



Sweet love

The play 'Love/Sick' features nine vignettes with a focus on romance. See Arts + Leisure.



Playoff time!

A Tiger baseball win over OV was just one highlight of busy early postseason action. See Page 1B.



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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Mental health aid evolves post-COVID

Faster access to services stressed

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — While the social distancing and travel restrictions of the COVID pandemic are over, the virus's impacts will reverberate for years to come on the mental health front, with many folks dealing with the

impacts of isolation, depression and virtual schooling.

So for workers at Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC), the pandemic is still very much "a thing," and they're tailoring their programs and outreach to help restore peace

of mind for their clients and the community as a whole.

"Living, generally speaking, is hard these days," said LuAnn Chiola, director of operations for CSAC's Youth & Family Services program. "We are not over the trauma of COVID. We keep seeing it surface in different ways, including an increase of kids (of

all ages) struggling with day-to-day life. Higher levels of anxiety and depression. They're finding school extremely challenging. And there's been an incredible increase in aggressive behaviors — with little kids, in first grade and kindergarten."

CSAC has several of its (See CSAC, Page 15A)

MAUSD spending trimmed for 3rd vote

Residents will field new budget Tuesday

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — For the third time this spring, voters in the Mount Abraham Unified School District on Tuesday will be asked to approve a spending proposal for fiscal year 2024-2025.

The \$35.4 million plan on the ballot reflects a total reduction of \$1.9 million from the original proposal district voters rejected on Town Meeting Day. The revised plan also retains a handful of vacant student-facing positions that were originally

eyed as potential cuts, such as two special educator jobs and a Social and Emotional Learning intensive coach position.

If passed, district officials estimate the spending plan would lower the district-wide tax rate by around seven cents. However, due to how the state assesses education taxes in individual Vermont towns, education property taxes are still expected to rise by around 4-7% in three of the four MAUSD (See MAUSD budget, Page 11A)

Concerns for Mt. Abe supports system rise

Kids 'falling through the cracks'

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Parents and community members within the Mount Abraham Unified School District have in recent weeks taken to school board meetings to voice concerns and questions to district officials.

Many of the remarks shared, whether related to spending decisions or "clear the classroom" events in local schools, have been rooted in a shared belief that students throughout the district are not getting the support they need.

Some feel these concerns have tipped the balance that resulted in the defeat of two school budget votes.

MAUSD parents and teachers have told the school board of students not being provided the special education services they're entitled to, of limited

resources available for students in need of extra support, and of educators needing more help addressing students' needs.

"Kids that have disabilities are not all receiving services that

they're supposed to, or kids that are not getting services yet that are eligible for services are being told 'we need more information, we need more data,' or 'No, you're not eligible,'" Bristol parent Shawna Gabbeitt told the *Independent*.

"Then kids that don't need services that are not on an (Individualized

Education Program) or have no disability, are being put in positions that are causing them to start having trauma because they're seeing such emotional dysregulation constantly, where they're scared to go to school."

Gabbeitt is among the (See Community, Page 10A)



Upbeat

FOURTH-GRADE MUSICIANS IN the Bristol Elementary School band swing during a performance at the school's talent show this past Friday afternoon. See the breakdancer, singers and yo-yo master in more photos on Page 8A.

Independent photo/Steve James

Bixby over the moon after boffo fundraiser

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Bixby Free Memorial Library Director Catharine Findiesen Hays called the institution's May 31 "Celestial Soiree" fundraiser at the Main Street library "an astronomical success" in a Monday interview with the *Independent*. She has the literal and figural receipts to back up her contention.

To start with, attendance neared 200 at the sold-out event, which featured music from The Grift, silent and live auctions of donated goods and experiences from more than four dozen area businesses and residents, and donated food and beverages from another dozen local establishments. That crowd was possibly an all-time high and certainly the first sell-out in at

least two decades for an event formerly known as the Bixby Gala.

"I couldn't find anybody who said they'd sold out before, so we are just thrilled about really the message that sent us, that people love the library, that they want to support the library, that they know about the library, all those sorts of

(See Bixby, Page 7A)



By the way

As many of you might have noticed, there are a bunch of newly planted trees around Bristol village. All have stakes around them, so they are easily identified. Bristol Tree Warden John Swepston has a request: If you happen to have one of these newly planted trees in front of or near your house, please take a few minutes to water it. We are in a little bit of a dry spell, and these

(See By the way, Page 9A)

5th budget vote needed in SVUUSD

School spending plan to be fielded June 18

By JOHN FLOWERS

ORWELL — After residents of the Slate Valley Unified Union School District on Thursday, May 30, defeated — for the fourth time — a proposed fiscal year 2025 preK-12 spending plan, the SVUUSD will likely hold a fifth budget vote in less than two weeks.

The SVUUSD board on Monday is expected to endorse Tuesday, June 18, as the date on which to hold that fifth vote for the Fair Haven-area district, which includes the Addison County town of Orwell.

In a related move, the SVUUSD's finance committee on Tuesday, June 4, unanimously recommended \$312,900 in additional cuts to a \$30,810,135 spending proposal that failed on May 30 by a 994-962 margin. It was the same spending amount the district had presented to voters on May 9, when it was

(See SVUUSD, Page 9A)



Riveting view

THE NEW ADDITION to the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury appears to be literally rising out of the ground late last week as workers raised steel girders from the basement floor toward the sky. A Bread Loaf Corp. official said the project seems to be on track to open by New Year's Eve.

Independent photo/Steve James

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THE LEOS YOUTH club recently built and installed a half-dozen raised garden beds for elderly and/or physically challenged residents of city apartments and the John Graham Shelter. The Vergennes-area youngsters got help from parent builders and donations from landscaping companies and Women of Wisdom. Pictured, left to right, are Leo McKenzie Flint, Leo Scout Jacobson, Leo mentor/parent Eric Jacobson, Leo mentor/parent Chris Clair, Leo Ben Hargett, Leo Wilder Jacobson, Summit Properties Manager Carly Lehrer. Leos Collin Clair and Megan Mentzer also worked on the project.

Photo courtesy of Cookie Steponaitis

Civic-minded teens build raised beds for disabled

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The latest project for the Vergennes Leos club, a civic-minded youth group sponsored by the Vergennes Lions Club, will help aging and/or disabled city residents more easily pursue their passion for gardening, and it's also teaching carpentry skills to club members.

The members of the Leos club — with support from parent mentors who just happened to be carpenters, plus backing from two area landscaping firms and a local charity — designed, built and installed a half-dozen raised garden

beds that will allow even wheelchair bound gardeners to plant and tend vegetables or flowers. Three more such raised beds are planned.

Club mentor Cookie Steponaitis said the Leo teens and their backers installed five raised beds in the Valley View and Willow Apartment complexes on Walker Avenue, off Monkton Road in Vergennes, both managed by Summit Properties, and a sixth at the nearby John Graham Shelter at the intersection of Main Street and Monkton Road.

The three to be built will be installed next to private homes in

the Vergennes area, Steponaitis said.

Steponaitis said the idea for this project sparked when club members were volunteering to help an aging Addison resident with her garden.

"She can still garden on the ground, but really it's starting to be too much," Steponaitis said. "She was talking to the kids about putting in raised garden beds for the following year and transferring her garden to that. That led to a discussion of accessibility to gardening, the benefits of gardening, and then they started researching what size was appropriate if you were seated in a wheelchair or in a chair."

Their conclusion, Steponaitis said, was that the standing beds should be at the right height and width to allow someone seated in a wheelchair to tend the entire bed from one side, without having to roll all the way around to the far side.

Club member president Ben Hargett took those ideas and made a preliminary computer-aided design drawing.

He then consulted with both parent carpenters, Chris Clair and Eric Jacobson, on a final design. The trio built a sample for each installation site. On the day of the onsite build and installation of the beds the Leos broke into teams of no more than four, with one parent carpenter leader at each of two sites to supervise the construction of two more.

A key element was allowing the club members involved — including McKenzie Flint, Scout Jacobson, Hargett, Wilder Jacobson, Collin Clair and Megan Mentzer — to do the work themselves.

"We could have it done a lot faster and streamlined and everything pre-cut, and all they would do was screw it in, but part of the process was learning to

measure and to cut and to mark," Steponaitis said. "Part of the process was the learning."

Most, if not all, the Leos enjoyed learning to use power drills and saws.

"Plus they got to learn to use power tools," Steponaitis said. "We've created some monsters, I tell ya."

When the Leos and their mentors completed construction, two companies who had signed on to volunteer time and soil showed up and filled the raised beds, SWB Mowing & Plowing and JHL Mowing & Plowing. The whole project cost about \$1,200, Steponaitis said, with expenses split evenly among the club itself, the parent Lions Club, and a donation from Women of Wisdom, the local charitable group that also runs the downtown storefront Sweet Charity.

Steponaitis said the Leos were motivated to pursue this project because they saw preserving the ability to garden as an important equity and quality of life issue.

"It hits people on so many different levels, but not being able to do it doesn't seem fair," she said.

The Leos have more plans, including hosting a gathering of other Leos clubs from Jericho, Vt., Arlington, Vt., and Granville, N.Y.) on June 9 and returning to the Otter Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center later this summer.

A year ago the Leos bought and installed an owl barn and began work on creating a wildlife corridor. This summer the group plans to add a 24-by-40-foot flight cage for the center's owls and continue expanding on the habitat corridor with addition of seedling trees, according to Steponaitis.

Those interested in learning more about the Leos club may contact Steponaitis at cookiesteponaitis@gmail.com or fellow club mentor Mason Charlebois at masoncharlebois@gmail.com.



LEO YOUTH CLUB member Wilder Jacobson and Leo mentor/parent Eric Jacobson (aka Wilder's dad) work together on one of the six raised garden beds the club recently designed, built and installed for elderly and/or physically challenged residents of city apartments and the John Graham Shelter.

Photo courtesy of Cookie Steponaitis

Bristol to focus on promoting inclusivity

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The town of Bristol recently created a town equity committee that will support the municipality's efforts to ensure Bristol is a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

The Bristol selectboard at its May 28 meeting agreed to form the equity committee and appointed five citizens to serve on the board. Those committee members are former selectboard member Darla Senecal, former Mount Abraham Unified School District Board chair Krista Siringo, Elissa Cobb, Ainaka Luna and Trevor Wilson. Bristol resident Betsy Blair will serve as an alternate.

During its first year, the group will also receive support from Bristol resident Porter Knight, who has volunteered to collaborate with town officials on equity-related work in the past, and Tabitha Moore, a professional consultant with experience in identity-based equity and racial justice work.

"I think this is the best place on the planet, and I know most of us probably on this call think that, too," Knight told the selectboard on May 28. "This is an exercise of looking at 'what can we do to make sure that everybody that comes to or considers coming to Bristol to live, to spend money, to go to school, to patronize our stores, also feels really welcome and feels like this is a place where they could also be happy and thrive,' so that it continues to be the best town ever."

Forming a town equity committee was among the recommendations included in the report completed at the conclusion of Bristol's work with an Equitable & Inclusive Communities grant the town received from the Vermont Community Foundation in 2022.

The \$10,000 grant supported initiatives such as reviewing the town's website and other forward-facing materials for inclusive language and conducting training sessions for town officers and volunteers on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Another goal of the town's work with the grant was to compile a list of next steps to continue creating and maintaining a welcoming and inclusive community in Bristol.

Creating a town equity committee was one of the items included on that list.

Bristol last year received another grant from the Vermont Community Foundation to support continued equity and inclusion efforts in town, such as a new equity committee.

Knight noted that specific tasks of the committee could include creating "All are welcome here" signage to display in town, supporting minority-owned businesses, and creating a safe forum for residents to provide feedback regarding issues or experiences with inequity or discrimination and suggestions for how to address such incidents.

Another potential initiative of the committee could include exploring how to diversify voices on Bristol's committees and boards — including on the equity committee.

"I know this is something that's been frustrating for the selectboard in the past is that we have some amazing heroes in town who do a lot of work, and we know they can get overwhelmed and overloaded; how do we find and invite new people to the table to bring more perspectives but also to lighten the load for the many volunteers who are on all of our different commissions and committees," Knight said.

Knight noted that the expectation is that the committee would recommend actions for the selectboard and town to consider, as well as tackle initiatives on its own similar to other town committees and commissions.

"So, they wouldn't just be talking, they wouldn't just be bringing ideas to the selectboard and saying 'here, do it,' but that it would be focused on action, and some things that the selectboard or town could move ahead with, other things that the committee could do, and if they saw things for other entities or organizations that they could share that as well," Knight explained.

Knight added that the additional \$10,000 in grant funding the town received last year is intended to be used in part to support the committee's work.



Smiling snapper

DON'T BE FOOLED by the smile on this snapping turtle's face. While it may seem happy, its bite is powerful. Luckily the turtle successfully made its way across Creek Road in Middlebury and into Otter Creek recently.

Photo by Dottie Nelson



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NEWS



LINCOLN COMMUNITY SCHOOL students and staff this past Thursday continued the school's decades-long tradition of honoring Memorial Day with a walk to Maple Cemetery. Students this year were joined by, from right, retired pastor David Wood and Lincoln resident Brian Frazier, whose family has a long line of service in the U.S. military.

Photo courtesy of Tory Riley

Lincoln students, residents honor Memorial Day

March to Maple Cemetery ends with talks by pastor and military historian

LINCOLN — The Lincoln Community School on Thursday, May 30, continued its decades-long tradition of observing Memorial Day with a march to Maple Cemetery and remarks from the school principal and the United Church of Lincoln minister.

Students this year heard from retired pastor David Wood as current minister Co'Relous Bryant was out of town. The LCS community was also joined by Lincoln resident Brian Frazier and his two sons, Ian and Mason — both of whom are LCS alums.

Frazier's family has a long history of service in the U.S.

military, and he is a member of several military and civil fraternal organizations, including the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Major General James A. Garfield Camp 62, which is headquartered in Lincoln.

He provided the following comments to fellow Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War following the Memorial Day service, which LCS Principal Tory Riley shared with the *Independent*.

"The Garfield Camp had been invited by Tory Riley and the Lincoln Community School for their over-20-year going Decoration Day Memorial at

the Maple Cemetery in Lincoln this morning," Frazier wrote. "Incredible turnout of students, (faculty), parents and townspeople. A few of us spoke about the significance of the day giving the children a fresh outlook on today's importance."

Frazier noted that Wood gave attendees a lesson on the history of Memorial Day over the years, and Riley explained "the importance of this day and how we can all learn about the sacrifices that so many gave and how we can help to prevent those sacrifices in the future."

"I was given the opportunity to explain to the students a very brief history of Decoration Day and its significance to the Civil War along with a description of my uniform, then gave a stirring prayer that

was well received by all," Frazier continued. "Brothers Ian and Mason handed out pamphlets that I put together for the service, that will be distributed to the students on their return to the school. We performed a flag ceremony lowering the flag to half-mast, and several of the students played TAPS in the background as we all maintained several minutes of silence."

"This is what our organization is all about, carrying on the traditions of the (Grand Army of the Republic) and interacting with our communities, sharing the history and pride in our country. A wonderful morning that I was both honored and moved by the interest of our future generations," Frazier wrote.



Driving into the sunset

IT WAS CERTAINLY a fitting sendoff for Sudona "Sudsey" Lou Hanfield last Wednesday, May 29. Sudsey, who died May 22 at age 74, spent a half-century driving a school bus — 40 years for the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, followed by another 10 years for the Addison Central School District. Her longtime employer, Bet-cha Transit, wanted to honor the Brandon resident's memory. So the company offered up the bus Sudsey had driven for so many years to take her loved ones and former colleagues from the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon to her family plot at Pine Hill Cemetery. As you can see, the crew made good use of the bus.

Photo courtesy of Chris Hanfield

FERRISBURGH — We congratulate all our area students on a successful academic year and wish them well for the summer or for their plans after graduation. Our community also greatly appreciates the teachers and staff for their support of our students during this past year. Please keep up to date with all the end-of-the-school-year activities by referring to the schools' websites and newsletters.

Ferrisburgh Central School will be holding its Fifth and Sixth Grade Step Up ceremony on Thursday, June 13. On Monday, June 10, the VUMS/VUHS Underclass awards ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. The Walden Celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, at 6 p.m. Congratulations to our high school seniors. The graduation ceremony will be held Friday June 7 at 6 p.m. on the VUHS campus. The last day of school is Friday, June 14.

The Ferrisburgh Grange "King Pede" card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of June 8 and 22. These fun get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper and then on to the games. King Pede involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

It is time to begin planning for this year's Ferrisburgh Day. This event celebrates our community and will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Those who would like to help in the preparation, feel free to contact Ashley LaFlam at unionmeetinghall@gmail.com.

The next installment of My Dentist's Son will be held on Saturday, June 9, 3-4:30 p.m. at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall, across Route 7 from the Union Meeting Hall. The popularity of these sessions is growing, with over 20 people attending the last session. My Dentist's Son is a place for magical stories that don't fit, a moment in life that tends to defy explanation of what we believe is possible.

Lots going on at the Bixby Library this summer, such as the regular children's story times, Art Day Fridays, and the book club for adults. There will be another of the Bixby's famous book sales on Saturday June 8. On Saturday, June 15, 1-2 p.m., Rob Mermin, founder of the renowned international touring company Circus Smirkus, will discuss his new book, "Circle of Sawdust." Also, on June 15 at 9

a.m., Boy Scout Grey Fearon will host a 5K Run/Walk to support children's activities at the Bixby. On Saturday, June 22, 1-2 p.m., learn about the Wonderful World of Bats as taught by Jerry Schneider, bat enthusiast and the inventor of the award-winning Butterfly Game. Visit bixbylibrary.org for more information on all these events and also Bixby's ongoing regular services.

Rokeby Museum has a full schedule for the summer months. Visit its website for all the details at rokeby.org. There will be a gallery talk on Thursday, June 13, at 12:30 p.m., describing the newly designed Underground Railroad exhibit "Seeking Freedom." Another new exhibit, "Artifacts and Anecdotes," is a behind-the-scenes look at Rokeby's treasures as described by staff and volunteers. On Friday, July 5, 1-3 p.m., Rokeby will host the annual reading of "What the Slave is the Fourth of July." Note also that the museum admission is free for Wednesday, June 19 to commemorate Juneteenth.

Rokeby Museum's popular Sheep and Wool Day will be on Saturday, June 15, noon-3 p.m. This family-friendly event will feature sheep petting (Hands and Heart Farm,) kids' crafts, historic spinning and weaving, printing press demonstrations (A Revolutionary Press,) an Instrument Petting Zoo (Vermont Folk Life Center,) food vendors, and history farm tours. This will be a great way to celebrate Vermont's woolly heritage.

Join Rokeby Museum for a two-week immersive experience scheduled for Monday, July 8-Friday, July 19. Set on a serene, historic property, young people will lose themselves in another time as they gain valuable stage experience. This unique program combines aspects of art, outdoor education, hands-on history, and, of course, theater. Campers will draw inspiration from Rokeby's stories, historic house, artifacts, letters and farm history to create their fictional characters in an original play. Outside of rehearsal, daily activities will include improv games, nature adventures, plein-air painting, and cooking with historical recipes. The camp culminates with a performance for families and friends. All experience levels are welcome. To register or ask questions, contact Tucker Foltz, Education Programs Manager, at tfoltz@rokeby.org or (802) 877-3406.

Look for more Ferrisburgh news in the June 13 Addison Independent.



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Editorials

Biden's 'weakness' isn't due to age, but timid actions

On a few notable foreign policy issues, President Joe Biden, along with fellow Democrats and Progressives, need to reset their politics to match today's reality. Specifically, how America manages immigration on its southern border needs revision, America's support of Israel requires rethinking while rejecting the hard-right policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and America needs a more forceful retort to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

President Biden is moving in that direction, though far too slowly. Just this Wednesday, Biden finally used his presidential power to put a temporary halt to the flood of immigrants pouring illegally across our southern border from Mexico. For the past three years, he has ignored abundant signs of trouble and has held on to outdated ideals.

When President Barack Obama was elected in Nov. 2008, the total number of illegal apprehensions and expulsions was 723,825 (during George W. Bush's final year). During Obama's first year in office that number dropped to 556,041, according to the U.S. Border Patrol, and hovered between a low of 337,117 in 2015 to a high of 486,651 in 2014. By the third year of Donald Trump's first term, in 2019, the number of illegal aliens apprehended had spiked from 310,531 in 2017 to 859,501 in 2019 — a 250% increase in two years.

When Biden took over Jan. 2021, worldwide pandemic restrictions had cut that number in half to 405,036, but as those restrictions were lifted the numbers of immigrants apprehended and expelled soared to 1,662,167 in 2021, 2,214,652 in 2022, and 2,063,692 by the end of 2023.

It should be obvious the explosion of illegal immigrants has demanded a stronger response. President Biden and liberal Democrats/Progressives initially tried to stay true to a notion of accepting all legitimate immigrants seeking asylum and were overly reluctant to clamp down. The sheer number of immigrants, however, overwhelmed the system. Belatedly, Democrats tried to pass legislation this winter that would have strengthened the nation's control of its southern border, but House Republicans blocked passage of the bipartisan bill, at Trump's insistence, because they didn't want to hand Biden a legislative victory and tools to solve the problem.

Biden's response is an executive action offering a temporary solution, though it doesn't fund additional border patrol agents, nor move the thousands of backlogged asylum cases through the courts any faster.

Progressives and some liberal Democrats have criticized Biden's change of tactics, stubbornly refusing to admit today's harsher reality. Biden, on the other hand, has made clear distinctions between his clampdown on immigration and Trump's approach.

True to form, Trump railed against immigration in derogative terms, saying immigrants "poison the blood of America," and assailed them as "criminals." Biden is trying to keep America's tradition of being open to legal immigration with this caveat: "To protect America as a land that welcomes immigrants, we must first secure the border and secure it now," he said this week. Biden added he would never separate children from their parents at the border as Trump did in his first term, and on his first day in office, Biden proposed an immigration overhaul that would have provided a pathway to citizenship for millions of immigrants (a measure Republicans have refused to consider.)

While Biden has convinced most moderate Democrats to back his new approach, liberal critics are laggards — to Biden's detriment. If we're to avoid a repeat of the assault on immigrants seen during Trump's first term, liberal Dems and Progressives need to reassess as well — sooner than later. A united front on this issue is crucial to Biden's campaign.

- In Israel's war with Hamas, Biden was right to side with Israel following Hamas's Oct. 7 attack, but he's been far too slow in reining in Netanyahu's worst instincts. While condemning the horrific killing of thousands of Gaza civilians under Netanyahu's scorched earth tactics, Biden has yet to use the full force of American policy (its purse) to push Netanyahu to stop the slaughter. (Trump, of course, would be far worse and would allow Netanyahu free reign to bomb the Palestinians in Gaza into oblivion.)

Nonetheless, Biden needs to work harder in distinguishing America's support of Israel while vehemently disagreeing with Netanyahu's tactics and pressing him harder to make changes.

- In Ukraine's war with Russia, Biden must take off the gloves and rally the U.S. and NATO allies to take a tougher stand against Russian aggression. Biden should speed more offensive fire power to strike Russian-based targets that are relentlessly bombing Ukraine, as well as provide more air power and training so Ukrainian fighters can eventually control their own air space and push back Russia's invading troops. Biden's halfway measures — providing Ukraine just enough support to survive, but not win — are no way to conduct warfare. If the U.S. and its allies are intent on preventing Russia from overtaking Ukraine, they should be in this battle to win — that is, to assure Ukraine's freedom and independence.

If D-Day (which is being celebrated this week) taught us any lesson, it's that bold action is needed in the fight for freedom. The Ukrainians have demonstrated their willingness to fight against a much bigger foe for their independence; it's past time the U.S. and NATO help them achieve it.

Biden's timid approach to these three issues, more than his age, speak to his projection of weakness and frailty. Ironically, it may be his career-long desire to be a statesman seeking consensus that hampers his willingness to act. What the public sees, however, is a president who is overly cautious — even when the facts are screaming for bolder measures.

Biden has six months to change that perception.

Angelo Lynn



Trophy catch of sorts

VERMONT GAME WARDENS laid out and photographed these 31 bass that they report were illegally caught in Otter Creek in Weybridge this past Saturday. The wardens were tipped off by a caller, and they said they found five anglers catching bass out of season. The law enforcement officers seized the fish and ticketed the poachers. The Fish and Wildlife Department's Operation Game Thief anonymous tip line at 1-800-752-5378.

Take more time, cover less ground

Some years ago I bought a little poster in the art store in Bristol. I wasn't really looking for a poster, but somehow this piece called out to me. "Take More Time Cover Less Ground," it said. The quotation is attributed to Thomas Merton, a Roman Catholic monk and writer, and the poster was printed locally by John Vincent's Revolutionary Press. Since I wasn't really in need of decoration for my walls, this little piece of art found its resting place on my bedroom bureau. The price sticker is still on the plastic envelope: \$3.

Take More Time Cover Less Ground.

My 30-year-old self, entering mid-life, would not have resonated with these words. In mid-life, the quest was for balance: children, work, housekeeping, family, community. Time was the most precious commodity, carefully spent to accomplish the formidable list of daily tasks to cover all the necessary ground. No, these words would have had no appeal to that energetic mid-life wife, mom, teacher, gardener, neighbor, daughter, and friend as an inspiration in her daily life.

I think this bit of wisdom has come to me to guide the final third of my life. Take More Time Cover Less Ground.

We live in town, so I can frequently walk where I need to go. We drive electric cars, so we're in the habit of leaving a little earlier and allowing extra time to get to our destination. We'll probably never drive across the country again, and certainly won't get to Australia in this lifetime. I get a lot of pleasure from being home, cooking for friends, tending the garden, making quilts, and giving time to my community. I am content to cover

less ground.

Recently we traveled to Portugal. On our first evening in Lisbon we sat outside enjoying a cold drink. We were joined at our table by a young man, and we asked what museums we should see during our one full day in the city. "Never mind the museums," he counseled. "Just walk around. Hang out in the parks. Listen, watch, and see what happens." I had to laugh; he gave us permission to do exactly what we were inclined to do!

So my memories of Lisbon are of wonderful soft air, gentle sunshine, lush Sycamore trees, grand statues and monuments, wide green promenades and tiny pocket parks, musicians, coffee, and breathless climbs up steep hills. Buildings painted soft and vibrant colors, some clad in astonishing tiles. My memories include stories: a long rambling political and personal conversation over lunch with the man from Finland who travels to Lisbon in the winter to soak up some sun and play tennis; a conversation with a couple from Australia who moved to Lisbon and opened a café next to the small guesthouse where we stayed. My memories of this city live in my senses and my heart.

Take More Time Cover Less Ground.

It is fitting that this little poster is resting on top of a short stack of drawings and birthday cards from our grandchildren. Time is the most precious gift I have had to give those grandchildren. Simply being available is a gift to them. Listening is a gift. Just hanging out is a gift. That short stack of love notes is ample proof to me of Thomas Merton's wisdom.

Abi Sessions, formerly of Cornwall, lives in Weybridge with her husband, Bill.

Ways of Seeing

By Abi Sessions



Starlings in stove, cycles of parenting

It begins with a faint flutter, like a rustle of paper. Enough to make you stop and listen, wondering if you might have imagined it.

But the rustling repeats at intervals, growing louder as it gets closer. The dogs take notice, lifting their heads before running over to investigate. Still, you think, it *might* be nothing; it *might* go away.

Until the unmistakable beating begins, accompanied by a screeching sound like nails on a chalkboard. It's not nails on a chalkboard: It's the sound of a bird's feet and wings struggling against a metal pipe.

There's a Starling in the wood stove. Again.

Here's how it goes: We hear the noises from the stovepipe. We try to deny the obvious, but eventually someone spots the bird itself through the smudged ash on the stove's glass door. The bird flutters around inside the stove for a moment before attempting to fly back up the pipe — generating more of the screeching noise of talons on metal. This cycle repeats for about a day, during which my husband wonders whether we should just go ahead and set a fire in the stove and put an end to it all, and the rest of us protest his cruelty. Eventually, I'll duct tape a large clear plastic garbage bag over the open side hatch of the stove. If all goes well — about half of the time — the bird flies into the bag, and I'm able to remove the bag

with the bird still inside and release it back into the wild.

When all *doesn't* go well, the bird manages to escape the bag, and panic ensues. Children flee the room, shrieking. The dogs chase the bird, and we chase the dogs. The bird bangs into windows and perches in high places until I manage to corner it and carry it outside.

We have contacted our chimney sweep. Apparently they've installed a cap that keeps rainwater from entering the stovepipe, but for some reason it can't

keep birds out (nor, might I add, does it do a particularly fine job keeping out the rainwater, at least during more intense storms.) They claim that they can't close off the pipe entirely, since the smoke has to escape somewhere.

I think we should get a second opinion.

This is not the first time a bird has flown down through the chimney pipe to become trapped in our wood stove. I've even written about it before: Back in 2022, I recorded the third instance of an unwanted avian visitor. But this spring the problem has reached epic proportions: Since March I've freed at least seven birds from the confines of our stove. Once, I released one bird only to immediately hear another when I returned inside. As I type this, there is a bird awaiting release from the stove's confines, although

(See Clippings, Page 5A)

Clippings

By Faith Gong



Letters to the Editor

Panton solar plan a bad idea

The scale of the Panton solar proposal is out of character with the Vermont we all know and love. People live here and tourists flock here for the stunning natural beauty and idyllic rural landscapes. They come here to recharge and gain some peace of mind.

The proximity of this solar proposal to Dead Creek WMA is alarming. The state has been buying up parcels of land for 75 years to create what is now a 3,140-acre natural reserve for many species — especially birds. Disturbing this migratory bird corridor would be tragic. I do not understand why the State would allow an out-of-state conglomerate to come here and pave 300 acres with a mega solar slab the size of 227 football fields merely as a cash grab. It truly is unfathomable.

Sharon Ashcraft
Panton

Bandstand must be preserved

I am absolutely in favor of an accessible outdoor performance space for Bristol. I am also absolutely opposed to rebuilding or re-modeling the bandstand to achieve this purpose. If we want to provide a bigger, accessible outdoor performance space, we should do that: Build a purpose-built structure that is accessible to ALL. Bristol hosts many concerts and shows both at the park and the rec fields, as well as other events such as the Pocock Rocks festival and the festivities for the 4th of July. It would seem there is a need for this type of structure.

However, trying to force the old Bandstand to serve in this capacity is a poor fit. The Bristol Bandstand is a historic structure. It is instantly recognizable and a symbol of Bristol like the Lord's Prayer Rock or Holley Hall. While there are many historic bandstands in greens around Vermont, may I be so bold as to declare Bristol's the loveliest. Tearing it down and replacing it with a modern facsimile would remove an integral and iconic part of Bristol's history and its image. Because of its height, remodeling it to be fully accessible would require a ramp so long it would entirely wrap around the bandstand and end up being bigger than the Bandstand itself, completely engulfing it, removing all historical integrity, and completely changing its appearance.

Instead of attempting to make the historic Bandstand something else, let's put our energy and funds towards creating a new purpose-built outdoor performance venue that will fulfill today's community needs in terms of space and accessibility. Let's appreciate our history and keep the Bandstand as the historic structure it is.

Claire Corkins
Bristol

MAUSD budget merits support

Please support education for our children in Bristol, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro by voting on June 11 for the new, proposed budget of the Mt. Abraham Unified School District. So far the MAUSD budget has avoided significant reductions in education programs, and in teaching for students. If the budget fails again, there is a real worry that students' education will suffer.

Many in our community are very concerned about our property taxes, with good reason, but after many weeks of work the new proposed budget is at a reasonable place fiscally, in my opinion. I say this as someone who has had my fair share of criticism of the district over the years. Between the March town meeting and now, total expenses in the proposed budget have been reduced by \$1.6 million. The new budget proposes education spending that is basically flat: \$28,090,370 last year vs. \$28,385,860 next year. Per pupil

(See Olson letter, Page 5A)

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Letters to the Editor

Many deserve thanks for solid teachers' contract

I would like to respond to the recent article by John Flowers on the conclusion of negotiations between ACEA teachers union and the ACSD school board. Mr. Flowers accurately and succinctly summarized the main points of the agreement and I would like to thank him for that. As the lead negotiator for the school board, I wanted to go further in thanking the people who made this agreement possible in this very tough economic climate.

First and foremost, the negotiators across the table, although tough and intelligent, were also eminently practical and professional. It was a pleasure to work with them to hammer

out this agreement. My team members also deserve praise for their hard work and sacrifice in coming to understandings about very complex and difficult issues. The process could not have been completed — let alone achieve the elegance and fidelity to the interests on both sides of the table — without the skilled and thorough work of Matt Corrente, the district's business manager, and many other central office staff.

It is often said of a negotiation that when both sides are dissatisfied with the agreement, you have probably done it right. In this case, I believe that the exact opposite happened. Both sides felt that their concerns were heard by

the other side and addressed with respect and empathy. I walked away from these negotiations feeling a great deal of respect for the teacher negotiating team and proud of the agreement we presented to the board for final adoption. Thank you to all the people I relied upon for help and thank you to the teacher negotiating team. Finally, thank you to the voters of the Addison Central School District who passed our budget and allowed us to compensate the fine teaching staff in our schools.

Steve Orzech
Lead Negotiator
ACSD School Board
Middlebury

Reducing energy consumption is good path forward

At the end of last year I finally took the plunge and purchased an electric car. I have felt conflicted about the purchase ever since.

Sure, it's pleasant to drive, easy to charge at home, and so far costs little to maintain, yet as one of the seemingly primary ways to go "green," it falls woefully short. My concerns parallel the recent debate in this paper over the proposed Panton solar array.

On one hand, solar panels are touted as a straightforward way to reduce emissions and reduce environmental damage associated with intensive row-crop agriculture. While life-cycle analyses of the benefits of solar panels surely indicate reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, they fail to acknowledge the fact that not only have we crossed the "planetary boundary" associated with climate change, but we have crossed five others that are critical to a functioning earth system. It may somehow feel as if I have done something "better" by using an electric car or solar panels, yet I have come to realize that the improvement is largely an illusion, ultimately only fueling my ego.

The impacts of mining materials required for solar panels is quite significant, even if those mines aren't also sited in Addison County. Furthermore, our ecosystems and wildlife habitat

connectivity are already highly fragmented in the Champlain Valley, a situation which will not be improved by installing countless solar panels on former agricultural land.

However, pretending as if we can just ship all of the costs (externalities) of energy generation, materials manufacturing, et cetera to other locations also seems misguided. Nearly all of us (myself included) drive cars, consume goods manufactured across the globe, and purchase agricultural products grown using industrial practices that are not ecologically sound (even if they're labeled organic or regenerative).

And yet, despite being seemingly opposed, these two perspectives actually share one commonality: a faith in progress. This faith teaches us that if only we could have better science, technology, and efficiency, then we could continue to live as we do with only minor compromises. It is a perspective that seems to be fairly universally shared among modern environmental groups, governmental agencies, technologists, and corporations.

It used to be that environmentalists advocated for reduced consumption and living simply, but that seems to have largely gone by the wayside.

Perhaps they have resigned themselves to the endless tide of larger cars, larger houses, international vacations, and unlimited goods shipped to our doorstep. Perhaps they have decided that if only we purchase the right "green" products, all our sins will be forgiven. Yet until that fanciful future in which economic growth can be decoupled from resource usage, this old perspective seems worth reviving. My personal experience is that reduced consumption, though often initially challenging to implement, actually increases leisure, health, and general well-being.

Perhaps simultaneous to debating the solar farm in Panton, we could put as much or more energy into figuring out how we might not need a large solar farm in the first place. Maybe we could learn how fulfillment can be found close to home rather than glorifying trips to exotic locations. Perhaps, instead of second-guessing my electric car purchase, I could advocate for better (any?) biking infrastructure in Middlebury. Until we change how we live, tinkering with the fuel powering our consumption is unlikely to alter our planetary trajectory.

Patrick Lawrence
Middlebury

Be on the look out, it's turtle time!

VERMONT — Vermont's turtles are on the move, and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is asking for the public's help in keeping them safe. Female turtles will soon be looking for places to lay their eggs, and they sometimes choose inconvenient or dangerous locations. For example, turtles often lay eggs in gravel parking lots and driveways and along road shoulders, which puts them at risk of being hit by motor vehicles.

"Turtles commonly cross roads as they move to nesting sites and summer foraging habitats," said Luke Groff, biologist for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. "Many turtles killed on roads are mature breeding

females, so not only is the female taken from the population, but so are her future offspring. Turtles grow slowly and females of some species may not reproduce until 10 or even 15 years old. So, for small, isolated populations, the loss of mature breeding females may have population-level effects."

Turtle nesting activity peaks between late May and mid-June, and drivers are urged to keep an eye out for turtles on the road — especially when driving near ponds, rivers and wetlands.

"Turtles are usually slow to move, so they have a tough time safely crossing roads. If you spot a turtle on the road, please consider helping it across but be sure

you're in a safe spot to pull over and get out of your car. Human safety comes first," said Groff. "If you're going to move a turtle off the road, always move it in the direction it was traveling. They know where they're going."

Most turtles can be picked up and carried across the road. However, snapping turtles have long necks and a powerful bite, so people should be alert and know what the species looks like. If the turtle is large or if it lacks colorful lines, spots, or other markings, then it may be a snapper. Instead of picking up snappers with your hands, try lifting them with a shovel or pulling them across the road on cardboard box or a car floor mat.

Olson letter

(Continued from Page 4A)
spending is actually decreasing by 7.65%: \$15,512.85 last year vs. \$14,326.45 next year.

One can sense from the recent statements of the newly reconstituted board that they will use the cost-saving options in the Levenson Report to guide their work in making budget decisions in the coming months. Not all savings options may be viable, and we can debate which options should be implemented, but I believe the community can expect those options will be seriously considered.

Education property taxes are causing much anguish in our community. How can property taxes continue to increase when spending is decreasing or not increasing at the same rate? It is now crystal clear that communities have no meaningful control over property taxes, no matter what spending decisions are made locally. Montpelier has created this mess. Only Montpelier can fix it.

Voting down the budget again may seem to be sending a message to Montpelier, but (1) realistically, "sending a message" at this stage

of the budget approval process will not result in significantly lower taxes for our community this year, and (2) in the meantime student education may suffer in ways we do not even know yet. This is not an exaggeration, or a "scare tactic." At some point the budget cannot be further reduced without real consequences for student education.

Please vote for the new proposed MAUSD budget on June 11.

Herb Olson
Starksboro

Clippings

(Continued from Page 4A)

I freed a bird from the stove only yesterday.

They are always European Starlings. And it has recently occurred to us that they are likely the same two birds, cycling through the bowels of our wood stove over and over again.

Why? What would cause two Starlings to fly repeatedly into a chimney pipe? Wouldn't they learn after the first couple of times that they're going to get trapped in there? It's an enormous world; why keep returning to a dark metal cylinder?

The answer seems fairly obvious, even if we hadn't seen them fluttering around the outside of the chimney with straw in their beaks (straw which we later found in the bottom of the stove); even if we hadn't heard twittering echoing down from the top of the chimney earlier in the spring. Those Starlings have built a nest in the top of our chimney. They are raising a family.

According to the Audubon Society, European Starlings are tough, adaptable, and intelligent, which is how they've come to occupy most of the North American continent since being imported in 1890. The male Starling chooses the nesting site, which is any cavity between two and 60 feet above ground. He begins constructing a loose nest of twigs, grass, leaves, and feathers; when his mate joins him, she often completes the nest.

Nesting begins in mid-April, during which time the female starling lays four to six eggs. Both parents take turns incubating the eggs for around 12 days. Both parents feed the hatchlings, who will leave the nest roughly 21 days after hatching.

Based on my calculations, this means that the Starlings may vacate the stove pipe in another couple of weeks — enough time for many more cycles of catch-and-release.

As I move through these cycles with our dedicated pair of Starling parents, it strikes me that this could be an apt metaphor for parenting.

There is much about parenting that is cyclical -- not just the repeated cycles of the daily routine, but the patterns we can find ourselves locked into with our children. We lay down some boundaries, they break through those boundaries, we impose consequences, and equilibrium is restored — for a time. Or a young child suddenly devolves into a gremlin, melting down at mealtimes and screaming at bedtime, only to emerge from this mess having made a major developmental leap and equilibrium is restored — for a time. There are generational cycles, too, in which we suddenly realize that both we and our children are repeating behaviors and replaying scenes from prior generations.

All that to say: I think I may know what it feels like to plummet down a dark pipe and beat my wings helplessly trying to escape

whatever cycle I'm trapped in.

The solution for the Starlings seems so simple: *Build your nest someplace else! This chimney pipe is not a good place for you or your babies: Sooner or later, somebody's going to get hurt!*

It's too late for this breeding season, of course. But I've read that Starlings often return to the same nesting sites.

It can be nearly impossible to recognize the ways in which we contribute to our own imprisonment, these unhealthy cycles in our own lives. We need someone on the outside to wait patiently for us, to gently help free us into the open air, to whisper, "You don't need to come back here next time around."

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To effect any change, we first need to understand the inner workings of our state government. **Bill Schubart** has lived in and written about Vermont for decades. He

has served as board chair for numerous Vermont organizations, has published several novels set in Vermont and regularly contributes to local print and radio media.

Stephen Sondheim: The Wizard of Broadway
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10:00-11:30 AM



A trip through Stephen Sondheim's life and creations, from the trailblazing contributions of West Side Story, Follies, and Company, to A

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Letters to the editor

The Addison Independent encourages readers to write letters to the editor. We believe a newspaper should be a community forum for people to debate issues of the day

Because we believe that accountability makes for responsible debate, we will print signed letters only. Be sure to include an address and telephone number, too, so we can call to clear up any questions.

If you have something to say, send it to: Letters to the Editor, Addison Independent, 58 Maple St., Middlebury, VT 05753. Or email to news@addisonindependent.com.

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Obituaries

Marsha Jill Latham Rowe, 71, of South Starksboro

HARWICH, Mass. — Marsha Jill Latham Rowe, 71 of Harwich, Mass., and South Starksboro, Vt., passed away peacefully and surrounded by love Wednesday, May 22, 2024, after stoically enduring many years of declining health.

Marsha was born June 17, 1952, in Hyannis, Mass., to the late John G. and Betty Brackett Latham. She grew up in Brewster, Mass., and graduated from Nauset regional High School in 1970. Marsha was a naturally gifted athlete, and in 2016 was inducted into the school's athletic hall of fame. She graduated from UMass-Amherst in 1975 with a B.S. in Elementary Physical Education.

During her college years she worked as a summer Waitress at Thompson's Clam Bar in Harwichport, Mass. After college Marsha worked as a mail carrier at the Brewster, Mass., post office, as an in-home daycare provider, as a preschool teacher, and as a bookkeeper for her family's plumbing business. For several years she was a host mother for competitive figure skaters training of Cape Cod.

Marsha was a loving and devoted mother who fully supported and cheered on her daughters in all of their endeavors. She was particularly involved in her daughter Morgan's figure

MARSHA JILL LATHAM
ROWE

skating career, accompanying her to many national and international competitions, and logged many miles on the family car to attend her daughter Marnie's college field hockey games. In 2009, Middlebury College presented her with the Robert Gorneau Award for her exceptional support of the field hockey team.

Marsha spent many happy times at the family's vacation home in South Starksboro, Vt., bringing her young daughters for extended summer stays, and in later years, enjoying the panoramic view of the Green Mountains from her deck. She particularly loved dining at

Mary's restaurant in Bristol, Vt., where the Mack family always greeted her with warm hospitality. Friends in the area included Kevin and Wendy Puls of Bristol, Vt., Pam and the late Paul Morse, of Starksboro, Vt., Katharine and Gene DeLorenzo of Cornwall, Vt. And Caroline McBride of Middlebury, Vt.

Marsha is survived by her husband and high school sweetheart Matt, who she married in 1978. She is also survived by daughter Morgan Woolf and husband Gary of Boston, Mass.; daughter Marnie Potish and husband Rob of Winchester, Mass.; and grandchildren Rosalie and Sage Potish of Winchester, Mass., and Tyler Woolf of Boston, Mass. Survivors also include brother Jack Latham and his wife Jill of Brewster, Mass.; sister-in-law Mary Jean Espulgar-Rowe of California; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by brother-in-law Jon Rowe of California.

Marsha had many relatives in the area, including aunt Althea Bremmer, formerly of Hinesburg, Vt.; cousin Susan Bremner Smith and husband Pete of Essex Junction, Vt.; cousin Sally Mead and husband John of Hinesburg, Vt.; cousin Sandra Smith of Orleans, Mass.; and cousin Tom Lathan and wife Margie of Middlebury, Vt. ◊

Eleanor Anne (Wesslen) Holsman, 88, of Ripton

RIPTON — Eleanor Anne (Wesslen) Holsman, passed away on May 8, 2024, surrounded by love and support.

Born on Sept. 3, 1935, in Ware, Mass., Ellie was the second daughter born to Alfred and Annabelle (Goodrich) Wesslen.

Some of Ellie's earliest memories had to do with her small stature, including needing books put under her feet to keep them from dangling in elementary school. She also carried memories of wartime with her, hating margarine until the day she died because one of her chores at home was squishing the color tablets into their margarine. VE and VJ Days were days of joy and hope for her, and she often told her family stories about those celebrations.

A graduate of Northfield School for Girls, Ellie worked vacations at the Ware Knitters textile mill, where her sister, mother, and father all worked as well. Later, she would attend college to become a primary school teacher. From a young age, Ellie loved to travel, and traveled the world with her sister and friend Judy, including traveling to Egypt, all over Europe and the former Soviet Union, Lebanon, Israel, and Palestine. She also taught and lived in Germany, and was one of the first civilian Americans to pass through Checkpoint Charlie to enter East Germany. Later in her life, she returned to traveling with her sister, including trips to Italy and Russia.

Soon after returning to the United States, Ellie was teaching in a public school near Lenox, Mass., where she met Wayne Holsman, and they became friends. A decision to co-buy and raise a basset hound named Justina Jane led to their romance and later marriage.

Over the next decade, they would live and teach in several private schools, then Wayne moved on to be minister of several churches and Ellie would teach in public schools in the area. In 1969, they

ELEANOR ANNE (WESSLEN)
HOLSMAN

welcomed their only child, Kristin.

One week after the Bicentennial of the United States, Ellie, Wayne and Kristin moved to Brandon, Vt. While the family only lived in Brandon for a year, the move to Vermont was permanent, and the family lived in Salisbury and Ripton from then on.

In late 1976, Ellie started serving as a substitute teacher for Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, and she would continue to serve the local community in the schools until less than a year before her death. Her dedication to the children in RNESU and local communities was complete, and she gave them her love and passion for decades, and taught multiple generations of local families.

Besides her love of teaching and working with children, Ellie was a tireless advocate for civil rights and human dignity. Even in her late 80s, she attended political marches and events, and never shied from being open about her advocacy.

When not at school working with children, Ellie could most often be found in her gardens, very proud of her vegetables and flowers. Her daffodils will bloom in Ripton for decades to come.

Ellie's greatest joys came from her grandchildren. Amie, Ryan,

Sam, and Ben gave her such joy, and she was so proud of both their accomplishments, and the amazing human beings they are. Meeting her great-grandchildren and getting to spend time with them was another level of joy for her. She was so interested in watching them come into their own identities, and was so proud of their strength and tenacity.

Ellie was predeceased by her parents; her sister Barbara and her husband John; her nephew Michael; her husband, Wayne; and her beloved grandson Sam.

She is survived by her daughter, Kristin and husband Paul; nephew Ed and family; grandchildren Amie and spouse Jen, Ryan and partner Kayla, and Ben; "adopted" grandchildren Linnea and Shane; great-granddaughter, Sora; and great-grandsons, Rowan and Shay. She also is survived by a wonderful group of friends from Leicester School and RNESU.

The family would like to thank Amy Curtis of Addison County Home Health for her love, support, and guidance, as well as the rest of the team at ACHH for their help over the last months. The family also would like to thank Project Independence for their love and support, as well as the outstanding palliative care team at Porter Hospital. Finally, the family would like to thank Lyndsay D'Avignon for her tireless support, love, and help over the last year.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to support literacy and a love of reading in children, or Project Independence in Middlebury, Vermont.

A celebration of Ellie's life will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, at the Leicester Meeting House, with a reception immediately following at Otter Creek Academy/Leicester Central School.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home of Brandon. ◊

Paul A. Many, 83, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Paul Andrew Many of Middlebury died on May 30, 2024, after a brief battle with glioblastoma.

He was born in Middlebury on Nov. 16, 1940, the son of Jean and Clara (Cyr) Many.

He attended schools in Salisbury and Whiting, graduating from Brandon High School in 1959. On Oct. 24, 1959, he married Donnalee Williams in Middlebury.

During his younger years, he served in the Air National Guard and worked at Brown's Novelty Shop and Polymers Plastics in Middlebury before going into the building business in 1965 as Paul A. Many Construction.

He was a 4th-degree member of the Knights of Columbus and a 38-year member of the Middlebury Fire Department. His favorite pastime was fishing.

He is survived by his wife



PAULA. MANY

of 65 years; also his son Corey Many; daughter, Karen (Many) Camp and husband Kevin; grandchildren, Skylar, Paige, Everett, Maile, and Kelsey Many, and Heather and Ethan Camp; six

great-grandchildren; and sister, Theresa. He was predeceased by his parents, son Scott P. Many, and siblings Helen, Doris, Mary, Raymond, Robert and Pete.

Visitation will be at Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home, 117 South Main St., Middlebury, from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 6. A funeral mass will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 326 College St., Middlebury, at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 7, with The Rev. Luke Austin presiding. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery, Middlebury.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Mary's Catholic Church at 326 College St., Middlebury, VT 05753.

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

Wilma May Boise, 82, of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Wilma May Boise, 82, of New Haven, passed away on Saturday, June 1, 2024. Wilma was born on Dec. 22, 1941, in Burlington, the daughter of Melvin and Lou Landon.

Wilma graduated from Beeman Academy in New Haven and lived on North Street in New Haven her entire life. She got great joy spending time with her family, who will miss her immensely. She was an avid animal lover of all kinds. She loved her flowers in the summer

and riding with her husband Roger along the Vermont back roads in their dodge convertible car during leaf peeping season and endless antique treasure hunting.

Wilma was predeceased by her parents, Melvin and Lou Landon and her brother, William Landon.

She is survived by her husband, Roger, of 63 years; her daughter, Melanie and her husband Timothy Paquette; son, Jason Boise and his wife Vicki (Phelps); granddaughters, Jessica Thibeault,



WILMA MAY BOISE

Jennifer Delabruere, Alison Nadeau and Haley Currier; and five great-grandchildren, Logan, Carly, Luke, Wyatt and Emma.

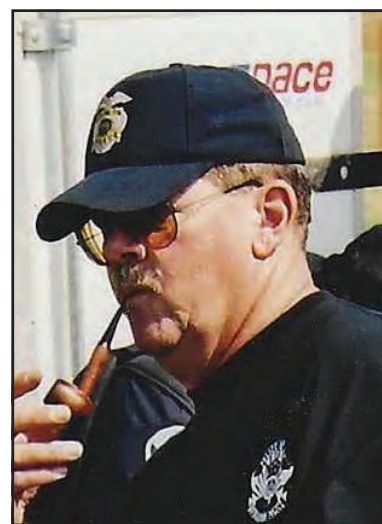
A private family service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in her name to the New Haven Congregational Church. ◊

VERGENNES — John Yustin Jr, 74, passed away Saturday, June 1, 2024, at Porter Medical Center in Middlebury.

He was born May 16, 1950, in Derby, Conn., the son of John Yustin Sr. and Josephine (née Croncrot) Yustin.

His career in law enforcement spanned more than 50 years as an officer and detective for the Burlington Police Department, where he was a homicide detective, as well as the Chittenden County Sheriff's Office, Vermont State Police, and the Vergennes Police Dept., where he served as Chief.

His hobbies included being immersed in nature, whether it be hunting, fishing on Lake Champlain, or tending the Christmas tree farm on his property.



JOHN YUSTIN JR.

John is survived by his wife, Jennifer Yustin, and son, Christopher Yustin; his sister,

Steven Jon Bless, 75, formerly of Bristol

NEWTON, Mass. — Steven Jon Bless, who raised his four children in Bristol, Vt., with Elizabeth (Liz) Shattuck and taught at Monkton Elementary School, passed away May 27, 2024, in Massachusetts.

Born in Iowa, he lived a life full of music, craftsmanship, sports, teaching and adventures with his family. Steve's journey frequently included exploring the outdoors of Vermont, Arizona, the prairies of the Midwest and Washington. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved volunteering with conservation

organizations and sharing his passion for nature with his family and friends.

Steve is survived by his sister, Rita Van Sickle, and her husband, Gene, of Clive, Iowa; and his children, Graham Bless, Eliot Bless, Meredith Bless Patten and Forrest Bless, along with their spouses and children.

In lieu of a formal memorial, the family requests that those wishing to remember Steve visit their favorite local, state, or national park and reflect on the beauty of the natural world he cherished. ◊

Deborah Pinto of Charlestown, R.I.; his brother and sister-in-law David and Suzi Yustin of Bridport, Vt.; his niece Kate Pinto Smith of Charlestown, R.I.; niece Kelly Jo Yustin and nephew Jeremy Yustin of Seymour, Conn.; and nephew Sgt. First Class Logan Yustin, originally from Bridport, Vt.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, June 7, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at michaeljfox.org

To send online condolences to his family please visit www.brownmcclyfuneralhomes.com. ◊

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BIXBY STAFF AND volunteers worked hard to decorate the library interior to reflect the Celestial Soiree theme of the library's annual fundraising gathering on May 31. This display was arrayed under the building's central dome.

Photos courtesy of the Bixby Library

Bixby

(Continued from Page 1A)
things," Hays said. "Overall we are just thrilled."

Although the final total was still being tallied as of Monday morning, Hays said the soiree raised significantly more than its goal of \$35,000.

The soiree is one of the two major fundraising elements the Bixby, which is a nonprofit, not a municipal entity, undertakes to supplement the per capita donations the five communities it serves make in their annual budgets.

The other major fundraiser is the Bixby's annual appeal made late in the calendar year. The library also has an endowment, but the board tries to turn to that only to fund major projects when necessary. Thus the soiree, the annual appeal, and communities' yearly support are the library's financial lifeblood.

"Both of those two fundraising efforts go to our operating budget. They pay staff members. It allows us to buy books, to invest in the digital resources we have. It's programming," Hays said. "So the extent that we can exceed it (the fundraising target) means we can do more programming."

On less quantifiable levels the soiree apparently succeeded. Hays said people had fun.

"To a person, people would stop me and say this is probably the best fundraiser ever," Hays said. "The feeling in the room was just palpable positivity."

The teamwork that made it all happen was also notable, according to Hayes. She started by singling out the library's staff for going above and beyond the call of duty in soiree prep: Assistant Director and Adult Librarian Amber Lay,

Adult Program and Community Engagement Manager Cedar Winslow, Circulation/Welcome Desk Manager Martha Sanborn, Building Steward John Dugan, Children's Librarian Mary Neffinger, and summer interns Kelly Bartlett and Patty McNery.

The event also had a team of co-chairs: Panton's Bethanie Brady Farrell, Addison's Lisa Miller, and Vergennes residents Bob Jones, Julie Jones and Laura Mack. Hays said they all had specific planning responsibilities, but took on other tasks.

Hays added board members and other volunteers also did yeoman work, while so many businesses and individuals stepped forward with donations and labor there are too many to list.

"In addition to the nearly 200 people who purchased tickets, we had 25-plus personal donors and businesses who made financial donations as sponsors. We had 50-plus individuals, artists, local business owners who donated unbelievable items and experiences for the silent and live auctions," Hays said. "Then we had 10 local food and beverage purveyors who donated their food."

Hays said Bixby Board President Erin Roche also asked for attendees' backing in auction bidding, and apparently the audience took her words to heart by bidding generously for the donated goods and services,



HANNAH ROQUE, AKA Miss Addison County, announced the winner of the 50-50 raffle at the Bixby Library's Celestial Soiree on May 31.

while the winner of the 50-50 raffle gave back a portion of the proceeds. Hays summed up.

"It really was a community coming together. That was really a big part of how I felt about it," she said. "We were really thrilled."

LARGER PICTURE

Hays said she believed the soiree continued a positive trend for the library.

"People have been hearing about programming, and hearing about all the new books that are available, and all the action-packed information that's in the monthly newsletter, and book recommendations and book clubs," Hays said. "It feels like there is a lot going on in the library, and it turns out there is."

She offered evidence:

- The library saw a 60% increase in book circulation in the past fiscal year over the prior year, a spike for which Hays credits the good work of Lay in getting "hot new books" onto the Bixby's shelves.

- More than 250 visitors stopped in at the Bixby during the city's annual Holiday Stroll, a record.

- A record 140 people attended a free Atlantic Crossing concert in the library a few weeks ago.

- The Bixby experienced a 33%

increase in visitors in the most recent fiscal year compared to the previous year.

Hays added the Bixby is also "seeing huge growth" in the use of its digital resources.

She also noted that Roche emphasized three key goals in her remarks at the soiree: accessibility "in all forms"; sustainability, financially and environmentally; and promotion of literacy, not only in reading, but in the digital, financial, environmental and health fields as well.

Accessibility has been on the Bixby board's and staff's mind in the past couple years. The Bixby has received modest American Library Association grants in 2023 and 2024 to start the process of evaluating how best to make its facilities, particularly the second floor, fully accessible.

The first grant focused on community engagement to help the Bixby establish priorities, and the second has allowed the library to start working with an architectural firm to, in Hays's words, "create a master plan for how we might address accessibility." Hays said the library is waiting to hear on a third, larger grant that could start the path toward an access project.

Any project the board and Hays contemplate is intended to be grant funded.

"We've really increased our grant-writing efforts so we're not counting on the community," she said.

Bridport man cited for DUI

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Aaron Ouellette, 46, of Bridport for driving under the influence (second offense), following a traffic stop on Route 7 South on May 30. Police said they measured Ouellette's blood-alcohol content at 0.178%; the legal limit for driving is 0.08.

In other action last week, Middlebury police:

- Responded to a report of loud chanting in the Cross Street area at around 10 p.m. on May 27. Police said the chanting was coming from members of a Middlebury College team that who just won a national championship.

- Contacted Middlebury Public Works about a plugged storm drain in the Chipman Park neighborhood on May 27.

- Cited Kenneth Gilbert III, 48, who is houseless, for violation of his conditions of release and providing false information to a police officer, following an incident in the South Pleasant Street area on May 27.

- Checked on a report on May 27 of a man lying in the grass off South Street near Porter Hospital.

- Cited Michael Heffernan, 62, of Bristol, for violating the conditions of his release in the Court Street area on May 27.

- Received a report about harassing behavior on College Street on May 29. Police said the complaint is being investigated.

- Cited Michael Heffernan, 62, of Bristol, for violating the conditions of his release, after investigating a report of suspicious activity in the Methodist Lane area during the evening of May 29.

- Provided a courtesy ride to a drunken person seen stumbling along North Pleasant Street on May 29.

- Cited Wesley Odell, 48, of Weybridge for driving with a criminally suspended license on Rogers Road on May 29.

- Investigated a reported dispute

Middlebury Police Log

between people in the Bakery Lane area on May 29.

- Cited Michael Degray, 60, of Middlebury for driving under the influence (second offense), after responding (along with Middlebury Regional EMS) to a report of an unresponsive man slumped over the steering wheel of his car while it was parked off Lindale Circle on May 30.

- Checked on houseless persons camping off Bakery Lane on May 30.
- Investigated a deer-versus-car accident on Court Street Extension on May 30.

- Served a no-trespass notice on May 30 to a person who wasn't wanted at Greg's Meat Market.

- Were informed of the theft of a bike from Middlebury College campus on May 30.

- Conducted a welfare check on May 30 on an elderly resident in the Lower Foote Street area.

- Gave a courtesy ride to a patient who had been discharged from Porter Hospital on May 31.

- Responded to a report of a theft in the College Street area on May 31.

- Were informed of the theft of a wallet from an unlocked vehicle parked off Court Street on May 31.

- Helped a man who was having a mental health crisis in the Mill Street area on May 31.

- Responded to a report of a Middlebury Union High School student with a vaping device on campus on May 31.

- Cited Cormick Cantwell, 41, of Middlebury for disorderly conduct, following an investigation of multiple noise complaints in the MacIntyre Lane area at around 2:45 a.m. on May 31. Police said they

believe Cantwell was intentionally setting off a car alarm to cause a public disturbance.

- Responded to a report of a man throwing a drink at a MacDonald's Restaurant employee on June 1.

- Assisted a Vermont State Police trooper with a driving-under-the-influence investigation on Porter Drive on June 1.

- Assisted Vermont Fish & Game officials with an investigation off Pulp Mill Bridge Road in Weybridge on June 1.

- Relocated a turtle that was in danger on Pulp Mill Bridge Road on June 1.

- Increased patrols on the East Main Street area on June 2 in wake of a reported surge in car break-ins.

- Assisted an East Middlebury resident with a credit-card fraud complaint on June 2.

- Checked on houseless persons camping off Bakery Lane on June 2.

- Received a report that someone had stolen some cash from an unlocked vehicle parked off Wilmar Street on June 2.

- Received a report of someone rummaging through an unlocked car parked off East Main Street on June 2.

- Were informed of a theft from a vehicle parked on Schoolhouse Hill Road on June 2.

- Responded to the reported death of 79-year-old James Trievel at a Danyow Drive residence on June 2. Police determined Trievel had died of natural causes.

- Responded to a reported theft from a vehicle parked on Ossie Road on June 2.

- Assisted VSP at the scene of a crash on Lake Dunmore Road in Salisbury on June 2.

- Checked on the welfare of a person found sleeping in their car parked off Merchants Row on June 3.

- Investigated a June 3 report of several abandoned cars parked off Mill Street.

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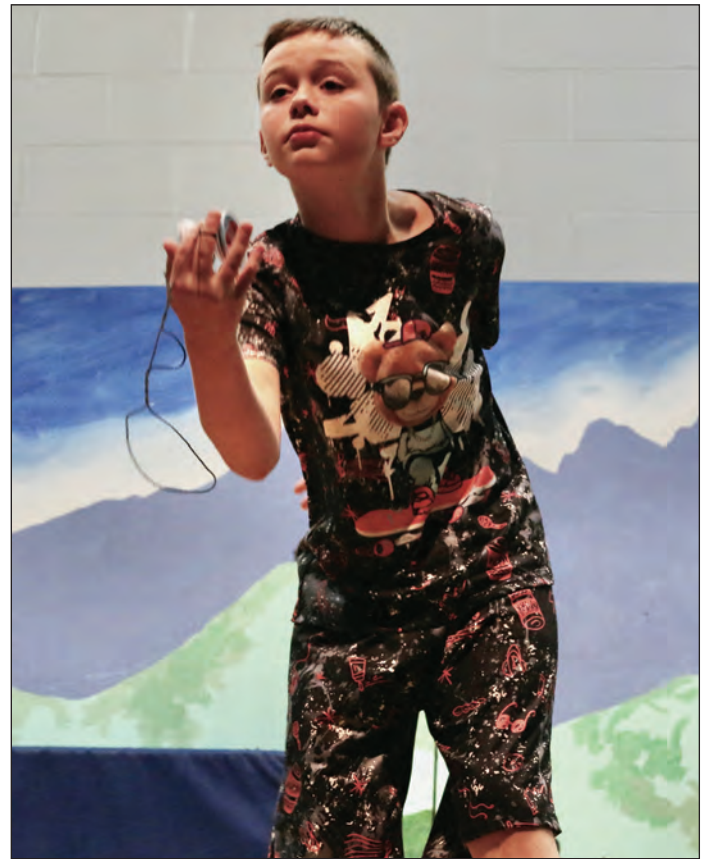
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Bristol Elementary has talent!

STUDENTS AT BRISTOL Elementary School show off their skills to a packed house during a school-wide talent show this past Friday. At the top of the page, yo-yo master Calvin Zubow shares some tricks and then takes a bow. Also pictured, clockwise from above, are: the fourth-grade band plays a tune, Cameron Manning tells a few jokes, Hayley Whitney and her Mickey Mouse puppet entertain the crowd, Noelle Jipner channels Taylor Swift, Isaiah Benedict breakdances, and Madison Cousino performs "Baby Hotline."

Independent photos/Steve James



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Getting schooled

ALL APPEARANCES SUGGEST that this Grackle is giving its host, a white-tailed deer, a real talking to.

Photo by Dale Cockrell

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

newly planted trees need water. So, if you can get your hose, or several buckets or water, or have the kids ferry cups/bottles/anything that holds water to the trees, go for it: The trees would appreciate it greatly.

Members and supporters of the LGBTQIA+ community will gather on the Vergennes City Green this Saturday, June 8, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., for a “Big Pride Little City” celebration. Organizers note that June, in the U.S., is recognized as Pride Month. Saturday’s rally is intended to “celebrate, uplift, and honor the resiliency of our LGBTQIA+ friends and family,” according to organizers. Parade preparations and music will kick off at 10 a.m. at Vergennes Union High School. The “Big Pride parade” will leave the school at 11 a.m., with music, speakers and family games scheduled from 11:30 to 4 p.m. Speakers and musicians will include Christine Hallquist, Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Mike Piechiak, The Mineral Kingdom, and Steve Audy. For more information, go to bigpridelittlecity.org.

Vermont wasn’t among the top “dog bite states” for postal carriers, but it did register 15, with Bennington, Bristol, Burlington and South Burlington having the most dog bites in 2023 at two each. Seven other communities experienced one bite each, for a total of 15 state-wide in 2023. California was top with 727, followed by Texas, (411), Ohio (359), Pennsylvania (334) and Illinois (316). Overall, dog attacks on Postal Service employees rose to more than 5,800 cases last year. Letter carriers know all dogs can bite — even those

perceived as nonaggressive. Dogs are generally protective of their turf and dog owners have an important responsibility to control them to ensure safe mail delivery. Some helpful safety tips can be found at tinyurl.com/4hussv7.

Pawsitive Connections Animal Rescue in Bristol is in desperate need of doggy foster homes/foster families. There are several dogs the nonprofit is trying to get freed from southern states that have kill policies. One of these dogs, one named Daisy was abandoned on a dirt road by its owner and found by a neighbor. There are actually hundreds of such dogs waiting for a second chance to live a happy doggy life. Foster families share their home and give them love; Pawsitive Connections takes care of all food, supplies, vet care and toys. To learn more go to pawsitiveconnection.org, call 802-382-0081 or email nikkif8@hotmail.com.

Speaking of dogs, a celebration has been planned to mark the fourth anniversary of the Monkton Community Dog Park on Pond Road. It’s set for Saturday, June 8, from 1-3 p.m. Come hang out and enjoy some daytime live music, eat some tacos, drink, pet some dogs, and enjoy the dog park. This is a fundraiser for the dog park’s ongoing care and maintenance, so buying a few tickets for the 50/50 raffle would be appreciated. The event will feature live music from Patti Casey and Tom MacKenzie, authentic Guatemalan food from La Chapina, beer, cider and wine from BEVO, the 50/50 raffle to benefit the dog park (drawing at 3 p.m.), and cake for everybody.

It’s well known that some fungi are decomposers, but did you know that some of them can also eat plastic, clean up oil spills, hunt for prey, and enable trees to talk to each other? Did you know that the largest living organism on earth is Oregon’s “humongous fungus,” covering an estimated four square miles? If you’re fungi-curious and want to know more, join Addison County author, photographer and mycology educator Meg Madden on a mushroom curiosity walk on the Trail Around Middlebury on Tuesday, June 11, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., and learn more about the lives of these fascinating organisms. This is a fundraising event for ACORN and the ACORN Food Hub, though no person will be turned away for lack of funds. Participants will gather at the TAM trailhead at Wright Park and explore the woods and talk about the mushrooms they find along the way. Wear comfortable walking shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and bring your questions and curiosity. The walk will take place rain or shine. Space is limited, so please register at tinyurl.com/5n7mjw5k.

Mare and foal pairs will be in our outdoor arena at the UVM Morgan Horse Farm in Weybridge from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. every Saturday in June for Foal Days. This family-friendly event

SVUUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)

rejected, 891-798. The budget defeated on both May 9 and 30 was \$211,500 less than the initial FY’25 spending plan that SVUUSD voters had ejected on Town Meeting Day by a 1,468-1,004 margin.

“I think our situation is pretty dire,” SVUUSD Superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell said Wednesday morning. “We can’t (cut) much more.”

The latest \$312,900 in cuts that the finance committee has forwarded to the SVUUSD board include:

- A middle/high school teacher, saving \$94,350. The unfilled post was recently created to reduce class sizes.
- Some bus monitors, to save \$91,550. Olsen-Farrell said this could result in “increased or unreported student behaviors on some bus routes.”
- A school nurse position, to save \$94,000.

- Elimination of the Middle School Round-Up, to save \$13,000. Instead, a one-day orientation event for middle schoolers will be held at the beginning of the academic year.
- An anticipated \$20,000 savings in Worker’s Comp/Property Liability insurance costs.

Olsen-Farrell outlined the cuts, and her budget concerns, in a Wednesday, June 5, memo to SVUUSD educators and staff. “Last night, I informed the board

that our system is inadequately funded but despite this, we cannot afford a 6th vote,” she said. “We need to get it right the 5th time. Our schools are struggling to attract applicants due to the current situation. Candidates are actually pulling out of interviews based on what they’re seeing on social media. Staff morale is being impacted, and student services may suffer, which is the last thing we want. The current stalemate benefits no one, least of all our students. We need to compromise and find a path forward.”

Olsen-Farrell noted SVUUSD is one of only nine Vermont school districts (as of June 5) to have not passed an FY’25 budget.

“If the budget does not pass on June 18, we may face layoffs (as a last resort), no purchasing of supplies, no maintenance, no professional development unless contractually obligated or grant funded, no extracurricular activities, and further cuts in currently unfilled positions. I share this with you to ensure you are not caught off guard. We will do our best to prevent this outcome for our students, but the current polarization exacerbates the situation. We will hope for a good

outcome on June 18.” State law requires school boards to persist in getting a taxpayer-approved budget. If the district hasn’t passed a budget by July 1, it can borrow up to 87% of its last passed budget to meet immediate financial obligations. Funding at an 87% level would leave the SVUUSD around \$6.5 million short of meeting basic needs, according to district officials.

“It’s like spending your paycheck before you get it,” she said of the borrowing option. Unlike several other school districts, SVUUSD didn’t send out Reduction In Force notices to educators to gird for potential layoffs. So any layoffs would likely affect support staff — who are, ironically, among the lowest paid in the SVUUSD, according to Olsen-Farrell.

Olsen-Farrell recently turned down an offer to become the next superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union. She said she elected to stay at the SVUUSD due to her strong ties with colleagues, while noting the absence of a top administrator could further hamper the district’s effort to pass a budget.

The SVUUSD delivers preK-12 public education to the children of Orwell, Benson, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hubbardton and West Haven. A complete overview of SVUUSD budget documents can be found at tinyurl.com/nfbz58hk.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

“The current stalemate benefits no one, least of all our students. We need to compromise and find a path forward.” — Brooke Olsen-Farrell

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Mount Abraham Union Middle School 8th-grader Madison King took home third prize and \$300 in the annual Hildene Lincoln Essay contest for Region Three (Addison, Rutland and Bennington

Counties). King’s essay argued that as long as the essential human touch in healthcare is preserved, the benefits of AI to the field hold immense promise.

Monkton’s June 30 Strawberry Festival is right around the corner, which means organizers are starting to take in donations for the annual book sale. Clean

books still in good condition are being accepted at the library — during its open hours — through June 25. Please note the library can’t accept dictionaries, encyclopedias, textbooks, books with highlighter or notes, damaged books, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, music CDs, or computer software. The library is open Tuesday and Thursday, 3-7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If those times do not work for you for donation drop-offs, email russellmemlibrary@gmail.com.

Liliana Luksch, a Lasell University student from Middlebury, was named to the dean’s list for her academic performance in the spring 2024 semester.

Community

(Continued from Page 1A) community members who've expressed concern about a lack of needed support for students and teachers. It's unclear exactly how many parents and teachers are included in this group, but several community members have voiced student support-related concerns at recent school board meetings, including parents in Bristol and New Haven.

Such concerns have also been closely tied to ongoing budget conversations within the MAUSD. District voters on Tuesday will weigh in on a third budget proposal for fiscal year 2025 (see story on Page 1A). The \$35.4 million spending plan retains a handful of vacant student support and student-facing positions that were originally eyed as potential reductions, including two special educator jobs and a Social and Emotional Learning intensive coach position.

Residents and multiple MAUSD board members had strongly advocated that the district preserve such positions in any spending proposal put before voters, stating MAUSD schools need more social emotional support and student-facing positions to help meet pupils' needs.

Several community members this spring have also noted that opposition to previous budget proposals has centered around disagreement with what the money is being spent on rather than how much is being spent — for example, stating that more funds should be supporting student-facing positions rather than central office or other areas of the budget.

Gabbeitt said that for her, opposition to spending proposals this spring has been tied to the feeling that students and teachers are not being adequately supported.

"If I felt like everyone was being treated properly and if the staff were being treated properly, then I would not have voted down the budget," she said. "I voted (the March 5 budget) down because one, it was just really high, but also because I was like 'I am not paying this obscene amount of money

that's way too high when our kids and teachers are barely surviving in our schools.'"

Gabbeitt told the *Independent* she's been concerned about the treatment of staff and students in the district for several years, largely stemming from the fall of 2021. Around that time, multiple disruptions involving students at Bristol Elementary School prompted teachers to ask the MAUSD board for help.

In the weeks that followed, parents, former MAUSD educators, and other community members pointed to a larger issue — the district's system for supporting students with challenging behaviors and other needs was not working properly. Some community members referred to a shift within the district a few years earlier, which reduced one-on-one paraeducator positions.

"There were so many bad things happening at school then," Gabbeitt said of the fall of 2021. "It was a very, very stressful time at the school, and ultimately the teachers and the students were being seriously mistreated and neglected by the administration, and it shows."

Gabbeitt began talking with other parents about their experiences in the district. She said she found several other people had stories of not receiving adequate support from administrators regarding their child's special education needs, bullying or other incidents.

"Each (story) is pretty much the same," Gabbeitt said. "Different people, different times but the ending is the same and that's the teachers ask for help, the teachers report it, and nothing gets done."

DISTRICT SUPPORT SYSTEM

The MAUSD board and community members on May 21 got a chance to hear more about the student support services the district provides. At the school board's meeting that evening,

MAUSD Director of Student Support Services Beth McGeorge outlined the staff and systems to meet student support needs. The topic was one of several budget-related matters board members had requested to hear more about ahead of drafting a third budget proposal.

See the entirety of McGeorge's presentation and the board discussion that followed on the district's website, and a recording of the meeting can be found on Neat TV.

McGeorge noted 85% of MAUSD students don't qualify for specialized services and are in a general education classroom 100% of the time. Those students may have a 504 or Educational Support Plan.

Twelve percent of MAUSD students in grades K-12 receive specialized services and have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The remaining 3% of students attend out-of-district placements.

McGeorge said that through the district's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), in which levels of support build off one another

depending on a student's needs, the district can offer students intensive assistance in areas of literacy, math and social-emotional learning before considering them for special education evaluations.

For K-12 students, the district currently employs 5.2 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) literacy interventionists, four for math and one for social-emotional learning. These interventionists provide intensive support to students, including those on IEP plans.

The *Independent* asked MAUSD Superintendent Patrick Reen if there is a limit to how many students in each grade level at each school can access those services. He said it's important to ensure the size of the intervention group and the needs of the group are conducive to delivering intensive support.

"Ideally, a group of 3-5 students with similar needs would be in a group. Due to levels of need and scheduling, oftentimes students in intensive groups are in the same grade," he said, noting that having students in the same grade split across different schools can make it challenging to have groups of 3-5 students in one place. "As a result, many groups are 1-2 students which isn't as efficient as we would like to be and impacts the number of students an interventionist can see. Nevertheless, we believe for intensive intervention to be most effective, the needs of students have to be similar otherwise the intervention becomes diluted and will be less likely to move the needle for students."

McGeorge said students receiving this support often have a 30-minute session five days a week.

"If they don't make progress, a referral for a special education evaluation is initiated, and that can happen through a classroom teacher, it can happen through our Intensive MTSS Team, it can happen from a parent," she explained.

The district's special education K-12 evaluation team consists of a 1.4 FTE school psychologist, one speech and language pathologist and one special educator.

"Once a comprehensive special education evaluation determines a student is eligible, and they meet the criteria for special education... an Individualized Learning Plan is developed by the IEP team," McGeorge said.

As of May 21, the district had 176 preK-12 students on IEPs, about 15% of the district. Students that qualify for an IEP are assigned a special educator to case manage. MAUSD currently has 11 licensed special educators; four for grades 7-12, six in grades K-6 and one for students in preK.

Following the presentation, a couple of board members asked what happens when a student is deemed not eligible for an IEP but still needs support.

"Somebody along the way, teacher, parent, has decided 'my

child is struggling with this, and they need more services,' and while the IEP process determined 'he doesn't qualify,' that child still probably needs sufficient help somewhere along the way, whether that's with their classroom teacher or additional supports in the classroom," board member Melissa Laurie said.

Board member Kathi Apgar echoed that sentiment.

"It's the kids that are falling through the cracks I think that we're worried about,"

she said. "Because they're falling through the cracks, they don't qualify for a 504 or an IEP and they've already been through the assessment program but they're not enough of a burden on that classroom teacher, so it's causing additional stress. We can't afford to lose any more of our teachers, so what is it we can do through the special ed model, the MTSS project that you've got going, that will support all of those classroom teachers with all of those kids that might be in the cracks?"

Reen said there is not a "one size fits all" approach to addressing such situations.

"We have an obligation to put everything we have into helping that student be successful in that general education classroom before much more significant actions are taken, whether it's out-of-district placement or something like that. That process is lengthy, it's iterative," he said.

Apgar wasn't entirely satisfied.

"My concern is that we try and try and try, we're also traumatizing all of the rest of the children in that situation," she said. "Who is supporting that classroom teacher, who is supporting those children and families, too? There's more at stake here than just trying to solve it for one person or one student, and we're burning everybody out along the way."

The *Independent* asked Reen if

there are cases when this iterative process doesn't best serve the student in question and their classmates and teachers, as well as how the district identifies those cases and if an alternative approach is taken.

"We owe it to every student to exhaust all of our resources and support before we consider removing them from their classroom, their school or even their community," Reen said. "The unfortunate reality is once a student is placed out of district they may never return, so we do not make those decisions lightly."

"No doubt, for some of our students with the greatest needs, as we are working to do all we can to support them in their classroom and school community, there are times when what we are doing is not working for the student at that time,"

Reen continued. "Sometimes, when what we are doing isn't working for the individual student that can result in behaviors that impact the learning of others. All behavior is communication and when a student is behaving in a way that is communicating the support we have in place isn't working we regroup and look for ways to improve the efficacy of the support we are providing. This can include thinking about alternative approaches to support the individual while working to mitigate the impact on others. It isn't always pretty and it isn't always successful but it is our legal, moral and ethical obligation to do the best we can for each student."

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INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

During the May 21 MAUSD board meeting, Sarah Mangini, a fourth-grade teacher at Bristol Elementary School, offered another perspective on the support services provided to students. One of the points she shared with the board highlighted the limited amount of (See MAUSD teachers, Page 11A)

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MAUSD teachers

(Continued from Page 10A)
intervention support available.

“Something you should know, and I want to make sure it's clear, is within a grade level only one to three students get support in reading, and maybe a different one to three students get support in math, and there might be a couple of students that need some SEL support from a counselor,” she said. “I want to make sure it's clear that it's not a wide open abundance of lots of support for anyone who needs it. So unfortunately, too many students get no additional support beyond what the classroom teacher can provide.”

A handful of MAUSD teachers offered additional insight to the *Independent* on the district's student support system based on their experiences in the classroom.

“The picture that is painted for the general public and the board is so misleading,” one teacher told the *Independent*. “I've heard the word ‘robust’ thrown around, like we have a robust (Multi-Tiered System of Supports). The only thing that's robust is this step-by-step flowchart system of how we put supports in place, and it's very explicitly spelled out and it's so restrictive, but the level of support is not robust.”

The teacher stated that “the way that our district applies its ‘Multi-Tiered System of Supports,’ fewer kids get support than ever before,” and pointed to how only a few students within a grade level can access intervention support and only in one subject area, though many need help in both math and literacy.

The teacher also noted the process for a parent or teacher to request additional support for a child is slow and inflexible and results in “a large portion of the school year going by before a mysterious ‘Intensive Team’ finally decides whether or not a student qualifies for such support.”

“It takes a lot of pressure from a teacher and/or parents to get forward movement in this process,” the teacher said. “If a child doesn't have someone actively promoting their case — a teacher or parent — that student will slip through the cracks.”

The educators who spoke with the *Independent* also highlighted a lack of adequate support for dysregulated students, which in turn impacts both the student and their peers.

“Because we're dealing with (dysregulated students) so much without any support, the kids who are well regulated coming from a good place are being traumatized in school,” another MAUSD teacher told the *Independent*. “If you don't feel safe where you're spending the bulk of your time, how open are you to learning?”

The teacher referred to the district's efforts to keep students in the general education classroom until all available resources for support are exhausted.

“If you give this kid enough support so that they are regulated in the classroom and able to find an access point to whatever is being taught, fantastic, but if more times than not this kid is completely off the rails and making other people feel unsafe ... we're trying to get kids up to grade level. We're really far behind, and by refusing to support *all* of these kids, we're not getting anywhere,” the teacher said.

Teachers pointed to a shift within the district away from using paraeducators to provide additional support in the classroom and the impact that has had on students in need of additional support. One teacher said the district has ended the use of these paraprofessionals except in extreme cases of misbehavior and for students with significant medical needs.

“Other students who have weak cognitive abilities (as demonstrated in their special ed testing) are left with no support in the regular classroom beyond what the teacher is able to provide,” the teacher said. “These are students who need assistance reading and writing. The gap becomes more and more pronounced with each passing year, as increasingly complex material is introduced. Without a trained paraprofessional by a student's side, that student is left confused and unsupported (in spite of the classroom teacher's attempts to read and scribe for them while attending to other students' needs).”

Another MAUSD teacher underscored the impact a lack of

education assistants has had on students in need of extra support.

“In theory, these students should be receiving intervention, but they're not. They're not receiving interventions (because of our flawed MTSS approach) and they're not getting enough help in the classroom,” the teacher said. “This leaves them falling further and further behind. To complicate things further, we no longer keep students back if they're not meeting our academic standards. Every single student in (one grade will pass on to the next) grade, whether they're reading at a kindergarten or 7th grade level. This allows for students to repeatedly fall through the cracks without ever really receiving the help they need in order to progress.”

This concern of students in need of support slipping through the cracks was raised by Gabbett at the MAUSD board's May 21 meeting.

“What about the students that don't have a parent to advocate for them? Because if parents have to be there and ask for these things, what about the kid that doesn't have that parent,” she said. “Because I know, if you're not the parent asking for this, then that kid doesn't get it, and there are kids that really need help.”

She noted teachers also need support in the classroom to help meet students' needs.

“To have teachers have to teach all the way down to the level of students that need very targeted support and all the way up to students that are above average and all the way in between and all the curriculum, and then still provide the emotional and behavioral support that students need, is not even remotely possible. They really need (education assistants) in the classroom and a lot of them,” she said.

Reen told the *Independent* the district has added several positions in recent years to support students, particularly in the area of social and emotional learning.

“These include behavior assistants, additional counselors, SEL interventionists, social workers and even some additional administrator support,” he said. “The vast majority of these added positions remain in the budget and we continue to look for creative ways to further support the social, emotional and academic needs of our students.”

LOOKING AHEAD

Reen said one of the biggest challenges schools face in supporting students with the greatest need is the availability of support from partner programs.

“For example, when we have done all we can to support a student in their home school and a decision is made for the student to be placed out of district, it can take several months before a placement becomes available. This leaves the district and the family in a challenging situation for an extended period of time,” he said. “Similarly, we have had some placements send students back to MAUSD because the needs of the students were too intense for the placement. This too leaves the district and the family in a challenging place.”

He noted another challenge comes when a team does reach a consensus around how best to meet the needs of a student.

“In these cases there is clear authority given to a representative of the school district to make the final decision which the family can challenge through a prescribed process,” Reen said. “The opportunities presented in these cases are for us to continue to work to make the learning environment in our schools more supportive to a wider range of needs and for us to build programming closer to home to meet the needs. This is easier said than done but is something we continue to look for ways to do.”

MAUSD teachers say they are willing to discuss with district officials ways to improve the current system in place for support students. The *Independent* asked Reen if there are plans for such conversations.

“Teachers are routinely involved in conversations with building leaders about our system

of support,” Reen said. “Their conversations with principals at building level team meetings and in various other opportunities for discussion help the principals find ways to improve systems at the building level. Principals then share with central office leaders, and sometimes with the entire leadership team, what they are hearing about how to improve the system as a whole for the district. Though indirect, what teachers are saying about what is working and isn't does influence how our system evolves over time.”

The *Independent* reached out to MAUSD Board Chair Erin Jipner to learn more about the challenges and opportunities seen in addressing community members' concerns that students are not getting support they need.

“When approaching any topic hardwired on emotions, it is important that there is true understanding of impact on the whole system. So often we start looking at one variable because it is observable and important that we forget to look deeper,” Jipner said. “At the board level, it has been extremely hard to navigate the gap between anecdotal evidence from our community members and how our administration is describing what is happening. So far, we have evidence to

suggest there are realized impacts on families and students and, we have evidence to suggest that the district continues to build systems to meet those needs.

“What this board has not yet done, is dive in with a holistic lens on the system,” Jipner continued. “This board has many opportunities to learn the systems, rebuild some policies to help us address concerns and collect data to ensure that educational priorities are being met, and continue our community outreach.”

Jipner noted that the board has had little room to make actionable change to address such concerns as it has been rallying around budgetary concerns.

“However, the board has made a lot of room to listen to our community through everything they would like to address,” Jipner said. “The board also ensured that all current staffing and support levels were maintained and reallocated funds within our currently proposed budget to help facilitate the ability for our administration to add more student facing positions into our district schools. Moving forward, we hope to continue building the systems needed to adequately demonstrate the state of our districts' health and the ways in which we are monitoring changes in that health.”

As for the district's teachers, one that spoke with the *Independent* acknowledged a divide between the district's administrators and educators.

“There is so much friction between the administrative office and people on the ground, and that's recognized I think by all parties,” the teacher said. “Naturally, we should all be working toward trying to smooth that over and get rid of the us versus them split because we're in the business of supporting students and helping them grow, but when the administration goes

MAUSD budget

(Continued from Page 1A)
member towns. The tax mechanism is called Common Level of Appraisal, or CLA.

Superintendent Patrick Reen said this spending proposal reflects two major concerns that school board members have heard: higher taxes and the need to keep jobs that directly serve students.

“The budget decreases the cost per pupil by more than 7.5% over the current budget and brings the post-CLA tax rate increase down to around 4%-7%, essentially right where they have been in recent years, which is lower than most districts around the state,” Reen added.

Voters in the MAUSD member towns of Bristol, New Haven, Monkton and Starksboro first defeated a \$37 million spending plan by 228 votes on Town Meeting Day and then rejected a \$35.9 million budget proposal by 57 votes on April 16.

After the second failed vote, MAUSD board members organized community forums in each town to gather feedback from residents, as well as heard from Reen and other administrators on several questions related to district spending and operations.

One piece of feedback district officials have heard consistently from residents this spring is that community members value student-facing positions and want to see that reflected in any spending proposal put before voters. Parents and other members of the MAUSD community have repeatedly told district officials this spring that students and teachers in the district's schools need more support (see related story on Page 1A).

In light of those concerns, board members suggested preserving student-facing positions and exploring potential savings in other areas when drafting the third spending proposal.

The plan approved by the MAUSD board on May 21 reflects \$35,381,196 in total spending, around \$1.9 million less than the proposal rejected on March 5 and \$576,205 less than the budget voters defeated April 16.

The newest proposal factors in the \$1.3 million in reductions identified ahead of the April 16 vote, which would achieve savings by not filling 6.5 vacant positions, reducing teletherapy support due to filling related positions, eliminating \$250,100 in funds for construction

services and removing \$160,000 earmarked for creating alternative programming at elementary schools. Additional savings would come from using \$305,000 from the district's Education Reserve Fund, which has a balance of \$1,024,563.

That wave of cuts originally included not filling a vacant Social and Emotional Learning intensive coach position. Though, board members on May 21 asked that funds for that position (around \$100,000) be taken from the construction services line instead, in order to preserve the student-facing role or one similar to it.

The revised plan also reflects an additional \$576,205 of cuts since the first budget proposal, including:

- Not filling a 1.0 FTE (full-time equivalent) math instructional coach, a 0.4 FTE social worker and a 0.3 FTE special educator position.
- A \$250,000 reduction in funds for construction services.
- Additional savings from reduced out-of-district placement costs, interpreter costs, special education travel and physical therapy costs.

TAX IMPACTS

With those spending cuts factored in, officials expect the revised plan to lower the district-wide homestead tax rate by around 7.1 cents, or 4.74%, from \$1.4991 per \$100 of assessed property value to \$1.4281.

But, property taxes in three of the MAUSD member towns are still expected to increase due to low Common Level of Appraisals (CLAs), a ratio the state uses to adjust locally assessed property values to reflect estimated fair market value. The goal is to make the level of taxation equal among all Vermont towns and ensure they're paying their fair share into Vermont's Education Fund.

If a town's grand list (the list of the value of all its properties) is less than 100, that indicates that fair market value for the properties is higher than the grand list values, so then the tax rate is increased.

Currently, the only MAUSD town expected to see a falling tax rate is Starksboro, as the town is expected to finish a town-wide property reappraisal before the start of the next fiscal year and thus, the CLA would not drive up the property tax rate.

So even there, though, education tax bills will likely be higher since the slightly lower district tax rate

will be applied to higher property tax values.

Monkton has also been conducting a town-wide reappraisal. Reen told the *Independent* earlier this spring that town officials felt it was “likely” the town would have an updated CLA, and that district officials would need to consider how to include that new information going forward.

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

- Bristol would see a 13.08-cent increase in its FY'25 tax rate, or an additional \$130.80 per \$100,000 of assessed home value.
- Monkton: 12.66-cent increase, or an additional \$126.60 per \$100,000.
- New Haven: 8.24-cent increase, or an additional \$82.40 per \$100,000.
- Starksboro: 51.86-cent decrease, or \$518.60 less per \$100,000.

For example, taxes on a \$300,000 home in Bristol would rise by around \$390 under the revised plan. That's less than the anticipated tax impact of the budget proposals defeated on Town Meeting Day and April 16, which were expected to have raised taxes on the same Bristol home by about \$880 and \$553, respectively.

According to district estimates, the proposed spending plan is expected to result in an increase of around \$225 in taxes, or 11.35%, for the roughly two-thirds of residents who pay education taxes based on their income. That estimate is based on the Addison County 2021 median income of \$77,978.

MAUSD Board Chair Erin Jipner noted absentee ballots for the budget vote are already available in the town offices.

“The board and admin team will continue to send out budgetary information to our community between now and the 11th,” Jipner said. “We understand this budget process has been challenging to our community and we are committed to ensuring information is available.”

Vermonters rejected budget proposals in around 29 school districts on Town Meeting Day in March. Since then, all but nine have approved spending plans for next year. Locally, MAUSD, Otter Valley and Slate Valley have yet to approve spending plants.


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Agriculture News



AT LEMONFAIR SAFFRON Co. the delicate saffron crocus blossoms are harvested early in the morning during late autumn. Each flower contains three bright red pistils that are then removed from the stamens and petals. Saffron is the world's most expensive spice because harvesting is so labor intensive. It takes 70,000-75,000 crocus flowers to produce a pound of dried saffron.

Photo courtesy of Lemonfair Saffron Company

'No free lunch'

Flower and saffron growers get real about working in emerging industries

By **CLAIRE CONTRERAS**
Addison County Relocalization Network

When we talk about farming in Vermont, it's often about vegetable or dairy farms. We talk about climate change, margins, markets, labor, land, accessibility and more. While these are all important and unfinished conversations, there's more to our agricultural landscape to consider. In the last decade, saffron and floriculture have both risen in the ranks of often forgotten sectors.

SAFFRON

The origins of Vermont's saffron industry are as clear as day. In 2015, a UVM entomology lab began studying the feasibility of growing saffron in Vermont. This project was led by Margret Skinner but prompted by researcher Arash Ghalegholabbehbahani. The latter hails from Iran, the world's largest saffron producer, and, while the climates are different, he believed *Crocus sativus* (the variety saffron comes from) could lucratively grow here. Two years later, they published exciting findings that not only can saffron succeed here, but its late-fall harvest could significantly extend Vermont's oppressively short growing season. Thus came the North American Center for Saffron Research and Development and a new whole industry.

One of the big players in the budding industry is Lemonfair Saffron Company. Based in Addison County and co-owned by Parker Shorey and Hannah Marks, Lemonfair is a co-op model distributor of saffron from all over the state. Shorey is quick to pay his

dues to UVM for the success of his business and the industry at large.

"They're everything," he said. "They made [Vermont] the think tank for U.S.-grown saffron. It's truly all because of them."

Shorey is also clear that although local food interest is catching up to spices, and demand is currently higher than supply, growing this historically rich spice is no gold rush.

"The reality of saffron is more complicated than a cash crop. The steep learning curve, high labor cost, and short harvesting window make it a challenge."

The harvest process is tedious (although beautiful!), which is reflected in the product price and labor demands. Like many crops, climate change doesn't bode well for saffron viability globally. A lot of the traditional saffron-producing regions, such as Spain and India, are rapidly warming. This makes Vermont's cold autumns advantageous. But recent floods threaten the moisture-sensitive crop's viability. So despite the potential for wide margins, Shorey insists "there's no free lunch."

Brian Leven owns Golden Thread Saffron in Stowe. For him, it is a supplement crop, just not in the way UVM pitched. To Leven, it's a foodie side hustle to his law

practice. His direct-to-consumer advertising is mostly by word-of-mouth and he has a short (but prestigious, see Hen of the Woods) wholesale list. But to call him just a "hobbyist" wouldn't do Leven justice. Just like Shorey, Leven got involved right after UVM's initial report in 2017.

"Within a year I was an expert, not because I knew a lot but because it was all so new," he said. "If you jump right in, you're all of a sudden an expert."

After year one of growing, he was speaking at UVM's annual saffron conference and the largest producer in the state.

He's stayed small intentionally, not just because he's busy practicing law.

"With climate and labor variability, I can't imagine [growing] on a bigger scale," Leven said.

Like Shorey, Leven also noted the short harvesting window limits: "As you scale up, you need more workers and it's hard to find a large labor force for just only a few weeks out of the year." Leven wonders if the saffron industry would need to bring in labor under the H2A visa, as many apple orchards do.

But with all the challenges, both Leven and Shorey sing the praises of growing and producing saffron

"People from every walk of life purchase flowers. People die, babies are born, and people are grieving. You don't have to be a 'localvore' to want local flowers."

— Gregory Witscher

(See Saffron Page 13A)



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JESSIE AND GREGORY WITSCHER and their crew at Understory Farm in Bridport make a successful business out growing, harvesting and selling beautiful, sustainably grown specialty cut flowers in the Champlain Valley.

Photo courtesy of Understory Farm

locally. Their collaborations and connections with other producers globally, the rich history and medical benefits of the spice, and the pride they have in producing a high-quality and specialized product keep them returning.

CUT FLOWERS

Flower farming is easily glamorized; it could look as if you're just picking flowers all day. But if there's no free lunch producing the most expensive spice in the world, there probably isn't one for growing flowers, either. July isn't any cooler in a high tunnel of zinnias than of tomatoes, and the floods this past summer didn't bring any less rot and fungal disease to poppies than to carrots, or any less misery to the people growing them.

Jessie and Gregory Witscher, owners of Understory Farm in Bridport, know this well. Now one of Vermont's biggest flower farms, they got started in 2012 growing vegetables and raising pork. But in looking to simplify their work, they saw an exciting gap in the local agriculture landscape: floriculture.

The increased flower demand trickled in from two places: social media trends popularizing specific varieties or growers, and trends in wedding designs favoring local "garden varieties."

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The data supports their vision. In the Agricultural Census, Vermont totaled 57 flower farms in 2007, 83 in 2012, 96 in 2017, and 144 in 2022. So in 2015, with the help of the Farm Viability Program, they went all in on floriculture and haven't looked back.

The newness of the industry creates unique issues, along with its opportunities. Unlike vegetable farmers, Understory can seldom find workers with floriculture experience.

"They don't exist yet," Gregory said. "It hasn't been around long enough to generate an experienced workforce."

Harvesting is the bottleneck of flower production, with a technique specific to each variety and impacting quality. Without experienced labor, the Witschers have to invest more resources in their workforce.

Betsy Orvis, owner of Rock Meadow Farm, started growing flowers on a small scale in Hinesburg and Huntington in 2012. She started the one-woman operation when she was returning to growing again after raising her

kids. Orvis was attracted to the lower demand for diversity in the floriculture market, her ability to grow a lot in a small area, and how many 'cut and come again' varieties exist. Like Gregory, Orvis praises the boom, while being thankful she entered before it.

"The market is robust and there are plenty of people seeking out local flowers. There's certainly more competition, but there is also a lot of demand," she said.

Post-boom, Orvis advises those interested in growing flowers: "Looking in your community, how could you offer something that isn't already there? The more we complement, the more vibrancy we create."

The uniqueness of flowers lies in the way they straddle ubiquity and rarity.

"People from every walk of life purchase flowers. People die, babies are born, and people are grieving. You don't have to be a 'locavore' to want local flowers," Gregory explained.

Most people, however, aren't buying flowers as often as food. And Orvis thinks that's why people

are more willing to pay a higher price.

"Flowers can be perceived as something extra or special. People are more willing to pay for a nice bouquet than for a nice onion," she said. But she was explicit that flower farmers aren't price gouging, they're just able to charge fairer prices in a way food producers often can't.

The challenges of floriculture are as real as ever: erratic weather, limitations of market infrastructure, lack of representation in policy making, and increased insect pressure, among others. But the prospects are still exciting to both Orvis and the Witschers. When asked about the future of the budding industry, Gregory Witscher said he is eager to see local flowers in big-name grocers like Hannaford.

"Supporting local flower farms is meaningful," he said. "As pollinator habitats, and as part of our economy, they're amazing and worth supporting." Orvis rejoiced, "There's a lot of beauty coming out of our little state. The future is bright!"

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Four local operations score grants

VERMONT — Two Addison County farms and two local businesses were among those Vermont operations winning grants recently announced by the Working Lands Enterprise Board. The WLEB last week said it gave 51 awards to working lands businesses and organizations this year for a total of \$2,329,561 to support those who are earning a living off the land.

“The challenges the farm and forest economy sectors face are significant, which is why my administration continues to prioritize investments in the rural regions of our state,” Gov. Phil Scott said. “These awards are important to growing our economy and making it more affordable for those working the land.”

Local grant recipients and the category under which they received funds were:
ARPA PRIMARY PRODUCER IMPACT GRANTS

Six operations split \$812,991 in grants to support businesses engaged in growing crops, raising

livestock, and harvesting timber in advancing their businesses after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last Resort Farm, Bristol: \$74,565 for building new hay storage and converting the old dairy barn hay loft to the storage and curing of higher value crops.

Severy Farm, Cornwall: \$185,829 for new livestock facilities for profitability.

SUPPLY CHAIN IMPACT GRANT

Six businesses and nonprofits split \$788,159 in support of farm, forest and local food businesses investing in critical supply chain infrastructure. These include distribution and processing initiatives, which are investments that create new opportunities for multiple businesses in their respective supply chains.

Champlain Valley Grain Center, Ferrisburgh: \$150,000 for still system for processing local grain day of harvest.

TRADE SHOW ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Thirteen businesses shared \$59,968 in grant money that aims to help local food and forest businesses to attend trade shows to bring Vermont products to out of state markets.

Maple Landmark Woodcraft, Middlebury: \$4,750.

“These investments enable businesses of all sectors and sizes to increase sales and efficiency, advance equity, improve land management, and adapt to climate change and the post-pandemic economy. We are proud to support these businesses that enhance our rural communities and economies,” said Anson Tebbetts, secretary of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets.

In the upcoming fiscal year 2025, \$1 million will be available for agriculture and forest businesses and organizations. Applications will open in the fall. Visit www.workinglands.vermont.gov to find out how to apply.

Celebrate Dairy Month

By **ELICIA PINSONAULT**
New England Dairy

June is National Dairy Month. This annual event celebrates the dairy industry, our hardworking farmers, and the nutritious dairy foods we all know and enjoy. The first of June is also World Milk Day, which recognizes the importance of milk as a global food.

Throughout the month, New England Dairy is connecting

consumers to dairy by showcasing the contributions of farmers across Vermont through op-eds, earned media, and social media campaigns. The messaging will focus on topics that are top-of-mind for consumers, including sustainability, cow care, and the countless ways farmers connect with their communities.

With less than 2% of the U.S. population currently involved in agriculture, National Dairy

Month is an opportunity for farmers to promote their work. New England Dairy has curated a variety of resources — including nutrition information, recipes, social media posts, and more — to help farmers share their dairy stories and spread the love of dairy this month. Visit www.NewEnglandDairy.com/national-dairy-month for more information.

Innovation center helps dairy farmers

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center supports dairy farmers and processors through grants, access to technical services, education, and events that promote the development, production, marketing, and distribution of regional dairy products.

The goal is to create resiliency and long-term sustainability for Northeast dairy businesses. Here's what that looks like in Vermont, by the numbers:

- As of April 2024, NE-DBIC has awarded 126 grants and contracts across Vermont.

- The total amount awarded equals \$10,259,716 in funding for Vermont dairy farmers, processors, and service providers.

- The average grant award in Vermont was \$93,270.

Among these grants is the 2023 Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant, which saw 10 Vermont dairy processors awarded between \$25,850 and \$1 million. This one-time grant program provided a catalytic infusion to support regional processing capabilities that are vital for the overall dairy sector.

“The NE-DBIC grant was a godsend to our small but growing

value-added dairy enterprise,” said Rich Larson of Larson Farm in the Vermont town of Wells. The farmstead creamery will replace their yogurt filler with new, more efficient equipment.

“We reached a point where our current filler lacked the capacity to maintain product quality and labor efficiency, but we lacked the cash flow to purchase the needed larger filler,” Larson continued. “The new machine will enable us to improve product quality, extend shelf life, and greatly reduce labor expenses. This will help us control costs and be competitive in the broader northeast marketplace.”

In Bennington, Maplebrook Farm is expanding their production by installing new specialized equipment.

“Receiving the grant will allow us to finally take the first step in a robust expansion plan to double capacity and bring new innovative products to market,” said Alex Englert of Maplebrook. “What had been an overwhelming and daunting expansion project is now underway because of this grant. We feel very grateful for the opportunity to share our cheese with more people and continue to highlight Vermont's unparalleled milk quality.”

Cabot Creamery received funding to improve their line of Cabot Cracker Cut cheese — an item so popular that they've been unable to meet consumer demand.

“The Processor Expansion Grant award will allow the Agri-Mark dairy cooperative to invest in new equipment that will double production capacity while improving workplace conditions,” said Jed Davis, vice president of Strategic Engagement & Sustainability at Agri-Mark/Cabot. “The result is that our processing facilities will run more efficiently, our market access can expand to benefit both the Cabot brand and the dairy farm families who own it, and our loyal customers will have better access to our award-winning cheeses.”

Building on the impact of the Existing Dairy Processor Expansion Grant, NE-DBIC will be offering a New Dairy Processor Start-up Grant this summer. With funding for projects through 2026, we look forward to continuing NE-DBIC grant programs that benefit the entire dairy sector, from farmers to processors to consumers.

Learn more about our funding opportunities at nedairyinnovation.com.

MEET Our Farmers

LeAnna Compagna
Scholten Family Farm

Organic dairy farmer LeAnna Compagna was raised in farming. And if she has anything to say about it, her children and their children will be, too. To be certain, she's not trying to coerce her four offspring into leading the agricultural lifestyle she's chosen for herself. But she and her husband, Mike, are bound and determined to ensure farming in Vermont is environmentally sustainable and economically viable for generations to come.



As organic dairy farmers, thirty percent of their cows' dry matter intake must come from pasture. In turn, they rotationally graze, moving their cows from paddock to paddock to give them continuous access to a diversified base of grass species and nutrients without destroying the soil. Meanwhile, riparian buffers line their pastures and laneways to protect nearby waterways from nutrient leaching.

With the support of Vermont's Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP), LeAnna and Mike recently invested in a no-till drill to plant winter rye and other cover crops, as well as to restore species in their pastures, such as clover and Italian rye.

They're also experimenting with diversifying the species of crops they grow on their farm overall. At the top of the list is sorghum, a high-energy feed for cows that pulls nutrients from the soil they wouldn't normally get with grass.

As LeAnna and Mike look to the future, they have many ideas about new practices they would like to implement. This includes building a barnyard to give their cows outdoor access in the winter without creating mud; shoring up the laneways from the pasture to the barn with stone or wood chips; and doing more wrapped round bales to reduce run-off and leaching from the bunks.

“At the end of the day, a good farmer has good management practices,” LeAnna says. “It's not that they're big, small, organic, or conventional. What you choose to consume is your own choice, and that's the beauty of America and the diversity of products we have.”

Like all farmers, experimenting with and implementing new practices in order to be better stewards of the environment has presented LeAnna and Mike with some obstacles. Money, time, and people power are common barriers, as well as the clay soils Addison County is famous for.

Why do they muster the sheer will, determination, and power to care for the environment through agriculture?

For them, it just makes sense—and cents.

“When you don't take care of the environment, it's not going to take care of you,” observes LeAnna. “To be a financially profitable farmer, you have to take care of the soils and the plants because that's what feeds the rest of the operation.”



To read more farmer stories and learn what they're doing to protect water quality, support soil health, and promote climate smart farming, visit us at cvfc-vt.com

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CSAC

(Continued from Page 1A)
 counselors embedded in schools throughout the county, working with educators and students to defuse aggressive behaviors. It's part of an evolving suite of services that CSAC has been deploying to assist people of all ages.

"There are so many stressors on people," Chiola said. "The economy seems better, but people don't necessarily feel that; they feel higher costs of food, their rent going up. All of those pieces that have an initial impact on somebody's life that add to the stressors."

Chiola has a young clientele, and she and her staff have no shortage of crises to deal with.

"We've seen a lot more teenagers who are suicidal. We're seeing suicidal ideations in younger kids than we've seen before," she said.

She's noted that anxiety and depression have affected some people's ability to parent.

"People use different ways to numb themselves, whether it's substance abuse or social media — all these things that aren't the healthiest way to manage one's stress levels," Chiola said.

Alexander "Sandy" Smith is CSAC's director of Adult Mental Health Services. Many of his clients are struggling with loneliness.

"What we're seeing post-COVID is that probably our most worrisome crisis expressions are coming from people who are really isolated," he said. "Worrisome circumstances that can become dangerous."

With that in mind, CSAC programming is increasingly focused on bringing the client back into their community, while involving family and friends in their healing process.

"We try to involve person networks in treatment as much as possible and protect that base of relational support," Smith explained. "Also, we try to reach out to community partner groups and offer educational formats that

help people think about how to respond to people in distress if they encounter them.

"It can involve building community bridges, trying to help people find their way back into community connectedness if they've had life experiences that caused them to become isolated."

CSAC runs a program called "Community Bridges," which does exactly what Smith suggests: meeting in person and by Zoom, peer-led groups help participants develop ways to work toward greater inclusion.

Counseling Service officials are creating additional mental health allies through "Emotional CPR," or eCPR. It's a free, two-day training for people to learn how to respond to others in the community who are dealing with emotional distress. It's created and led by people who've experienced, and coped, with major mental health challenges. The next eCPR session is set for July 16-17, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society at 2 Duane Court in Middlebury.

Smith also touted CSAC's "Open Dialogue" program, which offers folks the option of including family and/or friends in their mental-health support program. Open Dialogue facilitators offer 90-minute sessions to support individuals and those important to them to hear each other's perspectives and find ways forward, together.

"It's person-centered, involving who the person wants to be connected with," Chiola said.

At the same time, CSAC officials are trying to make their services as "low barrier" as possible, so that people feel comfortable reaching out for help. Making a hospital ER the first step is not always the best move.

"Sometimes, what can happen in the (hospital) emergency department can feel difficult — just because of the nature of the ED," Smith said, referring to the

institutional setting. "We want to make it as easy as possible for people to get support. We're offering a range of options, whether it's peer support at Interlude, having a Mobile Crisis Team go to a home, or pulling the network together for an open dialogue meeting."

Based in Middlebury's Marble Works complex, CSAC's Interlude program offers a home-like healing environment for Addison County adults navigating an emotional crisis. On-site staff provide peer support, individual counseling, help connecting to CSAC services and other community resources and supports.

The Counseling Service's "Rapid Access Project" offers initial, short-term treatment and support — usually available within a few days. The client's family and/or friends are encouraged to be part of the recovery process, according to Smith.

Greg Mairs is director of Developmental Services for CSAC. In large part, his goal is to see clients with developmental disabilities learn skills and build the relationships they need to live a happier and more satisfying life. It's a formula that was disrupted by COVID, and the impacts will be felt for a long time, he fears.

"I fear that as a community, we haven't begun to feel what it's going to be like," Mairs said.

NEW SERVICE MODEL
 But he's pleased to see CSAC pivoting toward a new service model through which officials can deliver services in the field — as opposed to just within Counseling Service offices. It's a shift that's wholeheartedly supported by CSAC Executive Director Rachel Lee Cummings.

"Operationally, we're trying to think about accessibility of services — how to create low-barrier services. What we've heard from the community, families, and community partners is, it's really complicated to understand

how to access (CSAC) services sometimes," Cummings said. "We're kind of hemmed in by the requirements of our payers, and that can be a huge burden for those coming to us in crisis, some of the lowest points in their life. So what we've focused on is to meet people where they're at, and create an easy way for people to come in through the front door. We're saying, 'What's going on? How do we support you? Let's deal with the issues at hand.'"

The invite, Mairs said, also extends to "businesses, community groups or individuals who have a sense that something's different, or who need support earlier, should call us and invite us over to talk. We all need to address mental health together."

Chiola agreed. "I think we have to be more nimble, more creative," she said. "Business as usual can't be the norm anymore. We don't have enough staff, we don't have the structures in place to be able to respond, so we have to create new structures; we have to do things a little differently so people can get their needs met with a smaller workforce."

When fully staffed, CSAC has 315 workers, according to Alexa Euler, the agency's director of Organizational Development. CSAC is currently trying to fill 40 positions — the vast majority of them patient-facing.

Chiola said the depleted housing market has been a major obstacle in filling staff vacancies.

"It used to be, 'You get the job and then you move.' That doesn't happen here," she said.

She pointed to another disincentive for prospective hires.

"The administrative burden of paperwork is challenging for staff and for clients," she said. "The amount of data and questions that are asked of people, and the forms people have to fill out, makes it so challenging to get the quick response they need. It also affects



THE COUNSELING SERVICE of Addison County has been adapting its offerings to the needs of a growing clientele struggling in a "post-COVID" world. Pictured here, from left, are CSAC staffers Alexander "Sandy" Smith, director of Adult Mental Health Services; Alexis Euler, director of Organizational Development; LuAnn Chiola, director of Youth & Family Services operations; and Greg Mairs, director of Developmental Services.

Independent photo/John Flowers

our ability to hire and retain people. No one wants to fill out a bunch of paperwork; that's not why we got into this field."

That said, those who take jobs with CSAC tend to stick around; Chiola, Smith and Mairs have all been with the organization for 20 or more years.

"Once we can get people to see what it's like to work here, people stay," Chiola said. "We take care of each other, and we try very hard to take care of the community. I think it becomes a nurturing place to be for both staff and clients."

WHEN TO SEEK HELP
 So when should a person seek out mental health services?

"If what you're experiencing is interfering with the quality of your life, then that's a good time to seek support," Chiola said. "It's easy to pathologize all of our emotions. Everyone feels stress and anxiety; that's normal. Everybody feels sad, but that doesn't mean you're clinically depressed. So, the question becomes, at what point does it move from 'These are just normal feelings that I have,' to 'Maybe I need to do something about it.'"

For children, the "get help" point

is usually when depression/anxiety keeps them home from school, according to Chiola. For adults, it might come with increasing problems with inter-personal relationships.

"If you don't know and you're questioning yourself, talk to somebody," she stressed. "Talk to somebody you trust, and they can help you navigate how you're feeling and help find a good avenue for support."

While the pandemic exacerbated mental health problems for a lot of people, Mairs believes it produced one positive: "At every dinner table, people asked each other how they were doing. In doing so, it made everyone aware that we have our own emotional wellbeing to take care of."

Euler recalled one of her CSAC colleagues responding to a person asking, "When should I seek mental health assistance?"

"You call us when you feel a level of distress that needs attention," she said. "It's a wide-open invitation."

For more information about CSAC and its programs, go to csacvt.org.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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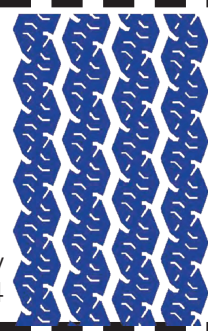
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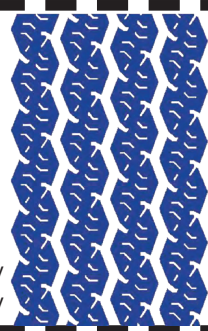
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TIGER SENIOR CARTER Paquette takes a healthy rip at an OV offering during Tuesday's first-round D-II playoff game at MUHS. Paquette had two hits in the Tiger win.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tiger nine overwhelms OV MUHS advances to D-II quarterfinals with big victory

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

MIDDLEBURY — On paper Tuesday's Division II first-round playoff game between the host No. 8 seed Middlebury Union High School baseball team and No. 9 Otter Valley looked like a close game.

Both teams entered with 8-8 records, and if anything their results against common foes — Mount Abraham and Fair Haven — might have given an edge to the Otters. And OV was starting its senior ace, Isaiah Wood, while the Tigers were countering with freshman Gabe Velez, untested in the postseason.

On the other hand, the Tigers entered the game winners of eight of 10 after an 0-6 start. And now the Tigers believed in themselves, according to Coach Tim Paquette and Co-Captain Carter Paquette, who when not on the field calls his coach Dad.

That belief showed on Tuesday, when the Tigers broke the game

open in the second inning with seven runs on the way to an 11-1, six-inning victory.

"We've got a great group of leaders here. Everybody keeps each other's heads up," Carter Paquette said. "The confidence is high right now."

Coach Paquette said the team took to heart a conversation when it was still struggling.

"I just told the boys when we were 1-7, we were in our division, we've got to play fundamental baseball and get ahead and hit the ball, and stay up and stay positive," Coach Paquette said. "And we went on a roll, six games in a row."

OV Coach Mike Howe acknowledged that, although the Otters made a few good plays in the field, his team did not play up to their capabilities on Tuesday.

"We knew we had to have a good day, but it just wasn't our day. We made too many mistakes, and didn't make enough plays," Howe said. "That's the game of baseball. That's the game of life. It's too bad. I thought we matched up really well against them. But when you give a good team, a team that can swing the bats the way they can, a lot of extra outs, they're going to take advantage of that."

OV went quietly on three ground balls in the first, and ran into trouble in the bottom of the inning. Cole Warren led off for the Tigers with the first of his three hits and moved to second on a wild pitch before scoring on a Carter Paquette single.

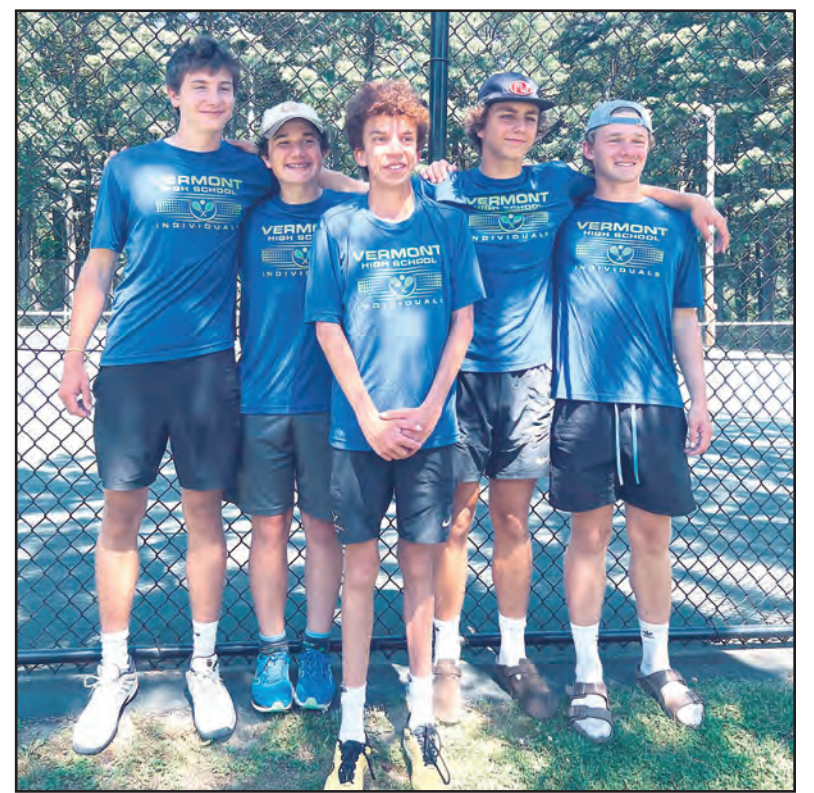
The Otters threatened in the second on a Wood single and a one-out walk, but Velez got the next two

(See Baseball, Page 4B)



MUHS JUNIOR JAZMYN Hurley won three races at the D-II track & field championship meet in Burlington on May 31, claiming titles in the 100, 200 and 400 meter races, all by wide margins. These photos show her winning at 400 meters against an all-division field on May 25 at the Essex Invitational, showing perfect form bursting out of the starting blocks, left, and leaving runners in her wake as she approaches the finish line looking considerably more relaxed than the competition, much as she did in Burlington.

Photos by Joe McVeigh



MUHS BOYS' TENNIS players fared well in the individual state tournament held at South Burlington's Leddy Park last week. The doubles team of senior Iver Anderson and freshman Nate Cook Yoder defeated seniors Eddie Fallis and Milo Rees in an all-Tiger doubles final. Junior Jackson Murray was the singles runner-up. Picture, from left, are Anderson, Cook Yoder, Murray, Rees and Fallis.

Photo Courtesy of Coach Ken Schoen

D-II track: Hurley wins three, Stanley one

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

BURLINGTON — Middlebury junior Jazmyn Hurley became the only runner to win at three distances at the May 31 Division II championship meet at Burlington High School, while Mount Abraham senior Siena Stanley claimed the other victory for a local athlete with a big win at 3,000 meters.

Hurley prevailed at 100, 200 and 400 meters, all by considerable margins. Her closest race came in the 100, which she won by 18 hundredths of a second almost immediately after winning the 400 by 2.33 seconds. Hurley won the 200 by 0.54 seconds.

Stanley cruised to victory in the 3,000 by 24.19 seconds and also finished second at 1,500 meters. According to Mount Abe Athletic Director Devin Wendel she has been recruited to run for the University of Vermont next year.

Also placing in events for the Mount Abe girls were juniors Hazel Stoddard (second in the high jump and fifth in the pole vault) and Ruby Connell (third at 200 meters and fifth in the high jump).

Mount Abe senior Joseph Darling capped his stellar career with a second in the long jump and a third in the discus, and freshman Truman Sawyer took third in the triple jump.

No Tiger other than Hurley scored points, although Solstice Binder came close with a seventh-place effort at 100 meters. Hurley's three wins were good enough to give the MUHS girls 30 points, good for sixth place, just behind Mount Abe in fifth with 35.5. The Eagle boys finished seventh with 20 points.

U-32 swept both the boys' and girls' team competition. Raider senior Isabel Moustakas matched Hurley with victories in three

events, but one win was not on the track: She won the 100- and 300-meter hurdles and the high jump.

The girls' team standings were: 1. U-32, 230.5; 2. Peoples, 73; 3. Montpelier, 46; 4. Rice, 43; 5. Mount Abe, 35.5; 6. MUHS, 30; 7. Lyndon, 28; 8. Milton, 21; 9. Fair Haven, 20; 10. tie, Missisquoi and Harwood, 9; 12. Hartford, 6; 13. Lamoille, 5; 14. Spaulding, 2.

The boys' team standings were: 1. U-32, 148; 2. Hartford, 135; 3. Peoples, 79; 4. Montpelier, 56; 5. Lyndon, 36; 6. Fair Haven, 26; 7. Mount Abraham, 20; 8. Rice, 16; 9. tie, Missisquoi and Lamoille, 15; 11. Spaulding, 12.

RESULTS:

The local girls' and event winners' results were:

- 100 meters: 1. Hurley, MUHS, 12.86; 7. Binder, MUHS, 13.56; 10. Connell, MTA, 14.03; 14. Grace Ritter, MUHS, 14.99.

- 200: 1. Hurley, MUHS, 26.48; 3. Connell, MTA, 28.21;

- 400: 1. Hurley, MUHS, 58.01.

- 1,500: 1. Ginger Long, U-32, 4:52.9; 2. Stanley, MTA, 4:58.5; 12. Isabella Shea, MTA, 5:47.75.

- 3,000: 1. Stanley, MTA, 10:47.93.

- Pole vault: 1. Clare Pritchard, U-32, 8-11.5; 5. Stoddard, MTA, 6-11.75.

- High jump: 1. Moustakas, U-32, 4-9.75; 2. Stoddard, MTA, 4-7.75; 5. Connell, MTA, 4-6.

- Long jump: 1. Olivia Thomas, Milton, 16-7.75; 11. Vivian Mott, MUHS, 14-05.

- Triple jump: 1. Morgan Towne, U-32, 33-1.75; 7. Whitney Dykstra, MTA, 28-10.75.

The local boys' and event winners' individual results were:

- 100 meters: 1. Kenique Josephs, Peoples, 11.34; 25. Sawyer Malzac, MUHS, 12.61; 30. (See Track, Page 3B)

Tiger singles, doubles players rock in individual tournament

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

SOUTH BURLINGTON — The Middlebury Union High School boys' tennis doubles team of senior Iver Anderson and freshman Nate Cook Yoder knocked off the top seed on Sunday to claim the state championship at South Burlington's Leddy Park — and the No. 1 seed was comprised of their MUHS senior teammates Milo Rees and Eddie Fallis, who had been rolling over their foes all spring.

In singles action, their junior teammate Jackson Murray, the Tiger No. 1, lost to top seed Nathan Kim of Brattleboro, 6-0, 6-1. Kim breezed through the tournament, losing only four games, one of

them to Murray.

The score in Saturday's doubles final was close: 6-4, 6-3. Both teams had rolled through the earlier rounds.

In Thursday's first round, Rees and Fallis had a bye, Anderson and Cook Yoder defeated Wilfred St. Francis and Leevi Kilpala of Rice, 6-1, 6-2.

A third Tiger doubles team, Baxter Harrington and Noah Doherty Konczal, also won a first-round match on Thursday, knocking off Jay Eagle and Jules Butler of South Burlington, 2-6, 6-4, 1-0 (9).

In Friday's second round, Rees and Fallis swung into action with

(See Tennis, Page 4B)

MAV girls lax falls to U-32

Win gives Raiders No. 2 nod in D-II; Commodores No. 3

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

BRISTOL — In a Saturday duel that decided the No. 2 seed for the Division II girls' lacrosse playoffs that begin this week, visiting U-32 defeated the Mount Abraham-Vergennes cooperative team, 10-4, in a game played at Mount Abe.

The defending D-II champion Raiders improved to 14-2 with their 12th straight win and snapped the Commodores' own 12-game winning streak as MAV dropped to 13-3.

The Commodores will open their postseason title quest in a quarterfinal on Friday at 3 p.m., when, as the No. 3 seed, they'll host No. 6 Stowe (9-8), which eased past No. 11 Lamoille in a Tuesday first-round game. MAV defeated Stowe this spring, 9-3, on April 11 in Vergennes.

A win vs. Stowe would almost certainly mean a rematch with

U-32, this time in East Montpelier in a semifinal this coming Tuesday. The D-II final is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, at 4:30 p.m. Undeclared Hartford is D-II's top seed, and Woodstock, 9-6 against a tough schedule and a recent 12-10 winner over D-I No. 3 seed Mount Anthony, is seeded fourth.

Against the Raiders this past Saturday, the Commodores struck first in a defensive-minded first period. With 1:44 to go, senior Siena Stanley's pass from near the top of the fan to freshman Meredith Dufault tipped off Dufault's stick past Raider goalie Bianca Benoit for the only goal of the quarter.

Benoit stopped the three other MAV shots in the period, including a free position by senior leading scorer Annie Dufault. Commodore goalie Carley Cook made five saves in the quarter, including tough stops on Lydia Trombly, Greta

Little and Natalie Beauregard.

But MAV was having trouble moving the ball up the field against the Raiders, and finding it difficult to penetrate their defense. Those problems came home to roost in the second quarter, when the visitors tallied four unanswered goals. The Raiders also began to dominate the draws, further compounding the Commodores' problems.

At 4:46, the Raiders picked off a clearing pass, and Hannah Drury quickly converted the play into the tying goal, with an assist from Trombly.

The Commodores had a chance to retake the lead, but Benoit denied a Meredith Dufault free position, and the Raiders moved down the field and earned their own free position, which Amelia Woodard cashed in at 5:46 to give them the lead. Drury then controlled the

(See Lacrosse, Page 3B)



MOUNT ABE/VERGENNES cooperative team's Nell Harvey cuts between two U-32 players during the girls' lacrosse teams' game on Saturday at Mount Abraham.

Independent photo/Steve James



VUHS SENIOR CALDER Rakowski won the 800 and raced on the winning Commodore 4x800 relay team at the D-III track & field championship meet at Fair Haven Union High School on May 30.
Photo by Phil Gramling

Commodores earn two firsts in D-III track

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

FAIR HAVEN — Vergennes Union athletes won two races and placed in five more events at the Division III track and field championship meet, held on Thursday, May 30, at Fair Haven Union High School.

Senior Calder Rakowski won the boys' 800-meter race, repeating his victory at that distance from a year ago, and he teamed up with classmates Riley Gagnon and Calvin Gramling and junior Grey Fearon as the Commodores also repeated their 2023 winning performance in the four-by-800 meter relay.

Fearon also finished third behind Rakowski in the 800, and joined Gagnon, Rakowski and junior Brody McGuire in outperforming their seed and taking third in the boys' 4X400 relay.

And for the first time the Commodores, who do not have track and field facilities at their school, placed in two throwing events: Gagnon was fifth in the javelin, and McGuire sixth in the discus. Overall the Commodore boys were seventh out of 13 scoring teams.

The biggest highlight on the girls' side was a fourth-place finish from the 4x400 relay team of senior Alaina LeBeau, junior Jing Williams, sophomore Ava Francis, and freshman Isabella Van Voorst. Coach Brad Castillo noted that, like the boys' relay team, the Commodore girls' 4X400 group outperformed its seed.

Van Voorst supplied the rest of the Commodore girls' points by finishing fifth in the 400. The VUHS girls ended in a 10th-place

tie with Windsor.

Castillo was pleased with the efforts, especially given a few late-season issues.

"What a great day," he wrote in an email the evening after the meet. "We went in knowing today was going to be a bit of a mystery. Some injuries, weird schedules and meets cancelled by weather really messed with us at the tail end of this season. Thankfully, it all managed to come together, and being able to repeat in the boys' 4x800m relay and the boys' open 800m was great. We felt strongly that we could retain those, and everything fell into place."

Castillo also singled out the throwers and the two over-achieving relay teams that scored points.

"Getting points in boys' discus and boys' javelin was incredible. Especially considering we have been lacking in the field events, it was nice to see the hard work pay off," he wrote. "Also, you can't beat two top-four finishes in the boys' and girls' 4x400m relays, when they were ranked out of the top five coming in. Couldn't have asked for a much better way to finish off the season."

The full boys' D-III team standings were: 1. Thetford, 218; 2. Bellows Falls, 58; 3. Randolph, 41; 4. Tie, Oxbow, and Enosburg, 40; 6. Springfield, 36; 7. VUHS, 35; 8. Woodstock, 25; 9. Lake Region, 20; 10. Windsor, 16; 11. White River,

15; 12. Fairfax, 10; and 13. Mt. Saint Joseph, 4.

The full girls' D-III team standings were: 1. White River, 117; 2. Woodstock, 110; 3. Thetford, 101; 4. Bellows Falls, 89; 5. tie, Fairfax and Lake Region Union, 41; 7. Mt. Saint Joseph, 19; 8. Oxbow, 12; 9. Randolph Union, 8; 10. Tie, VUHS and Windsor, 7; 12. Enosburg, 4; and 13. Springfield, 2.

EVENT RESULTS

Event winners and VUHS boys' individual results were:

- 100 meters: 1. Ulysses Junker-Boyce, Thetford, 11:53; 21. Chance Koenig, VUHS, 13:22; 33. Connor Brogan, VUHS, 13:97.
- 200: 1. Junker-Boyce, Thetford, 23:28; 25. Koenig, VUHS, 27:70
- 800: 1. Rakowski, V U H S, 2:04.78; 3. Fearon, VUHS, 2:12.81.
- 1,500: 1. James Underwood, Woodstock, 4:12.10; 15. McGuire, VUHS, 5:03.59.
- 3,000: 1. Underwood, Woodstock, 9:15.04; 15. Gramling, VUHS, 10:54.86.
- 4x400: 1. Thetford, 3:39.68; 3. VUHS, 3:43.63 (Gagnon, McGuire, Fearon, Rakowski).
- 4X800: 1. VUHS, 9:00.08 (Fearon, Gagnon, Gramling, Rakowski).
- Discus: 1. Ben Perry, Bellows Falls, 123-2; 6. McGuire, VUHS, 94-9 (PR).

"Couldn't have asked for a much better way to finish off the season."

— Coach Castillo



VUHS JUNIOR JING Williams carries the baton in the 4X400 relay at the D-III track & field championship meet on May 30 at Fair Haven Union High School. Williams and her crew finished fourth. She also was eighth in the 1,500 meter race.
Photo by Phil Gramling



COMMODORE SENIOR RILEY Gagnon sends the javelin flying at the D-III championship track & field meet, held on May 30 at Fair Haven Union High School. His 120-foot, 1-inch throw was a personal best and earned fifth place.
Photo by Phil Gramling

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Softball

- 5/29 Hartford vs OV.....10-6
- 5/30 Mt. Abe vs VUHS.....20-1
- 5/30 Milton vs MUHS.....4-3
- 5/30 OV vs West Rutland.....7-2
- 6/1 Milton vs VUHS.....21-0
- 6/1 Mt. Abe vs Rice.....18-4

D-II Playoffs

- 6/4 #8 OV vs #9 Lake Region.....11-7
- 6/4 #4 MUHS vs #13 Lamolile.....6-1
- 6/4 #7 Mt. Abe vs #10 U-32.....21-2

D-III Playoffs

- 6/4 #8 Fair Haven vs #9 VUHS.....9-8

Baseball

- 5/30 Mt. Abe vs VUHS.....11-1
- 5/30 MUHS vs Milton.....15-5
- 6/1 Milton vs VUHS.....9-8

D-II Playoffs

- 6/4 #8 MUHS vs #9 OV.....11-1 (6)
- 6/4 #6 Mt. Abe vs #11 Fair Haven.....8-7

D-III Playoffs

- 6/4 #9 VUHS vs #8 Oxbow.....15-5

Boys' Lacrosse

- 5/30 MUHS vs Rice.....8-7
- 5/30 Brattleboro vs OV.....10-4
- 5/31 MAV vs Montpelier.....12-3
- 5/31 MUHS vs Mt Mansfield.....21-11
- 6/1 Montpelier vs OV.....15-7

D-III Playoffs

- 6/4 #3 Fairfax vs #6 OV.....18-3

Girls' Lacrosse

- 5/29 MAV vs Spaulding.....17-4
- 5/31 MUHS vs Mt Mansfield.....17-6
- 6/1 U-32 vs MAV.....10-4
- 6/1 CVU vs MUHS.....16-4

D-I Playoffs

- 6/4 #9 Rice vs #8 MUHS.....11-7

Girls' Tennis

- 5/29 Colchester vs MUHS.....6-1

D-II Playoffs

- 6/4 #5 Rice vs #4 MUHS.....6-1

Boys' Tennis

- 5/30-6/2 MUHS at Individual Tourney
- Ultimate Playoffs**
- 6/5 #14 MUHS at #3 Mt. Mansfield...Late

Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

- Softball
- D-II Playoffs
- 6/7 #5 Rice at #4 MUHS..... 4:30 PM

- 6/7 #7 Mt. Abe at #2 Lyndon..... 4:30 PM
- 6/7 #8 OV at #1 Enosburg..... 4:30 PM
- 6/11 Semifinals..... 4:30 PM
- Final.....TBD

Baseball

- D-II Playoffs
- 6/7 #8 MUHS at #1 Missisquoi... 4:30 PM
- 6/7 #6 Mt. Abe at #3 Lyndon..... 4:30 PM

- 6/10 Semifinals..... 4:30 PM
- Final.....TBD

D-III Playoffs

- 6/8 #9 VUHS at #1 Thetford.....11 AM
- 6/10 Semifinals..... 4:30 PM
- Final.....TBD

Boys' Lacrosse

- D-I Playoffs

- 6/7 #7 Rice at #2 MUHS..... 4:30 PM
- 6/11 Semifinal..... 4:30 PM
- 6/16 Final..... 6:30 PM

D-III Playoffs

- 6/11 #3 Fairfax at #2 MAV..... 4:30 PM
- 6/15 Final..... 1:30 PM

Girls' Lacrosse

- D-II Playoffs

- 6/7 #6 Stowe at #3 MAV..... 3 PM
- 6/11 Semifinal..... 4:30 PM
- 6/15 Final..... 4:30 PM

Boys' Tennis

- D-I Playoffs
- 6/7 #7 S. Burlington at #2 MUHS:3:30 PM
- 6/10 Semifinal..... 3:30 PM
- 6/12 Final..... 3:30 PM

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Tiger, Eagle boys' lax get #2 seeds

By **ANDY KIRKALDY**

ADDISON COUNTY — The Middlebury Union High School boys' lacrosse team in Division I and Mount Abraham-Vergennes cooperative boys' lacrosse team in D-II each earned No. 2 seeds for the postseason play and will open their title quests with home games on Friday and Tuesday, respectively.

The 12-2 Tigers will open play at 3:30 p.m. on Friday vs. No. 7 Rice (9-7), a first-round winner over St. Albans (2-14). The Tigers recently edged Rice on the road, 8-7. Next up would be either No. 3 Burr & Burton or No. 6 Rutland on Tuesday. The final on June 16 could be a rubber match with top-seeded Champlain Valley (13-2), with whom the Tigers split two regular-season games.

The 9-4 Eagles will open on Tuesday in a semifinal against Fairfax (7-9), which breezed past winless Otter Valley this past Tuesday in its first-round game. The Bullets defended MAV well

during the teams' regular season meeting, an Eagle 8-7 double-overtime victory. The D-III final, most likely against No. 1 Green Mountain Valley (9-2), is set for June 15.

REGULAR SEASON

On May 30, the Tigers survived a challenge from visiting Rice, 8-7. **Toby Draper** scored three goals and **Angus Blackwell** added a pair to supply most of the offense. Joe Alexander's four goals paced the 8-6 Green Knights, and Rice goalie Tommy Colman made 12 saves. MUHS clinched the No. 2 seed with the victory.

Also on May 30, Brattleboro won at OV, 10-4. Details were not reported.

On May 31, the Tigers overpowered host Mount Mansfield, 21-11, as Blackwell (six goals) Draper (five goals, two assists) and **Jackson Gillett** (two goals, five assists) led the assault. **Logan McNulty** and **Jaxson Heffernan** added two goals

apiece; **Brady McDonough**, **Luke Nuceder** and **Landon Kean** each chipped in a goal and an assist; **Ben DeBisschop** scored a goal; **Gus Hodde** added two assists; and goalie **Levi Nuceder** made eight saves.

Finn Heney led the Cougars with five goals, and MMU goalie Carson Jensvold made 15 saves.

Also on May 31, MAV defeated host Montpelier, 12-3, to wrap up its regular season. **Andrew Nolan's** five goals paced the Eagles, **Noah Ladeau** (three assists) and **Lorenzo Atocha** scored two apiece, and **Asa Pratt** and **Jamison Couture** added one apiece. **Walker Forand** backstopped the win with eight saves. Three Solons scored a goal apiece, and Montpelier goalie Gavin Haines made six saves.

On June 1, OV lost to visiting Montpelier, 15-7, as the Otters concluded their 0-11 regular season. The Solons finished at 2-11. Details were not reported.



MAV SENIOR GOALIE Carley Cook makes a tough first-quarter save during the Commodores' game against U-32 on Saturday at Mount Abraham. The Raiders beat the Commodores, 10-4. Independent photo/Steve James

Lacrosse

(Continued from Page 1B)
draw and raced down the field to make it 3-1 18 seconds later.
At 2:52 a U-32 player curled counterclockwise from behind the net and found the far corner for another score.
The Raiders continued their onslaught after the halftime break. Trombly bolted in from the left side to make it 5-1 with 1:04 gone, and Trombly and Beauregard added mid-period goals to push the lead to 7-1 at 7:36.
The Commodore attack then finally gained some traction. June Yates-Rusch cut in from the left and took a Thompson Davis feed before tucking a shot inside the right post at 6:32. At 2:17 Annie Dufault circled the net clockwise and tucked a low underhanded shot inside the far corner to make it 7-3. But Alexandria Pickel dampened the MAV momentum with a solo run in from the left in the quarter's

final minute, and the U-32 lead was five entering the final period.
With 1:25 gone, Yates-Rusch bolted through the fan and whipped home a strong behind-the-net feed from Annie Dufault to give MAV hope.
U-32 soon responded with the game's final two goals 13 seconds apart. At 8:43, Willa Long circled into the fan from the left and found the right side of the net, and then Woodard controlled the draw and bolted in to make it 10-4 at 8:30. Chances were few for either side the rest of the way, in part because the Raiders effectively played keep-away for the final 3:30.
Given the pressure the MAV defense faced for much of the game, the work of defenders Safi Camara, Nell Harvey, Kennedy Denecker, Maris LaPerle and Zoey Johnston was solid. Cook finished with nine saves, and Benoit made seven for U-32.

"Our defense mostly played well. We got hurt a couple times on crease rolls where we didn't slide," said Commodore Coach Marikate Kelley.
On May 29, the Commodores had won their 12th straight, 19-4, over visiting Spaulding. The offense came from Annie Dufault (four goals, three assists); Meredith Dufault and Stanley (three goals, one assist each); Davis, Denecker and Anna Stilwell (two goals apiece); and Esme Visco-Lyons, Harvey and Camara (one goal each), while Cook made 11 saves. Four Spaulding players scored a goal apiece, and Tide goalie Madison Churchill made 15 saves.
After Saturday's setback, Coach Kelley analyzed what went wrong, starting with strong two-way play by the Raiders at midfield. While MAV often found it hard to transition up the field, U-32 more often than not moved briskly from

defense to offense.
"I don't think we played as well as we can play, but there were a lot of forced errors. U-32 did a great job putting a lot of kids on the ball. And sometimes we did a good job of making the back pass and moving the ball, but sometimes we just tried to run through it and they had some nice checks," Kelley said. "I felt we didn't do a good job on our side. We'd stop the ball, and there would be a kid wide open one pass away."
She said transition play, both ways, will be points of emphasis at upcoming practices.
"We're going to keep working on that," Kelley said.
Offensively, she said the Commodores were a bit tentative, but again also gave credit to U-32.
"We got our hands free sometimes, but we didn't take the shots. Then we waited, and by that time they had people crashing and sliding. They (the Raiders) did a great job," Kelley said.
The solution? Shoot, and be more aggressive passing the ball into the interior of the defense.
"When we've got our hands free, we've got to shoot, and we've got to move the ball ... and not just around in a circle," Kelley said. "We've got really good shooters. They can score if they take that shot when they have it."
Kelley remains confident the Commodores can work out some of the kinks before what seems likely to be a rematch next week with a berth in the D-II final at stake.
"It's a great group," she said.

Floridians have good reasons to restore the Ocklawaha

The first alligator I saw in the wild was somewhat anticlimactic. I, my wife Deborah, and local conservationist Margaret Spontak were at Florida's Silver Springs State Park on a tour of Silver River in one of the famous glass-bottomed boats. The gator, between six and seven feet long — too big to be called a mere "swamp puppy" but not yet big enough to really impress — was napping on the wooded bank with its business end facing away from us. That was OK. I figured I'd see plenty of gators and maybe even a crocodile two days later when I visited the Everglades. (As it turned out, I would later see so many alligators I lost count.) At Silver Springs I was enjoying the unique landscape, the numerous fish, and the abundant bird life. I was also holding slim hopes of spotting my first manatee.
As expected, with warm summer air having already arrived in Florida, the manatees were gone from the springs. But the day would not end in disappointment on the manatee front. Several miles and an hour later to the northwest on the larger Ocklawaha River we would by wild luck stumble upon a pod of half a dozen manatees in a more remote and much less touristy area. Margaret had brought us along some back dirt roads to that particular spot to show us a fishing access ramp and platform with no idea we'd see manatees. We hadn't been there long watching three local kids fishing for bass, and trying to spot a gator that was hiding in the weeds, when we noticed the manatees a short distance downriver rolling around the water in what we later

realized was the rather raucous act of mating — something many of our Floridian relatives and acquaintances have never had the good fortune to see.



Outdoor column
MATTHEW DICKERSON

Florida's historic Ocklawaha River has its headwaters in myriad springs along the western side of the Ocala National Forest and Ocala Wildlife Management Area. From its source in Lake Griffin, it flows 74 miles to its confluence in the St. Johns River, which then continues out to Florida's east coast near Jacksonville. At one time, the Ocklawaha was a free-flowing river and home to many native species of diadromous fish such as tarpon and sturgeon, whose life cycles require or make use of both fresh and saltwater. Among its sources once reachable by fish and mammals migrating from the ocean are many of the famous springs of Florida, which pour out of the ground year-round at between 72 and 74 degrees Fahrenheit.
I mention mammals as well as fish because one of the creatures that used to swim freely from the ocean up into the Ocklawaha system to its springs are Florida's iconic West Indian manatees: large aquatic marine herbivores, sometimes known as "sea cows." Although growing up to 13 feet long and 1,300 pounds, they are different from most marine

mammals (such as whales and seals, which are known for the blubber) in that they have very low body fat. As a result of their low fat, and also a slow metabolism, they cannot tolerate cold water. They get hypothermic if they stay in water below about 68 degrees, and they die in water below 60. So in the winter when the rivers and coastal waters get cold, they seek out the warm springs.
Now Vermonters thinking about little springs that feed our local rivers — even if you can imagine the water coming out of the ground at 72 degrees — may wonder how even a single 1,300-pound creature could fit into one of those springs, no less dozens to hundreds of "sea cows." But the larger springs that feed the St. Johns River pour out 800 million gallons of water per day. And even in places where individual springs are smaller, there are so many of them close together that they quickly form sizeable rivers. This is why these springs, and access to them from the coast, are so vital to manatees as an overwintering area, as well as to many species of fish, to birds that depend on the fish, and to other wildlife.
Silver Springs is one of those places. The exact count and locations of the springs changes periodically since individual springs occasional collapse and then the water pressure underground erupts elsewhere to form a new one. But according to the St. Johns River Water Management District there are 30 of them. (Our glass bottom boat tour brought us over five or six.) The output of these springs totals

about 550 million gallons per day of water, which is enough to form an entire river.
Continuing down into the Ocklawaha and from there to the St. Johns, the water coming out of Silver Springs ought to flow freely to the ocean. But it does not. Although studies between 1826 and 1911 all suggested that a cross-Florida barge canal was a bad idea — economically as well as ecologically — the promise of saving money by making an easier trade route from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico was too tempting for some to pass up. (See the "History of the Cross Florida Greenway" published by Florida State Parks and available at www.floridastateparks.org/learn/history-cross-florida-greenway.) After years of starts and stops, ground-breaking began in 1964, and one of the major aspects of the project was building a large dam on the Ocklawaha River, forming Ocklawaha Lake. In place of the old river channel was a new straight canal and lock system connecting the lake back to the St. Johns River.
Although the dam was built, the canal was never completed. The environmental costs including the impact of Florida's important aquifer, and to rivers such as the Ocklawaha, along with the tremendous construction costs, far outweighed any benefit. But by the time the project was halted in

1971, the damage had been done: the Ocklawaha no longer flowed freely to the ocean. Though a few manatees each year manage to navigate through the locks and migrate up the Ocklawaha to their historic winter habitats such as Silver Springs, many die in the attempt and most just turn back. Of course the migration route of spawning fish was also blocked.
Visiting the river and learning about it with Spontak was a wonderful experience. One of her lifelong goals has been to see Silver Springs and the Ocklawaha River once more connected to the St. Johns and the Atlantic Ocean as a free-flowing river, welcoming to folks who appreciate the outdoors in many ways, including fishing, picnicking, paddling, birdwatching and wildlife viewing. She is president of the Great Florida Riverway Trust and also helped found the Reunite the Rivers coalition involving more than 60 national, state, and local organizations. Though there are many variations on the dam removal and restoration plans with numerous stakeholders, she hopes to see that dream come to fulfillment in the 2025 legislative session. I am just hoping to return and see manatees in the springs again one day.
I also wouldn't mind fishing for some of the many species that call the river home.

Track

(Continued from Page 1B)
Keil Broderson, MUHS, 12.9.
• 1,500: 1. Cyrus Hanson, U-32, 4:10.63; 9. Luke Calvin, Otter Valley, 4:27.3.
• 3,000: 1. Hanson, U-32, 9:09.89; 9. Calvin, OV, 9:58.97; 15. Kaden Hammond, MUHS, 10:24.
• 4x400: 1. Hartford (3:34.63); 11: MUHS, 4:15.69 (Broderson, Blake Davidson, Hammond, Malzac).
• Discus: 1. Jordan Davis, Hartford, 144-1; 3. Darling, MTA, 126-3.
• Pole vault: 1. Bennet Moreno, Hartford, 10-5.5; 8. Garrett Duell, MTA, 8-6.
• Long jump: 1. Ayodele Lowe, Hartford, 22-3.75; 2. Darling, 21-7.5.
• Triple jump: 1. Atif Milak, Montpelier, 42-8; 3. Sawyer, MTA, 39.85.

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Rice ousts MUHS girls' lax in D-I play

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The No. 8 Middlebury Union High School girls' lacrosse team on Tuesday dropped its first-round home Division I playoff game to No. 9 Rice, 11-7. The Green Knights avenged an early-season loss to the Tigers and improved to 7-9, while MUHS wrapped up its season at 6-9.

Ada Weaber led the Tigers with three goals, Alice Livesay scored twice, and Kenyon Connors and Quinn Doria added a goal apiece. Goalie Ida Blackwell made eight saves.

Rice deployed a balanced attack led by four players with two goals apiece, Violet Clargh, Ava Toto, Eden Roberts and Sadie Levinson.

REGULAR SEASON

Late last week the Tigers split two regular-season home games. On Friday, May 31, the Tigers defeated Mount Mansfield, 17-6, a win Blackwell backstopped with a dozen saves behind a solid defensive effort. Offensively, Connors (three goals, assist), Ada Weaber and Isla Weaber (three goals apiece), and Pela Slayter (two goals, three assists) paced

the attack. Also contributing were Ronan Young (a goal and two assists) Sara Kent (goal, assist), and Ava Schneider and Lia Calzini (goal apiece).

On Saturday Champlain Valley, D-I's second-place team, defeated the Tigers, 16-4. Sophie Madden (two assists) and Marlie Cartwright led the Redhawks with three goals apiece, and two CVU goalies combined for five saves.

Connors, Livesay, Ada Weaber and Kent tallied a goal apiece for the Tigers, and Blackwell made nine saves.

Girls' tennis bested by Rice

Improved Tigers finish 9-win season with playoff loss

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' tennis team earned the No. 4 seed in Division II, and in a quarterfinal home match on Tuesday the No. 5 seed Rice (8-7) knocked off the Tigers, 6-1.

MUHS finished its successful season at 9-5; to put that in perspective, the program won two matches in 2023.

Coach Dan Comar also noted Rice had defeated the Tigers, 6-1, in the regular season, and that Rice's record was misleading because the Green Knights played mostly D-I Chittenden County teams this spring. He said in an email that even though the final score was the same, Tuesday's match was more competitive.

"Rice Academy duplicated its 6-1 win, but not without a seasoned MUHS team showing its development over the season," Comar wrote.

He also expressed gratitude to the team's three seniors.

"It's hard to grasp how quickly the spring season goes by, and it's with great appreciation to senior

captains Audrey Carpenter and Caroline Nicolai as well as fellow senior Amelia Coburn that this one ends," he wrote.

The individual scores vs. the Green Knights were:

No. 1 singles, Lily Collins, Rice, defeated Carpenter, MUHS, 6-2, 7-5.

No. 2 singles, Christina Rottcher, Rice, defeated Ryte Akramaite, MUHS, 7-5, 7-5.

No. 3 singles, Tess Nagy, Rice, defeated Sophia Boise, MUHS, 6-4, 6-1.

No. 4 singles, Ella McCormack, Rice, defeated Nicolai, MUHS, 6-1 6-1.

No. 5 singles, Piper Farnsworth, MUHS, defeated Evi Quinlan, Rice, 7-6 (2), 6-3.

No. 1 doubles, Gabby Sneddon/Grace Marroquin, Rice, defeated Coburn/Anna Wolosinski, MUHS, 6-2, 6-2.

No. 2 doubles, Hannah Cunningham/Megan Marroquin, Rice, defeated Clara Chant/Subia Khan, MUHS, 6-3, 6-0.

REGULAR SEASON

On May 29 in their final regular season match, the Tiger

No. 2 doubles team of Coburn and Maryam Kahn gave the Tigers their only victory against D-I Colchester in a 6-1 setback, although several other matches and sets were competitive.

The individual scores vs. the Lakers were:

No. 1 singles, Phoebe Richardson, CHS, defeated Carpenter, MUHS, 6-1, 6-1.

No. 2 singles, Olivia Badillo, CHS, defeated Akramaite, MUHS, 7-6 (5), 6-2.

No. 3 singles, Katie McCullagh, CHS, defeated Boise, MUHS, 6-3, 6-0.

No. 4 singles, Dakota Karpinski, CHS, defeated Nicolai, MUHS, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 10-4.

No. 5 singles, Addy Hogan, CHS, defeated Piper Farnsworth, MUHS, 7-5, 6-4.

No. 1 doubles, Mohini Vallabhanani/Reece Perry, CHS, defeated Chant/Subia Khan, MUHS, 6-0, 6-2.

No. 2 doubles, Coburn/Maryam Khan, MUHS, defeated Alyssa Brice/Keira McCullagh, CHS, 6-4, 6-3.



TIGER FRESHMAN GABE Velez allowed just four hits and one run in six innings as MUHS defeated visiting Otter Valley on Tuesday in a first-round D-II playoff game.

Independent photo/Steve James

Baseball

(Continued from Page 1B)

batters on a strikeout and popup. Then the OV wheels came off in the bottom of the inning, when Wood struggled with his control. He walked Tucker Morter and Velez, and wild pitches moved them to second and third. Ethan Sweet's sacrifice fly scored one run, and then Wood hit Riley Disorda and Warren with pitches to load the bases.

Alex Sperry and Paquette singled in runs, and two errors, a double steal that allowed Paquette to touch home plate, and a wild pitch capped the rally before Wood induced a grounder to end the inning with OV down, 8-0.

OV then scored its run in the top of the third. After Paquette, the catcher, got the first out with a diving catch of a foul ball, Velez hit Jacob Worrell with a pitch. The Tigers then botched a potential double-play ball, and Warrell scooted around to third. From there he scored on Jackson Howe's fly ball to center.

The Tigers added another run in the fourth to make it 9-1. Tim

Whitney reached on an infield hit and rounded the bases when Ryan Brouillard dropped a triple down the right-field line that bounced off a diving OV outfielder.

Noel Pearsons singled to lead off the OV fifth, but the Otters couldn't advance him.

In the Tiger fifth Sweet was hit by a pitch, but was erased on a Riley Disorda fielder's choice grounder. Cole Warren singled, and Disorda scored on a throwing error on a double steal.

OV mounted a mild threat in the sixth. Velez walked Howe, and Wood followed with OV's fourth and final hit. But two popups and a grounder ended the uprising, and the Tigers tallied the mercy run in the bottom of the inning. Paquette walked, stole second, and raced home on Whitney's single.

Coach Howe's team graduates four seniors, three of whom saw action on Tuesday: Brayden Chandler, Luciano Falco, Nathaniel Gaisert and Wood.

"We're a very young team. Oftentimes this season I started two freshmen and three sophomores. So

the message for the guys coming back is let's put in the work, because we were in almost every game we played," Howe said. "If our guys come back and put in the effort, I think we can be a really solid ballclub for the next couple years."

On Tuesday, Velez struck out four and kept the Otters off balance.

"He's got a nice fastball. The two-seamer's got good movement. And he can drop a curveball in there," Carter Paquette said. "That's what he had today, and it worked."

Both Paquettes are looking forward to the rest of the tournament and to Friday's quarterfinal at Missisquoi (13-3), with which the Tigers split two games this spring.

"If we play fundamental baseball, be aggressive at the plate and swing at strikes, put the ball in play and make them play it, it's anybody's ballgame," said Coach Paquette.

Catcher Paquette was upbeat after Tuesday's win.

"If we keep our heads up and keep playing like we have the past few games, better watch out," he said. "The Tigers are coming."



MUHS SENIOR ETHAN Sweet has an understandably dramatic reaction to being painfully hit by a pitch on the top of his left foot during Tuesday's first-round home D-II playoff game.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tennis

(Continued from Page 1B)

a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Brattleboro's Eben Wagner and Dorian Paquette.

Anderson and Cook Yoder advanced into the quarterfinal round by defeating Silas Cohen and Kyle Krieger of CVU, 6-2, 6-4.

Brattleboro's Ben Berg and Leo Bodett ended Harrington and Doherty Konczal's tournament run in the second round, 6-3, 6-0.

In Friday's quarterfinals, both Tiger teams advanced, but Rees and Fallis had to work harder: They won a tiebreaker to defeat Quinn Moore and Max Ladner of Burlington, 6-3, 3-6, 1-0 (5).

Anderson and Cook Yoder, meanwhile, cruised past Brattleboro's Berg and Bodett, 6-1, 6-2, to reach the semifinals on Saturday.

In Saturday's semis, Rees and Fallis prevailed over South Burlington's Will Bradley and Omar Daoudi, Anderson and Cook Yoder defeated Isaac Dunkiel and

Daniel Wick of Burlington to set up the all-Tiger final.

Except for the final, Murray's trajectory in the singles tournament looked much the same, and two of his teammates also picked up first-round victories on Thursday: Kellan Bartlett defeated Burr & Burton's Wyatt Tuff, 6-3, 6-1, and Charles Young got the best of Burlington's Sam Wick, 3-6, 6-1, 1-0 (6).

Later that day both were eliminated, however. Bartlett had the bad luck to draw Kim, and lost, 6-0, 6-0, and Young fell to Oscar Andersson of CVU, 6-2, 6-3.

Murray saw his first action in the second round, cruising past Rutland's Jack Beach, 6-0, 6-0.

Friday's third round saw Kim and Murray continue on their collision course. Kim defeated CVU's Ziggy Babbott, 6-1, 6-0, and Murray, knocked off Vishnu Konnanur of Essex 6-1, 6-1.

The quarterfinals saw Murray

have to work a little harder. Kim breezed again against Rice's Nate McDonald, 6-1, 6-0. Murray had to win a second-set tiebreaker to advance against Burlington's Nevin Morton, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Scores were unavailable for Saturday's semifinals. Kim of Brattleboro defeated Oscar Andersson of CVU, and Murray reached the final by besting Stowe's Parker Guffey.

Rematches between the Brattleboro and MUHS singles and doubles players are possible this month. The teams on Sunday drew the No. 1 (Bears, 13-0) and No. 2 (Tigers, 11-1) seeds for the Vermont high school team tournament that began this week.

Both teams will open play on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Brattleboro will host either No. 8 Rutland or No. 9 Essex, and the Tigers will entertain either No. 7 South Burlington or No. 10 Mount Mansfield.

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Mount Abe, Commodore baseball teams advance in playoffs via first-round wins

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — The No. 6 Mount Abraham baseball team in Division II and the No. 9 Vergennes squad in D-III each won first-round games on Tuesday and advanced to quarterfinals scheduled for Friday.

In D-II No. 8 Middlebury also hosted No. 9 Otter Valley on Tuesday; see separate story on Page 1B.

D-II Playoffs

On Tuesday the No. 6 Eagles fended off a challenge from No. 11 Fair Haven, 8-7. Mount Abe rolled to an 8-3 lead, but a two-run double by **Max Kyhill** and an RBI single by **Noah Woodbury** helped the Slaters get back into the game before the Eagles quelled their comeback effort.

Cam Castillo went five innings and allowed six runs on four hits while fanning 11 Slaters. Key offensive contributors included **Tanner Castillo**, who doubled and drove in three runs, and **Brody Barnard**, who doubled and drove in two runs.

Woodbury started and went 4.2 innings for Fair Haven (5-12), taking the loss, and **Joe Buxton** finished up on the mound for the Slaters.

Mount Abe (11-6) advanced to play No. 3 Lyndon (12-4) on Friday. The Eagles and Vikings did not face one another this spring.

D-III Playoffs

Also on Tuesday the Commodores erupted on offense to knock off host No. 8 Oxbow, 15-5, in five innings. The outburst at the plate made a winner of hurler **Eyon Tembruell**, who allowed four hits, struck out 10 and walked none in his five-inning stint.

Tembreull also had three hits, drove in four and scored a run, but that wasn't the best offensive performance by a Commodore. **Aiden Fuller** belted a grand slam in the fifth inning to bust the game open, part of a three-hit game in which he drove in six runs. **Reese Paquette** had a hit and scored three runs, while **Liam Paquette** and **Colton Reed** each had a hit and scored two runs.

The 5-12 Commodores will next visit top-seeded Thetford (10-6) on Saturday at a time to be announced. That game was moved from Friday to accommodate graduation ceremonies at both schools. The teams did not play each other this spring.

REGULAR SEASON

On May 30 the Eagles and Tigers each won in games shortened to five innings by the 10-run mercy rule.

The Eagles topped visiting VUHS, 11-1, as winning pitcher **Abe Ready** limited the Commodores to one run on four hits, striking out seven. Ready also doubled and singled. Others sparking the Mount Abe offense were **Aricin Griffin** (three hits, RBI), **Tanner Castillo** (two hits, two RBIs), and **Barnard** and **Stefan Johnson** (two hits apiece).

Also on May 30 the Tigers nailed down their first-round home game by defeating visiting Milton, 15-5, in five innings. The Tigers led, 6-5 entering the bottom of the fifth and then scored nine times. **Ethan Sweet** drilled a three-run double to end the game; it was his second hit of the game.

Gabe Velez earned the pitching win, allowing one run on two hits in 1.1 relief innings, and **Riley Disorda** also poked two hits for the Tigers.

On Friday, May 31, host Milton edged VUHS, 9-8. Details were not reported.



That's the way!

PLAYERS IN THE MUHS dugout celebrate when freshman Ryan Brouillard slides in safely at third base after plunking an RBI triple down the right-field line during Tuesday's first-round D-II playoff game at MUHS.

Independent photo/Steve James

D-II softball teams win in postseason

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — The Division II high school softball playoffs opened on Tuesday with No. 4 Middlebury, No. 7 Mount Abraham and No. 8 Otter Valley all picking up first-round wins and advancing to Friday quarterfinals, while in D-II Vergennes concluded its season with a setback.

D-II Playoffs

The Tigers defeated visiting Lamoille, 6-1, as **Emma Deering** tossed a complete-game two-hitter. The Tigers spotted the Lancers a run in the top of the first, but took the lead with two runs in the bottom of the inning and took control with a three-run third inning. **Skyler Choiniere** and **Meredith Cameron** had multi-hit games as the Tigers improved to 11-5, while Lamoille dropped to 2-15.

The Tigers advanced to a Friday home game vs. No. 5 seed Rice. The Tigers split two games with the Green Knights this spring, losing by 4-0 in the first meeting and winning by 14-7 in the second. The Eagles thumped visiting No. 10 U-32, 21-2 in five innings. **Gretchen Toy** tossed the five-inning win, allowing four hits and fanning five, and also drove in two runs with a pair of hits. Also contributing to the Eagle attack were **Genevieve Forand** (homer, single, three RBIs), **Abigail Parker** (two doubles, single, four RBIs), **Morgan Larocque** (triple, two RBIs); **Sarah Heath** and **Madelyn Hayden** (two hits apiece), and **Joanna Toy** (hit and three RBIs).

Mount Abe improved to 10-7 and will visit No. 2 Lyndon (12-4) on Friday afternoon. The teams did not face one another this spring.

In Brandon the No. 8 Otters scored 10 runs in the fourth inning against visiting No. 9 Lake Region and held on for an 11-7 win over the Rangers. The big rally off losing pitcher Ava Stevens was fueled by six of the Otters' 10 hits, from **Mykenzie Thibault**, **Kaylee Maloy**, **Hannah Desabrais**, **Sophie Parker**, **Ady Humiston** and **Leann Thomas**, but also four errors, three walks and two wild pitches. Parker added an RBI

single in the fifth to made it 11-3.

The Rangers rallied for four runs in the top of the seventh, a rally keyed by a Stevens RBI double, but winning pitcher **Sierra Cormany** struck out two batters and induced a ground ball to end the game. Cormany recorded her 100th strikeout of the season during the contest, in which she whiffed nine, but the senior hurler also surrendered an earlier solo homer to Stevens.

Lake Region finished at 9-8, and OV improved to 10-7 heading into a Friday semifinal vs. top-seeded Enosburgh (15-1).

D-III Playoffs

On Tuesday No. 6 Fair Haven rallied with five runs in the seventh to edge the No. 11 Commodores, 9-8, in their first-round game. Errors hurt VUHS in that inning and also earlier in the game as the team finished 1-12.

In the decisive bottom of the seventh, consecutive one-out errors put two runners on, and **Jaylena Haley** singled them both home. With two outs in a one-run game **Riley Babbie** reached on an error and hard-luck losing pitcher **Savannah Blaise** hit **Chloe Marsden** with a pitch to put the two runners on. **Victoria Genier** then singled them in for the walkoff victory.

Through six innings Blaise struck out 10 and limited the Slaters to four runs on five hits, and also helped the VUHS offense with a pair of hits. **Rory Couture** also knocked out a pair of hits for the Commodores, and **Alexandria Jewell** laced a two-run single.

Tori Raymond led the 7-10 Slaters with three hits, and **Madi Hayes** tripled.

REGULAR SEASON

On May 29 visiting Hartford scored seven unearned runs in a 10-6 victory over the Otters. Hard-luck losing pitcher Cormany struck out 11 and walked just one. Thomas led the OV offense with a pair of hits, while **Madison Willey** knocked out three hits for the 14-2 Hurricanes.

On May 30 two teams posted wins. Otter Valley defeated host West Rutland, 7-2, setting the D-IV

Golden Horde's final mark at 13-3.

Cormany threw a complete-game six-hitter for the victory, the 100th of Coach Kelly Trayah's softball career.

OV snapped a 1-1 tie with five runs in the fourth, when Parker, Humiston, **Noelle Siegle** and Thibault all picked up RBIs. Desabrais later singled in the final OV run, and Parker, Cormany and Siegle each had two hits of losing pitcher Peyton Guay as OV improved to 9-7 and nailed down a first-round D-II home game.

Also on May 30 the Eagles rolled past visiting VUHS, 20-1, in five innings. **Abigail Parker** (single, double, four RBIs), **Forand** (two doubles, single, three RBIs), **Elise Parker** (single, two RBIs), **Joanna Toy** (two hits, RBI), **Heath** (triple, two singles), and **Brooke Barnard** (two hits, two RBIs) all had big days at the plate for Mount Abe. **Emmy Rougier** threw three hitless and scoreless innings for the win and added two hits and an RBI.

Lastly on May 30 visiting Milton dealt MUHS a 4-3 loss. Defense undid MUHS, as Deering allowed only one earned run in seven innings, allowing five hits and two walks and striking out five. Milton hurler Grace Williams tossed a four-hitter, fanning 14 and walking none, surrendering RBI singles to **Lexi Whitney** and **Sarah Bevere**.

On Saturday the Commodores concluded their one-win season with a 21-0, five-inning setback at Milton. The big news in that game was that Yellowjacket hurler Williams threw a no-hitter and fanned 12 to reach 200 strikeouts for the season.

Also on Saturday the Eagles jumped on fourth-place Rice for nine runs in the first inning on the way to an 18-4, five-inning victory. **Gretchen Toy** earned the pitching win, fanning four and adding a pair of hits to the Eagle offense. **Brooklyn Ryersbach** and **Jo Toy** each doubled and singled and drove in two runs, and **Heath** and **Larocque** doubled for Mount Abe. **Finley Strong** homered and drove in two for Rice.

City police issue abuse-relief orders

VERGENNES — Vergennes police recently served two temporary relief-from-abuse orders, or RFAs, after hearing from women allegedly having trouble with boyfriends or ex-partners.

On May 29, they took a phone call from a woman who reported issues with her boyfriend. Police told her how to obtain either an RFA or a no-stalking order from a court, and she obtained an RFA the next day that police served on the man on May 31.

On June 1, a woman reported an argument with an ex while he picked up their children, and harassing texts that followed the exchange. Police again explained the process of obtaining an RFA and also told her how to reach out to Atria, formerly known as WomenSafe. Police said she obtained an RFA that they served on the man on June 2.

In other incidents between May 27 and June 2, Vergennes police conducted 10 patrols by cruiser and one on foot and 14 traffic stops, processed three pre-employment fingerprint requests, responded to two false alarms, and:

- On May 27:
 - Provided traffic control for the city's Memorial Day parade.
 - Took a report of a stranger going through a car at a West Street home; the incident remains under investigation, including an expected review of home security video.

- Calmed a man worried about running out of gas; police directed him to Maplefields.

On May 28:

- Conducted a background check on a job applicant.
- Dealt with a fender-bender in the Shaw's Supermarket parking lot.
- Heard a complaint from a First Street resident about someone feeding cats on a neighboring property.
- Asked the owner of a truck blocking a Main Street property's driveway to move it.

- Took a call from a man concerned about the mental health of his mother, who he said had recently been scammed. Police said he called back and said she was OK.

On May 31:

- Took a report of a bear loose in the Walker Avenue area.
- Were told a small dog had gotten loose from the Comfort Hill Kennel; the kennel called shortly afterward and said the animal had been found.
- Following a complaint, told a man not to shoot photographs without permission of preschool teachers and students out for a walk.
- Took an online report of a Main Street fender-bender. Such minor incidents may be reported at Vergennes.org through police department links.

On June 1:

- At the city station, helped Bristol police evaluate a driver for potentially operating under the influence of drugs.
- Went to Pantton to help Vermont State Police at the scene of a four-wheeler accident. State police reported that 23-year-old Vergennes resident Colin Hossink had died in the crash.
- On June 2, took a report from a First Street resident of a suspicious person walking into the mobile home park from Pantton Road; police said there was no problem.

Vergennes Police Log

On May 29:

- Were told by a caller that a man was yelling at Main Street pedestrians.
- Took a report of a panhandler at Shaw's.
- Helped the driver of a disabled tractor-trailer truck on Main Street near Champlain Farms.
- On May 30:
 - Checked out a report of a possible gunshot in the Walker Avenue area and determined a transformer had blown.
 - Investigated the theft of an 18-pack of Coors Light from Kinney Drug Store.

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Leicester

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NEWS

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., June 8, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center at the Four Corners. Refreshments served and all are welcome. Funds raised are used to help maintain the historic buildings at the Four Corners.



Addison Housing Works is currently accepting waitlist applications for one, two, and three bedroom units at properties located in Bristol, Vergennes, and Middlebury, VT.

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community calendar

THURSDAY

Book sale donation drop-off in Vergennes. Thursday, June 6, 3-6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Drop off book donations for the Bixby sale in the back parking lot. Please make sure your donations are published after 2012 and are in good condition. If in doubt bring it in and we let you know.

Twist o' Wool Guild meeting in Middlebury. Thursday, June 6, 6 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. The guild's last meeting of the year. Potluck and meeting. Bring food to share (salad, casserole, dessert, etc.), a serving spoon or whatever is necessary, along with a plate, and eating utensils for yourself. If you can't participate in the potluck, come at 7 p.m. to join the meeting.

"Art of the Pig" preview in Brandon. Friday, June 8, 6-8 p.m., Café Provence event room, Center St. Brandon Artists Guild is commemorating its most exciting fundraiser year, 2003's "The Really Really Pig Show." 80+ wooden Piglet Boards lovingly painted/decorated by Guild members, community artists/members, artists from surrounding towns, and friends from near and far will be on view. The board will be auctioned off on Aug. 18.

FRIDAY

Museum open house for Middlebury College Alumni in Middlebury. Friday, June 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum welcomes returning Middlebury College alumni and their families to visit and enjoy the new exhibitions. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org or 802-388-2117.

Seduction Showcase in Vergennes. Friday, June 7, 7-9:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Kick off an evening of sultry sass. An evening of fun. Some of your favorite burlesque performers will grace the stage to bring you laughs, sighs and make your temperature rise. Hosted by comedian Meredith Gordon, who brings her infamous character Thelma Forbanks to life. Partial proceeds of this event will go to the PRIDE Center of Vermont.

SATURDAY

Monthly Wildlife Walk in Middlebury. Saturday, June 8, 7 a.m., Otter View Park, Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust invite community members to help survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. Please take common sense COVID-19 precautions. Stay home if you are feeling ill, and wear a mask if you are unvaccinated. For more information, call 802-388-6019.

Vermont Days Weekend. Saturday, June 8, Chimney Point, Mount Independence, and Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic sites. Free admission all day. See historicsites.vermont.gov for more info. Continues Sunday, June 9.

Used book sale in Vergennes. Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Used book sale sponsored by the Friends of Bixby Library downstairs in the Otter Creek Room. Enter from the back parking lot. Choose from a large variety of fiction, non-fiction and children's books, some of them freshly donated by our winter reading friends.

Book Sale in Shoreham. Saturday, June 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Hundreds of hardcovers and paperbacks. Books for all ages. DVDs and audiobooks, too. Take what you like, pay what you think is fair.

Art & Chocolate in Salisbury. Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Salisbury Public Library, 918 Maple St. For sale: Art and crafts, used books, homemade goodies and chocolate treats. Also, a silent auction by local artists Carrie Ade & Peter Langrock. All proceeds for the Salisbury Public Library.

Dog Park anniversary celebration in Monkton. Saturday, June 8, 1-3 p.m., Pond Rd. A 4th year anniversary celebration of Monkton's Dog Park. Everyone is welcome. Music, drinks, a raffle and dessert. The 50/50 raffle will help to maintain the park's ongoing care. Authentic Guatemalan food available by La Chapina, (taking pre-orders if you would like to take some home or be assured you get some of their great dishes at www.instagram.com/la_chapina_guate_food).

Prize Bingo in Leicester. Saturday, June 8, at 1 p.m., Senior Center, Four Corners. Sponsored by the Leicester Historical Society. Refreshments served and all are welcome. This will be the last Bingo until September.

Takeout-only chicken and biscuit supper in Vergennes. Saturday, June 8, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main Street, (across from the Vergennes Opera House). Chicken and gravy over biscuits, mashed potatoes, vegetable, cranberry sauce and dessert. Adults \$12. Take out preorder only. Must place order by 7 p.m. Thursday, June 6, at 802-877-3150.

King Pede card party in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, June 8, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Community Center, Route 7. A sandwich supper and then on to the games. King Pede involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch.

SUNDAY

Breakfast in Bristol. Sunday, June 9, 7:30-10 a.m., Libanus Lodge, 4 Elm St. The Masons Lodge will serve their monthly Charity Fundraising Breakfast. All profits are donated to a person or group in need within the Five Town Area. Menu includes sausage gravy with homemade biscuits, scrambled eggs (or over easy if you ask us to flip them) bacon, sausage patties, sausage links, home fries, pancakes, blueberry pancakes and French toast, all with maple syrup, assorted juices, apple bread pudding and coffee. Cost \$9 adults/\$5 children under 12. All profits are donated to a person or group in need within the Five Town Area.

Community Conversation: Affordable Housing for Addison County in Vergennes. Sunday,



Red-crested wonder

A PILEATED WOODPECKER is just one of the birds you may see while on Otter Creek Audubon Society and Middlebury Area Land Trust's monthly wildlife walk on Saturday, June 8. Be ready to meet at Otter View Park in Middlebury at 7 a.m. and the sky's the limit.

Photo by Gary Starr

June 9, 4 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Learn about three different initiatives to alleviate Addison County's housing shortage: HomeShare VT, Tiny Homes, and Accessory Dwelling Units. Hear case studies and receive a valuable resource brochure. For more, email Mike Greenwood (mike802vt@comcast.com) or visit cvuus.org/news.

Chicken Barbeque in Cornwall. Sunday, June 9, noon until the chicken runs out, Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, Route 30. Half-chicken meals with salad and sides will be the main feature. Free hot dogs while they last. Table seating and take-out will be available. See and meet neighbors and old friends, as well as the CVFD's fire trucks, learn about serving on the fire department and meeting the volunteers. Proceeds benefit the work of the department. Cost \$15 chicken and sides/\$12 just the half-chicken.

"My Dentist's Son" storytelling in Ferrisburgh. Sunday, June 9, 3-4:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7. A place for magical stories that don't fit, a moment in life that tends to defy explanation of what we believe is possible.

MONDAY

Vergennes City Band rehearsal in Vergennes. Monday, June 10, 7-9 p.m., Vergennes Opera House. All instrumentalists welcome. For more information contact Sue O'Daniel at 802-349-5906.

TUESDAY

"Youth Sports in Society" by Alex Wolff and Erin Quinn in Middlebury. Tuesday, June 11, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The third installment of "Up for Discussion," a free series created by Vermont Book Shop and Town Hall Theater designed to spark community conversation and featuring local experts in their fields sharing timely topics that span literature, art, film and contemporary issues. The 30-minute presentation will be followed by a roundtable discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas. Free, but registration required at townhalltheater.org.

WEDNESDAY

Town Band on the Green in Bristol. Wednesday, June 12, 7-8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit back and enjoy this 150-year tradition.

THURSDAY

"Seeking Freedom" gallery talk - developing the new exhibition in Ferrisburgh. Thursday, June 13, 12:30-1 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Join Rokeby Executive Director Lindsay Houpt-Varner, co-curator of "Seeking Freedom," for a talk on updating the main Underground Railroad Exhibition. Part of a series of monthly gallery talks with the exhibition's curators this summer. Each talk will explore a different aspect of the new exhibition. Meet at the entrance of the exhibition in the Visitor Center. Tickets \$5 non-Members or free with admission to the Museum. Free for members.

Flood Legal assistance program in East Middlebury. Thursday, June 13, 2-5:45 p.m., Community Room, Sarah Partridge Library, 431 E. Main St. Volunteers will be available to provide information and answer questions, help file for FEMA/DUA/SBA appeals and late applications, help with recertifying Continued Temporary Housing assistance, and assist with other paperwork.

"A Walk in Her Woods: Understanding a Pre-Commercial Thinning" in Rochester. Thursday, June 13, 4:30 p.m. Join Women and Our Woods and landowner Doreen Jones as they showcase the forest management work on her property. Learn what a pre-commercial thinning

is and its benefits for forest health, resilience and wildlife habitat. Do some birding and practice tree identification skills as well. Children welcome. Registration at forms.gle/sakjgUQz2bWRYiu7. More info contact Lisa Sausville (lisa@vtcoverts.org) or Caitlin Cusack (caitlin@vt.org).

Middlebury Science Café in Middlebury. Thursday, June 13, 5:30 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Come chat about how science intersects with our daily lives in Vermont. Doors open at 5 p.m. for coffee or tea from Royal Oak. See ilsleypubliclibrary.org for current month's topic.

SATURDAY

Beginner's bird walk in Middlebury. Saturday, June 15, 9-11 a.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited for this beginner's bird walk through a segment of the Trail Around Middlebury. Hosted by the Otter Creek Audubon Society and Middlebury Area Land Trust. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from OCAS. Family-friendly and suitable for all ages, but not appropriate for strollers or wheelchairs. Rain or Shine. Questions? Call 713-818-7033.

5K Run/Walk in Vergennes. Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Boy Scout and VUHS rising senior Grey Fearon will host a 5K Run/Walk to support children's activities at the Bixby. More info at bixbylibrary.org.

Sheep and Wool Day in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, June 15, Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Celebrate Vermont's woolly heritage. This family-friendly event will feature sheep petting, kid's crafts, historic spinning and weaving, printing press demonstrations, an instrument petting zoo, history farm tours, and more. Bring non-perishable donations for the Vergennes Community Food Shelf and receive 50% off admission. Food vendors include James Beard Award semifinalist A Taste of Abyssinia and Fairy Tale Farm's sheep milk gelato.

Circus Smirkus founder Rob Mermin in Vergennes. Saturday, June 15, 1-2 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Mermin, founder of the renowned international touring company Circus Smirkus, will discuss his new book, "Circle of Sawdust." More info at bixbylibrary.org.

TUESDAY

Backyard Composting Workshop in Middlebury. Tuesday, June 18, 5:30 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Twiddling thumbs that you want to be green? Learn how easy it is to turn your household food waste into rich compost for your yard and garden for free. Sign up at AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

WEDNESDAY

Juneteenth in Ferrisburgh. Wednesday, June 19, Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. In celebration of Juneteenth, Rokeby will be open free to the public. The historic house will be open for self-guided tours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There are no public guided tours on this day.

Teddy Bear Picnic in Bristol. Wednesday, June 19, noon-1 p.m., town green. Bring your favorite bear and join us at the gazebo for stories, songs and fun. Rain location Holley Hall. More info and registration at bristolvt.myrec.com/info.

Summer reading kick off pizza and chess party in Lincoln. Wednesday, June 19, 3-5 p.m., Lincoln Library, River Rd. Help kick off the beginning of Lincoln Library's "Pop-In People" summer program.

CALENDAR ONLINE

addisonindependent.com



Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — What an amazing time we had at the town-wide yard sale. We found some great storage bins, jewelry, games and a whole lot of puzzles. I hope you were able to grab some delicious food at the firehouse, because the sausage and fries did not disappoint.

The Weathervane United Board of Trustees would like to sincerely thank all of those who supported the town-wide yard sale. Fundraisers like this help to keep the rent down for elderly folks who reside there. Whether you paid to host a sale or came out to shop, your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who made the plant and book sale such a success, from all the volunteers who helped set up, to the folks who came to purchase. The books will continue to be on sale on the front porch throughout the summer, so grab a nice chair anytime, relax and browse at your leisure.

FROM LINCOLN SPORTS

Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) just announced 51 new recipients of the VOREC Community Grant Program and Lincoln Sports Inc. is one of them! Our proposal to build a multi-use trail system and ADA boardwalks on our property at 34 Gove Hill Road was accepted and we have already begun work. We believe updates to the Lincoln Sports land can have tremendous benefits to the community. This project will provide more inclusive access to nature and use of the property, ensure all youth in our town have access to recreational sports like mountain biking, and create opportunities for learning and engagement for both the Lincoln Community School and Lincoln Sports Camp. Read more about our project at lincolnsports.org/trails. We are so excited to share the news with you and hope you will reach out to learn more.

The next Lincoln Sports pickup soccer game will be Saturday, June

15, at 10 a.m., on the Lincoln Sports field. Games have been a mix of kids and adults with fun being the ultimate goal. There is plenty of exercise and the vibe is extremely friendly.

On Sunday, June 9, the Lincoln Historic Museum will open for the season from noon to 4 p.m. They will be open on the second and fourth Sundays through mid-October. They have revamped the space and are eager to show it off. There is no charge to visit but donations are appreciated. The historical society strives to accommodate researchers and tour groups through scheduled appointments and phone or email requests. For more information, please email lincolnhistory@gmail.com.

Until next time ... The Future Belongs To Those Who Believe In The Beauty Of Their Dreams. You Can Do Hard Things. A Great Attitude Becomes A Great Day Which Becomes A Great Year.



MAURA CONNELLY, LEFT, Milo Rees and Diana Herasim were selected by their peers to be this year's speakers at MUHS' graduation ceremonies on June 8.

Photo courtesy Sarah Soule

MUHS names class speakers

MIDDLEBURY—Middlebury Union High School Class of 2024 members Maura Connelly, Diana Herasim, and Milo Rees will address their classmates at the school's graduation on Saturday, June 8, at Memorial Sports Center. All three students were chosen by their peers to speak at this year's commencement ceremony.

MUHS uses the Latin Honors system to reflect the accomplishments of each student. Under this system, students who achieve a cumulative GPA equal to or above a 4.00 receive the designation of Summa Cum Laude. Students with a GPA between 3.75 and 3.99 qualify for Magna Cum Laude. Maura and Diana will each graduate with the

Summa Cum Laude designation and Milo will graduate Magna Cum Laude.

Diana and Milo are candidates for the full International Baccalaureate Diploma and Maura is a candidate for IB certificates. All three students have contributed to MUHS in a myriad of ways, including serving as Peer Leaders, where they have mentored newly-enrolling 9th graders as they transitioned from middle school to high school. Maura was named a Vermont Presidential Scholar by the Vermont Agency of Education, and she has been involved in the school's human rights club. Diana has been active in Model UN, choir, and participated in

Girls State last summer. Milo was the recipient of the Dorey Cup in 2023, acknowledging his academic and athletic accomplishments. He has been a member of the varsity soccer and tennis teams and was a founding member of the MUHS chess club.

This fall, Maura will enroll at the University of Vermont, Diana will be attending Yale University, and Milo will be studying at Williams College. They are part of an extended group of talented Tigers who are planning to pursue higher education, attend trade school, participate in apprenticeships, or pursue employment after graduating from Middlebury Union High School.

Monkton

Have a news tip?
Contact Liz Pecor at rascal0406@gmavt.net

NEWS

MONKTON — Creators of the Monkton Dog Park are celebrating four years of canine play with a party at the park on Saturday, June 8, from 1-3 p.m. Come hang out and enjoy some daytime live music, eat some tacos, drink, pet some dogs, and enjoy the dog park. Patti Casey and Tom MacKenzie will provide live music and La Chapina will be serving up authentic Guatemalan food. There will also be beer, cider and wine from BEVO and a 50/50 raffle. Dogs are welcome, kids are welcome, everyone is welcome, and there will be cake for all.

This is a fundraiser for the dog park's ongoing care and

maintenance, so buying a few tickets for the 50/50 raffle would be appreciated. La Chapina is taking pre-orders if you'd like to take some food home for dinner. If you haven't had their food, you are missing out. For questions call Erin at 201-919-4392

As the strawberries are starting to ripen, Russell Memorial librarians and board members are busy planning the details for the library's annual fundraiser, the Strawberry Festival, happening on June 30 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mark your calendars, they would love for you to join them. This year they have their used book sale, two bands,

kids activities, lawn games and strawberry shortcake.

This also means they now taking book donations. They are accepting clean books still in good condition. They cannot accept: Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Textbooks, Books with highlighter or notes, Musty, moldy or water damaged books, VHS tapes, Cassette tapes, Music CDs, Computer Software.

Please bring books during open hours — Tuesday and Thursday 3 to 7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. If those times do not work for you, email to set up a drop off time- russellmemlibrary@gmail.com.

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Word has come from their mother, Anne Campbell, that **Emma Campbell** of Starksboro graduated this May from the University of Vermont, Summa Cum Laude with

a Bachelors of Science in Early Childhood Education, with a Placed-Based Certificate and a minor in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. Her sister, **Olivia Campbell**, also

of Starksboro, has been named to the dean's list at Mount Holyoke College for both fall and spring semesters of her freshman year during the 2023-2024 school calendar.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

How quickly time passes. It seems like only yesterday the *Independent* got its first batch of 2023-2024 Students of the Week from area high schools. And now graduation is here. Congratulations to all of these outstanding humans on their accomplishments in the past year and best of luck as they venture out on their own. Below is a full list of Middlebury Union High School and Vergennes Union High School Students of the Week and their destinations in the fall.

What's next?

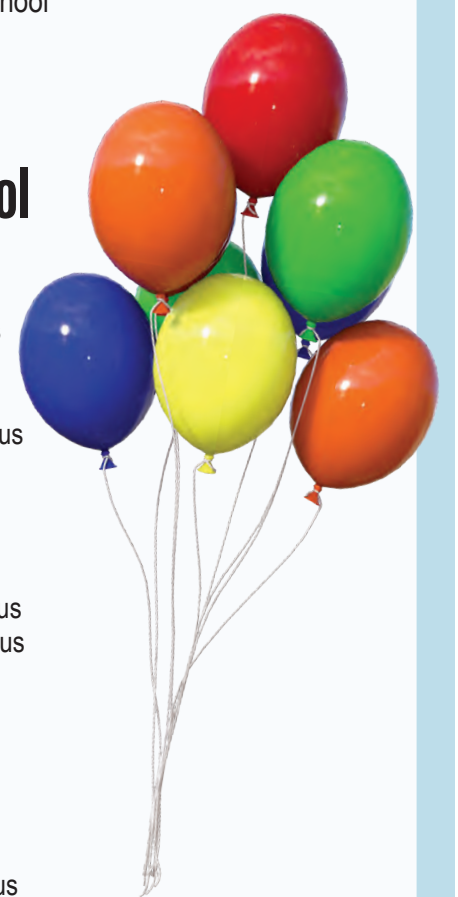
Middlebury Union High School

- Iver Anderson – Middlebury College, Vt.
- Asa Baker Rouse – Skidmore College, N.Y.
- Hope Bellinger – Connecticut College, Conn.
- Audrey Carpenter – McGill University, Quebec
- Max Carpenter – SUNY Potsdam, N.Y.
- Maura Connelly – University of Vermont
- Noah Doherty Konczal – University of Vermont
- Eddie Fallis – University of Florida, Fla.
- Lilly Finn – Connecticut College, Conn.
- Baxter Harrington – Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.
- Diana Herasim – Yale University, Conn.
- Gus Hodde – University of California, Davis, Calif.
- Caroline Nicolai – Northeastern University, Mass.
- Milo Rees – Williams College, Mass.
- Sienna "CC" Rubright – University of North Carolina, Wilmington, N.C.
- Silas Taylor – Northeastern University, Mass.
- Micah Voorhees – Maine College of Art and Design, Maine
- Shyanne Wedge – Community College of Vermont
- Harper Werme – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, N.Y.

What's next?

Vergennes Union High School

- Elizabeth Bennett - Maine College of Art & Design, Maine
- Acadia Clark - Nova Southeastern University, Fla.
- Kimari Collins - Vermont State University - Lyndon Campus
- Benedict Diehl-Noble - Dickinson College, Pa.
- Mackenzie Flint - University of New England, Maine
- Oakley Francis - Vermont State University - Johnson Campus
- Madelyn Giroux - University of Vermont
- Calvin Gramling - Skidmore College, N.Y.
- Benjamin Hargett - SUNY University at Buffalo, N.Y.
- Natalie Jackman - Apprenticeship
- Tyrell Lavoie - Vermont State University - Castleton Campus
- Sam Morigioni - Vermont State University - Johnson Campus
- Siobhan Potter - University of Vermont
- Calder Rakowski - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, N.Y.
- Zoe Reid-St. John - University of Vermont
- Matilda Seyler - Sarah Lawrence College, N.Y.
- Kaelin Sullivan - Wentworth Institute of Technology, Mass.
- James Spillman - Apprenticeship with Husky Technologies
- Eyon Tembreull - Vermont State University - Lyndon Campus



CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!



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Middlebury

Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration

Best of luck to all Addison County students!

Vermont Book Shop

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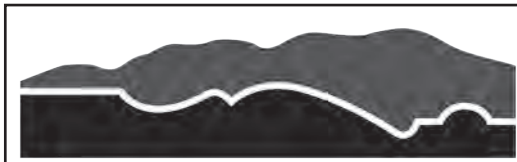
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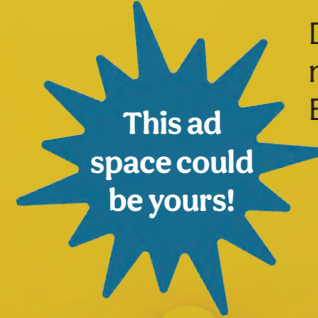
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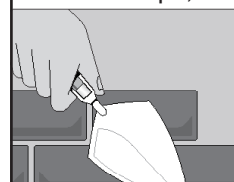
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larosesurveys@gmail.com

SHORT SURVEYING, INC.
Serving Addison County Since 1991
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Serving all of Vermont!

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Reach thousands of local customers every week with a B&S Directory ad.
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Serving Vermont for over 42 years!

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WE HAVE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT FOR THE RIGHT JOB – TO GIVE YOU REASONABLE RATES

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- Tree Pruning
- Storm Damage Clean up
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Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459
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MeganSwaseyDVM@gmail.com
addisoncountyvet.com

Addison County Mobile Veterinary Services
Megan Swasey, DVM
Mobile Veterinarian • Shoreham, VT

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Your local source for window treatments from the nation's most popular brands.
Free in-home consultations!

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vermontwindowtreatments.com

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Advertise your business on these pages for under \$10 per week.

Call 802-388-4944 or email advertising@addisonindependent.com for details.

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 vermontalananonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

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).

Public Meetings

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Production Team Members

Vermont Soap is looking for attentive, reliable and responsible people to work in our production department.

This position requires basic computer skills, attention to detail, the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time and the ability to lift up to 50lbs. Must be a team player and also able to work independently.

This is a full time position (Mon-Fri 7-3:30) with paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k with employer match, and more!

Please send cover letter and resume to nichole@vermontsoap.com.

Help Wanted

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
or 802-482-6666

Help Wanted



Part-Time Office Assistant

WowToyz, a successful and established manufacturer of high-quality, educational toys for over 30 years, is looking for a motivated individual to be part of our growing company! The successful candidate must be dependable, eager to learn new processes, and willing to jump in when a need is observed. This is a position for a detail-oriented team player with confidence, energy, and great organizational and communication skills.

Retirees are welcome and encouraged to apply! We offer flexible work schedules and competitive wages.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Enter purchase orders into our proprietary computer software system
Answer phone, transfer calls, and assist with customer service
Friendly, professional, and service-focused positive attitude

SKILLS & REQUIREMENTS

Ability to organize and prioritize tasks with minimal supervision
Ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with all levels of the organization
Analytical abilities and aptitude in problem-solving
Experience in Microsoft Office Suite or data entry software is beneficial but not a requirement

Part-Time Warehouse

WowToyz in Vergennes is seeking part-time help for the morning shift in our warehouse, picking and packing orders and unloading trucks. Ideal candidates are organized, dependable, and able to work 20-30 hours/week, Mon-Fri. **Retirees are welcome and encouraged to apply!** We offer flexible work schedules and competitive wages.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccinations required for all employees

To apply email contact information and work history to: resumes@wowtoyz.com

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Addison County Parent/Child Center

VAN DRIVER JOB OPENING
Addison County Parent/Child Center

We are seeking a van driver who will transport children, youth, and parents to our center from around Addison County.

Strong candidates must have a clean driving record and experience with children and families.

Great working environment and benefits. This is a 20-hour position with hours split between mornings and afternoons.

Please contact Donna Bailey at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL IS HIRING:

- Licensed Plumber
- Service Tech
- Apprentice

Jackman's of Bristol is a local propane company that does residential plumbing, heating, HVAC, cold climate heat pumps, ERV propane, natural gas, and oil install/service. We perform installations for new construction as well as remodeling.

BENEFITS:

Competitive wages	401K	Paid Vacation/
Health Insurance	Profit sharing	CTO/Sick time
Dental Insurance	Fuel Benefit	

And many more things working for a family-owned local business

Apply online at:
jackmansinc.com/online-application



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 or fill out an application at **Middlebury Agway**, 338 Exchange Street, Middlebury VT.

Please no phone calls.

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.



Don't miss a beat
Read the Addy Indy online, in print, or on the go!

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



Help Wanted

Help Wanted

THE RESIDENCE at Otter Creek

RN/LPN \$8,000 FT sign on bonus

Ask about our:
PT and FT travel allowance
Free meals
Competitive Benefits
On call with pay
No uniforms required!

Are you looking for work life balance? Need to be home during week and only available on the weekends?
Just looking for a few hours a week or even a month? We have per diem positions!

We have fun!
Feel appreciated and valued!
Apply today.

Scan the QR code or go to our website to apply

*The Residence at Otter Creek
350 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT 05753
www.residenceatottercreek.com*

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Volunteer Drivers

RSVP of Addison County is in search of volunteer drivers to help deliver meals or volunteers who can help transport clients to appointments. You can choose what rides you want to take or decline.

If you are interested please give us a call at 802-468-7056.

Addison Independent **CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM**

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: 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: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____
Cost: _____
of runs: _____
Spotlight Charge: _____
Internet Listing: \$2.00
TOTAL: _____

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.

RATES

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- \$2 internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

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.

Services

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.

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.

Free

DIGITAL ACCESS View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at addisonindependent.com. Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

Help Wanted

AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY Hearth is seeking a part time Bartender to work both independently and alongside our talented Head Bartender. We are looking for a mature, energetic individual who enjoys the excitement of a busy restaurant, loves wholesome food & creative beverages, a warm fire and interesting conversation. Must be available nights and weekends, have a positive attitude, and enthusiasm for learning new things. Prior bartending experience is preferred. We are an inclusive environment and encourage applicants from all legally working age groups, races, and gender identities. Stop in for an application or send resume to joe@american-flatbread.com.

PART-TIME PERSONAL CARE assistant wanted to help 76 year old man in Addison with cooking, housekeeping and chores. Work 3 hours a day in the mornings on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. \$25 an hour. Reply to eresnik@rcn.com.

Help Wanted

For Sale

2015 HARLEY DAVIDSON fat boy. 10,000 miles. New tires, new battery with over \$5,000 in extras. \$9,500 or best offer. Call 802-759-2030.

2023 RANGER CANOE. 16 footer. Weighs 52 pounds. \$1,600 or best offer. Call 802-759-2030.

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.

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.

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.

Help Wanted

For Rent

DRY, WINTER/SUMMER STORAGE SPACE in Addison. Available storage space in my barn for summer/winter storage. The barn is structurally sound and weather-tight with electricity. No heat or running water. The barn is also available for lease. The entrance door measurements are 8' wide by 7' high. For more info: 802-363-3403 or rochon_m@yahoo.com.

FURNISHED ROOM: East Middlebury. Separate entrance. All included; w/d, wifi, kitchen, & parking. Security and references required. \$675 per month. Text Rochell 802-989-8941.

HISTORIC 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT. Newly renovated in 1860's farmhouse in Shoreham. Furnished and available mid-August. \$2500/month plus utilities. Non-smoking and no pets please. Call for info and photos 802-897-2448.

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL/RETAIL. 1,250 sq.ft. Exchange Street, Middlebury. 802-388-4831.

MIDDLEBURY SUGARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

For Rent

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

TWO BEDROOMS, 1400 square foot home for rent on a quiet street steps from Middlebury College. Minimum 1 year lease, sorry no pets. \$2500.00 a month plus utilities. (802)-377-7486.

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

Wood Heat

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

Att. Farmers

HORSE BLANKET WASH and repair. Accepting non-leather (for now) horsewear of all kinds for cleaning and repairing at my Weybridge location. Call or text Sue Miller at 802-377-5945 or email svdwmiller@icloud.com with "horse" in the subject line for more information.

WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

Motorcycles

2017 HARLEY-DAVIDSON ROAD KING. 8,000 original miles. Many extras. Excellent condition. \$13,900. 860-690-7617.

Help Wanted

MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 5/30/24 & 6/3/24

		COST		
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$	
H. Degraaf	1490	1.45	\$2160.50	
Gosliga	1770	1.43	\$2531.10	
J. Allen	1165	1.42	\$1654.30	
Blue Spruce	1620	1.38	\$2235.60	
Woodnotch	1320	1.38	\$1821.60	
P. Livingston	1725	1.35	\$2328.75	
Goodrich	1635	1.30	\$2125.50	

		COST		
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$	
UVM	99	9.50	\$940.50	
J. Fifield	92	9.50	\$874.00	
Sunderland	120	8.50	\$867.00	
Westminster	85	9.00	\$765.00	
Vorsteveld	101	8.00	\$808.00	
Goodrich Farm	93	8.00	\$744.00	

Total Beef - 136 Total Calves - 210
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661



(1585) Machine Shop & Equipment
Auction Closes: Thursday, June 13 @ 10AM
Preview: Tuesday, June 11 from 2PM-4PM

ONLINE AUCTION

Large selection of over 480 lots of machinery and equipment featuring brands by Johnson, Bowles Corp., DoALL, Harig, Lincoln, Makita, Chicago, Yuasa, Arndt, Grizzly and more! Location: N. Ferrisburgh, VT

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 800-634-7653

TOWN OF RIPTON NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given in accord with 32 VSA §4111 that on June 4, 2024 the Listers lodged the Abstract of the 2024 Grand List in the office of the Town Clerk. Owners of properties with value changes were mailed notices. The Listers will meet at the Town Office from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. June 19, 2024 to hear grievances. Grievances must be received in writing at the Town Office by 5:00 p.m., June 19, 2024.

Contact the listers at riptonvt.org, 802-388-2266, or PO Box 10, Ripton VT 05766 if you have questions or would like an appointment for a hearing.

Ripton Board of Listers:
Alison Joseph Dickinson,
Beth Eliason, Erik Eriksen

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 11B and 12B.

- ABC Self Storage (1)
- Addison (1)
- Addison County Courthouse (1)
- Ferrisburgh (1)
- Middlebury (1)
- New Haven (1)
- Ripton (1)
- Slate Valley Unified School District (1)
- State of Vermont (1)
- Whiting (1)

Email your Public Notices to legals@addisonindependent.com and Jenna makes sure it gets in the paper

NOTICE OF SELF-STORAGE LIEN SALE AUCTION ABC SELF STORAGE
12 OSSIE RD • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT 05740-0558

Notice is hereby given that the contents of the self-storage units listed below will be sold at auction. This sale is being held to collect unpaid storage unit occupancy fees, charges and expenses of sale. The entire contents of each self-storage unit listed below will be sold, BY STORAGE AUCTION SOLUTIONS with proceeds to be distributed as follows: Payment to ABC Self Storage for all accrued occupancy fees (rent) charges, late payment fees, sale expenses, and all other expenses in relation to the unit and its sale. Contents of each unit may be viewed on June 7, 2024 commencing at 2:00 pm. Bidding will begin immediately after viewing of the entire contents of each self-storage unit. The highest bidder on the storage unit must remove the entire contents of the unit within 96 hours after the notification of their successful bid. Purchase must be made in cash and paid in advance of removal of contents of unit. \$100.00 cash deposit shall be made and will be refunded if the unit is broom cleaned. ABC Self-Storage reserves the right to accept or reject bids. The contents of the following tenants' self-storage units will be included in the sale:

UNIT A017: Anthony Miller, 428 Court St., Box 106 Middlebury, VT 05753 TRQ Brake Rotors, Brake Parts, Car Parts

UNIT A008: Amanda Woods, PO Box 1038, Middlebury, VT 05753 Tools, Trumpet

UNIT A009: Sabrina Bell, 2866 Snake Mountain Road, Weybridge, VT 05753 Furniture, Mini Gas Grill

UNIT B018: James M. Benway, 3595 Mountain Road, Addison, VT 05491 Floor Safe, Furniture, Household Goods

UNIT C004: Orion Parsels, 748 Glen Athol Road, Warrensburg, NY 12885 Jurassic Park Lunch Box, Model Cars

UNIT C014: Matthew Delia Lobo, 66 Seymour St. Ext., Middlebury, VT 05753 Drum Set, Sound Equipment

UNITS C028, E020: Christian Placey, 7 Vaughn Court, North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473 Vintage Cook Stove, Yamaha YZ85 Dirt Bike

UNIT D028: Justin Gillette, 34 Schoolhouse Hill Rd., Middlebury, VT 05753 Gun safe, Sporting Goods, Furniture

UNIT DD030: Chris Steele, PO Box 351, Brandon, VT 05733 Garrett Metal Detector Box, Misc. Collectibles

MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL COACHING POSITIONS

Middlebury Union High School is seeking coaches for the following:

- Varsity Boys' Soccer
- Assistant Varsity Boys' Soccer
- Assistant Cross Country

Applicants must possess a strong knowledge of coaching principles with previous coaching experience preferred. Must possess strong organizational skills and the ability to communicate and relate to student athletes.

Interested parties should send a letter of interest, resume, and three current letters of reference to:

Sean Farrell/Athletic Director
Middlebury Union Middle School
73 Charles Avenue
Middlebury, VT 05753

Applications will be accepted until the positions have been filled. E.O.E.

Addison County Parent/Child Center

Join the Parent/Child Center Team
CHILDCARE WORKER/PARENT EDUCATOR

Childcare Staff Position: We are seeking a childcare worker who will work with children and parents in our therapeutic program. This is a full-time position with generous benefits. We are a therapeutic childcare program that supports children birth through 5 and their families.

Strong candidates must have knowledge of child development, family systems, excellent communication skills, and want to work with young families. Flexibility and collaboration are a must. Experience with children and families wanted: a minimum of a Bachelor's degree preferred.

Please send a resume and cover letter, along with 3 references to **Donna Bailey** at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org

In print or online,
find your dream job
with help from
the *Addy Indy*.

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

KEEWAYDIN FOUNDATION

SUMMER CAMP NURSE POSITION

Interested in working at a beautiful summer camp on Lake Dunmore in the Green Mountains of Vermont? Do you enjoy working with kids in a vibrant and warm summer camp community? Consider working as a nurse at Keewaydin Dunmore for Boys or Songadeewin of Keewaydin for Girls! Our summer season runs from June 13-August 18. This is a great opportunity for experienced nurses or for those just starting a nursing career—especially for those considering a career in pediatric nursing! Three nurses run each Health Center and work with a consulting physician at a local medical practice.

Salary for RN is \$11,750 (tuition free for first child, 75% discount for second child). Room and board is included.

For more information, please contact Daria Carden at daria@keewaydin.org. Visit our website at www.keewaydin.org.

TOWN OF WHITING NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Whiting, in the County of Addison, the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Whiting Town Hall, 27 South Main Street, Whiting, VT, at 6:30 PM on June 18, 2024, to consider and vote on the following non-binding advisory article:

- Shall the voters of the Town of Whiting advise the Whiting Select Board to enact a proposed ordinance regulating and allowing the operation of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on certain town highways? (A copy of the proposed ordinance is available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office, 29 South Main Street, Whiting, VT during regularly scheduled hours.)

Whiting Select Board
Bob Wood, Chair
Steve Quenneville
Marcia King

FIND US ON  

For breaking news & updates wherever you are!

facebook.com/addisonindependent
twitter.com/addyindy

ATV crash takes the life of Vergennes man

ADDISON COUNTY — A Vergennes man was killed on Saturday evening when the ATV he was driving crashed in Pantton.

Colin Hossink, 23, was driving a Honda Sportrax 450R near 708 East Road in Pantton between 8 and 8:30 p.m. on June 1 when he crashed. Vermont State Police were called at approximately 8:28 p.m., and when troopers arrived they found Hossink dead.

The weather and road conditions were described as clear.

Police closed East Road at the scene of the crash for approximately six hours while members of VSP Crash Reconstruction Team processed the scene. State police were assisted by Vergennes police, Addison County Sheriff's deputies, the Vergennes Fire Department and Vergennes Area Rescue Squad.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation and state police ask that anyone with information call them at the New Haven barracks at 802-388-4919. Anonymous tips may be submitted online at vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit.

In other recent activity, state police:

- On May 19 at 3 a.m. received a report of a vehicle stolen from the driveway at a home on South Main Street in Whiting. Police investigated and determined that two juveniles had stolen the vehicle belonging to Anna Krans-Gould of

Vt. State Police Log

Whiting. The vehicle was recovered the next day in the parking lot of the Ben & Jerry's factory in Waterbury with significant damage. On May 23 state police cited both juveniles for aggravated operation without the owner's consent.

- On May 29 at approximately 6:39 p.m. got a report that a larger group of people were arguing at Blaise's Mobile Home Park in Bristol. Troopers and Bristol police responded and separated parties. State police report that Kimberly Sheldrick, 44, of Bristol had acted in an aggressive and tumultuous manner, and they cited her for disorderly conduct.

- On May 30 at a little after 11:30 p.m. responded to a home on Silver Street in Monkton. After investigating, troopers cited Jeremy C. Broderick, 43, of Monkton and cited him for domestic assault.

- On May 31 at around 9:30 p.m. responded to a one-vehicle crash on West Street near Cross Road in Cornwall. Police report that Brad-Leigh Grace, 29, of Cornwall was driving a 2012 Chevy Silverado when the pickup left the road, flipped and came to rest upside down in a ditch. Grace sustained moderate injuries and was taken to Porter Hospital, where he was treated and cited for driving under the influence.

- On June 1 at around 5:30 p.m. responded to a motor vehicle crash on Kellogg Bay Road near Riverview Road in Ferrisburgh. Police say that Stacy Paquin, 52, of Ferrisburgh was driving a 2021 VW Tiguan when she lost control and the vehicle rolled, sideswiping two other vehicles: a 2024 Mazda CX-50 driven by Ariel Rotax, 36, of Elkton, Fla., and an unoccupied 2023 Tesla Model Y. The Mazda and Tesla both sustained driver's side damage. The VW was damaged on its front end, hood, windshield and passenger side.

Paquin sustained suspected moderate injuries but declined to be taken to the hospital by ambulance. While speaking with Paquin, troopers detected indicators of impairment, so they screened her, took her into custody on suspicion of drunk driving and transported to the New Haven barracks for processing. Police report that Paquin refused evidentiary testing during processing. They cited Paquin for driving under the influence, refusal, third offense.

While at the barracks, Paquin's pain from her injuries increased, and she was taken to Porter Medical Center for treatment.

State police were assisted by state game wardens and Middlebury police.

- On June 2 at 11:23 p.m. responded to Haigis Lane in Ferrisburgh for a reported altercation. Troopers cited Charlotte M. Haigis, 24, of Ferrisburgh for driving under the influence.



Daddy provides

A MALE BLUEBIRD pauses with spider in its mouth before taking the snack to its nestlings, snug in their box in New Haven this spring.

Photo by Dottie Nelson

Bristol Police Log

BRISTOL — Bristol police have responded to a handful of animal-related incidents in recent weeks.

A Bristol police officer on May 21 recovered four baby raccoons and turned them over to a wildlife rehabilitation center.

On May 22, police enforced a dog ordinance violation on Pine Street.

Police on May 24 responded to an animal complaint on Vincent Drive and started an investigation.

Between April 28 and May 25, Bristol police completed 96 foot patrols and two car patrols, conducted 59 traffic stops, and checked the security at Mount

Abraham Union High School 28 times, at Bristol Elementary School 27 times and at local businesses 25 times.

Police also processed 29 fingerprint requests, verified three vehicle identification numbers, completed four sex offender registry checks, conducted eight welfare checks and responded to one false alarm that proved to be set off by a malfunction.

In other recent activity as reported by Bristol Police Chief Bruce Nason last week, Bristol police:

- On April 28, responded to a report of suspicious activity on North Street.

- On April 29, located the owner of a vehicle on Firehouse Drive. The vehicle was moved.

- On April 29, arrested Patrick Cota, 31, of Bristol on a warrant for failure to appear.

- On April 29, took a late report of a motor vehicle crash that occurred on High Street.

- On May 5, started investigating a theft on West Street.

- On May 5, assisted someone on Mountain Street with a vehicle registration problem.

- On May 5, began investigating mail theft on Main Street.

- On May 7, helped someone on Devino Lane with their disabled vehicle.

- On May 8, investigated a report of threatening messages on social media.

- On May 8, helped someone on Main Street obtain social services.

- On May 10, received a report of a theft on Mountain Street. An investigation is ongoing.

- On May 12, received a report of a possible assault involving juveniles but found nothing reported rose to the level of a crime.

- On May 13, checked the Bristol village for a missing person, who returned home on their own.

- On May 13, resolved a verbal dispute on Prince Lane.

- On May 14, responded to complaint of a vehicle driving

erratically near the intersection of Stoney Hill and Route 116. The vehicle was gone when police arrived and was not located while police patrolled the area.

- On May 14, responded to a noise disturbance on Mountain Street, but determined no action rose to the level of an offense.

- On May 15, began investigating a report of a conditions of release violation.

- On May 15, looked into a littering complaint on Plank Road.

- On May 16, tried to stop a vehicle speeding on West Street.

- On May 17, started investigating reported vandalism at Mount Abe.

- On May 17, helped settle a citizen dispute on Stoney Hill Road.

- On May 17, responded to a motorcycle crash in the area of Liberty and Pine streets. The motorcyclist, Edward Ennenga, 36, of Crown Point, N.Y., was taken to Porter Medical Center by Bristol Rescue.

- On May 18, responded to a report of people yelling on Garfield Street. Police interviewed several people in the area, who said they hadn't heard anything.

- On May 18, monitored traffic during the Human Powered Parade.

- On May 18, helped a citizen recover property on Pine Street.

- On May 18, helped ensure a safe Mount Abe prom.

- On May 21, assisted someone in getting contact information for adult social services.

- On May 22, spoke with children at a local daycare about safety.

- On May 22, responded to a citizen dispute on South Street. The information collected will be reviewed by the state's attorney for a possible offense.

- On May 23, provided traffic control while a banner was hung across West Street.

- On May 23, responded to a report of wires in the roadway on West Street. Police determined a cable wire had been pulled down by a tractor-trailer, and it was removed from the roadway.

- On May 25, helped someone locate their towed vehicle.

- On May 25, responded to a motor vehicle crash in a parking lot on Prince Lane.

- On May 25, responded to a traffic hazard on North Street. Grass clippings were removed from the street by a resident.

FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

The Addison County Clerk located in the **Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury** is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS

Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm
 Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm
 Wednesday - **Closed**
 Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm
 Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED

For appointment, go to www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com or call 802-388-1966.

PUBLIC NOTICE POLICY WARNING

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District Board will conduct a public hearing at their meeting on June 10, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. and take action on the following policies:

C9 Wellness Policy

Copies of the policy are available on the district website at slatevalleyunified.org

Brooke Olsen-Farrell
 Superintendent of Schools

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM 116 - LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM TOWN OFFICES - 77 MAIN STREET TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83167803080>

By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)

Webinar ID: 831 6780 3080

For those wishing to watch but not participate:

Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV_Vermont

and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

- 7:00 1. **Call to Order
- 2. *Approval of Agenda
- 3. *Approval of Consent Agenda
 - 3a. Approval of Minutes of the May 28, 2024 Regular Selectboard Meeting and May 29, 2024 Selectboard Retreat Meeting
 - 3b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
 - 3c. Approval of Renewal Applications for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Class Liquor Licenses, Outside Consumption Permits, and Entertainment Permits
 - 3d. Approval of Grant Agreement with State of Vermont Agency of Transportation for Adams Acres Stormwater Treatment Project
 - 3e. Approval of Public Assemblage Permit for All Class Reunion & Bike-Run-Walk, June 27, 2024, Memorial Sports Center
 - 3f. Consent Agenda Placeholder
 - 3g. Consent Agenda Placeholder
 - 3h. Town Manager's Report
- 4. *Citizen Comments (Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda)
- 7:05 5. *Agenda Placeholder
- 7:10 6. *Emmalee Cherington Director, of Public Works Planning - Infrastructure Committee Recommendations on Water & Wastewater Budgets & Rates for FY2025
- 7:30 7. *Request of Vermont Gas System - Easement across Town property for a service line to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main Street
- 7:40 8. **Jason Covey, Chief of Police - Request to transfer unused funds from the Police Department's FY24 Operating Budget to Purchase a Drone
- 7:50 9. *Dana Hart, Library Director, and Chris Huston, Vice President of Preconstruction, ReArch, Inc. - Next Steps on Ilsley Library Renovation/Expansion Project
 - 9a. *Organization Chart & Explanation of Roles for Project
 - 9b. *Request for Approval to Submit a Grant Application to the Vermont Community Foundation's Walter Cerf Fund
 - 9c. *Approval of Amendment to the Design-Build Contract with ReArch Company, Inc.
 - 9d. *Approval of Bond Vote Election Validation Resolution
 - 9e. **Clerk of the Works Report #1
- 8:10 10. *Tim Jones, Green Mountain Power - Information about plans to rebuild GMP's existing overhead line running through the Old Town Road corridor
- 8:20 11. *Teri Kuczynski, District Manager, Addison County Solid Waste District - Updates on District operations
- 8:30 12. **Mike Baker, 211 Creek Road - Request for reimbursement for basement flooding on January 23, 2024
- 8:40 13. **Follow up to May 29, 2024 Selectboard Retreat (Downtown Parking & Increased Advertising and Presence in the Addison Independent)
- 8:50 14. *Agenda Placeholder
- 15. **Agenda Placeholder
- 8:55 16. *Approval of Check Warrants
- 17. **Board Member Concerns
- 18. *Executive Session - Anticipated - Contracts
- 19. **Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
- 9:15 20. *Adjourn

* Decision Item ** Possible Decision

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARING FOR A SUBDIVISION PERMIT

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to be held Wednesday, June 19th at the Town Hall.

Application Number 24-050: Final Plat Hearing for a Two (2) - Lot Subdivision; Applicant(s) JSCL, LLC; Tappers Crossing & US-7; Industrial (IND-2) District; tax id no. 10/01/58.2

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.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN INVITATION TO BID SEALED BIDS FOR:

Furnishing and placing asphalt on Pearson and River Rd. will be received at the New Haven Town Offices at 78 North Street, New Haven, Vermont 05472 until 4:00 pm on June 18, 2024, and will be publicly opened at the Selectboard meeting on June 18, 2024 on or after 7:00 pm.

Specifications for bidders and bid forms may be obtained without charge at the New Haven Town Offices, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472; or on our website www.newhavenvt.com

The Town of New Haven, VT reserves the right to waive any informalities in, or to reject any and all bids, or to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of New Haven.

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

2024 Materials Management Plan.
 Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P019
AGENCY: Agency of Natural Resources
CONCISE SUMMARY: The intended impact of the 2024 Materials Management Plan (MMP or Plan) is to reduce Vermont's waste generation and improve the state's waste management, including convenient options for recyclables, food scraps, and safe disposal of household hazardous waste, rather than being landfilled. This 2024 MMP amends the previous Plan, which was adopted in 2019. Sections include: Introduction; Market and Facilities Assessment; Agency of Natural Resources-Strategies and Actions; Solid Waste Implementation Plan Requirements and Approval Process; Solid Waste Management Entities-Strategies and Actions. Subsections within the Introduction include: Statutory Authority; Plan Priorities and Goals; Vermont's Waste; Challenges in Materials Management; Climate Change; Equity, Accessibility, and Environmental Justice. The Strategies and Actions replace the "Performance Standards" from the 2019 Plan and are requirements for the Agency and Municipal Solid Waste Management Entities (SWMES) for the five-year Plan period.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Josh Kelly, Agency of Natural Resources, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-522-5897 Fax: 802-828-1011 E-Mail: josh.kelly@vermont.gov URL: <https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid>.
FOR COPIES: Anne Bijur, Agency of Natural Resources, 1 National Life Drive, Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-522-5783 Fax: 802-828-1011 E-Mail: anne.bijur@vermont.gov.

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT
 on Pages 11B and 12B.

TOWN OF ADDISON DRB PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Addison Development Review Board will convene a public hearing on Monday, June 24, 2024 at 7:00PM at the Addison Community Center.

1. Application (DRB #24-11) for Michelle Bishop to consider an application for a Conditional-Use application for establishing and operating a Preschool for no more than 20 children. Location in the Town of Addison Community Center: VT 22A and VT RTE 17 West Addison, VT 05491

The applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office during normal office hours. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard must attend the hearing or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearings.

N.B.: Participation in a hearing is necessary to establish status as an "interested party" and the right to appeal a decision rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 S.S.4464 (a) (1) (C), 4465(b) and 4471 (a). Participation consists of offering through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Alden Harwood, Chair
 Starr Phillips, Board Secretary
 Michael Wojciechowski, Zoning Administrator

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

June 6, 2024



Middlebury Community Players will present "Love/Sick," a collection of nine short plays by John Ciarani, at the Vergennes Opera House, June 20-23. Pictured from left to right in rehearsal are Tanya Lehman playing Abbie in "Sick of This!"; Tom McElhaney playing Mark in "Lunch and Dinner"; and Matti Nichols playing Man in "Obsessive Impulsive."

COURTESY PHOTOS

Love is unpredictable ... and funny!

Three directors, nine vignettes, and a cast of talented actors will bring acclaimed playwright John Ciarani's poignant and witty play "Love/Sick" to life June 20-23, at Vergennes Opera House. This Middlebury Community Players show is produced by Jon Fenner, who also produced MCP's "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" just a few months ago.

BY ELSIE

LYNN PARINI

"'Love/Sick' is a collection of nine slightly twisted and completely hilarious short plays about love and loss," read a recent press release for the upcoming shows. "Set on a Friday night in a suburban alternate reality, this 80-minute romp explores the pain and

the joy that comes with being in love. Full of imperfect lovers and dreamers, 'Love/Sick' is an unromantic comedy for the romantic in everyone."

Notably, there are three directors to this MCP production. Kevin Commins, Kristin Ginsberg and Kush Sharma will each direct three vignettes with their own distinct vision and creativity.

Commins, an MUHS and Middlebury College grad and years of theater experience, believes his three scenes perfectly mesh with the overall tone and meaning of "Love/Sick."

"All the scenes demonstrate in one way or another the difficulty we humans face

in communicating with each other," Commins said. "E.M. Forster's plea in 'Howard's End' keeps popping up in my mind as we rehearse: 'Only connect!... Live in fragments no longer.' Now, of course, Forster didn't write comedies, and 'Love/Sick' absolutely is comic — it's hysterically funny in places — but there's an underlying yearning and loneliness in every scene."

Commins's three scenes include two impulsive strangers who meet in a store and instantly fall in mad, passionate love with each other; two men struggling to overcome the psychosomatic barriers that block their love; and a seemingly successful couple navigating an uncertain future together.

SEE LOVE ON PAGE 3

THE MONTH IN POETRY



This poem's voice carries such a subtleness of intimacy. It jumps right in with the speaker addressing a long ago friend and remembered moment, but it invites us in too, as readers. It feels like it all just happened yesterday. There is a sweetness and tenderness in the words, even while the speaker's friend holds her wrist, pulls her along to this special place they are going. And there we are

with them in the woods, branches scraping skin, hands in soil, and later at the sink rinsing the wild onions. Shoulders touching.

And of course, wild onions (or ramps) are symbolic of spring in the northeast. A moment long awaited; first sightings, first tastings. How can the sensory experience of spring foraging not conjure memories of other strong sensory memories in nature, so often a blend of sweet and bitter. First wild blueberries, first dandelion green, first friendships. I love the way this poem holds all of this. It gathers up the wild onions, the energy of youth, after school adventure, first experiences of all kinds— at foraging, at courtship— and the quiet excitement and risk it all brings. All of it expressed in vivid words in the form of a poem we can hold and breathe into, like the wild onions themselves gathered from the forest.

Susan Jefts is a poet, editor, and writing mentor from the southern Adirondacks. Her poetry book, "**Breathing Lessons**," was published fall of 2023 by Shanti Arts Publishers of Maine and can be found on the publisher's site, the usual online outlets, and in local bookstores. Her poems have been published in the anthologies *A Slant of Light*, *Quiet Diamonds*, *Birchsong*, *Poems in the Time of Covid*, and *Every Drop of Water*, and in the journals *BlueStone Review*, *Blue Line*, *Parnassus*, *Big City Lit*, *Zig Zag*, *The Literary Gazette*, and *Fired Up*, among others. She is currently taking new clients for editing their manuscripts and individual works, and offers workshops using poetry to explore our connections to the vital wisdom of the natural world. Her website is SusanJefts.com

FIRST FINDINGS, FIRST LOVES

FORAGING

*I met you after school
where you told me you'd be waiting.
Your sweaty fingers encircled my wrist
pulling me through the thicket and
as I watched pink splotches arise on my bare
legs
I envied your long pants.
But I would have followed you anywhere.*

*You were already busy digging
pulling out the wild onions
tossing them into a pile and laughing
when I asked if we could actually eat them.
You said I worried too much about too much.*

*In the kitchen I filled a pot with water
as you washed our harvest
the white sink clouding brown as the dirt fell
away.
I watched you work the big knife through them.
Your shoulder touched mine
as you dropped them in to boil.*

*After some stirring you ladled them
into a bowl, added salt and butter.
You put one in your mouth
then handed me your fork
the bowl outstretched between us.
The taste was sharp
and I couldn't wait for more.*

— By Amy Allen



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ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

"Foraging" was first published in the Poetry Society of Vermont's Mountain Troubadour in May of 2023.

Amy Allen has been published in a variety of literary journals including *Pine Row Press*, *West Trade Review*, and *The Atlanta Review*, and her poetry chapbook, *Mountain Offerings*, was released in April of 2024 with Montpelier, Vermont's, Rootstock Publishing. She lives in Shelburne, with her husband and children, and owns All of the Write Words, a freelance writing/editing business. Additionally, Amy serves as her town's Poet Laureate, a position that includes outreach work with local schools and organization.



These actors will bring to life Middlebury Community Players' production of "Love/Sick" by John Cariani, at the Vergennes Opera House, June 20-23. COURTESY PHOTO

LOVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kristen Ginsburg from New Haven directs three scenes: "Singing

Telegram" is about a couple who works their way through a very awkward moment; "Uh-Oh," which follows a dangerously bored couple; and "Sick of This," exploring a lesbian couple's balance as working parents.

"The vignettes on their own are engaging and the dynamics between individuals are so human as we navigate the complications of being in love and in relationship with someone," said Ginsburg, who recently completed her Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. "Each scene the individual works to communicate with their loves, and tries to navigate some difficult situations they encounter. I have enjoyed working through each of my scenes to find the moments of connection between the individuals. Each scene has one or more of these tender moments where the characters find moments to share their feelings and thoughts. Love is complicated, and this play highlights the crazy things and feelings that can happen when we fall in love."

"What I admire about John Cariani's writing is his ability to trust the audience," Commins added. "All the characters in 'Love/Sick' speak in fragments, as we all do in real life. Cariani trusts us to put the pieces together, to figure out what's really happening up there on stage. Most of the time it's not what the characters are saying. And that's solid play writing."

Adding to the strength of the directors is

"LOVE IS COMPLICATED, AND THIS PLAY HIGHLIGHTS THE CRAZY THINGS AND FEELINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN WE FALL IN LOVE."

— Kristen Ginsburg

the amazingly talented actors who breathe life into each quirky, lovable character, making every scene vibrant and relatable. Behind the scenes, Dora Greven, stage manager, ensures that every aspect of the performance runs smoothly.

"I think 'Love/Sick' is a great choice for the Middlebury Community Players," Commins commented. "It's allowed us to bring in a new director, and since then many, many new actors. It's heartening to hold auditions and meet people you haven't seen before. MCP has always welcomed anyone with an interest in theater, in any capacity, and it seems like this policy is paying off."

"We are delighted to have such a dynamic team leading 'Love/Sick,'" Fenner agreed. "The expertise of our directors, coupled with the exceptional talent of our actors, adds immense depth and variety to the portrayal of each storyline, ensuring a memorable experience for our audience."

Performances will be held at the Vergennes Opera House on June 20, 21 and 22, at 7:30 p.m.; a matinee will be held June 23, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$13 on Thursday, and \$17 for the remaining shows; and are available with more info at middleburycommunityplayers.org/shows.

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival donates 40 films to Middlebury's public library

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival recently donated 40 more films to Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury. The donation is comprised of BluRay format films that were screened in recent years either at the festival or as part of the MNFF Selects Monthly

Screening Series at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury or the MNFF Sunset Series at Swift House Inn.

Prominent titles include "David Crosby: Remember My Name," "Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am," "Silkwood," "Harriet," "The Natural," "Nebraska," "August: Osage County," "The Real Charlie Chaplin," "The Eagle Huntress," "Born on the Fourth of July," "The Devil Wears Prada," "Love It Was Not" and "The Race to Alaska."

The partnership between MNFF and Ilsley Library began in 2016 with the express purpose of making festival films available to the community. The films can be found on a featured shelf of the DVD/BluRay collection on the library's first floor.

"Ilsley Public Library is grateful to receive this generous donation of BluRay films from the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival," said Dana Hart, the library's director. "The festival is part of what makes Middlebury special, and we are proud to play a role in ensuring the entire community has access to these important films."

"MNFF has throughout its first 10 years been deeply committed to community outreach and the collection of films at Ilsley Public Library has hopefully added a dimension of enjoyment for folks who like to watch a good movie at home from time to time," noted Lloyd Komesar, festival producer. "We are grateful to Dana and the whole Ilsley team for providing a home for these fine films."

The 10th Anniversary Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival rolls out Aug. 21-25, with an expected 120 films to be shown on six screens around town in the morning, afternoon and evening. The festival will be preceded on Tuesday, Aug. 20, with a special, family-oriented Animation Day event featuring four Oscar winning or nominated animated feature films at the Marquis Theatre. More information about the festival is available at middfilmfest.org.

ART ON EXHIBIT

New exhibits in Middlebury fill Edgewater Galleries

Edgewater Galleries in Middlebury presents three compelling exhibitions this June.

"Borders & Boundaries" by Alexis Serio and Homer Wells, explores the intersection of landscape and abstraction through themes of reflection, light, and imagination. "Uncle Woody and Me: Family Ties" celebrates Woody Jackson's 50-year career and his artistic bond with nephew Rory Jackson. Helen Shulman's "Make: Believe" / "Realism Reboot" contrasts her abstract and realistic works.

"Borders & Boundaries," Alexis Serio and Homer Wells. In "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. On view through June 25, at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, 1 Mill St., Middlebury.

"Uncle Woody and Me: Family Ties" unites nephew and uncle, Rory and Woody Jackson. On the 50th anniversary of Woody Jackson's first art exhibition, Edgewater celebrates his career, the importance of family and the

legacy of talent that lives on in Rory Jackson. On view through June 11. Edgewater Gallery on the Green, 6 Merchants Row, Middlebury.

"Make: Believe" / "Realism Reboot." Works in abstraction and realism by Helen Shulman. A modern dancer, benefits from a foundation in classical dance and returns regularly to a traditional ballet class. An improvisational jazz musician will have a wider musical vocabulary with a background of classical music training. An abstract artist, similar to these performing artists, often returns to drawing or painting the figure or other representational objects in order to exercise observational drawing and painting skills. One discipline informs the other. In her solo exhibition Helen Shulman presents two bodies of work, one abstract and one representational. On view June 14-July 23, at Edgewater Gallery on the Green, 6 Merchants Row, Middlebury. An opening reception and artist talk will be held on Friday, June 28, from 5-6:30 p.m. Open to all.

For more information call 802-989-7419 or 802-458-0098, or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.



"Lake Country" by Helen Shulman, 20x30", cold wax/panel.



"Hanging in there" by Helen Shulman, 20x20", oil on panel.



"Cape Cod Skies" by Homer Wells, 30 x 18", etched aluminum.




The Red Mill
AT BASIN HARBOR

SUMMER SIPPING

The Red Mill, located at 4800 Basin Harbor Road in Ferrisburgh, is Basin Harbor's home of comfort food, good cheer, and casual dining, offering contemporary takes on classic fare with fresh, local ingredients, and great Vermont beers or signature cocktails.

ART ON EXHIBIT

ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

For more info visit artonmainvt.com or call 802-453-4032.

"In and Out of the Garden." This exhibit features the works of guest artist Annelein Beukenkamp, alongside pieces from veteran Art on Main artists. On view through the end of July, with an opening reception on Friday, June 7, from 5-7 p.m.

BIXBY MEMORIAL FREE LIBRARY

258 Main Street, Vergennes

For more info visit bixbylibrary.org or call 802-877-2211.

"A Panoply of Landscapes," a solo exhibit by Ken Corey, on display for the Bixby's Celestial Soirée, the library's annual fundraiser on Friday, May 31. From pastels, paintings, and prints, much of Corey's work is done en plein air. The exhibit features a painting of a planetary nebula inspired by Corey's love of Astronomy. On view through early summer.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call

802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"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. On view May 17-June 25.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call

802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"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. On view May 3-June 11.

"Make : Believe" / "Realism Reboot." In her solo exhibition Helen Shulman presents two bodies of work, one abstract and one representational. On view June 14-July 23. An opening reception and artist talk will be held on Friday June 28, from 5-6:30 p.m. Open to all.

HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park St., Middlebury

For more information visit henrysheldonmuseum.org or call

802-388-2117.

"Patent Pending: Ingenuity and Innovation in Vermont" features many patents, ideas, and inspirational "firsts" that have come out of Vermont. On view through Oct. 19.

"Model Boats: The Craftsmanship of Jerry DeGraff." Jerry DeGraff, a native Vermonter from Essex Junction,

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, you may have to shuffle your schedule a bit this week to accommodate some interesting ideas that you have come up with on the fly. It's a good thing you're adaptable.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, think about where you want to go in the upcoming weeks, because you have some influential supporters who can help propel you in that very direction.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, you may be involved in a few different projects right now, but often you start things and do not finish them, which can be frustrating to others. Do not take on any additional tasks.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. You have some high hopes regarding something that has been taking up your time for a while, Cancer. Although you're getting good feedback, don't count your chickens just yet.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, if you haven't been doing so already, it is important to set aside some savings so that you'll have a safety net in the future. It's essential that you are not just living for today.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, get together with your significant other or another partner and figure out how to divide the workload that has been bogging you down. It's alright to admit that you need help.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, if you think about it, you have been procrastinating a bit more than usual. It might be because your tasks are not interesting you much. That could mean finding new hobbies.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, get essential tasks out of the way early this week, because it's likely you will not be enthusiastic about mundane jobs later on. Save plenty of time for fun and entertaining.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Emotions are roiling right now, Sagittarius. Perhaps it is not the best time to reach out to an estranged friend or family member. Instead, wait things out a little longer.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. It is time to disconnect from all of the gadgets and feeds that are constantly drawing your attention, Capricorn. Enjoy a technological detox and reconnect with friends.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. quarius, you are a major force to reckon with when you pair your creative visions with solid, grounded plans. Things will start falling into place soon enough.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. This week you get a free pass to put yourself first and foremost for a change, Pisces. Go to the head of the line, because it's all about you for the next few days.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 7 — Orhan Pamuk, novelist,

Nobel-laureate (72)

JUNE 8 — Frank Lloyd Wright, architect (d)

JUNE 9 — Jackie Wilson, singer (d)

JUNE 10 — Howlin' Wolf, singer (d)

JUNE 11 — Jacques Cousteau, explorer/
filmmaker (d)

JUNE 12 — Anne Frank, dairist (d)

JUNE 13 — Dorothy L. Sayers, mystery writer (d)

CALENDAR

JUNE 6-17
2024



THURSDAY, JUNE 6

DINNER AND MUSIC ADVENTURE IN LEICESTER.

Thursday, June 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Point Counterpoint, 1361 Hooker Rd. Have a gourmet dinner with a group of world-class contemporary music creators. Chat with friendly students and faculty and learn about what moves people to make music and pursue it as a profession. Tickets \$50, available at tinyurl.com/dinner-and-music. Only four tickets available.

DONIZETTI'S "LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, June 6, 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.

"ART OF THE PIG" PREVIEW IN BRANDON.

Friday, June 8, 6-8 p.m., Café Provence event room, Center St. Brandon Artists Guild is commemorating its most exciting fundraiser year, 2003's "The Really Really Pig Show." 80+ wooden Piglet Boards lovingly painted/ decorated by Guild members, community artists/ members, artists from surrounding towns, and friends from near and far will be on view. The board will be auctioned off on Aug. 18.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE FOR MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE ALUMNI IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, June 7, 10 a.m.-4p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum welcomes returning Middlebury College alumni and their families to visit and enjoy the new exhibitions. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org.

org or 802-388-2117.

PHOTOGRAPHY OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday June 7, 4 p.m., PhotoPlace Gallery 3 Park St. Opening for "Sense of Place," which highlights images that communicate the essence of a place — what it's like to be there. More info at photoplacegallery.com.

"LA SCALA DI SETA" (THE SILKEN LADDER) IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, June 7, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join Opera Company of Middlebury for this fully staged opera farce, by its talented group of Spring 2024 Young Artists. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB TRAIL WORK IN RIPTON.

Saturday, June 8. Group outing focusing on Long Trail tread and drainage projects or areas needing clearing. Contact Ellen Cronan for more information, 908-595-2926. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

ART & CHOCOLATE IN SALISBURY.

Saturday June 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Salisbury Public Library, 918 Maple St. For sale: Art and crafts, used books, homemade goodies and chocolate treats. Also, a silent auction by local artists Carrie Ade & Peter Langrock. All proceeds for the Salisbury Public Library.

BREANNA ELAINE IN BRANDON.

Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kennedy Park, 31 Center St. Picnic in the park to live music.

ARTPHIBIAN MUSIC AND MOVEMENT BY NEW MUSIC ON THE POINT IN SALISBURY.

Saturday, June 8, 3-5 p.m., Branbury State Park, 3570 Lake Dunmore Rd. Join New Music On The Point faculty and participants

for their ecologically inspired contemporary music performance. Enjoy a navigational sonic and multimedia Artphibian Experience in the woods and around Lake Dunmore. Free.

"THE THIEF OF BAGDAD" ON SCREEN IN BRANDON.

Saturday, June 8, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of this eye-popping cinematic spectacle; starring Douglas Fairbanks Sr. in top form as Arabian adventurer who must complete a series of epic tasks to save his beloved. Timeless tale told imaginatively and on a grand scale, complete with cutting edge special effects. Musical accompaniment by silent film historian Jeff Rapsis.

PETER STUMPF AND JOHN BLACKLOW IN ROCHESTER.

Friday June 7, 7:30 p.m., Federated Church of Rochester, North Main St. The duo will play Beethoven's Sonata in F Major Op. 5, No.1, a Debussy Sonata, and a Chopin Sonata. Admission by donation. No tickets required. More info at www.rcmsvt.org or call 802-767-9234.

"LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Saturday, June 8, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See June 6 listing.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

SUNDAY SESSION WITH DUANE CARLETON IN MIDDLEBURY.

Sunday, June 9, 4-7 p.m., Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Rd. Unwind and groove to the sounds of local talent at Tavern on the Tee Patio. Music is free, specialty drinks, local brews, and pub fare available for purchase.

MONDAY, JUNE 10

DINNER AND MUSIC ADVENTURE IN LEICESTER.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Friday, June 7 Through the Night: 6 a.m. Press Conferences 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church 10 a.m. Selectboard 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 6:30 p.m. Energy Week 7:30 p.m. Public Affairs Saturday, June 8 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Selectboard 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 Sunday, June 9 Through the Night: Gov. & Public Affairs 5:50 a.m. Selectboard 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 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week	Monday, June 10 Through the Night: Gov. & Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Public Affairs 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Tuesday, June 11 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 11 p.m. Energy Week Wednesday, June 12 Through the Night: 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 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Thursday, June 13 Through the Night: Public Affairs 4:30 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 8 a.m. Congregational Services 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8:30 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Dr. John Campbell Channel 1091 Friday, June 7 7 a.m. Chair Yoga	8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9:30 a.m. MUHS Awards Ceremony LIVE 11:40 a.m. No Nonsense Gardening 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. Ohavi Zedek - The Forgotten History of Barre's Jewish Community 5:04 p.m. Hannaford Career Center Celebration of Learning 6:30 p.m. Word Time with Miss Markee 7 p.m. Meghan O'Rourke Interviews Rob Mermin 8 p.m. HCC Celebration of Learning Saturday, June 8 4:30 a.m. Upper Valley Symphony Orchestra 5:30 a.m. HCC Celebration of Learning 6:40 a.m. No Nonsense Gardening 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:30 a.m. Word Time with Miss Markee 8 a.m. Rob Mermin 10 a.m. MUHS Graduation LIVE 5 p.m. MUHS Graduation & Awards Ceremony 8 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 p.m. The Vermont Global Exchange - Dealing with Misinformation 11 p.m. All Brains Belong VT - Invalidation & Healthcare	Sunday, June 9 5 a.m. Make Music Day 2023- Larry and Joe Bilingual Sing Along 5:56 a.m. Jumping Worms 6:36 a.m. MUMS Concert 7:30 a.m. All Brains Belong VT 8:30 a.m. MUHS Graduation 12 p.m. MUHS Awards Assembly, MUHS Graduation, HCC Celebration of Learning 5 p.m. MUHS Graduation 8 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 p.m. VT Global Exchange 11 p.m. All Brains Belong VT Monday, June 10 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:30 a.m. Upper Valley SO 8:30 a.m. All Brains Belong VT 9:30 a.m. The World Fusion Show 10 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. Ohavi Zedek 5:04 p.m. Tai Chi 5:30 p.m. No Nonsense Gardening 6 p.m. The World Fusion Show 6:30 p.m. Upper Valley SO 7:30 p.m. All Brains Belong VT Tuesday, June 11 6:10 a.m. No Nonsense Gardening 7:30 a.m. Chair Yoga, Yoga for You 8:05 a.m. Tai Chi	8:30 a.m. Word Time with Miss Markee 1:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Ohavi Zedek 7:04 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Wednesday, June 12 5 a.m. The World Fusion Show 6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:30 a.m. Music in the Morning 10 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 2 p.m. Upper Valley SO 3 p.m. First Tuesdays 4 p.m. HCC Celebration of Learning 5:20 p.m. MUHS Awards Assembly, MUHS Graduation 9 p.m. Ohavi Zedek 10:04 p.m. Festival On the Green Thursday, June 13 5 a.m. Festival On the Green 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. Kids Yoga 8 a.m. Chair Yoga 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 12 p.m. MUHS Awards Assembly, MUHS Graduation, HCC Celebration of Learning 5:30 p.m. All Brains Belong Club 6:30 p.m. Festival On the Green 9:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ	

Monday, June 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Point Counterpoint, 1361 Hooker Rd. Have a gourmet dinner with a group of world-class contemporary music creators. Chat with friendly students and faculty and learn about what moves people to make music and pursue it as a profession. Tickets \$50, available at tinyurl.com/dinner-and-music. Only four tickets available. Repeats Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

"YOUTH SPORTS IN SOCIETY" BY ALEX WOLFF AND ERIN QUINN IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, June 11, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The third installment of "Up for Discussion," a free series created by Vermont Book Shop and Town Hall Theater designed to spark community conversation and featuring local experts in their fields sharing timely topics that span literature, art, film and contemporary issues. The 30-minute presentation will be followed by a roundtable discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas. Free, but registration required at townhalltheater.org.

DINNER AND MUSIC ADVENTURE IN LEICESTER.

Tuesday, June 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Point Counterpoint, 1361 Hooker Rd. Details in June 10 listing.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

ERIN CASSELS-BROWN AND ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, June 12, 5-9 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 N. 116 Rd. Hear live music in The Tillerman's barn. Music is free. Tillerman will sell food and drinks from its outdoor kitchen. Cassels Brown 5-6:30 p.m., followed by Albany Sound (Michael Chorney, Lowell Thompson, Pat Melvin and Jeremy Frederick) 7-9 p.m.

TOWN BAND ON THE GREEN IN BRISTOL.

Wednesday, June 12, 7-8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit back and enjoy this 150-year tradition.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MENDON.

Thursday, June 13, Bald Mountain. Moderate 3.3-mile loop hike with 850 feet of elevation gain. There are multiple viewpoints highlighted by great views of the Coolidge Range; including Killington, Mendon, and Shrewsbury Peaks. Another vista looks to the southwest toward the Taconic Range. Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or kencorey53@gmail.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

"SEEKING FREEDOM" GALLERY TALK – DEVELOPING THE NEW EXHIBITION IN FERRISBURGH.

Thursday, June 13, 12:30-1 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Join Rokeby Executive Director Lindsay Houpt-Varner, co-curator of "Seeking Freedom," for a talk on updating the main Underground Railroad Exhibition. Part of a series of monthly gallery talks with the exhibition's curators this summer. Each talk will explore a different aspect of the new exhibition. Meet at the entrance of the exhibition in the Visitor Center. Tickets \$5 non-Members or free with admission to the Museum. Free for members.

DINNER AND MUSIC ADVENTURE IN LEICESTER.

Thursday, June 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Point Counterpoint, 1361 Hooker Rd. Have a gourmet dinner with a group of world-class contemporary music creators. Details in June 10 listing.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

BRETT HUGHES IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, June 14,

5-7 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Bring a picnic and listen to free music by the Lincoln Peak pond. Wine available for purchase along with food from Dino Bones BBQ truck.

DINNER AND MUSIC ADVENTURE IN LEICESTER.

Friday, June 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Point Counterpoint, 1361 Hooker Rd. Details in June 10 listing.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

BEGINNER'S BIRD WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, June 15, 9-11 a.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited for this beginner's bird walk through a segment of the Trail Around Middlebury. Hosted by the Otter Creek Audubon Society and Middlebury Area Land Trust. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from OCAS. Family-friendly and suitable for all ages, but not appropriate for strollers or wheelchairs. Rain or Shine. Questions? Call 713-818-7033.

SHEEP AND WOOL DAY IN

FERRISBURGH. Saturday, June 15, Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Celebrate Vermont's woolly heritage. This family-friendly event will feature sheep petting, kid's crafts, historic spinning and weaving, printing press demonstrations, an instrument petting zoo, history farm tours, and more. Bring non-perishable donations for the Vergennes Community Food Shelf and receive 50% off admission. Food vendors include James Beard Award semifinalist A Taste of Abyssinia and Fairy Tale Farm's sheep milk gelato.

ARTPHIBIAN MUSIC AND MOVEMENT IN

SALISBURY. Saturday, June 15, 3-5 p.m., Branbury State Park, 3570 Lake Dunmore Rd. Join New Music On The Point faculty and participants for their ecologically inspired contemporary music performance. Enjoy a navigational sonic and multimedia Artphibian Experience in the woods and around Lake Dunmore. Free.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

SUNDAY SESSION WITH BRUCE COSTELLO IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, June 16, 4-7 p.m., Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Rd. Unwind and groove to the sounds of local talent at Tavern on the Tee Patio. Music is free, specialty drinks, local brews, and pub fare available for purchase.

MONDAY, JUNE 17

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB BIKE RIDE IN FERRISBURGH. Monday, June 17. Ride from the Ferrisburgh town beach for an easy 18 miles with three modest hills in a relatively low traffic area with a possible post-ride snack or lunch at Kingsland Bay State Park. Helmets are mandatory. Lights, brightly colored clothing, water and snacks are required. Wind or rain cancels. Contact Alan Finn at alanfinn453@gmail.com or 802-349-2162 to register and for details. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

TOP PICK

THE TILLERMAN IN BRISTOL HAS SOME SWEET SOUNDS COMING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12. **HEAR ERIN CASSELS-BROWN AND ALBANY SOUND FROM 5-9 P.M., IN THE BARN. FREE MUSIC.**



A newly curated cocktail menu, live music, and stunning views of the Green Mountains. Our tavern is the perfect place to unwind after a long week, kick off the weekend in style, or close a deal over lunch.

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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 11 A.M. TO 7 P.M.
317 GOLF COURSE ROAD, MIDDLEBURY, VT

Artphibian Experience at Branbury State Park

Join New Music On The Point faculty and participants for their ecologically inspired contemporary music performance: a navigational sonic and multimedia Artphibian Experience in the woods and around Lake Dunmore at Branbury State Park.

Saturday, June 8 and Saturday, June 15 from 3-5PM. Free admission.

A Dinner and Music Adventure on the shores of Lake Dunmore!

Join us for a gourmet dinner with a group of world class contemporary music creators at our rustic camp on Lake Dunmore. The unique music programs feature world class performers such as JACK Quartet, Tony Arnold, Living Earth Show and Bent Frequency Duo.

June 3, 4, 5, 6 and June 10, 11, 13, 14.

Seating is limited to four guests per night. Tickets available through Eventbrite.



To learn more about these events, visit: Newmusiconthepoint.com

FILM SCREENING

Classic epic 'Thief of Bagdad' to screen Saturday at Brandon Town Hall

"The Thief of Bagdad," a celebrated triumph for actor/director Douglas Fairbanks stands as one of greatest achievements of cinema's silent era. It's a film filled with images of flying carpets, exotic cities, underwater palaces, winged horses, fire-breathing dragons, and more!

See for yourself with live music on Saturday, June 8, at 7 p.m., at Brandon Town Hall and Community Center. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

This 100th anniversary screening of "The Thief of Bagdad" will be accompanied with live music by Jeff Rapsis.

Fairbanks, star of "The Thief of Bagdad," was the Harrison Ford of his time — a pioneering action hero who was among the first to entertain movie audiences with thrilling adventures.

"The Thief of Bagdad" stands among his best work. It's a timeless fable on a grand scale, boasting a great story, spectacular sets, and magical special effects.

A bare-chested Fairbanks plays a crafty street-smart rogue who can easily steal anything his heart desires — except the love of a beautiful princess, daughter of the powerful Caliph of Bagdad.

To win her hand, he must not only change his ways, but also show his worthiness over many other highly placed suitors.

In making the film, Fairbanks spared no expense for what some critics still regard as the most lavish fantasy movie ever made, a show-stopping adaptation of the traditional "A Thousand and One Nights" Arabian legend.

The result is an epic in which a flying carpet is just one of many eye-popping sights designed to astound movie audiences.

Fairbanks, swaggering through massive marketplace sets and cavernous throne rooms as an incorrigible pickpocket, scales towering walls (with the help of a magic rope) and leads merry chases through crowded bazaars in his pursuit of loot.

The jaunty opening is a preamble to the film's spectacular second half, in which the repentant thief embarks on an odyssey through caverns of fire, underwater palaces, and even outer space.

Special effects range from a giant smoke-belching dragon to a magical flying horse, and still glow with a timeless sense of wonder from the early days of movies.

William Cameron Menzies's sets were among the largest ever created for a motion picture. Especially noteworthy is his design for a mythical Bagdad, a unique combination of Art Deco and Islamic elements — a dream city inspired by illustrations from story books.

DID YOU KNOW?

IN 1996, THE FILM WAS SELECTED FOR PRESERVATION IN THE U.S.

NATIONAL FILM REGISTRY BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AS BEING "CULTURALLY, HISTORICALLY, OR AESTHETICALLY SIGNIFICANT."

Fairbanks, among the most popular stars of the 1920s, was the inspiration for the character of George Valentin in the Oscar-winning Best Picture "The Artist" (2011).

Fairbanks was known for films that used the then-new medium of motion pictures to transport audiences to historical time periods for grand adventures and athletic stunts.

He's often referred to as "Douglas Fairbanks Sr." to avoid confusion with his son, the actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr.

A century after its premiere, "The Thief of Bagdad" remains highly regarded. In 1996, the film was selected for preservation in the U.S. National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

Live music for "The Thief of Bagdad" will be provided by silent film accompanist Rapsis,



Douglas Fairbanks stars in "The Thief of Bagdad" (1924), an epic fantasy that inspired generations of filmmakers and movie audiences. This silent film will be shown with live music on Saturday, June 8, at 7 p.m., at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

who uses a digital synthesizer to create a traditional full orchestra "movie score" sound.

"Seeing a Fairbanks picture in a theater with live music and an audience is a classic movie experience," Rapsis said.

Rapsis emphasized the unique value of seeing early cinema as it was originally presented.

"These films were designed for the big screen, live music, and large audiences. If you put it all together again, you get a sense of why people first fell in love with the movies," Rapsis said.

Next up in the film series comes on Saturday, July 20. "The Cameraman" (1928) starring Buster Keaton will screen in Brandon at 7 p.m. In "The Cameraman," Keaton tries to impress the gal of his dreams by working as a newsreel photographer. Can he get a break and get the girl? Classic visual comedy with Keaton at the peak of his creative powers; set in NYC and includes 1920s shots of Midtown Manhattan and the old Yankee Stadium.

See Douglas Fairbanks Sr. in the 'The Thief of Bagdad' (1924) with live music on Saturday, June 8 at 7 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7, in Brandon, Vt. All are welcome to this family-friendly event. Admission is free, with free will donations accepted in support of ongoing Town Hall renovations.

For information, visit brandontownhall.com or jeffrapsis.com.



THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW



Issue 52 Year End 2024

MT. ABE CELEBRATES VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS IN MAY

The Fine Arts Festival ran from May 6-10 and featured artists and musicians from all the schools in the district. A middle school music concert on May 21st and the high school concert on May 22nd showcased band, chorus, and a cappella. Finally, Art on Main's 12th annual Emerging Artists Show ran from May 17 to May 31, and featured the work of thirty Mt. Abe High School students.

A.P. Art students celebrated a year of intensive art study by sharing their artist statements and several final pieces from their sustained investigations.

Luke Mayer '24: "My sustained investigation explores the formation and possible pre-determined existence of my personality. I wanted to investigate the idea of the soul and nurture vs. nature in how I came to be the person I am. This topic is important and interesting to me because every person is completely different and unique and I wanted to explore the reason for this through my art and experiences. I portrayed the idea of nurture and being a product of my environment through art about aspects of my personality that



I inherited from my parents. I portrayed these pieces through childhood memories such as bathtime with my mom and going to the mossy pine grove in the woods behind my house with my dad. Each one represents a part of me that they have influenced. However, I balanced these out with the idea of the soul and the nature of the personality I was born with. All of our personalities are a mixture of external and internal factors: our environment, family, friends, and experiences, but also our soul, the way our mind works, and the people we were born to be. I hope my work resonates with you and makes you think about who you are and how you came to be the person you are.

(For more A.P. Art, see page 7)



EXCHANGE STUDENT Q&A By Dylan Wells

Finn Heese-Unwin is a German exchange student who arrived in Mt. Abe this spring and joined the Russell advisory. I had the pleasure recently of asking him some questions about his experience so far at Mt. Abe.

Dylan Wells: Why did you choose Vermont, and Mt. Abe?

Finn Heese-Unwin: My parents knew the parents of my host family, so that's why I had a good location here and I've wanted to be in the U.S. for ages and check it out.

DW: What was the process like to get into Mt. Abe?

FHU: It was pretty easy actually.

DW: How long have you been in Vermont?

FHU: I arrived here on January 6th, so like, four months.

DW: When did you start learning English?

FHU: I grew up in England, in the U.K., and when I was around nine, I moved to Germany, so I was born bilingual.

DW: Why did you decide to do the exchange program?

FHU: My parents always wanted me to do an exchange program and were always supportive of it. It just seemed like a really fun thing to do.

DW: What's your favorite part of Mt. Abe so far?

FHU: My school in Germany doesn't have as big of a budget, so my first impression of this school was crazy, because Mt. Abe has a library, a big gym, and a swimming pool, so that was pretty impressive and cool.

SOLAR ECLIPSE DAY OFF INSPIRED STUDENT WRITING

By Hannah Perkins '29

When I say beautiful things,
People think of diamond bracelets
or even rings.
But I think of something in space.
When I see it, there is a happy expression
on my face.
A solar eclipse emits a bright light,
Lighting up what seems to be the night.
People came to see it from afar,
Some even sat there, watching
from their car.
If you stare it, it may blind you,
Blind you from its beauty, don't you
think so, too?

(For more Middle School work, see pg 3)

By Sophie Thomsen '26

This year, Vermont witnessed a spectacular solar eclipse, where the moon covered the front of the sun, which made a shadow over our state. It was a very rare moment not only because the shadow of the eclipse is so small compared to the surface of the earth, but because it's a rare moment of the day when the sudden twilight effect occurs in the middle of the day. The day briefly turned to night. It was a very special chance to see the sky in a whole new way. To watch the eclipse, you had to wear special glasses so it wouldn't blind you. It was a once in a lifetime experience and opportunity to see.

On the Monday of the solar eclipse, my family and I decided to sit out on our neighbor's lawn and put out chairs. We had a great view of the partial solar eclipse and a spectacular view of the total solar eclipse. When the solar eclipse was over, my dad and I drove my brothers back to their college dorms. On the drive to Burlington, we expected it to be busy, but we were nowhere near prepared for the traffic we saw coming from Burlington; even in Monkton, it was so busy!

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(See SCHULTE, Page 5)



By Helen Kihm '24

STUDENTS REFLECT ON ROLE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

By Ivy Schulte

Before this year, I went through many ups and downs socially trying to find a place I truly belonged at school before I was blessed in finding music. We were told during Covid that we had to isolate and hide from certain experiences. I gave up two years of those life experiences to a global pandemic, but came out of it strong and ready to try any and everything. I was offered Chorus OR Band my 8th grade year, and I remember sitting in front of my computer struggling to understand why it had to be a choice and not knowing which to choose. I owned a clarinet, and had played it for years, but I chose Chorus. Why? I'm not fully sure to be

honest, but I'll never regret it. I was in Chorus with six others that 8th grade year and it, as hard as it might have been, was the best experience. I grew in music and in myself so much more than any "normal" class could have ever offered me. That right there is when I knew the Music Department was something special. The following year, I took Band and Chorus as classes in my school schedule and tried out for our school's unbelievable a cappella group. A member who had done it in previous years told me to audition and to "see what comes of it." I remember being skeptical, because I thought there was no way I'd ever be good enough. I had so much more

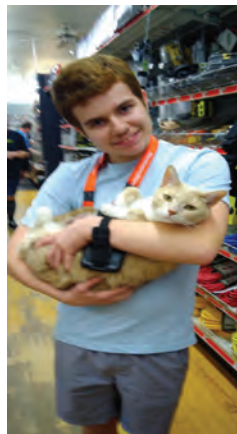
VOICES

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HARDWARE STORE EMPLOYEE

By Michael LaRock

I have been working since last summer at Martin's Hardware & Building Supply, doing everything from feeding cats and running the register. I got the job through Hireability, starting last summer on a trial basis, and getting hired permanently last fall.

My favorite job is greeting customers and feeding the cats in the morning. Martin's Hardware keeps 2 cats in the store to help with mice and to greet customers. Their names are Moma, and



Sally and they are both orange cats from Homeward Bound, Addison Courty's Humane Society. They are both very cute and friendly. I also like to chat with customers. Sometimes I chat with regular customers and help them find what they need and sometimes teachers I know come in and I like to chat with them also.

My least favorite things are being on the register or answering phones. I am only on the register if it's really busy or if a co-worker who is up front is outback helping a customer. I don't like being on the register because sometimes people get a lot of stuff or give the wrong phone number. Answering phones is something I dislike, because the connection may be bad or the caller's volume may be too low.

Other jobs we might do include restock, downstock, or shed help. Restocking is just refilling items to the max volume. Downstocking is if too many items are on the shelf, putting it in storage. Shed help is when you go out to the lumber shed person and load stuff in the store, or help someone load their car.

I juggle school and work, because after school, I go to work and get picked up after my shift after 6:00. My longest day is Sunday, because I get dropped off at 8am and picked up at 4pm. On an after school shift, I might do one thing, like re-stocking. On Whereas on Sunday, I may do many different jobs, depending on how busy it is.

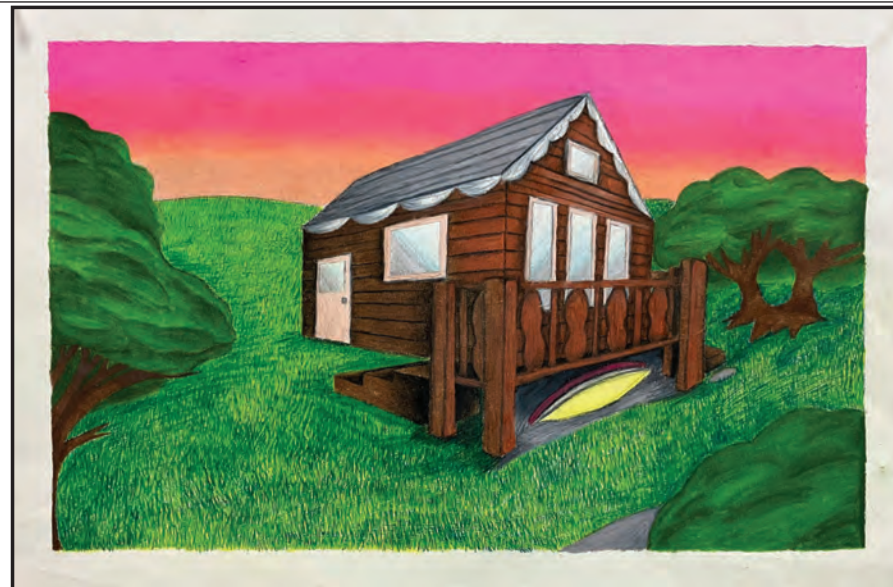
My benefits include a 10% discount on all in-store items, but full time employees get more benefits. If someone gets hurt on the job, we fill out a slip and worker's compensation takes care of those expenses.

THE HORSE BARN IS MY HAPPY PLACE

By Emmy Rougier '27

A small barn, on a dirt road, you wouldn't think anything of it. But for me, it's my happy place. The memories I will never forget, the times I think about everyday. For example, here are a few memories that I think about constantly.

One is the day I first rode my horse. I thought it was going to just be a normal lesson on a horse my trainer needed to be worked, but after the lesson was over and I was finished untacking the horse, my trainer told me I was going to start



By Gretchen Toy '26

THINK TWICE BEFORE USING OUTDATED IDIOMS

By Dylan Wells

The English language has many odd sayings with twisted origins, and some are now considered offensive, like master bedroom, the rule of thumb, bite the bullet, basket case, drink the Kool-Aid, and cat got your tongue.

The master bedroom normally refers to the biggest bedroom. When the U.S. had slaves, the master or the owner of a plantation would have the biggest bedroom while enslaved people would have the smallest rooms or no rooms at all and share one floor in a cabin. To avoid offending people, it is recommended to use "the primary bedroom" instead.

Another common one is the rule of thumb, which was law in Scotland in 1658, but was last used in the U.S. in 1824. The rule of thumb was a rule or law that applied to husbands. Men who had wives were allowed to beat them, but the stick could not be thicker than their thumb. To prevent saying this, try using, "it goes without saying."

"Bite the bullet" is an expression with grim origins. Bite the bullet is commonly used for saying to just "get things over with." An example of this would be, "Let's just bite the bullet and get this over with." The expression bite the bullet was used in wars when wounded soldiers needed to have a limb amputated, but didn't have any pain relievers for it. The doctor would have the soldier bite down on a bullet while he performed the amputation.

leasing him. Another memory I have is one day, as I was walking up the driveway after getting off the bus, and I was walking past my horse Stopsign's paddock and he trotted right up to the fence towards me. That last memory has something to do with the next which was on Christmas Eve and I was going to give my trainer her present, not expecting anything in return, but she gave me this huge paper and on it, I was told Stopsign was mine and to go

(See HORSES, Page 4)

One of the sayings with the darkest origins is basket case, used to describe someone who has gone crazy or is mentally unwell. For example, "He's been a real basket case since he lost his job." The origin of this saying is from World War I, where soldiers who lost arms and legs would be carried around in a basket because they had no way of moving on their own. If you



want to avoid using this term, a better way of saying it would be, "He's been unwell since he lost his job."

"Drink the Kool-Aid" is the next saying that is a more recent one in history starting on November 18, 1978. When drink the Kool-Aid is said, it is normally talking about blind loyalty to something. An example of it is, "I'd drink the Kool-Aid if you asked, sir." The origin of this was

when a cult committed mass suicide. If worried about using a saying that has an origin of suicide, use, "You have my loyalty, sir." (And call 9-8-8 if you or a loved one are suffering from suicidal thoughts.)

The last one on the "potentially offensive" list is "Cat got your tongue?" which is used when someone is left speechless. An example of this is, "What's the matter? Cat got your tongue?" The actual use of this started in the 19th century when naval officers would whip people with cat-o-nine-tails. It was so painful that the person who was getting whipped would not be able to scream because of how much pain they were in. To prevent saying this, use "What's the matter? Something leave you speechless?" instead.

An expression that has no dark origins is "beating around the bush," which is commonly used as a way to avoid answering a question or to stall for time, as in "Stop beating around the bush and get to the point." It originated during Medieval times. Nobles would hire people when they went hunting to beat bushes down.

If more people know the origins of common sayings, maybe they'll think before speaking. If you are going to use an expression and you don't know its origins, perhaps search it up before saying it, to avoid accidentally offending people.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE SPRING MUSICAL

By Kaydence White

As *The Addams Family* came to a close, audiences saw the results of months of hard work by the cast. Audiences may not be aware, however, that the tech crew's hard work behind the scenes is what sets the production up for success.

The week of the show, the tech crew was almost ready for show night. Lights, camera, set moving, and the spotlight crew had all of their cues spot on and the show was coming together.



On Wednesday night, we finally got our camera crew and ran through a smooth dress rehearsal. One good thing about being a tech person was that we didn't have to be there as early as the cast, as well as the fact that we didn't have to stay too late to get everything cleaned up.

As the dress rehearsal was about to begin, I was getting to my station and climbing onto the platform when I almost fell off. Luckily, I didn't fall off, because that would have been really painful, but we started the dress rehearsal on time and it was going well since everyone knew their cues and what they were supposed to be doing. The most difficult part about running through the show is when cues are either changed or removed, or trying to remember when exactly the cues were supposed to happen. One of the main cues that I noticed that were a little difficult to have on time was the house being moved into the center of the stage closer to the end of a song, and having the trees come in on time for the scene in the park.

Opening night on Thursday was packed, with almost every seat filled with audience members. As expected, our opening night was a success, especially when the original cast from the 2020 production was recognized. Sunday night was the same, except at the end of the show, members from the 2020 cast came onto the stage, and after the final performance, the crew went onstage and took our bows.

When we wrapped up the show, we acknowledged the hard work and dedication into the show. Whether it was the crew who had done spotlights, cameras, sound, set moving, and lights, or the sets and props created for the show, it was wonderful and entertaining for everyone.



By Nola Roberts '25

LUCK ON OUR SIDE

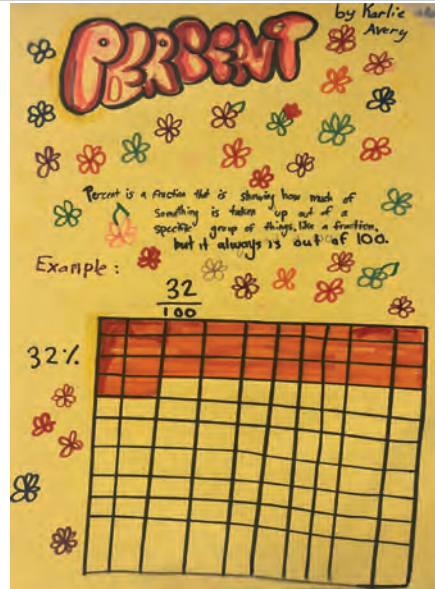
By Meg Park '28

The smoke was filling every available space around me, stinging my eyes so I could hardly see. My younger sister Fiona clung to me like a barnacle to a rock. I tried to find something that could shield us from this endless smoke. I looked around, trying to see, until I finally saw something that could offer some protection: a cave. I rushed towards the cave, with six-year-old Fiona on my back, with the speed of a deer running from a predator, drawn towards the cave by some force exerted on every part of my body. I stepped inside it and there was instant relief; we would be okay here for a little while, until I came up with the plan to get us home.

The hours passed by quickly, and before I had time to fully register what had happened in the last 24 hours, it was time for dinner. I slowly walked out of the cave while making sure I didn't wake Fiona. The hard gravel felt uncomfortable on my bare feet, and the dry smoke added a strange smell to my clothes. I knew I must keep going if I wanted to survive. The river nearby should have something edible in it, so I headed towards it. Luckily, I had a butterfly net that Fiona always carried around, so that would make it easier for me to catch something.

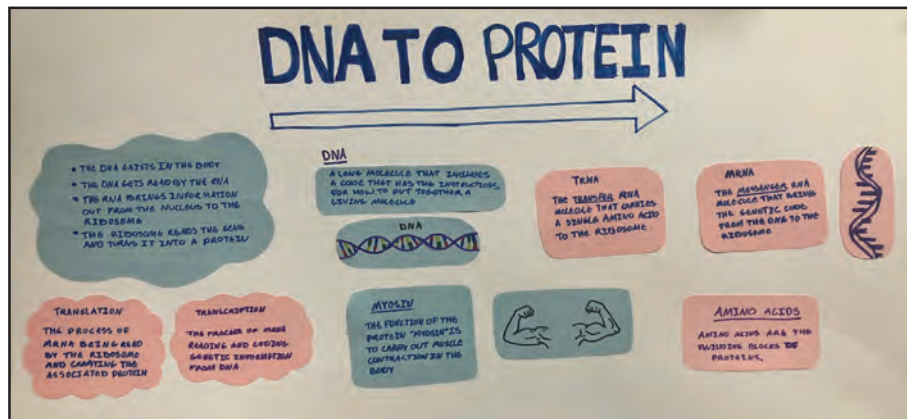
I stared at the river for about 10 minutes before I saw the silhouette of a fish. Slowly, I lowered the net in so it wouldn't notice, and BAM! I swung the net in the direction of the fish, and miraculously, the fish went right into the net. Although this was the easier part, I was still proud of myself.

My shoeless feet stepped on the hard ground next to the roaring waterfall as I found my way back to the mouth of the



cave by the dim light of sunset. My next step would be making a fire, so we didn't have to eat the fish raw. It seemed like it would be easy since fire basically surrounded us, but making a fire was no easy feat. I gathered as many twigs and sticks as possible from the nearby trees, after making sure Fiona was still asleep, and went to work making a little twig teepee. I tried to think of a plan to get me and Fiona out of this place, but nothing would come to mind. Fire and smoke surrounded us for at least a mile.

The only reason that we were not dead already was because of the long winding river surrounding this small area of dry ground. We were lucky to have found something to shield us from the smoke. The rest of our town had burned down, but Fiona and I had found a boat and floated down the river just before the fire swallowed us whole. We had luck on our side, but I wasn't sure luck could get us out of this mess.



CRUEL WORLD

By Eloise Newman '28

This is the story of how I died. Just kidding... I didn't actually die, it only seemed that way. Once upon a time, there was a me, and this me liked to zoom down the driveway at breakneck speed (without shoes) on a pedal-less, brake-less, tiny bike. In retrospect, this was probably a bad idea, seeing as the driveway was gravel and lined on either side with electric fences, but I was a reckless child. One day, I was on my way down the driveway when a small mouse ran across my path and I swerved. I hit a rock, but I believed that it was the small mouse. I felt terrible. (CURSE YE CRUEL WORLD! SUCH INNOCENCE! DESTROYED!)

In my sadness, I failed to realize that I was still moving, and I was hurtling towards the road (and the trees on the other side of the road) with no way to stop. I

sped down the hill that is my driveway and across the road and into the ditch, which was a very steep-sided trench in the ground with a little dirt curb. As soon as that bike (with me still on it) hit the curb, I went flying, and lucky me, there was a tree stump right in my path (the ONLY tree stump within fifty feet) and, of course, I hit it. The bike simply fell over, while I was thrown over the tree stump and smacked my stomach right on the edge, slicing my favorite shirt and my stomach right through the middle. Not to worry, though, it was only a light scratch, but I blamed the mouse for the destruction of my shirt, and went to find the mouse. When I couldn't find it, and saw the rock that I had hit, I was relieved, but furious that it had gotten away without punishment. About two minutes later, my mom saw me chucking rocks at the ground and brought me inside to tend to my wound, and I was fine.

My MOM

By Sam Guilbeault '28

My mom is the best mother. I know this because she doesn't just tell me and my siblings to work hard, she shows us every day by doing it herself. My mom has many accomplishments and one big one that I've seen her work to achieve is writing a book. She worked hard for probably a long time to finish the book *Everyday Energy*. This is just one way she has demonstrated working hard to me and my siblings. My mother's accomplishments and support have shown us that we can do anything. It is because of her actions that I know my siblings and I will go on to work hard and accomplish many great things. Without her, our lives would be very different and I am grateful that we have had her lead to follow.

LOSS

By Anonymous 8th Grader

In life, a lot of tragic things happen and there's a few ways you can deal with them. For example, last year, around the beginning of February, my grandmother's house burned down. I remember my dad being worried, and going up as soon as the call ended. Somehow, but thankfully, there were no pictures or documents that couldn't be brought back that got burned.

I remember digging through the ash and pulling out metal boxes. All but 2 or 3 of my guns that were going to be passed on to me were burned beyond repair, but most of the ammunition was still intact. My grandmother also had collected coins she was going to pass down, although she got rid of them because some of them were

(See LOSS, Page 8)

THE PRANKSTER

by Camron Vose '28

CHARACTERS:

KATE: 16 years old
MELISSA: KATE's mom
CHIP: a cat, not very friendly
DIANA: friend of KATE

AT RISE: KATE is home alone with DIANA, and they are having a sleepover.

DIANA: (unpacking) Where should I put my sleeping bag?

KATE: You can just put it there. (KATE motions to the floor next to her bed. DIANA sets down her sleeping bag. DIANA continues to take out her pillow and other things. DIANA then pulls out an old, crocheted blanket that is yellow, green, and white. She tries to put it back in her bag quickly.)

Oh my gosh! Is that a security blanket?

DIANA: Um.. Uh... (yawns) I'm exhausted. We should go to bed.

KATE: Fine, even though we haven't painted our nails yet. (KATE opens her closet

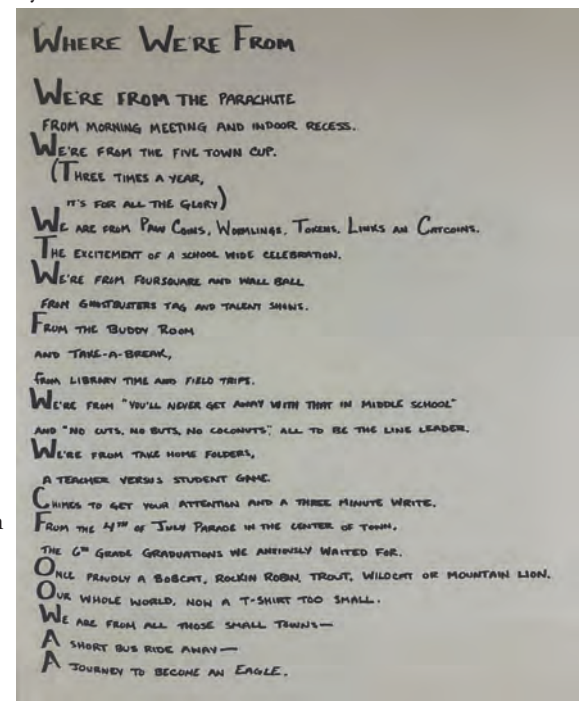
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Willowell by Anonymous 8th Grader

I walk into the field I've known for so long. I feel the wind blow against my face. I hear the trees, blowing in the wind. I hear the kids screaming as heavily as they can. Then I sit and think. Think about how I've been here for so long. Think about how I feel safe here and I feel welcomed. I wish I could go back.

To the woods.

I walk in the woods. The wind blows against my face. Barks of dogs, chirps of birds. The stream roars as I walk across the bridge. I walk in the woods. The grass overgrown. Flowers blossoming. I hear the deer moving. I walk in the woods.



Thank you to English teachers Sam Howe & Sarah Fox for encouraging students to share their work here.

door and gets her pillow. A bell goes off.)

DIANA: What was that?

KATE: Oh, it's a security alarm. (KATE turns the lights off and gets into her bed. Right after she lays down, another bell sound goes off. She sits up in her bed.)

DIANA: Why did that go off? No doors are opened.

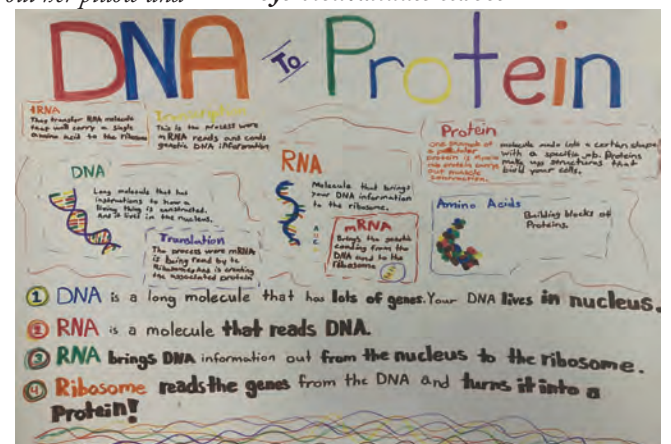
KATE: False alarms happen all the time.

DIANA: Ok, if you say so. (KATE and DIANA lay down in their beds.)

KATE: Good night!

DIANA: Good night!

To see this play in its entirety go to: sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/middle-school



ART & POETRY

THE POOL

By Clark Crary '27

Calm, quiet, peaceful
 you hurtle yourself elegantly
 into silence
 Alone with your thoughts
 you swim
 the urge to win propels you
 across the pool
 you hit the wall
 vigorously turning
 pushing to be the fastest
 you shoot off the wall...
 Silence.
 Again you wonder
 am I winning?
 losing?
 You reach the surface and bam!
 back to the grind
 stroke after stroke,
 you come closer to the wall
 until you hit...
 Many emotions flood your head.
 You don't know if you've won.
 You look around and all you hear is cheering
 still pondering your thought
 Have I won?



Jewelry made by Jo Toy '24

WE COOL

By Kassi Garrow '27

"We cool."
 No you ain't
 Not now, not ever.

"We cool."
 Stop thinking that
 Stop saying that.

Being cool
 ain't cool.
 You're kind,
 unlike them.

Don't be cool
 Be kind.

***Written in the style
 of "We Real Cool"
 by Gwendolyn Brooks*



By Maddie Hayden '24



By Isla Underwood '26



By Scarlett Tarmy '27



By Louisa Painter '25

Thank you to Art teacher Ryan Strobel for encouraging students to share their work here, and to Vicki Bronson's students for sharing their poems and "Happy Place" poems/stories.

SPRING IN THE HOLLOW

By Lux Tierney '27

When the young wind blows
 And the snow turns to mud,
 Go out and stand barefoot
 Among the grasses and wrens.
 The sun shines down
 And the starlings come back,
 While crocuses spring up
 Out of the ground.
 Tree buds shimmer
 With morning dew,
 And the fog rises off the mountain,
 It's spring in the Hollow.



(PC: Christa Finnern)



Earrings made by Madison Bartlett '27



By Reagan Lafreniere '27

HORSES

(Continued
 from Page 2)

check the back stall. I went over to the stall and unwrapped the wrapping paper and ran into the stall and gave him a big hug. My trainer then told me that the day when he ran over to me, she knew he chose me and we were meant for each other. The little girl in me became so happy because I had been dreaming of that day for so long. Those are a few memories out of so many from the small barn on a dirt road no one would think anything of.



CHORAL STUDENTS WRITE ABOUT MUSIC'S IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES

MUSIC AT MT. ABE



Hannah Gallivan: "I love the community you can find within the music department, as well as the different kinds of music we get to perform. I will miss my fellow Sweet T's the most next year."



Lexi Gordon: "Maybe it's the music that transforms you into the person you want to become."



Tobi Harris: "My experience with working through fear caused me to experience more. When Chorus began I was just a shy little Soprano looking for something to break up the day. By High School I loved Chorus way too much to give it up. As I grew as a singer I started auditioning for solos, not always because I wanted them but because I wanted to better myself. In 11th grade I auditioned for Sweet T. Getting in boosted my confidence so much! I kept auditioning for solos and auditioned for my first year at Districts. Finally in 12th grade I feel confident enough to have a larger range. Singing anywhere between Tenor and Soprano. I'd highly recommend if you're scared to do something musical, that should be even more reason to do it."

Ninth Grade Chorus Student: "The thought of standing on stage used to scare me, especially in 7th grade, but my growth has shown that it's not scary anymore, and in fact it's extremely fun and I look forward to it. I love it now. I may not especially love the spotlight but I still would love it to try more exciting things over time. And discovering how meeting new people has been another great aspect as well."

MAYBE IT'S THE MUSIC... By Lux Tierney '27

Maybe it's the music that brings us together.
Or maybe it's the hardships, we have weathered.
But with love, and honesty,

we managed to sing in harmony.
Although we all come from different places,
with different experiences and different faces,
we joined as one and raised our voices, to sing in harmony.
And so we leave, with songs in our souls,
dreams in our hearts, we each play a role
In our high school chorus, where we sing in harmony.

SCHULTE

(Continued from Page 1)

learning left to do first, or at least that's what I thought. In my freshman year, the Music Department was still quite small, and not many students had tried out music again after Covid. There were only seven people who tried out for the a cappella group, and we were all accepted. We knew our group had some weak points, but even with that, I felt so loved and welcomed by the group. It was the best feeling, because I hadn't experienced anything like it before, and when I say that support and love grew, I truly mean it.

This year, the adrenaline rush of performing "hand in hand" with a community of musicians you love and can trust is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Our Music Department students are so incredibly lucky to have that honor not once, but four times a year, and we thrive in this environment of growth and support. This year, my sophomore year, I participated in a cappella for my 2nd year, my 3rd year in Chorus, my 2nd year of Band, my 8th high school concert, and my first year at Districts. As a person and a musician, I have expanded so much musically in the last 3 years, and owe it all to my lovely music teachers. Their patience and understanding has allowed me to truly blossom as a performer and expand my life opportunities.

My favorite experience this year was auditioning for Districts with my fellow Chorus friends and the actual Districts Concert experience itself. Performing at Districts was truly eye opening for so many reasons. I got to learn among new students like myself, and I got to try things I never would have without this amazing community. I got to share all of these performances with this year's Chorus, which shone with sophistication in itself, creating memories I won't ever forget. I have so many friendships and I consider myself an extremely lucky person to feel so appreciated in the place I love.



A cappella strikes a pose Photo courtesy of Buzz Kuhns

Ninth Grade Chorus Student: "The adrenaline rush, standing in the dark stairwell, hearing Mrs. LaRose speaking into the microphone about our journey as a group. Then they start clapping and my heart sinks into my stomach, my mind flies away and then my legs start walking without me instructing them to. The lights shine into my eyes, but then the piano starts and my mind is back, my heart is back in it, and I know exactly what to do. The words come out of my mouth without hesitation, and then it's over. But all of the rehearsals, all of the work was worth it."

Thank you to Megan Larose for inspiring students every day and encouraging them to share their work here.
To see more music reflections, go to:
sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/features

Payton Shepard '28: Mt. Abe "is a great school with many opportunities for everyone, one being the music department. I am in the middle school chorus, taught this year by Megan LaRose. In this class, we got to learn and do many fun activities that have helped us grow and become more confident as singers and also have fun. We had the privilege of working with Evan Jennison, a former Mt. Abe student, who has started his career in making music. It was super cool and crazy to think he was once in my position in the middle school chorus and now he has made something he loves into a career."

Working with Evan was a great experience. On the final day working with Evan, we came together with all the elementary schools who had also been learning his music and we all practiced together most of the day. That evening, we performed our music and had a concert. Hearing all the voices and working with different students was wonderful. It was great knowing the effort and work we had all put into learning the music and singing had such an amazing outcome. We had the Fine Art Festival and many other concerts and fun things we did this year in chorus. Overall, the chorus is such a welcoming place and is great if you want to expand your knowledge of singing, performing, having fun, or even if you want to pursue a career in the music industry like Evan."

Ninth Grade Chorus Student:

"Maybe it's the music that makes me feel alive, makes me feel a sense of belonging, makes my heart warm. Or maybe it's the amazing group around me that has helped me learn and grow as a singer, person and high schooler. I love the Mt. Abe Music Department. It will have a special place in my heart always. I have learned so much incredible music that goes straight to my playlist always. I have met so many interesting and loving people that I will never forget, and I will remember at the funniest times because they all make me laugh. Rehearsing for this last concert and learning the last few pieces of the year has only deepened my love and appreciation for this group. The intricacy that goes into something that I would think to be so simple, but instead has so many layers and new dynamics and notes is fascinating to me every time even though I have experienced it so many times."



By Rin Dunbar '24

THE BRISTOL HUB IS WORTH A VISIT

By Dylan Wells

The Bristol Teen Center, also known as the Hub, is an after-school place that offers students age 12-18 activities to do after school. It was originally an old bingo pavilion, but renovation began in 1998, and it re-opened to the public in 2000. Not only does the Hub bring entertainment to teenagers, but it also provides food, a clean space, places to sit, and a friendly staff.

The most important part of any public place, is comfort and cleanliness. The counters are clean and rarely have dust or ingredients from food left on the counter, but if there is anything dirty on the counters, it is quickly cleaned up with a sanitizing spray that is then wiped down. In the spring and summer, there have been ants on the countertops. In some spots, you may find some dust and cobwebs that haven't been cleaned, which is a big takeaway. There are many couches in the Hub, varying in size and comfort. The best couch is a long L-shaped couch that is nice and soft. However, if you lift up the cushions, you may find some dust. One couch has many rips in it where the material in the couch is falling out, and all the couches have dust under their cushions, but all of them are soft. Because the Hub is about as clean as an average house and provides all needs such as furniture, it gets a 2.75 of 4 for comfort and cleanliness.

Next up is the core of the Hub, the entertainment. The Bristol Hub has many things to entertain young and older teens alike. For example, there is a computer area that is used for gaming mainly, a headset with multiple games of varying degrees, a Nintendo Switch, and the latest Xbox. Furthermore, you can draw, read, cook, and do arts and crafts. The Hub has a lot to offer, but there are still some cons. The computers are not gaming computers and can only handle so much. The Xbox does not have many games and relies on other accounts to provide more games. The Nintendo is the same deal, although not as many people use it. However, these are only mild inconveniences that can be overcome by just working around them. For entertainment, the Hub gets a 3.45 of 4. One side note is that the skate park wasn't counted towards this. The skate park *is* part of the Hub, but was not included due to it being outside of the building.

One of the most important parts of a public place for teenagers to hang out is the niceness of the staff. There is nothing bad to mention about the staff, because they are all perfect, and can appeal to almost anyone. Whether it be gaming with the staff or talking about politics, there is something that will appeal to anyone in the staff. Of course, sometimes the staff



The Hub offers comfy couches and many computers

may not want to talk because they've had a rough day, but the staff says it in such a nice way that whoever wanted to talk to them understands that the staff member doesn't feel like talking. For friendliness, the Hub staff gets a perfect 4.

Now, the food. In order for the Hub to attract teens and have them stay, they provide food to help out kids who haven't eaten for most of the day or who are just hungry in general. The Hub offers a main snack for the day, which changes every day except taco Tuesday, and Wednesday is always pizza day. The Hub also has smaller snacks, and if you can't find any snacks you like, you can make your own with the cooking supplies they provide in the kitchen. For food, the Hub earns a 3.75 of 4.

The total score for the Hub is 3.25 of 4, so it is *definitely* recommended to visit and spend some time there with friends.

AG PROGRAM PREPARES FUTURE FARMERS & AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURS

By Michael LaRock

The Patricia Hannaford Career Center, also known as PHCC, has a program called Sustainable Agriculture that students can take in 11th and 12th grade. It is a super fun

program for young people that want to be farmers or veterinarians, also known as agricultural entrepreneurs.

Students who want to take this class can either do PHCC's pre-tech program: Introduction to Agricultural Sciences, or a lab-based science class at their home



school. I recommend doing the pre-tech program. It is equally fun as Sustainable Ag, and more hands-on than high school science classes. If you don't like hands-on classes or getting dirty, I wouldn't recommend taking the pre-tech class or Sustainable Ag, for that matter.

Some of the things we do in Sustainable Agriculture include feeding and raising livestock such as goats and chickens, learning to drive farm machinery, and growing plants in the greenhouse to sell lo-

cally. My favorite part is cuddling with the baby goats. Feeding time with the goats can be annoying because some may be loud so they can get their food. My least favorite part is the smell of goat poop.

Kelley Mills is the Sustainable Agriculture Instructor. She is kind and generous, and knows a lot about taking care of livestock. She is an excellent teacher, but she will be retiring in 2025. She also runs the Middlebury FFA, which stands for Future Farmers of America, and she is a part of the National FFA Organization. She also has students who volunteer at the food booth and dairy bar at the Addison

NINTH GRADERS REVIEW WORLD LITERATURE BOOKS READ THIS YEAR

HUXLEY'S *BRAVE NEW WORLD* INSPIRES DEEP THINKING

By Ada Fisher '27

The book *Brave New World* is about a dystopian society that shares many parallels with our world today, and is set in the United Kingdom. The book follows three main characters who navigate the different levels of society that they were born into and showcases the new ways that the world works - with London as a hotspot. It thoroughly describes the practices and hierarchies instilled in this "brave new world's" citizens, as well as the technological advancements that Britain and the world has undergone. The city of London is still a



vastly populated and busy place, showing characteristics of the UK today. My personal favorite part of the book, however, was the very beginning chapters, which had a certain style that gave them an orderly chaos. The views of the characters flipped back and forth, with each view slowly shortening, setting a fast-paced tone of urgency with a literary style that I don't see very often. I would fully recommend this book to anyone and everyone, but specifically those who enjoy other classics or particularly like to tackle large issues and philosophical ideas when they read.

GYASI'S *HOMEGOING* OFFERS MULTI-GENERATION PERSPECTIVES

By Megan Bowers '27

The story of *Homegoing*, by Yaa Gyasi, starts in Africa in the eighteenth century. As the story goes on, the setting changes multiple times. You get a sense of Europe in the nineteenth century, the United States in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and of Africa again, in the twenty and twenty-first century. *Homegoing* follows the story of two sisters who were separated at birth, and their descendants through eight generations. It tells the heartbreaking stories of the sisters' and their descendants' experiences with slavery, coal mining, and many more interesting topics. When I read this book, I really enjoyed seeing how the family, that started with the two sisters, grew and changed -- because the situation of each person in this book was so different and unique. Each chapter, approximately 20 pages each, is told from a different perspective. I would recommend *Homegoing* to anyone who enjoys historical fiction, heartbreak (there's a lot of that), and stories that are told from multiple, different perspectives.

REVIEWS

THE HUB

By Wren Allred '27

The Hub stays in its place. Set upon the Bristol Recreation Field. A place to stay after a long day at school. With places to sit and places to skate. Where you belong when you are a teen. Whether it's winter, fall, spring, summer. The Hub stays open in all kinds of weather.

Come along, and take a look inside. Check in at the front entrance and sign in on top of the concrete floor. They have chairs and couches to spare, Food to share. Even rent skate gear if you're in need You'll see a kitchen, gaming spaces, and art projects free for use.

Music plays on speakers as the day goes on. Coming in to find the smell of the fresh pizza or any other food they bake. And not to mention the taste of the goodies that you may have. You'll find a fair selection of graffiti made on the walls

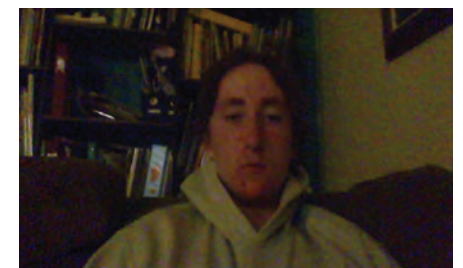
Computers line a long desk and two TVs Making your way outside you find a bike rack, a sidewalk,

A table and a fence in the nearby distance. You may also find a big tree and a picnic table spot with a roof to cover.

Ahead of that, you will see the tennis court and a pump track beside it. And lastly, the skatepark to your right and the ice rink to your left.

County Fair.

I would rate the PHCC Sustainable Agriculture program a 4.5 of 5 because it is a good place to go if you like hands-on work and learning new skills. To explore Sustainable Ag or other programs at the Hannaford Career Center, check out www.hannafordcareercenter.org/programs



ADICHIE'S *AMERICANAH* HAS HUMOR AND DRAMA

By Oliver Zelonis '27

My favorite book this year was *Americanah*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, during our Literature of Africa unit. It takes place in both Nigeria and the United States. The book is about a woman who moved to America thirteen years ago from Nigeria and is about to go back. The book starts when the woman is getting her hair braided, and while it is getting braided, there are flashbacks from her time in America and in Nigeria. The book also follows the woman's old boyfriend, who lives in Nigeria. Something that I learned in the book was some of the American customs and phrases that seem weird to outsiders. My favorite part of the book was the end, because I got to find out what happened to the characters. If you like a good drama with some humor sprinkled in, then this book is for you!

ADVANCED PLACEMENT ART SHARES ARTIST STATEMENTS, WORK

A.P. ART



Ellie Thomas '24: "I have always felt a strong connection between music and memory, specifically the sense of nostalgia certain songs evoke. My sustained investigation explores this concept more, and allows me to delve deeper into how specific music has helped me create an identity through past experiences.

The piece here is not based on an actual picture, but I used reference photos of myself to connect to my own life. They both reflect more heavily on negative emotion that comes with seasonal depression, and the songs I chose for both associate with my personal experiences. I chose to use dead pressed flowers to create a 3D effect, also representing the lack of life and color in the winter. This is a metaphor for how our emotions reflect our environment.

Creating every individual piece allowed me to tap into my past, and helped me realize how every song has helped build my character in one way or another. Therefore, my work demonstrates my growth as a human being and how music has helped me progress throughout my life."

Maya Menzel '25: "My sustained investigation focuses around my anxiety and how it's perpetuated throughout my life, as well as how my anxiety can become triggered and how it can also be better managed. By creating a portfolio, I've been able to explore different facets of my anxiety and where these fears come from, as well as how to work to better manage them. Ultimately, my goal has been to offer a perspective on anxiety that is both honest and compassionate while sharing my struggles and progress as well. My process for each piece differed...but the main idea was to create physical representations about my anxiety, whether that be my fear of being out of control, or my fear of disapproval and upsetting people, or how it feels to sit with that discomfort. I purposefully used bright and vibrant color palettes to demonstrate how my anxiety is physically represented. My favorite mediums to work with were collage, graphite and acrylic. It is through my art that I hope to shed light on the complexities around mental health and anxiety by being vulnerable and honest with myself and the audience. I hope I'm able to offer a sense of understanding and connection to others who may be going through similar struggles. Anxiety doesn't go away, but finding ways to better manage it helps. For me, that outlet is creating art...making physical representations of how I feel, whether that's through painting, drawing or scribbling on canvas, paper or any surface. Art is my release. It allows me to find solace and meaning in the chaos. It pushes me to be vulnerable and to work towards a better understanding of my anxiety."



Helen Engvall '24: "My sustained investigation dives into the concept of safety, what it looks like, and how we can introduce it into our lives. I explore safety through photography, to capture the intangible moments and make them seen. Photography helps the audience to build a connection with the world we live in and recognize shared experiences through imagery. My works feel safe to look at, with no harsh colors or aggressive composition. It makes the audience feel secure and welcome, with soft tones, comfortable settings, and heartfelt meanings.

We are biologically wired to seek out other people's approval so that we feel safe. Sharing my art publicly helps me to confront my fears of acceptance and helps me find safety in my artwork. These photographs are a touchstone that I can return to when I need a visual reminder of what it feels like to be grounded in safety. In 'Safety Blanket,' I investigated how my home base is with my mom. She has built me a safe space with her, and she has taught me how to build my own safe space that I can then share with others. Staying grounded in this safe place with my mom is an experience I will carry with me throughout my life, so that I can become a safe place for the people I surround myself with.

There are many pieces of art I have made, and will make, that I struggle to feel secure enough to share. This is the first step. I am proud of myself, and I am looking forward to continuing my work on my art, and myself along with it."

Julia Sonneborn '24: "My sustained investigation explores childhood excitement, the way it fades with age, and my attempt to reconnect with my inner child. I apply nostalgia to my pieces primarily through use of color, washes, and playful tone. Generating ideas for this course has increased my understanding of my past, and how certain memories have shaped my identity. I encourage my audience to connect to my pieces by reflecting on their own childhoods. As humans, we often fail to realize what we have until it's lost. I hope my older audience can use my pieces to escape their jaded adulthood perspectives and reconnect with their youth, as I've had the privilege of doing throughout this course.

A.P. Art and Design has... helped me to understand the importance of art for both the artist and the audience. Not only have I been able to deepen my understanding of myself, but I have also begun to understand more about humankind in general. I have understood the process of moving through life and growing and changing.

Thank you to Leah Hammond for encouraging students to share their sustained investigations!



Isabelle Gallivan '24: "My sustained investigation explores my experience of navigating relationships with both those around me and myself as someone who struggles with anxiety. My anxiety manifests itself in many ways, but in social situations, it consists of feeling deeply and constantly out of place, ruminating over small interactions, and being convinced the social "rules" everyone else seems to instinctively know are in a code that I will never understand.

I wanted to illustrate not just the struggle,

doubt, and isolation these feelings have created, but also the growth and acceptance of myself I have realized as I find ways to connect with others through my own process. Through my art, I delved into the way my own self-identity impacts other relationships as well as the evolution of my ability to make strong connections.

Most of my pieces are portraiture, each one intending to portray a different perspective or emotion to the viewer. Though they are centered around the same theme, they also contrast, symbolizing the complexity of human relationships and the balance between give and take. I juxtaposed a voyeuristic perspective meant to evoke the feeling of beholding an emotional bond but being unable to experience it personally with pieces that portray impactful moments of closeness and understanding that I have experienced. Making art has helped me seek out and nurture more of these genuine, meaningful connections that I desire."



*To see more A.P. Art & Design work, go to:
sites.google.com/alanesu.org/birds-eye-view/features*

LOSS (Continued from Page 3)

actually smelted together and the rest were burned to the point of being worthless.

A lot of the more expensive coins, like half dollars and silver dollars, were locked in metal boxes that I was able to unlock with a set of keys I found. My mother and father, my aunt and uncle on my mom's side of the family, and I were all helping, digging through and pulling out anything we could find. We found a lot of stuff that even my grandparents weren't sure if they still had, like a \$1 silver certificate. Eventually we pulled out everything we possibly could, and we tore it down. For a while, they had to live in a hotel until their insurance company could rebuild. They're doing all right now, but they unfortunately couldn't find the cause of the fire.

Usually just by accepting what happens, it makes it a lot easier. Obviously, it's harder to accept when you lose a pet or family member especially if it's unexpected. A month or two ago, my dog passed and I was able to move past it. I was able to because I knew that she was in pain, and we knew that euthanizing her was the most humane. I was only about 3 or 4 years old when we got our dog. Her name was Jersey and she was like a cow. She would eat and then sleep for the entire day. However,

when we got more dogs, she got a lot more active and would chase them around. She was always healthy until a few weeks ago. She got some sort of infection on all of her paws. We sent her to the vet for antibiotics and those helped, but as soon as she ran out, it came back worse. After a lot of thinking, we finally decided to just put her down so she wouldn't constantly be drugged for her last few months.

I'm honestly not entirely sure how to cope with losing someone or a pet unexpectedly, but I know that even if that happens, I'll still be fine because they'd want me to be.



"Ear Ring"
By Namid Ruiz-Warnock '25

HUIZENGA FARM

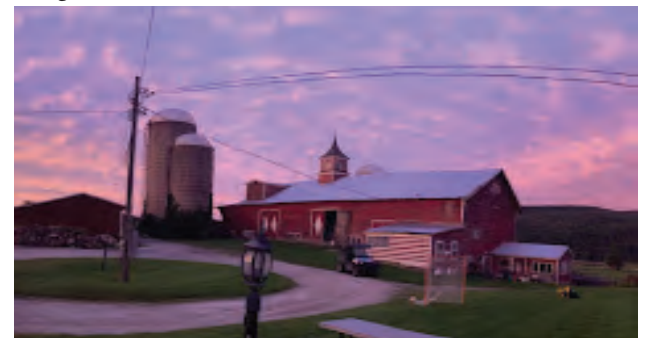
by Aubrey Coffey

Oh Huizenga Farm, what a special place. Gazing from far away, you'll see a big red barn with a newly-painted American flag. The red, white, and blue shine from about a mile away and can catch your eye when first visiting. Don't forget about the silos. We have two, and yes, they do have names: Big Silo and Little Silo. Looking past the silos, you'll see the manure pit, but I wouldn't recommend getting too close because it stinks. The long

pasture is where memories are created. I'll give just a few examples, but I could really go on and on. Playing tag after the animals are put in for the night. Getting shocked by the electric fence because you just have to test it. Drinking Lilah's milk when you're starving in the morning. And lastly, just brushing the animals -- a relaxing therapy for both the animal and the human.

Every season on the

farm is different. The hardest is probably winter when all the water dishes freeze due to the cold Vermont weather. But you have to learn to love it.



(PC: Kristi Huizenga)



By Liz Heath '27

SURVEY REVEALS BEST PLACES TO GO IN THE 5-TOWN AREA

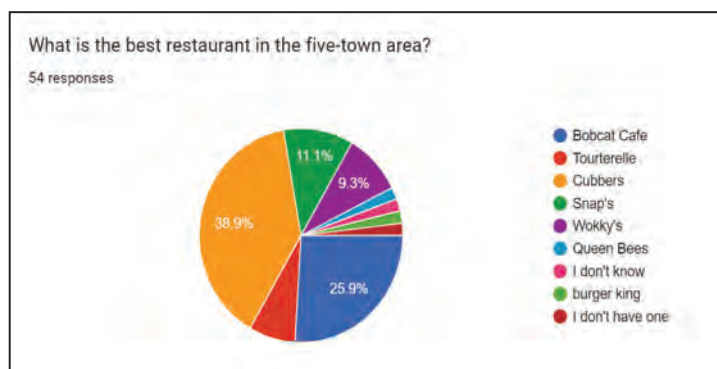
By Kaydence White

A recent survey asked staff and students about their favorite things to do in Addison County. There were 54 respondents, who live in the following towns: 38% Bristol, 24% Lincoln, 15% Monkton, 12% Starksboro, and 7% from New Haven, with the remainder coming from Middlebury or Pantton.

Regarding the best restaurant, 39% said Cubbers, 26% said the Bobcat Cafe, 11% said Snap's, and Wokky's got 9% of the votes. Several people mentioned the fries at Cubbers, and junior Ella Heath said, "It's very popular with not just locals but tourists. It's especially busy during leaf peeper season."

The best place to go swimming, boating, or fishing in the five-town area drew a variety of responses, with Bartlett Falls leading the way at 38%. New Haven river got 19%, Mt. Abe pool 9%, Bristol pond 9%. Ninth grader Ada Fisher commented that Bartlett Falls is, "Very scenic and you can spread out without being around too many people. Convenient for Bristol and the water is always clear! No leeches!"

In the battle for best convenience store, Bristol received 44% of the votes,



New Haven 25%, Lincoln 23%, with Starksboro, Monkton and "other" getting 1% each. "I don't really have a preference between any of the convenience stores in Bristol, but Starksboro doesn't have any, so Bristol is one of the most convenient since I'm here almost every day," said senior Joanna Toy.

Bristol dominated the poll of the best recreation parks with a whopping 86% of the votes. Monkton got 2% and Starksboro and Lincoln each got 1%. "It feels the most developed," said 9th grader Reed Cousino about Bristol Recreation Park.

The best farmstand, or place to get fresh veggies and berries was determined

to be the Full Belly Farm in Monkton with 44% of the votes. Lower Notch Berry Farm in Bristol received 17%, and Lewis Creek in Starksboro got 12%. Last Resort in Monkton got 8%, and New Leaf Organics was also mentioned. New Leaf Organics "offers a lot of options, yummy foods!" said Driver's Ed teacher Kevin Masse.

Opinions on the best elementary school were divided. 24% voted for Lincoln, Bristol 18%, Monkton Central 16%, Robinson 14%, and Beeman 8%. Two people said they're all great, and one person mentioned Red Cedar School. "They are actually a community," said 7th grader Braedon Delisle.

The town with the best hiking, biking, running, or walking trails/roads was identified as Bristol by 41% of respondents, Lincoln 35%, Monkton 15%, and Starksboro and New Haven each got two votes. "I don't go to trails, but I know [Bristol] has some pretty good trails," said eighth grader Thea Boglioli.



Graphic by Bruce Babbitt

The Bird's Eye View

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Mt. Abraham Union High School
220 Airport Drive
Bristol, VT 05443
Phone: (802) 453-2333 x62095
Fax: (802) 453-4359

Staff: Michael LaRock '25 Dylan Wells '26
Kaydence White '24

sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/

Advisor Vicki Bronson
vicki.bronson@mausd.org
Co-Advisor Angus
Dickerson, T.A.P. intern

PUZZLES

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ACROSS

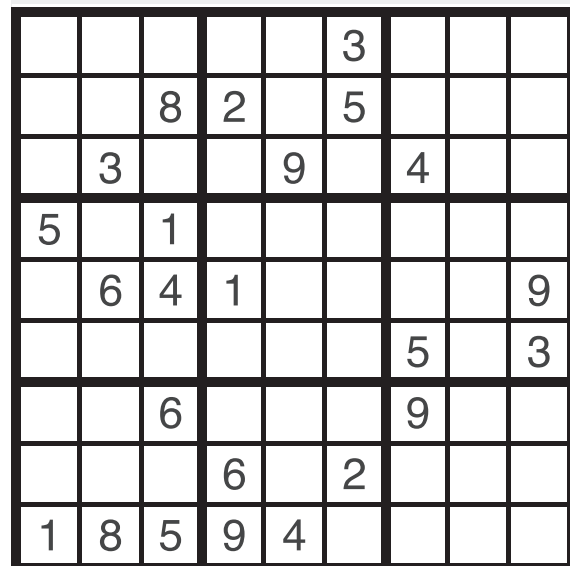
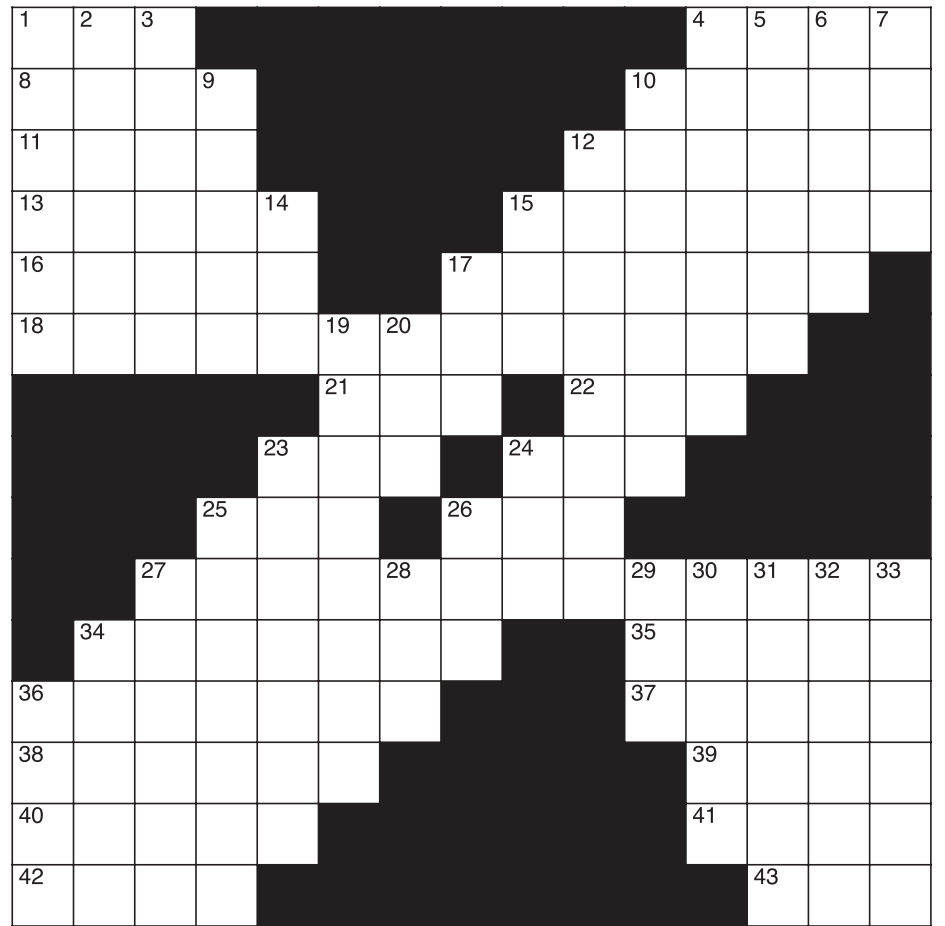
- 1. Baby's dining accessory
- 4. Something free
- 8. Ancient Egyptian deity
- 10. Set-like mathematical categories
- 11. Top-quality
- 12. Expansive
- 13. Seizure
- 15. People with congenital absence of pigment
- 16. Gains
- 17. Mocked online
- 18. Clint's son
- 21. Body part

- 22. Humor
- 23. Code number
- 24. Your physique
- 25. Family of regulator genes
- 26. LA football player (abbr.)
- 27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. Charity
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Examined closely
- 37. A type of equation
- 38. Stretched uncomfortably
- 39. Indian religious god

- 40. Clocks
- 41. Slowly leak through
- 42. Witnesses
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

DOWN

- 1. Nestlings
- 2. Induces vomiting
- 3. A place to eat
- 4. Partner in the air
- 5. Offered one's take
- 6. Nobel-winning French biologist
- 7. Farm animals
- 9. Prevent from growing



Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 21.

- 10. Sensationalist periodical
- 11. Soft-bodied beetle
- 12. Very fast airplane
- 13. Imaginative creation
- 14. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- 15. Evoked a response
- 16. French river
- 17. Shiny yellow minerals
- 18. Make illegal
- 19. U.S. military branch
- 20. River in France and Belgium
- 21. A woman of refinement
- 22. Male child
- 23. Type of medication
- 24. German city
- 25. Animal disease
- 26. Mediterranean dietary staple
- 27. Sneak out
- 28. Radioactivity unit
- 29. Performs on stage



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Pictured artwork by Carlie Guinane

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

FLOWERS IN THE VEGGIE GARDEN

There's no denying they're pretty, but did you know there are practical reasons to plant flowers among the vegetables in your garden?

Pollination is a vital component in a successful vegetable garden.

Planting flowers is like ringing the dinner bell for bees, butterflies and other pollinators. They'll be attracted to the

BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

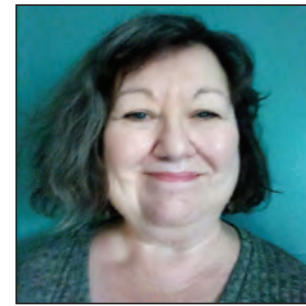
flowers and stay to visit the blossoms on your vegetables, contributing to a bumper crop.

In addition to attracting pollinators to food crops, flowers can also help deter pests. Some flowers can act as a trap, luring pests away from food producing crops. Plant "trap plants" apart from the vegetables that they are intended to protect so pests are lured away.

Pick up starter-sized flowers along with those for your vegetable crop when you visit your local nursery or start them from seed at home if you plan ahead in the spring. Many can be direct sown in the garden once all danger of frost has passed.

Starting flowers from seed can be a money saver since, unlike vegetables that you may only want one or two of each type, you can use the same variety of marigold or sunflower throughout the garden, making use of more seeds in each packet.

When you select the flowers to add to your vegetable garden, consider choosing varieties that are edible. They make great additions to salads and other dishes. The petals can be candied and added to desserts. Just be sure not to use pesticides or other chemicals on any flowers that you intend to consume and



Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.

rinse well before eating.

If you're ready to try planting flowers alongside the veggies in your garden, it makes sense to plant annual flowers to accompany annual vegetables. At the end of the growing season, you can clear the garden without being concerned about disturbing the roots of perennials overwintering there. Spring planting is simpler because you won't need to take into account where the perennials are located and work around them.

Since most vegetable crops require full sun, select flowers that will thrive in a sunny location. Also consider the height and amount of ground the mature plants will cover.

A row of sunflowers (*Helianthus*) along the north side of the garden will not only attract pollinators, but the tall, rigid stalks can double as a support for vining crops such as pole beans or peas.

Nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum majus*), with their bold color and funnel-shaped flowers, can attract hummingbirds, who are not only pollinators but will help control flying insect pests in the garden. In addition, nasturtiums can serve as a trap plant for cabbageworms,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Interplanting flowers among vegetables creates a diverse, healthy, productive garden as the flowers will attract pollinators and help repel unwanted pests.

PHOTO / CONGER DESIGN/PIXABAY



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Marigolds are a good choice for a vegetable garden because not only are they a source of nectar and pollen for bees and other pollinators, but they also attract predatory insects that help control pests and can serve as a trap plant to lure slugs and other pests away from vegetable plants.

PHOTO / JAMES DEMERS/PIXABAY



white flies and aphids. Trailing varieties can be used as groundcover. Flowers and leaves are edible, and harvesting flowers or deadheading will help extend the blooming period.

Marigolds (*Tagetes*) are another edible flower that does more than attract pollinators. They also attract predatory insects such as lacewings, parasitic wasps and ladybugs that help control pests. In addition, they can serve as a trap plant to lure pests such as slugs away from vegetable plants.

Like the flowers mentioned above, zinnias (*Zinnia*) will add a splash of color to your vegetable garden and attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators. The petals are edible. Cut the flowers to enjoy indoors or deadhead spent flowers to promote continued blooming.

Whether you plant a border of flowers around your vegetable garden or interplant flowers among your vegetable crop, planting flowers and vegetables together creates a diverse garden that's not only pretty, but healthy and productive as well.

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Georgia

My name is **Georgia** and I am as sweet as a peach! I am around 1.5 years old and was found as a stray. I have a clear ring around my neck where a collar would have been so I may have been dumped. I am so sweet that I was co-parenting with another momma cat and her kittens. I get along with other cats but I have not met any dogs.



Minerva

My name is **Minerva** and I am as sweet as can be! I am a 4-year-old lady and I am looking for a lap to snuggle in. I love to play with my toys and roll around in my blankets. I do not get along well with other cats but I can get along with dogs.

Sylveon

My name is **Sylveon** and I am originally from Florida! My amazing foster provider wrote great things about me: "Searching for a sweet and playful kitty who adores both playtime and snuggles? Look no further than Sylveon! Sylveon not only gets along great with other cats but also craves affection from humans."



Velvet

My name is **Velvet** and I'm a 7-month-old, female, Dalmatian Rex mix, ready to hop into your heart! I'm full of curiosity, always looking for new adventures. My favorite pastime is zipping through my bunnel (rabbit tunnel) - it's the best! When I'm feeling extra happy, you'll see me doing zoomies all over my room.

It's my special way of showing you just how spunky I am! I've lived with other rabbits and even a cat, so I'm quite the social bunny. If you want to win me over, just bring some carrots - I'll be your best friend in no time! I love being held and getting gentle pets on my head. If you're looking for a fun, loving, and adventurous companion, look no further.

Bagel

I'm **Bagel**, a 2-year-old Siberian Husky/German Shorthaired Pointer mix. I'm a medium-sized girl at 41 pounds. I was a former sled dog but have lived with a family for a year now and I'm accustomed to pet life. I absolutely love other dogs and I'm good with cats and children. I will need you to allow me some time to get used to you. I absolutely thrive outside and love to run and play in the yard. Some leash training would be great for me and I'd love to learn some basic commands. When I see other dogs, my true personality comes out. I light up and become bouncy and playful! I'd love a quiet home with other pets to keep me company.



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Rokeby Museum opens with a new main exhibition and more

The Rokeby Museum is now open daily for the season. Hours are from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., with guided tours of the historic house available at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Wednesday through Monday.

The museum has two new exhibits this season.

“Seeking Freedom: The Underground Railroad and the Legacy of an Abolitionist Family” immerses visitors in the history of the Underground Railroad and the struggle for freedom. Explore the history and ongoing legacy of enslavement in the U.S. and the complicated story of the Robinson family as they went from enslavers in earlier generations to abolitionists in the 19th century.

“Artifacts & Anecdotes: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Rokeby Museum,” highlights

volunteers and staff who work year-round to research and preserve the Robinson family collection. Their work gives them unique access to the family's collection, and in this exhibition, they share a few of their favorite objects and stories.

In addition to exhibitions, the museum has a series of programs this spring and summer, including:

Seeking Freedom Gallery Talks – June 13, July 25, and Aug. 15. Free with admission or \$5.

Sheep & Wool Day – June 15. Half-price admission with a non-perishable item for the Vergennes Food Bank.

Sheep & Wool Day celebrates Vermont's woolly heritage. This family-friendly event has sheep petting from Hands & Heart Farm, kid's crafts, historic spinning and weaving, printing press demonstrations from A Revolutionary

Press, an Instrument Petting Zoo from the Vermont Folk Life Center, farm hours, and more! Food vendors, including Fairy Tale Farm's sheep milk gelato and James Beard Award semifinalist A Tate of Abyssinia, will be on-site.

This year, for Sheep & Wool Day, the museum is partnering with the Vergennes Food Shelves. Visitors who donate a non-perishable food item can receive half off their admission (one item per/person).

Juneteenth, June 19 (free museum day)

Reading Frederick Douglass – July 5 (free event)

Pie & Ice Cream Social – Aug. 11

Storywalk, all summer

To learn more about Rokeby Museum and see a full listing of programs, visit rokeby.org.

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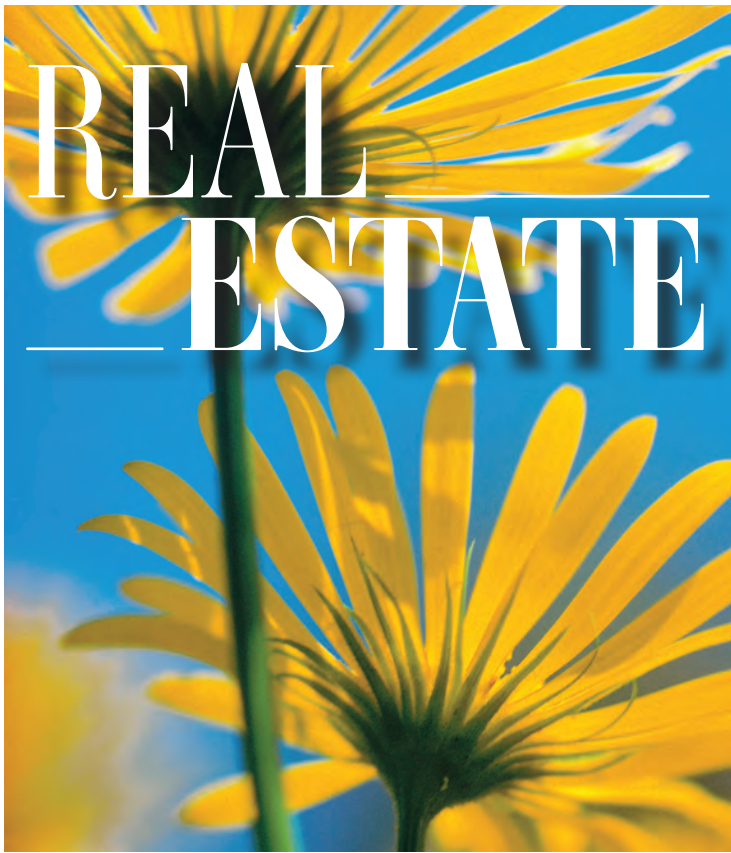
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SOLUTIONS JUNE 6, 2024

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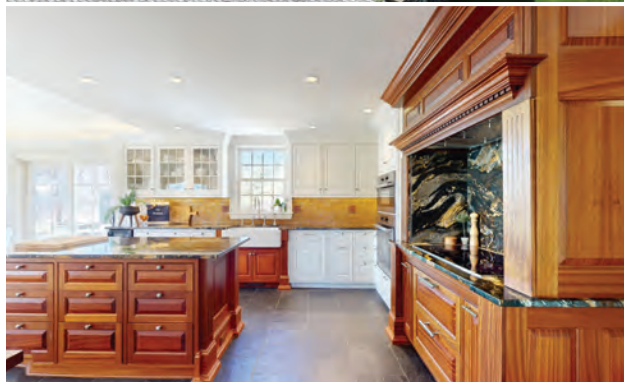
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CHARLOTTE PRICE REDUCTION!
488 GUINEA ROAD

MLS #4992259 | **NOW \$2,690,000**
4 BD | 5 BA | 5161 SF | 20.38 AC

A remarkable property offering superior craftsmanship and over 20 acres. Proximate to Mount Philo, Lake Champlain, abundant recreation, and with fantastic views of Camel's Hump and an endless night sky. Gourmet kitchen connects to beautiful exterior hardscaping with extensive back deck, an outdoor fireplace, pizza oven, and raised bed kitchen garden. Guest suite in main home sleeps over six. Separate living space with bath over the garage. A total of 5 garage bays, 3 of which are heated and ready to charge your vehicles. Twenty minutes to Burlington, 30 mins to Middlebury, and your vibrant Charlotte neighbors surrounding.



MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
152 MAPLE STREET

MLS #4997770 | \$429,000
CONDO | 1500 SF

Currently six private offices, kitchenette, and half bath on the second floor of the West Ridge Office Bldg in the Marble Works. Other uses possible. Great parking and an active, mixed-use environment.



ADDISON NEW LISTING!
6208 VT ROUTE 125

MLS #4997406 | \$389,000
1 BD | 2 BA | 886 SF | 0.67 AC

Charming home with 138 feet of frontage on Lake Champlain. Rebuilt in 1997 and now with beautiful wood floors and kitchen, 2-car garage, garden shed, flat lawn and a view of the Champlain Bridge!



BRANDON NEW LISTING!
52 ROBIN BIRD LANE

MLS #4998265 | \$367,500
2 BD | 2 BA | 1188 SF | 2.01 AC

Gleaming floors and abundant light in this open concept new build. Partially finished attic space with possibilities. Level lawn ready to plant. Just a short drive to Brandon.

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

served four years in the Navy before working many years in local building trades. As he honed his skills as a craftsman, a Christmas gift in 1994 gave him the motivation to try his skills at another trade —

constructing model boats from scratch. On view through Jan. 4, 2025.

"From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic

Middlebury," offers a window onto the sartorial tastes of local women and the growing Middlebury tailoring scene from the 1800s to the early 20th century. On view through Jan. 4, 2025.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury

For more info visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222.

"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

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Rd., Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions or call 802-443-5007.

"Apocalypse Road Show: On Tour with the Bread

& Puppet Theater." An exhibit of photographs by Garrett MacLean (Middlebury College, Class of 1999), a professional photographer who traveled with the company for more than three months in the fall of 2022. This exhibit, which coincides with both Peter Schumann's 90th birthday and the 50th anniversary of the theater group performing in Glover, will also include several of the over life-size puppets used in previous performances, as well as various posters and banners produced over the years by the Bread and Puppet Press. On view May 24-Aug. 11.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Fern Lake Opportunity



FERN LAKE: Nestled on a serene 0.71 A lot, delightful lakefront, yr-rd. home offers 150' of lake frontage, stunning views & tranquil surroundings. A cozy 2-BR, 1-B home w/1,080 sqft. of comfortable living space, perfect for a small family or just seeking a peaceful retreat. Property features a spacious LR w/ firpl., a well-appointed kit., & a charming outdoor deck overlooking the lake. Lakefront living at its finest with abundant natural beauty all around. **\$560,000.**



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"Hunter Barnes: A World Away," offers a rare glimpse into a largely visually undocumented period in Sri Lankan history by photographer Hunter Barnes. On view May 24-Aug. 11.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"A Sense of Place." Using light, composition and content, the photographer evokes a deeper understanding of place by selecting details so that the viewer knows how it smells and feels and sounds there — what it's like to stand where the photographer stood. Juror Paula Tognarelli selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view June 7-28.

ROKEBY MUSEUM

4334 Route 7, Ferrisburgh

For more info visit rokeby.org or call 802-877-3406.

"Seeking Freedom: The Underground Railroad and the Legacy of an Abolitionist Family." Explore the history and ongoing legacy of enslavement in the U.S. and the complicated story of the Robinson family as they went from enslavers in earlier generations to abolitionists in the 19th century. Ongoing exhibit on view through Oct. 15

"Artifacts & Anecdotes: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Rokeby Museum," highlights volunteers and staff who work year-round to research and preserve the Robinson family collection. Their work gives them unique access to the family's collection, and in this exhibition, they share a few of their favorite objects and stories. On view through Oct. 13.

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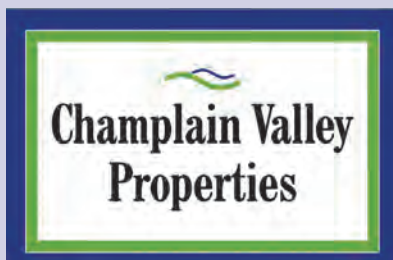
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IN-TOWN - MIDDLEBURY



This charming in-town cape is in a great location. It is an easy walk to all Middlebury schools, downtown, and the rec facilities. The lot is small, but the Seller, who has owned this property for about 40 years, is an avid gardener and has created a private green space in the back yard that makes you forget you are in the middle of a neighborhood. The house has some delayed maintenance, but the Seller is in the process of replacing the furnace with a new hot air furnace connected to natural gas. This property has great natural light, especially in the artist's studio over the garage. The floor plan is versatile and can be adapted to a variety of needs for a new owner.

276 Monroe St Middlebury
MLS #4997757 \$378,500



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT
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Lights! Camera! Auction

Saturday, June 15, at 6pm

68 South Pleasant Street, Middlebury

Town Hall Theater brings back its thrilling fun-raiser Lights! Camera! Auction! on Saturday, June 15. The ticketed event features more than 100 creative and experiential auction items, with something for everyone and every pocketbook. All proceeds from this party and its prizes will support THT's mission-driven programming, education offerings, and community events – both in the historic theater and new wing. Ticket includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, a glass of sparkling wine, live flamenco guitar, piano, vocals, and entertaining surprises.

The bidding begins with a silent auction to remember in THT's Jackson Gallery and Byers Studio starting at 6pm. Enjoy vacations and staycations in Lake Dunmore, Stowe, Basin Harbor, Isle LaMotte, and more. Nab amazing private party destinations poolside in Weybridge, at Notte in downtown Middlebury, or in THT's future Anderson Studio overlooking the Otter Creek.

Starting at 7:30pm, the party moves to the theater. Grab your paddle and get ready for fun competition over eight featured items with the ever-entertaining Auctioneer Bruce Baker. Items include a stunning seaside house north of Mendocino, California; a private lunch and tour of WhistlePig Whiskey's Shoreham farm; a sailboat outing on Lake Champlain; a penthouse apartment for two couples in Washington, DC's Cleveland Park; a sumptuous five-course Italian dinner for eight; a Hurricane Osprey 109 kayak; a Mary Lynn O'Shea custom dressy jacket; and a week in a Pasadena, California townhouse.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at THT's box office Monday-Friday from 12-5pm, by calling 802-382-9222, or online at townhalltheater.org



Coming Soon

Up For Discussion

Presented by THT
& Vermont Book Shop
June 11 @ 5:30p
Free

Rock-It Science

Presented by THT Education
June 21 @ 7p

Cutting Edge Reading

Presented by MACo
June 22 and 23 @ 4p

Music Man Jr.

Presented by THT
Young Company
July 26, 27 @ 7p
July 28 @ 2p

Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead

Presented by THT
Young Company Classical
August 16 & 17 @ 7p

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