



## Young artists

The work of students from two county schools will be on display this weekend. See Arts + Leisure.



## Winning ways

The Tiger girls' tennis team could finish better than .500 after two wins a year ago. See Page 1B.



## In & Outside

Check out improvement possibilities in our 16-page Spring Home & Garden special section.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## Sen. Leahy reflects on his life in politics

### To speak in Middlebury on May 22

By ANGELO LYNN

VERMONT

Former Sen. Patrick Leahy starts a conversation this week with a story that revolves around a photo he had taken while touring Tibet with Chinese authorities. He was there with his wife, Marcelle, and a few other congressional members, when he noticed that a father



SENATOR LEAHY

Leahy snuck his camera into position without the Chinese authorities noticing and snapped the shot. Later, Leahy asked a federal agent to find the man and ask why he would risk a certain prison sentence for displaying a picture of the Dalai Lama.

He said: "Because the world has to know."

Leahy intersperses poignant moments like this throughout most any conversation. Such personal moments are what animates his recollections and become just a fragment of the thousands of significant moments and memories he's had throughout his 48 years serving in the U.S.

(See Sen. Leahy, Page 9A)

## \$500K for Ferrisburgh to help boost safety

By ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — Ferrisburgh has been awarded a \$500,000 federal grant through the Vermont Agency of Transportation that will pay 80% of the cost to install a signalized crosswalk and 640 feet of new sidewalks at Route 7's intersection with Little Chicago and Middlebrook roads.

The work will be done over the next three or four years once final design and engineering work is complete, according to Ferrisburgh Selectboard Chair Clark Hinsdale.

The sidewalks will provide access from that intersection to several public buildings in the village area, including the Ferrisburgh Central School, and the Post Office, and two town-owned buildings — the Union Meeting Hall and the former town clerk's office that now houses the Ferrisburgh Historical Society.

School and town officials have for years been seeking a crosswalk with pedestrian-activated stoplights to make it safer for students to walk to Ferrisburgh's elementary (See Ferrisburgh, Page 10A)

## Film fest founder pares his job back

### Komesar takes a bow; full-time director sought

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A decade after launching the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in partnership with renowned movie director Jay Craven, Lloyd Komesar has announced plans to step back from his role as hands-on producer and turn over the reins of the growing, late-summer event to a new executive director.

"I think it's a propitious time to step aside and let someone else take us into the next decade," Komesar, a retired Disney executive, said in an interview. "I'm taking great satisfaction knowing what we've built over the past 10 years."

Komesar stressed he'll remain associated with MNFF, albeit in a less active capacity. He'll stay on the festival board, and he and his wife Maureen will continue to divide their time between homes in Leicester and California.

"I will go nowhere," he promised. "I will remain active in some key areas I have thrived in, such as the fundraising, community relations and sponsor relations. These are key things that require a presence in the community, and I will still be (See Komesar, Page 14A)



LLOYD KOMESAR, FOUNDER and producer of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, will cut back his involvement in the annual event following this August's fest. The MNFF board is now recruiting a first-ever executive director.

Photo by Mike Conley



## What's inside?

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE JUNIORS Avery Maxwell, left, and Raia Schluter peer into a canister of liquid nitrogen while taking turns dipping balloons into the super-cold substance during a "Wizard Chemistry Show" this past Thursday evening. The annual fun demonstration, which shows little kids that chemistry is not magic but it can be magical, returned for the first time since the start of the pandemic. See more photos on Page 8A.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Students explore housing needs in Bristol

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Bristol residents agree their community needs more housing, particularly single family homes and senior living options. However, there are several obstacles developers face in creating more housing and that residents face in finding it.

Those are some of the takeaways from research conducted by students at Middlebury College, who have spent this past spring exploring the current state of affordable housing in Addison County, specifically in Bristol.

Throughout the semester, students interviewed town officials and local developers,

analyzed town documents related to housing, and surveyed residents to learn more about the Bristol community's housing needs.

Students presented their findings to Addison County Regional Planning Commission staff on Monday, highlighting challenges faced in addressing affordable housing needs and offering potential solutions.

Jessica Teets is a Bristol selectboard member and political science professor at Middlebury College whose class conducted the research.

"People understood the issue and they understood that there might be sacrifices required to get affordable housing, but we also

found that there was not a lot of knowledge about what needed to change or where we are in the process," she said of the project. "I think an important part of this research, in addition to giving information to regulators, might be helping to mobilize the population so the next time there's a public meeting, people will read the changes and attend the meeting and try to raise any issues that they have."

The students conducting the research were all enrolled in Teets's spring semester class on qualitative methods in political science. Each semester, students pick an issue to explore in (See Housing, Page 16A)

## Police to check on senior citizens

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — "Welfare checks."

Middlebury police Chief Jason Covey has been on dozens of them during his 24 years in law enforcement. A person from outside the area calls local police asking if they'd check on a frail and/or elderly

loved one who can't be reached by phone.

In many cases, the check reveals the person in question has accidentally left their phone off the hook or has a broken hearing aid.

"But there were many (welfare checks) that *didn't* go well," Covey noted, citing examples of finding

folks who had died from a medical event that no one was around to flag.

So Covey, with a huge assist from Middlebury PD Dispatcher Elizabeth Tracy, wants to make sure a greater percentage of welfare checks have a happy ending. To that end, Middlebury police on June 1

(See Good Morning, Page 15A)

## MAUSD aims to trim budget, preserve staff

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — After gathering community feedback and diving deeper into several questions related to district spending and operations, the Mount Abraham Unified School District Board has set a target for a third budget proposal, which district voters will field on June 11.

The district is still working to get a fiscal year 2025 spending plan approved by voters, after residents rejected a \$37 million proposal on Town Meeting Day and then

defeated a \$35.9 million budget proposal by 57 votes on April 16.

On Tuesday, the MAUSD board set a new budget target of \$35,382,401 — \$575,000 less than the second failed spending plan — and asked that the revised plan maintain as many student-facing positions as possible. The board also set June 11 for the next vote.

Those decisions came at the tail-end of a packed meeting agenda. Earlier that evening, the board heard presentations from Reen (See MAUSD, Page 15A)

## Slate Valley school budget nixed again; 4th vote to be held May 30

By JOHN FLOWERS

ORWELL — Residents of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD) on Thursday, May 9, defeated — for the third time — a proposed fiscal year 2025 spending plan of \$30,810,135.

The SVUUSD board on Monday, May 13, decided to put the same budget to voters on Thursday, May 30.

"The board feels that this (amount) is what is needed in the Slate Valley to education students," district Superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell said Tuesday morning. "It's not a want, it's a need."

It's a budget that SVUUSD voters in Orwell, Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton and West (See SVUUSD, Page 11A)



## By the way

Towns in our area are reporting great participation in this year's Green Up Day. In Lincoln, Katie Manaras reported that around 60 volunteers amassed around 100 bags of trash cleared from the sides of roads, including 11 tires and a bowling ball, of all things. "Pulling muddy cans (or worse) out of the ditch doesn't feel very glamorous while you're doing it, but it all adds up to a (See By the way, Page 11A)

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# Porter Hospital interim president gets permanent status

MIDDLEBURY—Bob Ortmyer has worked as interim president and chief operating officer at Middlebury's Porter Medical Center since Tom Thompson stepped out of that job this past September to care for his ailing wife, Lori.

This week, UVM Health Network made Ortmyer the permanent president and COO at Porter, a move that combines leadership for both Porter and Elizabethtown Community Hospital in Elizabethtown, N.Y.

Ortmyer had joined UVM Health Network as Elizabethtown's

president in July 2021, and continued in that capacity after he took on interim role at Porter this past September. UVMHN is a network of six hospitals, a physicians group and a home health and hospice organization serving communities in Vermont and northern New York.

UVMHN President and CEO Sunny Eappen is confident that Ortmyer can excel at both hospitals.

"At Elizabethtown Community Hospital, and in the past few months at Porter Medical Center, Bob has shown his ability to bring people together in innovative

ways to collaborate and maximize resources, calmly navigate challenges and uncertainty, and do both in service of providing great patient care and working to meet the needs of our providers and staff," said Eappen, a medical doctor with an MBA degree.

Elizabethtown Community Hospital's service area includes one hospital in Elizabethtown, one hospital in Ticonderoga, N.Y., and six community-based health centers. Both hospitals share health care providers and patients with Porter in a geographical area that makes up the southern region of UVM Health Network. Cardiology and OB/GYN providers at Porter regularly see patients at Ticonderoga, and some Porter patients who need radiology treatments are able to take advantage of shorter wait times by traveling to Ticonderoga for care. Such patient-focused options are possible thanks to close collaboration among leaders, providers and staff at both hospitals.

"Elizabethtown and Porter share many similarities, experiences, patients and providers — and many of the same opportunities," Ortmyer said. "I am honored to lead both organizations forward together, in collaboration with our network partner organizations in Vermont and northern New York. We are already benefiting from shared key roles as well as services and providers, and our continued partnership will help improve access and high quality care for our patients on both sides of Lake Champlain. I am committed to strengthening and building on those bonds."

Prior to joining Elizabethtown in July of 2021, Ortmyer spent three decades with WellSpan Health System in York, Penn. At Elizabethtown, Ortmyer succeeded John Remillard, who served in the role for more than five years and announced his retirement in 2020.

The Porter Board of Trustees has gotten to know Ortmyer as he served in his interim role for the past eight months.

"My fellow trustees and I have worked closely with Bob and have witnessed his leadership and

commitment to this organization. It was an easy decision for the trustees to support his appointment," said Kim Farnham, Porter board chair. "Bob knows how to keep patients first, is adept at building relationships in the community and is the right person to ensure Porter's long-term success and continued integration with Elizabethtown Community Hospital and our other health system partners."

Both Elizabethtown and Porter were recently named on a national list of 27 "Critical Access Hospitals to Know" by *Becker's Hospital Review*. The health system's third critical access hospital, Alice Hyde Medical Center in Malone, N.Y., was also named on that list.

"While serving as ECH president, Bob has done a wonderful job stepping up and serving in a dual role at Porter as interim president for the past nine months," said Susan Alott, RN, Elizabethtown Community Hospital Board chair. "Even before serving in this capacity, he has worked with the teams at both hospitals to create a more regional approach to improve health care delivery care for those in the health system's southernmost service area. This new role is a win-win for both organizations and the communities we serve."

This is the second joint leadership structure that the UVM Health Network has put into place for hospitals in its health system. Earlier efforts connected the leadership teams at two other northern New York hospitals, Alice Hyde and Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

"With Bob at the helm of both organizations, this is a real opportunity for Porter and Elizabethtown to become even more closely connected in providing care for patients in the southernmost part of the UVM Health Network's service area," Eappen said. "As health care partners, we support each other in our shared commitment to providing high-quality, equitable care to everyone we serve. Bob has already shown a strong commitment to Porter and Elizabethtown, and I believe this is a great next step for our patients, for our health system, and our communities."



BOB ORTMYER



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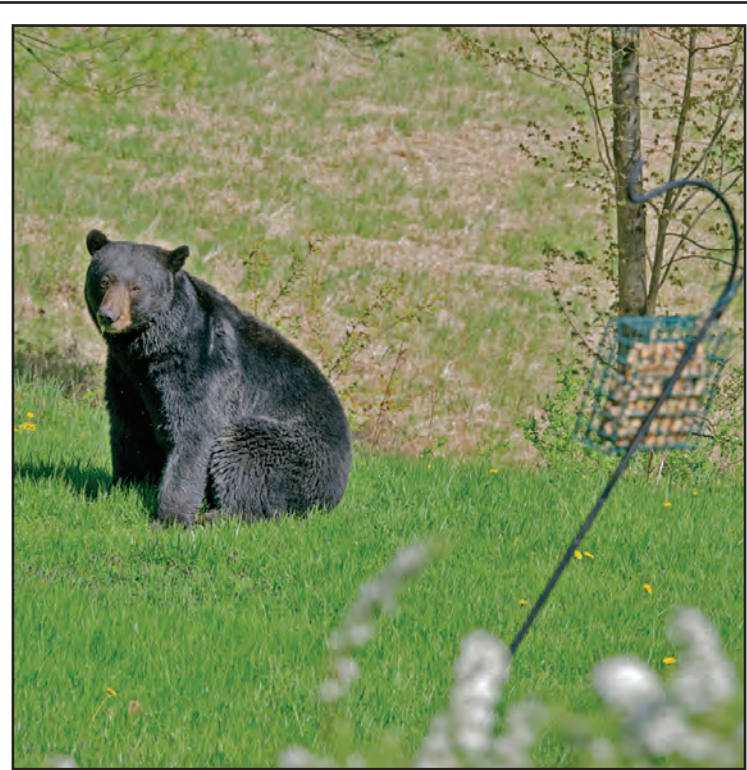
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## Bears & bird feeders don't mix

HEMINGWAY THE LABRADOR retriever on Tuesday alerted Jack Goodman to an interesting visitor to the bird feeders at his Middlebury home, and then the fun started. Goodman banged on a garbage can to spook the bear, estimated to be 350-400 pounds. The bear just yawned, turned and ambled away. Goodman says he has never seen so many hungry bears at his home between the village and the mountains. He hasn't experienced an aggressive one, but he urges anyone who does find a bear in their yard not to take matters into their own hands, but instead to call the police or a game warden.

Photo by Jack Goodman

## Isley considers Satori offer

Space is perfect, but cannabis odor isn't

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Isley Public Library supporters are still on cloud nine following Middlebury voters' recent, overwhelming support of a \$17 million makeover of the historic library building at 75 Main St.

Things got even better earlier this week when the town and the National Bank of Middlebury signed an agreement that will allow for basic library services to be delivered in a portion of the bank's Duclos building while the Isley is under reconstruction.

The proverbial cherry on top of the sundae would be the offer of a temporary storage spot somewhere in town for the bulk of the Isley's book collection while the library project is underway.

As recently reported by the *Independent*, Satori Vermont — a cannabis company operating in the

former Standard Register complex at 1741 Route 7 South — has offered up (for free) a climate-controlled, 3,000-square-foot storage spot for the majority of the Isley collection. Middlebury Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay on Tuesday presented the selectboard with a draft "letter of intent" between Satori and the town mapping out each party's responsibilities for the temporary storage arrangement.

But it appears increasingly likely the town will politely decline Satori's generous offer.

The reason: Satori's cannabis operation emits an unmistakable, pungent smell that can linger.

"It's a beautiful space that would work in a lot of ways, but there is a significant drawback," Isley Director Dana Hart told the board (See *Satori*, Page 3A)

*"I don't think we should spend \$17 million for a brand spanking new library, and then bring into it a collection of books which smell like weed."*

— Joe McVeigh

## Piper takes on 10 marathons in 10 days, for charity

By JOHN FLOWERS

RIPTON — Salisbury's Chip Piper will have run more during the next 10 days than most of us will run in a year.

And he'll be doing it for an important cause.

Piper on Thursday began running the first of 10 consecutive marathons in 10 days — a staggering 262 miles — as part of his annual effort to support nonprofit causes targeting substance use disorder.

His primary motivation: His late son, Michael, who died following a fentanyl overdose in July of 2020. The *Independent* in 2022

introduced the community to Piper, now 55, who for the past three years has collected pledges and donations for his participation in staggeringly long endurance races. It began with the Moosalamoo Ultra, a 36-mile trail race at the Silver Towers Camp in Ripton and Goschen. That event saw him raise around \$1,100 for the Turning Point Center of Addison County.

He's upped the ante each year, both in miles and dollars raised for organizations helping folks battle addiction.

Last year, he ran five consecutive marathons in five days, in the process raising \$30,000 for

Turning Point and Jenna's House in Johnson, Vt.

This year, it's a deca-marathon, again at Silver Towers, which began on Thursday, May 16, and will conclude on May 25. He'd like to equal or exceed last year's fundraising yield.

While Chip churns his legs to complete this mega-race, he's hoping folks will become inspired enough to contribute to the cause. Check out his GoFundMe website at [tinyurl.com/4puvfchw](https://www.gofundme.com/4puvfchw).

"Every donation counts, so if it's \$5, \$25 or \$100, it all helps build on our goal of \$25,000," reads a statement on his GoFundMe

page. "The idea is to use this as a grassroots campaign to help fund organizations, especially with recovery coaching."

This year's effort is getting an added boost from an article in *Seven Days*.

You can find out more about the endurance race, his story and his fundraising efforts at [trailrun4recovery.com](https://trailrun4recovery.com). He said his long-term goal is to create a nonprofit called TR4R Health & Wellness, and work with the greater community to promote healthy activities.

The *Independent* asked Piper (See *Piper*, Page 3A)

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# MAUSD financial records request is costly

## Community raises funds to help pay for billing from the district

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — A Bristol woman looking to learn more about Mount Abraham Unified School District finances has requested several documents from the district, and community members have raised funds to support her efforts.

Shawna Gabbeitt made the series of public records requests last month, seeking financial data such as salary information, invoices, detailed budget information, and emails related to an around \$1 million overrun on a lobby and bathroom renovation project at Mount Abraham Union High School.

To provide those documents, the district used 30.25 hours of staff time and, in accordance with the law, billed Gabbeitt \$969.75 for the incurred costs.

"I submitted a public records request because we deserve to see where our money is being spent and what is happening in our schools," Gabbeitt told the *Independent*. "Records requests are how we hold the government accountable — but that information comes with a cost. Agencies are allowed to recover the cost of staff time, per minute. I don't agree with necessarily all of the charges. But, I wanted to know the answers and that came with a price."

"Ultimately, you have to weigh the cost of the request with the value of the information you are looking for. Would I do it again? Absolutely."

The staff time Gabbeitt was charged for included:

- 7.5 hours of work conducted by a fiscal analyst. MAUSD Superintendent Patrick Reen explained that "financial analyst" is the title of the district's accountant, whose responsibilities surpass tracking costs and accounting.

"They are responsible for things such as grant management, cash management, reporting to the state of Vermont, audit, cost controls," Reen wrote in a recent email to the *Independent*.

The financial analyst helped complete the records requests in several ways.

"In order to fulfill the requests, the financial analyst pulled multiple years of individual line items, and compiled them to reflect annual comparisons," Reen said. "They also pulled and linked all journal entries by account, by year and by function codes and then to aid in transparency, linked each to the reflective checks and vouchers."

- Nine hours of work conducted by information technology (IT) staff. IT searched through emails to find thousands of emails containing keywords related to the request. Those emails were then filtered into a smaller group of items relative to the request to be reviewed by the MAUSD assistant superintendent.
- Four hours of work conducted by the assistant superintendent. According to Reen, the assistant superintendent conducted an initial review of emails for any exempt information before sending those emails to the district's attorneys for further filtering for exemptions.

Vermont's Public Records Act requires all public records to be open to public inspection or copying

expect those specifically exempted by law, such as records that are by law designated as confidential.

"The assistant superintendent also acted as liaison with IT and our attorneys for accuracy and timeliness to respond," Reen said.

- 6.75 hours of work conducted by the MAUSD business manager. Reen said the business manager helped fulfill the request by reviewing all financial documents for release, reviewing human resources records for release and preparing the fiscal year 2024 budget to be released by line item.

The business manager also met with legal staff and the leadership team to make sure all requests

were complied with, as well as compiled and reviewed "construction RFQ's, RFP's, estimates, bids, change orders, progress billings, invoices, purchase orders and vouchers" related to the requests."

The *Independent* asked Reen to speak to the time element of fulfilling the requests and why certain tasks took as long as they did.

"The combination of requests that were made resulted in thousands of documents that needed to be generated by IT and the business office, then reviewed initially in-house and then by attorneys for any legal exemptions. Collectively you can see how the hours would add up," he said.

Reen said the district received four formal public records requests, (See *Records*, Page 7A)

*"Our current bill from our attorney for this series of requests exceeds \$8,000 and the actual time invested is somewhere around 70 hours of staff time. It is safe to say the actual cost to the MAUSD community is well over \$10,000."*

— Superintendent Patrick Reen



## A different kind of Mother's Day

A MOTHER CANADA goose escorts her clutch of goslings along a waterway near Downingsville Road in Lincoln this past weekend.

Photo by Dale Cockrell

# Search for ACSD principals narrows

MIDDLEBURY — Addison Central School District leaders have screened all the applicants for impending principal vacancies at the Bridport, Cornwall and Shoreham elementary schools, and have adopted a vetting process that would result in new hires being announced by early next month.

The district are offering students, their families and school staff chances to meet the principal candidates at meet-and-greet events this week.

The vetting process involves interim Superintendent Tim Williams, incoming Superintendent Wendy Baker, a nine-person ACSD Principal Screening Committee, and stakeholders from each of the three school communities.

The new principals will succeed Heather Raabe, leader of Cornwall's Bingham Memorial Elementary School, and Matthew Brankman, who's helmed both the Bridport and Shoreham Elementary Schools this year — with key support from Asst. Principal Jennifer Urban.

A "principal hiring update" emailed to the Bridport, Cornwall and Shoreham communities confirmed the selection process kicked off on May 6, when Baker met with staff at the three schools "to understand the characteristics and skills that each school community hoped to find in a leader."

Baker, Williams and Assistant Superintendent Nicole Carter recently screened the applicants and forwarded "a strong pool of viable candidates with a positive

leadership record" to the Principal Screening Committee, which includes educators from all three schools, along with ACSD Director of Teaching & Learning Courtney Krahn and ACSD Director of Communications & Engagement Emily Blistein.

The committee on May 9 and 10 held initial conversations with the candidates and forwarded those who they believed would be a good fit for the three schools seeking leaders.

Plans now call for the public to be brought into the candidate evaluation process — at a series of "meet and greets" to be held May 15-17. Each school will conduct 90-minute visits with each candidate, involving students, staff and families. The school district was nailing down details of the visits early this week and planned to send out emails to the school community with those details. Other community members who don't get the email can call the schools.

"It could be as many as six or seven candidates, which means there may be six to seven different opportunities for you to meet with candidates over the course of three days," according to the principal hiring update. "We know this is tricky to schedule, but we invite you to attend as many as possible. We are also brainstorming a way for the candidate to offer an introduction that every community member can view."

The update made no mention

of names or any other identifying information for the candidates who've advanced in the evaluation process.

A school official pointed out that the school community will receive the names of the candidates in advance and compared it to the search for a Middlebury Union High School principal search last year, when the district named the three finalists when inviting the public to meet them.

The official pointed out that the school community — including parents and staff — will know the three elementary school principal candidates' names in advance, have an opportunity to meet them in person and on Zoom, and provide direct feedback about them to the superintendent.

Following the May 15-17 meet and greets, "school and community members will have the opportunity to share feedback via a form that will be sent to everyone," the search update reads. "Based on all collected feedback, the superintendent's office will negotiate with candidates to ensure good matches between leaders and buildings."

All of this is designed to culminate in the announcement of three new principals in late May or early June, according to district officials.

Any questions about the search should be emailed to Krahn, at ckrahn@acsdt.org, or Blistein, at eblistein@acsdt.org, or by calling 802-382-1274.

# Piper

(Continued from Page 2A)

how one trains for running 10 marathons in 10 days. His response:

"Alternative training 40-plus miles per week on roads, mountains, lots of vertical training. I also work with Hammer Nutrition Fuels & Supplements for Endurance Athletes, which helps

me with supplements and products to use to fuel every hour of the run. All stuff I used in my training to make sure no GI distress or stomach issues.

"There is no carb loading; that is misinformation," he added. "You eat healthy every day and consume protein for anything over three

hours. They have supplements I used during training that worked well."

Want to check in on Piper during the event? If you can't be at Silver Towers, log on to trailrun4recovery.com/race-day-2024.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

# Satori

(Continued from Page 2A)

at its Tuesday meeting. "There's an odor that permeates the facility and that's something to consider when storing books, which are made of organic material."

Library officials recently put the space to a smell test, leaving a couple of books in the proposed storage spot for "a few weeks, to see how much a smell they picked up," according to Hart.

Officials retrieved the books and gave them a whiff.

"Some people noticed (the cannabis scent) and some people didn't," Hart said, adding, "I don't know if we would end up going forward with Satori, although we are extremely grateful for their generous offer. But it's the most promising option we have right

now."

She noted the letter of intent with Satori allows the town to withdraw from the agreement if the "town secures suitable alternate arrangements for temporary library storage space."

Hart said she has two other leads on possible temporary storage locations for the library's collection.

Selectboard members asked if Satori or the town could take measures to mitigate the cannabis odor.

"That's a good question; I think we would have to look into that," Hart said. "There are just so many unknowns, still. It's hard to say whether it would work out or not."

Joe McVeigh, a library trustee and member of the Ilsley 100 Project Team, said he believes the

town should take a pass on the Satori offer.

"I'm appreciative to the Satori folks for coming forward with this very generous offer; in many ways it's a perfect space. It's dry, it's well-lit, it's climate controlled, it's nearby, it's free. But to me, the potential odor on the books is an absolute deal-killer," he said.

"I don't think we should spend \$17 million for a brand spanking new library, and then bring into it a collection of books which smell like weed. There might be a few adult readers who would enjoy the hit, but we're talking about kids' books, as well," McVeigh added.

Anyone in Middlebury with 3,000 square feet of dry, climate-controlled space should contact Hart at dana.hart@ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

**CORRECTION:** In last Thursday's edition, a story on the Weybridge Energy Committee's Eco-Fair this Saturday, May 18, gave the incorrect address for the event. It will be held 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Weybridge Elementary School, 210 Quaker Village Road.

**CORRECTION:** Our May 9 of story on the proposed 50-megawatt solar array for Pantom misrepresented one fact that farmer Joe Marszalkowski told the *Independent*: He spreads 260 gallons of glyphosate on his 700-acres of family farm annually, not 250 pounds of the herbicide. The author apologizes for the mistake.



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## Editorials

## The case for Dean, while Scott's burden is heavier

Could this year's "tough" legislative session have been less bitter, more productive, and had a better outcome with a different dynamic between the Legislature and the governor's office? Is the stalemate between the two hurting Vermont's economy? Is Vermont a stronger, more vibrant state than it was eight years ago?

Those are a few of the questions former Gov. Howard Dean must ask himself as he ponders a run for governor against four-term incumbent Gov. Phil Scott. Scott recently announced his intention to run for a fifth term, just as Dean sent hints he was considering entering the race.

Dean's interest has sparked excitement among statewide Democrats simply because what the party has in depth among rank-and-file legislators, it lacks in political chops at the top. Dean not only has the name recognition, fund-raising ability, and political clout, but could add an interesting proposition: Could a party that rules the legislature and the governor's office govern with a greater sense of fiscal responsibility, while also finally tackling the state's most crucial issues?

There's good reason to think that's possible.

First, Gov. Dean was a fiscal pragmatist (some would say conservative) during his years in office. He was credited with reducing a huge deficit at the time and setting the state on a fiscally responsible path. Yet he made significant progress on health care with the launch of Dr. Dinosaur, and he was governor when Vermont became the first state in the union to legalize same-sex civil unions.

He also knows the levers of state government. He was first elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in 1983 and served through 1986, when he was elected Lt. Governor, serving from 1986-1991. He took over as governor upon the death of Gov. Dick Snelling in 1991 and served to 2003.

While some Republican strategists think Dean might be hurt by the passage of Act 60 during his administration, they may forget prior to Act 60's rebate program for lower-income households, Vermonters on fixed incomes were being forced out of their homes because of high property taxes. Act 60's rebate program halted that injustice. Furthermore, Act 60 was the initial result of a State Supreme Court ruling mandating the Legislature find an alternate source of funding education that provided an equal opportunity for all Vermont children.

That task remains formidable, and several iterations of Act 60 have been made over the past 20 years to try to find an equitable and affordable way forward. Today's challenge is no different. Similarly, the challenge of affordable housing and affordable health care are crucial issues to address.

What's lacking in Montpelier today is a willingness for government to work together to solve the problems. The Scott administration, in particular, has used the past two terms to check the legislature's initiatives. Scott has been all defense, with too little effort to propose realistic options. Rather, he touts feel-good slogans like his "affordability agenda," as a counter to the Legislature's initiatives, which basically has meant opposing almost everything because it costs money.

It's this stalemate in Montpelier that has stymied Vermont's economy and forward progress on many of the state's most pressing issues.

With Dean's penchant to live within our means, he would be an effective brake on the Legislature's penchant to overspend while working with them to determine top priorities and affordable solutions.

It's certainly a more promising scenario than a repeat of what we've seen for the past eight years — a period in which Vermont has fallen further behind in many of the most important metrics, and that's a political burden Scott now owns.

Angelo Lynn

## MNFF's 10-year miracle

It's no small deal to create something from nothing. It's even more incredulous when what's created is top-notch. Yet, that's what Lloyd Komisar did when he launched a new filmmakers festival in Middlebury 10 years ago.

He jokes that it all came about when his wife, Maureen, told him he needed to take his boundless energy outside the house and do something productive. He had retired from the Disney Corporation, bought a 5-month "summer" home on Lake Dunmore, while Maureen was still actively working from home.

From the kernel of an idea, he developed a key partner in Vermont filmmaker Jay Craven, got crucial support from the Town Hall Theater, the College and others, and set about on a crusade. His energy was contagious and he made steady, hard-earned progress.

The journey wasn't flawless. Film submissions in those early years were average, not earth-shattering. Attendance at first was tepid. It would take a few years to make their mark on the industry and attract local fans — and just about when they did, the pandemic hit.

The festival persevered with imaginative leadership and determination. For two years the festival sold tickets online and still managed to keep its momentum. In the past two post-pandemic years, film submissions, audience growth and filmmakers' attendance soared.

The festival is, as Lloyd said in today's front-page story, "no longer an unknown. It's now a significant choice for first- and second-time filmmakers from around the world." And the festival has, as Middlebury College President Laurie Patton said, "greatly enriched our town and college."

Think of that. He took an idea and turned it into a world-class event. From the perspective of the initial conversations a decade ago, it's miraculous.

That speaks to Lloyd's amazing energy and irrepressible enthusiasm, but also to a community whose inherent assets, talent and a willingness to contribute helped make it happen. Kudos to Lloyd, Jay and the festival team, but also to everyone who helped make the festival the success it is.

Angelo Lynn

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## At last!

MIAMI, FLA., RESIDENT Ignacio Gamero is fired up as he nears the finish line of the 13.1-mile Vermont Sun half-marathon race at Branbury State Park on Sunday morning. Could it be that Gamero, a Middlebury College sophomore who worked at Camp Keewaydin this past summer, was just excited to get out of the chilly air, which was 45 degrees at race time? See more on the first Vermont Sun competitions of the season on Page 2B.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

## We can learn from other nations

My family recently returned from a trip to Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom. After a few days in Dublin (Ireland) we drove about two hours north to Belfast (Northern Ireland). In those two hours we went from using Euros and kilometers to Pounds and miles. In addition, the accent changed dramatically. The border itself, however, was just a sign, easily overlooked, along with a small notice to remind people that speeds would now be posted in miles per hour. Several days later we drove back across this underwhelming border and headed for the west coast of Ireland, where we stayed in a 200-year-old thatched cottage just outside the small town of Glin.

Driving in western Ireland is a unique experience. Although there are a few "dual carriageways," resembling our interstates, most of the roads are small and considerably narrower than our standard roads in Vermont, and generally lacking any shoulders. Instead, hedges or stone walls border travel lanes. This is especially fun at intersections where visibility is severely hampered. We were concentrating on turning into the correct lane (as they drive on the left in Ireland), but with hedges blocking the view we had to either nose out into the travel lane or pull out blind and cross our fingers. Even more common are roads too narrow for two cars to pass each other. Instead, designated pull-offs every so often allow you to pull over to let an oncoming car pass. Despite all these hazards and the Irish propensity to drive exceedingly fast, my online research shows that Vermont has 8 times as many

fatalities from traffic accidents as Ireland.

Most Irish towns have row houses and semi-detached homes, so they are much more compact. The row houses are often on old blocks that housed factory workers, and despite their small size, they are largely unchanged and still in use. While there are lots of old abandoned stone houses with the roofs gone, picturesquely overgrown with ivy, there are relatively few new houses, as most of the old buildings are still in use.

Irish houses are built with stone or brick, and by far the most common roofing material is slate, even on new homes. I'd guess that 80% or more of buildings had slate roofs. The rest used clay tiles, thatch, or rarely, metal. In fact, driving around the Burren on tiny tracks through mostly empty landscapes, we saw these amazing old slate-roofed barns with slates three feet square and probably two inches thick.

It was more than 25 years since our last visit to Ireland, and my dad noticed one particular change. There is now more infrastructure to protect the landscapes and tourists. For example, at the Cliffs of Moher there previously weren't any barriers. Dirt paths ran right along the cliff. Now paths are lined with tall four- to five-foot slates with banks to keep people away from the drop-off.

Yet while some changes like this have occurred, along with signs warning of the dangers of uneven terrain and cliffs, the Irish generally expect visitors to use common sense to stay safe. We took a trip out to

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

## Ways of Seeing

By Claire Corkins



## Budding birder seeks camaraderie

As husbands go, Mark does all right. But lately I'm finding he's letting me down in one important way: He shows less enthusiasm for wild birds than I feel is appropriate for a man of his age.

Of all the clichés that come with getting older — the spotty word recall, the gray hair, the dismay at low lighting in restaurants (and the associated need to

say things like "You think they'd at least use a larger font for the menu") — none has hit me more squarely than the joke that once you turn 50, you get into birdwatching. It's funny because it's true.

Two years ago, I discovered the Merlin app, which records and identifies bird songs. That tool turned my casual interest in birds into a near obsession. Overnight I went from saying, "What a pretty call; I wonder what kind of bird that is," to "Everyone, shut up, shut up — Merlin can't hear!"

Obviously, the "birding is for old people" trope is a generalization. There must be at least a few young people out there who would rather watch birds than play beer pong or stay out all night or join the Peace Corps or whatever it is people their age do for fun.

Conversely, there are people of my own generation who don't care about birds at all. I'm just disappointed that Mark is among them.

He doesn't dislike birds. Last week, we even shared

a cool moment: We watched as an Eastern kingbird splashed down on the surface of our pond and emerged with an insect in its beak, which it consumed after returning to a high branch over the water. It repeated the maneuver three times, then sat and preened its feathers dry as I made solar-eclipse-worthy murmurs of appreciation.

Mark found it interesting. But to my knowledge, he — unlike me — has not recounted it in animated detail to a single friend or random checkout clerk. That's a disturbing indication that his general attitude toward birds is closer to "blasé" than "enthralled."

As further evidence, yesterday I came home from my walk on the TAM and said, "Guess what." Instead of guessing what, he sighed, waiting with unabated breath for my announcement.

"Today," I said, "I was able to tell the difference between a hermit thrush song and a wood thrush song!" I'd like to think his reaction was authentic. But, knowing him as well as I do, I sensed a hint of sarcasm underlying his standing ovation and slow clap.

I annoy him even more at this time of year because there are currently tons of migratory birds passing through Vermont, and the Merlin app is going crazy with new-to-me species. I spend the bulk of my free

(See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

Letters  
to the Editor

## Kudos for the solar coverage

I just wanted to congratulate the *Independent* on its fine coverage of the proposed Panton solar development. In particular, Andy Kirkaldy's story makes clear something that usually gets lost in these accounts: this array would replace an operation that uses huge amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus which then wash into Lake Champlain, and considerable quantities of herbicide which then endangers pollinators, to produce a product (animal feed) that is not in high demand; the solar array would provide a crop we need and use lots of (clean electrons) and do it while giving the underlying soil a rest. In ecological terms such trades constitute real victories in this time of crisis.

I'd add one more bit of math: Vermonters, after a century of intensive fossil fuel use, have a "carbon debt" to the rest of the warming planet that we will never fully make up. But here's a viable chance to at least help pay down the interest.

Bill McKibben  
Ripton

## Panton array proposal too big

With regard to the story in the May 9 *Independent* on the Panton solar panels proposal:

I could just break down and cry at the thought of 300 acres of beautiful farmland being turned into ugly solar panels! One acre would be too much.

Please come to your senses and don't allow this to happen in beautiful Vermont!

Sheila Huestis  
Bridport

## Green energy policy is costly

As this year's legislative sessions wrap up, I'm left to ponder how our local elected officials could say they were acting in Vermonters' best interest. From H.687/S.311, which instead of addressing the affordable housing needs of Vermonters in fact creates more roadblocks for individuals and businesses to build here in Vermont and aims to set back farming innovations by decades, to S.258, which would change how fishing and hunting are governed from our state agency to a group of board members which must include people who don't believe we should be hunting or fishing at all.

In proposed bill after bill new taxes and fees were introduced all while failing to make the appropriate corrections to legislation that has resulted in double-digit property tax increases across the state. So it begs the question, should we continue to re-elect these people or is it time for change? The super majority are acting on behalf of their personal beliefs, biases and for the special interests of a few.

So, when did this power and money grab begin? Well, it started many years ago, but I believe it really went to their heads when they passed H.688 Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act of 2020. They did this quietly and mostly behind closed doors during a time when many of us were closing our businesses, schools or losing our jobs. We were told to stay home yet they changed the rules so they could keep doing what they wanted without the scrutiny of the public eye.

I know the first response many of you will have is that you think I don't care about the environment. How dare I say this is bad! Well, let me tell you it was written with requirements that are likely not attainable in the time frame they laid out and allows anyone to sue the State of Vermont for failure to meet the requirements by said deadline. A reminder they wouldn't be suing the State of Vermont, they would be suing you. It's your tax dollars they would be taking.

(See *Hill letter*, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

### Defendant caused harm, in spite of jury verdict

On July 4, 2022, six young women aged 22-24 experienced a taxi ride that terrified and traumatized them. During their late night ride from Burlington to Salisbury, their driver, Marvin Morley of Middlebury Taxi, turned off Route 7, drove them to his home, and invited them inside to see his button-making business and supposed Airbnb. The young women, all recently arrived in the area for summer employment, found themselves in an unfamiliar rural area, in the dark, off the main road, looking at a building with a padlock on it and being invited to come inside. They did not want to be there, did not know Mr. Morley's intentions, and they were scared. From that point until they were finally dropped off at their requested location, they wondered if they were going to survive the night. They were traumatized by the experience, affecting their sleep, their work, and their sense of security.

Fast forward to the week of April 15, 2024, almost two years later. Pursuant to this taxi ride, Mr. Morley was tried for unlawful restraint, a felony, which the police and state's attorney felt was warranted. Four of the six women returned to Vermont — from the UK — to testify about their experience. This was no vacation. It was very difficult thing to do, but they came because they didn't want this to happen to anyone else. Their testimony was heart-wrenching; they were still tearful when talking about that night.

Following two days of testimony from both sides, including Mr. Morley's testimony as to his intentions and that he didn't intend to restrain or scare anyone, the 12-person jury of nine men and three women returned a verdict of not guilty. Unlawful restraint

has multiple components that must each be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt, one of the components being intention. Perhaps the jury did not feel certain beyond a reasonable doubt that he had mal intent; we don't know.

We respect and appreciate the hard work and integrity of the jury and accept their verdict. But we are left with no remedy for the fact that in a late night taxi ride, Mr. Morley did divert from the main road to drive these women to his home; that whatever his intention, they were scared to death that night with lasting impact. Mr. Morley is now restored to operating his taxi service without any conditions to ensure the safety of his passengers. Furthermore, Mr. Morley doesn't believe the young women were that scared, nor did he see that he did anything wrong. He chalks the incident up to "some cultural misunderstandings" and is quoted in this paper as saying, "They put me through hell." Not that he's sorry this happened, or regrets the impact this had on the women, or better yet, that he understands how very frightening his actions were that night or how they might be perceived by others.

Taxi driving is an unregulated profession in Vermont. There is no licensing process, no background checks, no professional guidelines, no complaint process; anyone can call themselves a taxi driver. It is time that we increase public safety by regulating the taxi driving profession. The criminal justice system is not an adequate tool to ensure that taxi rides in Vermont are carried out in a professional and safe manner. There is a wide range of behavior that might not rise to the level of criminal

activity or might be difficult to prove beyond a reasonable doubt but are still well outside what anyone would consider acceptable for the profession.

The Vermont Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) regulates 52 professions including such roles as Barbers, Funeral Service, Massage Therapists, Tattooists, etc. Each has a licensing process, as well as statutes and administrative rules for the profession, and there is a state-level complaint process in the event of unprofessional conduct. Surely, in terms of potential impact on a customer, Taxi Driving warrants regulation as much as any of these. For the sake of public safety, before something even worse happens, and to simply be able to trust that when you call a taxi you can expect a safe and professional transit from origin to destination, taxi driving needs a determination that it should be a regulated profession under OPR, with a licensure process including a background check, professional guidelines, and a complaint process.

Background: I worked with these six women in summer 2022 and was present when they got back to Salisbury that night and when the police came. I saw the ongoing impact this trauma had on them that summer. I also attended the trial and heard all the testimony April 17-19, 2024. The *Addison Independent's* article does not accurately reflect what was presented and testified to during Mr. Morley's criminal trial. *Addison Independent* owes it to their readers to do their due diligence for every article that makes it into their paper.

Dorothy Mammen  
Middlebury

## Hill letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

In fact, we still don't know how much it will cost. I can't find anywhere where it's clear how much has been spent to date and how they plan to pay for it if they can even answer these questions in the future.

We here in Vermont have the lowest Co2 emissions, we consume the least amount

of energy and have the 2nd smallest population in the United States. Of course, this is never mentioned as they pass legislation trying to force you into buying an electric vehicle, telling you how you can heat your home or even how you cook or grow your food.

My point is that as Vermonters we are already doing a good job at protecting our environment.

We regularly embrace new technologies when they are affordable. In fact I believe if our government would get out of the way our private sector would be able to more quickly, effectively and cost-effectively come up with ways to help protect our great state.

Chanin Hill  
Bristol

## Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A)

time listening for, watching and talking about birds.

Right now, all kinds of warblers are in town. I've only caught sight of one or two of them, but Merlin has documented countless warbler species by their songs. If the app is to be believed, they should be practically falling out of the trees right now.

Every time I turn the app on, a different warbler shows up. Off the top of my head, I recall names including the black-throated blue warbler, the yellow-rumped warbler, the golden-parachute

warbler, the uptown-funk warbler and the fungible-token warbler. (OK, I'm not sure "yellow-rumped warbler" is a real name, but you get the idea.)

As much it saddens me that Mark doesn't share my growing passion for birds, I am lucky to have a good friend who does. Technically, she is a bit ahead of me in the birding department, in that she bought binoculars this year.

The other day, just before a planned walk with her, I had an idea that filled me with bird-related giddiness. I texted her, "Bring your binocs. We're making

a warbler list!"

I really said that.

They are words a younger version of me couldn't have imagined I'd ever use, especially with such earnestness. And Mark no doubt would have rolled his eyes if I had made the suggestion to him. But my friend responded in two seconds: "Yes!"

She gets it.

I haven't told her yet about my newfound ability to distinguish between thrush songs. But you can bet when I do, her standing ovation is going to come from the heart.

## Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

the Aran islands and rented bikes. Helmets were available but not required. We biked out to Dun Aonghasa, an ancient circular fort where visitors can simply walk up to the edge of the cliff 87 meters above the ocean and look over the edge. I can't imagine that being possible here, with a society so afraid of accidents and the subsequent lawsuits.

In the town of Glin, with its small population of 644, we saw a gas station, two small family-run grocery stores on the main street, at least three pubs and several restaurants. All this despite being only a 15-minute drive from a substantial town with several large chain grocery stores. In the other direction was another small town with its own pubs and restaurants and main street. This was such a stark contrast to the fate of our

small towns.

Every time I travel abroad I find myself forming broader perspectives on the way things can be. Sometimes this helps me appreciate our organized trash and recycling programs, so trash isn't just thrown in the street and burned periodically as in some places I visited in Africa. At other times it makes me wonder why on earth we don't have a high-speed rail system like the one I enjoyed in Europe. Traveling helps us see so many approaches. Sometimes I learn different ways of accomplishing the same task, and sometimes I clearly see that there's a better way. I often wonder why, when we are surrounded by all these examples, we don't simply look at the world around us and borrow from them.

Best is subjective, of course. Not everyone agrees with how things should be done. But in Ireland

I found a place where small old houses are lived in instead of torn down for cheap new construction. Long-lasting materials such as slate prevail despite their expense. Small towns have managed to sustain their downtowns and the small family-run businesses in them. And people are expected to use common sense when walking along a cliff edge.

Claire Corkins grew up and lives in Bristol and studied *Human Ecology at College of the Atlantic in Maine. After college she worked abroad teaching English as a second language. She currently works with her father in such various endeavors as painting houses, tiling bathrooms, building porches, and fixing old windows. She hikes, reads, plays ice hockey, travels, and wishes she could wear flip flops all year round.*

## A great awakening in the offing?

By HECTOR VILA

Since I have been writing about higher education in these pages, it's incumbent that I address the current campus protests against the agony in Gaza. I am fixated on how the protests are compared to campus demonstrations of the 1960s, and find a fundamental flaw, or rather, it's a flaw made evident, if you lived through the '60s, by the media's spectacularization of campus events, inevitably omitting critical details.



HECTOR VILA

The Kent State shootings, May 4, 1970, was the killing of four and wounding of nine unarmed students by the Ohio National Guard, and my first anti-war protest. The shootings took place during a rally opposing the expanding involvement of the Vietnam War into Cambodia by United States military forces as well as protesting the National Guard presence on campus and the draft. I was 16 years old, two years from my eligibility for the draft, which ended on Jan. 27, 1973, a year after I registered for the draft and a year after I graduated high school.

My generation worried about the Russians, satirized in the 1966 comedy "The Russians Are Coming" based on the Nathaniel Benchley novel, and directed by Norman Jewison. We were overwhelmed by the Vietnam War and the draft, civil rights, and the complicity of American universities with the military industrial complex. Noam Chomsky was one of our heroes. Hal Ashby's 1978 "Coming Home" captures the sentiments of the time, particularly how we disavowed American GIs returning from Vietnam. There were race riots, and the one I recall best, because I lived in New York, were the 1967 Newark, N.J., riots that took place over four days (July 12-17) resulting in at least 26 deaths and hundreds more serious injuries. These were tumultuous times, heavy times (to use the vernacular of the '60s), which in some ways culminated in the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, commonly referred to as Woodstock, a music festival held Aug. 15-18, 1969, in Bethel, N.Y. I can still hear the chant: No rain! No rain! No rain! And Jimi Hendrix's Star Spangled Banner. We lived in analog time, which means we relied on newspapers, television and radio, word of mouth and books — "The

Autobiography of Malcolm X," "Soul on Ice," "The Wretched of the Earth," "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test," and "The Fire Next Time," among others. All of these were unassigned and I read in high school.

The agonizing reality in Gaza is digitally compressed producing images that instantaneously flood the phones of students in encampments nationwide, falsely portraying the protests as more widespread

than they truly are. The 1960s protests were much bigger, sweeping across campuses and involving thousands of students and hundreds of universities. The protests of the 1960s remain the largest in history. Students in the 1960s rioted, barricaded themselves in buildings, fought with police, burned down ROTC buildings, and raided draft boards to steal and destroy files. Kent State was the culmination. Current protests, though growing, are nowhere near in scale.

On April 30, 2024, Columbia University students barricaded themselves inside a building — described as vandalism by the administration; there have been claims both by Columbia and NYU of outside agitators excoriating Jewish students. Antisemitic vitriol has been loud, violent and dangerous. But the protests have not gone as far as the tactics of the 1960s. The current generation of students is very different. While we were the generation of the Russians are coming, and peace, love, sex, and rock 'n' roll, this post-9/11 generation is the Columbine generation — school shootings and lockdowns, climate change, COVID, the Jan. 6 insurrection, fragile institutions, and a bleak economic future that paints a dark, foreboding future for students awakening to the reality that they will not live better than their parents. It's the generation of Adderall, alcohol and hook ups; of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), BlackLivesMatter, #MeToo and community bias response teams (CBRT). A common statement by students is, "I don't feel safe." In the 1960s, no one said that; we were looking to be mellow, man. It's a generation grappling with depression and angst. The level of intensity social media produces is uncharted territory for

this generation, as it is for us of all. Students see that the adults in the room don't have a handle on what's happening. Students lack confidence. It's a generation living in chaos without any promise of a solution, a better way. They live in a broken political system where narcissism and selfishness are the guiding forces. This generation feels invisible.

Rather than the protests of the 1960s, today's protests are more closely related to anti-apartheid protests of the 1980s, which I also took part in while at NYU. The demands we made of university administrators are almost identical to what protestors are asking today. We wanted universities to divest from firms supporting and profiteering from South African apartheid. Today's students want universities to divest from Israel, which scholarship on the subject says would be extremely difficult. Universities in the 1980s were embarrassed by their involvement in South African apartheid; divestment was easier. But the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which predates current protests, has had, so far, negligible impact. And universities today face pressure from donors and politicians that didn't exist in the 1980s.

There is, however, a thread that runs from the 1960s to the 1980s and 2024: students weren't just protesting the War in Vietnam and the draft, we weren't just protesting apartheid; likewise, students are not solely protesting the war in Gaza. Students today, as they were in the 1960s, are overwhelmed by the insensitivities of governments, educational institutions and multinational corporations, all of which are interconnected. The throughline is that students are protesting the frustrations that are the result of deception, dishonesty and corruption, which have caused the anguish in Gaza, and elsewhere. And when students look down the road at November's presidential election, as we all are, we're standing at the edge of a precipice without wings and no net — only an abyss awaits.

This is a devastatingly violent and brutal present where life itself is cheap, and this needs our admonishment. Yet, perhaps all we're experiencing may be pointing to a great awakening soon to come, otherwise, the alternative is despair, more suffering and alienation, an overwhelming darkness.

Hector Vila is an Associate Professor of Writing & Rhetoric at Middlebury College.

### Weapons policy violates the law

Bless me Father for I have sinned. I am a United States citizen. I have paid my federal taxes. Our United States government offers money and weapons to Israel. These weapons are made in the United States. My taxes allow and perpetuate this war on Palestinians. Israel is violating International Law. Palestinian citizens are human beings. Palestinians have human rights.

The United States weapons transfer also violates International Law. Senator Sanders was one of 18 Senators who voted no to the \$95 billion foreign and military aid package to help Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. Here is Senator Sanders' response to the passage of the bill in our Senate. "We are now in the absurd situation where Israel is using U.S. military assistance to block the delivery of U.S. humanitarian aid to Palestinians. If that is not crazy, I don't know what is, but it's also a clear violation of U.S. law."

Does the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act mean anything to President Biden? Here is part of a summary of the Act. "This bill directs the Department of State to provide additional training for Foreign Service Officers assigned to a country experiencing or at risk of mass atrocities, such as genocide or war crimes..."

The President shall report annually to Congress on U.S. efforts to prevent mass atrocities. The report shall cover topics (See Heather Lea letter, Page 7A)

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ADDISON COUNTY

# Obituaries

## Michael Mentzer Barrett, 63, of Derby, Conn.

DERBY, Conn. — Michael Mentzer Barrett, age 63, passed away peacefully on Nov. 29, 2023, at Bridgeport Hospital in Connecticut, surrounded by his loving family. He leaves behind his wife of 40 years, Jo-Anne Gallo Barrett, and their daughters Heather and Jessica Barrett of Derby, Conn.

Born on Sept. 15, 1960, in Burlington, Vt, Michael was the devoted son of Sandra Thompson Barrett of Ferrisburgh, Vt., and the late James Ronald Barrett (and wife Rena Barrett) of St. George, Utah. He spent his early years on the farm of his maternal grandparents, Donald and Edna Thompson (deceased), in Hanksville, Vt., where he enjoyed many childhood summers.

Michael graduated from Emmett O'Brien Vocational Technical High School in Ansonia, Conn., in 1978. He worked as a licensed electrician and maintenance superintendent for Valley Container in Bridgeport, Conn., for over 20 years. An avid auto enthusiast and NASCAR fan, Michael was known for his handy



MICHAEL MENTZER BARRETT

skills as a "Mr. Fix It."

Mike cherished spending time with family and friends in Vermont, which he considered his home away from home. In addition to his wife, daughters, mother Sandra, and stepmother Rena, Michael is survived by his sister, Bonnie Burritt, and her husband Stanley of Monkton, Vt., and his brother

Robert Barrett, and wife Karen of Canterbury, Conn. His beloved nephews and their families also survive Mike: Shawn Burritt with wife Cathy and children Caden, Connor and Chase; Justin Burritt and fiancée Ashley with children Isabella and Colton; and Tyler and Trey Barrett.

Michael also leaves behind aunts and uncles — Donna and Remo Pizzagalli, Diane and George Bennett, Judy and Erwin Brace, and David Thompson of Vermont; as well as Allen and Claudia Barrett of Texas and Colleen Barrett of Texas; along with many beloved cousins, second cousins, and friends. He was predeceased by his birth father, Peter F. Malaney, and grandparents Howard and Ella Malaney and his adoptive grandparents Ronald and Verna Barrett. His uncle Allen Thompson and aunts Susan Thomas and Faye Pidgeon also preceded him in death.

A private interment will take place at Maplewood Cemetery in Huntington, Vt. ◊

## Karen Marie (Stone) Austin, 71, Vergennes native

WHITEHALL, Mont. — Karen Marie (Stone) Austin passed away at home in Whitehall, Mont., on May 3, 2024, at the age of 71 after a hard-fought battle against cancer.

Karen was born in Burlington, Vt., on Sept. 18, 1952, to Mary Stone (Pollender) and Joseph Stone. She graduated from Vergennes Union High School in Vergennes, Vt., in 1970, after which she worked at Simmonds Precision in Vergennes. She met and later married Lionel Austin in April of 1972.

Karen and Lionel bought the Plainfield Service Center (affectionately called "The Red Store" by locals) in Plainfield, Vt., in 1978 and ran the store together until 1984. In 1991, Karen moved to Whitehall, Mont. with Lionel, and the two operated The Rice Motel. Over the nearly fifteen years that they owned the Rice Motel, Karen and Lionel welcomed friends and family from near and far to share in all the beauty and hunting that Montana had to offer.

In 2016, after several years of fighting late-stage kidney failure, Karen returned to Vermont for a kidney transplant. She faced both her transplant and cancer with an amazing amount of strength and courage, which was facilitated by her husband and caretaker, Lionel. The transplant not only gave her



KAREN MARIE (STONE) AUSTIN

new life, it also afforded her the opportunity to get to know her grandchildren, Megan and Eric. She particularly enjoyed catching their basketball games and the Vergennes Booster's concession stand. Karen made a quick and miraculous recovery after her transplant and returned to Montana, where she was able to live next door to and enjoy time with her granddaughters Madison, Lexie and Charlotte.

Karen was a crafter, making everything from coasters and Christmas tree decorations to painted door stops and wooden stove covers. She was her own

worst critic when it came to her crafts and never wanted to make the same thing twice.

Karen leaves behind her husband of 52 years, Lionel Austin of Whitehall, Mont.; her daughter, Carie Tarte and her husband, Jeff Tarte, granddaughter Megan Tarte and grandson Eric Tarte of Vergennes, Vt.; and son Will Austin and his wife Heidi Austin, and granddaughters Madison Austin, Lexie Austin and Charlotte Austin of Whitehall, Mont. Additionally, she is survived by two brothers, Tom Stone and his wife Linda Stone of Essex Junction, Vt., and Steve Stone and his wife Debbie Stone of Burlington, Vt. Karen was predeceased by her mother, Mary Pollender; father, Joseph Stone; and granddaughter, Allyssa Austin.

She wasn't a big "hugger" or talker, but she loved and appreciated those that made the extra effort to hug and talk to her. It will come as no surprise to those who knew her that she did not want a funeral service. She is at peace now and likely having a long-overdue visit with her mother. In Karen's honor, the family would like to encourage you to become an organ donor by going to [www.registerme.org/](http://www.registerme.org/) to help others like Karen enjoy more time with family and friends. ◊

## Andrew 'Drew' Lalumiere, 35, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Our beloved champion, son, brother, cousin, nephew, friend and all-around amazing human, Drew Lalumiere was taken from us too soon on May 9, 2024. Though we are heartbroken at his departure, we are all the better for having known and loved him, and he will live forever in our hearts and memories.

Drew was born 35 years ago on the banks of Otter Creek in Ferrisburgh; a fitting place for a boy who loved the natural world and all it had to offer. Taught to fish and hunt by a family that cherished those traditions, he took to the water like a fish himself, and his life-long love of hunting and angling began. He would go on to fish and hunt all over the world, chasing his passion even on family vacations.

After college, Drew was drawn to the world of agriculture, where he proved, as he always did, he would succeed at anything he set his mind to. He cultivated the earth and



ANDREW "DREW" LALUMIERE

honed his skills, and soon produced some of the finest hay Vermont had to offer. He took immense pride in his work, in any job he did, really, and it showed, from bending hoops for his sister's raised beds to nearly singlehandedly building a pole barn

big enough for his kicker wagons. He could fix anything, build anything, mend anything, and tend anything. He was as strong as a bull, and as gentle as a soft rain, and was that way with every person, animal, and blade of grass in his life.

Drew is survived by his longtime love and partner, Caitlin and sweet cat Millet, his mother, Deb, and his sister Andrea. He is predeceased by his father, Tony, and beloved beagle Maggie. There isn't enough ink or room to print the full list of the people who loved Drew and feel his loss. We are so very grateful for the outpouring of support our family has received during this time.

Besides his family and friends, there was nothing that Drew loved more than to cast a line, or sight a buck, and so we ask that when next you bait a hook, or check your windage, smile to yourself and know that this is the time when you are truly closest to our friend; brother, son.

A celebration of life open to all friends, family, and loved ones, will be held June 1, at 3 p.m., with a game supper to follow, at our home on Otter Creek. Donations in memory of Drew can be made to the Lake Champlain Walleye Association or Green Mountain Conservation Camp Scholarship Fund. ◊

## Robert Howard Rodgers celebration of life

NEW HAVEN — We invite family and friends to celebrate the life of Robert Rodgers at his home, 2284 South Street in New Haven, on Friday, May 24, from 1:30 p.m. Come, taste some of his favorite food, and see the fruits of his work: building projects, artistic and scholarly endeavors, and perhaps a sip of his dandelion wine. ◊



ROBERT HOWARD RODGERS

## ADDISON COUNTY

### School Briefs

**Nathan Depatie** of Brandon is set to graduate magna cum laude from SUNY Potsdam with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education. The State University of New York at Potsdam will honor Nathan and the other candidates for graduation at Commencement 2024, on Saturday, May 18.

## Vt. State Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police last Wednesday received multiple 911 calls reporting a crash in which a motorcycle struck a car on Route 7 in New Haven, knocking both vehicles off the road and severely injuring the cyclist.

Police said that Michelle McCauley, 61, of New Haven was driving a 2022 Chevy Bolt northbound on Route 7 waiting to make a left turn into the Tourterelle Restaurant parking lot at about 6:15 p.m. when a southbound 2006 Yamaha YZF-R6 motorcycle approached on a blind curve. The weather was described as cloudy.

The motorcycle, driven by Benjamin Krans, 35, of Sudbury, collided with the Bolt, driving both vehicles off the highway. Krans flew off the bike and landed through a fence, damaging himself and the fence. The Bolt came to a stop in the yard of the restaurant.

McCauley was reported to be uninjured, but Krans was taken by Middlebury Regional EMS to Porter Hospital for suspected serious injuries.

State police was assisted by the New Haven Fire Department and Snow & Tow Towing.

Police are asking anyone who witnessed the crash to contact Trooper Nicole Twamley at the New Haven barracks at 802-388-4919.

In other recent activity, troopers:

- On May 7 issued a citation to Thomas Ferguson, 58, of Bridport after a months-long investigation. On Dec. 17, 2023, detectives with the state police Bureau of Criminal

Investigations, assigned to the New Haven Barracks, began an investigation into an incident that occurred on Aug. 2, 2022. After a lengthy investigation, police said they learned that Ferguson committed the offense of lewd and lascivious conduct upon an adult victim. Last week state police cited him for lewd and lascivious conduct.

- On May 9 cited Jenny Blair, 55, of Orwell for fraudulently using a credit or debit card. This sprung from an April 1 report that prompted troopers to investigate the apparent use of a credit/debit card that belonged to a deceased person. Police allege that Blair used the card to buy \$178.76 in miscellaneous products.

- On May 10 at 8:10 p.m. responded to the report of an intoxicated man who refused to leave a Salisbury home.

Police said Joseph Conant, 55, of Salisbury was asked to leave. Through investigation, police said they determined that earlier in the evening Conant damaged a vehicle belonging to K.O. Onufry of Salisbury and also took her cellphone when her intention was to call police. Police report that Conant followed Onufry to the home of Maria and James Provencher off Maple Street in Salisbury.

When asked to leave, Conant refused. State police came, took Conant into custody and transported him to Porter Medical Center. While at Porter, Conant's loud and tumultuous behavior disrupted the operations of the Emergency Room, police report. So troopers took him to the New Haven barracks, where they cited him for unlawful mischief, unlawful trespass, interference with access to emergency services and disorderly conduct. Then police released him.

- On May 12 at a little after 8 a.m. were called to the scene of a burglary in Pantton. Police report that a woman, later identified as Amanda Wildasin, 40, of Vergennes, crashed a car and then broke into a nearby home after the crash. The residents were not home at the time, but discovered Wildasin in their place when they returned home. Wildasin was transported from the scene by rescue personnel. Police cited her for burglary and unlawful mischief.

State police were assisted by Vergennes police, Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, and Bristol Rescue.

- On May 12 at a few minutes before 11 p.m. stopped a car after an observing motor vehicle violation on Route 7 near the intersection with Little Chicago Road in Ferrisburgh. Police ended up citing Norman J. Byam, 52, of Essex Junction for violating his court ordered conditions of release, driving with a criminally suspended license, and driving without the required ignition interlock device.

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## Bruce Byers of Cornwall

CORNWALL — Bruce Byers of Cornwall died May 9, 2024. A full obituary will appear in the next edition of the *Addison Independent*.

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## Can We Get our Legislative Act Together?

I don't know whether it's the natural wariness of Vermont's early immigrants who succeeded the native peoples who had foraged and hunted here for millennia but were driven north into Canada by the colonial newcomers or whether it was the Milton Friedman neoliberalism that swept American politically when Reagan came to power in 1981 and told us that government itself was the problem, not the solution, but Vermonters seem to have a natural wariness of government. Vermont's Republican Century had just ended 16 years earlier with the surprise election of Democratic Gov. Phil Hoff in 1962.

Since then, a succession of intermittent Democratic governors has brought forth new ideas and initiatives, but few, if any, led to substantive change. Gov. Madeleine Kunin focused on education equity and quality and, in 1989, successfully established Vermont's Dr. Dynasaur program providing free or low-cost health coverage for children and teenagers under 19. As evidence of the eroding access to affordable healthcare came into clearer view in the new century, Gov. Peter Shumlin focused on it and tried to implement single-payer healthcare. But ultimately his efforts made no enduring difference. Gov. Dean, now considering a second run for the Statehouse, was more successful at bringing the issue to light and finally, after several concessions, in 1995 created the Vermont Health Access Plan.

Having watched all this happen for a good 30 years and having chaired Vermont's largest hospital, then Fletcher Allen, I feel we've made modest but inadequate progress towards a goal of "Population Health."

Put simply, "Population Health" is defined by three elements: quality, access and affordability for a specific population — in this instance Vermonters. But as I've often noted, Vermont healthcare infrastructure in many areas offers quality. But without access and affordability what good is quality if only accessible to a few?

There is a larger and broader view here.

The lion's share of social and economic problems vexing our legislators — like nutrition (hunger/industrialized food supply), teenage dysphoria about their future prospects (environmental, home ownership, higher education), growth in the number of suicides, cellphone use and screen time, all the adverse childhood experiences

(ACES), homelessness, lack of child care, few affordable recovery programs, and conservative opposition to sex education and family planning initiative — are all elements and determinants of population health. Until we understand this, we're treating our wellbeing and the wellbeing of our young with face paint.

To make matters worse, we've been dragging our legislative heels. Is it the hangover of Milton Friedman's neoliberal philosophy or is it native skepticism about regulatory authority, taxation and expanding the code of law? We postpone, we hire costly consultants, we study, we debate, we hold hearings, but we fail to act in a timely manner. Especially when technology and scientific discovery are accelerating at breakneck speed.

At 79, I can remember a time when, as in Morrisville, the hill farms were still being wired for electricity and the scourge of "stray voltage was driving dairy herds mad." I remember the first TV set arriving in our neighborhood in 1954. Our closest neighbor still farmed with horses. There was no credit card industry. Five-party phone lines were a source of entertainment for all.

Would we not be better reversing the legislative timeline — one that confronts problems as they occur and takes direct action to confront what's in our face — and then monitoring a law's human and institutional impact and then amending them as necessary?

In 1903, mankind took flight for the first time, aloft for less than a minute. Sixty-six years later we landed on the moon. But today, our failure to adequately regulate airline safety has planes and parts falling out of the sky, yet the pace of innovation continues to accelerate.

Today, our legislature is tabling a bill, S.284, desperately needed to protect our public educational system from the degradation of cellphone use in schools. The testimony is well-documented about the damage electronic devices are doing not only in our schools and educational system but also to our young learners themselves. Having taught at Mount Abraham in Bristol in the late '60s, I had classes most periods and a home room. I can't imagine my students bringing cellphones into our building as they do today. A recent missive from CVU Principal Adam Bunting to parents only further elucidated the damage to students of cellphone use at school.

It was only 20 years ago that the smartphone became ubiquitous. Almost at the same time, social media burst into the mainstream. We've been living with the benefits and dangers of largely unregulated use of both technologies, even as we understand the damage both are doing to our young people. And now comes artificial intelligence (AI) making it possible for young girls, boys, incels, and men who are incapable of forming human relationships to create digital partners for friendship, relationships, and even digital sex. What does this mean for the future of the human race? Do we need to replicate in our own government hierarchy a "Minister of Loneliness" as they have in England.

Given the bloom of new technologies that affect humankind in good and bad ways and the regulatory capture by business and lobbying interests consuming our regulatory and legislative systems and the narrative capture of language by marketing, public relations consultants and "influencers," might Vermont, at least, be better off aggressively regulating new technologies that have shown a clear threat to the health and wellbeing of Vermonters, especially young Vermonters? We can and should monitor impacts and amend new regulatory legislation as we learn more, but not just in response to industry lobbying.

But instead we twiddle our thumbs, awaiting a mythical consensus which never exists in a pluralistic society divided between profit and wellbeing — freedom and unity. We want us all to agree, but that simply doesn't happen when evidence on both sides is explicit.

As more and more technologies emerge that impact our wellbeing, we must move more quickly on evidence-based injury and benefit and make new law when it's needed, not years later when the damage is done and technology has moved on.

Our failure to regulate and support the many contributing social determinants of health in Vermont sinks us deeper. We could start with banning pesticide use in our dying industrial dairy industry and cellphones in our struggling schools.

Sadly, all of the above legislative failures inure to the decline of population health. Health and wellbeing are central to all of the legislative failures mentioned above. We need to take the bull by the horns and make laws that benefit all Vermonters. We amend as needed going forward. We can't procrastinate in search of a perfect law. The perfect is the enemy of the good.

analyst with several additional questions and since then has contacted our administrative assistant to the director of student support services, and our former director of facilities and grounds, among others," Reen said. "We are working hard to provide the information they are seeking in a way that is least disruptive to the important work that needs to happen. With more and more requests coming in we will continue to try and find the best way forward."

Community members raised \$1,075 through a GoFundMe campaign to help cover the costs of the records requests. Gabbeitt wrote in an April 29 update to the GoFundMe page that half of the records had been received.

"I want to thank all of those in the community that helped to raise the money to pay for the request," Gabbeitt said in an email to the *Independent*. "I have invested countless hours into the MAUSD transparency project," so having the community come together to support it was a tremendous relief. It goes to show that people want answers. It's up to MAUSD to decide if it's going to be the easy way or the hard way."

Gabbeitt has made the records received available in a public Google Drive folder at [tinyurl.com/MAUSDPublicRecords2024](https://tinyurl.com/MAUSDPublicRecords2024).

graduate of Middlebury Union High School.

Spencer White of Vergennes has been named to the dean's list for the 2024 March session at the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima, Ohio.

### Community Forum

This week's writer is author and commentator Bill Schubart.



### A fitting farewell

AFTER 26 YEARS on the job, Jerry Skira retired recently from his job with the town of Middlebury at its wastewater plant. Skira was the assistant chief operator and worked in the wastewater field for 43 years. Pictured with him from left are, Bill Longley, Rick Chaput, John Gates, Noah Fleury, Dean Rheaume, Skira (with the golden shovel), Paul Lengyel and Bob Wells.

Photo courtesy of Bob Wells

## Letters to the Editor

### 'Establishment' is calling the shots on Saunders

A few years ago, VTDigger published articles about negotiations between Vermont Teacher's Union and the South Burlington school board. The chairman of the school board was being particularly steadfast in representing his constituents. So, the teachers union chose an alternative to negotiation. They set up a picket line in front of chairman's law firm. It worked. Forced to choose between his representation of the South Burlington tax payers, and his obligation to clients and his partners, the chairman resigned from the school board. School boards are not paid positions. Most towns award a small honorary stipend to the members for the hundreds of hours these public servants volunteer to their communities. However, the union's professional representatives are very well paid.

But this public servant didn't quit on his constituents (or us) altogether. He sued the teachers' union. His litigation ended at the Vermont Supreme Court. The "Kunin" court ruled that the teachers' union had the right to picket the chairman's firm.

That ruling set a precedent, empowering the union to picket a public servant that might oppose them.

Last week, we saw a similar dynamic play out. Governor Scott nominated a person recommended by the Vermont State Board of Education to be Secretary of Education. But, Zoie Saunders is an outsider, not a member of Vermont's education establishment. As such, she is seen as a threat to that entrenched establishment. The insiders, the teachers' union and superintendents pulled out all stops organizing and lobbying the Senate to vote, for the first time in recent memory, against a governor's choice of a secretary in his administration. One long-serving senator described the lobbying as the most intense he had ever seen. As should have been expected, all but one progressive/democrat senator sided with their "constituents", the establishment insiders. They voted down the confirmation. But, like South Burlington's school board chairman, Gov. Scott didn't quit on his constituents and Vermont taxpayers. Phil Scott simply

reaffirmed his interim appointment of Zoie Saunders as Secretary of Education. A situation to be continued...

Governor Scott will also veto the legislature's "Yield" bill, which sets the average property tax rate at 13.8% and increases the School Excess Spending Threshold, allowing schools to increase their budgets by another 2%. The legislature's veto session in June should be interesting. Will Vermonters participate by communicating with their legislators and the governor. Or might the power of teachers' union define the outcome.

The same Common Level Appraisal values will still be there next year. The legislature voted to delay any tax reform so they can "study it" for another 18 months. And, as a final note for some of you, Income Sensitivity is limited to homestead value of \$400,000. If this year's CLA has pushed the market value of your home above that limit (for many it has) you're obligated to the much higher Property Value tax rate on the excess.

L. Owen Farnsworth  
Lincoln

## Records

(Continued from Page 3A)  
each with multiple subsets.

"Additionally, we also received five requests for information verbally or through email in an informal structure from this same requestor," he said. "These were checked for accuracy and completeness, and forwarded either to the attorney for distribution, or directly to the requester in the informal requests."

Reen added that the district's leadership team met frequently as a whole, in smaller groups and with the attorneys working on the request.

"When appropriate, time was minimized through conversation with the requestor within the separate requests for clarity and specificity to limit the time spent and therefore the amount needing to be billed," Reen said. "We did work with the requestor to limit the amount of time spent based on advice from our counsel, and in discussion between the requester and our counsel."

Reen also provided insight into what the actual cost of fulfilling the requests could look like for the district.

"There has been a fair amount of social media discussion about MAUSD charging the requester \$969.75 to fulfill these requests. Out of context I can see how community members would question charging

this amount," he said. "However, when you consider that our current bill from our attorney for this series of requests exceeds \$8,000 and the actual time invested is somewhere around 70 hours of staff time. It is safe to say the actual cost to the MAUSD community is well over \$10,000. By law, none of the attorney's costs can be charged to the requester and we are somewhat limited in the staff time we can charge for."

Reen noted that most public records requests are made informally and free of charge.

"For example, just recently a community member emailed me and asked for the current enrollment at one of our schools to which I quickly replied with the information," he said. "Only when we receive requests we know will be very time consuming do we require the requestor to follow the more formal processes for which we subsequently bill according to the fee schedule posted on the Secretary of State's website."

Reen added that the district has received several additional requests since those made in April and has looked for ways to more efficiently address those, such as by inviting Gabbeitt to speak with district staff.

"The time was well spent by all accounts. Nevertheless, within hours of leaving our office this requestor emailed our financial

on May 7. The Babcock Prize in Philosophy and Pedagogy is awarded to a senior who has excelled "in philosophy, and particularly in the science of pedagogy."

Schmitt, a senior majoring in Neuroscience and Philosophy, is a

### ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Catherine Schmitt of Middlebury was named the recipient of The Babcock Prize in Philosophy and Pedagogy at Hamilton College's annual Class & Charter Day, held

## Heather-Lea letter

(Continued from Page 5A)  
including a review of current U.S. activities, funding expended on such activities, recommendations on how to strengthen such efforts,"

Majority Leader Senator Schumer voted yes to the providing of the \$95 billion. Part of his response to the passage of this bill is, "We tell the world, 'We will do everything to defend democracy and our way of life.'" Does "our way of life" have any relevance to a Palestinian who lives in Gaza?

What about having access to clean water, clean air, and food?

What about the child who has to have a limb amputated without anesthesia?

What about a family who has their home demolished?

What about a family who loses their lives in addition to their home?

What about individuals who no longer have any family member left alive?

What about a mother enduring a cesarean section without anesthesia?

What about drones which can be operated with artificial intelligence to target and assassinate educators, journalists, photo journalists, healthcare workers and aid workers?

What about sharing a meal? What about visiting a library and reading?

What about getting help from a healthcare worker in a hospital? What about the withholding of medical supplies?

What about going to school? What about having a working sewage system?

What about being taken to prison without being accused of a crime?

What about having access to

electricity or fuel?

Senator Schumer, what blinders are you wearing?

Bless me Mother, for I have allowed the desecration of our Mother, the Earth. In addition to the cries of human beings, the earth is also weeping.

This letter to the editor is one form of my penance.

What about showing the world a way of solving problems without using violence? How can a path be created where there is a peaceful future for children and their

families and their communities? Ah ... to be able to plant lemon trees and an olive grove with the possibility of actually harvesting food. Yes, this is possible.

Our way of life becomes a life for all. Yes, we offer human rights for all, compassion and reconciliation.

There is a healing somewhere. I sing that song, again and again.

A prayer.

Patricia Heather-Lea  
Bristol

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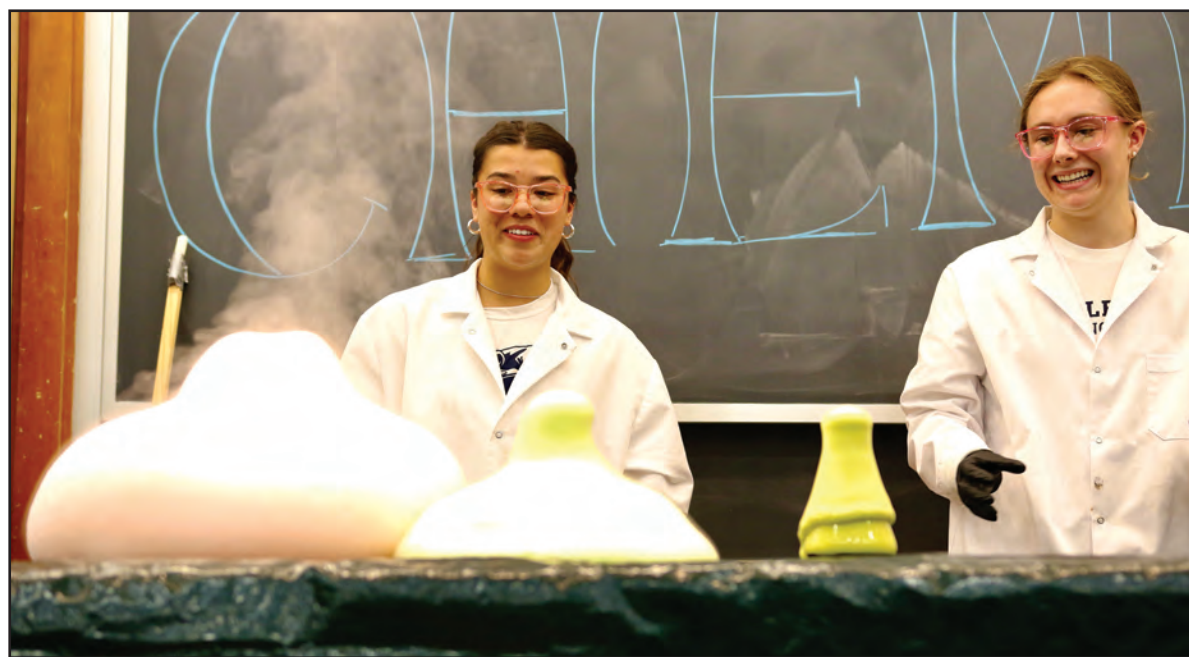




### Sort of magic

At Middlebury College's Bicentennial Hall this past Thursday, three of Chemistry Professor AJ Vasiliou's upper class students stage a "Wizard Chemistry Show" that demonstrated fun and practical aspects of the study of chemistry. Clockwise from above, six-year-old Theo Price uses a hammer to whack flowers that had been dipped in liquid nitrogen, and he discovers they became brittle; Raia Schluter pours liquid nitrogen into a bowl while making ice cream; Molly Daly of Cornwall gets to ride a cart powered by air; Avery Maxwell (flanked by Landon Rice and Schluter) pulls a solid banana out of liquid nitrogen in preparation of the hammer test; Schluter and Maxwell enjoy watching the chemical reaction that results in "elephant toothpaste"; and nine-year-old Oliver Kitchens of Weybridge enjoys the practical application of chemistry that resulted in the production of delicious Oreo ice cream.

Independent photos/Steve James



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**VERMONT NATIVE PATRICK Leahy, shown in his Burlington office on Monday, was the youngest and longest-serving U.S. Senator in Vermont history before retiring in January 2023. Next Wednesday, he will reflect on his life at a Middlebury event with two federal judges.**  
Independent photo/Angelo Lynn

## Sen. Leahy

(Continued from Page 1A)

Senate. Leahy was the youngest, at 34, and the first Democrat to be elected senator in Vermont's history.

It's a remarkable span of time that Vermont Public's Mitch Wertlieb called at the time of Leahy's retirement in January 2023, "the end of an era." "Think of all the major events in U.S. political history that have happened in the past five decades," he said, adding that Leahy was the third-longest-serving U.S. senator, cast more than 17,000 votes, and served under nine presidents.

Some of that history will be explored next Wednesday, May 22, at a Middlebury event dubbed, "A Conversation of a Life in Politics with Sen. Patrick Leahy." The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Society off Charles Avenue, 7:30-9 p.m. It is sponsored by the Middlebury-based Hawthorne Society and the Sheldon Museum.

Leading the conversation with Sen. Leahy will be two federal judges, the Hon. William Sessions III and the Hon. Beryl Howell.

Howell serves as a senior judge of the U.S. District Court in D.C. and was chief judge from 2016-2023. As chief judge, she supervised federal grand juries in the District, including for the Mueller special counsel investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections and investigations into attempts to overturn the 2020 United States presidential election. Sessions is serving as a senior judge of the U.S. District Court for Vermont and has served as vice chair and chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Both are long-time friends of Sen. Leahy, have worked on his staff, and know well the senator's accomplishments, as well as his challenges. The first hour will be a conversation with the senator, followed by questions from the audience.

As a preview to a story that will come from next week's conversation with Leahy, the *Independent* chatted with the senator about some of those moments.

### FROM THE BEGINNING

It's key to know that Leahy

likes to start at the beginning, which includes that he's a lifetime Vermonter — born and raised in Montpelier, graduated from Saint Michael's College in 1961 and attended law school at Georgetown University. While in law school he married Marcelle Pomerleau. The couple moved back to Vermont after Leahy got his law degree and began practicing in the law firm headed by Phil Hoff, then Vermont governor.

Leahy was soon appointed Chittenden County State's Attorney. He did the job for eight years, establishing himself as a diligent prosecutor who, as Gov. Hoff had asked him to do, cleaned up a backlog of cases and established protocols that led to more successful prosecutions. He also used the opportunity to travel the state teaching local police departments and other state's attorneys how to handle cases and investigations without violating rights and without having evidence dismissed. It was through that work, Leahy said, that he became more widely known throughout the state.

While he loved the work, after eight years, he'd developed a desire to get back to Washington as an elected representative.

"When I decided to run for the Senate, everyone told me I was out of my mind," he said. "And I probably was. No Democrat had ever been elected as senator in Vermont and the youngest senator ever elected was 50 and most had been elected to the Vermont Senate first."

In that first senate race at a candidates' debate, he recalled that President Gerald Ford had just pardoned Richard Nixon. During the debate, which included among others his chief Republican rival Richard Mallary and a relatively young newcomer, Bernie Sanders, running as an independent, Leahy recalled a moment he thinks separated him from the others.

"I was livid, really outraged that Ford had pardoned Nixon, and when we were asked about it (on the debate stage) the others had hemmed and hawed coming down on both sides, but I was upset. I pounded on my podium and challenged the ruling by saying how could local citizens charged with crimes that were far less significant go to jail when this thing was being let off? I used my years of experience as state's attorney to make the point, and I got spontaneous applause from everyone in the room — Democrats and Republicans."



**A TIBETAN FATHER holding his son risks jailtime by flashing a photo of the Dalai Lama at Sen. Leahy during the Vermonter's trip to the Himalayan nation that is under the thumb of the Chinese government.**  
Photo by U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy

Still, that race in 1974 was close. Polls had Mallary ahead of Leahy just days before the election. Leahy recalled that *The Rutland Herald* posted a story with a headline in big type that said "Polls Doom Leahy," followed by a headline after the election claiming, "Leahy Unexpectedly Wins!"

It was an election that caught Vermonters by surprise, but also was caused in part by the Watergate Scandal that prompted President Nixon to resign rather than face impeachment and brought in a wave of Democrats to the U.S. House and Senate.

That election was the start of Leahy's remarkable string of victories, and of his service to the state that saw him perform as chair of the powerful Agriculture, Judiciary and Appropriations committees.

### MEMORABLE VOTES

Of the memorable votes, one of the most important, he recalled, happened in his first year in office. He was serving as a member of the Armed Services Committee and he remembers vividly his decision to vote against funding to continue the war in Vietnam.

"I had always been against the war

in Vietnam," Leahy said, "and when it came up for continued funding, I told myself that regardless if I would only serve for one term, even though funding for the war was still popular in Vermont, that I would vote my conscience.... The vote came up five times and each time the funding lost by one vote."

It was the vote that ended U.S. involvement in the war.

Decades later, Leahy would also vote against the war in Iraq. Asked why he made that call, he was blunt.

"Unlike others, I actually read the intelligence, and I said this is going to be a disaster. We're not going to get anything out of it and we're just going to turn people against us. And I knew they weren't telling the truth about Iraq having weapons of mass destruction. The war on terror was about the Saudis, Osama bin Laden was Saudi... President (George W.) Bush was just determined to go to war. Bush thought his dad had made a mistake. He wanted to show that he was tough... It was a mistake and we've never fully recovered from it."

Leahy cast thousands of votes over his decades in office. Asked to name a couple highlights on each of

the committees he chaired, he was quick to cite several:

- In Agriculture, he hailed work done to advance the farm to school programs that put good food fresh from local farmers in the meals of school children throughout the country. Establishing stricter standards for the organic milk program was another. New standards were written to distinguish between smaller farms that were actually producing organic milk versus larger corporate farms who were, at the time, just slapping an organic label on their milk. "Small farmers couldn't compete at the time, but with the new standards we made a difference." He also played major roles in setting aside large amount of forest land for recreation and wilderness use, and a host of other land-use provisions and rural economic development.

- In Judiciary, he cited a major overhaul of the nation's criminal code and updating the nation's patent laws, which hadn't been done in 50 years, as milestones, as well as passing the Violence Against Women's Act, which the senator did major work on, including passing

(See Votes, Page 15A)

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# Ferrisburgh

(Continued from Page 1A)  
 school. It was identified as the top priority in a 2012 Safe Routes To School scoping study.

The Ferrisburgh selectboard at a well-attended May 7 meeting formally approved the grant, which comes from the VTrans Fall 2023 Transportation Alternatives program. The board also agreed the town would supply a required 20% local match of \$125,000.

"The most important part of it is a signalized crosswalk at the light," Hinsdale told the *Independent*. "It was a standing-room-only crowd at the meeting, a lot of people to support the board accepting the grant."

According to the town's preliminary design in its grant application, all the sidewalks will be concrete and five feet wide and will begin at the intersection of Route 7 with Little Chicago Road

on its west side and Middlebrook Road on its east side.

From the northwest corner of the intersection, one sidewalk is planned to run 140 feet north to the post office, and another will stretch 300 feet west along the north side of Little Chicago Road to Ferrisburgh Central School.

From the other side of the intersection, the third sidewalk will head 200 feet east along the north side of Middlebrook Road to the historic Union Meeting Hall, a community center that's being renovated. The crosswalk will link all three of those sidewalk segments.

The grant gives Ferrisburgh four years to complete the project, but the town can complete the work more quickly. Hinsdale said the grant won't be awarded in a lump sum, nor will the town have to come up with its matching amount right away.



Ferrisburgh Village Center Proposed Sidewalk & Crosswalk Plan View  
 Vtrans Fall 2023 Transportation Alternatives Program Ferrisburgh Grant application

**THIS AERIAL SHOT** shows where new grant-funded sidewalks and a signalized crosswalk will be installed within the next four years at the Ferrisburgh intersection of Route 7 with Little Chicago and Middlebrook roads. The sidewalks will give access to several public buildings in the village area, including providing safer access to the Ferrisburgh Central School.

Rather, the town will submit invoices as the project advances through its phases, and VTrans will use the federal funding to pay for 80% of the work, with the town expected to come up with its share at the same time.

"We can bill monthly or quarterly," Hinsdale said. "We can take our invoices, pay our 20%, and bill the grant for the other 80% as we go through the process."

Hinsdale said the town's share of the funding could come from the sale of the town-owned United Methodist Church next to the town hall, for which Ferrisburgh is seeking buyers.

He noted the town has a "reasonably healthy fund balance" in its general fund that it could be tapped, or — as "a last resort" — a half-cent increase on the town's tax rate for three years could cover the town match. A combination of approaches would also work.

The town tentatively plans to have Road Foreman John Bull act as project manager for the

grant. Hinsdale said the grant includes funding for such a position.

Former Ferrisburgh zoning administrator and current Ferrisburgh Town Center Committee Chair Bonnie Barnes took the lead in writing the grant, Hinsdale said, and he praised her work.

The process has also included a 2023 pedestrian safety scoping grant awarded to Ferrisburgh by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. The grant paid for a study that produced different sidewalk layouts to go with the crosswalk that "might make sense to connect things better in the village," Hinsdale said.

Those versions ranged in cost up to \$1 million, and the Town

*"We wanted to basically say we got the town hall, the historical society, the school and the Union Meeting Hall. We were simply saying let's get the core municipal things connected."*

— Clark Hinsdale

Center Committee, after public input and consultation with the selectboard, settled on the \$500,000 option.

"We scaled it back because we knew if we got the grant we had to pay 20%. And we wanted to basically say we got the town hall, the historical society, the school and the Union Meeting Hall," Hinsdale said. "We were simply saying let's get the core municipal things connected."

The Town Center Committee then began working on the grant, with Barnes in the lead, and successfully aimed high.

"This issue has been out there for about a dozen years," Hinsdale said. "And so the Town Center Committee decided to take a shot at hitting one out of the park."

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# SVUUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)  
Haven defeated by an 891-798 margin on May 9.

The absence of an approved FY'25 spending plan pushes SVUUSD closer to the prospect of having to borrow funds to at least begin the next budget cycle, which begins July 1. If a district hasn't passed a budget by that date, it can borrow up to 87% of its most recently passed budget to meet immediate financial obligations. But state law requires school boards to persist in getting a taxpayer-approved budget.

Olsen-Farrell, in an email to the SVUUSD community following Thursday's vote, voiced optimism with the shrinking margin of the budget defeat but served notice that painful financial decisions lay on the horizon.

"As we approach July 1 without a budget, certain summer programming may be impacted," she said. "It's challenging to plan when we don't have a budget for the next year. Summer services (excluding special education, as required), teacher professional development, the Middle School Round-up (program), and other programs are uncertain. Additionally, we will need to limit any additional spending this fiscal year to preserve cash as we approach July."

On Friday, she announced the district was "shutting down" all the purchase orders in the district.

"We're saying, 'We're not going to approve anything that isn't absolutely necessary for operations between now and the end of the school year ... in an effort to save some money so we have some cash on July 1 to meet payroll and other obligations,'" she said.

Slate Valley voters on Town Meeting Day rejected an initial, \$31,021,635 budget proposal for FY'25 by a 1,468-1,004 margin.

School directors trimmed \$150,000 from that spending plan, representing three full-time instructional assistants, (\$120,000) and elementary school late buses

(\$30,000). That revised budget of \$30,871,635 was put to voters on April 11, and failed again, this time by a 947-544 tally.

The SVUUSD board convened after the second failed vote and — after hearing feedback from various stakeholders — reduced the spending proposal by another \$61,500 that had been earmarked for a counseling position. The district was able to find grant money to subsidize the post.

But a majority of voters who went to the polls on Thursday still weren't satisfied with the resulting \$30,810,135 budget. It represented an approximately \$2.8 million (or 10%) bump compared to this year, reflecting new investments that included an additional classroom teacher for a growing Benson Village School; additional social and emotional support for students, in the form of specialists and counselors; and a roughly \$125,000 investment in afterschool and summer care in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club.

The increase was also a product of rising fixed costs that included a 16.4% (\$540,000) bump in health insurance premiums; contracted wage/benefits increases for district employees; inflation; the impact of a new employer child care tax of 0.44% (\$73,000); the recent addition of long-term disability and life insurance for support staff (\$24,250); the sunset of federal pandemic assistance (creating an roughly \$200,000 revenue shortfall); increased building maintenance expenses; and growth in the number of students with mental health and behavioral needs.

And while the proposed budget increase was 10%, it reflected a 0.03% reduction in Slate Valley's current \$11,298.29 in spending per weighted pupil, according to district data. Slate Valley's proposed \$11,294.83 per weighted pupil is lower than that of most of the surrounding school districts, including Addison Central (\$16,099), Addison Northwest (\$15,306), Otter Valley (\$12,465),

Rutland Town (\$13,666) and the statewide average — as of mid-April — of \$13,294.

Thursday's defeated plan would have created an estimated new, FY'25 SVUUSD equalized education tax rate of \$1.1471 per \$100 in property value — a 2.15% decrease compared to this year.

### THE CLA FACTOR

But the actual education tax rates in district-member towns were projected to be quite a bit higher than the \$1.1471 — due to the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) factor.

CLAs are ratios of a town's assessed values to actual fair market sales values. The CLA is used to equalize education property tax rates throughout the state. They're expressed as a percentage: A 100% CLA means a community's property assessments — its grand list — on the average accurately represent fair market value.

When a CLA is above 100%, that means the community's assessments are higher overall than fair market value, so the CLA is used to lower the school tax rate. But when a CLA below 100%, it means a community's assessments are lower overall than fair market value. Then, the CLA is applied to increase school tax rates. The rate is divided by the CLA; for example, a pre-CLA rate of \$1.50 per \$100 of assessed value in a town with a CLA of 80% would then have a rate of \$1.875.

Orwell's CLA currently stands at 89.14%, according to the Department of Taxes.

Based on tentative numbers crunched by SVUUSD officials, Orwell would be looking at an estimated homestead property tax rate of \$1.5176 with passage of the proposed FY'25 budget. That would represent a 20-cent bump from the current rate of \$1.3151, or a 15.3% increase.

Olsen-Farrell, during a post-vote interview on Friday, said she is pleased to see SVUUSD stakeholders take a more active role in advocating for a passed budget

— a trend she believes helped shave Thursday's margin of defeat to less than 100 votes.

She was unsure what budget revisions the SVUUSD board might consider when it reconvenes on Monday. School officials have said their options are limited. Unlike several other school districts, the SVUUSD didn't send out Reduction In Force (RIF) notices to staff and educators to gird for potential layoffs. The central office said teacher layoffs could balloon class sizes to 30 students.

"Some (board members) are saying, 'Maybe we should put out the same budget,' and some are saying, 'Maybe we should look at (cutting grades) 5-6 athletics,'" she said.

The board might also consider leaving empty some vacant positions on the SVUUSD roster, according to Olson-Farrell. She said there are currently around five teaching vacancies, primarily at the middle- and high-school. They've remained empty because of a dearth in applicants; among them is a middle school English teacher post that's drawn zero takers, according to Olson-Farrell.

She theorized the lack of interest is in part a product of the state's low unemployment rate. But she added the repeated budget failures — and misinformation she said is being spread about the spending proposal — haven't been good for recruitment.

"Part of this issue is the rhetoric on social media, and being in a district without a passed budget," she said. "When there are (labor) shortages in the state, people don't tend to flock to the schools without school budgets."

An informational meeting prior to the upcoming May 30 vote will be held on Wednesday, May 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Fair Haven Union High School.

A complete overview of SVUUSD budget documents can be found at [tinyurl.com/nfbz58hk](http://tinyurl.com/nfbz58hk).

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

# By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)  
**big difference in the form of a cleaner, safer and better-looking town," she said in a recent Front Porch Forum post. In Monkton, Robin Hopps reported that local volunteers filled 265 Green Up Day bags on May 4 — though the total was probably higher, as several participants said they'd used bags left over from previous years. Many other area towns also had diligent Green Up Day crews out and about, so congratulations to Addison County.**

All Addison County law enforcement agencies — including the Vermont State Police, county sheriff and the Vergennes, Middlebury and Bristol police departments — will be working to make sure motorists stay safe and buckle up on the roads during this year's Buckle Up Campaign (formerly Click-It or Ticket). The agencies will conduct checkpoints and extra patrols across Addison County from May 20 to June 2. The checkpoints and patrols are meant to educate people on the safety of wearing seatbelts and proper child restraints. Participating agencies want to remind drivers to wear seat belts and not to drive impaired. Please be safe!

**Three Addison County communities will share in almost \$1.6 million in grants offered through the Vermont Agency of Transportation's 2025 Vermont Better Roads Program, which supports municipal road projects that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. Granville received a \$20,000 grant, Salisbury received \$12,400, and Ripton secured \$36,900. The grants are provided in partnership with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and are sourced from state transportation funds and the state's Clean Water Fund. Better Roads promotes the use of erosion control and maintenance**

**techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing water quality.**

Every three years, residents of Addison County are encouraged to join the conversation about how to strengthen community health. Currently, multiple local organizations are working together to promote a Community Health Needs Assessment. This year's survey results will inform a three-year plan that, among other things, will identify and prioritize health needs and work on solutions with community partners. Find out details about the survey at [tinyurl.com/mrffbj2b](http://tinyurl.com/mrffbj2b).

**The Monkton Conservation Commission invites you to help remove invasive buckthorn from the woods/outdoor classroom behind Monkton Central School this Saturday, May 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. Available for use will be Uprooter tools funded by a grant to the Conservation Commission from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. They also have other tools available and welcome anyone with an Uprooter, Weed Wrench, or additional useful tools to come join. Gloves and tick protection recommended. Dropping in for just part of the session is OK, too. The group will meet if there are just occasional light showers, but in case of heavy rain, the alternate date is Sunday, 9 to 11 a.m.**

The Salisbury Conservation Commission has organized a bird walk on the Pitch Pine Trail in Salisbury this Saturday, May 18, from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Jim and Kris Andrews will lead the walk. They will share their skill and enthusiasm for identifying birds by sight and song. The trail is relatively flat with only two small hills, and the walk will cover 1.7 miles. The walk is free and open to the first 15 people to register. To register contact Jim Andrews at [jandrews@vtherpatlas.org](mailto:jandrews@vtherpatlas.org).

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### Fox in the henhouse

A COUPLE MIDDLEBURY College students happened upon a fox carrying a chicken in its mouth Monday morning near Atwater Hall. The two students, coincidentally on their way to an Environmental Policy class, saw that the chicken had dropped an egg, which can be spotted in the background. After running directly toward the observers, the fox darted off to the left with breakfast firmly in hand ... er, mouth.

Photo by Jewell Stillman

## Vt. farms on watch for the avian flu

By JUAN VEGA DE SOTO  
VTDigger.org

VERMONT — There have been no positive test results for avian flu in Vermont cows, State Veterinarian Kristin Haas assured members of the House Agriculture committee earlier this month.

The good news seemed slightly tempered by the admission, immediately following, that the state had not actually tested for it in any animals yet.

H5N1, or highly pathogenic avian influenza, is a virus deadly to domestic poultry that can wipe out entire flocks in just days. In late March, the federal government began investigating its spread in dairy cows. So far, nine states have confirmed outbreaks in cattle herds, the closest ones to Vermont being Ohio, Michigan and North Carolina.

That no Vermont cows had been tested for the avian flu really was a good thing, Haas said, because it meant that there had been no reports

of sick animals. She commended the state's veterinarians, farmers, livestock dealers and auction markets for their engagement.

"We have an industry that is working very, very hard to be compliant and to do the right thing," she said.

H5N1's major impact to Vermont's dairy industry has so far come in the form of the April 24 USDA federal order — with no expiration date — that imposes restrictions on moving lactating dairy cattle across state lines. Many farmers in the state send their cows to slaughterhouses in Pennsylvania.

The order does allow individual states with no known cases of avian flu to decide on appropriate, efficient movement of cattle between one other. Haas said that the New England region this month to do just that, and alleviate "the biggest pinch points for us here in Vermont."

For a brief moment the

conversation veered into more feline territory when Rep. John O'Brien, D-Tunbridge, appeared to ask whether bobcats would also be subject to the federal order.

After a flutter of general confusion, he clarified that he had said "bobby calves," a term for the male calves born to the milking herd, who are generally shipped off to the abattoir. Haas said that since bobby calves are not lactating animals they get a pass from the feds.

There is one confirmed case of cattle infecting a human with H5N1 — a Texas dairy worker who milked sick cows — but Haas said there was little reason for Vermonters to worry about contagion.

"There is nothing about this virus that has changed either the risk profile for any of our food products or has changed the potential human health impact... which has been considered to be low," she said.

## Whipple National 4-H delegate

ARLINGTON, Va. — A young woman from Bridport was among the Vermont delegation at the 2024 National 4-H Conference, which provided a platform for 4-H teens to engage in conversation with federal agencies on important issues that can impact their future from climate change and clean energy to promoting inclusivity, improving mobility safety and paying for college.

The conference ran from April 19 to 24 with headquarters at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Va. More than 300 delegates, ages 15 to 19, from most of the U.S. states, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Italy and Japan attended, including four from Vermont.

The focus of the conference was on empowering youth to speak up about issues facing the country by researching, brainstorming and preparing a briefing to present to a federal partner agency on the final day of the conference. For several of the agencies, this event is among the few ways that they get youth feedback and for some, the only time that they have youth interaction.

Each delegate was assigned a topic for these roundtable discussions and final presentation,

based on their interests. Vermont delegates and their assigned roundtable topic and relevant federal agency included Bridport's Erin Whipple of the Mountain View 4-H Club. Her roundtable topic was "Climate Change, Preparedness, Community Resilience" and her relevant federal agency was the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The other Vermont delegates were Ella McAllister of Morrisville and the Green Mountain Movers 4-H Club, Caitlin Packer of Barre Town and the Trailblazers 4-H Club, and Emma Rowell of Greensboro Bend and the Caspian Critters 4-H Club.

Molly McFaun, University of Vermont Extension 4-H educator and group chaperone, also participated in a roundtable, "Adolescent Health and Wellbeing," with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Conference attendees attended a performance of the Coyaba Dance Theatre, took a guided bus tour of Washington, D.C., monuments at night and mingled with other delegates at a farewell dance.

The Youth Career Fair, held in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, offered an opportunity for delegates to meet with representatives from businesses,

government agencies and non-profits to learn about different career pathways, internships, fellowships and volunteer opportunities.

They also heard from U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and participated in a special 4-H flag raising ceremony at the U. S. Department of Agriculture headquarters dressed in their conference T-shirts. In addition, the Vermont delegation enjoyed a special tour by Sen. Peter Welch's office staff, visited the other Vermont Congressional delegations offices and spent time exploring some of the many historical sites and museums around Capitol Hill.

USDA has hosted the National 4-H Conference since 1927 as a way of encouraging youths to find their voice and discuss issues with federal government officials in the nation's capital with the goal of fostering change in the country. The annual gathering was originally called the National 4-H Club Camp with delegates sleeping in tents on the National Mall in front of USDA headquarters.

To learn more about the 4-H program in Vermont, contact the State 4-H Office at 802-656-7630 or 1-800-571-0668 (toll-free in Vermont).

## Interactive invasive pest map launched

The Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation's Forest Health Program has unveiled a new tool to empower residents in the fight against invasive forest pests. The newly launched Vermont Forest Invasive Pest Status Map offers an interactive platform to track the spread across the state of invasive species such as beech leaf disease, elm zigzag sawfly, elongate hemlock scale, emerald ash borer, and hemlock woolly adelgid.

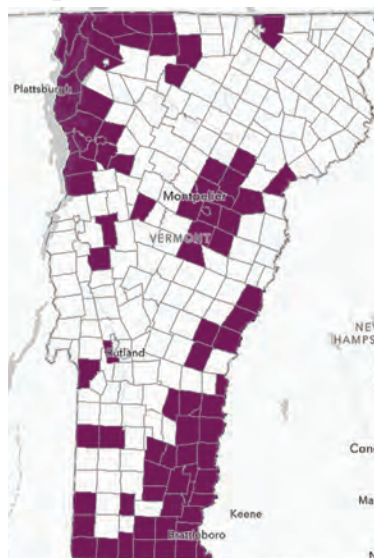
The map provides users with a comprehensive overview of town infestations and detection years for each invasive pest. One of the key features of the map is its user-friendly interface. Users can select a pest to learn where it has

been identified, basic information about it, and how to report sightings.

In Addison County, the map currently shows infestations only in Bristol and Middlebury, which are both identified as having emerald ash borer infestations.

This map allows Vermonters to access up-to-date information to aid in monitoring and mitigation efforts. With increased awareness and timely reporting, Vermonters can play a vital role in protecting the state's forest health and ecological integrity.

View the map online at [tinyurl.com/InvasivePestVt](https://tinyurl.com/InvasivePestVt).



A new interactive map shows Vermonters where invasive pests are hitting the Green Mountain State hardest.



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AMONG THE 36 competitors at the April 14 State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl in Burlington were seven 12- and 13-year-olds. Front row (left to right): CJ McNeely, Lunenburg; Tenley Chittenden, Shoreham; and Caroline Allen, Panton. Back row: Remington Card, Williston; Renee Plouffe, Bridport; Austin Washburn, Bethel; and Emma Pothier, Newport.

Photo by Lisa Flinn



COMPETING IN THE 10- and 11-year-old age group at the 2024 State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, April 14 in Burlington, were: front row (left to right): Ryan Holbrook, Hardwick; Rowdy Pope, Bridport; Thomas Allen, Panton; Olivia Tudhope, Orwell; Madison Fuller, Lunenburg; and Katelyn Sibley, East Montpelier. Back row: Desiree Plouffe, Bridport; Colt Card, Williston; Daniel Bruce, East Wallingford; Ewan Nelson, Ryegate; Sutton Chittenden, Shoreham; and Eli Lidback, Westmore.

Photo by Jodi Sibley



THE 2024 STATE 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, April 14 in Burlington, attracted several teens who competed in the Senior Division. They were: front row (left to right): Bristol Card, Williston; Elizabeth Vaughan, Newbury; Taryn Burns, Shoreham; and Elise Sanders, West Topsham. Back row: Alexa Graham, Derby; Dani Flint, Bethel; Patty Bruce, East Wallingford; Eva Bury, Derby; and Gabrielle Ellis, Shoreham.

Photo by Lisa Flinn



THE YOUNGEST COMPETITORS at the 2024 State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl, April 14 in Burlington, were the 8- and 9-year-olds. They were: front row (left to right): Ella Pope, Shoreham; Normandie Cesario, Cornwall; Amelia Tudhope, Orwell; and Ava Smith, Danby. Back row: Kendall Thompson, Shoreham; Katelyn Sweet, Highgate Center; Nora Plouffe, Bridport; and Carter Bruce, East Wallingford.

Photo by Stephanie Pope

# Addison County kids score at recent State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl

BURLINGTON — The 2024 State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl saw a good turnout with 36 4-H'ers from 10 counties competing for placements and ribbons. At stake for 4-H teens ages 14 to 18 was an opportunity to qualify for the state team that will represent Vermont in New England regional and national

competitions. The quiz bowl took place April 14 at the University of Vermont in Burlington and included a written exam and several buzzer rounds of oral questions. Participants scored points for correctly answering questions on a diverse range of topics from dairy nutrition,

anatomy and genetics to cattle breeds, milk production and marketing of dairy products. Up to 10 rosette ribbons were awarded in each age group with the first-place winners also receiving a 4-H backpack. Shoreham's Taryn Burns, a competitor in the 14-18 division,

placed second and was one of four named to State 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl Team. Other local placements in this division included Gabrielle Ellis of Shoreham. Placements for the other age groups were as follows: 12- and 13-year-olds: 1. Caroline Allen, Panton; 2. Tenley

Chittenden, Shoreham; and 6. Renee Plouffe, Bridport. 10- and 11-year-olds: 3. Olivia Tudhope, Orwell; 4. Thomas Allen, Panton; 5. Rowdy Pope, Bridport; 8. Sutton Chittenden, Shoreham; and 12. Desiree Plouffe, Bridport. 8- and 9-year-olds: 1. Ella Pope,

Shoreham; 2. Normandie Cesario, Cornwall; 3. Amelia Tudhope, Orwell; 6. Nora Plouffe, Bridport; and 8. Kendall Thompson, Shoreham. Contact Wendy Sorrell at wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu for more information about the 4-H dairy program and events in Vermont.



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# Stone Mill launches new wine bar Komesar

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Stone Mill’s partnership with Dedalus is aging like fine wine.

In fact, the association is going so well that Stone Mill owners Stacey Rainey and Mary Cullinane have just installed a new wine bar in the historic building at 3 Mill St. It’s a new amenity that Rainey and Cullinane believe will enhance customers’ appreciation of Dedalus’s wine products and afford a cozy space for people to socialize and/or celebrate special occasions with stemware in hand.

“Mary and I are always fascinated by the evolution of this building and the many things that have been housed here over the past 180 years. We see this as ‘the next step,’” Rainey said of the wine bar.

It’s open Thursday through Saturday, 3-8 p.m., and can be secured for special events. Go to stonemillvt.com for details and contact information.

Dedalus Wine had already occupied two vendor stalls in the Stone Mill. The company retains that space and has essentially doubled its footprint, with the adjacent wine bar space that will allow Dedalus to further showcase and serve (by the glass) a wide array of wines. Marlaina Rowell is Dedalus’s point person at the new Stone Mill space.

It’s in a spot formerly occupied by Lost Monarch Coffee. That coffee shop closed and pulled out of the Stone Mill around a year ago, though its founders — Matt and Alessandra Delia-Lobo — continue to operate Royal Oak Coffee at 30 Seymour St.

A tour of the Stone Mill wine bar last week showed the change in décor, with new furniture, paint, lighting, wall coverings and curtains. The natural wood fabrication exudes the warmth and intimacy that Cullinane and Stacey believe will make the wine bar a go-to venue for folks of all walks of life.

They acknowledged valuable



**A NEW WINE bar tucked into the shops at the Stone Mill on Mill Street in Middlebury offers a cozy place to meet and hang out with friends and have a drink on Thursdays through Saturdays. It is a joint project with Dedalus Wines, which has a couple retail stalls in the space.**

Independent photo/John S. McCright

design input from Bethanie Farrell of the Giving Fridge.

“We tried to create a much different vibe,” Cullinane said. “(Farrell) helped us with the lighting and the plants we have here. It’s an example of a great local organization we’ve been able to work with to bring this place alive.”

Rainey continues to marvel at the evolution of the spot from its former coffee shop ambiance.

“There’s a whole new feeling in here,” she said. “People walk in and say, ‘Wow, when did this

happen?’”

Cullinane and Rainey could have had many suitors for the former Royal Oak space but were sold on the idea of expanding Dedalus’s presence in the building. Cullinane cited Dedalus’s commitment to quality, focusing on small producers with low intervention in grape production.

“To partner with the best of Vermont to do this, we couldn’t imagine a different solution,” she said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

(Continued from Page 1A)

there.” But as he nears age 72, Komesar acknowledged that managing MNFF details from year to year has become increasingly arduous. While to most observers Komesar’s enthusiasm and energy seem boundless, he noted that tending to festival business — before, during and after the five-day event — “gets to be a heavy lift.”

“The board and I have been engaged in a legitimate, ongoing, in-depth conversation about succession for some time,” he said. “The time is right... for some new leadership.”

So Komesar will make MNFF10 — slated for Aug. 21-25 — his final curtain call. A new executive director will officially take charge in September, whereupon Komesar will guide the new hire through their diverse set of responsibilities.

“Our hope is the executive director will engage in all the things we’ve built here; I think that will be key in who gets hired,” he said.

A widely posted ad for the new \$60K-\$70K per-year position calls for a person who has, among other things, “extensive experience managing or holding a leadership position with a non-profit cultural organization,” with great communication skills and the ability to juggle multiple assignments at once.

It’s a year-round position with plenty to do. Yes, the festival itself is confined to five days, but there’s a huge amount of prep work and follow-up, according to Komesar. He noted the director will play a role in the film screening process, which begins in January and extends through May.

“Jay makes the final decisions, but the screening committee with the director should shape that process and deliver to him the finalists, from which our program is put together,” Komesar said.

The new top administrator will also be responsible for the popular “MNFF Selects” monthly film screening series hosted each year by Middlebury’s Town Hall Theater (THT). There’s also the Sunset Series in early August at Swift House Inn, and the “Vermont Tour,” through which the festival’s top films are screened at venues throughout the state during the fall.

In addition to fest-related duties, Komesar imagines the new director participating in educational programming that will be able to flourish in the THT’s new building addition at 68 South Pleasant St. For example, he hopes THT can resurrect its “Seeing in the Dark” partnership with THT, through which area high school students are shown some short films, which are then discussed with the idea of trying to expand

their film vocabulary. “Seeing in the Dark” was a COVID casualty. “If I add all these things up, it’s a full-time job,” Komesar said. “It doesn’t mean every week is a 50-hour week, but we envision this as a full-time job with the festival being the focal point, requiring an on-the-ground presence. The rest of the year, there’s still work to do.”

## SETTING THE BAR

Komesar will be a tough act to follow, in many ways.

During a lengthy career at Disney, he amassed hundreds of contacts in the film industry, which have paid dividends in MNFF’s ability to attract high-profile guests like Karen Allen, Maggie Gyllenhaal, David Wasco, Ken Loach, Beth Levison and Alexander Payne. Next month Susan Sarandon will be in Middlebury for an MNFF event.

“Imagine if we get an executive director who *also* has contacts?” Komesar said.

He’s also been a bargain. Komesar has collected zero salary throughout his MNFF tenure.

“I’ve looked at this as a true labor of love,” he said, adding, “when a festival is founded, big salaries can doom an organization. I had just finished a long career at Disney, I was looking for the next chapter and I was in a position where I didn’t really need to draw a salary. I just envisioned this as, ‘Let’s see if we can build something.’”

And build he did.

During its early years, MNFF under Komesar and Craven — who will remain as artistic director — drew a fairly pedestrian 250 film submissions.

“It was a modest number and we had not really ‘planted a flag’ amongst the filmmaking community,” Komesar recalled.

Fast forward to MNFF10, and one can see the exponential growth. As of late last week — and with the May 29 submission deadline still a few weeks off — organizers had received 530 films for this year’s festival.

“Last year we got a total of 508 films, and that seemed totally impossible,” he said.

Film submissions are perhaps the most important barometer of a film festival’s health.

“The MNFF is no longer an ‘unknown,’” Komesar said. “It’s now a significant choice for first- and second-time filmmakers from around the world.”

The MNFF now ranks as one of the largest film festivals in New England, based on filmmaker attendance and number of films screened, according to Komesar. It’s also among the top 100 best-reviewed film festivals by Film Freeway, an online service that filmmakers use to submit their films to hundreds of film festivals globally.

## EMBRACED BY COMMUNITY

Komesar also touted the Middlebury community’s buy-in. Komesar continues to marvel at how local film buffs, merchants, lodgers and sponsors like IPJ Real Estate have embraced MNFF through the years.

“Being in Middlebury — the beating heart of the Champlain Valley — is a pleasurable

experience,” he added of the late-August ambiance. “So many people in our community have bought into the ‘why?’ of this, and I think there’s a massive joy factor in that.”

Another sign that MNFF has “made it,” according to Komesar: The number of filmmakers who attend the festival. Around 15 filmmakers attended the first festival. Eighty-four attended last year’s.

“It was so powerful. We must acknowledge that being with all of us in Middlebury in late August is something that filmmakers enjoy beyond measure. They want to be here,” he said.

One big community member who has appreciated Komesar’s mighty efforts to bring MNFF to its current level is Middlebury College. President Laurie Patton said Middlebury has been incredibly fortunate to have Komesar as founder of the Middlebury New Filmmaker Festival.

“His unwavering energy, visionary leadership, and boundless enthusiasm for the festival have greatly enriched our town and college,” Patton said. “Middlebury College has been privileged to collaborate with Lloyd and his team, and we look forward to many more years of partnership with the festival. We extend our best wishes to Lloyd and express our heartfelt gratitude for his remarkable 10 years of achievements.”

Knowing MNFF likely won’t hit the lottery again and land a financially independent, supremely credentialed person from the film industry to lead the organization, the plan is to have a salaried director, for the first time.

“It’s therefore incumbent on us to raise money, which we’re in the process of doing right now,” Komesar said.

He said the fund drive will reflect a “multi-year commitment” to the new position. Festival leaders have approached past supporters for contributions, and their response has been admirable, according

*“Being with all of us in Middlebury in late August is something that filmmakers enjoy beyond measure. They want to be here.”*

— Llyod Komesar

to Komesar.

Though he chose not to share the fundraising goal, he voiced confidence it’ll be reached by the end of this year.

What will Komesar do unfettered by as many film fest responsibilities?

“I anticipate traveling more. I have a list of places I’m keen to visit, as does Maureen,” he said.

He also relishes the prospect of being able to attend MNFF screenings simply as a movie fan, rather than as an organizer and evaluator of the films.

“I look forward to meeting and greeting people in a slightly different way than I have, to not be carrying around a notepad all the time, not doing all the in-the-moment judgment calls or putting out fires,” Komesar said. “For me to be able to enjoy what we’ve created without being the point person all the time, I look forward to that.”

Liz Robinson, chair of the MNFF board, paid tribute to Komesar’s many contributions.

“Lloyd’s dedication, creativity and unflinching energy have resulted in one of Addison County’s most exciting and successful annual events for our community, and beyond,” she said. “We will be forever grateful to him, and we are glad he is not going far.”

## He’s outstanding

**IAN TROMBULAK, WHO grew up in Middlebury, went to Mary Hogan, MUMS, MUHS and Middlebury College, was chosen as the James F. Cawley Outstanding School Counselor of the Year for 2024 by the Vermont School Counselors Association. He is now Head of Guidance at Lamolille Union High School in Hyde Park.**

Photo courtesy of Dorothy Mammen



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# MAUSD

(Continued from Page 1A) and other district staff on various budget-related questions raised by community members, including delineation of central office staff and their salaries; an explanation of the district's coaches and coordinator model; and a breakdown of what budget items are included in large quantities, such as the construction services line. That information can now be found on the district's website.

Board members also debriefed what they heard at the community forums held in each of the district member towns of Bristol, Starksboro, New Haven and Monkton earlier this week. The forums were designed to build community collaboration around the budget and residents were also encouraged to provide feedback through an anonymous survey.

Takeaways from those meetings included community members expressing a widespread lack of trust in district officials; residents valuing teachers and educational staff and wanting to see that reflected in the budget; and that community members feel the total budget should be reasonable for taxpayers but they are more concerned with the substance of the spending plan.

"It feels like community members are worried and hurt and angry about the state of education and that there's a real desire for having a school district that everyone's feeling really proud about, that's accessible and safe to all children, and that's a reasonable cost to taxpayers," Board member Daniella Sutherland said.

When it came time to decide how to move forward, board members revisited the approximately \$575,000 in potential savings identified by Reen last month. Those

savings would be achieved largely by taking advantage of attrition and eliminating positions the district hasn't been able to fill, such as 1.0 FTE (full-time equivalent) Math Instructional Coaching position and 0.6 FTE guidance counselor position being vacated, as well as 2.3 special educator positions being vacated or that have gone unfilled this school year.

Multiple board members again expressed concern over potential reductions in student-facing positions.

"I think what we heard very clearly (at community forums) last night is special ed and individual assistants, or classroom assistants, or behavioral interventionists is never an area we should cut given the culture that we're in right now and the needs of the students that we have," Board member Kathi Apgar said.

During the discussion followed, some board members suggested preserving those positions and exploring potential savings in other areas of the budget.

"Maybe we do have to look at attrition partly, but are there any places in the budget that are not related to student services that we can have some cuts out of?" Board member Brad Johnson asked. "We heard that in Starksboro, they're worried about sort of using attrition to get to a budget that would be acceptable."

Ultimately, board members instructed Reen to draft a \$35.3 million spending plan that would achieve \$575,000 in savings while preserving as many student-facing positions as possible and finding other short-term savings.

Reen will present the revised plan to the board at its next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday.

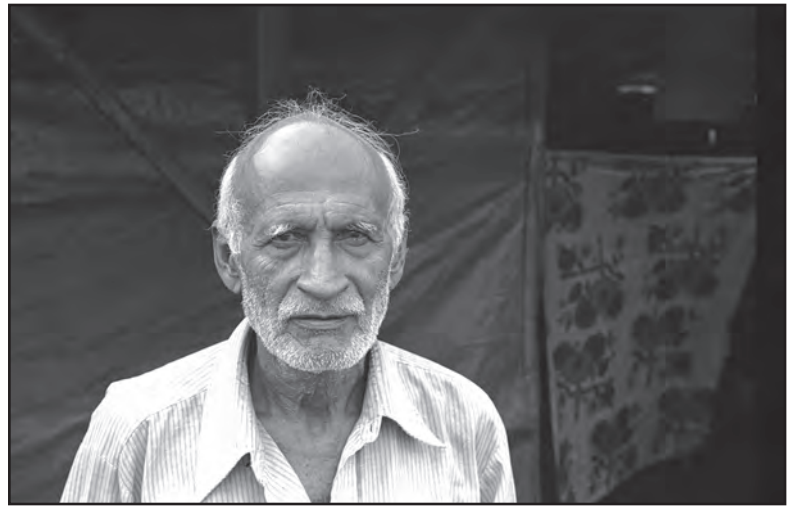
# Votes

(Continued from Page 9A) legislation protecting the rights of the LGBTQ community.

In Appropriations, Leahy was instrumental in bringing large sums of money into Vermont, including \$1.45 billion in supplemental funding related to the COVID pandemic, but more importantly he established the small states minimum provision whereby small states now receive a set minimum amount of funding when related federal legislation is passed.

Leahy was also instrumental in getting funding to help clean up Lake Champlain on a like basis as the Great Lake funding. This was a notable accomplishment that had a bit of Leahy humor when he championed Lake Champlain as the nation's sixth great lake. He later agreed to drop the title of sixth great lake, while keeping the higher level of annual federal funding.

Other notable legislation includes what's called the Leahy Law, which stipulates that the nation withdraw military aide to nations that violate human rights. That law is currently at the heart of President Biden's decision to withhold the 2,000-pound bombs set aside for Israel in its war with Hamas. Leahy said members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have told him the law has helped the U.S. put pressure on nations to uphold their citizens' rights and have helped



SEN. PATRICK LEAHY calls this his "conscience photo"; he has long kept it in his office looking straight at him. The man from El Salvador told the U.S. Senator, "You're powerful and can do anything you want, but there's nothing I could do for you. So what do you do for people like me?"

Photo by U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy

"save thousands upon thousands of lives."

Leahy was also instrumental in getting legislation passed to ban the export and use of landmines, of which he has many stories both humorous and touching.

### POLITICAL BREAKDOWN

Of the breakdown in political cooperation and the collegiality among the Senate and House, Leahy pointed to the mid-1990s when Republican Newt Gingrich became Speaker of the House.

"He and his proteges just took to the newscasts every evening. Many of us looked at our terms as what we could accomplish during our six years in office, which gave you

some room to make controversial decisions. But they were more interested in being on the nightly news and making a headline for the day. That's when things started going out the window and we stopped doing things together."

"The Senate schedule used to be Monday through Friday with a late Wednesday session," he recalled, "but now it's changed to Monday afternoon to Thursday afternoon and it's all about saying the most explosive thing that's apt to get in the news."

Leahy recalled when he was first elected, the military band would play free public concerts on the east steps of the Capitol each Wednesday

night, and congressional families would gather and spread-out picnics on the lawn and socialize, Democrats and Republicans together — a far cry from the partisan atmosphere that's in D.C. today.

He recalled an early trip to Moscow with Sen. Humbert Humphrey that included seven Democrats and six Republicans, a practice that almost always included members of the opposite party when making trips to foreign countries — and the good times and bipartisan work that got done by working together.

Leahy recalled a story of how he came to move into the office once occupied by Sen. Barry Goldwater, one of the most conservative Republicans in Congress when Leahy was elected, and how the two became good friends, even though "we were polls apart in our politics."

"Developing personal relations are just not there. That's what bothers me the most," he said.

Leahy was eager to express how fortunate he was during his Senate career.

Based on his chances of winning that first race almost 50 years ago, he said, "I was never supposed to be there in the first place. So I told myself to go ahead and do what I want to do, and if I left after one term I would have accomplished more than I ever thought I would. Then there was a second term and a third... I feel very fortunate that Vermonters gave me that opportunity, and very fortunate to do the things I did."

# Good Morning

(Continued from Page 1A)

will launch "Project Good Morning," a program through which Middlebury PD dispatchers will compile a list of disabled/elderly local residents who'd like to receive a phone call, six days each week, to make sure they're OK.

Here's how it will work. Monday through Saturday, between the hours of 8 and 10 a.m., dispatchers will place a phone call to each of the program registrants. If they've still haven't made contact with the person after a third phone call attempt, dispatch will send an officer to perform an in-person welfare check.

Middlebury police have conducted 55 in-person welfare checks so far this year.

"We'll encourage people to give us keys that will only be used for this purpose or give us permission in advance to find a way to enter their home," Covey said.

Project Good Morning, Covey explained, is about providing peace of mind — and potentially flagging people with medical issues before they experience a fatal health event.

"This is also to try to enable people to live independently," he said. "It's designed for those people who don't have daily contact with someone. It's for those people who could slip through the cracks, people who might not be noticed as having been seen or heard from in a period of time."

Covey said he'd like to expand Project Good Morning to seven days a week if the department is ever able to transition to 24/7 dispatching. Middlebury PD currently has two full-time dispatchers and five part-timers. He said 24/7 dispatching would likely require adding a third full-timer to the roster.

Vermont State Police in Westminster dispatch

for Middlebury PD on Sundays and other hours when there's no local coverage.

While Middlebury PD dispatchers will take the lead on Project Good Morning phone calls, Covey said he'd entertain help from volunteer callers.

Project Good Morning is already being used at the South Burlington and Colchester PDs, according to Covey. The Wolfboro (N.H.) Police Department created the program after three of the community's senior citizens — who lived alone — died in their homes during a two-month period.

Anyone interested in enrolling in Middlebury PD's Project Good Morning, or who wants to help out, should call the department at 802-388-3191.

Covey is confident the program will be a winner in Middlebury.

"It's not very labor-intensive and if it can save just one life, avert one tragedy, it's well worth the effort," he said.

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# Housing

(Continued from Page 1A)  
depth using research methods like interviews and surveys.

"I try to pick a local issue so that they can practice the research methods that they're learning, but also to learn a little bit more about the community," Teets explained. "I think because of homelessness in Middlebury and just so many people paying attention to this issue, (housing) sort of emerged as something everyone wanted to study."

For this semester's project, students split up into four groups to gather information through textual analysis, focus groups, surveys and interviews.

Students in the interview group spoke to six individuals with experience with affordable housing projects: two regulators from Bristol's design review commission and planning commission, two nonprofit developers and two for-profit developers.

## CHALLENGES FACED

Through those conversations, students found that local developers face multiple challenges in building housing, such as the cost of materials and labor.

Students also pointed to a projected shortage of construction workers and skilled carpenters in Vermont expected to last through 2030, with a deficit of 400 laborers in each category.

"It's a lot harder to find skilled workers and skilled carpenters in Vermont, as well as this constant loop of, 'If we don't have affordable housing for those that want to come into Vermont as these skilled workers, we're not going to have those people to build affordable housing,'" said Benji Sindell, one of the students on the interview team.

Students also found that developers rely on economies of scale when building affordable housing projects, as the cost of building an affordable single-family home is often too high for for-profit and nonprofit organizations to take on.

"The issue with zoning and lot size could be affecting the economies of scale issue because

it's more difficult to build several houses at a time," said Nicolas Woreth, a member of the interview team.

Another group in the class conducted a survey that gathered feedback from 114 local residents, 90 of whom live in Bristol. Many of the respondents were 60 and older, living in single family homes.

Students found that 43.2% had considered moving during the past year (many looking to relocate somewhere in Addison County), but couldn't due to a lack of home availability, housing options not meeting their needs, and other obstacles.

Respondents were asked if there's a housing shortage in their community, using a scale ranging from "definitely not" to "definitely yes." On average, residents answered in between "probably yes" and "definitely yes."

"When it comes to what kind of housing should be built on the other hand, there's a good mix," student Patrick Duffy said. "Not that many people want things like manufactured mobile homes or trailer parks. Instead, they'd rather focus on a mixture of single family homes, which was the most popular response, but also duplexes, apartments, multi-family buildings, things like that."

People were also asked whether they'd considered renovating their property, such as by adding apartments or Accessory Dwelling Units, known as ADUs; 35% said they had, but listed strict regulations and access to materials as some of the challenges they ran into.

Thirty-eight respondents said they wanted to eventually downsize their home, but the lack of housing options, transportation and needed services were among the main challenges in doing so. Fifty-three people who answered the survey said they didn't plan on downsizing.

"The reality is that there are a lot of older residents who have access, to some degree, to disposable income who are heading into retirement or looking to move into

assisted living, and the process of either downsizing or transitioning into a facility isn't streamlined or people don't really understand how to do that, so that's something to definitely invest resources in," said Mirza Becirovic, another student on the survey team. "But a lot of people, as we saw, they don't want to downsize. That's also something to consider, how can we take the framework that we have right now and adapt it to make a better situation for everybody."

Elderly residents facing obstacles in downsizing was an issue that came up in other students' research as well. A cohort gathering information through focus groups spoke with members of the Bristol Elder Eagles, a group for Bristol-area seniors that meets weekly.

Many of the residents said they struggle to maintain their larger family homes and run into financial constraints when it comes to larger renovations like converting parts of their homes into apartments.

Students found many elderly residents would like to downsize, but they face a significant shortage of senior housing options and the waiting lists for retirement homes in the region are years-long.

"If more diverse types of senior living facilities were available, these elders could relocate, freeing up homes for younger families that are seeking to move to Bristol or find housing," said Lizuly Meraz, one of the students who conducted the focus groups.

The students also spoke with residents of the Firehouse Apartments, a new complex of 20 mixed-income units located east of the town's fire station on Firehouse Drive.

When asked about their renting experience, some residents said a significant portion of their income is devoted to rent and recounted the long searches they had to navigate to find housing.

"There was a woman who'd been waiting for five and a half years on these waiting lists and going through applications," student Simon Schmieler said. "It was definitely quite an extensive



## What a pair

**MALE RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS** like so many other male birds, are the showy ones. Females have their own kind of subtle beauty, however, as these bird photographed at Dead Creek demonstrate.

Photos by Dottie Nelson

process for these residents."

Residents pointed to filling out paperwork (such as for housing choice vouchers) as one of the distinct challenges they face.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Students offered several recommendations for how to better address housing needs in Bristol. Those included making the application processes easier for residents and creating more housing options like apartments.

Others noted that preserving the "small town" aesthetic is important to regulators and must be a part of affordable housing discussions moving forward. The group of students using textual analysis to conduct research found

that "small town" and "existing character" were words that appear frequently in Development Review Board meeting minutes and town zoning regulations.

Students also recommended that local zoning regulations maximize land use, promote walkability, and allow for larger, multifamily buildings. Other suggestions included continuing to facilitate the creation of ADUs for those who want them, exploring co-housing as an opportunity to create density and community in Bristol, and lobbying the state to apply tax exemptions or subsidies for materials in demand and finance training programs for skilled construction workers.

Teets said the class plans to share its findings and recommendations with all those involved in the project, as well as with Bristol's selectboard, development review board and planning commission.

She noted town regulators have recently been exploring updates to Bristol's zoning regulations.

"This seemed like a moment where maybe if we supplied some more of this thinking about arbitrarily drawing these lines, the differences between duplexes versus multi-family, the need for more senior housing, then maybe we could influence the way these new zoning laws are modernized," she said.

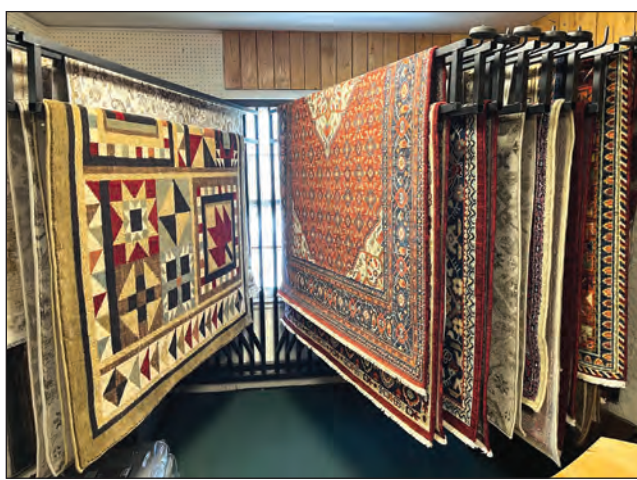
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## Girls' tennis splits pair of matches

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' tennis team split two recent matches, and the Tigers' record after Monday stood at 4-3 — with that win total double the program's in 2023.

On Friday, May 10, visiting Division II title contender Mount Mansfield defeated the Tigers, 6-1, in a match moved to Middlebury Indoor Tennis due to rainy weather. The Tigers moved back over .500 with a 5-2 win at U-32 on Monday.

In the Friday match, Mount Mansfield showed why the Cougars are unbeaten in Division II this year. Despite the score, a number of individual points and sets were competitive. The Cougars improved to 5-2, with their only losses to top D-I teams Stowe and CVU.

Tiger junior No. 5 singles player

Piper Farnsworth provided the MUHS highlight by preserving her personal winning streak with a 6-0, 6-0 victory marked by her consistent hitting. Farnsworth continued the winning streak on Monday by beating Evelyn Martel, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

Coach Dan Comar acknowledged the quality of this past Friday's foe, calling the Cougars "an experienced MMU team led by a state-ranked and former singles champion No. 1 (Bea Molson)."

Comar said Friday's play showed both what the Tigers have accomplished and what they must still work on.

"We looked at this match as a barometer reading that will indicate what we'll need to do to get to the next level," he said in an email.

He pointed to what he saw as several positive takeaways, noting, "Farnsworth continued a streak of

start-to-finish strong matches."

Tiger No. 1 Audrey Carpenter didn't take a game from Molson, who served strongly, hit powerfully from the baseline, and mixed in delicate dropshots. But Carpenter steadied in the second set, and Comar noted the set scores "do not show (her) solid play."

The Tigers' most competitive match after Farnsworth's was submitted by senior Caroline Nicolai at No. 4 singles, who gave

Cougar No. 4 Liliana Carrick a battle in a 6-4, 7-5 setback. Comar said the steady hitting by both players was highlighted by a 32-stroke point during which Nicolai outlasted Carrick.

No. 3 Sophia Boise also had moments during her match, hitting several clean winners.

The Tigers were shorthanded, apparently because of the ongoing All-State Music Festival. The No. 4 singles, who gave



MUHS NO. 1 SINGLES girls' tennis player Audrey Carpenter lofts a two-handed backhand return in her match on Friday vs. Mt. Mansfield, hosted by Middlebury Indoor Tennis. Although she lost to former state singles champion Bea Molson, Carpenter was particularly solid in the second set.

Independent photo/Steve James

MUHS DOUBLES PLAYER Olivia Kearley sends a forehand over the net on Friday in her and partner Maryam Kahn's competitive match vs. Mount Mansfield held at Middlebury Indoor Tennis.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Tiger baseball sinks Commodores

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School baseball team took an early lead against visiting rival Vergennes Union High School on Tuesday, and then broke the game open with a five-run fifth inning on the way to an 11-1 victory. The game was ended on the 10-run mercy rule after six innings.

The result left both teams with 2-8 records, but possibly the Tigers with more momentum — they have won two out of their past three after a rocky start against a tough early

schedule.

On Tuesday they unleashed a 15-hit attack, 14 against VUHS senior starter Tyler Kimball and a game-ending single against sophomore reliever Aiden Fuller, while only striking out once. Meanwhile, Tiger freshman hurler Tucker Wright tossed a four-hitter, striking out seven.

MUHS Coach Tim Paquette was pleased with his team's focus and spirit as well as its performance.

"They came to play. They were positive, not negative, and they hit the ball. And Tucker threw strikes.

He got into a little hiccup there, but the defense picked him up," Paquette said.

He believes his team can build on Tuesday's win and is capable of even better play, starting with a challenging home outing on Thursday against a Mount Abraham team that also appears to be hitting its stride.

"I expect a lot more. I expect them to win all the games here on out," Paquette said. "I'm hoping to end up at .500 and roll into the playoffs on a hot streak."

Commodore Coach Andy

O'Brien credited the Tigers.

"They had timely hits. Credit to their bats. They put the ball in play, and we made mistakes," O'Brien said.

He said his young team — his roster includes three seniors, three juniors, one sophomore, six freshman and an 8th-grader — has been playing better in the field, but did not show its best on Tuesday, with four errors. But he expects continued improvement.

"This is the first game in a while that it (fielding) has been an issue,"

(See Baseball, Page 4B)



EAGLE FRESHMAN STEFAN Johnson earned the pitching win vs. visiting Milton on Saturday, tossing seven innings, allowing two runs, one earned, on four hits while striking out eight.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Mount Abe baseball looks to make noise in Division II

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Union High School baseball team just might be ready to make a move up in the Division II standings.

The Eagles split two recent outings to stand at 4-4, and one loss was to D-II's second-place team Missisquoi in a close game.

After the May 9 setback to Missisquoi, the Eagles breezed vs. Milton on Saturday, 9-2, and then led in the fourth inning vs. Enosburg on Tuesday, 6-4, when bad weather forced the game to be suspended. Plans call for the rest of the game to be played on Friday.

Time will tell, but the Eagles' record might also be misleading. As well as the tough loss to Missisquoi, Mount Abe's other setbacks have come to a seven-win Otter Valley club on the road and against two strong D-I outfits, Champlain Valley and Rutland.

Coach Jason Barnard said the Eagles were competitive in those D-I games, a 2-1 loss vs. Rutland and a more one-sided results vs. CVU, in which the D-I's first-place outfit led by one run through five innings before pulling away late.

"These guys can hang with anybody," Barnard said of his team.

Saturday's game in Bristol showcased the Eagles' positives. In their six at-bats off two Milton pitchers they knocked out eight hits, including freshman Cameron Castillo's homer, junior Aricin

Griffin's triple, and freshman Abe Ready's double. They also drew four walks as they were patient at the plate.

"From the bottom to the top we have a very deep lineup. We work the count. We have a lot of quality at-bats," Barnard said. "We've got two guys in the middle, Abe Ready and Cam Castillo, who hit the ball hard, and we try to set the table for those guys and put some runs on the board."

Meanwhile, freshman starting pitcher Stefan Johnson allowed one earned run on four hits in 6.1 innings, striking out eight. Castillo is the ace, but Barnard said Johnson has emerged to give the Eagles a strong top of the rotation.

"He was going to be one of our swing guys, going back and forth between JV and varsity, and he came up and claimed the number two spot in the rotation, and he's never looked back," Barnard said. "He pitched dynamite today."

The Eagles did commit two errors vs. Milton, but also made sparkling plays, most notably sophomore shortstop Even Corrigan's running, leaping grab of Yellowjacket Gavin Murray's liner up the middle in the second inning. Johnson also helped himself in the sixth by spearing Davis Cederholm's one-hop bullet up the middle to start a double play in the sixth, with Corrigan making the relay.

Barnard said even when lapses (See Eagles, Page 4B)



COMMODORE SHORTSTOP EYON Tembreull prepares to make the throw to third base to nab another runner and complete a double play after just tagging Tiger Tucker Wright out in a rundown.

Independent photo/Steve James

## MAV girls' lax stretches win streak, holds in 2nd place

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Mount Abraham/Vergennes girls' lacrosse team swept three recent games, improving the squad's winning streak to seven straight and remaining in second place in Division II with an 8-2 record.

On May 9 the Commodores edged visiting D-I Burlington, 11-10. The Seahorses are 6-3. Annie Dufault had a big game for MAV with six goals and an assist, Anna Stillwell scored twice, and Meredith Dufault, Nell Harvey and June Yates-Rusch added a goal apiece. Carley Cook backstopped the win with eight saves.

Brooks Deshaw (four goals) and Livia Jatlow-Carter (three goals) led the Seahorses.

On Saturday MAV stung visiting Milton, 17-4 as Annie Dufault, a senior, scored twice to reach 100 goals for her career, adding an assist for good

measure.

Julia Sonneborn also notched two goals and an assist, and 13 Commodores added a goal apiece: Stillwell, Maris LaPerle, Esme Visco-Lyons, Thompson Davis, Zoey Johnston, Yates-Rusch, Ila Crowley, Meredith Dufault, Adrienne Smits, Safi Camoura, Aubrey Coffey, Louisa Guilmette and Addison Wright. Harvey had two assists, and Cook made another eight saves.

Bella Kang scored three goals for the Yellowjackets, and goalie Sam Provost made 10 saves.

On Tuesday the Commodores won at Harwood, 9-3. Stillwell scored three goals, and Annie Dufault and Stanley contributed a goal and an assist apiece to lead the attack. Cook made a dozen saves.

MAV is set to host Green Mountain Valley on Thursday and visit Colchester on Saturday.

# Vermont Sun racing season kicks off with half marathon, 10K and 5K

SALISBURY / LEICESTER — Middlebury's Emmet Schmeeling won the Vermont Sun Half marathon on Sunday in 1:28:16, while Sacha Boisvert of Verdun, Quebec, claimed second in 1:31:47. South Burlington's Katie Dolbec was the women's winner in 1:34:13 with Concord, Mass.-resident Adaylah Ley second in 1:40:29.

Daniel Moncada of Vergennes won the 10 kilometer race in 35:42, with Sarah Rothenberg from Atlantic City, N.J., claiming the women's title in 37:59. Ashley Graham of Starksboro won the women's 5-kilometer race overall (22:26), while Jim Morrison was the men's winner and second overall (23:10). Nearly 20 states

were represented. For complete, results go to [vermontsun.com](http://vermontsun.com). The races were held at Branbury State Park on Lake Dunmore in unusually cool conditions. The temperature was just 45 degrees with clouds but no wind for the 9 a.m. start. The normal high for the day is 70 degrees. For the most part, the runners said they enjoyed

the conditions, which inspired many to run their personal best. The athletes enjoyed many amenities, including music, food, custom tech, T-shirts and medals. The event benefited the Middlebury Union Middle School cross-country team, Branbury and the Lake Associations. Next up in the summer athletic

competitions series are the Vermont Sun Triathlon (swim 600 yards, bike 14 miles, run 3.1 miles) and Lake Dunmore Triathlon (0.9-mile swim, 28-mile bike 10K run) on Sunday, June 23. The triathlons are the Vermont State Sprint and Olympic championships. Both have Aqua Bike (swim/bike only) and team divisions. Both events

will be held again on Aug. 18. On July 21, the Vermont Sun Triathlon is repeated and the Branbury Classic Triathlon is added, which substitutes the swim with a 1.5 mile paddling option. Volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Vermont Sun 802-388-6888 for details.



**SEVENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD** Jim Morisseau of Cornwell cruises into a second-place finish in the 5K on Sunday. Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography



**MIDDLEBURY'S BARBARA GREENEWALT** powers toward the 5K finish on Sunday, when she earned fifth place. Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography



**MARY HEATHER NOBLE** of Middlebury heads to a 16th place finish in the Vermont Sun 10K in Salisbury on Sunday. Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography



**COLLEGE STUDENTS CELEBRATE** their competition in Sunday's half-marathon as they near the finish of the 13.1-mile race at Branbury State Park. Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

## Baseball teams' results mixed: Tigers split but win first; VUHS nets one; OV bested

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

**ADDISON COUNTY** — In recent high school baseball play, the Vergennes and Middlebury union teams each split recent games, with the Tigers earning their first spring victory, while Otter Valley won once in three outings, losing to top teams.

The Commodores also visited the Tigers on Tuesday while Mount Abraham played three games; see separate stories on Page 1B.

### COMMODORES

On May 9, visiting Milton topped the Commodores, 6-2, as winning pitcher Carter Abell threw a complete-game four-hitter, fanning eight. Abell also homered and drove in three runs.

**Tyler Kimball** went six innings and took the loss, allowing five hits and striking out 10. **Liam McGuire** doubled and drove in a run for VUHS.

On Saturday, the Commodores picked up their second win of the season, 5-1, at Enosburg. **Eyon Tembreull** went the distance for the pitching win, allowing 12 hits and one walk, but striking out eight and stranding 10 baserunners. At

the plate, **Tembreull** tripled twice, doubled, drove in two runs and stole two bases.

**Gabe Scribner** added two hits and two runs, **Jackson Becher** also had two hits, and **Kimball** doubled, walked twice and stole three bases.

### TIGERS

On May 9, the Tigers banged out 14 hits and stole 12 bases in defeating host Enosburg, 12-4, for their initial win. The Hornets closed the gap on a grand slam in the top of the sixth, but the Tigers responded with six runs of their own in the bottom of the inning.

**Alex Sperry** led the Tigers with three hits, three runs and three RBIs, **Carter Paquette** had two hits and scored three runs, **Tim Whitney** drove in three runs with a pair of hits, **Ethan Sweet** had a hit and two RBIs, and **Riley Disorda** had two hits and scored twice. **Gabe Velez** went the distance for the pitching win, allowing three earned runs on three hits and five walks, fanning six.

On Saturday, Missisquoi, D-II's first-place team, bested the Tigers, 9-4. T-Bird hurler **Gavin Nichols**

tossed a complete-game four-hitter, allowing one earned run, and also knocked in three runs with two hits.

### OTTERS

On May 9, visiting Hartford defeated OV, 1-0. Both OV's **Isaiah Wood** and Hurricane **Zach Johnson** tossed one-hitters. **Jacob Warrell** had the only hit for the Otters. Both teams were 7-4 as of Tuesday.

On Saturday, the Otters outlasted visiting Windsor, 7-6. The Jacks pushed across three runs in the top of the seventh before reliever **Jackson Howe** quelled the rally, making a winner of Warrell, who started and went four innings.

**Tucker Maranville**, **Max Potter** and **Luciano Falco** all had two hits for OV, and Wood doubled and scored.

On Tuesday, host D-I team Mount Anthony moved to 12-0 with a 5-0 victory over the Otters. Wood and Howe each threw three innings for OV and surrendered one earned run apiece.

## Softball: Tigers take three Eagles' sole win comes with drama; OV, VUHS lose

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

**ADDISON COUNTY** — In recent high school softball play, Middlebury won three times in four outings, including a win over Vergennes; Mount Abraham scored a dramatic win in a stretch against Division II's top three teams; and Otter Valley came up short twice against tough competition.

### MUHS VS. VUHS

On Tuesday, the Tigers defeated visiting Vergennes, 12-0, in six innings. MUHS hurler **Lexi Whitney** tossed a complete-game one-hitter, striking out two. Commodore **Rory Couture** had her team's only hit, and **Savanah Blaise** took the pitching loss.

For MUHS, **Lexi Orleans** tripled, singled and drove in a run; **Skyler Choiniere** had two hits and two RBIs; and **Meredith Cameron** and **Sienna Rubright** each tripled, singled and drove in two runs. The Tigers improved to 5-3 heading into a Thursday road showdown with Mount Abe.

### EAGLES

On May 9, visiting Rice edged the Eagles, 7-6. Winning pitcher **Alyna Havreluk** allowed seven hits and one earned run, and **Green Knights March Lumbra**, **Bella Messineo** and **Lynsey Nagle** each banged out two hits. **Abba Parker** homered and drove in three runs in a three-hit day for Mount Abe, **Elise Parker** had two hits, and **Morgan Larocque** doubled. Rice is 7-1.

On Saturday, the Eagles staged a dramatic rally to defeat visiting Milton, 4-3, in eight innings. Mount Abe took an early 1-0 lead, but the Yellowjackets tied the game in the middle innings

and then scored twice in the top of the seventh to take a 3-1 lead.

But **Abba Parker** drilled a two-out, two-strike homer to tie the game in the bottom of the inning, and winning pitcher **Gretchen Toy** tossed a scoreless eighth. **Elise Parker** led off the ninth with a double, and courtesy runner **Emi Rougier** moved up to third base on Toy's fly ball to right field. Freshman **Brook Barnard** then laid down the winning squeeze bunt to score Rougier. The loss was Milton's only setback of the spring.

On Tuesday, another one-loss team, Enosburg, topped the Eagles, 8-2. Winning pitcher **Makenna Lovelette** tossed a six-hitter, homered among a three-hit day, and drove in four runs. **Rory Schreindorf** added two hits and two RBIs for the Hornets, and **Cassidy Blaney** homered, and **Addison Longe** doubled in a run.

The Eagles, 6-3 after facing the top three teams in the D-II standings, will look to bounce back when they host the Tigers on Thursday.

### TIGERS

On May 9, host Enosburg claimed a six-inning, 13-1 victory over the Tigers. **Lovelette** tossed the complete-game win, allowing three hits and striking out five, and also paced the Enosburg attack with three hits, including a homer, and four RBIs.

On Saturday, the Tigers bounced back to deal visiting Rice its first loss, 4-0. **Emma Deering** pitched a two-hit shutout, striking out 11, and **Choiniere** powered the offense with two hits, including a two-run homer to push the

Tigers' lead to 3-0 in the fifth inning. Later in the same frame, **Cameron** doubled home **Sarah Bevere**. MUHS had taken a 1-0 lead with an unearned run in the first inning. **Havreluk** took the loss for Rice (7-1), giving up seven hits and striking out six.

On Monday, the Tigers won at U-32, 14-1. **Deering** threw another complete game, allowing eight hits and whiffing seven. **Choiniere** homered, and **Ireland Hanley** knocked out two doubles and a single to drive in four runs.

### OTTERS

On May 9, OV lost at Hartford 17-9. Details were not reported. Hartford is 6-2.

On Tuesday, host Mount Anthony improved to 11-1 by edging the Otters, 4-3. OV hurler **Sierra Cormany** allowed only two earned runs in six innings. **Ady Humiston** belted an RBI triple for OV, **Kaylee Maloy** hit an RBI single, and **Leann Thomas** plated the other OV run with a sacrifice fly.

The Otters carried a 4-5 record into a Thursday home game vs. Springfield.

### COMMODORES

On May 9, VUHS gave Milton a game, but the Yellowjackets got a two-run homer from **Grace Williams** in the sixth inning that snapped a 4-4 tie and gave them a 6-4 victory over the Commodores. **Williams** also struck out 13 and earned the pitching win.

**Blaise** took the pitching loss despite striking out nine and also led the VUHS offense with a pair of hits.

On Saturday, the Commodores took it on the chin from host Enosburg, 20-0.



**MOUNT ABE JUNIOR** Evan Corrigan steals second base easily on Saturday during the Eagle baseball team's 9-2 victory over visiting Milton. Independent photo/Steve James

## Score BOARD

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

#### Softball

5/9 Hartford vs OV	17-9
5/9 Enosburg vs MUHS	13-1
5/9 Milton at VUHS	6-4
5/9 Rice vs Mt Abe	7-6
5/11 Mt Abe vs Milton	4-3 (8)
5/11 Enosburg vs VUHS	20-0
5/11 MUHS vs Rice	4-0
5/13 MUHS vs U-32	14-1
5/14 Mt Anthony vs OV	4-3
5/14 MUHS vs VUHS	12-0
5/14 Enosburg at Mt Abe	8-2

#### Baseball

5/9 MUHS vs Enosburg	12-4
5/9 Milton vs VUHS	6-2
5/9 Missisquoi vs Mt Abe	5-3
5/9 Hartford vs OV	1-0
5/11 OV vs Windsor	7-6
5/11 Mt Abe vs Milton	9-2
5/11 VUHS at Enosburg	5-1
5/11 Missisquoi vs MUHS	9-4

5/14 MUHS vs VUHS	11-1
5/14 Enosburg at Mt Abe	Suspended
5/14 Mt. Anthony vs OV	5-0

#### Boys' Lacrosse

5/8 Randolph vs OV	10-5
5/8 Burlington vs MAV	8-4
5/10 Burr & Burton vs MUHS	12-10
5/11 MAV vs Milton	12-6
5/13 OV at Montpelier	Postponed
5/14 MUHS vs St. Albans	17-5
5/15 Harwood at MAV	Late

#### Girls' Lacrosse

5/8 MAV vs Burlington	11-10
5/9 MUHS vs Colchester	15-4
5/10 MUHS vs Rutland	14-6
5/11 MAV vs Milton	17-4
5/14 MAV vs Harwood	9-3
5/14 St. Albans vs MUHS	14-10

#### Girls' Tennis

5/10 Mt Mansfield vs MUHS	6-1
5/13 MUHS vs U-32	5-2

#### Boys' Tennis

5/8 MUHS at CVU	Postponed
5/10 MUHS vs Mt Mansfield	7-0
5/13 MUHS vs St. J.	4-3
5/15 Stowe at MUHS	Late

#### Ultimate

5/10 Colchester vs MUHS	15-7
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#### COLLEGE SPORTS

Baseball	
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### NESCAC Tournament at Tufts

#### Four-Team Double Elimination

5/10 Midd vs Tufts	12-4
5/11 Midd vs Colby	6-5
5/12 Tufts vs Midd	7-4
5/12 Midd vs Tufts (Final)	9-2

#### Softball

NESCAC Tournament at Tufts	
Eight-Team Single Elimination	
5/10 #7 Bowdoin vs #2 Midd	4-0

#### Women's Lacrosse

NCAA D-III Games at Midd	
5/11 St. John Fisher vs Endicott	17-8
5/12 Midd vs St. John Fisher	18-5

#### Men's Lacrosse

NCAA D-III Regional at Dickinson	
5/11 Dickinson vs Scranton	10-3
5/11 Midd vs SUNY Geneseo	17-10
5/12 Midd vs Dickinson	13-9

## Schedule

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

#### Softball

5/16 Mt Abe at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/16 Springfield at OV	4:30 PM

5/16 Rice at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/18 Mt Abe at VUHS	10 AM
5/18 OV at Brattleboro	11 AM
5/18 MUHS at Milton	11 AM
5/21 Enosburg at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/21 Hartford at OV	4:30 PM
5/21 VUHS at Milton	4:30 PM
5/21 Mt Abe at Rice	4:30 PM
5/23 Mt Abe at Milton	4:30 PM
5/23 Enosburg at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/23 Fair Haven at OV	4:30 PM
5/23 MUHS at Rice	4:30 PM
5/25 Mt Abe at Enosburg	11 AM
5/25 Bellows Falls at OV	11 AM

#### Baseball

5/16 Green Mt. at OV	4:30 PM
5/16 Mt Abe at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/16 Missisquoi at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/18 MUHS at Milton	11 AM
5/18 Mt Abe at VUHS	10 AM
5/18 OV at Brattleboro	11 AM
5/21 OV at Hartford	7 PM
5/21 VUHS at Milton	4:30 PM
5/23 Enosburg at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/21 Mt Abe at Missisquoi	4:30 PM
5/23 Mt Abe at Milton	4:30 PM
5/23 MUHS at Missisquoi	4:30 PM
5/23 Enosburg at VUHS	4:30 PM
5/23 Fair Haven at OV	4:30 PM

5/25 Bellows Falls at OV	11 AM
5/25 MUHS at VUHS	11 AM
5/25 Mt Abe at Enosburg	11 AM

#### Boys' Lacrosse

5/16 Fairfax at OV	4:30 PM
5/17 CVU at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/18 Colchester at MAV	10 AM
5/21 MUHS at Rice	4:30 PM
5/21 MAV at OV	4:30 PM
5/24 S. Burlington at MUHS	4:30 PM
5/24 MUHS at S. Burlington	4:30 PM
5/25 OV at Brattleboro	7 PM

#### Girls' Lacrosse

5/16 GMVS at MAV	4:30 PM
5/17 MUHS at CVU	4:30 PM
5/18 MAV at Colchester	11 AM
5/21 MUHS at MAV	4:30 PM
5/24 MUHS at S. Burlington	4:30 PM
5/25 MAV at Rice	11 AM

#### Girls' Tennis

5/15 Stowe at MUHS	3:30 PM
5/17 Harwood at MUHS	3:30 PM
5/20 St. Albans at MUHS	3:30 PM
5/22 MUHS at Montpelier	3:30 PM
5/23 North Country at MUHS	3:30 PM

#### Boys' Tennis

5/17 Harwood at MUHS	3:30 PM
5/24 U-32 at MUHS	3:30 PM

#### Track & Field

5/20 MUHS at Burlington	3:15 PM
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5/21 VUHS at S. Burlington	3:30 PM
5/25 VUHS/Mt Abe at Essex	9 AM

#### Ultimate

5/20 CVU at MUHS	4 PM
5/22 MUHS at Milton	4 PM
5/24 MUHS at Mt Mansfield	4 PM

### COLLEGE SPORTS

#### Baseball

NCAA Regional at Misericordia (PA)	
5/17 Midd vs Keystone	1:30 PM
5/18	TBD
5/19	TBD

#### Women's Lacrosse

NCAA D-III Regional at Midd	
5/18 Midd vs Colorado College	11:30 AM
5/18 Ithaca vs Pomona-Pitzer	2:30 PM
5/19 Regional Final	1 PM
5/26	Tournament Final in Salem, VA

#### Men's Lacrosse

NCAA D-III Sectional at RIT	
5/18 RIT vs. Christopher Newport	Noon
5/18 Midd vs Bowdoin	3 PM
5/19 Sectional Final	3 PM
5/26	Tournament Final in Philadelphia

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.

# Tennis

(Continued from Page 1B)

All-State Music Festival. The No. 2 doubles team of Maryam Khan and Olivia Kearley stepped up and played at No. 1 doubles. Comar said they “showed up” and played well, taking four games from the Cougars’ top doubles team.

Comar was pleased with Monday’s win in a match rescheduled from earlier this spring. He said it came “despite strong play from U-32’s No. 1 singles and No.1 doubles,” who scored the Raider points.

MUHS took the other five matches, including exchange student Ryte Akramaite picking up her first win of the season.

Comar said the players atop the Tiger ladder have shown better than their results.

“No. 1 Audrey Carpenter and No. 2 Akramaite have been playing the opponents’ top players all season, their match results not always showing the high quality of their play.”

The Tigers have two D-I matches remaining on their schedule, but have a decent shot at a .500 or better record: Three of their six remaining matches come against teams they have already defeated this spring.

The Tigers were set to host D-I power Stowe on Wednesday after the deadline for this section, and Friday will bring a rematch with D-II Harwood. The Tigers edged Harwood on the road earlier this spring, 4-3.

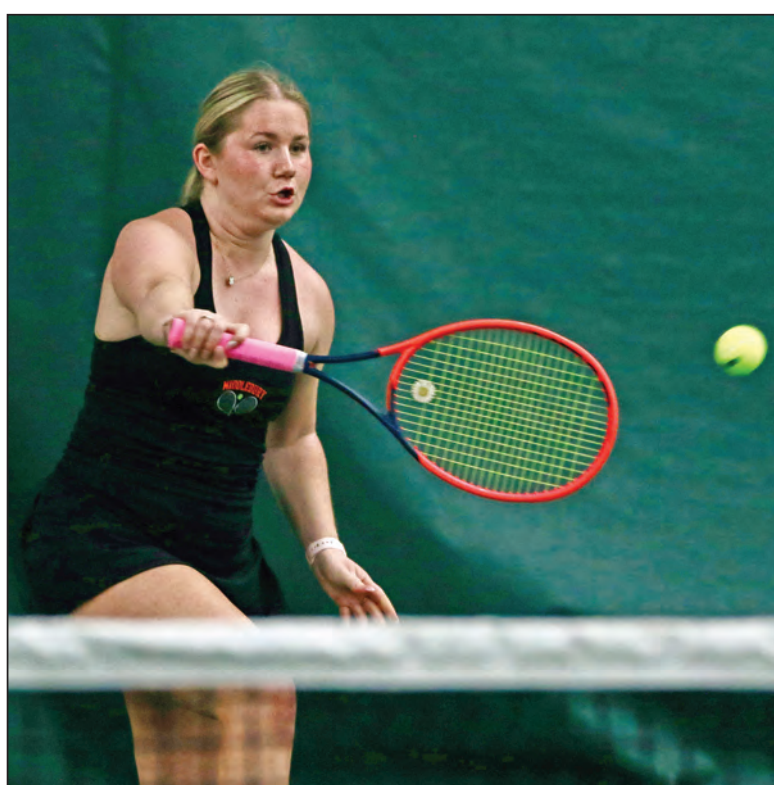
## MATCH SCORES

The individual match scores in the Friday competition between MUHS and MMU were:

- No. 1 singles, Bea Molson, MMU, defeated Audrey Carpenter, MUHS, 6-0, 6-0.
  - No. 2 singles, Ada Krull, MMU, defeated Ryte Akramaite, MUHS, 6-4, 6-1.
  - No. 3 singles, Avela Krull, MMU, defeated Sophia Boise, MUHS, 6-1, 6-2.
  - No. 4 singles, Liliana Carrick, MMU, defeated Caroline Nicolai, MUHS, 6-4, 7-5.
  - No. 5 singles, Piper Farnsworth, MUHS, defeated Piper Krull, MMU, 6-0, 6-0.
  - No. 1 doubles, Estelle First/Ava Poehlmann, MMU, defeated Maryam Khan/Olivia Kearley, MUHS, 6-3, 6-1.
  - No. 2 doubles MUHS forfeited.
- At U-32 on Monday, the individual match scores were:
- No. 1 singles, Salome Tchamouridze, U-32, defeated Carpenter, MUHS, 6-2, 6-0.
  - No. 2 singles, Akramaite, MUHS, defeated Sylvia Emmons, U-32, 6-3, 6-4.
  - No. 3 singles, Boise, MUHS, defeated Willow Mashkuri, U-32, 6-2, 6-4.
  - No. 4 singles, Nicolai, MUHS, defeated Sophie Martel, U-32, 6-2, 7-5.
  - No. 5 singles, Farnsworth, MUHS, defeated Evelyn Martel, U-32, 7-6 (2), 6-4.
  - No. 1 doubles, Yvette Petrella/Meredith Wilcox, U-32, defeated Clara Chant/Subia Khan, MUHS, 6-0, 6-0.
  - No. 2 doubles, Anna Wolosinski/Maryam Khan, MUHS, defeated Sawyer John/Sophia Badeau, U-32, 6-0, 6-0.



MUHS DOUBLES PLAYER Maryam Khan serves on Friday in hers and partner Olivia Kearley’s competitive match against Mount Mansfield hosted by Middlebury Indoor Tennis. Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS NO. 3 GIRLS’ tennis singles player Sophia Boise follows through on a backhand in her Friday match vs. Mt. Mansfield held at Middlebury Indoor Tennis. Boise had bright moments during her match, hitting several clean winners. Independent photo/Steve James



TIGER NO. 2 SINGLES player Ryte Akramaite lines up a forehand on Friday in her girls’ tennis match vs. Mt. Mansfield held at Middlebury Indoor Tennis. Independent photo/Steve James

# Tiger girls lax wins two of three

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls’ lacrosse team won two out of three recent games to improve to 5-3. The Tigers will play at CVU on Friday and visit Mount Abraham/Vergennes on Tuesday.

On May 9 the Tigers coasted at Colchester 15-5. Leading the attack were Kenyon Connors (five goals), Ada Weaber (four goals, three assists), Sara Kent (two goals, three assists) and

Quinn Doria (two goals). Addison Dunakin and Ronan Young chipped in a goal apiece, and goalie Ida Blackwell made 13 saves.

Halle Christian led the Lakers with two scores, and goalie Sarah Palmer made 19 saves.

On May 10 Middlebury rolled over visiting Rutland, 14-6. Connors tossed in another five goals, and Doria scored three. Also contributing to the attack were Weaber (two goals, assist),

Lia Calzini (two goals), Izzy Quinn (goal, two assists), Alice Livesay and Ava Schneider (goal apiece) and Pela Slayter (three assists)

On Tuesday host St. Albans outlasted the Tigers, 14-10. Amber Dougette (six goals) and Adi Hughes (four goals) did most of the damage for the Comets. Weaber scored four goals to lead MUHS, and six Tigers added a goal apiece.

# Local track athletes shine at BHS

Five from MUHS, Mt. Abe, VUHS place at major meet

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
BURLINGTON — Led by a first-place finish by Middlebury Union High School junior runner Jazmyn Hurley, a handful of local high school athletes posted top-10 efforts at Saturday’s Burlington Invitational track and field meet. It was a major midseason event that drew competitors from all divisions from around Vermont and a few from Canada.

Hurley prevailed in the girls’ 400-meter run, winning with a time of 58.14.

Mount Abraham senior Joe Darling excelled in two events, including a fourth-place finish in the boys’ long jump with a leap of 6.3 meters. Darling also finished eighth in the discus with a throw of 34.08 meters.

Eagle freshman Truman Sawyer took fifth in the boys’ triple jump

with an effort of 11.72 meters, and Mount Abe senior Siena Stanley took eighth in the girls’ 1,500 meters in 4:57.18.

Vergennes senior Calder Rakowski finished sixth in the boys’ 800m in 2:02.53.

MUHS was set to host a meet at the Middlebury College facility on Wednesday.

# Tiger boys’ lax lose, bounce back strong

By ANDY KIRKALDY  
MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys’ lacrosse team split two recent games, losing on the road before claiming a home victory on Tuesday. At 7-2 the Tigers remain in second place in Division I heading into a Friday home game vs. first-place Champlain Valley.

On this past Friday, host Burr & Burton outscored the Tigers by 7-3 in the fourth quarter to erase a 7-5 deficit and prevail, 12-10. Peyton Gray led the Bulldogs with five goals and two assists, and Carter Cave added two goals and three assists and reportedly won 87% of

the faceoffs during the game. *“It was the first game all season we played a full 48 minutes of complete lacrosse.”* — Coach Rizzo

Toby Draper’s five goals led the Tigers, and Logan McNulty added three goals and two assists.

On Tuesday, the Tigers bounced back to defeat visiting St. Albans, 17-5. Coach Matt Rizzo was

pleased with what he called a wire-to-wire effort.

“It was the first game all season we played a full 48 minutes of complete lacrosse,” Rizzo wrote in an email.

Draper paced the attack again, this time with seven goals and four assists. Angus Blackwell netted three goals, Logan scored twice and set up a goal, Gus Hodde picked up three assists, and freshman Rowdy Malcolm scored twice in his varsity debut.

Cal Boulanger helped the Tigers control the action by winning 19 of 23 faceoffs, and goalie Levi Nucedner made five saves.

# MUHS track alums find success

MIDDLEBURY — Word comes to us that several alums of the Middlebury Union High School track and field team have been running well and achieving success in college athletics.

Isabel Olson, a junior at Colorado College, this past weekend set a school record in the women’s 1500-meter race with a time of 4:33.94, surpassing the old mark by 3 seconds. Last year she set a school record in the indoor 1,000 meters with a time of 3:07.01.

Hannah Turner, a sophomore at Hamilton College, is lighting up the track this year. So far this season

she has set a school record in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:04.84. Turner’s performance broke a record that had stood since 1991.

Ella Landis, a sophomore and impressive distance runner at St. Olaf College, ran in the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships this past November, where the Oles placed 16th in the nation. Her older brother, Willem, was a standout distance runner at George Mason University.

Zoe Noble, a sophomore at the University of Rochester, is coming

up and placing well in hurdles races for the Yellowjackets. She has placed in the top 10 in 100-meter hurdles races several times this season.

Local track enthusiasts praised the good work of the current Tiger coaches, in particular head coach Chris Anderson and Ben Weir. Middlebury Union Middle School running coaches Karen and Rick Morris have also had an amazing influence on the community by promoting running to kids and adults.

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**MUHS FRESHMAN RYAN Brouillard scrambles back to first base to avoid getting caught in a rundown during Tuesday's home baseball game vs. Vergennes.**

Independent photo/Steve James

## Baseball

(Continued from Page 1B)  
he said. "We're young, and we're still learning. It's all uphill from here."

Like Paquette, O'Brien has been pleased with his team's approach to the season despite the scarcity of wins.

"They are grinding. I won't let them get down. That's the attitude we've built into the program," O'Brien said. "The bones are there, and the kids are learning every day. They come to practice, and they grind for two hours."

The Commodores had an opportunity to strike in Tuesday's opening inning. Fuller singled with one out, and a throwing error on senior Eyon Tembreull's hard-hit grounder put runners on first and second. Wright got freshman cleanup hitter Izaak Wolniewicz to pop out, but walked junior Gabe Scribner to load the bases before another pop-up ended the threat.

The Tigers scored twice in the bottom of the inning to take the lead. Cole Warren singled to lead off and reached second on a throwing error. Carter Paquette doubled him home, and Tim Whitney singled him in. Tucker Morter followed with another double to put runners on second and third and make the run earned, but Kimball retired the next two batters to wriggle off the hook.

The Tigers added a run in the second. Ethan Sweet singled, and Kimball hit Wright with a pitch. Kimball picked Wright off first, and he was caught in rundown in which an errant throw allowed Sweet to ramble home from second.

The Commodores had two baserunners in the third, but Tiger centerfielder Alex Sperry nailed Fuller trying to go from first to third on a Tembreull single to help keep VUHS off the board.

In the bottom of the inning Fuller

saved a run by racing to grab a deep two-out shot hit by Ryan Brouillard with Morter on second.

VUHS made it 3-1 in the fourth. Scribner and Jackson Becher walked, and 8th-grade pinch-hitter Liam McGuire bounced a hard opposite-field double past third base to score Scribner.

Things went south for Kimball and the Commodores in the fifth. With one out they made two errors on a ground ball Sperry hit, and he reached third. Consecutive doubles by Paquette and Whitney made it 5-1. Morter reached on an error, and Brouillard singled to load the bases. A Riley Disorda fielder's choice grounder, a wild pitch and a Sweet single plated three more runs.

The Tigers ran themselves out of more runs when Wright singled, but got caught in a rundown between second and third. Tembreull tagged him out and then fired to third to

catch the runner off the bag for a double play.

The snafu became moot when the Tigers added the deciding runs in the sixth. Warren walked, moved to second on a balk, and scored on a Sperry single. Paquette reached on an error, putting runners on second and third, and Whitney singled in Sperry to make it 10-1. O'Brien then called Fuller to the mound, and Morter greeted him by stroking an RBI single up the middle to end the festivities.

For MUHS Warren singled and scored twice; Sperry had two hits, two runs and two RBIs; Paquette finished with three runs, three hits and two RBIs; Whitney contributed one run, three hits and three RBIs, and Morter singled and drove in two runs.

Tembreull led VUHS with two hits, Liam Paquette had a double and an RBI, and Fuller had the other Commodore hit.

## Boys' tennis still unbeaten

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' tennis team won a pair of matches during the past week to improve to 9-0 heading into what was expected to be a challenging match at Stowe on Wednesday afternoon. The Raiders gave the Tigers their closest battle of the spring so far, a 4-3 Tiger win in Middlebury.

Wednesday's match was played after the deadline for this edition.

On May 9, the Tigers won at Mount Mansfield, 7-0. The individual match results were:

- No. 1 singles, Jackson Murray (MUHS) defeated Parker Vinson (MM) 6-1, 6-3.
- No. 2 singles, Kellan Bartlett (MUHS) defeated Milo Vinson

(MM) 6-2, 7-5.

- No. 3 singles, Charles Young (MUHS) defeated Miles Huyler (MM) 6-0, 6-0.

- No. 4 singles, Iver Anderson (MUHS) defeated Dylan Ingham (MM) 6-2, 6-2.

- No. 5 singles, Nate Cook Yoder (MUHS) defeated Ian Tillman (MM) 6-0, 6-6-1.

- No. 1 doubles, Eddie Fallis/Milo Rees (MUHS) defeated Isaac Whitman/Cameron Carpenter (MM) 6-2, 6-0.

- No. 2 doubles, Eliot Heminway/Silas Taylor (MUHS) defeated Sam Czyzewski/Tavi Campanile (MM) 6-1, 6-0.

On Monday MUHS topped visiting St. Johnsbury, 4-3. The individual match results were:

- No. 1 singles, Murray (MUHS)

defeated Andres Barrios Sobrino (SJA) 6-1, 6-7, 1-0 (10-7).

- No. 2 singles, Raphael Link (SJA) defeated Young (MUHS) 6-4, 6-4.

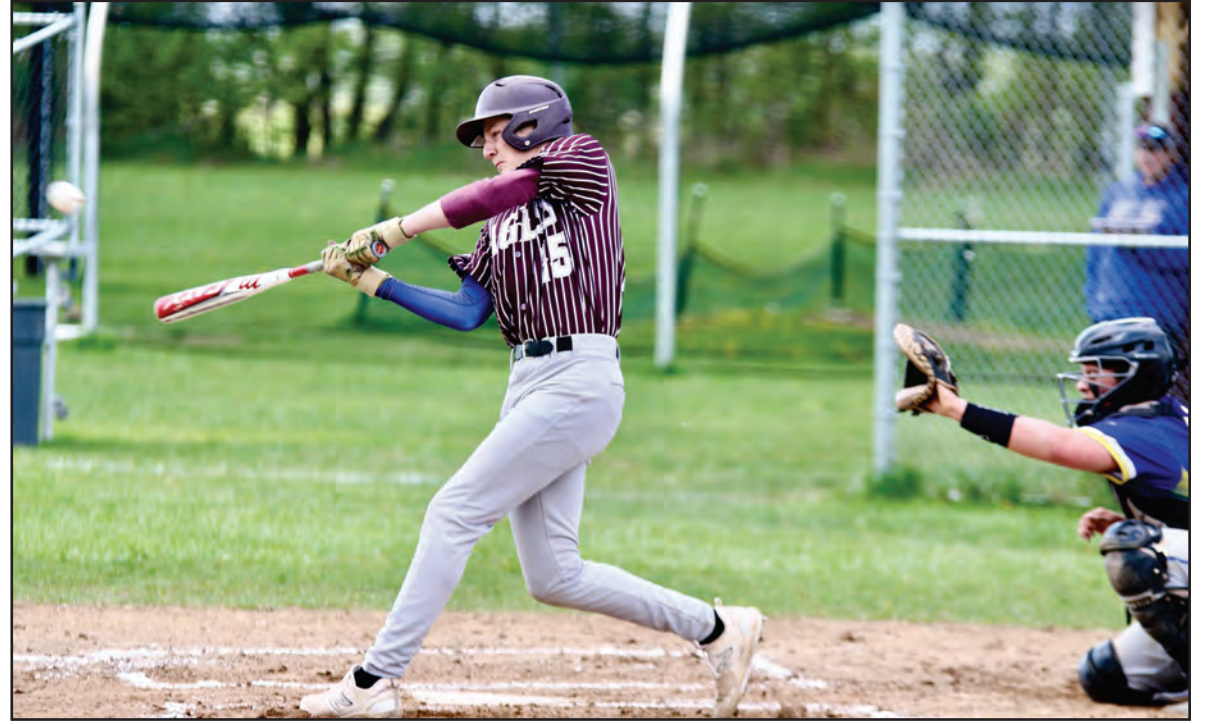
- No. 3 singles, Pablo Gutierrez Gonzalez (SJA) defeated Anderson (MUHS) 2-6, 6-4, 1-0 (10-5).

- No. 4 singles, Cook Yoder (MUHS) defeated Nicholas Wright (SJA) 6-1, 5-7, 1-0 (10-7).

- No. 5 singles, Matthaus Goess (SJA) defeated Heminway (MUHS) 6-4, 6-3.

- No. 1 doubles, Fallis/Rees (MUHS) defeated Tiago Chang/Jeronimo Mosquera (SJA) 6-3, 6-4.

- No. 2 doubles, Baxter Harrington/Noah Doherty Koncezal (MUHS) defeated Carlos Chiver Zonana/Jose Levy (SJA) 7-5, 7-5.



**MOUNT ABE FRESHMAN Cameron Castillo lines a second-inning homer over the left-field fence to give his team the early lead on Saturday over visiting Milton.**

Independent photo/Steve James

## MAV boys' lax splits on road

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MILTON — The Mount Abraham-Vergennes boys' lacrosse team split two road games between May 8 and 14, giving the Eagles a 5-3 record heading into a scheduled Wednesday, May 15, home game vs. Division II power Harwood.

Unofficially, MAV is in second place in D-III behind Green Mountain Valley.

The Eagles will next host Colchester on Saturday at 10 a.m. That game has been switched to Vergennes to allow the VUHS

players on the team to host a game, and the time has been moved to 10 a.m. due to the Mount Abe prom being held later that day.

On May 8, host D-II Burlington doubled up the Eagles in a defensive battle, 8-4. Rowen Clarke and Desmond Collins led the Seahorses with two goals apiece, and BHS goalie Marcus Bussiere made eight saves.

Jack Senecal scored twice for MAV, Andrew Nolan and Lincoln Painter added a goal apiece, and goalie Walker Forand blocked nine shots.

On Saturday, the Eagles won at another D-II foe, Milton, 12-6. Senior attacker Noah Ladeau's four goals gave him exactly 100 for his career. Nolan contributed three goals and an assist, Asa Pratt scored twice, Chase Atkins had a goal and an assist, and Finley Kaeck and Lorenzo Atocha rounded out the scoring. Forand made another nine saves.

Christian Gaudio scored three times to pace the Yellowjackets, Luke Bushey scored twice, and Milton goalie Griffin Smith made four saves.

## Eagles

(Continued from Page 1B)  
do occur the Eagles don't get down on themselves.

"There were a couple little errors. You'll have that with high school baseball," he said. "But the one thing that I really like about this group is that if they make a mistake, the pick each other up in the dugout, and they don't let it get to them. They move on. Short memory. They bounce back and get right after it."

Castillo's homer was a line shot over the left-field fence. It led off the second inning and was the game's

first run, and the Eagles added two more that inning. Griffin followed with a standup triple that two-hopped the fence in right center. He scored on a Corrigan ground ball, with Corrigan reaching on an error on the play. Johnson bunted him to second, and Corrigan came around to make it 3-0 when freshman catcher Clark Cray grounded a single up the middle.

Johnson got into a jam in the third with a walk and a two-out infield hit, followed by a wild pitch to put the runners in scoring position. But he got Milton No. 3 hitter Cederholm to loft a routine fly ball to end the threat.

Mount Abe then added two runs in the bottom of the inning. Ready and Castillo both singled, and they moved up to second and third on a Griffin ground out. With two out both scored when Corrigan lined a single.

The Eagles made it 6-0 in the fourth. Cray led off with an infield single that ricocheted off losing pitcher Aidan Greenfield, reaching second on an error on the play. He moved to third on junior Connor Peck's infield hit and scored on a wild pitch.

The Eagles tacked on two more runs in the fifth off reliever Kenyon Burke. Johnson, Peck and Cray walked, and Burke hit junior Riley Coffey with a pitch to force in a run. An errant pickoff throw allowed

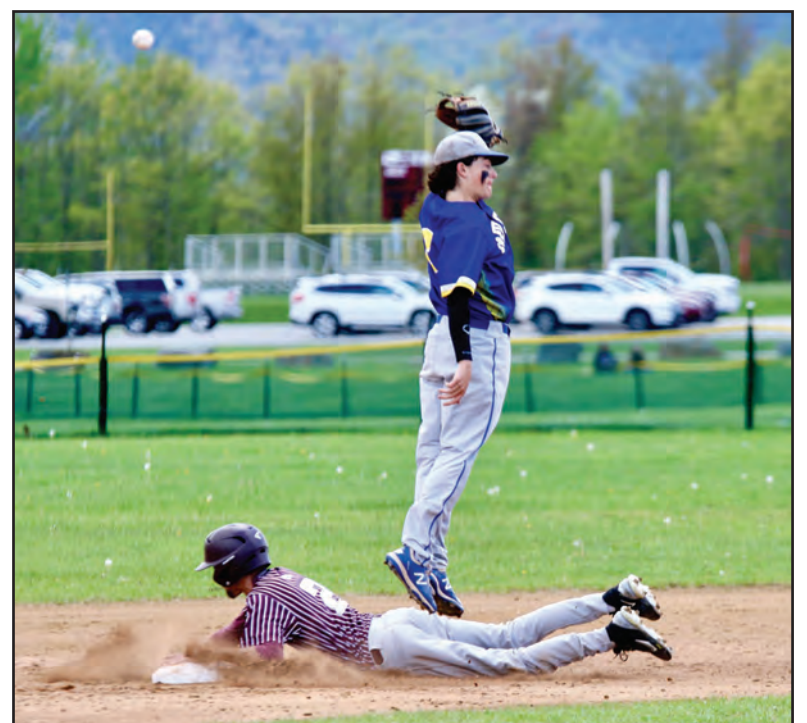
the second run to score. In the sixth the Eagles made it 9-0 when Ready doubled, moved up on a wild pitch and trotted home on a Castillo sacrifice fly.

Milton broke through for its two runs in the ninth. Logan Grimes reached on an error, and with one out Johnson walked Murray. Junior Gavin Conrad then came to the mound to get the final two outs, but was greeted by a single that loaded the bases. With two outs Colin Eaton singled in Grimes and Murray. The game ended when Greenfield followed with an infield hit, and Aricin, the first baseman, easily threw out the runner unwisely trying to score from second base on the play.

**T-BIRDS, 5-3**

On May 9 visiting Missisquoi, now 7-1, picked up a 5-3 victory over the Eagles. The T-Birds scored twice in the seventh to snap a 3-3 tie and make a complete-game pitching winner of Parker Hakey, who allowed nine hits and two walks while striking out five. Hakey also had a hit and scored three of the T-Bird runs, while Gavin Nichols had three hits and an RBI.

Castillo went six innings for the Eagles, allowing three runs, two earned, striking out five. Leading the Mount Abe attack were Griffin (three hits), Ready (single and double), and Barnard (two hits, two RBIs).



**EAGLE JUNIOR TYLER White slides in safely with a stolen base against Milton on Saturday as the throw sails high.**

Independent photo/Steve James

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Don't forget to include your pet's name(s), approximate age(s), and a brief description of why they're the best at what they do. Entries are welcome until **Sunday, May 19th at 11:59 PM.**

Voting will take place at [www.addisonindependent.com/pet-photo-contest](http://www.addisonindependent.com/pet-photo-contest) from Monday, May 20th to Sunday, May 26th. And yes, you can vote for more than one pet!

The winners will be announced on May 30th in our special Animal Issue of Arts + Leisure. Each top winner in their respective category will receive a prize from Middlebury Agway.

**Questions?** Reach out to Jenna at [contests@addisonindependent.com](mailto:contests@addisonindependent.com)

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# community calendar

## may 16 THURSDAY

**Henry Sheldon Museum open house in Middlebury.** Thursday, May 16, 4:30-6 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Current Henry Sheldon Museum members, and not-yet members, are invited to join museum staff to celebrate the opening of the 2024 season and the new exhibits. Light refreshments served. More info at [henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/members-reception](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/members-reception) or call 802-388-2117.

**"Never Before Scene" on stage in Middlebury.** Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. The Addison Repertory Theatre's annual student show, a collection of original, short one-act plays by the students, written as part of the Vermont Young Playwrights program. Performances will feature not only original works by the students, but desserts created by The Glass Onion, the Career Center's culinary program.

**Rodrigo Placencia in Starksboro.** Thursday, May 16, 7:30 p.m., Starksboro Public Library. Placencia will be playing music that mixes his passion for classical guitar styles, Latin American folk music, and traditional songs from his native Mexico. Free. Part of the 5-Town Musical Library tour.

## may 17 FRIDAY

**River Watch restoration planting in New Haven.** Friday, May 17, 9 a.m., Dog Team Rd. Addison County River Watch is partnering with New Haven River Anglers to plant trees along the New Haven River a few miles north of Middlebury. The group will be establishing a riparian buffer that will filter nutrients, reduce erosion, and improve wildlife habitat. More info and directions contact Matthew Witten at 802-434-3236 or [acrwcv@gmail.com](mailto:acrwcv@gmail.com).

**"Never Before Scene" on stage in Middlebury.** Friday, May 17, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 See May 16 listing.

## may 18 SATURDAY

**Early bird nature walk in Orwell.** Saturday, May 18, 8-10 a.m., Mt. Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd.

**Rummage sale fundraiser in Bristol.** Saturday, May 18, 8 a.m., Liberty Street Riding Ring. Help raise funds for Bristol's Equine Heritage Herd at this huge rummage sale, which includes clothing, books, furniture, toys, housewares and much more.

**8th Annual Garden Shoppe in Bristol.** Begins Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m., 3319 S 116 Rd. An annual fundraiser to benefit the Brendon P Cousino Med47 Foundation. A wide variety of perennials, house plants, veggie and annual starts, hanging baskets, succulent plantings, and other patio plantings, home decor, vinyl handcrafted items and jewelry. Runs through Sunday, June 16. More info at 802-233-8334 or [med47foundation@gmail.com](mailto:med47foundation@gmail.com).

**River Watch restoration planting in New Haven.** Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m., Dog Team Rd. See May 17 listing.

**Create! Family Shared Cookbook Online in Orwell.** Saturday, May 18, at 10 a.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Create an online cookbook to share with family and friends using the Google suite. Participants will need a google account. A personal computer and a few recipes and pictures will be helpful to bring along. Presented by Trish Dougherty.

**Eco-Fair in Weybridge.** Saturday, May 18, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Weybridge Elementary School, 210 Quaker Village Rd. Weybridge Energy Committee's eco fair is hosting the third annual electric vehicle demonstrations, a free flower and vegetable seed share/swap, demonstrations of electric lawn and garden equipment, information on home energy efficiency, weatherization, and composting, and more. Refreshments and children's activities will be available.

**Maritime Museum opening day in Ferrisburgh.** Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Help LCMM celebrate the first day of the 2024 season. Grounds, exhibits, and Museum Store will officially open for the season for all to visit and explore. Check our calendar for additional special activities on this day. No tickets or advance reservations needed. Admission to the museum is free for all visitors.

**Human Powered Parade in Bristol.** Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Bristol Skate Park, 110 Airport Dr. Bristol's Human Powered Parade brings the many human powered possibilities out for a parade and party of all things that roll petroleum free, providing a collective space to share art, pedal powered gadgets, cargo bikes and the many benefits of using bicycles for transportation. The parade route is 2.5 miles winding through the beautiful village of Bristol stopping along the way for street chalking and other community building activities. Post-parade party with music by Ricky and the Goulds. More info at [recreation@bristolvt.org](mailto:recreation@bristolvt.org).

**Family fun day in Bristol.** Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-noon, Bristol Watershed, 4783 Plank Rd. Join Ashley from Evergreen Preschool to explore the watershed. Snacks and goodies included. Free. Space is limited. Register with Evergreen Preschool at [evergreenpreschoolvt.com/](http://evergreenpreschoolvt.com/).

**Author Jack Kelly in Ferrisburgh.** Saturday, May 18, 1-2 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. On LCMM's opening day, author Jack Kelly will discuss the research and highlights of his newest book, "God Save Benedict Arnold: The True Story of America's Most Hated Man." Kelly will sign copies of his new book, which will be available for purchase from the museum store. Free. Advance registration at [www.lcmm.org/JackKelly](http://www.lcmm.org/JackKelly).

**Home Heat Transfer workshop in Starksboro.** Saturday, May 18, 2 p.m., Starksboro Public Library, 2827 Route 116. Learn how to help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter at this free workshop. Alex Levin from Vermont Energy Education Program will be leading. Experience hands-on learning and demonstrations showing the importance of air sealing and insulating your home. Those attending will receive a \$20 grocery store gift certificate — thanks to the generosity of VEEP. More info at [tinyurl.com/veepworkshop](http://tinyurl.com/veepworkshop).

**Bingo in Vergennes.** Saturday, May 18, 5 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m., Bingo starts at 6 p.m. A family-friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments



## Whirling wheels

**THE HUMAN-POWERED PARADE returns to Bristol on Saturday, May 18, beginning at 10 a.m. with bike decorating and a BMX show at Bristol's Skate Park. Then join your fellow humans for a 2.5-mile cruise around town, followed by a big party, and possibly four people pedaling a giraffe.**

Independent file photo/Steve James

sold. Sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit the ongoing efforts for cemetery improvements.

## may 19 SUNDAY

**North Branch School silent art auction in New Haven.** Sunday, May 19, 3:30-5 p.m., Tourterelle Barn, 3629 Route 7. Help North Branch School raise funds for its programming by bidding on a variety of items. Tickets \$20, include one drink ticket. RSVP to [joanna@northbranchschool.org](mailto:joanna@northbranchschool.org).

## may 20 MONDAY

**Vergennes City Band rehearsal in Vergennes.** Monday, May 20, 7-9 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. All instrumentalists welcome. For more information contact Sue O'Daniel at 802-349-5906. Additional rehearsals June 3 and June 10.

**History of Cedar Lake Association presentation in Monkton.** Tuesday, May 20, 7 p.m., Monkton Town Hall, 280 Monkton Ridge. Monkton Historical Society hosts Theresa Payea and Lee Kauppila of the Cedar Lake Association. They will present the history of Monkton Pond/Cedar Lake from relics of Native American encampments to the current camps near the fishing access, what species of plants and wildlife habitats have been and currently are in the area, and the history of Cedar Lake Association and how it is currently working to keep this resource a vital part of the community.

## may 22 WEDNESDAY

**Rotary water project celebratory presentation in Vergennes.** Wednesday, May 22, 5:30 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Come hear about the Vergennes Rotary water project in San Jose Monteverde, Mexico, completed after three years of work. A representative from Healing Waters International will give a presentation highlighting the work done on this water project. Mexican style food provided.

**An Evening with Sen. Patrick Leahy in Middlebury.** Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Former associates and longtime friends of the Senator, the Hon. Beryl A. Howell (U.S. District Court of Washington, D.C.) and the Hon. William K. Sessions III (U.S. District Court of Vermont) will interview the former longtime U.S. senator about his personal life as well as his life-long public career in politics. The public is welcome.

## may 25 SATURDAY

**Town-wide yard sale in Lincoln.** Saturday, May 25, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. locations around town. Lincoln's town-wide yard sale to benefit Weatheravane United Inc. There will be sales all around town, at the historical society and the library. Delicious homemade fries, sausage, hamburgers and hot dogs will be available at the firehouse. Sign up at the Lincoln General Store if you would like to have a sale and get on the map. Rain or shine.

**Plant, book and bake sale in Orwell.** Saturday, May 25, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Plants of all kinds — annuals, perennials, houseplants, herbs, vegetables, shrubs, container gardens, and hanging baskets — will be for sale as well as, books, DVDs, home-baked and canned goods, soups and breads. All proceeds go directly to the Orwell Free Library for purchasing books, providing programming, updating technology and serving our community.

**Town-wide yard sale in Monkton.** Saturday, May 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., locations around Monkton. Sponsored by Monkton BSA Troop 802. There will be a map showing the location of area yard sales available. Get your yard sale posted on the map until May 20. For \$15 you get the location of your sale and a sign to put at the end of your driveway. Contact Karen at [puccidog@live.com](mailto:puccidog@live.com) to sign up or questions.

**Plant, bake and craft sale in Monkton.** Saturday, May 25, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Monkton Friends Methodist Church, Monkton Ridge. A wide selection of hardy perennials from local gardens, flowering and shade plants, plus herbs, berry bushes, shrubs, bulbs and lilac bushes. Pastries and desserts and a few extras will adorn the

tables for your pleasure at the bake sale. At the craft sale you will be able to find that special gift you've been needing or something for yourself among baby items, potholders and much more.

**Plant and bake sale in Brandon.** Saturday, May 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Brandon Congregational Church, 1 Carver St. All kinds of perennial and annual plants for sale, including house plants and vegetable starters. Children are welcome to plant and bring home a flower for free. Bake sale inside of Fellowship Hall featuring homemade pies and other baked goods including singles. Coffee available and tables to sit and relax while having a treat.

**Rokeyby season opening in Ferrisburgh.** Saturday, May 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Rokeyby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Rokeyby opens for the 2024 season. Visitors are welcome to attend the Rokeyby History Site Tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. More info at [Rokeyby.org](http://Rokeyby.org).

**Art on the Trails walk and natural pigment demonstration in Middlebury.** Saturday, May 25, 10 a.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Join Growing In Process, Middlebury Area Land Trust, and Middlebury Studio School for a free workshop and exhibition in the woods. Hike a short self-guided gallery walk along a TAM trail, with Mira Cabrera's original paintings displayed along the way. Cabrera will demonstrate the process she uses to forage and incorporate natural pigments from the trails into her work. More info at [middleburystudioschool.org](http://middleburystudioschool.org).

**King Pede card party in Ferrisburgh.** Saturday, May 25, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7. The evening begins with a sandwich supper and then on to the games! King Pede involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

## may 27 MONDAY

**Memorial Day parade in Middlebury.** Monday, May 27, 9 a.m., downtown. Middlebury American Legion Post 27 and the Town of Middlebury will once again hold a Memorial Day Parade honoring the memory of men and women who have lost their lives defending the United States of America.

**Memorial Day parade in Vergennes.** Monday, May 27, 11 a.m., downtown. The largest Memorial Day parade in the state. Hosted since 1946 by American Legion Post 14, the parade honors all the men and women who have served our country during times of conflict. Plan your viewing spot along the 1.5-mile route, which begins at the high school, and enjoy this year's parade.

## may 28 TUESDAY

**Tiny House Tour in Middlebury.** Tuesday, May 28, 9 a.m., Counseling Service of Addison County parking lot, Cross St. Tour the tiny house being constructed by Hannaford Career Center for Homes First. Learn about three solutions to alleviate the housing crisis: Adding an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) to a property, home sharing with HomeShare VT, and small/tiny homes.

**Milk & Honey Quilters Guild meeting and potluck in Middlebury.** Tuesday, May 28, 6 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. The guild will provide beverages. Bring show and tell, too. Limited parking in church lot; overflow parking available at the Mary Johnson Children's Center and at the high school.

## may 29 WEDNESDAY

**Great Decisions series "U.S.-China Trade" in Middlebury.** Wednesday, May 29, 3 p.m., Eastview at Middlebury, 100 Eastview Ter. Middlebury College Professor Jessica Teets gives this eighth in a series of eight talks, based on the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions program. For more information or to obtain the Zoom link, please call the EastView Concierge at 802-989-7500.

# Two area Scouts earn Eagle Scout rankings

VERGENNES — Two Scouts from Troop 539 in Vergennes, Evan Ambrose of Ferrisburgh and Calder Rakowski of Vergennes received the official recognition of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout on Saturday March 30. These young men were awarded the rank in a ceremony involving their family, friends, members of Troop 539, representatives of the Green Mountain Council, and the surrounding community. Both scouts are seniors at Vergennes Union High School and will be graduating in June.

These Scouts celebrated their accomplishment of reaching the Eagle Scout rank as the culmination of nearly 7 years of work. Achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is a difficult task and requires leadership training, skill development, community service, and mentorship skills. To reach the level of Eagle Scout, a youth must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, serve in a position of leadership within the Troop, and complete a service project that benefits the community or a non-profit organization.

Nationally only about 5% of all registered scouts achieve the

rank of Eagle. Troop 539 has celebrated 16 Eagle Scouts since 2018 and counting. Combined, these boys earned nearly 50 Merit badges, completed over 100 nights of camping and outdoor skills development, and performed over 400 hours of community service in their Scouting careers.

Troop 539 Scoutmaster Travis Scribner said "Seeing these young men reach this milestone is a proud moment for the Scouts, their families, and our Troop. These Scouts not only developed the skills necessary to achieve this rank, they have shown that they are the future leaders in our communities. They possess the ability and moral character that we need in leadership positions now more than ever. Troop 539, the Vergennes Community, and I personally am proud of having worked with you to reach this goal, and we hope the best for you in your future endeavors."

Rakowski plans on pursuing higher education to become an Engineer. Ambrose plans on working after graduation and pursuing a career in forestry at a later date.

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## Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Starksboro writes:

"Very good newspaper."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.



**ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT**



### Senior game

THE TIGER UNIFIED Basketball team this past Friday, May 10, celebrated its seniors and the end of a 5-2 regular season. The team is entering the postseason this week. Seniors in attendance pictured are, left to right, Max Carpenter, Dante Beck, Shyanne Wedge, Orlinne Maceno and Gabby Ellis.

Photos courtesy of Christine Giorgio

## Climate change will be the focus of ESI College summer series

MIDDLEBURY — For more than 20 years, Elderly Services has been offering an array of community programs featuring local experts, various Middlebury College professors, authors and others through our Lifelong Learning program, ESI College.

Although the program survived the pandemic, leaders had to

navigate many challenges to allow the programs to continue via Zoom in a more limited fashion.

Now, however, thanks to the appointment of a new ESI College Coordinator, Justus Sturtevant, and a generous grant from the Vermont Community Foundation, the upcoming summer series has a new lease on life and a new focus.

### ESI FOCUS: CLIMATE CHANGE CONVERSATION

Over the next year, ESI College will have a focus on climate change, thanks to an Environmental Justice grant from the Vermont Community Foundation according to ESI Executive Director, Kristin Bolton. “As we saw last summer, with the wildfire smoke, windstorms, extreme heat, and floods, the effects of climate change are being felt in Vermont. Older people can be some of the most vulnerable to climate crises due to health and technology limitations, and yet are not always part of the conversations at a local level,” she said. Five of the twelve programs deal with various aspects of climate change and are being called the “Climate Change Conversations” within the larger series.

“The goal of the Climate Change Conversations is to provide education and engagement on environmental and climate initiatives locally and globally, and to have older voices be heard, from the classroom to the statehouse,” Bolton said.

“Classes in climate change range in scope from the international to the very local, including: Professor Jess L’Roe’s research on the effect of tree planting in Uganda; the innovative work of New Perennials

to re-imagine agriculture and education; NOAA’s Scott Whittier talking about Vermont weather and how it has changed; Bill Schubart’s class on understanding how Vermont government works; and Jay Leshinsky’s talk on the power of gardens to create community” she added.

### A RETURN OF ESI COLLEGE FAVORITES

“Along with the environmental focus, the ESI College summer series will also offer classes on past favorite topics, including Robert Wyatt’s very engaging musical storytelling, Russ Leng’s brilliant historical political perspective, Caleb Kenna’s awe-inspiring photographs of Vermont, Matt Dickinson’s incisive analysis of the upcoming election, and book groups with Elise Blair and Michael Thomas,” ESI College Coordinator, Justus Sturtevant, said. “What we have heard over and over again from past ESI College participants is how much they love the more informal and organic learning opportunities rather than a more formal curriculum-based approach,” he added.

The summer series kicks off on June 19 with a two-part program entitled: “Reverse Engineering Vermont Government Institutions



**JUSTUS STURTEVANT HAS joined Elderly Services as its new ESI College coordinator. A number of old favorites will be held, and beginning this summer, new courses focusing on climate change will be on offer at a pay-what-you-can fee.**

Photo courtesy of Elderly Services

to Achieve Progress” led by Bill Schubart. Schubart has lived in and written about Vermont for decades and has served as board chair for numerous Vermont organizations, including Vermont Public, UVM Medical Center, Vermont Digger, and the Vermont Board of Libraries. He has published several novels set in Vermont and regularly contributes to local print and radio media.

“To those not involved in state government, the process of

making changes to our laws seems painstakingly slow. To effect any change, we first need to understand the inner workings of our state government, its weaknesses, and strengths. With an understanding of current structures and functions of the Vermont government, students will then consider and discuss what changes could be made to facilitate more effective governance in the state of Vermont,” Schubart said.

Susan Wilmer, a member of the Friends of ESI College, a new community advisory committee, is excited the series is being re-energized and expanded, as she has participated in many programs in the past. “ESI College has allowed me to fill in gaps that my education and explore new topics in history, art and music,” she said.

In order to make the programs more accessible, ESI will be moving to a new “pay-what-you-can” approach, rather than requiring a set fee. “We do not want finances to be a barrier to these programs, so we are trying this new approach,” Sturtevant explained.

More detailed information on all 12 programs, including online registration, can be found at the Elderly Services website at [www.elderlyservices.org](http://www.elderlyservices.org).

## Human Powered Parade hits Bristol streets May 18

BRISTOL — Bristol’s 7th Annual Human Powered Parade roll through town on Saturday, May 18, beginning at the Skatepark at 10 a.m. Human Powered Parade brings the many human powered possibilities to Bristol or a parade and party of all things that roll petroleum free. Hosted by the Bristol Recreation Department, this event is designed to connect people to the exuberance of their own human power and to provide a collective space to share art, pedal powered gadgets, cargo bikes and the many benefits of using bicycles for transportation.

The festivities begin at 10 a.m. with bike decorating and a BMX

stunt show at the Bristol Skate Park. Kinetic Sculptures, floats, unicycle and all things bike will then wander through Bristol, ending with a Human Powered Party, with food vendors, live music, a community roller skating disco and field games.

Starting at 12:30 p.m., the post-parade party will also feature the beats of Ricky and the Goulds. The parade route is 2.5 miles and winds through the Bristol village, stopping along the way for street chalking and other community building activities.

Parade participation and shows are free. Donations collected go towards the renovation of the Bristol Skate Park and to support the BMX show.

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

### Mount Abraham Union High School

#### Piper Guilmette

Mt. Abraham Union High School has selected Piper Guilmette of Monkton as its Student of the Week. Piper has earned high and highest honors throughout high school. She has enjoyed many of her classes. French has been one of her favorites because of the fluidity of the language and how it connects to her French-Canadian heritage. She describes her French teacher, Ms. Jacobeit, as teaching the language with such passion that Piper naturally began to share that love of the language as well. Another highlight for Piper was Introduction to Business at the Community College of Vermont through the Dual Enrollment program. She appreciated how many of the assignments required critical thinking and replicated how she may have to think in the world of business. This class has sparked her interest in business as a potential future career.

Piper reflected that her experiences at Mt. Abe have allowed her to develop long-lasting friendships, strengthened connections with her closest friends and helped her grow as a person. She has been a member of the Mt. Abraham varsity soccer and basketball teams. This year she served as a captain for the basketball team and was chosen to play in the VBCA Senior All-Star game. Along with her athletic accomplishments, Piper works at the Common Ground Center in Starksboro with her sister Hazel as a camp counselor and occasional housekeeper. She has also volunteered at American Legion dinners and the annual “Share the Warmth Event” with her soccer team. In Piper’s free time, she enjoys hiking, hanging out with friends and family, playing basketball with her dad, drawing, traveling, camping, going to the river, and listening to music.

When asked about the important experiences that she has had at Mt. Abe, Piper said, “One of my biggest takeaways while being a student at Mt. Abe is that hard work, preparation and focus will quiet those thoughts of self-doubt. Whether it be about school, sports or life, having the drive to work through discomfort will help you achieve the best outcome and be a tougher person.”

Piper is taking a gap year to work and travel after graduation. She then plans to pursue post-secondary education in the field of economics. The Mt. Abraham community wishes Piper all the best in her future endeavors.



Piper Guilmette MAUHS

### Otter Valley Union High School

#### Hannah Greeno

Otter Valley Union Middle and High School’s Student of the Week is Hannah Greeno of Pittsford. A talented student, Hannah’s favorite subject in school is English and her favorite class was American Studies with Mrs. Kretzer and Mr. Hall. She is a member of the National Honor Society and National Society of High School Scholars. Hannah has received awards of excellence in AP Literature, English, Social Studies, Foods Lab, and Entrepreneurship classes throughout high school.

Her studies are not the only thing Hannah puts hard work into. She has been employed since she was 14 years old. She currently works at Walgreens. In addition, two or three times a week she interns at the NewStory Center in Rutland. The NewStory Center helps survivors of abuse get back on their feet. They help clients find housing and other resources that may be needed. Hannah participates with intakes, goes to court, and helps around the office. She loves it and can see herself doing something like this in the future.

In Hannah’s spare time, when not with her family — parents and younger sister — she enjoys hanging out with friends, going for drives, playing with her dogs, watching movies and reading.

She says the most important lesson she has learned is that not everything is as important as it may feel in the moment. In the long run, the little things don’t matter, so there is no need to over-analyze or overthink every little detail in life.

Hannah will be attending the University of Vermont in this coming academic year, where she will be majoring in psychology with plans to become an occupational therapist. All of us at Otter Valley wish Hannah well.



Hannah Greeno OVUHS

Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration

Best of luck to all Addison County students!

If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact [advertising@addisonindependent.com](mailto:advertising@addisonindependent.com)

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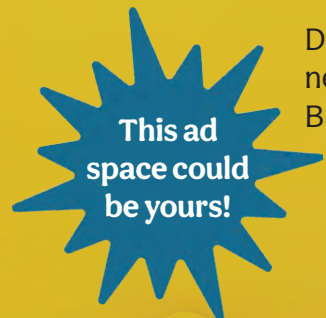
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# CLASSIFIEDS

**Public Meetings**

**AL-ANON OFFERS HELP** and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit [vermontalanonlateen.org](http://vermontalanonlateen.org) for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

**THE TURNING POINT CENTER** of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

**Public Meetings**

**VERGENNES FREE THINKERS** Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting [Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com](mailto:Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com) for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

**Public Meetings**

**VERMONT SUPPORT LINE** Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT-TALKS.

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**CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS** new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

**MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING** Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

**Help Wanted**

**Services**

**ODD JOBS: WEED** flower beds, some landscaping, property clean up, brush cutting, lawn work. Call us today, we do other jobs too. 802-999-2194, John.

**Help Wanted**

**Services**

**WE BUY OLD STUFF** Estates, collections, antiques etc. Also hunting and fishing items. Call Erik 802-345-0653.

**Free**

**DIGITAL ACCESS** View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com). Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

**Garage Sales**

**YARD SALE SAT, MAY 18** 8am - 1pm. 275 South Munger St Middlebury, 05753. Antiques, etc.

**Help Wanted**

**CDL-B/HAZMAT DRIVER**  
Hart & Mead Energy and All Star Fuels in Hinesburg/Bristol area is looking for an individual with a clean CDL-B/Hazmat endorsement. Must be able to pass federally mandated drug screening. DOT physical required. Competitive wage, paid holidays & sick time.  
**APPLY NOW!**  
[hartmeadllc@gmail.com](mailto:hartmeadllc@gmail.com)  
or 802-482-6666

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Addison County Parent/Child Center**  
**VAN DRIVER JOB OPENING**  
Addison County Parent/Child Center  
We are seeking a van driver who will transport children, youth, and parents to our center from around Addison County.  
**Strong candidates** must have a clean driving record and experience with children and families.  
**Great working environment and benefits.** This is a 20-hour position with hours split between mornings and afternoons.  
Please contact **Donna Bailey** at [d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org](mailto:d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org)

**Otter Creek Child Center, Inc.**  
Middlebury, VT  
**WE ARE HIRING**  
Open Positions :  
Infant Room Teacher  
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[linda@ottercreekcc.org](mailto:linda@ottercreekcc.org)  
**More Information :**  
[www.ottercreekcc.org](http://www.ottercreekcc.org)

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Help Wanted**

**Addison County Parent/Child Center**  
**Join the Parent/Child Center Team**  
**CHILDCARE WORKER/PARENT EDUCATOR**  
**Childcare Staff Position:** We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their families.  
**Strong candidates** must have knowledge of **child development, family systems,** excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a Bachelor's degree preferred.  
Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to **Donna Bailey** at [d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org](mailto:d Bailey@addisoncountypcc.org)

**TOWN OF SALISBURY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**  
The Town of Salisbury is seeking a Zoning Administrator to process permits and enforce the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations in a consistent, fair, and timely manner. The position involves working with Salisbury residents and property owners as well as town boards and officials. The Zoning Administrator is expected to assist applicants; review the consistency of permit applications with town regulations; approve or deny permit applications; determine which applications need to be referred to the Development Review Board; enforce regulations; and assist at hearings.  
The position requires communication with a wide variety of people, both orally and in writing. Site visits may be required that could entail uneven terrain and various weather conditions.  
This position is a part-time, flexible schedule that requires good time management skills.  
Please contact **Deb Brighton** at [brightondeborah@gmail.com](mailto:brightondeborah@gmail.com) for additional information.  
**Town of Salisbury**  
25 Schoolhouse Road  
P.O. Box 66  
Salisbury, Vermont 05769  
Phone: 802.352.4228  
Fax: 802.352.9832  
[town.clerk@comcast.net](mailto:town.clerk@comcast.net)

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Opportunities**

**Midd Summer Market Volunteers**  
The Better Middlebury Partnership is looking for volunteers to help with the Midd Summer Markets. The Midd Summer Market will take place each Wednesday evening from 3:30-7:30pm and Saturday morning from 9:00-noon in downtown Middlebury. The market hosts a variety of vendors each week including local artisans, growers, producers and makers.  
To learn more about volunteering please email [BMP@bettermiddleburypartnership.org](mailto:BMP@bettermiddleburypartnership.org).  
**United Way**  
United Way of Addison County

**MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL**  
The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival [MNFF], celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, is seeking a new Executive Director to guide the Festival into its second decade.  
Our goal is to hire a new Executive Director by August 1 or sooner, with his/her/their duties commencing in September 2024, following an introduction at the Festival in late August. The MNFF is a highly successful and selective regional film festival buttressed by robust community support.  
The position of **Executive Director** is a full-time, year-round job, with significant emphasis on the five-month period of peak responsibility between April 15 and September 15, during which time the Executive Director must be in residence in the greater Middlebury area. The ideal candidate for this position must have extensive experience managing or holding a leadership position in a non-profit arts or cultural organization (6 – 8 years); be able to juggle myriad organizing, scheduling and recruiting tasks; exhibit strong interpersonal skills for engaging the community, Festival sponsors and stakeholders; offer clear evidence of fundraising ability; and demonstrate a love and appreciation for films and the art of filmmaking.  
Please e-mail a letter of application, resume, and the names of three references with their contact information to [elizabeth@midfilmfest.org](mailto:elizabeth@midfilmfest.org) by **May 31, 2024**. The MNFF is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, veteran status, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.  
**For a more complete job description, salary range and a full list of duties, please visit**  
<https://midfilmfest.org/employment-opportunities/>

## Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

**ADDISON INDEPENDENT**  
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-4944  
[addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com) • email: [classifieds@addisonindependent.com](mailto:classifieds@addisonindependent.com)

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)

**RATES**

**DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.**

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
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• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

- |  |  |   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices         | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals       | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free**          | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden   | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities   | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals           | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals   |

\*\* no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$2

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The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

## Seeking a driver for Thursday paper delivery.

Must be available from 5:30am to 3:00pm on Thursdays.

Potential for additional hours as needed and on a flexible basis.

*Competitive wages/a great way to make extra money!*

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Contact Harris Gerner (802)388-4944 ext. 104 or [frontdesk@addisonindependent.com](mailto:frontdesk@addisonindependent.com)



## Help Wanted

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR (HALF-TIME)**, Opera Company of Middlebury. Salary: \$25,000 - \$30,000. Deadline: 6/1/24. Seeking an organized individual to manage fundraising efforts, financial tracking, website and social media oversight, liaison duties with artistic organizations, and manage staff team to steer the company through a growth phase. Learn more: [bit.ly/AdminOCM](http://bit.ly/AdminOCM).

## Help Wanted



## CLEANING TECHNICIANS/JANITORIAL

Clean Peaks is hiring full and part-time positions in Addison County. Great starting rate. Experience helpful but will train. Must have transportation and pass a background check.

For an online application, please email [cleanpeaksjanitorial@gmail.com](mailto:cleanpeaksjanitorial@gmail.com).

## Help Wanted

## Help Wanted

**LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME** Museum seeks part-time Development Assistant. Integral member of fundraising team, responsible for data entry/reporting and support for mailings/special events. 20 hours/week, \$22/hour. See [www.lcmm.org/careers](http://www.lcmm.org/careers) for full position description and application instructions.

**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](mailto:eresnik@rcn.com).

## Help Wanted

**SHARED LIVING PROVIDER** sought for a man with Asperger's Syndrome. Looking for a non-smoking home in Middlebury, Bristol or Vergennes. Friendly dogs and cats OK, either no children or older respectful children. Would like to be part of the family and have some privacy. Good high speed internet is a must as he is a gamer and likes to watch TV. Can spend limited amounts of time home alone in the day. Tax-free annual stipend of \$30,000, monthly R&B payment of \$814, and annual respite budget of \$9,000. Please contact Jennifer Murdoch at Community Associates/Counseling Service of Addison County. (802)388-4021.

## Help Wanted

**SHARED LIVING PROVIDER** sought for a woman in early 20s, who experiences high-functioning autism and can be anxious. Looking for a provider who can help her build adult life by creating a daily routine, learning independent living skills, and maintaining positive relationships with friends. Support is also needed with problem solving and communication when she feels stuck. She has a part-time job that she would like to maintain. She loves horses, dogs, diamond art and shopping, and actively participates in Special Olympics. Generous tax-free annual stipend of \$28,800, room & board of \$9,770, and respite budget. Contact Sharon at Community Associates. (802)388-4021.

## For Sale

**4 TIRES** 185/55 R15 82H. Best offer, like new. 802-989-7090.

## Lawn and Garden



**GARDEN TILLING** large and small. Brush Hogging, lawn mowing. Reasonable rates. Contact Wayne 802-382-7465.

## Vacation Rentals

**ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN** waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, dock, rowboat and canoe included. \$999 weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

## For Rent

**5,000 SQUARE FEET** available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

**COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE** - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.

**LIGHT INDUSTRIAL/RETAIL.** 1,250 sq.ft. Exchange Street, Middlebury. 802-388-4831.

## Help Wanted

**DUPONT AUTO & BODY**  
4087 States Prison Hollow Rd.  
Monkton Ridge, VT 05469 • (802) 453-3562  
[dupontauto7@gmail.com](mailto:dupontauto7@gmail.com)

**DuPont Auto and Body located in Monkton Vermont, is looking to hire a full time mechanic** to join our family owned business. We are looking for a candidate with 2-3 years mechanical experience who is familiar with general maintenance on vehicles such as oil changes, brakes, tire changes and Vermont state inspections.

**We Offer: Full time hours Monday-Friday: NO WEEKENDS: Paid Holidays**

If you are motivated, hard working and detail oriented call or email today!

## For Rent

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

**DRY, WINTER/SUMMER STORAGE SPACE** in Addison. Available storage space in my barn for summer/winter storage. The barn is structurally sound and weather-tight with electricity. No heat or running water. The barn is also available for lease. The entrance door measurements are 8' wide by 7' high. For more info: 802-363-3403 or [rochon\\_m@yahoo.com](mailto:rochon_m@yahoo.com).

**GOSHEN: HOUSESITTING OPPORTUNITY**, periodically shared with the home owners, in scenic rural spot, 14 miles to Middlebury. \$650/month, plus light snow removal. Large space for gardening! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

**WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK** Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

## For Rent

**MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS** is currently taking wait-list applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 [www.SummitPMG.com](http://www.SummitPMG.com).

**MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING** available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

**SUDBURY: SHARE HOME** with avid reader in her 60s who enjoys volunteering and classical music. \$500/month plus sharing companionship. Must be cat-friendly! Private bath. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

**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](http://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 [svdmiller@icloud.com](mailto:svdmiller@icloud.com) with "horse" in the subject line for more information.

**Production Team Members**

Vermont Soap is looking for attentive, reliable and responsible people to work in our production department.

This position requires basic computer skills, attention to detail, the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time and the ability to lift up to 50lbs. Must be a team player and also able to work independently.

This is a full time position (Mon-Fri 7-3:30) with paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k with employer match, and more!

Please send cover letter and resume to [nichole@vermontsoap.com](mailto:nichole@vermontsoap.com).

**Positions offer generous, twice a year bonuses as well as an employee discount on all products!**

**Warehouse Worker**  
Loading and assisting with customer orders from the yard, warehouse and store; Stocking shelves and Filling propane tanks. Skills/Qualifications: Ability to lift 50 lbs repeatedly throughout the day. Ability to demonstrate strong organizational skills. Valid Driver's License. Weekends and dependability a MUST! Forklift & Skid steer experience a plus. Preferable age 18+.

**Cashier - Customer Service**  
Immediate Openings available. Must be able to work until 6pm. Weekdays and Weekends a MUST. Up to 40 hours per week. Wage commensurate with experience.

Please send resumes to [info@middleburyagway.com](mailto:info@middleburyagway.com) or fill out an application at **Middlebury Agway**, 338 Exchange Street, Middlebury VT.

*Please no phone calls.*

**Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.**

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the *Addy Indy*.

[addisonindependent.com/help-wanted](http://addisonindependent.com/help-wanted)

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

**Part-Time Office Assistant**

WowToyz, a successful and established manufacturer of high-quality, educational toys for over 30 years, is looking for a motivated individual to be part of our growing company! The successful candidate must be dependable, eager to learn new processes, and willing to jump in when a need is observed. This is a position for a detail-oriented team player with confidence, energy, and great organizational and communication skills.

*Retirees are welcome and encouraged to apply!* We offer flexible work schedules and competitive wages.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

Enter purchase orders into our proprietary computer software system  
Answer phone, transfer calls, and assist with customer service  
Friendly, professional, and service-focused positive attitude

**SKILLS & REQUIREMENTS**

Ability to organize and prioritize tasks with minimal supervision  
Ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with all levels of the organization  
Analytical abilities and aptitude in problem-solving  
Experience in Microsoft Office Suite or data entry software is beneficial but not a requirement

**Part-Time Warehouse**

WowToyz in Vergennes is seeking part-time help for the morning shift in our warehouse, picking and packing orders and unloading trucks. Ideal candidates are organized, dependable, and able to work 20-30 hours/week, Mon-Fri. *Retirees are welcome and encouraged to apply!* We offer flexible work schedules and competitive wages.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccinations required for all employees

To apply email contact information and work history to: [resumes@wowtoyz.com](mailto:resumes@wowtoyz.com)

**GREAT WORK!**  
You found your dream job...

**We're HIRING!**

**Marketing & Advertising Account Manager**

Join us as we pursue excellence in local media!  
*The Addison Independent* is hiring a dynamic individual with boundless creative energy and an optimistic desire to help local businesses.

**A successful candidate would have:**

- A passion and drive to help local businesses pursue effective marketing and advertising platforms.
- A tenacious drive to support and grow sales.
- An outgoing personality eager to meet and help develop effective marketing plans for area businesses.
- Excellent communication skills and comfort conducting business over email, phone, and in person.
- Exceptional organization skills and the capacity to help clients navigate the field of options effectively.

Full time position with great earning potential, a flexible schedule and room for self-direction, as well as the opportunity to join a cheerful, family-owned company in Middlebury.

**If this is you, let Christy know!**

Christy Lynn, Director of Sales  
58 Maple St. Middlebury, VT 05753  
[christy@addisonindependent.com](mailto:christy@addisonindependent.com)

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT  
Serving Addison County, VT since 1946

**Learn more about us at [addisonindependent.com](http://addisonindependent.com)**

**AUCTIONS**

**MARKET REPORT**

**ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES**  
RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT  
Sales for 5/9/24 & 5/13/24

		COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Allen Saunders	1455	1.50	\$2182.50
Vorsteveld	1775	1.22	\$2165.50
R+N Thibault	1780	1.20	\$2136.00
Nop Bros.	1120	1.20	\$1344.00
Goodrich	1505	1.15	\$1730.75
K. Rousseau	1315	1.10	\$1446.50

		COST	
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Goodrich	86	10.00	\$860.00
Vorsteveld	105	9.50	\$997.50
A. Brisson	98	9.50	\$931.00
Barnes	105	7.50	\$787.50
Pease Family	107	6.10	\$652.70
Monument	84	5.20	\$436.80

Total Beef - 129 Total Calves - 232  
We value our faithful customers.  
**Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.**  
call 1-802-388-2661

**Public Notices Index**

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 10B, 11B and 12B**

Addison County Regional Planning Commission (2)

Cornwall Evergreen Cemetery (1)

Ferrisburgh (1)

Hancock (1)

Lincoln (1)

Monkton (1)

New Haven Evergreen Cemetery (1)

Ripton (1)

Slate Valley Unified School District (1)

VELCO (1)

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**EVERGREEN CEMETERY ANNUAL MEETING**  
Saturday, May 18 at 7:00 PM  
Cornwall Town Hall,  
2629 Route 30, Cornwall, VT

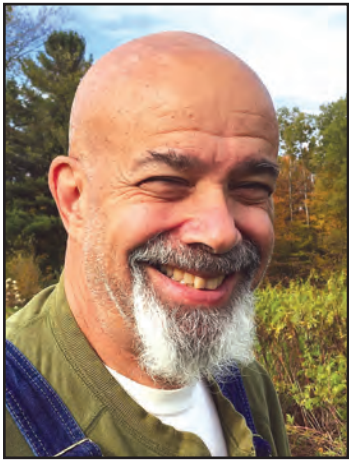
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**HANCOCK, VT REQUEST FOR BIDS**  
Seeking bids to clean, shape, and line 788 linear feet of ditch on Fasset Hill Rd.  
Bidding information at [hancockvt.org](http://hancockvt.org).

## Silins honored for his dedication to Arbor Day

BURLINGTON — Neil Silins of Brandon has been awarded the Vermont Arbor Day award by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, which recognizes an individual who has made a significant difference in his or her community's urban and community forest.

In his appointed role as town tree warden, Silins has fostered community engagement to help ensure the health and vitality of his town's urban and community forests. He engages with residents to raise awareness about the importance of trees in urban environments, promoting initiatives such as tree planting programs and educational workshops. Additionally, he collaborates with local authorities and community groups to develop and implement tree preservation strategies and initiatives. He conducts regular inspections of trees within the town, assessing their health, identifying potential hazards and recommending appropriate actions, such as pruning, removal or replanting. Silins also works with local organizations to beautify public parks, streetscapes and recreational areas through tree planting and landscaping projects.



**NEIL SILINS OF Brandon was honored by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program with its Arbor Day Award for his efforts to help ensure the health and vitality of his town's urban and community forests.**

Photo courtesy of Neil Silins

Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program also serves as the state coordinator for the Arbor Day Foundation's national awards program. The town of Middlebury received one of nine Tree City USA awards while Middlebury College was named Tree Campus USA, an honor it shares with St. Michael's College.

## Monkton

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

### NEWS

MONKTON — All are welcome to the Monkton Historical Society's presentation this month at the Town Hall Community Room on Monday, May 20, starting at 7 p.m. Theresa Payea and Lee Kauppila of the Cedar Lake Association will present the history of Monkton Pond/Cedar Lake from relics of Native American encampments to the current camps near the fishing access. They will share what species of plants and wildlife habitats have been in and are currently in the area. The history of Cedar Lake Association and how they are currently working to keep this resource a vital part of our community will also be discussed. A zoom link will be posted on the Monkton Museum and Historical Society webpage at monktonhistory.org, on Front Porch Forum, and on the Historical Society Facebook page for this free event. If you have any questions email monktonmhs@gmail.com.

The Russell Memorial Library will be hosting Julie Mitchell's Plant Medicine Workshop 2 on Thursday, May 23, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. This class is limited to 12 students and costs \$20 per person. You did not need to attend her first workshop to attend this one. E-mail russellmemlibrary@gmail.com to sign up. Julie will help you to learn about sustainable, ethical and accurate wildcrafting, plus garbling drying and plant identification. She will also show how to harvest and store herbs for the best nutritive and medicinal value. Julie will be having two more classes at future dates. Call 802-453-4471 if you have questions and leave a message if no answer. Mark your calendars for the

annual Monkton Friends Methodist Church plant, bake and craft sale on Saturday, May 25, at 9 a.m. The church will have a wide selection of hardy perennials from local gardens that, of course will do well in Vermont temperatures and Monkton soil. They will have a variety of flowering and shade plants, plus herbs, berry bushes, shrubs, bulbs and lilac bushes. Pastries and desserts and a few extras will adorn the tables for your pleasure at the bake sale. At the craft sale you will be able to find that special gift you've been needing or something for yourself among baby items, pot holders and much more. Don't miss this great opportunity to see old friends and support the church by shopping local.

The church still welcomes any extra plants you might like to donate for this sale, and will even come and help you dig if you need their help. Contact Marilyn at 802-453-5192 for questions. Also if you did not make it to the recycling center to dispose of black plastic plant pots, etc., the church will still be collecting them at this sale.

Don't forget the town-wide yard sale will also start at 9 a.m. and continue until 2 p.m. on May 25. This event is once again sponsored by our Monkton BSA Troop 802. There will be a map showing the location of area yard sales available. There is still time to get your yard sale posted on the map until May 20. For \$15 you get the location of your sale and a sign to put at the end of your driveway. Contact Karen at puccidog@live.com to sign up or questions.

## Public Notices

can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

#### Lincoln Municipal Planning Consultation

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) will meet on **June 6, 2024 at 6:30pm**, for a public hearing with the Town of Lincoln's Planning Commission.

The meeting will take place in person with a hybrid option at the Lincoln Town Office, 62 Quaker Street Lincoln, VT 05443. Login credentials below.

As per 24 V.S.A. §4350, ACRPC will consult with Lincoln in regards to the municipality's planning efforts, ascertain Lincoln's planning needs, identify needed assistance from ACRPC and confirm that the municipality is:

(1) is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan that is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title;

(2) is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with the program for implementation required under section 4382 of this title; and

(3) is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85828993179?pwd=f8JDf0rtQWpKqKAVASW2KNJlUTrx6.1>

Meeting ID : 858 2899 3179  
Passcode: 795686

Questions, please call either:

Adam Lougee, Executive Director  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
802-388-3141

Josiah Jackson  
Chair, Planning Commission  
Town of Lincoln  
802-989-6340

## Police investigate recent stalking complaint

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police investigated a stalking complaint in the Seymour Street neighborhood on May 10.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Checked the welfare of an individual who was later identified as Michael Heffernan, 62, of Bristol, whom they had seen staggering as he walked down the Main Street sidewalk a little before 10 p.m. on May 6. Police said they helped Heffernan get medical care before finding him shelter for the evening. Following an investigation, police cited Heffernan for two counts of violating his court-ordered conditions of release.

- Intervened in a dispute between some people at a Court Street business on May 6.

- Helped a person gain access to their locked vehicle parked off Route 7 South on May 6.

- Assisted a man with mental health challenges who had been yelling in the Main Street area on May 6.

- Helped a local man who had received a threatening text message on May 6.

- Responded to a noise complaint in the South Main Street area on May 6.

- Received a report of "numerous gunshots" heard in the South Main Street area on May 7. Police determined the sounds were likely caused by fireworks.

- Received a complaint about two bears rummaging through a Route 7

## Middlebury Police Log

North resident's trash on May 7.

- Investigated a complaint at that a customer's vehicle had been stolen from the Stone car dealership on Route 7 South on May 7.

- Served a no-trespass order on an "unruly customer" at a Main Street business on May 7.

- Assisted a driver's education class at Middlebury Union High School on May 7.

- Helped corral cows that had escaped from their Meadow Glen Drive pasture on May 8.

- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS with a patient in the Eastview Terrace area on May 8.

- Served a no-trespass order on a man for a Court Street address on May 9.

- Served court diversion paperwork on May 9 on an MUHS student who was found in possession of a vape device on May 10.

- Received multiple 911 calls from a local person dealing with mental health challenges on May 9.

- Served a no-trespass order on a man for a North Pleasant Street address on May 9.

- Responded to a car-versus-deer crash at the intersection of Route 7 and Paul Allison Lane just north of the village on May 9.

- Responded to a theft complaint

at a Washington Street area business on May 9.

- Assisted a person who had been experiencing a mental health crisis in the Court Street area on May 10.

- Responded to a report of a man acting suspiciously in the Main Street area on May 10.

- Responded to a noise complaint in the South Street Extension area on May 10.

- Checked on the welfare of a possibly intoxicated person on Academy Street on May 10. Police said they made sure the person didn't need medical attention and got home safely.

- Checked in the welfare of a woman on Weybridge Street on May 10. Police said the woman was OK.

- Received, for destruction, a damaged rifle on May 10.

- Investigated a disorderly conduct complaint in the North Pleasant Street area on May 10.

- Served court diversion paperwork on May 10 on an MUHS student who was found in possession of a vape device.

- Responded to a theft complaint in the Court Street area on May 10.

- Turned over, to a sober person, a drunken man who had been walking in traffic on Route 7 North on May 10.

- Patrolled the South Pleasant Street area during MUHS prom during the evening of May 11.

- Investigated a report of a person allegedly driving under the influence on Porter Medical Center

campus on May 11. Police reported no citation or offense in connection with the report.

- Cautioned some Painter Road residents about an unpermitted burn on their property on May 11.

- Cited Wesley Odell, 48 of Weybridge for driving with a criminally suspended license on Seymour Street on May 11.

- Responded to reports of a "loud party" in the Seminary Street Extension area on May 11.

- Investigated a verbal dispute between two people downtown on May 11.

- On May 11 in the Seminary Street area, found a Leicester runaway who had been sought by Vermont State Police.

- Cited Michael Heffernan, 62, of Bristol for two counts of violating his court-ordered conditions of release in the North Pleasant Street area on May 11.

- Reported on May 12 that a person with mental health issues had been repeatedly calling the police station on May 12.

- Investigated a barking dog complaint in the Skyline Lane area on May 12.

- Checked on the welfare of a person found sleeping under the Cross Street Bridge on May 12.

- Provided a courtesy ride to a patient who had been discharged from Porter Hospital on May 13 at 5:20 a.m.

## Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — Vergennes police backed up Vermont State Police on Sunday, May 12, in a break-in at a Lake Street home in Panton that police said followed a car accident.

According to Vergennes police, homeowners returned to their property to find a broken window and a woman sleeping in their house. Police said her vehicle apparently went off the road nearby. VSP have jurisdiction in the case, and troopers cites the woman found at the house — 40-year-old Amanda Wildasin of Vergennes — for burglary and unlawful mischief.

Also between May 6 and 12, Vergennes police conducted 14 patrols by cruiser and four on foot, 12 traffic stops and two VIN inspections; processed nine pre-employment fingerprint requests; and:

- On May 7:
  - Referred to Essex police a request from a New Hampshire agency to serve a relief-from-abuse order. Police said the person in question had moved away from Vergennes.

- Took a complaint from the Comfort Hill kennel that a drone flying over the property was disturbing dogs there.

- On May 8:
  - Went to Valley Vista at 1 Alden Place to handle a complaint of a client departing the rehab facility acting aggressively, but police found no problem.

- Handled a case in which a loose dog bit another dog and its owner walking on Main Street. Actions on this case are likely.

- Called a taxi for a homeless individual who came to the station seeking a ride to Burlington.

- On May 9:
  - Called the owner of a vehicle with a trailer following a complaint that it was routinely parked blocking a sidewalk in the Bowman Road area.

- Took an unfounded report that a person was walking dangerously in the middle of a road; police said it was a dead end.

- Responded to a family dispute on First Street. Police said a resident asked that his son, who was under the influence of alcohol,

be removed from the home. The Addison County Sheriff's Department took the son to the Charter House in Middlebury.

- On May 10:
  - Moved a utility line — a TV cable — that had fallen onto South Water Street.

- Talked to a man who said he had a fight with his girlfriend and was worried about retrieving belongings the next day. Police advised him to be calm and polite.

- On May 12 responded to a report of a possible domestic dispute — a passerby saw an upset woman outside a city home. Police checked to make sure all at the premises were OK.

### NEW HAVEN EVERGREEN CEMETERY

New Haven Evergreen Cemetery Association annual meeting will be held May 22, 2024 at 7pm at the home of Roger Boise – 434 North St.

### STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 24-PR-02009

#### IN RE ESTATE OF: SANDRA M. DRAGON

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Sandra M. Dragon, late of Bristol, 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: 05/8/24

Executor/Administrator:  
William R. Sayre/  
Angelina Beardsley  
Attn: Putnam & Menard, PLC  
One Cross Street,  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
amy@pmlawvt.com

Publication: Addison Independent  
Publication Date: 5/16/24  
Address of Probate Court:  
7 Mahady Court  
Middlebury, VT 05753

### TOWN OF RIPTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public conditional use hearing on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ripton Community House, 1283 Rte. 125, for an application by the Town to install a culvert and headwall in the river corridor south of Peddlers Bridge Road, for Emergency Watershed Protection program projects on Wagon Wheel Rd and Billings Farm Rd, and for culvert and bridge work related to storm damage and FEMA projects in river corridors. The application is available for inspection at the Town Office. Participation in this proceeding is prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeal. If you wish to participate by Zoom, please contact ajdickinson@riptonvt.org or 802-388-2266.

### TOWN OF LINCOLN PUBLIC NOTICE

Wednesday, June 5, 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 a public hearing for:

- Conditional Use Permit Application #24-033 as requested by Karen A. Lueders, Esq. on behalf of Charles Lord and Blyth Taylor Lord for their property located off of Ripton Road in Lincoln, VT, Parcel ID # 31100180.000. Description: The proposed three-bedroom home with a garage is over 3,500 square feet.

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://lincolnvmt.org/agendas-minutes>  
Nicole Lee, Lincoln DRB Chair

### TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT JUNE 5TH, 2024

A public hearing before the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of Ferrisburgh will be held at the Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, June 5th, 2024, to consider the following:

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING: Application No. 24-042 (Mr. Q. McElwain), Expanded Parking Lot; property ID#: 23/2047.1; 2833 US- 7; Ferrisburgh Town Center (CON-25) district; conditional use

The above files are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator.

PLEASE NOTE: Participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Time: June 5th, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85437975279?pwd=ZFRGQlc2WkhGRVZpajRmbXZOMzhRdz09>  
Meeting ID: 854 3797 5279  
Passcode: 734072

### WARNING

#### INFORMATIONAL MEETING

### SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT (Towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell, West Haven)

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zpi-emo-syc>  
Or dial: (US) +1 443-354-8862 PIN: 417 347 949#

#### May 29, 2024

The legal voters of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD) consisting of the towns of Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton, Orwell and West Haven are hereby warned and notified to meet at Fair Haven Union Middle High School Band Room on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM to conduct the following business:

**Article 1:** To hear the Board of School Directors of the SVUUSD present its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year.

#### May 30, 2024

The meeting shall then be recessed to Thursday, May 30, 2024 for the purpose of voting on the following article at the usual polling places in the member districts by Australian ballot, said ballots being brought to Bomoseen Fellowship Bible Church following the closing of the polls in the member districts where they will be commingled and counted by the Board of Civil Authority of the constituent districts.

**The Town Offices will be opened for voting as follows:**

Town of Benson	10:00AM - 7:00PM	BensonCommunityHall
Town of Castleton	8:00 AM - 7:00PM	Castleton Fire Station
Town of Fair Haven	10:00 AM - 7:00PM	American Legion Post 49
Town of Hubbardton	10:00AM - 7:00PM	Hubbardton Town Hall
Town of Orwell	10:00 AM - 7:00PM	OrwellTown Clerk's Office
Town of West Haven	10:00AM - 7:00PM	West Haven Town Hall

**Article 2:** Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Thirty Million Eight Hundred Ten Thousand One Hundred Thirty- Five Dollars \$30,810,135 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

#### Informational Hearing:

Said persons and voters are notified and warned that the meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. will also serve as an informational hearing to discuss Article 2, which will be voted on by Australian ballot on Thursday, May 30, 2024.

Dated at Fair Haven, Vermont  
May 13, 2024

Received and Recorded  
May 13, 2024

Patricia Beaumont, Chair  
Slate Valley Unified Union  
School District

Elisabeth MacKay, Clerk  
Slate Valley Unified Union  
School District

# Former Bristol man gets 18 years in prison for plotting to kill his stepfather

By ALAN J. KEAYS  
VTDigger.org

A former Bristol man has been sentenced to at least 18 years in prison for conspiring with his mother to kill her husband, who was also his stepfather.

In a deal with prosecutors last year, Kory George, 36, pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in the 2019 death of David Auclair, 45.

Both the judge and the victim's sister chastised George during the sentencing April 29 in Chittenden County Superior Court, criminal division, in Burlington, with Judge Kevin Griffin calling the circumstances of the crime "horrific."

"From everything that's been presented to the court, the victim in this case cared deeply about you and played a significant role in your life," Griffin told George. "To engage in a conspiracy that ended up luring him to that site in Hinesburg for what was an execution killing is about as bad as it gets."

David Auclair's sister, Melisa Semprebon, told George he had "lured (his stepfather) out and turned on him."

"You chose a brutal act of hate," she said, "to murder the best man in your life."

Griffin said he was willing to accept the plea agreement reached by the prosecution and the defense. The judge then sentenced George under the terms of that deal to 35 years of life in prison, all suspended except 18 years to serve in prison.

Prosecutors have alleged Angela Auclair, George's mother who was married to David Auclair, pulled the trigger in the fatal shooting. The 51-year-old pleaded guilty earlier this year to the same charge as George as part of a plea agreement and had been awaiting sentencing.

She had at one point been scheduled to be sentenced on April 29 as well. But, according to court records, that hearing was scrapped after she had requested a new attorney.

Chittenden County Deputy State's Attorney Susan Hardin, the prosecutor, said in court that day that the plea agreement with George took into consideration several factors, including the brutal nature of the crime and his willingness to cooperate with the prosecution of his mother.

Dan Sedon, George' attorney,

*"To engage in a conspiracy that ended up luring him to that site in Hinesburg for what was an execution killing is about as bad as it gets."*

— Judge Kevin Griffin



## Tree planters

FOURTH GRADERS AT Shoreham elementary school put down some roots on Arbor Day, April 26. Tree seedlings were given to them by the Middlebury Lions Club.

Photo courtesy of Bill Cunningham

told the judge that because of his client's role as a witness, George didn't want to provide a public statement at the sentencing hearing Monday.

"He feels that the less he says right now the better," Sedon said of his client, adding, "He did, however, want the court to know, and everyone else to know, that he considers daily the impact of his actions on everyone affected."

According to documents filed in the case, George and his mother had discussed killing David Auclair weeks earlier and then lured him to the trailhead where the shooting took place July 11, 2019.

David Auclair was shot 11 times, the court filing stated.

George initially denied any involvement in his stepfather's death and told police he was at a friend's house in Burlington that night, according to a police affidavit.

That affidavit indicated "preliminary digital evidence" from George's cellphone undercut his story, showing him in the region around Hinesburg, Monkton and Williston, before and after the time of the killing.

Semprebon, the victim's sister, told the court she hoped the proceeding would bring "some justice and closure" to the long-running case.

She described her brother as "a little bit country and a little bit rock 'n' roll," as well as a patriotic person who supported the military and first responders.

Semprebon also talked of the role her brother played in George's life.

"He was not biologically your father, but he did raise you," she said to George, "and was the only person that actually parented you and held you accountable for your actions."

## Lincoln

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

### NEWS

LINCOLN — This week's news is a friendly reminder that my favorite time of year is upon us. Lincoln's Annual Town Wide Yard Sale to benefit WeatherVane United, Inc. will be on Saturday, May 25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. There will be sales all over town or, if you'd like to have a sale of your own, stop by the Lincoln General Store to sign up, where \$15 will get you on the map and orange arrows will direct shoppers to your location. All of the advertising is done for you.

On Saturday, May 25, the library will be holding their book and plant sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will be accepting donations from May 20th on.

The Historical Society will once again be participating in the town wide yard sale and will be accepting donations on Wednesday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please make sure items are clean and in working order. Electronics and bicycle helmets cannot be accepted.

As always, while you are out and about enjoying all the sales, don't forget to stop by the firehouse for a delicious lunch. Pro tip: the fries are a must get. Yummy!

Until next time ... Being Happy Is The Greatest Form Of Success. Kick Negativity To The Curb. Wake Up With A Grateful Heart.

## Public Notices

can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B, 11B and 12B.

### TOWN OF MONKTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TOWN PLAN

The Monkton Planning Commission will hold a hybrid in-person and Zoom public Hearing at 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at the Monkton Town Hall (92 Monkton Ridge), to take public testimony on the proposed Town Plan for the Town of Monkton.

The Planning Commission will discuss and vote on any proposed changes directly after this Public Hearing.

#### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of a town plan is to provide a vision for orderly development within the town. It is essentially a "picture in time" that uses existing conditions to guide zoning and development decisions for the eight-year period covered by the next Town Plan.

Our new town plan is a partial revision of the plan adopted in 2020. The proposed Town Plan affects all the land within the Town of Monkton. It updates sections that use US Census data to current 2020 data and adds information from the natural resources inventory conducted for the town in 2022-2023.

The Planning Commission believes the following are the significant changes offered by the plan:

1. The following sections have had data updated: Population, Housing, Education and Childcare, and Economic Development.
2. The Utilities and Facilities section had information updated to be current on the New Town Hall, Library, and the Recreation and Cultural Resources sections.
3. The Natural Resource sections on Forests and Water Resources have had information added from the natural resources inventory, including new maps. The Forests section has a new sub-section on Forest Integrity that identifies core forest blocks and habitat connectors, which allows the town to meet Act 171 State Law requirements. Water Resources section had buffers better defined.
4. The Plan Implementation section was reorganized and updated.

#### Town Plan Index

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While the Town Plan sets forth the community goals and objectives, the policies and other means of achieving those ends are set forth in the town zoning and subdivision regulations. A town plan should not be a prescriptive document. This version of the Monkton Town Plan mostly adheres to this principle.

Copies of the Town Plan are available for review or obtained at the Town Offices, 92 Monkton Ridge during normal business hours. They may also be viewed on the town website at: <http://monktonvt.com/boards-and-committees/planning-commission/>

Written testimony will be accepted by the Commission if received by 6/15/2024 at [planningcommission@monktonvt.com](mailto:planningcommission@monktonvt.com), or the Planning Commission's mailbox at the Town Hall (before close of business on Monday at 1 pm).

#### Zoom Meeting Information:

Link to join a Zoom meeting by computer video: <https://zoom.us/join>  
Monkton's Zoom meeting ID: 802-453-3800  
Monkton's Zoom Password: 1762  
Telephone Number to attend meeting by phone: 646-558-8656

For more information please contact: Marilyn Cargill (802) 453-5192 or Wendy Sue Harper, (802) 453-2680 Co-Chairs of the Planning Commission at [planningcommission@monktonvt.com](mailto:planningcommission@monktonvt.com), or Sharon Gomez, the Town Clerk at (802) 453-3800.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please note: There will be an informational session from 7:00 to 7:45pm on June 18th at the Town Hall prior to the public hearing.  
Mike New, Clerk  
Monkton Planning Commission

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Starksboro Municipal Planning Consultation

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) will meet on **June 4, 2024 at 5:30pm**, for a public hearing with the Town of Starksboro's Selectboard.

The meeting will take place in person with a hybrid option at the Starksboro Town Office, 2849 VT Route 116 Starksboro, VT 05487. Login credentials below.

As per 24 V.S.A. §4350, ACRPC will consult with Starksboro in regards to the municipality's planning efforts, ascertain Starksboro's planning needs, identify needed assistance from ACRPC and confirm that the municipality is:

- (1) is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan that is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title;
- (2) is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with the program for implementation required under section 4382 of this title; and
- (3) is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84357732325?pwd=REINV2Y1Ym9GVkZSMXR-FOEdnQTQzQT09>

Meeting ID: 843 5773 2325 Passcode: SB054871  
Dial by your location +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)  
Meeting ID: 843 5773 2325 Passcode: 94892246

Questions, please call either:

Adam Lougee, Executive Director	Rebecca Elder
Addison County Regional	Starksboro
Planning Commission	Town Administrator
802-388-3141	802-578-0501

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY HERBICIDE

A right-of-way pesticide application permit has been applied for through the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets by Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc (VELCO) for the purpose of making selective ground base applications of herbicides. These herbicides include: Aquamaster (Glyphosate), Escort XP (Metsulfuron Methyl), Garlon 4 Ultra (Triclopyr), Krenite S (Fosamine Ammonium), Polaris (Isopropylamine salt of Imazapyr), Rodeo (Glyphosate), and Round Up Custom (Glyphosate). Application will be on VELCOs various 115kV and 345kV transmission line right-of-ways located in the following counties and towns:

#### Addison County

Ferrisburgh Leicester  
Middlebury Monkton  
New Haven Salisbury  
Vergennes

#### Herbicide application will start on Monday June 17, 2024.

Landowners adjacent to the areas in which will be treated should contact VELCO if private water supplies or other environmentally sensitive areas are located within 200 feet of the right-of-way edge. For further information please contact:

Colby Marshall  
Utility Arborist  
VELCO  
366 Pinnacle Ridge Road  
Rutland, VT 05701  
(802) 779-7163  
[cmarshall@velco.com](mailto:cmarshall@velco.com)

Please contact the state agency with any other questions, comments or concerns:

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets  
116 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620  
(802) 828-5667  
[www.agriculture.vermont.gov](http://www.agriculture.vermont.gov)

### STATE OF VERMONT

#### SUPERIOR COURT

Addison Unit

#### CIVIL DIVISION

Docket No.: 24-CV-00002

Case Title: KEYBANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION v. Thomas McKean, et al.

#### SUMMONS AND ORDER FOR PUBLICATION

**THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO** Thomas McKean and Elizabeth McKean

**1. YOU ARE BEING SUED.** The plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. A copy of the Plaintiff's Complaint against you is on file and may be obtained at the office of the Clerk of the Court, County Court House, Addison Civil and Probate Division, 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, Vermont.

Do not throw this paper away. It is an official paper that affects your rights.

**2. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIM.** Plaintiff's claim is for FORECLOSURE OF REAL PROPERTY, COLLECTION OF PROMISSORY NOTE, ENTRY OF DEFICIENCY JUDGMENT.

(brief statement of the object of the action, property or credits affected, relief sought).

**3. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 42 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.** You must give or mail the Plaintiff a written response, called an Answer, within 42 days after the date on which this Summons was first published, which is Monday, May 13, 2024. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff's attorney located at:

Sheldon Katz, ERN 2808, BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC, 23 Messenger Street, 2nd Floor, Plainville, MA 02762

You must also give or mail your Answer to the Court located at:  
Addison Civil and Probate Division, 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

**4. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

**5. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT GIVE YOUR WRITTEN ANSWER TO THE COURT.** If you do not send the Plaintiff and the Court your Answer within 42 days, you will probably lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint.

**6. YOU MUST MAKE ANY CLAIMS AGAINST THE PLAINTIFF IN YOUR REPLY.** Your Answer must state any related legal claims you have against the Plaintiff. Your claims against the Plaintiff are called Counterclaims. If you do not make your Counterclaims in writing in your Answer, you may not be able to bring them up at all. Even if you have insurance and the insurance company will defend you, you must still file any Counterclaims you may have.

**7. LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer, you should ask the Court Clerk for information about places where you can get free legal help. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still give the Court a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.

**ORDER.** The verified Complaint or Affidavit filed in this action shows that service cannot be made with due diligence by any of the methods provided in Rule 4(d)-(f), (k), or (l) of the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that service of the Summons set forth above shall be made upon the defendant, Thomas McKean and Elizabeth McKean, by publication as provided in Rules 4(d) (1) and 4(g) of those Rules.

This Order shall be published once a week for two weeks beginning on or before Monday, May 13, 2024, in the Addison County Independent, a newspaper of general circulation in Addison County, and a copy of this Summons and Order as published shall be mailed to the Defendant, Thomas McKean and Elizabeth McKean, if an address is known.

Date: 4/30/2024

/s/ David R. Fenster  
Superior Court Judge

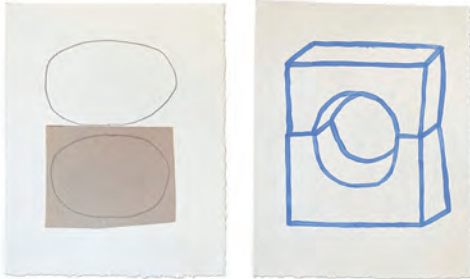
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# ARTS + LEISURE

## The Addison Independent

May 16, 2024



Viscaya Wagner "Side by Side."



Tal Birdsey "Map Series 2015."



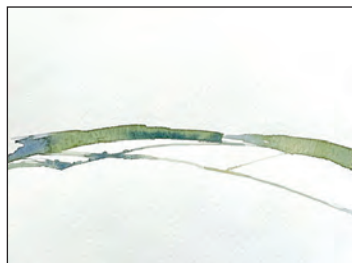
Tom Dune, hand-turned wood bowl.



MAUHS student Isabelle Gallivan.



MAUHS student Luke Mayer.



Pam Fogg "The Green Line."



Janet Fredericks "Night Dive."



North Branch School students Georgia Gong and Yaz Stillman-Utterback.

## EXHIBITS PROMOTE STUDENT WORK & THE IMPORTANCE OF ART IN SCHOOLS

**L**ocal student artwork is blooming around Addison County this week. Check out works by Mount Abe juniors and seniors at the downtown Bristol gallery, Art on Main, beginning May 17 with an opening reception from 3:30-5 p.m. Then check out student and professional work from North Branch School at Tourterelle during their Spring Art Exhibit and Auction on Sunday, May 19, from 3:30-5 p.m.

BY **ELSIE LYNN PARINI**

The Bristol show will feature paintings, drawings, ceramics and jewelry, and will be on view through the month of May.

"Art on Main has been hosting the MAUSD

Student Show for over 12 years," said Art on Main gallery manager Terry Racich. "For me, it's about connecting with the wider community around art making. We do the student exhibit and a general all-invited community exhibit in April. We are also having an Art in the Alley event this summer, which I hope will be an annual event."

The North Branch School Spring Art Exhibit and Auction is changing things up for the fourth annual event.

"We held the first three years at the school with a low-key local vibe," said NBS office administrator Joanna Doria. "As the event evolved, the board decided it needed some elevation and what better way than with the

beautiful and classic Tourterelle?!"

The late afternoon affair will commence at 3:30 p.m., at the New Haven venue's barn. The artwork will be accompanied by live music, food and wine. Suggested admission is \$20, which includes one drink ticket. RSVP (if possible) to [Joanna@northbranchschool.org](mailto:Joanna@northbranchschool.org).

"I am a big supporter of the school, their

SEE ARTS ON PAGE 3

# UPCOMING MUSIC

## Ripton Community Coffee House plans final concert with Green Heron on Saturday, May 18

The Ripton Community Coffee House will present folk duo Green Heron on Saturday, May 18, at the Ripton Community House, at 7:30 p.m.

The music of Green Heron stretches across the entire folk landscape. Old-time, folk, bluegrass, country, Celtic and blues music are all represented as the band brings the back porch to the stage. Featuring Betsy Heron on fiddle, banjo and vocals, and Scott Heron on guitar, banjo and vocals, the duo has been sharing New England stages together since 2017. The two songwriters weave the contemporary with the traditional and deliver high energy performances.

Betsy, brought up playing country music with her family's band in rural Massachusetts,

still plays alongside her three sisters in The Green Sisters. Meanwhile, Scott spent several years

in various metal bands touring New England and much of the country before discovering folk and bluegrass. Despite their very different backgrounds in music, the pair still draws from their roots when writing and performing and have found a common love for Americana and folk music.

To date, Green Heron has released three albums: "Folk Heroes" in 2018, "New Pair of Shoes" in 2019 and "Feet on the Floorboards" released in 2021.

Throughout their home state of New Hampshire, the duo has been featured in a variety of publications and have made appearances on several television and radio stations including WMUR's New Hampshire Chronicle as well as NHPR's "All Things Considered" and "The Folk Show." *New Hampshire Magazine* featured Green Heron among the Editor's Choice picks for their Best of 2020 issue and *Seacoast Edge* listed "Feet on the Floorboards" among their best albums of



The Ripton Community Coffee House, which has brought music to the stage of the historic Ripton Community House for 29 years, will dim the lights for the last time on May 18 after a performance by Scott and Betsy Heron.

COURTESY IMAGE

2021. In 2022, the band was nominated for Best Roots Act for the New England Music Awards.

Advance tickets are recommended to guarantee a seat. To purchase tickets visit [tickettailor.com/events/riptoncommunitycoffeehouse/1184404](https://tickettailor.com/events/riptoncommunitycoffeehouse/1184404). The doors open at 7p.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. Learn more about RCCH and its 29 years of incredible performances at [rcch.org](https://rcch.org), and see the story John Flowers wrote in the May 9, edition of the *Addy Indy*.

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# ARTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

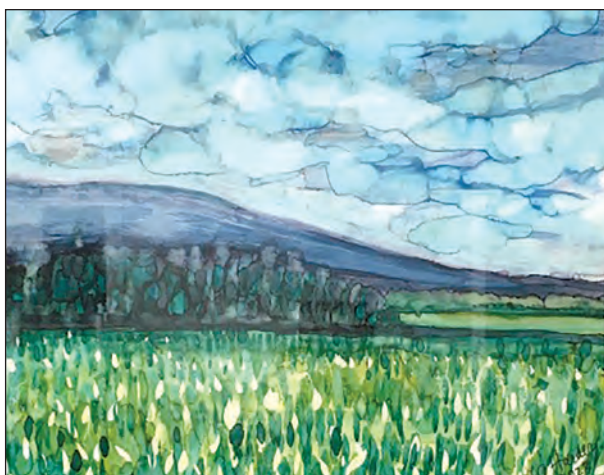
philosophy and am happy to keep my involvement with them to support their effort in fundraising so the school stays accessible to everyone," said Tourterelle owner Christine Thomas-Snell, who's three children (now ages 25, 22 and 16) attended North Branch.

Sunday's silent auction will feature a collection of more than 20 artists' work. They include Barbara Nelson, Eileen Gombosi, Tom Dunne, Sarah Wesson, Leslie Kameny, Pam Fogg, Viscaya Wagner, Leigh Harder, Judi Danforth, Janet Fredericks, Carolyn Crowley, Hedy Klein, Tal Birdsey, Ginger Birdsey, Thatcher Littlefield, Sally Nelson, Rose McVay, Kathy Clarke, Kim Aranda, Monroe Cromis and Svitlana Osetska.

Most artists have some connection to the Ripton school. Proceeds will first be shared 50/50 with the artist; everything else will go directly to the NBS tuition assistance program.

In addition to the silent auction, the evening will also showcase a collection of current students' art. The work stems from their recent studies of Piet Mondrian, a Dutch painter and a major contributor to the abstract art movement of the 20th century.

Students "learned how Mondrian started his career by figurative painting and then slowly moved into more and more abstract pieces



Leigh Harder "Addison County Cornfields."



MAUHS student Judah Jackson.

until the artwork was reduced to simple lines and blocks of color," reads the description of this class. "As part of the project, students made watercolors inspired by Mondrian and infused with their own personal touches. For the collaborative pieces, each student did their own line work, cut the artwork in two parts, and then individually (and without seeing each other's) added color before merging the section back into a finished piece."

"We try to work art into everything we do," explained North Branch Headmaster Tal Birdsey. "In writing, in speaking. Art in science, art in math. Art in our doodles in our notebooks, in how we take notes. We practice drawing, using color, shading, perspective, design, pattern, etc. We study many artists and mimic their works. We talk about how artists work and what drives the need and desire to make art. We visit art museums and talk about what we saw. We look at strange works of art and

try to understand them. We also talk about art in speech, and music, and poetry, and thought and movement. We try to make our conversations about art, or to have artful conversations.

"Each kid has freedom to express themselves in a manner which is natural to them," Birdsey expanded. "We spend less time on uniformity and guiding and more time reveling in the broadness and diversity of what each kid does. For us, a funny comic is as important as a well-rendered object. We are interested in the personality of the maker and that they are more than the final product that adheres to fixed or traditional notions of what 'good art' is."

NBS students Genevieve Vlope, Georgia Gong, Yaz Stillman-Utterback, Cam Gong, and Carina Brightman will have work on view, along with the professional artists.

**"EACH KID HAS FREEDOM TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN A MANNER WHICH IS NATURAL TO THEM... WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE PERSONALITY OF THE MAKER AND THAT THEY ARE MORE THAN THE FINAL PRODUCT THAT ADHERES TO FIXED OR TRADITIONAL NOTIONS OF WHAT 'GOOD ART' IS."**

— Tal Birdsey,  
Headmaster at North Branch School



North Branch School students Georgia Gong and Carina Brightman.



North Branch School student Genevieve Volpe.



Leslie Kameny, handmade, stoneware bowl.



JESSICA'S  
AT  
SWIFT HOUSE INN



FANCY FRIDAYS

DJ Serena spins hip-hop, house, and R&B in the elegant Blue Bar, as Mixologist Laura Fenn serves up creative, hand-crafted cocktails for an upscale crowd, dressed to impress. Free to enter. WEEKLY: 7 to 10 p.m. Highly recommended: Cocktail Attire!

SUNDAY SUPPERS

Every Sunday, Chef Rob prepares a three-course prix fixe meal at a very special price using locally sourced ingredients. The idea is to make the premium Jessica's experience more affordable on Sundays. Includes appetizer, main course, and dessert. The sommelier will suggest a wine pairing, but it's not included in the price. Regular menu also available.

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ART ON EXHIBIT

Brandon artist Fran Bull shows work in Brattleboro

Mitchell • Giddings Fine Arts in Brattleboro will present two solo exhibits, "Paul Bowen: Woodlark," sculpture fashioned from scavenged seaside material, along with his works on paper, and "Space: an odyssey," featuring Brandon artist Fran Bull's acrylic paintings inspired by cosmic imagery from the James Webb space telescope.

Bull elaborates in her artist statement:

"My abstract art has always borne an uncanny relationship to photographic images coming to us from outer space. I believe the process whereby I make this work is the cause. Something about setting into motion, paint of varying viscosities and shades, is aligned with how gasses and stars interact together in space. At least, that is what I imagine.

"I allow paint to range freely on the canvas, colliding and fusing. I then corral the forms into cohesive compositions. They are the result of a conversation, back and forth, between the accidental and the intentional. Whereas Pollock created an arena for the accidental, I go a next step. I enter the fray as a conscious force!

"Einstein, in his imagination, rode on the back of an electron to observe its customs and habits. From this we were given his epic Theory of Relativity. I am swept into deep space as I view photos from the James Webb Space Telescope. My artist's mind explodes with ideas, guided by my own imagination past galaxies and nebulae!

"My approach to these paintings began many years ago, when I moved away from photorealism and the New York art world. They evolved very naturally, culminating in a series of 13 works entitled "13 Moons of the Magdalene" (which are on view at the Hub Co-Work space on Merchants Row in Rutland.) These are large format abstract paintings inspired by a feminist version of the story of Mary Magdalene. I imagined the Magdalene as a sort of inchoate energy that was in a process of coming into form. My thought was to try to paint things not yet seen, not yet formed: things coming into being.

"Now, I am inspired by what we are seeing and learning from the James Webb Space Telescope. Apparently, our theories of

SEE ART ON PAGE 16



Paul Bowen and Fran Bull exhibit at Mitchell • Giddings Fine Arts gallery in Brattleboro from May 18-June 30. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, May 18, from 5-7 p.m., and two artist talks in June. Fran Bull will talk on Saturday, June 8, at 4 p.m.; and Paul Bowen will talk on Saturday, June 22, at 5 p.m.

COURTESY IMAGES

# ART ON EXHIBIT

## ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

For more info visit [artonmainvt.com](http://artonmainvt.com) or call 802-453-4032.

**"MAUSD Student Art Exhibit."** Come meet Bristol-area up-and-coming artists. This exhibit features work by senior and junior students in various mediums including paintings, drawings, ceramics and jewelry. An opening reception will be held on May 17, from 3:30-5 p.m. Refreshments served. On view through May 31.

## BRANDON ARTISTS GUILD

7 Center Street, Brandon

For more info visit [brandonartistsguild.org](http://brandonartistsguild.org) or call 802-247-4956.

**Celebrating 25 years!** This summer and fall the Brandon Artists Guild will be reminiscing by exhibiting a rotating display of community artworks from our 2003-2012 fundraiser projects. New artists at BAG: Linden Eller, Donald Perdue, Dasha Kalisz, and Bonny Dutton.

## EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

Visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call (802) 458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com) for more info.

**"Borders & Boundaries."** Alexis Serio and Homer Wells explore literal and figurative reflection, the transience of light, and the power of imagination and chance in works that expand perceptions of the traditional landscape through their intersection with abstraction. An opening brunch reception with artist Homer Wells will be held on Saturday, May 25, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. On view May 17-June 25.

## EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

Visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call (802) 989.7419 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com) for more info.

**"Uncle Woody and Me: Family Ties."** On the 50th anniversary of Woody Jackson's first art exhibition, Edgewater Gallery on the Green celebrates his career, the importance of family and the legacy of talent that lives on in Rory Jackson. An opening reception and artist talk will be held on Friday, May 24, from 5-6:30 p.m. On view May 3-June 11.

## JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury

Visit [townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222 for more info.

**"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." On view April 12-June 8

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14



**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. Aries, you may meet an influential ally this week. Chat them up because this is a person you want to have in your network. You never know when you'll need some assistance.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. Taurus, you have real talent, so you should be proud and show off your efforts. Whether it is artistic in nature or you are a whiz with numbers, share your gift with others.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Explore creative possibilities, Gemini. You can use a new hobby right now that keeps you occupied. Look at trends that are popular right now and try one of those.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. Cancer, trust your intuition when you meet someone new this week. You often can get a good read on someone right away. That's an important skill to develop, especially in the workplace.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. There is a lot of potential for socializing right now, Leo. Your calendar will fill up quite quickly with invitations from people in your life. Enjoy the attention.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, take inventory of the things in your life and be real about what you need and what you can get rid of right now. You may be carrying around a lot of baggage you simply don't need.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. You may be feeling extra flirty these next few days, Libra. This will help add a spark to your current relationship or help you find someone new if that is the desire.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Relationship issues at home may be on your mind, Scorpio. Create pockets in your days for deep introspection to process all of the emotions you are feeling.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, if you can't get an answer to something yourself, then you may want to pick the brains of friends or other people in your circle. They may offer unique perspectives.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, you have a lot of self-worth, so stop looking at yourself through a pessimistic lens. Be convinced of your value and ability to assist others around you.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Start feeling good about what the future may hold, Aquarius. There are a lot of possibilities out there, and you're starting to see them peeking out over the horizon.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. You may not be feeling overly social right now, Pisces. Take a few days to spend time alone and sort through your feelings. Over time you may be ready to re-engage.

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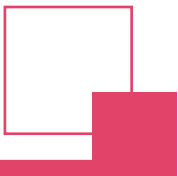
## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 17 — Taj Mahal, Blues musician (82)  
MAY 18 — Tina Fey, actress and comedian (54)  
MAY 19 — Lorraine Hansberry, playwright, director, screenwriter (d)

MAY 20 — Busta Rhymes, rapper (52)  
MAY 21 — Andrei Sakharov, physicist, dissident, Nobel-laureate (d)  
MAY 22 — Mary Cassatt, painter (d)  
MAY 23 — Carl Linnaeus, botanist (d)

# CALENDAR

MAY 16-JUNE 6  
2024



## THURSDAY, MAY 16

### GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB WILDFLOWER HIKE IN WARREN.

Thursday, May 16, Lincoln Peak. Enjoy the effects of altitude on wildflower meadows of the ski trails leading up to Lincoln Peak. Slow to moderate pace with 2,400 feet of elevation change and 5 miles round trip from Sugarbush South. Spectacular views throughout. Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or kencorey53@gmail.com with questions or to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

### HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM MEMBERS RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, May 16, 4:30-6 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Current Henry Sheldon Museum members, and not-yet members, are invited to join museum staff to celebrate the opening of the 2024 season and the new exhibits. Light refreshments served. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/members-reception or call 802-388-2117.

### "NEVER BEFORE SCENE" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. The Addison Repertory Theatre's annual student show, a collection of original, short one-act plays by the students, written as part of the Vermont Young Playwrights

program. Performances will feature not only original works by the students, but desserts created by The Glass Onion, the Career Center's culinary program.

**RODRIGO PLACENCIA IN STARKSBORO.** Thursday, May 16, 7:30 p.m., Starksboro Public Library. Placencia will be playing music that mixes his passion for classical guitar styles, Latin American folk music, and traditional songs from his native Mexico. Free. Part of the 5-Town Musical Library tour.

## FRIDAY, MAY 17

**RIVER WATCH RESTORATION PLANTING IN NEW HAVEN.** Friday, May 17, 9 a.m., Dog Team Rd. Addison County River Watch is partnering with New Haven River Anglers to plant trees along the New Haven River a few miles north of Middlebury. The group will be establishing a riparian buffer that will filter nutrients, reduce erosion, and improve wildlife habitat. More info and directions contact Matthew Witten at 802-434-3236 or acrwcvt@gmail.com. Repeats Saturday, May 18.

**"NEVER BEFORE SCENE" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, May 17, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 See May 16 listing.

## SATURDAY, MAY 18

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN KEENE VALLEY, N.Y.** Saturday, May 18, Hopkins Mountain. Explore this 5.5-mile out-and-back trail off the beaten path of many of the high peaks. This strenuous hike with 2,200 feet elevation gain will be taken at a slow to moderate pace. Open summit offers incredible views of the high peaks; notably the Great Range, highlighted by the jagged profile of Sawteeth. Carpool to the trailhead, about 70 min. from Middlebury. Contact Barry Francis at 802-349-9206 for details and to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB WOMEN'S BACKPACKING WEEKEND ON THE IN EASTERN ADIRONDACKS.** Saturday, May 18-Sunday, May 19, Pharaoh Lake Wilderness. Expect moderate to difficult hiking over two days, with moderate elevation change. This will be a leisurely trip, and beginners or those who have not backpacked in some time are welcome. Limit 8 participants. Contact betheliason@gmail.com for more info. Rain date June 1-2. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

**EARLY BIRD NATURE WALK IN ORWELL.** Saturday, May 18, 8-10 a.m., Mt. Independence State Historic Site, 497 Mount Independence Rd.

**RIVER WATCH RESTORATION PLANTING IN NEW HAVEN.** Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m., Dog Team Rd. See May 17 listing.

**MARITIME MUSEUM OPENING DAY IN FERRISBURGH.** Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Help LCMM celebrate the first day of the 2024 season. Grounds, exhibits, and Museum Store will officially open for all to visit and explore. Check our calendar for additional special activities on this day. No tickets or advance reservations needed. Admission to the museum is free for all visitors.

**CREATE! FAMILY SHARED COOKBOOK ONLINE IN ORWELL.** Saturday, May 18, at 10 a.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Create an online cookbook to share with family and friends using the Google suite. Participants will need a google account. A personal computer and a few recipes and pictures will be helpful to bring along. Presented by Trish Dougherty.

**HUMAN POWERED PARADE IN BRISTOL.** Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Bristol Skate Park, 110 Airport Dr. Bristol's Human Powered Parade brings the many human powered possibilities out for a parade and party of all things

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.	
<b>Channel 1071</b> <b>Friday, May 17</b> Overnight: Green Mountain (GM) Care Board 5 a.m. How to Compost 5:23 a.m. Press Conferences 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 6:30 p.m. Energy Week 0:30 p.m. Burlington Progressives Legislative Update 8:31 p.m. How to Compost <b>Saturday, May 18</b> Overnight: Public Affairs 9:07 a.m. How to Compost 9:30 a.m. The Promises and Pitfalls of Lab-Grown Meat 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs <b>Sunday, May 19</b> Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Energy Week 1:30 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 5:30 p.m. Lab-Grown Meat	6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 8:30 p.m. The News Project- Ranked Choice Voting Discussion with Secretary of State Hanzas 9 p.m. League of Women Voters - Ranked Choice Voting Overview <b>Monday, May 20</b> Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Ranked Choice Voting Overview 5 p.m. Ranked Choice Voting - Hanzas 5:30 p.m. Lab-Grown Meat 10 p.m. Dr. John Campbell <b>Tuesday, May 21</b> Overnight: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 8 a.m. Ranked Choice Voting - Hanzas 8:30 a.m. Ranked Choice Voting Overview 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Selectboard 10:30 p.m. Lab-Grown Meat 11 p.m. Energy Week	<b>Wednesday, May 22</b> Overnight: GM Care Board, Public Affairs 6:30 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Ranked Choice Voting Overview 5 p.m. Ranked Choice Voting - Hanzas 5:30 p.m. Lab-Grown Meat 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs <b>Thursday, May 23</b> Overnight: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Ranked Choice Voting Overview 6 a.m. Ranked Choice Voting - Hanzas 6:30 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 8 a.m. Congregational Services 12:00 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8:30 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10:00 p.m. Dr. John Campbell <b>Channel 1091</b> <b>Friday, May 17</b> 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 a.m. Yestermorrow - State-Level Housing Solutions 10:20 a.m. Trees and Rewilding 11:30 a.m. Cyrus Shaol - What is Artificial Intelligence?	12:31 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. All Brains Belong Club 6:30 p.m. Poem City <b>Saturday, May 18</b> 5 a.m. Nature and Science Programs 8:35 a.m. Tai Chi 9 a.m. What is Artificial Intelligence 10 a.m. Yestermorrow 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. All Brains Belong Club 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6:30 p.m. Nature and Science Programs 8:10 p.m. A Vermonter's Tale of Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail 10 p.m. The Resilient Farm Author Talk with Ben Falk <b>Sunday, May 19</b> 4 a.m. Nature and Science Programs 7:05 a.m. Tai Chi 7:30 a.m. Poem City 12:30 a.m. Ohavi Zedek - The Two Lives of Henrietta Szold 1:20 a.m. Masonry in Early Vermont 2:01 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 6 p.m. Poem City - Hubbard Library - LGBTQ Poetry Reading 7 p.m. Yestermorrow 8:18 p.m. Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail <b>Monday, May 20</b> 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. Nature and Science Programs 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. Mammals of the TAM 6 p.m. The Resilient Farm Author Talk	7:30 p.m. Poem City - Hubbard 8:30 p.m. Poem City - North Branch Nature Center - Natural Selections <b>Tuesday, May 21</b> 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Word Time With Miss Markee 8:35 a.m. Tai Chi 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 2 p.m. VT Women in the Civil War 6 p.m. Crows and their Kin 7:07 p.m. Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail 9 p.m. Crows and their Kin 10:07 p.m. Yestermorrow 11:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ <b>Wednesday, May 22</b> 5 a.m. Moccasin Tracks 6 a.m. Poem City - Hubbard 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. All Brains Belong Club 5:25 p.m. Yestermorrow 9 p.m. Moccasin Tracks 9:36 p.m. VT Women in the Civil War <b>Thursday, May 23</b> 5 a.m. Yestermorrow 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. Kids Yoga 8 a.m. Chair Yoga 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. Moccasin Tracks 5 p.m. Poem City 8 p.m. VT Women in the Civil War 9:30 p.m. All Brains Belong Club	

that roll petroleum free, providing a collective space to share art, pedal powered gadgets, cargo bikes and the many benefits of using bicycles for transportation. The parade route is 2.5 miles winding through the beautiful village of Bristol stopping along the way for street chalking and other community building activities. Post-parade party with music by Ricky and the Goulds. More info at [recreation@bristolvt.org](mailto:recreation@bristolvt.org).

#### FAMILY FUN DAY IN BRISTOL.

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-noon, Bristol Watershed, 4783 Plank Rd. Join Ashley from Evergreen Preschool to explore the watershed. Snacks and goodies included. Free. Space is limited. Register with Evergreen Preschool at [evergreenpreschoolvt.com](http://evergreenpreschoolvt.com).

#### AUTHOR JACK KELLY IN

**FERRISBURGH.** Saturday, May 18, 1-2 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. On LCMM's opening day, author Jack Kelly will discuss the research and highlights of his newest book, "God Save Benedict Arnold: The True Story of America's Most Hated Man." Kelly will sign copies of his new book, which will be available for purchase from the museum's store. Free. Advance registration at [lcmm.org/](http://lcmm.org/) JackKelly.

**DANCE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, May 18, 4-7 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Come dance with us. Joe and Jackie Rivers play a mix of Rock 'n' Roll, Country and some oldies. Line dances for those who love to line dance as well. Kitchen open 4-6 p.m. So come hungry. Free and open to the public.

**MEET THE SINGERS OF "LA FILLE DU REGIMENT" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, May 18, 5 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Join Opera Company of Middlebury for its annual Meet the Singers concert. Enjoy listening to the singers' favorite arias or songs from musical theater. Tickets \$44 with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

**A NIGHT AT THE OPERA IN BRANDON.** Saturday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. Barn Opera House, 1386 Pearl St. An evening of operatic arias, duets, and ensembles from some of opera's favorite operas including: La Traviata, The Barber of Seville, Madama Butterfly, Carmen, The Magic Flute, The Marriage of Figaro, and of course a nod to Rigoletto. The event will be performed by a talented group of Barn Opera/OVT favorites and newcomers, and will be at a reduced cost of \$35 tickets.

**GREEN HERON IN RIPTON.** Saturday, May 18, 7:30 p.m., Ripton Community Coffee House, Route 125, village center. RCCH's final regularly scheduled concert. The music of Green Heron stretches across the entire folk landscape. Old-time, folk, bluegrass,

country, Celtic and blues music are all represented as the band brings the back porch to the stage. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets general admission \$15/ generous \$20-\$25 or pay what you can. Beverages and baked goods available. More info at [rcch.org](http://rcch.org).

## SUNDAY, MAY 19

#### KINGSLAND BAY BICYCLE RIDE.

Sunday, May 19, 9:15 a.m., meets at Shelburne Shopping Plaza left side of the parking area. Champlain Valley Bicycle Club leads this 35-mile (E/M) ride from Shelburne through Charlotte to Kingsland Bay Park and back. The 51-mile (M) ride heads towards Vergennes and climbs to Monkton Ridge, returning through Hinesburg and a 65-mile (M/S) option heads into Huntington but will not have a leader. More info contact leader Josh Simonds at 802-355-4352 or [jsimonds9@gmail.com](mailto:jsimonds9@gmail.com), co-leader Diane Meyerhoff at 802-495-8883 or [diane@thirdsectorassociates.com](mailto:diane@thirdsectorassociates.com), or Donna Leban at [donna.leban@gmail.com](mailto:donna.leban@gmail.com) for social ride sign-ups.

#### FIDDLERS JAM IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. \$3 cover, 50/50 raffle, refreshments available. If you know anyone who plays fiddle or any instrument have them come join us.

## MONDAY, MAY 20

#### VERGENNES CITY BAND REHEARSAL

**IN VERGENNES.** Monday, May 20, 7-9 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. All instrumentalists welcome. For more information contact Sue O'Daniel at 802-349-5906. Additional rehearsals June 3 and June 10.

## THURSDAY, MAY 23

#### PLANT MEDICINE WORKSHOP IN

**MONKTON.** Thursday, May 23, 5:30-8 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 280 Monkton Ridge. Join herbalist Julie Mitchell to learn about sustainable, ethical and accurate wildcrafting, plus garbling (a.k.a. sorting), drying and plant identification. She will also show how to harvest and store herbs for the best nutritive and medicinal value. Cost \$20. Limit 12 students. More info at [russellmemlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:russellmemlibrary@gmail.com).

## FRIDAY, MAY 24

#### GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB TRAIL WORK

**IN RIPTON.** Friday, May 24, Sucker Brook to Middlebury Gap. The trail crew will be clearing drainage structures and blowdowns from Sucker Brook shelter to Middlebury Gap. Total of five miles of hiking with tools from point to point. Contact Ellen Cronan for more information, 908-595-2926. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

#### GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN

**RIPTON.** Friday, May 24, Frost Mountain. Moderate hike of 5.4 miles round trip

up National Forest Road 234, on the west side of Frost Mt. with nice views of the Adirondacks. Meet at the parking lot in East Middlebury on the uphill side of Sand Hill Bridge, on Route 125 over the gorge. There is an option to end our outing with popping into the Waybury Inn for a beverage and snack. Contact Anne Christie at 802-388-4347 (home) or 802-989-9771 (cell) for more information and to sign up. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

## SATURDAY, MAY 25

#### ROKEBY SEASON OPENING IN

**FERRISBURGH.** Saturday, May 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Rokeby opens for the 2024 season. Visitors are welcome to attend the Rokeby History Site Tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. More info at [Rokeby.org](http://Rokeby.org).

#### ART ON THE TRAILS WALK AND NATURAL PIGMENT DEMONSTRATION

**IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, May 25, 10 a.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Join Growing In Process, Middlebury Area Land Trust, and Middlebury Studio School for a free workshop and exhibition in the woods. Hike a short self-guided gallery walk along a TAM trail, with Mira Cabrera's original paintings displayed along the way. Cabrera will demonstrate the process she uses to forage and incorporate natural pigments from the trails into her work. More info at [middleburystudioschool.org](http://middleburystudioschool.org).

#### ARTFUL ESCAPES IN PANTON.

Saturday, May 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Panton Town Hall, 3176 Jersey St. Discover a world of creativity at this art exhibition presented by the Panton Art League and featuring a variety of artistic styles and mediums. Experience a range of artworks including oils, acrylics, mixed media, ceramics, monoprints, and felted sculptures created by local artists.

## TUESDAY, MAY 28

#### GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN

**BRISTOL.** Tuesday, May 28, 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 after the walk. Contact Porter Knight at [knight@gmavt.net](mailto:knight@gmavt.net) or 802-343-3920 for more information. More at [gmcbreadloaf.org](http://gmcbreadloaf.org).

## THURSDAY, MAY 30

#### THE MEAT PACKERS IN FERRISBURGH.

Thursday, May 30, 6 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, Route 7. Rokeby Museum's first Music with the Museum event of the season. An evening of food and music with a community favorite, The Meat Packers. Silent auction to raise funds for Rokeby Museum's Educational Programming.

## FRIDAY, MAY 31

#### CELESTIAL SOIRÉE IN VERGENNES.

Friday, May 31, 7-11 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 528 Main St. Come to the Bixby annual fundraiser — a night to remember under the storied stained-glass dome in Bixby's magnificent marble rotunda. Tickets \$75, include live music and dancing with The Grift, a welcome drink and cash bar, local gourmet eats, and a curated live, silent, and online auction of items and experiences. More info at [bixbyliblibrary.org](http://bixbyliblibrary.org).

#### DONIZETTI'S "LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT"

**IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, May 31, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Witness Marie's spirited journey in Opera Company of Middlebury's production. Raised by soldiers, Marie falls for a rebel, facing war, family tensions and revelations about her nobility. A charming operatic tale of love and loyalty in the Tyrolean Alps. Tickets \$94/\$77/\$61, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## SATURDAY, JUNE 1

#### MIDDLEBURY GARDEN CLUB PLANT

**SALE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, June 1, 9 a.m.-noon, on the Green, next to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Get your garden and house plants — annuals, perennials, vegetable starts, shrubs and more — for the coming season. Plants will be in pots and labeled by name, color and basic care. There will be a table with books and gardening accessories, too. Trays and boxes will be available to carry your selections home.

#### GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN

**BRISTOL.** Saturday, June 1, 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

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 11

**KICK OFF PRIDE MONTH!**

**SEDUCTION SHOWCASE**

*An evening of Drag & Burlesque*

**June 7th  
7-10 PM**

**Vergennes Opera House**

**18+**  **18+**

**For tickets, scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/3JQlh5a](http://bit.ly/3JQlh5a)**

# WOW!



**WE HAVE GIVEN AWAY**

# HALF A MILLION DOLLARS!

**TO THOSE IN NEED IN ADDISON COUNTY!**



We're Women of Wisdom, a charitable giving circle located in Addison County, VT, dedicated to serving our community by supporting individuals, families, and organizations, inspiring generosity of spirit.

### **WOMEN OF WISDOM (WOW)**

was formed in 2006 by a group of civic-minded women intent on giving back to their community. They pooled their resources and set out to make a difference in the towns in which they live. In order to fund this giving circle that uses its resources to empower those in need, they put their heads together and launched Sweet Charity, a resale shop located on Main Street in Vergennes, Vermont.

Fast forward 18 years, the group is now primarily funded through the ever-evolving, highly-popular shop Sweet Charity, which continually provides a revenue source for funding local philanthropic projects chosen by Women of Wisdom.

Sweet Charity sells primarily household items donated by the community and, in turn, Women of Wisdom responds to funding needs that occur within the community and beyond our borders.

### **CURRENT WOW BOARD MEMBERS**

Lizabeth Ryan, Patty Paul, Janice Bosworth, Amanda Bodell, Liz Markowski, Cindy Schultz, Anne Cohn, Jennifer Hatch, Meg Brash, Bo Price, and Lisa Presson.



**WE FEEL GREAT ABOUT BEING ABLE TO GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY**

# THANK YOU!

**OUR CREW RELIES HEAVILY ON THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:**

Donations of household goods, furniture and money through Sweet Charity



Pick up crew to collect donations from households

Volunteers who help in the shop and on our pick-up crew



Sweet Charity's wonderful manager, Lauren Laberge Taddeo



**WE CAN PICK UP LARGER PIECES OF FURNITURE**

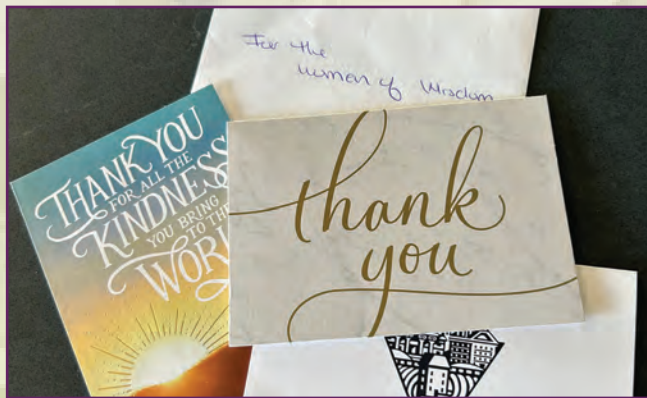
**WE HAVE HELPED FUND SO MANY ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING:**

Are you interested in applying for funding? We'd love to hear from you!

- Open Door Clinic
- Restorative Justice
- Bixby Library
- Greater Vergennes Boys and Girls Club
- Addison County Parent/Child Center
- Students' Peace Initiative at VUHS
- John Graham Shelter
- Vergennes Food Shelf



Check out our website.



- Children's camp
- Car repairs
- Tires
- Student assistance
- Dentures
- Eyeglasses
- Wheelchairs/walkers
- Funeral expenses

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Come to Sweet Charity and help us celebrate! Donate gently used items. Volunteer.

**... AND WE HAVE A BLAST DOING IT!**



802-877-6200  
www.sweetcharityvt.com

# PUZZLES

sponsored by **SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

## ACROSS

- 1. Geological time
- 4. Ooze
- 9. A set of eight
- 14. Obstruction
- 15. Swiss mathematician
- 16. Philosophy
- 17. The night before
- 18. A timid person
- 20. Unifies
- 22. Gangs
- 23. Alternative name
- 24. Acumen
- 28. Cathode-ray tube
- 29. Tantalum
- 30. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 31. Humiliate
- 33. Earthy pigment
- 37. Air Force
- 38. Adult males

- 39. Stiff untanned leather
- 41. Before
- 42. Atomic #18
- 43. Beer mug
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Type of chef
- 49. Midway between north and east
- 50. They \_\_
- 51. Splits
- 55. Walk in a timid manner
- 58. Preserved animal skin with hair
- 59. Popular donut shop item
- 60. You smear it on bagels
- 64. Don't know when yet
- 65. Equal to 10

- amperes
- 66. Synthetic acrylic fiber
- 67. One point south of due east
- 68. Of mixed ancestry
- 69. Home of the Pyramids
- 70. A way to change color

## DOWN

- 1. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 2. Untangle
- 3. One from the U.S.
- 4. Academic terms
- 5. San \_\_ Obispo, in California
- 6. Not healthy
- 7. Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18					19					
20			21					22						
23						24	25						26	27
		28				29					30			
31	32					33		34	35	36			37	
38				39	40								41	
42				43						44	45			
46		47	48				49			50				
51				52	53	54				55			56	57
		58								59				
60	61							62	63				64	
65								66					67	
68								69					70	

		2	6	5	8			
6			1					
				3	2			8
			5		1			6
	9	4				2		
	2			1				4
		3						9
1	4			9				3

## 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**

- 8. Arugula genus
- nymph
- 53. Mandela's party
- 9. VIII
- 34. Gregory \_\_,
- 54. Sierra lake
- 10. Makes a monarch
- American dancer
- 56. Nickname for Elizabeth
- 11. Tormentor
- 35. Denotes past
- 57. Remove from record
- 12. Commercials
- 36. Becoming popular again
- 59. Employee stock ownership plan
- 13. Sprinkle
- 40. Indicates position
- 60. Former NFLer Newton
- 19. Make a mistake
- 41. Came before
- 61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 21. Freshwater fishes
- 45. An extra seed-covering
- 62. Work unit
- 24. Vermont town
- 47. Cheerful
- 63. Town in Cambridgeshire
- 25. Man-made device
- 48. Deli sandwich staple
- 64. Former NFLer Newton
- 26. Entrap
- 52. Skateboarders love them
- 27. Places to store important things
- 31. Accumulate
- 32. Greek mythological

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.



44 Main St  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
(802) 989-7225

Tuesday-Saturday  
10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

info@sparrowartsupply.com  
sparrowartsupply.com  
@sparrowartsupply

## SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK TO OUR NEXT SHOW!

What do you love about summer? We're seeking artwork that showcases the sun-soaked season. Draw inspiration from the warmth of golden rays, the colors of blossoming flowers, the smell of barbecues, the energetic buzz of outdoor music, the nostalgia of childhood memories and more!

**DEADLINE TO ENTER: JUNE 2**

Enter your work for consideration!  
Apply online at [sparrowartsupply.com](http://sparrowartsupply.com)



Call to Artists!

# SUN'S OUT

Apply by June 2

## CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

walk. Contact Porter Knight at knight@gmavt.net or 802-343-3920 for more information. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 2

#### "LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, June 2, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See May 31 listing.

### MONDAY, JUNE 3

#### VERGENNES CITY BAND REHEARSAL IN VERGENNES.

Monday, June 3, 7-9 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. All instrumentalists welcome. For more information contact Sue O'Daniel at 802-349-5906. Additional rehearsal and June 10.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 4

#### AUTHOR ROBERT BRODER IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, June 4, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Broder's book "Reading Together: A Heartwarming Story about Bonding with Your Child Through the Love of Reading" is a positive book to read to your child over the years. It tells the story of a family's love for picture books and the special bond formed through reading together. Broder, who lives in Shelburne, will talk about this wonderful book.



## PET TRIBUTES

Honoring our beloved pets who have passed.

petobits@addisonindependent.com

100 feet. Excellent options for snacks/lunch in Bristol before or after the

#### "LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT" COVER

**PERFORMANCE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join Opera Company of Middlebury for a night with the "La Fille du Régiment" covers (understudies) as they perform the leading roles. Tickets \$39, available at townhalltheter.org.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 6

**DONIZETTI'S "LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, June 6, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Witness Marie's spirited journey in Opera Company of Middlebury's production. Raised by soldiers, Marie falls for a rebel, facing war, family tensions and revelations about her nobility. A charming operatic tale of love and loyalty in the Tyrolean Alps. Tickets \$94/\$77/\$61, available at townhalltheater.org.

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### Brazen

My name is **Brazen** and just as my name suggests, I've got a bold personality! I'm an energetic young man and I love to play with feather wands. I love people and am very affectionate as well. I came to Homeward Bound as a stray and may like to continue being an indoor/outdoor cat in my new home. I don't get along with cats but I seem to get along with dogs.



### Bubbles

My name is **Bubbles** and I'm a truly bubbly guy! I am a 3-year-old stud and I have lots to say. I like being an indoor/outdoor cat and would really enjoy continuing my outdoor adventures in my new home. I love people and get along well with other cats but I haven't met a dog.



### Canyon

My name is **Canyon** and I'm a shy 2-year-old boy. I wasn't socialized in my previous home so I am still getting used to people but so far so good! I spend most of my time in my "Home Sweet Home" cat house and I love to eat chicken and treats from the safety of my home. My ideal home would be somewhere quiet where I can settle in. I get along with other cats but dogs frighten me.



### Cookie

My name is **Cookie** and I'm a very petite older lady. I'm around 12 years old and as sweet as a cookie! Naps are one of my favorite activities but I also enjoy watching birds from the window. My thyroid doesn't work the same as it did when I was younger and I am on a very low-cost medication to help regulate my thyroid. I get along well with dogs and cats as long as they are calm and respectful. I have lived with my sister Indy my whole life and although we are not a bonded pair, we would like to be adopted together.

### Indigo

My name is **Indigo**, or Indy for short! I'm a super affectionate 12-year-old old-lady who would love to sit on your lap for a snooze. Food is one of my favorite things but unfortunately my kidneys don't work as well as they used to, so I am on a special diet now. I get along well with cats and dogs as long as they are relaxed and respectful. I have spent my life with my sister Cookie and although we are not a bonded pair, we would like to be adopted together.



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236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

— MAKE OUTDOOR SPACES WORK FOR YOU —

**A**s warmer weather approaches, it is a great time to consider how you use the outdoor spaces in your life. Whether you rent or own, use public land or private, there are things that you can think about to help make these outdoor spaces work better for you.

BY **BONNIE KIRN**

DONAHUE

time and resources.

If you have a small space, like an entry porch or balcony, think about what you like to do in that space, and try to reflect that in your design.

Would adding a chair make the area feel more welcoming? A chair would have the dual purpose of something that you could sit on when the weather is nice, while also providing

a focal point. Having two chairs invites conversation and offers a place to gather.

For spaces that are too small to have a full garden, consider adding a pot or container to your outdoor space. One or more containers can be used to grow or hold different arrangements depending on the season.

In summer, they could hold annuals that support pollinators like sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*) or zinnias (*Zinnia spp.*). In the winter, they could hold evergreen boughs or willow branches. Depending on the sun exposure, your planting container could also be used for growing food like tomatoes, peppers, ground cherries or herbs.

For larger spaces, take an objective look at your landscape and determine what you have the time and energy to accomplish. Perhaps not every garden bed needs to be weeded and mulched perfectly.



Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension Master Gardener and landscape architect from central Vermont.

Once you decide which areas mean the most to you, you can prioritize those, and manage the other areas less intensively. Getting comfortable with the presence of weeds can be a really freeing experience.

Related to this, if you have a large lawn that you spend hours mowing every week, it might be a good opportunity to think about how much you actually use. Areas that are not used for walking, playing sports or other activities can be transitioned to gardens or meadow.

Meadows are just as beautiful and require far less maintenance. They can be mowed one time every one to three years to keep woody plants from establishing. Meadows also provide important habitat for insects and food for pollinators.

If your access to the outdoors is a public landscape, like a park or community garden, there are numerous gardens across the state to enjoy. Look for respite at these gardens or even consider getting involved with one.

Before the growing season gets going, take the opportunity to think about what you really need and want out of your outdoor spaces. Small additions or simplifying your approach just might give you more time to enjoy your time outdoors.



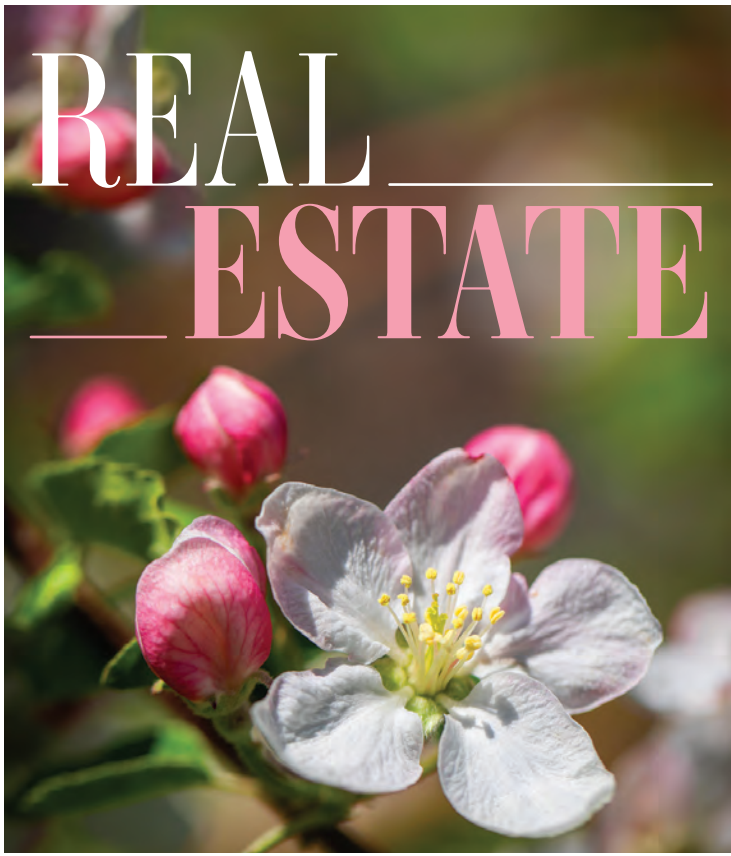
For spaces that are too small to have a full garden, consider adding a pot or container with colorful flowers or vegetables to your outdoor space.



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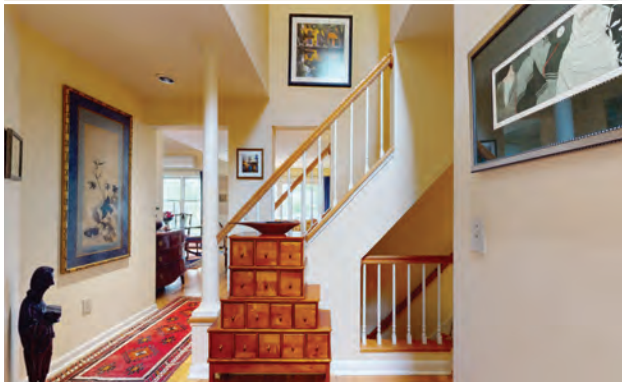
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**EXHIBITS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

**PHOTOPLACE GALLERY**

3 Park Street, Middlebury  
For more info visit [photoplacegallery.com](http://photoplacegallery.com).

**"Portrait: Self and Others."** An exhibition of photographs that show portraits, self- or otherwise, that go beyond the surface to explore a deeper vision of the subject and, hopefully, draw an emotional response from the viewer. Juror Aline Smithson selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view May 3-24.

**SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

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**"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. The exhibit will be on view through May 25

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**"Overview,"** featuring work by Lincoln artist Janet Fredericks. Included in the exhibit are hand-stitched textile pieces, cyanotype prints, mono prints, paintings, and drawings. Fredericks' drawings and paintings are intended to give the sense of entering into the landscape rather than a surface perspective. This follows her lifelong interest in the seen and unseen worlds; spirit and matter. On view at the restaurant Wednesday through Saturday 5:30-9 p.m., through May.



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# Hannah & Bill Sessions show art at Shelburne gallery

**F**ather/daughter duo Hannah and Bill Sessions will present "Night and Day: Reflections on the Vermont Landscape" at the Shelburne Wine and Coffee Shop Annex Gallery. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 4-6 p.m., with an artist talk at 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be on view May 12-June 29.

"I have been a Vermont landscape painter for as long as I can remember, and specifically love the open skies and agricultural vistas of the Champlain Valley," said Hannah in her artist statement. "I started painting nightscapes as part of a show about darkness in 2019 at the former Northern Daughters Gallery. I have mixed feelings about darkness; it can be scary, and the dark months of winter can bring on deep melancholy. Since painting night paintings, however, I have come to appreciate and love the dark. Just as long summer days are relished because of our short, dark days of winter, so do house and barn lights shine bright at night, as they are indicative of the abundance of life and activity juxtaposed by the in descript void of night. Lights at night call to us and place human existence as a beacon amidst the wildness of our rural home, and it is

this dichotomy that keeps me coming back to night paintings.

"I am thrilled to have the stars align so I can be in a show with my Dad!" continued Hannah, who also owns and runs Blue Ledge Farm in Salisbury. "Both of my parents have always supported my painting and it feels great to now highlight my Dad's talent as well. We are so fortunate to be inspired by where we live and to have the opportunity to share it."

"I like to think my love of the countryside comes out in my paintings," said Bill, who's lived in Addison County for over 50 years. "I began to paint in college, beginning with pencils and rulers and paints to fill in the squares. I turned to Vermont landscapes. Somehow, despite my enjoyment of putting paint on canvass, I took 30 years off while raising kids and pursuing a career. Fortunately my love of painting returned. I really enjoy applying paints in short, thick strokes with lots of color. I just really like Vermont landscape colors."

See this dynamic family exhibit at the Shelburne gallery, located at 5288 Shelburne, Rd, in Shelburne. Open hours are

Monday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.



HANNAH SESSIONS



BILL SESSIONS

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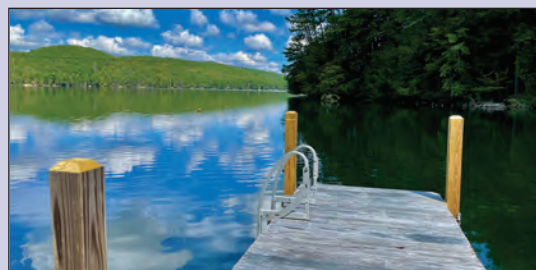
Don't miss this rare opportunity to own this unique property on beautiful Sunset Lake with 90 feet of lake frontage!

This home sits atop a knoll, facing East overlooking the picturesque lake

below. Imagine sitting on the expansive deck, sipping your morning coffee while taking in the lake views and listening to the loons....such a peaceful experience. Walking into the home you will see the amazing lake views from almost every corner of the house.



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\$669,000

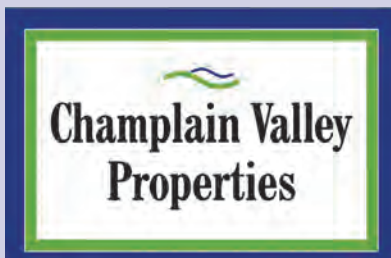


This charming home in Cornwall is located close to Middlebury and has an easy commute to both Burlington and Rutland.

There is plenty of room with 4 bedrooms and multiple living spaces. The two-car garage has room not only for the cars but storage as well. The mountain views from the home are spectacular.



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### ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

cosmology and how the universe was formed are being upended by data now coming to us from this marvelous new instrument for viewing the universe. As a very

amateur physicist (I could never grok the math), I have my own theories. These involve ideas of time (timeless) and space (infinite, but shaped like a three-dimensional spiral) and no beginning or end, no big bang! Some of the data coming back to us from the JWST are aligning with my theories! (But that's another conversation...)

"I will just add that our world, our universe is a place of gorgeous mystery. If my art can, in some small way, bring viewers to this realization, I will have done my job."

Bull has been exhibiting her work worldwide for over 40 years. Her art is included in numerous museum and university collections, ranging from The Museum of Modern Art in New York, The Brooklyn Museum and the Guilin Museum in China. She makes her art in Brandon, and Barcelona, Spain.

Take the drive to Brattleboro and see this mind-expanding exhibit on view May 18-June 30. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, May 18, from 5-7 p.m., and two artist talks in June. Fran Bull will talk on Saturday, June 8, at 4 p.m.; and Paul Bowen will talk on Saturday, June 22, at 5 p.m.

For regular hours and more information visit [mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com](https://mitchellgiddingsfinearts.com) or call 802-251-8290.



"Ancient light" by Fran Bull, 24" x 18", acrylic-on-canvas. This is one of the many pieces that will be on view at the Mitchell • Giddings Fine Arts gallery in Brattleboro from May 18-June 30.



A special section of the Addison Independent

# HOME



# Garden

Thursday, May 16, 2024



## INSIDE

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Dandelions: friend or foe?	10C
How to hire a contractor	12C

### On the cover:

**BUILDING SITE MANAGER** James Needham, above, measures up the side of a home that Salamander Construction is building off Munger Street in Middlebury early this month. Left, violets have made themselves known in lawns and gardens around Addison County this month — enjoy them while they're here.



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# Plan home chores for warm weather

VERMONT — With spring cleaning on everyone's agenda, Efficiency Vermont has some tips that can help you tidy up and plan ahead for warm weather. Taking steps now could even help reduce your energy bills and save money.

"Small changes can have a big impact on your home and on the environment," said Amanda Kolifrath, energy advisor with Efficiency Vermont. "Whether you own or rent your home, or whether you're trying to 'green up' your community or your kitchen, there are easy steps you can take during spring cleaning — with the added benefit of saving energy and usually a little money, too."

To green up your home and keep a little more green in your pocket, Efficiency Vermont suggests:

- Spring forward by investing in clean technology. Need to replace a major appliance? Check for energy-saving options at Efficiency Vermont's marketplace. Consider an air purifier to fight the pollen that's just around the corner, a dehumidifier to dry out from spring showers, or a smart thermostat to keep your home at the perfect temperature no matter the season.

- Work efficiency into your spring cleaning routine. Regularly cleaning common appliances and systems in your home can optimize their performance. That means they use less energy and save you money. Clean out dust from bathroom fan covers and from under your fridge. Sweep or vacuum near any vents, ducts, or registers. Clear out dust and grease from kitchen stove hoods and exhaust fans. Brush away lint and other debris from your clothes dryer's exhaust hose and filter, and any exterior vents for your dryer, heating system, or water heater. Keeping these systems clean with regular cleaning will maximize their efficiency.

- Plan ahead for big-picture savings. Ready to weatherize after an all-too-chilly winter? Or maybe you've heard how heat pumps are

all the rage — not just for heating, but also a summertime superstar because they can cool your home, too? No matter what your home needs, spring is the perfect time to think ahead. Start with a Virtual Home Energy Visit to get expert advice on improvements big and small for your living space. If your heating system is getting close to retirement, learn about how heat pumps could meet your home's heating needs — and bring the added benefits of air conditioning to your home at the same time.

- Schedule annual maintenance for your heating / AC system. You should have a professional clean and service both indoor and outdoor components of your home's heating, ventilation, or air conditioning (HVAC) system once a year. This can ensure your furnace, boiler, wood or pellet stove, or heat pump is working and ready for next winter (or the next chilly day). And because heat pumps also provide air conditioning, spring cleaning is key to getting them ready to keep you cool all summer.

- Spruce up the filters in the machines that keep you warm all winter. Spring cleaning is a great time to check on your heat pump, wood stove, furnace, or boiler. Replace or clean any filters on your heat pump, ductwork, air purifiers, and related systems to ensure they work well and efficiently. You should clean or replace these filters every few months (or more frequently if you have pets, if the machine is near your kitchen, if live on a dirt road, or if you use it frequently). You should also clean out any ductwork in your home, too. And if you have portable air purifiers, clean and consider replacing those filters, too.

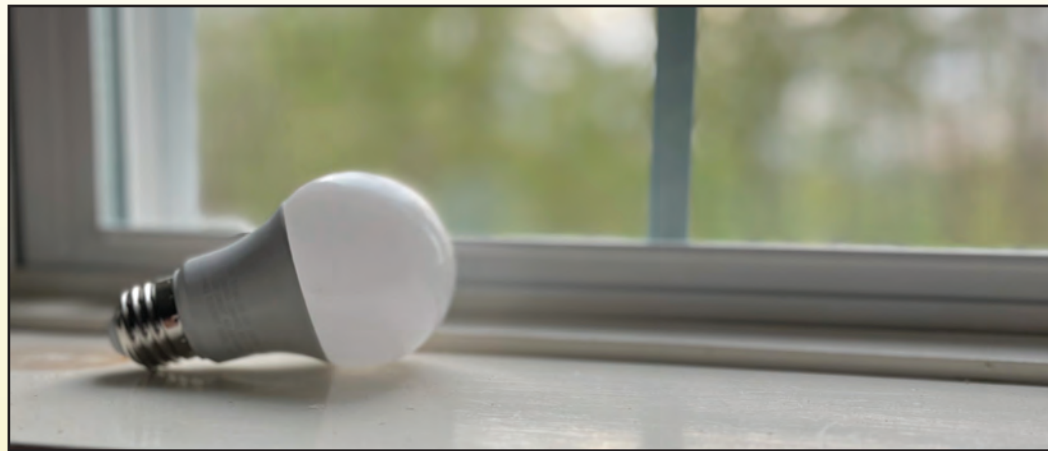
- Electrify your lawn care. Whether you're replacing old gas-powered tools or investing in new equipment for upcoming projects, battery-powered or plug-in lawn care tools like electric lawnmowers, leaf blowers, or trimmers are the way to go. They're quieter

and cheaper to operate — electricity costs less than gas — and charging a battery or plugging in is usually easier than keeping a gas can at hand. Electric tools are also much cleaner and greener compared to their gas-powered counterparts. According to the EPA, using a gasoline-powered lawnmower for one hour emits as much pollution as driving a car 45 miles! Keep in mind some electric lawn care rebates are available in Vermont.

- Manage your home's moisture. Moisture and water in your basement can be a serious hazard to the health of your home—and to the people living inside. It's best to take care of any dampness, condensation, or standing water sooner rather than later. Follow steps at [tinyurl.com/manage-moisture](http://tinyurl.com/manage-moisture) to fix a wet, damp, or leaky basement. If you think you may already have mold, go to [tinyurl.com/CDC-mold-recs](http://tinyurl.com/CDC-mold-recs) for guidelines to clean it up. Addressing the underlying moisture problem will help save energy and money in the long run, and a dehumidifier can help remove any remaining moisture in your home. Make sure it's ENERGY STAR-certified and take advantage of Efficiency Vermont's rebate (with extra savings for renters).

- Swap your light bulbs for something greener. LED bulbs use a lot less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs or even compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. That can save you money over the bulb's lifetime. And speaking of lifetime, LEDs last a lot longer, too: the Department of Energy estimates an LED bulb can last for up to 50,000 hours, compared to 10,000 hours for CFLs and just 2,000 hours for incandescent bulbs.

Have any lingering clean-up questions? Get in touch! Contact Efficiency Vermont's Customer Support team with any questions about your energy use, and to get help taking control of your energy bills. Call (888) 921-5990, or send an email to [info@efficiencyvermont.com](mailto:info@efficiencyvermont.com).



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# Rebates make heat pumps more affordable

WINOOSKI — Vermont households can save thousands of dollars on new heat pump water heaters, an ultra-efficient, all-electric system that uses heat pump technology to meet a home's hot water needs for cooking, bathing, laundry and more.

A new Efficiency Vermont offer (see [tinyurl.com/efficiency-VT-rebates](https://tinyurl.com/efficiency-VT-rebates)) covers up to 100% of costs for income-eligible households to buy and install new heat pump water heaters.

Low-income households can receive 100% of the equipment and installation costs of a new heat pump water heater, up to \$5,000. Moderate-income households can get 90% cash back, up to \$4,500.

"Water heating is usually a home's second-highest energy cost. These water heaters use just a fraction of the energy of traditional models, which means installing a heat pump water heater saves money — and with Vermont's low-carbon electricity, they're also climate-friendly," said Peter Walke, managing director of Efficiency Vermont. "This offer makes the incredible efficiency of heat pump water heaters available to more Vermonters — a critical part of ensuring everyone can share the benefits of clean technology and a healthier planet."

Heat pump water heaters provide hot water for a home's kitchen, bathroom, and for clothes washing.

The benefits of heat pump water heaters include:

**The same hot water, less energy:** Electric heat pump water heaters are up to three times more efficient than standard electric

resistance units. That means you'll get the same amount of hot water for just a fraction of the energy — and a fraction of the cost.

**An efficient and affordable solution:** When it comes to replacing a water heater, electric heat pump water heaters typically offer the best balance of up-front cost, ease of installation, and savings over time.

**Proven heat pump technology:** Heat pumps use electricity and a refrigerant to move heat from one place to another, rather than burning fuel to generate heat. This means heat pump water heaters can use small amounts of energy to create big results—in this case, enough hot water for your entire home.

**Added benefits of heat pumps:** Heat pump water heaters bring the extra benefit of dehumidifying nearby spaces. They also cool their surroundings, making them ideal for basement installations.

**An option no matter how you heat your home:** It's possible to switch to a heat pump water heater whether your home currently heats with fossil fuels, wood, or electricity—and regardless of how your home currently generates hot water.

The heat pump water heater offer is possible through \$5 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The offer was launched early in September 2023 to support Efficiency Vermont's flood recovery rebates for low- and moderate-income households. Now partnerships with Burlington Electric Department (BED) and Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) will make this offer available to low- and moderate-income households statewide.

"Since our teams started installing heat pump water heaters in 2022, we've seen demand grow," said VGS President and CEO Neale Lunderville. "These appliances are super-efficient, help dehumidify spaces, and result in reduced carbon emissions. With the rollout of enhanced water heating incentives, there's never been a better time to make the switch to a heat pump water heater." VGS notes customers who opt for a heat

pump water heater will save money if they're currently using a standard tank-style water heater.

Heat pump water heaters are suitable for most homes, but have unique requirements to consider. They are larger than conventional water heaters and, due to the way heat pump technology works, they require adequate space for airflow and clearance around the unit. Because of their noise and their cooling effect on the surrounding air, they're best suited to basements or similar spaces not within a home's living spaces. An Efficiency Excellence Network (EEN) contractor can help identify whether heat pump water heaters are suitable for a given home.

Households whose income makes them ineligible for this offer can still access a \$600 rebate on heat pump water heaters, with additional savings from partner utilities including Washington Electric Co-op, municipalities served by VPPSA, and Burlington Electric. Efficiency Vermont's Home Energy Loan also offers low-interest financing for working with an EEN contractor on eligible home energy projects, including heat pump water heater installations. In addition to the \$600 rebate, rental property owners can get \$400 back on heat pump water heaters installed for rental units, either in the unit itself or in common areas like basements. For VPPSA member utilities, rental properties are eligible for an \$800 "Do More" bonus for four or more eligible products per rental unit or property.

In addition to Efficiency Vermont's offers, heat pump water heaters are eligible for federal Energy Efficiency Home Improvement tax credits. Homeowners can claim a 30 percent federal tax credit (up to \$2,000 per year) on the cost of a heat pump water heater, plus installation.

Rebates from Efficiency Vermont and utilities have helped Vermonters install more than 18,000 heat pump water heaters during the past decade. Vermont was among the first states to support retail and distributor programs for heat pump water heaters.



## Watch out for signs of plumbing problems

The drip of a faucet, the bang of pipes and the visible signs of a leak under the sink are some notable indicators of plumbing problems. Other, potentially serious issues may not be so evident. How can homeowners tell if they have potential plumbing problems? The following are some sights and sounds that indicate it is time to call in a plumber.

**Banging or clanking:** Plumbers refer to these noises as water hammer. This is when a rush of water forces through the pipe and bumps into a closed valve, producing a metallic noise. Something is in the pipe that is restricting water flow. Over time, the flow of water meeting an obstacle could loosen pipe joints as the water tries to find an easier work-around.

**Pipe discoloration:** If there is any sign of discoloration on pipes, particularly rust, it could be a symptom of a dripping sink or drain line that is slowly leaking. A slow leak can eventually turn into a big mess if left unattended.

**Sewer smells:** Pipes need traps and vents. Traps are designed to prevent sewer gas from entering the home, while vents channel sewer odor up to the roof. If there are sewer smells, it could mean a trap has dried out or a vent line is cracked.

**Low water pressure:** If you turn on the faucet and the water pressure is poor, dripping could be the result of a clog or a leak somewhere in the system. Pipes that are improperly sized for a home also can affect pressure.

**Sluggish drains:** Clearing

drains is perhaps the only plumbing problem that homeowners should address themselves. More often than not, drains that fail to drain quickly have a blockage such as hair or other debris. If attempts to clear the drain do not work, it is best to bring in a professional plumber.

**Shaking sounds:** Water can cause occasional noises, but if the sounds are frequent, the pipes are not secured firmly enough. A plumber will need to tighten the mounting straps or even completely replace them.

Plumbing issues are nothing to take lightly, as small problems can quickly escalate and cause thousands of dollars in damage.

— Metro Creative



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## Energy Incentive Calculator helps figure costs

MONTPELIER — As more Vermonters look to save money and cut planet-warming emissions, a new online tool launched last month.

The Vermont-specific “incentive calculator,” ([tinyurl.com/VT-energy-incentives](http://tinyurl.com/VT-energy-incentives)), built by national electrification nonprofit Rewiring America, gives households a personalized list of the many federal, state, and utility rebates and offers they can use for climate-friendly clean technologies and money-saving efficiency upgrades. The goal is to help Vermonters save money while improving efficiency and adopting clean technologies that use Vermont’s low-carbon electricity, rather than burning fossil fuels and emitting climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

Vermont is among the first to premiere a state-specific tool with features like:

- **Customized results:** Users can enter their ZIP code, household size, utility, and other information to see a personalized list of federal, state, and utility offers that meet their needs and goals — and related offers that can help them complete multiple projects at once.

- **Climate-friendly green technology:** The calculator

displays offers for emissions-free heating technologies like ultra-efficient heat pumps, plus other heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) options. The tool also includes offers to help Vermonters electrify their home with electric panel and wiring upgrades, electric vehicles, solar panels, and home battery storage.

- **Planning ahead for opportunities to go green:** The new tool helps households plan for projects like weatherization, heat pumps, or other green replacements for appliances like stoves and oven ranges, clothes dryers, water heaters, and more.

- **An open-source tool for everyone:** Rewiring America’s open source tool can be placed on other websites, allowing other organizations to share all the tool offers with their clients, customers, and members — at no cost.

Both U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., and U.S. Rep. Becca Balint, D-Vt., applauded the launch of the tool and the federal incentives the calculator helps people access. Both championed the simple way for Vermonters to see what incentives they are eligible for.

The calculator brings together federal incentives and tax breaks from multiple sources, including

programs funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and federal tax credits through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The calculator will include any future customer-facing IRA opportunities that could become available in Vermont.

Efficiency Vermont Managing Director Peter Walke said the incentive calculator is one way Vermont is working toward a sustainable and equitable future.

“We need to make efficient solutions and clean technologies available to all Vermonters, especially those struggling with high energy burdens and aging heating systems,” he said. “This incentive calculator helps Vermont households see all of the support they can get. It’s just one part of a concentrated effort to ensure everyone can access these promising technologies and realize an affordable clean energy future.”

The tool launches with support from the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, which works with partners and advocates working to help Vermont households transition to more affordable, resilient, and climate-friendly heating systems, appliances, and vehicles.

“The essential energy

**THIS ONLINE CALCULATOR helps Vermonters find out what financial incentives are available to help them pay for energy upgrades to their home.**

revolution will require hundreds of thousands of different kitchen table, conference room, and Town Hall conversations about how to access and afford cleaner energy solutions,” said Johanna Miller, energy and climate program director at the Vermont Natural Resources Council and Coordinator of the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network. “I’m excited

that this tool will help make those conversations easier by giving people and communities a quick glimpse into how they can make the finances work to make investments that are good for them — and the planet.”

Rewiring America, the national nonprofit focused on the electrification of America’s homes, buildings, and communities,

built the open-source tool that premieres on Efficiency Vermont’s website, but can be embedded in other websites to promote clean energy technologies to Vermonters. Rewiring America estimates that, in addition to incentives and tax credits, U.S. households can save \$1,600 a year on their energy bills by electrifying, including switching their household driving to an EV.



## Learn how to prevent electrical fires in your home

A person’s home should be a safe haven. Too often, however, there may be dangers lurking in a home that can compromise the safety of residents.

Electrical fires are no joke. The Hartford insurance company says electrical failure or malfunctions account for almost 34,000 home fires per year. The National Fire Protection Association says they can contribute to 440 deaths and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage annually.

Older homes may be most vulnerable to electrical fires, as such structures were not designed to handle the demands of modern living. The insurance experts say half of all homes in the United States have electrical systems that were installed before garage door openers, high-tech coffee makers, and many computers became must-have items. And the Electrical Safety Foundation International says homes built before 1973 with overloaded electrical systems pose a number of safety threats.

Overloaded circuits are not the only contributor to electrical fires. Damaged wiring characterized

by worn, frayed or loose wires can cause fires. Malfunctioning appliances or those improperly maintained also can create home fires. Another contributor is poorly installed extension cords and power strips, as well as faulty outlets and switches around homes.

Homeowners can take various steps to reduce the risk of electrical fires at home.

- Install arc fault circuit interrupters. AFCIs are special types of circuit breakers that help prevent fires caused by nicked or frayed wiring. An AFCI gets tripped and cuts off power when an electrical problem is detected before a fire can start. In 2022, the National Electric Code started requiring AFCIs in bedrooms, and by 2017 they have been mandated throughout homes.

- Conduct a home electrical inspection. All homes more than 40 years old should be inspected to ensure their electrical systems can handle modern demands. A qualified electrician can make recommendations regarding replacing breakers

and suggest other modifications to improve safety.

- Turn to automatic shut-offs. Homeowners can use appliances and additional devices that automatically shut off after a set period of time. This can reduce the risk of overheating.

- Rely on timers or smart devices. Timers and smart home devices can give homeowners control of electrical components like appliances or lights from a remote area. This enables users to turn an appliance on or off to reduce overheating or avoid additional risk factors for electrical fires.

- Don’t go DIY, unless you feel lucky. Choosing to work with a professional electrician rather than doing electrical work oneself can help reduce electrical fire risk considerably. Electricians know how to work on electrical systems safely to prevent damage to wires and components, and also safeguard themselves against shock.

Risk for electrical fires at home can be reduced with technology and other strategies.

— Metro Creative



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## Year-Round Hazardous Waste Collection

**The HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open to residents from any of the District’s member towns.**

Most items are accepted from residents free of charge.

Businesses must pay for disposal and must call 388-2333 for an appointment.

Common items include:

Acetone	Drainer opener/cleaner	Mercury thermometers	Primers or shellacs
Acids	Driveway sealer	Mercury thermostats	Rechargeable batteries
Adhesives	Dry cleaning solvents	Mineral spirits	Roach traps/poison
Algaecides	Flea & tick killer	Mothballs	Rug/upholstery cleaner
Aerosols	Fluorescent bulbs*	Motor oil	Solvent-based Glues
Antifreeze	Fly killer	Mouse/rat poison	Stains
Ant killer	Formaldehyde	Nail polish	Stump remover
Ammonia	Fuel additives	Nail polish remover	Tars or resins
Auto body filler	Fungicides	Naphtha	Transmission fluid
Automotive fluids	Furniture polish	Oil-based paint	Tub & tile cleaner
Chlorine bleach	Gasoline	Oily waste	Varnish
Brake fluid	Hair dyes	Oven cleaner	Weed killer/fertilizer
Bug spray	Kerosene	Paint thinner/turpentine	Wood preservative
Button cell batteries	Latex paint	Parts cleaner	
Contact cement	Lead paint chips	Pesticides/herbicides	
Deck sealer	Lead-acid batteries	Photographic chemicals	
Diesel fuel	Lime/rust remover	Pool chemicals	



Household hazardous waste includes any unused product that is poisonous, reactive, corrosive, or flammable.

You can easily identify hazardous products by reading packaging labels. Look for key words such as **Warning! Danger! Poison! Caution!**

Improper disposal of these products poses a risk to human health and the environment.

\*All compact fluorescents (CFLs) are accepted at no cost; other types of general purpose fluorescent bulbs are free to recycle in quantities of 10 or fewer per day. A per-bulb nominal fee applies for more than 10.

**Not accepted:** laboratory chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fireworks, flares, explosives, smoke detectors, ammunition, and radioactive waste.



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# Take advantage of two local weatherization workshops

## MIDDLEBURY

A Vermont non-profit organization called ReSOURCE, which has offices in Burlington, Barre and Hyde Park, is bringing its six-week, hands-on “Weatherization 101” training to Middlebury this summer. This six-week training starts July 1.

The course provides:

- Hands-on experience with weatherization and construction tools and techniques.
- The opportunity to earn OSHA 10 certification.
- Full-time job placement in the weatherization and construction industry for work-ready candidates.

The goal of this program is to provide training and job placement to Vermonters ready for full-time employment in the trades. Tuition is free to trainees, who also earn \$500/week training stipend. The classes will meet Monday – Friday, 9 a.m.–4

p.m. Detailed information and an online application can be found at [resourcevt.org/training-programs/weatherization-101](http://resourcevt.org/training-programs/weatherization-101).

### What You’ll Learn

**Weatherization:**  
Learn the principles of home-energy efficiency and building science.

The curriculum follows the Department of Energy’s Weatherization Installer/Technician guidelines.

**Carpentry & Construction:**  
Students will have hands-on experience with:

- The proper and safe use of construction hand and power tools.

- Common construction and weatherization vocabulary and job-site rules.

- Construction math, jobsite safety, construction drawings and blueprints.

- Each student will be equipped with the necessary tools of the trade, and will learn to work collaboratively with others accomplishing projects.

- Class time will be split between seminar-style training and hands-on building and weatherization projects.

### Professional Development:

Working together with ReSOURCE’s employment counselor, students will:

- Explore careers in the weatherization and home-energy fields.
- Develop a weatherization-specific resume.
- Build job-searching and job-retention skills.

- Fine-tune their interviewing abilities.
- Meet with hiring weatherization employers.

### OSHA 10 Jobsite Safety Certification:

Students have the opportunity to earn:

- OSHA-10 certification — an essential certification for anyone entering the profession and one valued by employers.

### Work Experience and Job Placement:

For the final two weeks of the program, work-ready participants will be placed in on-the-job work experiences with hiring employers. The Employment Counselor works individually with students to find a job placement that meets their individual needs and professional goals.

## STARKSBORO

Two energy education programs this weekend will present a workshop on insulation and air sealing with local partners who can help you weatherize your home.

The Home Heat Transfer workshop will take place at the Starksboro Public Library on Saturday, May 18, at 2 p.m. The library is at 2827 Route 116, right in the village.

Learn how to help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer — while also saving money — in the winter at this free workshop. Alex Levin from Vermont Energy Education Program, or VEEP, will be leading. Experience hands-on learning and demonstrations showing the importance of air sealing and insulating your home.

Those attending will receive a \$20 grocery store gift certificate — thanks to the generosity of VEEP.

Pre-registration is required. To do so, email [rwarren@vtc.edu](mailto:rwarren@vtc.edu) or call 802-952-8903

The event is supported by the Starksboro Energy Committee, Starksboro Public Library, and New Community Project VT.

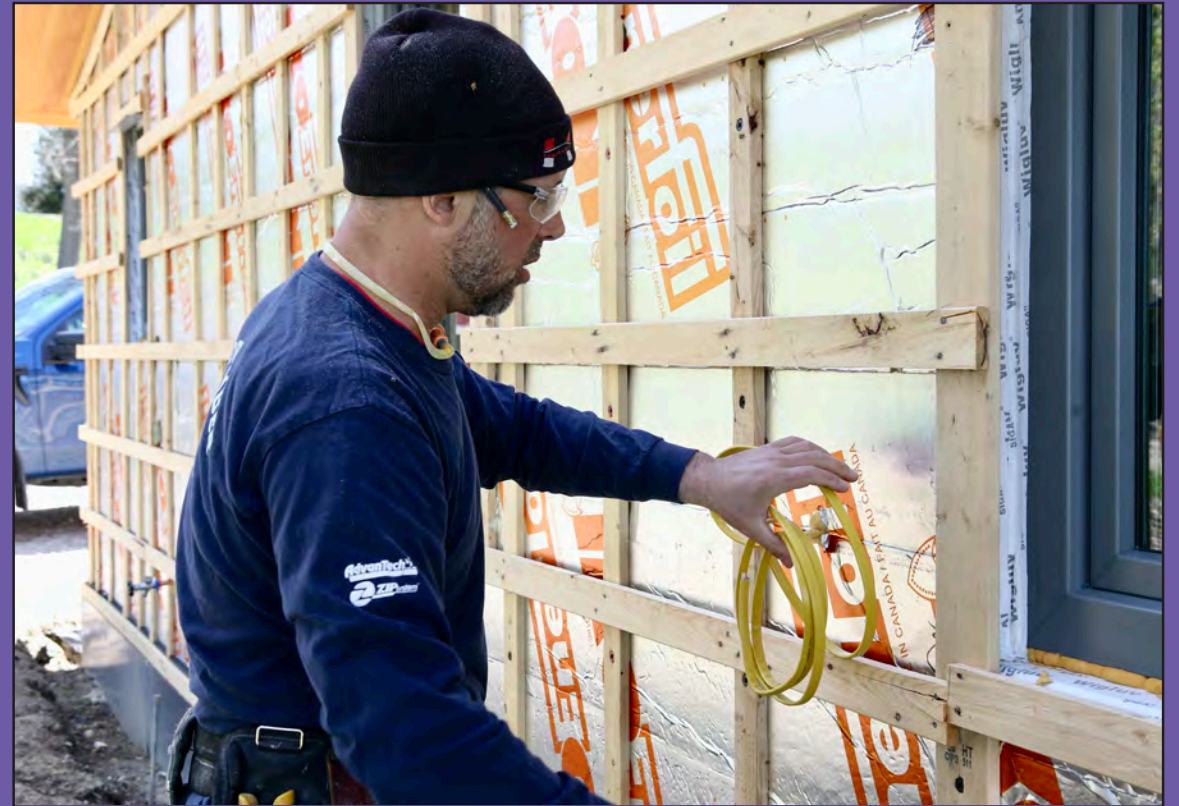
For more info head online to [tinyurl.com/veepworkshop](http://tinyurl.com/veepworkshop).



### Inside

BRIGHT ORANGE CONDUIT sticking out of the cement floor is easy to spot in this home under construction off Plank Road in Bristol. Homeowner Shawn Russell is nearing completion of the exterior, but still has some work to do on the interior.

Independent photo/Steve James



### Outside

BUILDING SITE MANAGER James Needham pulls electrical wire through the outside wall of a home that Salamander Construction is building off Munger Street in Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James



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# Destructive worms threaten local gardens, forests

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — As warmer weather beckons Addison County residents outdoors this spring, there's an uninvited guest they should keep watch for in their gardens, lawns and fields: jumping worms.

The creepy-crawlies look similar to earthworms but are actually an invasive species originally from Asia that consumes and degrades soils, killing plants and setting off a cascading effect on the surrounding environment.

"The reason why many people are worried about jumping worms, at least ecologists, is because they change woodlands a lot," explained Josef Görres, professor of Ecological Soil Management at the University of Vermont.

Nearly 100 community members packed the Congregational Church of Middlebury on April 23 to hear from Görres and other experts about how to identify and combat jumping worms.

UVM postdoctoral researcher Maryam Nouri-Aiin and Emily Johnston, public outreach coordinator at the Addison County Solid Waste Management District, also spoke at the event. The presentation was sponsored by the Pollinator Pathway of Addison County, UVM Extension Master Gardener Program and Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife.

**GET TO KNOW THE WORM**

Asian jumping worms likely first wriggled their way into the United States at the beginning of the 20th century, Görres said.

How did they get here? "(The worms) probably came with trade with Japan," Görres said. "First of all, here on the east coast, (likely) cherry blossoms brought them over for the first time, and there have probably been many more introductions since then."

The arrival of jumping worms was not the first time non-native worms had wreaked havoc on U.S. soils. The earthworms many gardeners welcome today came to North America with European settlers during the 1600s,

infiltrating soil that was largely worm-free.

"They cause similar problems (to jumping worms) in that they change the soil properties and that changes many other things as well," Görres said.

Jumping worms have compounded the impact of their European counterparts by causing their own trouble in invaded soils.

They do so by devouring the upper organic layer of soil, altering its texture and composition.

"That organic layer goes with a whole bunch of other things, such as seed bank of the forests, mycorrhizal (essentially symbiotic) connections to the roots, the roots themselves could be in there," Görres said. "That's where a lot of the fertility of the soil is, so once that goes away, things change."

Jumping worms consume the top layer of healthy, spongy soil and replace it with a granular soil with worm castings. This modified soil resembles large coffee grounds and lacks the nutrients certain plants, animals and other organisms need to survive.

That structure also makes invaded soils more vulnerable to erosion, which can lead to further loss of nutrients.

"Forest soils are not supposed to erode, even in big storms," Görres said. "That organic layer is really holding things together very well, but once you have this modification by the Asiatic worms you have continuous erosion."

The alteration of soils has a ripple effect on the surrounding environment as it changes the soil composition and chemistry that many plants and animals rely on. As a result, a jumping worm invasion can result in loss of biodiversity.

The worms can have a negative impact in and around agricultural fields, as they create burrows that allow nutrients to flow into nearby waterways more easily and for carbon dioxide to release into the atmosphere.

Jumping worms also pose a threat to a key plant in Vermont: sugar maple trees. The

worms significantly hinder the regeneration of maple trees by consuming the layer of leaf litter on forest floors, which leaves the trees more susceptible to insects and diseases.

"So, buy a lot of maple syrup and put it in your cellar in case one day we run out," Görres joked.

**SLOWING THE SPREAD**

The effect of jumping worms on their surrounding environment is significant, but Görres said there's hope for slowing their spread and managing invasions.

The first step is knowing how to identify jumping worms, which can resemble other earthworms like nightcrawlers. Unlike those worms, adult jumping worms have a smooth, milky-white collar known as a clitellum close to their head that wraps around their entire body.

Adult jumping worms can also be distinguished by their thrashing movements. When disturbed, the worms flail or jump wildly from side to side, a characteristic that gives them their name.

Knowing how to spot a jumping worm is a key part of preventing the spread of the invasive species, along with remaining vigilant about the use of soil, mulch and potted plants.

"The best time to intervene in any kind of invasion is before the invasion happens," Görres said. "Prevention is the cheapest way of dealing with the problem."

Görres said one way humans unknowingly spread jumping worms is through leaf mulch.

"So, you rake your leaves, put them in a bag and take them somewhere else, and then someone else comes up and says, 'Can I have some of that leaf mulch,' and they take the leaf mulch and the worms with them," he explained.

Limiting the use of your leaf mulch to your own property is one way to prevent the spread of jumping worms. Other tips for preventing invasion include:

- Checking the soil and roots of potted plants and trees for signs of jumping worms before planting



**ASIAN JUMPING WORMS**, shown here as juveniles at a recent talk in Middlebury, can pose a significant threat to gardens, lawns and forests. The creatures consume a key layer of organic matter in soil, which has a ripple effect on the surrounding environment.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

them in your yard.

- Cleaning equipment and tools of compost, soil and other debris before moving from one site to another.

- Rinsing soil from the roots of seedlings and small plants before sharing or moving them.

Johnston also cautioned residents to check the worms they purchase online or elsewhere to ensure they're getting red wiggler or other earthworms and not their jumpy counterpart.

"If it seems like a sketchy site or you get the worms and they look nothing like red wiggler worms, it's a safe bet that they might not be red wigglers," she said. "Err on the side of caution. It's a lot about knowing your source because we do not want to spread this material."

Gardeners can also "solarize" their mulch or soil to try to eliminate jumping worms before use. Soil solarization consists of

placing a clear plastic tarp over to heat up the soil underneath.

Jumping worms can't survive in temperatures of more than 150 degrees Fahrenheit, so solarizing can help kill both cocoons and adult worms.

"Sterile is never 100% sterile, so there's always something that survives, but at least you get the numbers down," Görres said.

As for those who find jumping worms on their property, there are some steps available to manage the invasion, such as hand plucking the worms from infiltrated soil.

"If you have a routine of weeding, weed the worms as well. Put the worms into a bucket of soapy water and that will kill the worms and then you can put them on your compost pile safely," Görres said.

Görres noted there's currently no registered vermicide available to combat jumping worms, though Nouri-Aiin is currently

experimenting with the use of the mycoinsecticide BotaniGard to control the species.

Nouri-Aiin emphasized those experiments have thus far only taken place inside a greenhouse environment and that its use or that of pesticides presents things to consider.

"There's always tradeoffs," she said. "Sometimes it may be better to adapt to the worms. Maybe to use solarization, collect the leaves that might have juveniles and heat those. There are ways; it doesn't have to be just pouring chemicals."

As community members wrestle with jumping worms and await further solutions, Görres encouraged residents to not let the creatures get the best of them.

"Let's not leave this room without hope," he said. "It's really important to me that we get rid of some of that anxiety that goes with jumping worms."

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## Empty nest?

### Time to repurpose that empty bedroom

It can be bittersweet when adult children decide the time has come to move out of the family home. Parents perhaps get their first trial run of this scenario when their children go off to college or enlist in the military. Rooms are left empty, if only for a certain period of time. Eventually, those rooms will remain empty as adult children move out of the house for good.

Converting a child's bedroom into an area for adults may take some planning. It can be exciting to regain space, but at the same time, it can be disheartening to convert a child's bedroom once and for all. When the time comes and homeowners are emotionally ready to tackle bedroom conversions, these tips can help the process go smoothly.

- Repurpose the space for them. Give a childhood bedroom an adult spin without changing too much. If furniture is in good shape, replace the bedding, change the flooring, swap out artwork, and remove "youthful" items like toys, trophies and other collectibles. When the child comes home to visit, he or she will still feel comfortable in the space.
- Create extra storage. The bedroom can be transformed into a walk-in closet or dressing space. According to the design experts at Houzz, many clients request this type of dressing room situation. There's a bonus if the layout allows the space to connect to the owner's suite or bathroom. This is a major overhaul, so homeowners should enlist a professional contractor.
- Make a fitness center. A bedroom can be turned into a home gym to make working out more convenient. Homeowners should take inventory of equipment they may have and then figure out where existing and new equipment will go. They may need to consult a structural engineer to ensure that the flooring can bear the weight of additional equipment.
- Create a workspace. One of the best ways to transform adult children's bedrooms is to convert the spaces into home offices. Those who have been setting up "desks" at dining room tables or elsewhere may be excited about the prospects of finally having a private, dedicated space to work from home.
- Turn it into a craft room. The bedroom can be converted into a space to explore hobbies and various other interests. A dedicated craft space, a reading nook, a place to store photography equipment, or another function can serve as a useful way to repurpose an empty bedroom.

Empty nesters have many possibilities when it comes to converting their children's old bedrooms into adult spaces.

— Metro Creative





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**Up it goes**

JAMES NEEDHAM AND Jeremiah Tinker are part of the team from Salamander Construction that are building a new home off Munger Street in Middlebury. Early this month we see, clockwise from right, Needham, the site manager, secures some electrical wire through a hole in the joist, Needham and Tinker, a carpenter, lay out some boards they will add to the house that day, Needham sizes up the framework for the sheathing on the outside of the abode, the site manager makes sure the temporary railing is secure.

Independent photos/Steve James



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**The details**

BEFORE THIS WOODEN plank is trimmed and installed in a new home being constructed off Munger Street in Middlebury, carpenter Jeremiah Tinker of Salamander Construction smooths it out with a hand sander early this month.

Independent photos/Steve James

**Dandelions: foe or friend?**

By DEBORAH J. BENOIT  
UVM Extension Master Gardener

It's that time of year again. Sunny yellow blossoms pop up all over the landscape, bringing smiles to children's faces—and frowns to those who favor manicured lawns. Love 'em, hate 'em or don't pay them much attention, there's a lot to be said about dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*).

Its common name comes from the French "dent de lion," meaning lion's teeth, a reference to the appearance of its leaves. Native to Eurasia, dandelions were introduced to North America in the 1600s by colonists who grew them for medicine and food.

Dandelions return year after year, producing the familiar yellow flowers from spring into summer. Popular advice says to let them continue to grow in spring as an early nectar source. Indeed, if there's little else in bloom in the area, dandelions will provide a welcome food source for bees and other insects, and their seeds will provide food as well as nesting material for birds.

Historically, people have consumed dandelions as both food and drink. The tender young leaves or a sprinkling of petals

make a tasty addition to salads. More mature leaves can be eaten like spinach, boiled or steamed.

You've probably heard of dandelion wine, but did you know roasted dandelion root can be steeped and served as a coffee substitute? The roots, leaves and flowers are edible and can be used to brew an herbal tea. You can find more information at go.uvm.edu/dandelions.

A word of caution: If you do decide to nibble on a dandelion flower, make a salad with dandelion leaves or brew a cup of dandelion tea, harvest only from areas that are free of contaminants, such as road salts, pesticides or lawn treatments, be sure to rinse them well and be certain you've positively identified the plant.

Dandelions contain Vitamin C and beta carotene (an antioxidant that the body converts to Vitamin A) and other important vitamins and minerals. They've historically played a part in folk medicine, and some people have used dandelions as health remedies. However, you should always consult with your doctor before trying any such remedy.

Once their flowers pass, dandelions produce a round head of seeds adorned with white fluff that flies easily on the breeze or

a puff of breath. Those seedheads have amused children of all ages, but if you're concerned about a dandelion invasion, be sure to remove the flowers before they go to seed or you may find a field of dandelions in bloom next spring.

There are a number of ways to deal with unwanted dandelions in your garden. They have a long taproot, so trying to pull them by hand can be a chore. If you don't remove the entire root, the plant can grow back.

Fortunately, there are a variety of tools that work well to remove dandelions. They include specialty hand weeders and long-handled, clawed weeders, which remove dandelions with a simple twist.

If you opt to use an herbicide for removal, be sure to select one intended for dandelions and apply according to the label's directions.

If you don't see the need for a pristine, monoculture carpet of green for your lawn, let dandelions grow and simply mow them with the grass. Why? Because those long taproots that make them so difficult to remove benefit your lawn by aerating compacted soil.

The next time you see a dandelion's yellow flower, remember, it's so much more than just a weed.



WHILE MOST PEOPLE think of dandelions as a weed and struggle mightily to get them out of their lawns and gardens, the plant has many benefits, including as an early nectar source for bees and other insects. For human beings dandelions are a good source of Vitamin C, beta carotene and other important vitamins and minerals when consumed in salads, tea or other foods and drink.

Independent photo/John S. McCright



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## Here's what to know about reseeding or replanting your lawn

Spring marks the return of flowering plants and warm weather. And homeowners know that spring also ushers in the return of home renovation season.

Homeowners undoubtedly have an extensive list of projects on their to-do list this spring, and that may include helping their lawns and gardens recover after a long winter. Unpredictable weather, which can include drought and excessive rainfall and everything in between, can take its toll on a lawn. In certain instances, the best solution may be planting new grass. But homeowners can consider these tips before they begin the process of reseeding or replanting their lawns.

- Scarify the lawn. Scarifying a lawn can help to create a clean slate, but the timing must be right. Various lawn and garden experts, including those at BBC Gardeners' World Magazine, recommend scarifying in spring or early autumn. But don't jump the gun when scarifying in spring by scarifying before the lawn has started to grow after a dormant winter. Scarify when the soil is a little wet and the grass is once again actively growing. Scarifying can remove any lingering weeds from last season and also pull up any moss that might have taken hold over the winter. Without weeds and moss to contend with, freshly planted seeds are in better position to thrive.

- Work with a landscaping professional. Homeowners with manageable lawns can likely scarify their own lawns with a relatively inexpensive plug-in scarifier. However, scarifying can be a strenuous physical activity, particularly for homeowners with large lawns. In such instances, homeowners can benefit from working

with a qualified landscaping professional. Such a professional can scarify the lawn and subsequently reseed or replant new grass. The latter task is not so simple, as lawn care experts note that choosing the correct seed is a vital part of reseeding or replanting a lawn. Choosing seed may sound simple, but it's a potentially complex decision that requires knowledge of the existing grass, including when to plant it. Certain grasses are best planted in spring or early fall, while others are best planted in summer. A qualified landscaping professional can identify the existing grass and plan the seeding or planting around this important detail.

- Prepare to water the lawn. Watering is vital to the long-term success and health of freshly planted grass seed. Scotts® urges homeowners to keep the top inch of soil consistently moist, but not soggy. That requires a daily commitment, and setting a multi-function hose nozzle or sprinkler to the mist setting once per day or more if it's hot outside can increase the chances grass will grow in thick and strong. Some experts recommend keeping the top two inches of the soil moist until the new grass reaches a mowing height of roughly three inches. Once that benchmark has been reached, watering frequency can be cut back to about twice per week, but now the soil should be deeply soaked instead of misted. The soaking will help roots grow deep into the soil.

Spring is a great time for homeowners in various regions to reseed or replant their lawns. With the right approach, homeowners can enjoy a full and lush lawn throughout summer.

— Metro Creative



### Sweet cherry bloom

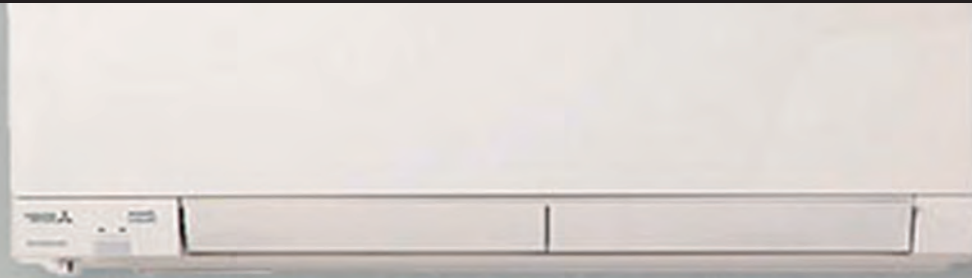
TREES COVERED WITH cherry blossoms are one of the many joys of spring. Plant one now.

Independent photo/Sarah Pope



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# How to hire a home improvement contractor

As the ground thaws and weather warms, many Vermonters will be planning their outdoor and home improvement projects. My Consumer Assistance Program is here to help with tips and resources for homeowners and residential contractors. For most of us, our homes are the single largest investment we will ever make. Taking care of them is important to ensure the health, safety, and comfort of our families. For these home improvement projects, we rely on our valued residential contractors. Here are six steps to take to protect yourself and your investment:

1. **Use Vermont's residential contractor registries to make informed decisions.** Contractors registered with the Secretary of State agree to meet Vermont professional standards, whereas those on the Home Improvement Fraud Registry have been convicted of criminal home improvement fraud.

2. **Ask for recommendations from your community** – friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers.

3. **Once you identify a contractor you are considering for your project, do more research.** Look up complaint history online, using the name of the contractor and “scam” or “complaint” in your search. Contact my Consumer Assistance Program and ask if they have complaints filed against the contractor you are considering. Review the Better Business Bureau's complaint history.

4. **Ask the contractor to show you their active registration and insurance policy.**

5. **Get quotes from 2-3 other reputable contractors and ask for references.** Quotes should include the expected payment timeline (ideally with a deposit of no more than 10-30%).

6. **Make sure all project expectations are in writing.** Request a written contract or estimate and do not sign anything you do not agree with. DO NOT pay all at once! Request an invoice and offer to pay at completion, by installment, or with a reasonable down payment for labor and

materials.

Once hired, keep track of all invoices, bills and communication between you and your contractor.

In a perfect world, homeowners and contractors work hand in hand to complete projects on time and on budget, adding value to homes and local economies. Unfortunately, sometimes things don't go as planned. That's where my office can help. The Vermont Attorney General's Office Consumer Assistance Program now has a Home Improvement Specialist available to help avoid problems in the first place, and to work out problems when they happen. You can contact our office with any type of home improvement complaint. Most of the time we can help reach a fair

and reasonable resolution for both the homeowner and contractor. In

just six months on the job, our specialist has already returned or saved Vermonters more than \$400,000.

We are also a resource for contractors. Our Small Business Advocate along with our Home Improvement Specialist help prevent and resolve disputes. If you are a contractor and would like assistance with the new registration requirements in Vermont law, you may call our Consumer Assistance Program at 800-649-2424, or email ago.homerepair@vermont.gov.

This spring, let my Consumer Assistance Program be your trusted partner in home improvement!



## Community Forum

This week's Community Forum is by Vermont Attorney General Charity R. Clark



## Create a bathroom retreat

Homeowners want to view their homes as a respite from all that goes on outside their doors. Indeed, turning a home into a residents-only retreat can ensure everyone looks forward to walking through the front door at the end of the day.

One of the more popular ways to turn a home into one's own personal retreat is to upgrade the bathroom. A renovated bathroom can completely transform how individuals feel about their homes. The following are some features to consider when remodeling a bathroom with relaxation in mind.

• **Open shower:** An open shower is a visually stunning addition to any bathroom. Such showers give a bathroom a more open look, thanks in part to the fact that these modern features do not feature a door or require the use of a shower curtain. The result is a clean look that many people associate with a luxury hotel. When speaking with a contractor about an open shower install, homeowners can ask about a half-wall to safeguard against water splashing out of the shower. In addition, a heat lamp can help ensure residents stay warm until they're ready to leave the bathroom.

• **Heated features:** Additional features to keep everyone calm and warm can be considered when upgrading the bathroom. Radiant flooring can ensure everyone's toes remain toasty, and the installation of such a feature can eliminate the

need for floor mats and bath mats that some homeowners may not like. Commit further to the heat theme with a heated towel rack, which is another feature associated with luxury hotels that can be just as enjoyable at home.

• **Soaking tub:** An open shower creates an instant feeling of luxury, but few things are more suggestive of relaxation than a soaking tub. A long day at school or the office or a day when winter winds are howling outside is made much better with a good soak. The National Kitchen & Bath Association notes that luxury bathrooms featuring soaking tubs are wildly popular, and that vaunted status is undoubtedly due to the relaxing benefits of a good soak.

• **Skylight:** Even if the goal of a luxury bathroom is to leave the outside world outside, allowing some natural light inside is a great way to add a little extra calm to the room. Floor-to-ceiling windows may seem appealing in brochures or advertisements, but such features do not create the sense of privacy many people prefer in their bathrooms. One or two skylights can create that sense of privacy and still allow for natural light to enter the room, making this an option that provides the best of both worlds.

These features and more can help homeowners transform their bathrooms into luxurious, relaxing respites from the outside world.

— Metro Creative

## Give your living room a new vibe

An “out with the old, in with the new” mentality can extend to people's visions for their homes. A home in need of repair or renovation can serve as a catalyst

to take inventory of personal style and help make interior spaces reflect one's unique vibe.

A living room can grow stale over time and often serves as a

catch-call for clothing, blankets, gadgets, and other items. Upon recognizing a living room has seen better days, individuals may decide it's time to give the space

a new vibe. That transformation can start with these strategies.

### ORGANIZE FIRST

Clutter frequently is the culprit behind a living room that may not give off the vibe individuals desire. As families grow and people add belongings, space may be at a premium. Less is more has never been a more important concept. Remove extraneous items before purchasing new furniture or transitioning to a new design. You may even want to remove everything and start from scratch before reintroducing desirable elements to the space.

### SEEK PROFESSIONAL HELP

Some people are adept at decorating and designing spaces. But just as you wouldn't perform your own medical procedures, you should leave jobs like interior design and renovations to the professionals. Hiring a

(See Vibe, Page 14C)



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# Things wear out. Here's how to recognize when it's time to replace

## It's time for those windows to go

Windows are a major component of a home. Window installation professionals will tell homeowners that the average life span of residential windows is between 15 and 30 years. Most well-maintained products can last 20 years, so homeowners who have windows approaching that age may want to schedule a window assessment and possible replacement.

Replacing windows is a job that requires advanced skill, and this is not a do-it-yourself project. There are many qualified professional window installation companies that will work with homeowners to measure, order and install windows that will fit with the style of a home and local weather, all while providing features the homeowner desires.

For those wondering when to replace windows, window manufacturers offer these guidelines.

- Difficulty opening and closing windows. A window that does not operate as it should can aggravate homeowners. If windows are sticking shut or cannot be securely closed, it's probably time for something new.

- There's apparent window damage. Accidents happen, and if a rock is kicked up from a lawnmower and cracks a window or if spring baseball practice or summer soccer has gone awry with an errant throw or kick, windows may require replacement.

- Drafts in the window are common. If heating

and cooling systems are working overtime, drafty, poorly insulated windows could be to blame. Various agencies can perform energy efficiency tests in a home. Windows that are determined to be the weak spots should be replaced.

- Dated windows are present in the home. Older windows may pose safety hazards, especially those in older homes. A larger window may be needed to comply with fire safety codes allowing for window egress. Dated windows also may simply look "old" and compromise the aesthetics of a home.

- Outdoor noises are noticed quite readily. Newer windows can help reduce noise transmission. So those leaf blowers, airplanes, barking dogs, and kids playing basketball up the street won't disturb homeowners as they try to enjoy some peace and quiet indoors.

- Fading indoors is noted. Windows that do not feature low-emissivity (Low-E) glass coatings will not block UV rays. Those rays can cause fading to wood floors and furniture or pretty much anything the sunlight touches. Replacing existing windows with Low-E coating alternatives can safeguard belongings and improve window efficiency.

Window replacement may be necessary when existing windows are showing signs of aging or damage.

— Metro Creative



## Forget swabbing, this deck has had it

Spring is a season of rejuvenation that compels millions across the globe to quit hibernating and get back to enjoying the great outdoors. Spring also marks a great time to assess a home's exterior, namely those areas like a deck where people will spend a lot of time in the warmer months to come.

Assessing a deck after winter can be eye-opening. Harsh winter weather can take its toll on a deck, and the following are some telltale signs that a deck could be in need of repair or replacement.

- Wobbly underfoot and in hand: Wobbly planks and railings are one sign of a deteriorating deck homeowners won't recognize as they hide from winter weather indoors. But these tend to reveal themselves rather quickly when examining a deck after winter. Wobbly planks in the middle of the deck can be inconvenient, but wobbly steps and railings can be dangerous. According to the home improvement resource Angi, wobbly railings can be a byproduct of rot. A local decking professional can assess the extent of the rot in railings and elsewhere and determine the best course of action. If the rot is isolated to an area or two, a simple repair may be all that's necessary. Extensive rot may require a full replacement of the existing deck.

- Faded paint: Many homeowners paint their wood decks, and that paint will not last forever. Faded paint can turn an otherwise lovely deck into an eyesore, and paint can fade over the winter. Thankfully, a local painter can address a faded deck

and may recommend some additional strategies to safeguard the deck against fading next winter and beyond.

- Holes in the wood: Many a homeowner has encountered curious-looking holes in their deck. This could be a sign of insect infestation. Termites, carpenter ants and carpenter bees are among the various types of insects that can bore holes through wood. Homeowners who notice holes throughout their deck are urged to call a deck professional and/or pest control firm to assess the holes and offer a solution. Though small issues may be addressed with repairs, a deck littered with holes caused by insects may need a full replacement.

- Rust: Wood decks may be made of wood, but they can still exhibit signs of rust, namely in the nails and metal connectors that hold the deck together. If screws have rusted to the point where they are no longer holding the deck together, a full-scale replacement could be in the cards, as the deck could have substantial structural damage. Like other issues that can reveal themselves during a springtime inspection of the deck, rust necessitates a thorough examination by an experienced decking professional.

Many people do not use their decks during winter, which only underscores the significance of a full deck inspection in spring.

— Metro Creative



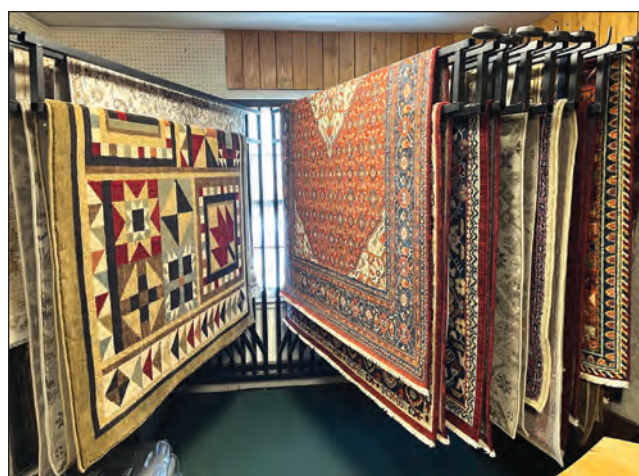
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- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
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| Flexsteel Recliners | Thor's Elegance bedroom |
| Hubbardton Forge    | Zimmerman chair         |
| House of Troy lamps | Beautyrest Black        |



## All rugs on sale!



# Vibe

*(Continued from Page 12C)*  
 professional interior designer and contractors can really bring a living room together in ways homeowners may have never imagined. These pros can build off of your ideas and truly create a space that may be worthy of a magazine spread.

### PROMOTE WELLNESS

You may want to consider adding natural materials in the design to promote well-being. Eco-friendly furnishings, raw fibers and organic textures will create an environment from sustainable choices. Plenty of plants also can create a welcoming environment that helps you surround yourself with positive energy and the items you love.

### LIGHT IT UP

One of the easiest ways to transform a room's vibe is to use lighting. Change draperies to allow more natural light to shine in. Consider additional windows or skylights if yours is a particularly

dark home. If you desire to create a more vivid or cozy ambiance, use a combination of accent, task and supplemental lighting in the space so there are no dim corners.

### CREATE AN INDUSTRIAL OR URBAN VIBE

Industrial-chic design celebrates the bones of a building. It's what makes city lofts so appealing, with their exposed beams and brick. Even those who live in suburbia or out in the country can give a living room this look with subtle nods to the style. Unadorned windows, clean lines on furniture, oversized, gallery-style art, and metal accents can add touches of this popular look to your home.

Revamping a living room doesn't have to be difficult. With an idea in place and some professional touches, an entirely new vibe can be achieved.

— Metro Creative



## Buildin' in Bristol

THE FIRST HOME in a multi-lot subdivision going up off Plank Road near Jay Drive in Bristol looks like it's nearing completion from the outside as owner Shawn Russell, right, finishes up the siding early this month. Inside the unfinished steps down to the basement of the four-bedroom home, above, show that there was still work to be done.

Independent photos/Steve James



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# PUZZLES

## CONSTRUCTION WORD SEARCH

T L T C B W T E T E R C N O C B S E C A  
 K M S S N G A Y A D M I W S G O L B S A  
 R A S U E T G P I N A N D P A E K K P K M  
 O E S U E B I N C H A N G E O R D E R W  
 W B U R A A P S T H S L O D U Y B M W N  
 E R L S O S U W E K I U I E R Y T Y L I  
 S B I T B E N S P D N T T E N O O E R Y  
 A K A R I M C A P T C S E O K W P T O H  
 C R H L D E H U A D G L L I C N N Y N U R  
 L T U M S N L L A O G T Y I T A D A G A  
 W A M N W T I C A K C T L C T A G C H T  
 Y U B C S U S D B U R A W R G B K G I R  
 P R T O B B T D R E S C D G W E N S N O M  
 L N U H R W R T P I O Y R G T I I U O M  
 P Y U I P Y S O A S W E T R K L R P M I  
 A Y C L W N R R T G G P O L O U T P T S  
 C H N A O P P G H A I P U I K B N O H R  
 I T L C Y P O G T H E A B B M U G R A U  
 U L O A A R L E U R C S D Y E G M T A T  
 K S W Y P T C B S P H A Y D R K N Y I K

### WORDS

- AGGREGATE
- APPRAISAL
- ARCHITECT
- BASEMENT
- BEAM
- BID
- BUILD
- CASEWORK
- CAULKING
- CHANGE ORDER
- CONCRETE
- CONSTRUCTION
- COST
- DESIGN
- DRYWALL
- LABOR
- LOAD
- MORTAR
- PROPERTY
- PUNCHLIST
- REPORT
- ROUGH-IN
- SLAB
- SUPPORT

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## Building Addison County Community, one project at a time.



### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to home improvement.

LBUDI

□ □ □ □ □

Answer: Build

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to building.

AHMREM

□ □ □ □ □ □

Answer: Hammer

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to home improvement.

AISNL

□ □ □ □ □

Answer: Nails

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to home improvement.

RPIRAE

□ □ □ □ □ □

Answer: Repair



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- Wood Pellets
- Coal

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- Kohler Generator Dealer, Installation, & Service
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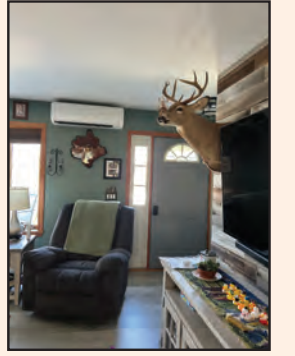
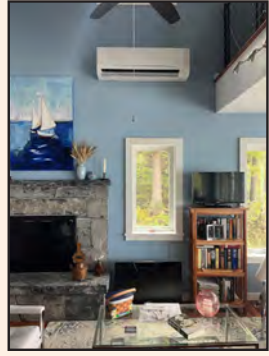
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### Homeowners Recommendations



We received quotes from Bristol Electronics and another well-known Vermont solar company, and were pleasantly surprised that Bristol had the better price, and we preferred Bristol's microinverter approach. Additionally, we were very pleased to learn that the panels and racking system were made in the USA with some components manufactured by a Vermont company. On top of this, the folks at Bristol were such a pleasure to work with. We can't remember a more pleasant experience when making a major investment.

We had a variety of questions which they happily addressed. Their knowledgeable staff was well versed with applicable regulations and requirements, building codes and even wind loading concerns. They truly went out of their way to make sure we were educated on the system and pleased with the installation.

This was a very rewarding experience which began with a goal of wanting to make our home fully renewably powered by working with a local team and culminated with meeting great members of our community, keeping our dollars local while also supporting other American renewable technology manufacturers. We found kindred spirits at BE and we can't recommend them highly enough!

*Megan Nedzinski and Joshua Faulkner – South Starksboro, VT*

"We are loving our new heat pump - it's like our house suddenly got bigger! The room has been warm even on recent cold nights - very impressive."

-Viveka Fox  
and  
Peter Macfarlane,  
Addison, VT



"Bristol Electronics makes it easy for you to go solar. From the detailed, patient explanations, to the rebates, estimates and permits, Bristol Electronics takes care of it all. I obtained several quotes from various companies but it was Bristol Electronics who ultimately won my business with their friendly, approachable attitude and superior knowledge of the technology. When I began this project I was uneducated and apprehensive. Now I find myself encouraging my friends and family to call Bristol Electronics for a free quote and explanation because I truly believe in their product and company. They are highly skilled and professional in every respect.

Stephen and his crew encouraged my children's curiosity and made learning fun for them. Little things like making handprints in the cement of our solar system sparked talks about reducing your carbon footprint and how everyone can help, even children. The whole experience could not have been easier or better. Seeing the power meter run backwards is just icing on the cake."

*Heather Shepard – Bristol*

