner and instructor of

Good Time Line Dancing. "Even if you've never danced before in your life it's a great place to start."

Warren got her start a little more than a decade ago, while she was at the Rochester

Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y., where she studied visual media.

"I discovered line dancing in college," she said. "I had a friend who told me I had to come out to this bar called The Roost and try it... I was instantly hooked. It was such a cool environment, and it was right around the corner from campus. I was on the line dancing floor every Thursday, for four years, from 10 p.m.-2 a.m.!"

After graduating from RIT, Warren returned home to Addison County and started teaching her first line dancing lessons in 2015.

"I learned from other teachers, videos and feedback from the dancers in my classes," she said. "It sounds cheesy, but teaching line

dancing is my calling."

But getting her business off the ground had a bumpy start.

"There would be hype and I'd have like 50 people, and then it would dwindle down to five," Warren recalled of her early years in the biz. "My goal was always to teach weekly. It's my stress relief too; and I look forward to it."

Warren found a successful venue in 2019 when she started teaching weekly at Porky's Place & Backyard BBQ on Route 7 in New Haven, but then the pandemic happened... and, well... you know the rest.

"In March of last year, we restored the weekly

SEE DANCE ON PAGE 3

Leigh Harder exhibit: ‘The Blue Between Day and Night’

PAINTINGS BY LEIGH HARDER ON VIEW IN THE JACKSON GALLERY AT TOWN HALL THEATER BEGINNING APRIL 12

Leigh Harder was “initially inspired as a young artist to try to catch the particular blue of the changing twilight sky, what is commonly referred to as “the blue hour,” she said. “I worked with watercolors as a teenager for years trying to capture that hue. Much of my current work contains sky and a recurrent dalliance with blue. The allusion to light and dark is both literal and figurative as I have navigated profound loss and a disassembling and reassembling process personally.”

Her chosen medium currently is alcohol ink. This is a relatively new medium for fine artists. Colors are layered through a process of masking and painting with the ink flowing in a semi-controlled application. The resulting effect can mimic textile in its overall pattern and design. The textures of the landscape, flowers, water, clouds, the woods — all are explored. Harder is passionate about the changing landscape as light, color and atmosphere all shift in weather and season.

Harder lives in East Middlebury, and has called it home for the past four decades. Prior to living in Vermont, she lived in Pennsylvania where she studied art at the Philadelphia College of Art and then majored in Human Creativity at Geneva College. After a 30-year career in teaching, Harder returned to painting seriously after retiring in 2020. Her work is currently in private collections throughout the United States and in the U.K.



IMAGES COURTESY OF LEIGH HARDER

The exhibit will be on view April 12-June 8 at the Jackson Gallery in the lower level of Town Hall Theater on Merchants Row in downtown Middlebury. All are invited to a reception for the artist on Friday, April 12, from 5-7 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday noon to five, and when performances are taking place. Entrance is through the front doors of the theater.

College hosts symposium about radical engagement through architecture

The Architectural Studies Program at Middlebury College will host a symposium exploring the idea of “Architecture for All” on April 22 and 24. Afternoon lectures Monday-Thursday are free and open to the public.

“Architecture for All” means that everyone, everywhere, deserves architecture. It means that architecture is not a luxury or a privilege, reserved for the few, the wealthy, or the cognoscenti, but belongs to all of humanity. It means that there is a way to practice architecture that can benefit all, in all corners of society, including the overlooked and underserved. It truly means for all: all people, all places, all prices, all programs (as functions are called in architectural terminology).

The architects participating in this symposium range from the internationally known to the locally active. They all practice architecture in ways that challenge conventions and stereotypes. They create buildings with modest materials, for clients on shoestring budgets. They make dignified spaces that are open and accessible to everyone. They bring architecture to utilitarian structures and to remote places. They teach and inspire. They build alongside volunteers. In short, they practice architecture in ways that give back, rather than take from, and in ways that honor place and people, instead of self.

LINE UP:

MONDAY, APRIL 22
4:30 p.m. — Dana Auditorium
SUSAN RODRIGUEZ

“Architecture for all: Designing at the intersection of place, purpose, history and community culture”

Welcome by Pieter Broucke, Director of Architectural Studies
Introduction and Q&A by Ben Allred, Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture

Susan Rodriguez will discuss designing in the public realm and the creation of buildings and spaces that distill the essence of cultures and communities. She will share a series of projects that serve a diverse range of communities from off-the-grid rural locations to dense urban neighborhoods of New York City.

5:45 p.m. — Dana Auditorium
MARLON BLACKWELL presentation and
SEE ARCHITECTURE ON PAGE 4

DANCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

classes at Porky's," Warren said. "We had about 100 people show up the first night with a capacity of 60! After that we gained a following of 25

regulars, which is just incredible."

The BBQ joint closed down in August last year, and Warren had to find a new venue.

"I'd been doing pop-up events in the area, which led me to Woodchuck via a regular's recommendation," said Warren, who started teaching weekly on Thursday evenings at the cidery last summer. "I can fit about 90 people on their beautiful wood floor."

Attendance struggled a bit in the beginning, but not for long. By October, Warren reported that there were 35 regulars and now it's more like 50. Warren feels well supported at the cidery with the help of bar manager JC Dugan.

"It's a safe, inclusive and fun place for folks to enjoy themselves every week," said Warren, who always aims to make it a welcoming environment. Warren also tips her proverbial hat (she doesn't usually wear one) to Jenna Lossmann for helping her run the show. "She's a friend, a regular and my all-star VIP," Warren said.

During a regular Thursday evening event, the doors open at 6:30 p.m. People come and mingle; maybe grab a drink and settle into the vibe. At 7 p.m. Warren starts with a warm-up dance (almost always the Cupid Shuffle). Then she teaches a beginners dance, and reviews the dance that she taught the week before. Between 8-9 p.m., Warren holds an "open dance floor" where she leads a variety of dances, sometimes very beginner and sometimes more advanced — it depends on the group.

"Then I thank everyone for coming, thank Woodchuck for hosting, and tell everyone to drive safe and I'll see them next week!" Warren explained. "People linger; they catch up and hug goodbye. It's a great way to stay up to date with people in your lives and make some incredible new friends."

Warren added that the attire is flexible and the music isn't all country.

"Boots are not required to line dance... come in whatever you are comfortable wearing," she said. "The age range is anywhere from 15-85 years old... And you don't have to be country to like line dancing... Sure line dancing did originate in country music, but in the line dancing community there's a lot more than country music — breaking that stigma is important."

Warren hosts weekly at Woodchuck Cider in Middlebury, and then does pop ups in Orwell, Bristol and Crown Point, N.Y. It costs \$10 per dancer (14 and under are free).

"Folks come for stress relief; they come for fun; they come to meet other people," she said. "It's incredible! We have people who come from Burlington, Rutland, New York... people travel an hour to line dance regularly. It's amazing!"

Just recently Warren said goodbye to her former role as marketing manager at Champlain Valley Equipment and is now focused on running her own businesses. In addition to Good Time Line Dancing, Warren also does wedding photo and design work under the name AW Photo + Design.

When she's not teaching, she's learning new dances or posting to the impressive library of videos on her website where interested dancers can look up dances and practice at home.

"A lot of people practice at home, but you don't have to," she said. "There are no mistakes; there are only variations. We're all human here. All I ask is that people stay in lines, well because it's Line Dancing! But, you don't have to be strict — you can spin if ya want to. And if

**"THERE ARE NO MISTAKES;
THERE ARE ONLY VARIATIONS.
WE'RE ALL HUMAN HERE. ALL
I ASK IS THAT PEOPLE STAY
IN LINES, WELL BECAUSE IT'S
LINE DANCING!"**

— Andrea Warren

GIVE IT A TRY!

**GOOD TIME LINE DANCING
THURSDAYS, 7-9 P.M.
WOODCHUCK CIDER HOUSE,
MIDDLEBURY
\$10 / PERSON ENTRY**

you do something a little different, then you'll be laughing alongside everyone else. You feel confident. You feel alive. It allows for that. It's pure joy!"

Editor's Note: To find the most up to date info visit goodtimelinedancingvt.com or follow Good Time Line Dancing on social media @GoodTimeLineDancingVT on Facebook and other channels.



Andrea Warren (pictured above) leads line dancers — like Janelle Vincent (pictured top) — last Thursday at Woodchuck Cider House in Middlebury.

FILM SCREENING

'Beyond Utopia' to screen in Middlebury

Next Thursday, April 18, Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Select Series will present "Beyond Utopia" at 7 p.m., in Middlebury's Town Hall Theater.

Winner of the Audience Award for Documentary Feature at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, "Beyond Utopia" is an astonishing and unforgettable film experience. In telling the incredible story of several families as they

attempt to escape harsh oppression in North Korea, the film powerfully reveals a world most Americans have never seen. Made under conditions of considerable risk and hardship, "Beyond Utopia" also portrays the remarkable courage and determination of Sengeun Kim, a pastor who defected from North to South Korea and who now facilitates North Korean defections. MNFF Selects is proud to present the Vermont Premiere of



"Beyond Utopia" will screen at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Thursday, April 18.

"Beyond Utopia," directed by Madeleine Gavin.

Tickets are \$14-\$16 and are available at townhalltheater.org.

ARCHITECTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Q&A

Welcome by Pieter Broucke, Director of Architectural Studies Introduction

and Q&A by John McLeod, Associate Professor of Architecture

Marlon Blackwell will discuss his architecture and design process through the lens of "radical practice." The richness of the work, its methods, and its consequences suggest an open-endedness, at once generous and provocative, to the practice's trajectory and interest in what a "radical practice" can be in the contemporary moment. A core principle at the heart of the practice, radical in its fundamental simplicity, is the assertion of the making of buildings and places as a constant, authentic focus...an architecture in the place, of the place and for the place for anywhere and for anyone with dignity, wonder and joy...

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

4:30 p.m. — Dana Auditorium

TURNER BROOKS "Memories, obsessions, preoccupations with space"

Welcome by Pieter Broucke, Director of Architectural Studies

Introduction and Q&A by Misty Kaplan, Visiting Instructor in Architecture

In this talk, Turner Brooks will focus on the issue of space as it relates to the human body. "I have always felt that the very issue of space, that seems at the very core of what architecture is about, is not adequately talked about or understood," Brooks said. "So I will attempt to talk about this elusive topic from my own early experiences in life, to becoming an architect, and finally to designing a project

for those on the autistic spectrum whose sensibilities are so much related to the issue of space."

5:45 p.m. — Dana Auditorium

BILLIE TSIEN "open" presentation and Q&A

Welcome by Pieter Broucke, Director of Architectural Studies

Introduction and Q&A by John McLeod, Associate Professor of Architecture

As a practice, we are committed to the idea that a building represents a belief system. This is exemplified by the way it contains and nurtures the events and people inside. Through projects including the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall in New York City and the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago, Billie Tsien will illustrate how architecture has the ability to open those institutions that have traditionally felt closed, creating an architecture for all.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

4:30 p.m. — Johnson 204

VERMONT INTEGRATED ARCHITECTURE: "Designing for a collective future"

Welcome by Pieter Broucke, Director of Architectural Studies

Introduction and Q&A by Sam Ostrow, Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture

As our planet warms, change is happening at an alarming rate. Natural disasters occur more frequently, endangering the health and resiliency of many species, including humanity. Natural systems and processes race to adapt as human activity and exploitation of resources challenge the balance and capacity of our planet. What does this mean for architecture? Architects

operate comfortably in future tense. We are trained to think about, imagine, instruct, and plan for a collective and sustainable future. In their presentation, Andrea and Megan will share information about VIA's proactive and forward-thinking design and construction processes. They will share several projects that carefully consider resilience, equity, accessibility, carbon, and (of course!) delight.

5:45 p.m. — Johnson 204

JOHN MCLEOD "Architecture for All" presentation and faculty panel discussion

Welcome and Introduction by Pieter Broucke, Director of Architectural Studies

Post-presentation panel discussion, Architectural Studies Faculty

John McLeod will discuss three examples from his practice and teaching that demonstrate his belief in architecture's ability to serve anyone and anywhere: the recent renovation of Johnson Memorial Building; the Architectural Studies/Habitat for Humanity Housing Design program at Middlebury; and "Design Assembly" — his firm's summer community design-build program. The projects he will present range in scale from small to large, and in duration from eight days to several years. Whether designed and built by students or professionals, all of the projects demonstrate an attempt at community engagement through the process and product of architecture.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

4:30 p.m. — Johnson Gallery

RENOVATION TOUR

A guided visit through the renovated Johnson Building and a visit to the Architecture for All exhibition in the Johnson Gallery.

For more information visit architectureforall.net.

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



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, this is a great week for transformation. Be careful where you direct your attention, as what you do will have lasting effects. Choose your plans wisely.

TAURUS: April 21/ May 21. Use this week's powerful energy to strip away all of the unnecessary static in your life right now. It is doing more harm than good. Open yourself up to new opportunities, Taurus.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, there is a lot of stuff going on around you, and you need to sort through the noise to determine your priorities. Things will start to become more clear this week.

CANCER: June 22/ July 22. You are in a great position to make some lasting and strong impressions on others, Cancer. Focus on group work, as this will showcase how well you work with others.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, you do not know which direction to go in this week, and that is perfectly fine. Try out different options and figure out what fits best. This will require some trial and error.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, you have a tremendous amount of power at your disposal this week. Use all of it wisely and thoughtfully. Others will be strongly affected by your presence.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. A conflict in your life that you may feel is beyond your control may crop up at the worst time, Libra. Use this as a

learning opportunity on how to cope under pressure.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, you have the power to produce a powerful outcome, even if it seems that forces are working against you. Do not give up; in fact, double down your efforts.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, take things with a grain of salt if people seem insensitive to your feelings this week. You don't know what others have going on in their lives.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/ Jan. 20. Nothing can stop you when you put a lot of gusto behind your efforts, Capricorn. Just be mindful of who you might affect if you take things with a little too much ambition.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/ Feb. 18. Aquarius, are you getting the sense that something is going on around you that you're simply not a part of? Maybe your exclusive invitation is just waiting in the wings. Be patient.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, stand up for what you want, even if means that you are taking a different stance than others. You don't have to please everyone in every endeavor.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 12 — Jon Krakauer, writer (70)
APRIL 13 — Seamus Heaney, poet (d)
APRIL 14 — Loretta Lynn, singer (d)

APRIL 15 — Arshile Gorky, painter (d)
APRIL 16 — Merce Cunningham, dancer, choreographer (d)
APRIL 17 — Karen Blixen, writer (d)
APRIL 18 — America Ferrera, actor (40)

CALENDAR

APRIL 11-23
2024



THURSDAY, APRIL 11

"THE ARCHITECTURE OF MUSIC" LECTURE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 11, 4:30 p.m., Middlebury Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre will discuss his music and process through the lens of architecture, exploring how the two art forms overlap and inform each other. Featuring a live performance from the Middlebury College Choir. Free and open to the public. Whitacre will be joining this event via Zoom.

"EAT, POOP, DIE" AUTHOR TALK IN NEW HAVEN. Thursday, April 11, 6:30 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 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 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.

FILM SCREENING IN VERGENNES.

Friday, April 12, 5:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. "Connected: Vermont's Grassroots Effort for Rural Broadband" is the ultimate Vermont feel good short movie (roughly 35 minutes.) "Connected" tells the inspiring and uniquely Vermont story of people across the state coming together to solve a community problem - the lack of internet connectivity.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 13, 7 a.m., Otter View Park, Weybridge St. and Pulp

Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. Please take common sense COVID-19 precautions. Stay home if you are feeling ill, and wear a mask if you are unvaccinated. More information: 802-388-6019.

DEAD CREEK VISITOR CENTER OPENING WEEKEND IN ADDISON.

Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 966 Route 17. The Dead Creek Visitor Center opens for the season. Come by to learn about Vermont's ecology and observe some beautiful displays. Kids can do a scavenger hunt to enter their names in a fall drawing for binoculars and a microscope. Visitor Center will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL.

Saturday, April 13, 1 p.m., Bristol Trail Network. Plan for 2.5-3 hours for the 3.4-mile section around Bristol's historic areas. Total elevation gain is under 100 feet. Excellent options for snacks/lunch in Bristol before or afterward. Contact Porter Knight at knight@gmavt.net or 802-343-3920 for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"LEGALLY BLONDE" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, April 13, 2 and 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See April 12 listing.

"A COUNTRY STORE" YOUTH OPERA

IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 13, 2 p.m., Champlain Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Court. Drawing inspiration from Donizetti's L'elisir d'amore (The Elixir of Love), Opera Company of Middlebury's Vermont Teen Singers celebrate their state in this production, which updates the setting to a Vermont country store. Free.

CONTRA DANCE IN CORNWALL.

Saturday, April 13, 7-9:30 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, Route 30. Mary Wesley will be calling, with music by Red Dog Riley. \$5 to \$10 or pay what you can.

"LOST AND FOUND ON THE HIGH SEAS" PLAY IN RIPTON.

Saturday, April 13, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Community House, Route 125. See this year's North Branch School play. Admission \$10. See April 12 listing.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FIDDLERS IN BRANDON. Sunday, April 14, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Brandon American Legion, Grove St. \$3 cover charge, 50/50 raffle, door prize refreshments available. Come and enjoy the music and dancing.

"ONE ROOM SCHOOLS OF FERRISBURGH" SLIDESHOW IN FERRISBURGH.

Sunday, April 14, 2 p.m., Ferrisburgh Community Center, Route 7. Join the Ferrisburgh Historical Society and Charlie Langworthy and see what the schools looked like before consolidation. Hint, it was a much simpler time.

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	4 p.m. Congregational Service	10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	7 a.m. Tai Chi	8:35 a.m. Tai Chi	
Friday, April 12	6:30 p.m. Eckankar	5 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour	7:25 a.m. Our Songs Remember	9 a.m. George Bellrose	
Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	7 p.m. Catholic Mass	7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	8:32 a.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	10:30 a.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	
5 a.m. Legislative Breakfast, Press Conferences	7:30 p.m. Energy Week	Thursday, April 18	9:30 a.m. At the Ilsley	12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	
7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service	8:30 p.m. Dr. John Campbell	Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	1:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	5 p.m. The Great Auk	
10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	9 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	5 a.m. Leg. Breakfast, Press Conf.	6 p.m. Politics of Dysfunction	6 p.m. Historically Speaking	
1:30 p.m. Legislative Breakfast	Monday, April 15	8 a.m. Congregational Services	7:02 p.m. George Bellrose	8:30 p.m. At the Ilsley	
3 p.m. Energy Week	Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	8:30 a.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	Wednesday, April 17	
4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service	5:30 a.m. Eckankar	8:30 p.m. Energy Week	Sunday, April 14	7 a.m. Chair Yoga	
5:30 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour	6 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs	9:30 p.m. Eckankar	5 a.m. The Great Auk	8 a.m. Word Time With Miss Markee	
Saturday, April 13	9 a.m. Energy Week	10 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour	6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	8:35 a.m. Tai Chi	
Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	Channel 1091	7 a.m. Tai Chi	9 a.m. School Board Meeting	
5 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour	3 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour	Friday, April 12	7:25 a.m. Our Songs Remember	12 p.m. George Bellrose	
10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	5 p.m. Governor's Weekly Update	5 a.m. Extinction Dynamics of the Great Auk	8:32 a.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	1:30 p.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	
4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service	9 p.m. Leg. Breakfast, Press Conf.	6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	9:30 a.m. At the Ilsley	2:30 p.m. Historically Speaking	
5:30 p.m. Eckankar	Tuesday, April 16	7 a.m. Tai Chi	1:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	3 p.m. The Great Auk	
6 p.m. Energy Week	Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	7:25 a.m. Our Songs Remember	6 p.m. The Politics of Dysfunction	3:47 p.m. History of the East Monitor Barn	
7 p.m. Catholic Mass	5 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour	8:32 a.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	7:02 p.m. George Bellrose	5 p.m. George Bellrose	
7 p.m. Leg. Breakfast, Press Conf.	7 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs	9:30 a.m. At the Ilsley	8:30 a.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	6:30 p.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	
Sunday, April 14	9:30 a.m. Eckankar	1:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	Monday, April 15	7:30 p.m. At the Ilsley	
Overnight: Public Affairs	10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	6 p.m. EEE The Politics of Dysfunction	8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	5 a.m. Music in the Morning	
5 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	4 p.m. Congregational Services	7:02 p.m. First Tuesday Book Talk-George Bellrose	9 a.m. George Bellrose	7:05 a.m. Tai Chi	
8 a.m. Energy Week	7 p.m. Selectboard	8:30 a.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	10:30 a.m. 16 Poems of Robert Frost	7:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s	
9 a.m. Catholic Mass	11 p.m. Energy Week	Saturday, April 13	12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	12 p.m. The Great Auk	
11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service	Wednesday, April 17	5 a.m. The Great Auk	5 p.m. The Great Auk	12:47 p.m. Kids Yoga	
12:30 p.m. Energy Week	Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	6 p.m. Historically Speaking	1 p.m. Chair Yoga	
1:30 p.m. Leg. Breakfast, Public Affairs	5 a.m. Energy Week		8:30 p.m. At the Ilsley	5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ	
	6 a.m. Legislative Breakfast		Tuesday, April 16	6 p.m. School Board Meeting	
	7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service		7 a.m. Chair Yoga		
	9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass		8 a.m. Word Time With Miss Markee		

CHORAL EVENSING IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 14, 4 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Music of Bach, Stanford and Ayleward. Much music is sung by the choir alone, with the congregation joining for two hymns. Many find that this style of service can help give a meditative gateway as the day comes to a close.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

"A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN MUSICAL" IN MIDDLEBURY. Begins Monday, April 15, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Doug Anderson brings back his celebrated four-part course on four consecutive Mondays beginning April 15. Registration \$80 Individual Series; \$100 Household Series. Continues April 22, April 29 and May 6. More info at townhalltheater.org.

PRESENTATION ON STEPHEN BATES IN MONKTON. Monday, April 15, 7-8:30 p.m., Monkton Town Hall Community Room, Monkton Ridge. Join Jane Williamson of the Rokeby Museum and research assistant Alicia Grangent for this talk about Stephen Bates, the first black sheriff in Vermont, who held his position for many years in Vergennes. They will discuss how they brought him back to life through recognition with a state sign and displays at the Vergennes Bixby Library and Police Department. More info from the Monkton Historical Society, monktonmhs@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL. Tuesday, April 16, 9 a.m., Bristol Trail Network. Plan for 2.5-3 hours for the 3.4-mile section around Bristol's historic areas. Total elevation gain is under 100 feet. Excellent options for snacks/lunch in Bristol before or afterward. Contact Porter Knight at knight@gmavt.net 802-343-3920 for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"CONTAINER GARDENING" WITH CHARLIE NARDOZZI IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, April 16, 1 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury Garden Club welcomes Charlie Nardozzi back this spring to talk about container gardening and some of his favorite annual flowers to help get ready for planting season. Free and open to the public.

"FINDING JESSE: A FUGITIVE FROM SLAVERY IN VERMONT" PRESENTATION IN ORWELL. Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Trace Jesse's life from enslavement in North Carolina to freedom in Vermont. This illustrated talk brings the narrative of one slave out of anonymity and explores his life and pursuit of freedom. Presented by Jane Williamson. A Vermont Humanities Council Lecture.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

"JOHN SINGER SARGENT" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, April 17, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The Great Art Wednesday series continues with this exploration of celebrated portrait artist extraordinaire

John Singer Sargent — his life work, his technique and his continuing influence on the world of art. Tickets \$15 adults/\$10 students, available at www.townhalltheater.org.

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY PLAYERS AUDITIONS IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Auditions for two plays, "Love/Sick" and "Steel Magnolias," to be presented this summer at the Vergennes Opera House. Auditions will consist of readings from the scripts. There's no need to prepare anything, and you need only come one night. Callbacks, if necessary, will be scheduled after auditions. "Love/Sick" will play from June 20-23, and "Steel Magnolias" will play Aug. 15-18.

FLY FISHING FLIES AND BASIC TECHNIQUES IN ORWELL. Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Local fly-fishing guide Liz Orr will explain fly fishing flies and demonstrate basic techniques.

"THE MISSING PIECE OF THE GOOD LIFE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Think there is more to the Good Life than happiness and meaning alone? Join Professor Lorraine Besser to discuss her research on psychological richness and how you can make your life better by making it more interesting. Part of Vermont Public Philosophy Week. Visit publicphilosophyweek.org for the full listing of events.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY PLAYERS AUDITIONS IN VERGENNES. Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See April 17 listing.

"BEYOND UTOPIA" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Winner of the Audience Award for Documentary Feature at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, "Beyond Utopia" is an astonishing and unforgettable film experience. In telling the incredible story of several families as they attempt to escape harsh oppression in North Korea, the film powerfully reveals a world most of us have never seen. An MNFF Selects series offering. Tickets \$14 advance/\$16 at the door. More info at townhalltheater.org

"SHOULD WE GEOENGINEER THE PLANET IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE?" in Middlebury. Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join Professor Tim Juvshik to discuss ethical questions about the costs, risks and benefits of geoengineering fixes to the climate change problem. This event is part of Vermont Public Philosophy Week. Visit publicphilosophyweek.org for the full listing of events.

SAM KUHN IN LINCOLN. Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m., Lincoln Library. Kuhns is a native Vermont singer songwriter who is a graduate of Mount Abe. His heartfelt original tunes are informed by the people and places of his life in rural Vermont. He is a fine guitarist and canjo

player (a banjo with a can for the body) who is a warm and engaging performer. Free. Part of the 5-Town Musical Library Tour.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 19, Means Woods. Will the Dutchman's britches be hanging out to dry? Join this easy paced walk and find out. About 2 miles with little elevation gain. Contact David Andrews at 802-388-4894 or vtrevda@yahoo.com for details. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

DALY, COONS, CASSELS-BROWN IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, April 19, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Three of Addison County's finest songwriters return home for an intimate evening of original material and familiar classics in three-part harmony. Tickets \$33 at a table/\$22 standard seating, available at townhalltheater.org or by calling 802-382-9222.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MENDON. Saturday, April 20, Bald Mountain. Moderate 3.3-mile loop hike with 850 feet of elevation gain. There are multiple viewpoints highlighted by great views of the Coolidge Range; including Killington, Mendon and Shrewsbury peaks. Another vista looks to the SW toward the Taconic Range. Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or kencorey53@gmail.com to register or for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

CLIMATE FUTURE FILM FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 20, 1 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Ten films from four continents in two hours give expression to what we are feeling — hope and cynicism; climate denial and climate grief; rage and heartbreak; resilience and resolve — and offers paths toward climate empowerment. Discussion to follow. More info at ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

"LA RONDINE" LIVE IN HD IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, April 20, 1 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Puccini's bittersweet love story returns with soprano Angel Blue starring as the French courtesan Magda, opposite tenor Jonathan Tetelman as Ruggero, an idealistic young man who offers her an alternative to her life of excess. Pre-show talk with OCM board member David Clark beginning at 12:15 p.m. Tickets \$26 adult/\$12 student, available at townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222.

FELLOW PYNINS IN RIPTON. Saturday, April 20, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Community Coffee House, Route 125. Fellow Pynins is an award-winning contemporary folk duo with a keen sense of vocal harmony and song craft anchored in the balladry tradition. The duo consists of Dani Aubert (claw-hammer banjo, bouzouki) and solo artist Ian George (guitar, mandolin). They perform mostly original music alongside a few reworked traditional ballads gathered from their travels. Advance tickets are recommended and appreciated. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets general \$15/

generous \$20-\$25/or pay what you can. Beverages and baked goods available. More info at rcch.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

POETRY CAFÉ IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, April 21, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Town Hall Theater is celebrating Poetry Month by inviting seven local poets to share their work with the community. A relaxed vibe, with table seating and drinks and snacks on offer. Admission is free and no ticket is needed, but a \$5 donation is suggested. More info at 802-382-9222.

MONDAY, APRIL 22

SUSAN RODRIGUEZ "ARCHITECTURE FOR ALL: DESIGNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF PLACE, PURPOSE, HISTORY AND COMMUNITY CULTURE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, April 22, 4:30 p.m., Dana Auditorium, College St. As part of Middlebury College's Architecture for All: A Symposium about Radical Engagement through Architecture, Rodriguez will discuss designing in the public realm and the creation of buildings and spaces that distill the essence of cultures and communities. She will share a series of projects that serve a diverse range of communities from off-the-grid rural locations to dense urban neighborhoods of New York City. Free and open to the public. More info at sites.middlebury.edu/architectureforall.

ARCHITECT MARLON BLACKWELL IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, April 22, 5:45 p.m., Dana Auditorium, College St. As part of Middlebury College's Architecture for All, Blackwell will discuss his architecture and design process through the lens of "radical practice." Free and open to the public. More info at sites.middlebury.edu/architectureforall.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

TURNER BROOKS "MEMORIES, OBSESSIONS, PREOCCUPATIONS WITH SPACE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, April 23, 4:30 p.m., Dana Auditorium, College St. As part of Middlebury College's Architecture for All: A Symposium about Radical Engagement through Architecture, this talk will focus on the issue of space as it relates to the human body. Brooks will talk about this topic from his own early experiences in life, to becoming an architect, and finally to designing a project for those on the autistic spectrum whose sensibilities are so much related to the issue of space. Free and open to the public. More info at sites.middlebury.edu/architectureforall.

BILLIE TSIEH "OPEN" IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, April 23, 5:45 p.m., Dana Auditorium, College St. As part of Middlebury College's Architecture for All: A Symposium about Radical Engagement through Architecture, Tsien will illustrate how architecture has the ability to open institutions that have traditionally felt closed, creating an architecture for all. Free and open to the public. More info at sites.middlebury.edu/architectureforall.

UPCOMING MUSIC

Ripton Community Coffee House welcomes folk duo Fellow Pynins, Saturday, April 20

The Ripton Community Coffee House will presents folk duo Fellow Pynins on Saturday, April 20, at the Ripton Community House at 7:30 pm.

Fellow Pynins (pronounced Pie-nins) is an award-winning contemporary folk duo with a keen sense of vocal harmony and song craft anchored in the balladry tradition. The duo consists of Dani Aubert (claw-hammer banjo, bouzouki) and solo artist Ian George (guitar, mandolin). Since 2016 the duo has toured the U.S. incessantly and has gathered significant traction in the UK/Ireland, gracing festivals such as Cambridge Folk Festival, Wilderness Festival, Omagh Bluegrass Festival. In 2019 they were named by NPR's Bob Boilen as one of the best Tiny Desk submissions. Boilen called it "folk music with a hefty touch of whimsy." That same year the duo won the Minnesota Bluegrass & Old-Time duet competition.

With honey-laced harmonies and innovative instrumentals that seem at once familiar and endlessly surprising,

Fellow Pynins breathe new life into the folk tradition. Whether showcasing newly penned original songs or performing classic songs of the folk repertoire gathered while traveling, their astonishing arrangements, raw sincerity, and delicate, intimate connection to the music and each other will leave you enthralled. This is the band that you never knew you needed in your life. Soak in their stories and songs and as Lisa Dunn from BBC says, let the music "transport you into their haunting and beguiling world of love tales and spine-tingling harmonies... They will have you traveling far and wide to hear them again."



Advance tickets are recommended to guarantee a seat at the cozy Ripton venue. To purchase tickets, visit buytickets.at/riptoncommunitycoffeeshouse/1071578. The doors open at 7 p.m.; the music will begin at 7:30 p.m. General admission \$15; generous admission \$20-\$25; or pay what you can. Refreshments, including coffee, tea, and baked goods will be available, so bring a little extra cash.

MORE TUNES

SAM KUHN'S TO PLAY AT THE LINCOLN LIBRARY, APRIL 18

The next concert in the Five Town Friends of the Arts "Winter Into Spring Musical Library Tour" will be Sam Kuhns, who will perform on Thursday, April 18, at the Lincoln Library.



Kuhns is a native Vermont singer songwriter who is a graduate of Mount Abe. His heartfelt original tunes are informed by the people and places of his life in rural Vermont. He is a fine guitarist and banjo player (a banjo with a can for the body) who is a warm and engaging performer.

"We really appreciate the 5 Town Friends of the Arts, and in the past have benefited from an art grant through them," said librarian Wendy McIntosh. "This concert series is a wonderful way to bring music to a new audience... I hope that people come and enjoy the music and community! Libraries have so much to offer, including books of course, but also so much more."

The final show will be: **May 16 — Rodrigo Placencia at the Starksboro Library**

All shows will start at 7:30 p.m. Free admission with donations welcome.

Editor's Note: This April 18th concert was originally scheduled with Tim McKenzie.

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.

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PUZZLES

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ACROSS

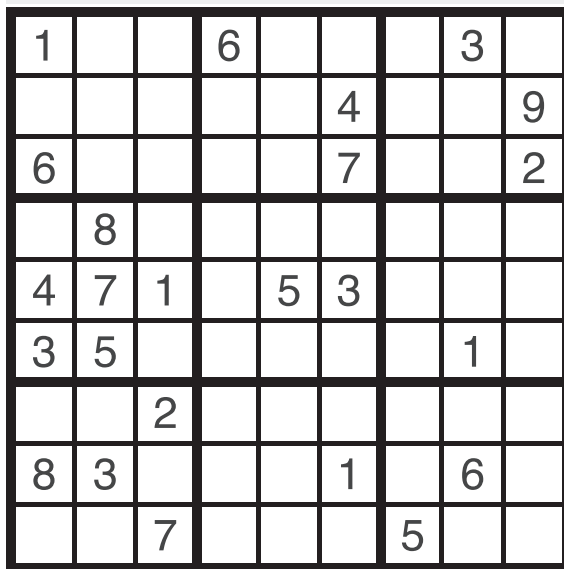
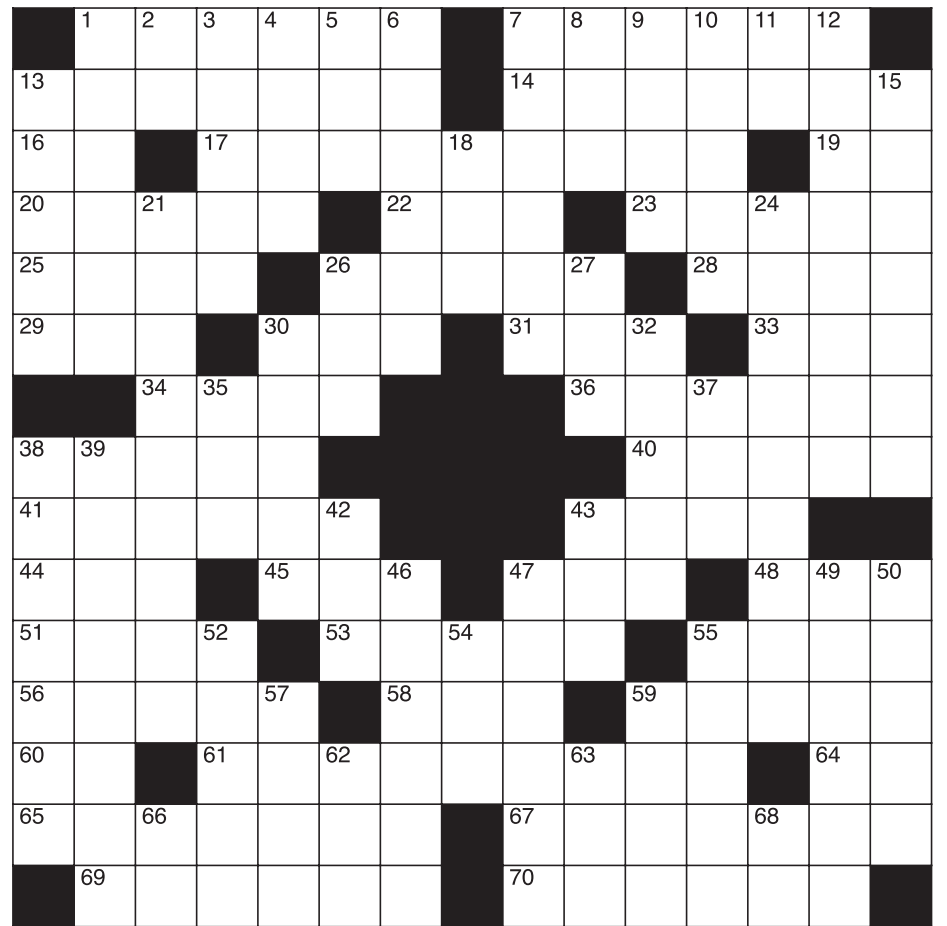
- 1. Island nation
- 7. Platforms
- 13. Project plan
- 14. French fishing port
- 16. South Dakota
- 17. Oakland's baseball team
- 19. Military policeman
- 20. Ornamental stone
- 22. Garland
- 23. Process that produces ammonia
- 25. Mousses
- 26. Music notation "dal _"
- 28. Fail to win
- 29. Peyton's little brother
- 30. Not near
- 31. Some cars still need it
- 33. Lizard genus

- 34. An idiot (Brit.)
- 36. Postponed
- 38. African country
- 40. Gazes unpleasantly
- 41. In a way, traveled
- 43. Ukraine's capital
- 44. Appropriate
- 45. Dash
- 47. Twitch
- 48. Swiss river
- 51. Data file with computer animations
- 53. City in S. Korea
- 55. Particular region
- 56. They have eyes and noses
- 58. Tear
- 59. Large Madagascan lemur
- 60. Not out
- 61. Ornamental saddle covering

- 64. A driver's license is one
- 65. Latin term for charity
- 67. Rechristens
- 69. Objects from an earlier time
- 70. Hindu male religious teachers

DOWN

- 1. Used as a weapon
- 2. Yukon Territory
- 3. Makes a map of
- 4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- 5. Unnilhexium
- 6. Merchant
- 7. Playing the field
- 8. Folk singer DiFranco
- 9. Something to



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

scratch

- 10. Mexican agave
- 11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
- 12. Session
- 13. North American people
- 15. Ranches
- 18. Electroencephalograph
- 21. A type of compound
- 24. Avenue
- 26. High schoolers' test
- 27. A type of meal
- 30. Gradually

disappeared

- 32. Ancient Frankish law code
- 35. Popular pickup truck
- 37. Buzzing insect
- 38. Deal illegally
- 39. Lying in the same plane
- 42. Obstruct
- 43. Related
- 46. Challenge aggressively
- 47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
- 49. Bird's nests

50. Forays

- 52. __ B. de Mille, filmmaker
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. One-time name of Vietnam
- 57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 59. Private school in New York
- 62. Political action committee
- 63. A way to fashion
- 66. Email reply
- 68. "The Great Lake State"

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

ALL ABOUT GROWING HELLEBORES

You may know them by different names such as Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*) or Christmas rose (*Helleborus niger*). Don't let those common names fool you. Hellebores (*Helleborus x hybridus*) aren't related to roses at all. They're actually part of same family (*Ranunculaceae*) as buttercups, a wildflower you may be familiar with.

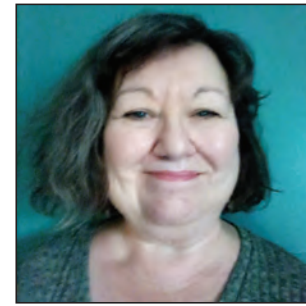
BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

If you're looking for an early-blooming, low-maintenance plant for your garden, look no further. A hellebore just might check off several requirement boxes on your plant wish list.

In late winter, you'll first notice last year's leathery, evergreen foliage making an appearance from beneath the receding snow. Not long after that, the buds of the new season's flowers emerge, adding a splash of color in what otherwise can be a mostly monochromatic landscape.

Hellebores begin blooming in early spring, so they're a first source of nectar for pollinators. Flowers can last more than four weeks. They come in a variety of colors, including green, white, pink, peach and purple.

Foliage damaged during the winter can be pruned back in early spring. New foliage will appear a couple of months after flower buds begin to emerge. At that time, the last of the



Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.

prior year's leaves should be removed to allow room for new growth.

Hellebores are hardy in U. S. Department of Agriculture Plant Hardiness Zones 4-9. Some hybrids can survive in Zone 3 if provided with a layer of mulch, and there's adequate snow cover over the winter to provide insulation. Hellebores are long-lived perennial plants, so you can look forward to many years of enjoyment.

Like other perennials, hellebores can be planted in spring or fall, but avoid the heat of summer. They prefer to grow in locations offering partial shade to partial sun. If grown in full shade, expect fewer flowers. Avoid areas with full, direct sunlight.

Hellebores grow best in soil that contains a good amount of organic matter, so when planting include a layer of compost. Mulching will be beneficial. In addition, soil should drain well and have a neutral pH (around 7.0) to slightly alkaline (8.0).

If in doubt about your soil, have a soil test done before adding any amendments. It's easy to do, and spring is the perfect time.

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 11



Foliage damaged during the winter months can be pruned back in early spring after new buds appear.

PHOTO / DEBORAH J. BENOIT



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GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

More information on obtaining a soil test can be found at go.uvm.edu/soiltest.

Hellebores are slow spreading. They may naturalize in favorable conditions through self-seeding.

They grow in clumps up to about 24 inches tall and 30 inches wide at maturity, depending on the variety and growing conditions. Large clumps can be divided in the springtime after flowering or in the fall.

To do so, dig up the entire plant and remove as much soil as possible. Use a sharp blade to separate it into sections, being sure each includes at least three growth buds. Promptly replant each section as you would a new plant.

When working with hellebores, it's a good idea to wear gloves and long sleeves. The sap can be a skin irritant, and all parts of the hellebore plant are poisonous. Be sure to keep children and pets who might be tempted to nibble away from plants in the garden or those that are part of cut flower arrangements.

Hellebores are considered deer- and rabbit-resistant, so they're a good choice in areas where wildlife grazing in the garden can be a problem. The flowers and their seedheads can make interesting additions to cut flower arrangements. No matter the season, their evergreen foliage can add interest to the garden all year long.



Hellebores, which come in a variety of colors, grow best in partial shade to partial sun in well-drained, nutrient-rich soil.

PHOTO / DEBORAH J. BENOIT

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Pets In Need HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

2024 Rabies Clinics

Homeward Bound's final rabies clinic of the season for cats and dogs will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 9:00am to 10:00am.

The cost is \$20 and pre-registration is highly encouraged. Go to our website: Homewardboundanimals.org.

Important: All animals must be 12 weeks of age or older to receive the rabies vaccine. In order to receive a 3-year rabies vaccine, pet owners must provide proof of prior vaccination. No physical exams will be performed. This is a drive-through style vaccine clinic.

Baxter

Baxter is a large 1-year-old male. He is cuddly and doesn't mind being carried around. He puts up with just about anything that is going on around him and purrs non-stop! He is great with cats, dogs, and kids.



Ballerina

Ballerina is a shy, sweet 2-year-old. She gets along with other cats.

Monkey

Monkey is an 8-month-old, solid black male. He is sweet and cuddly. Monkey is very playful, and is gentle with cats and kids.



Nelly

Nelly is a sweet, but shy 3-year-old. She has lived with other cats.

Easy

Easy is a 5-month-old Chihuahua mix, weighing 10 pounds. He is very active, friendly to family and visitors, playful, and affectionate. Easy is not housebroken, but is pee-pad and crate trained. He knows basic commands like "sit" and "come" and walks on a leash. He is gentle and loves toys, treats, and playing with other dogs. He has learned to co-exist with cats. He is also comfortable with small children.



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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury
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"The Blue Between Day and Night." Paintings by East Middlebury artist Leigh Harder. For this exhibit, Harder uses alcohol ink to "catch the particular blue of the changing twilight sky." A free opening reception will be held Friday, April 12, from 5-7 p.m. On view April 12-June 8

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.

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.

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 an 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

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2744 Watch Point Rd., Shoreham VT.
MLS # 4970492 \$485,000

The sunsets are fabulous! There is a sweet auxiliary living unit on the lower level with its own kitchen, bath and outside patio. A huge 36' x 52' detached garage not only stores your vehicles, but also provides excellent workshop and storage space. This property has so much to offer!

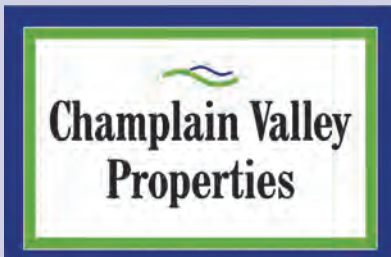


This unique property is located just south of Middlebury right off of Route 7, making it a very convenient commute to Middlebury, Rutland, or Burlington. The house has had a lot of work done on it over the last 5 1/2 years including an



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updated kitchen with all new high-end appliances. However, there is still room to add your personal touch. Lots of storage space in the attic and also multiple out buildings. There is an attached garage with one door but has room for a shop area and at least 4 cars. There is another building that has even more space. A wonderful place to call home with extra space for toys and equipment!



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Weddings

*Cyrus & Kylie
Devine*



A Special Publication of the Addison Independent • April 11, 2024



NEWLYWEDS CYRUS AND Kylie Devine take in the surrounding winter wonderland after saying 'I do' last month. The couple grew up in the Vergennes area and still reside here. They were married at The Barns at Edgemont Inn in Moriah, N.Y.

Photo by Dana Maharaj of Ethereal-Photography

The Devine wedding: An Addison County love story

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — It's easy for newlyweds Kylie and Cyrus Devine to

recall the night that brought them together. That chance encounter might have taken place nearly two decades ago, but

it's an introduction that changed their lives forever.

"Me and Kylie met at the (Vergennes) American Legion Post 14 at Tuesday night bingo with our grandmas when we were four or five," Cyrus recalled.

Kylie Comeau and Cyrus Devine spent most of the years since then together. Now 22 years old, they both grew up in the Vergennes area and began dating the summer before starting seventh grade at Vergennes Union Middle School.

After graduating high school, they decided to continue building their lives together in Addison County, where Cyrus proposed marriage at the end of 2022.

"I was not expecting it at all," Kylie said of the proposal. "I was graduating nursing school in May, and I thought for sure Cyrus was going to wait until I graduated ... On Christmas he told me that he had one more gift for me, and it was a ring."

The couple began planning their big day the following summer. They originally set their sights on a July 2024 wedding, but this past January decided to get married in the spring instead.

They landed on March 23, a wedding date with significance to the pair.

"My grandparents were also married on the 23rd, just in July," Kylie explained. "So, 23 is special."

THE PLANNING PROCESS

In addition to the date, the pair found several other ways to make their big day more meaningful with personal touches.

"Cyrus's aunt Heather has pretty much redone my entire dress," Kylie told the *Independent* ahead of the wedding. "That's been really special, to be able to basically create a dress thanks to his aunt's abilities."

Kylie's reception outfit also had a sentimental touch.

(See Devines, Page 3)



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KYLIE AND CYRUS Devine celebrate their engagement this past summer. The couple has spent most of their life together in Addison County and were married just across Lake Champlain on March 23.

Photos by Dana Maharaj of Ethereal-Photography

Devines

(Continued from Page 2)

“I’ll be wearing my mom’s dress as a party dress later in the evening,” she said.

Other signature parts of the wedding day included a multipurpose guest book.

“Our guest book is actually cornhole boards that are signed for us,” Kylie said. “I think it’s going to be so cool to have those for the rest of our lives.”

The couple said there were a few wedding day non-negotiables that helped guide the planning process, such as their photographer.

The pair chose Dana Maharaj of Ethereal-Photography to capture their wedding.

“The photographer was already decided before we even knew we were getting married,” Cyrus said.

Other details fell into place over time.

The couple chose The Barns at Edgemont Inn in Moriah, N.Y., as their venue. They said the location was both affordable and accommodating.

“We heard amazing things about it, and they’ve been incredible in working with us on such short notice and helping with everything,” Kylie said.

Though the wedding took place on the other side of Lake Champlain, the couple still leaned on several Addison County vendors.

Pratt’s Store in Bridport catered the reception; Vergennes DJ Amanda Rock provided music; and the bridal party had their hair and makeup done by the team at Shear Cuts in Vergennes, which is run by

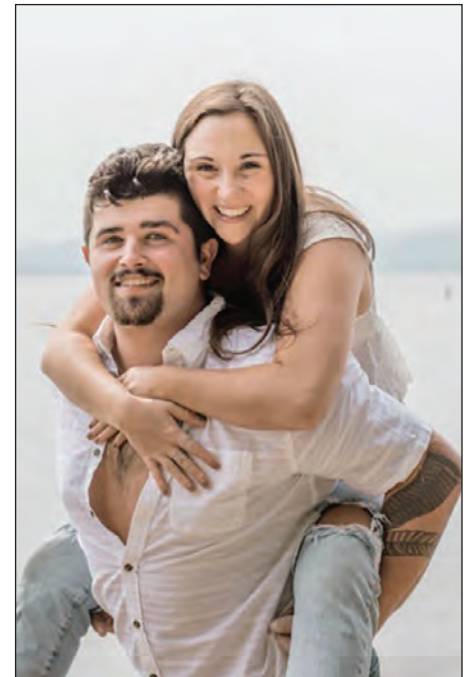
Cyrus’s mother, Hillary.

The couple also worked with Pantone travel agent Martha DeGraaf of Dream Vacations to plan their honeymoon trip to Jamaica.

“She’s amazing. She basically did it all for us,” Kylie said.

The pair said working with local vendors was one of the highlights of planning their wedding.

“The wedding vendors of Addison County were so accommodating,” Cyrus
(See Couple, Page 4)



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Couple

(Continued from Page 3)

said. The couple acknowledged some parts of the planning process were more challenging, such as settling on a bridal party and guest list and finalizing last-minute details.

“It’s hard to keep your eye on the prize the last week (leading up to the wedding) because there’s so much to do,” Cyrus said. “It’s easy to let the stress get in the way of what will be the best day of your life, but it’s the most stressful week of your life leading up to it.”

TIPS FOR COUPLES

To avoid some stress, the couple recommends that prospective brides and grooms spread out the planning process.

“You don’t want to end up making all of your phone calls or all of your decisions in one day,” Kylie said. “I’d say one week, call and find a caterer, and the next week find and call your photographer. Break it down that way so you don’t feel bombarded by phone calls and questions.”

Planning a wedding can take a village, and the pair credits their friends and

family in helping them prepare for the big day.

They recommended couples lean on loved ones for help during the wedding day as well.

“Know the people you can trust to help with your day and ask them ahead of time if they would be OK being available on the day for ‘emergency situations,’” the pair said. “We had a few people who did this for us and were so incredible at wrapping up the final details that we couldn’t get to, or forgot about.”

Reflecting on their wedding day, the couple shared a few other pieces of advice.

“Make time for eating and for seeing your family,” they said. “We struggled with this, and it is the one and only thing we would have changed.”

The newlyweds also urged those getting married to focus on the big picture.

“Remember that none of the little things matter. Some things will be forgotten and guests will never know,” they said. “Remember that your day is just about the two of you and that not every detail has to be perfect.”



“It’s easy to let the stress get in the way of what will be the best day of your life, but it’s the most stressful week of your life leading up to it.”

— Cyrus Devine

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Be a wedding officiant in Vermont

Though it's been a while since the poll was conducted, in 2017 the data-tracking firm Wedding Report surveyed couples who had recently tied the knot, and one of the questions participants answered concerned who officiated their weddings. Roughly 25% of couples indicated a friend or family member had served as their wedding officiant, and that figure pales in comparison to older studies, one of which determined the number was around 40%.

But anyone who has attended more than one wedding in recent years has likely noticed that it's no longer unique to see laypersons officiate a wedding instead of more traditional officiants, which historically has meant clergy or other individuals with some formal affiliation with a house of worship.

In many places it's easy and open to anyone to become a licensed officiant. Couples who want a friend or family member to officiate their wedding are urged to make that request well in advance of their wedding, which can assure the person has ample time to complete the licensing process.

VERMONT OFFICIANTS

For Vermont weddings, people at least 18 years old can be authorized to perform a marriage in the Green Mountain State by applying to the secretary of state to serve as a temporary officiant. Or, if you are a member of the clergy, you can get a certificate from the probate division of the Superior Court.

Apply to the Vermont secretary of state for authorization to become a temporary officiant. The authorization will be limited to a specific civil marriage of a specific couple. Your authority will expire once the couple has received their marriage license.

To officiate a wedding, you must apply and pay a filing fee through the state's online system (tinyurl.com/OfficiantSoS) for each ceremony you wish to officiate.

Registering as a temporary officiant is just one part of the process of performing a wedding in Vermont. There are specific steps the couple and the officiant need to follow to ensure the ceremony is done accurately and the correct paperwork is obtained and filed with the right officials.

The Vermont Department of Health's Vital Records Department is responsible for marriage records. It has published the Getting Married in Vermont Information Sheet, which you can find online at tinyurl.com/HitchedInVt. We recommend reading that publication for answers to common questions. Additionally, the Vermont Department of Health and the relevant town/city clerk can provide guidance to make sure the process goes smoothly.

BECOMING A TEMPORARY OFFICIANT:

Prior to the ceremony:

Confirm the spelling of names and address(es) of parties **before** completing the registration form. Names and

addresses (physical addresses) of parties being married **MUST** be the same on the marriage license AND the temporary officiant registration. **Note:** The Secretary of State's Office can make corrections, but they can take up to two business days to complete.

Register & pay \$100 filing fee to become a temporary officiant **prior** to the wedding date. **Note:** You cannot backdate certificates of authorization.

Upon submitting the registration form, an e-mail will be sent to the address designated on the registration form containing two attachments: 1) a receipt for the transaction, & 2) a copy of the registration form and the certificate of authorization.

Use the Civil Marriage Checklist as a guide for the rest of the process. It is online at tinyurl.com/VTmarriageChecklist.

After the ceremony:

After performing the ceremony the Temporary Officiant needs to sign the marriage license in black ink and return it, along with the marriage license & printed certificate of authorization, to the issuing town/city clerk.

Steps for the couple getting married:

Prior to the ceremony:

The couple getting married must get their marriage license from a Vermont town/city clerk before the ceremony.

Additional Information:

Contact us: sos.temporaryofficiants@vermont.gov, (802) 828-2363.

Wedding party responsibilities

Participating in a wedding party is an honor. Couples invite many people to their weddings, and the select few asked to be in the party are typically those individuals with whom the couples shares a strong and special bond.

The role of the wedding party is not merely symbolic. Though it's up to the happy couple to determine how involved they want their wedding party to be, individuals asked to be in the party should know that their acceptance of these roles carries with it a certain level of responsibility.

MAID OF HONOR

The maid of honor may bear the most responsibility of any wedding party member. Maids of honor typically help with the planning of the wedding, offering advice and opinions on everything from the bride's gown to the bridesmaid dresses and anything else a couple might need help with. If the bride asks, the maid of honor may be asked to organize dress fittings and attend them as well. But is up to the bride how much advice she wants, so listen before you offer too much input.

A maid of honor typically plays an active, and often the lead, role in planning the bachelorette party. Come the day of the wedding, the maid of honor helps the bride prepare and may organize the bridesmaids to ensure everyone stays on

(See Weddings, Page 7)

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Planning your vows for the wedding

The exchange of wedding vows is a key component of a wedding ceremony and sometimes helps to ensure the marriage is binding in accordance with the faith of the participants. Or, the couple may exchange vows just to show each other and their family and friends the commitment they are making to each other.

Couples have options pertaining to the vows they share. In religious ceremonies, vows may be predetermined as part of the requirements and rituals of that faith and religious texts. Individuals also may choose to read romantic verses from poetry. Another option is to write one's own vows.

When drafting vows, here are some guidelines to follow.

- Use a template. Scour the internet for resources on writing vows. You'll likely find sample vows or even templates where you can fill in information if you do not know where to begin.

- Use memories of when you met. Your

Seven traditional marriage promises:

These could be included in vows you write.

- To have and to hold from this day forward.
- For better, for worse.
- For richer, for poorer.
- In sickness and in health.
- Forsaking all others.
- To love and to cherish.
- Until death do us part.

vows can include special anecdotes or stories of time spent in the early days when you first knew this was the person with whom you would spend your life.

- Explain who this person is to you. Tell the audience what it is about this person that has you smitten. Is he or she your partner in crime? Confidante? Best friend? All of the above?

- Share what you are pledging. Write out exactly what you are vowing to your special someone. Be definitive and draw from your personal experiences. For example, "I vow to support you each time you adopt another shelter dog."

- "I promise to not hog the covers." "I vow to warm your toes on cold evenings."

Make it personal, heartfelt and humorous.

- Say you'll be there. At the heart of vows is a promise that you'll be around no matter what life throws at you.

- Keep things brief. There is no need to write a novel

for your vows, which may reassure you if you're nervous about the right wording and



Metro Creative photo

speaking in front of an audience. Outline the most important points you want to share and build on those sentiments.

- Reflect on the future. Wrap up your vows by noting your excitement about what the future may bring, whether that is a family, travel or another adventure.

Wedding vows are traditional components of most weddings. Couples easily can write their own vows to personalize the ceremony even further.

On the Reddit.com website, you will find lots of vows that others have written on the Wedding Planning subreddit. You can borrow liberally when writing your own.

Redditors have some thoughts on writing wedding vows. A Reddit user called "foodwineanddesign" suggests starting a "Wedding Vows" note in the Notes app on your phone, and then write down something for your vows whenever it comes to you. This person also said, "I brain/heart dumped into a word document in Comic Sans because it's weirdly proven to help with writers block."

A Redditor called "Anxious-Adventure"

said they keep their proposed wedding vows in an email draft, which allows them to look at, add to it when the feeling strikes them, revise from time to time, and then have it read to send to themselves or their partner when its "ready."

A Reddit user called "WaitForIttttt" offered these tips for writing vows:

- Make sure you agree ahead of time on length, tone, content, etc. You probably don't want to write 3 minutes of serious vows and have your partner have 20 seconds of lighthearted vows.

- It also helps to give them to someone you trust to compare to make sure they somewhat match one another (we gave ours to our best man).

- Put them down periodically and revisit them later. I easily spent a year and a half writing and revising mine. It was helpful to get a fresh perspective on them when it wasn't as fresh in my mind.

This couple intentionally made their vows pretty long — 9 minutes in of a 20-minute ceremony — because they really wanted them to be the whole focus of the ceremony.

By all means, once you have got your vows just the way you want them, then practice saying them *out loud*. You will find out what words or phrases you stumble on, and you will gain confidence, so that when it comes time to speak them aloud in front of all your favorite people — including your soulmate — they will come off perfectly.



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Weddings

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schedule. A maid of honor typically toasts the happy couple during the reception as well.

BEST MAN

Like the maid of honor, the best man has some extra responsibilities before the wedding and during the festivities. A best man may organize tux fittings, plan the bachelor party, help make arrangements if the groom requests help, and be asked to hold the rings on the day of the ceremony. A best man toast is common during the reception, and some grooms ask their best men to distribute tips to vendors at the end of the night.

BRIDESMAIDS

Bridesmaids often help the maid of honor plan the bachelorette party, and they also help to organize the bridal shower if the bride chooses to have one. Bridesmaids can offer input on wedding planning, particularly if they're already married, though that is not necessarily required and in some cases not welcome. Bridesmaids also can help relieve stress on the bride by being as agreeable as possible when scheduling dress fittings.

GROOMSMEN

Groomsmen help to plan the bachelor party and may be asked to provide some support prior to the ceremony. For example, on the day of the wedding, groomsmen may be asked to show guests, particularly elderly friends and family of the couple, to their seats. Like their bridesmaid counterparts, groomsmen can be especially helpful

by doing what's asked of them without resistance. Arriving on time to tuxedo fittings and offering insight when they think it might help are some simple ways groomsmen can pitch in.

FLOWER GIRL/RING BEARER

Often reserved for children, the roles of flower girls and ring bearers only require some simple participation during the ceremony. Flower girls may drop petals as they precede down the aisle ahead of the wedding party or just hold a bouquet in their cute little hands, while the ring bearer carries the ring down the aisle. If these roles will be filled by especially young children, couples may choose to have them walk down the aisle together.

PARENTS OF THE COUPLE

Parents of the bride and groom typically play supportive roles but may be asked to give speeches during the rehearsal dinner or the reception. The father of the bride typically walks her down the aisle, while the mother will likely spend the day of the ceremony at the bride's side as they get ready. Parents of the groom do not have any traditional responsibilities, though the groom and his mother customarily share a mother/son dance during the reception.

Couples need not feel compelled to assign bridal party members these duties if they don't feel comfortable doing so. However, sharing some of the responsibilities of wedding planning can help couples enjoy the process more and keep party members engaged.

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The Alice Pit appears empty as a starting song, her long ladders gone, a sunken cake of Chalchopyrite, above the wounded town. No tin hat to fit my dome or pick to hang upon my belt. Walking west on Waukesha I am what I perceive, dancing round the open grave. A whirl of Peacock feathers fell to mark the shaft that first now flooded green.

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