



Cat Daddy

A well-known pet whisperer came to Homeward Bound to share his feline lessons. See Arts + Leisure.



Sitting pretty

A talented trio proved that three's a charm in the unusual holiday outhouse race. See Page 1B.



Our seniors

We become less nimble as we age, but we all grow older at different rates. See Senior Lifestyles in A+L.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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GOP candidates seek state Senate seats

Bristol's Heffernan vows to serve all Vermonters in office

By MARIN HOWELL
BRISTOL — Bristol resident Steven Heffernan has long been committed to helping out his neighbors. Being good to fellow community members is one of several lessons he said he learned from his parents while growing up on Heffernan's Pine Tree Farm in Bristol.

Heffernan, 58, is now hoping to take his service to Addison County residents to the next level by representing them in the Vermont Statehouse. He's running for one of two seats representing Addison County, Huntington, Rochester and Buel's Gore in the state Senate. Those seats are held by (See Heffernan, Page 12A)

Leicester's Bienvenue shares views on education, housing

By JOHN FLOWERS
LEICESTER — Leicester Republican Lesley Bienvenue tried two years ago to compete for one of the two state Senate seats representing Addison County, Rochester, Huntington and Buel's Gore. But her 11th-hour effort, through a write-in campaign during the 2022 primary, failed to garner

enough votes to get her name on the general election ballot. She's better prepared this year, and realizes she'll have her work cut out for her. Aug. 13 primaries will be needed to whittle both three Democrats and the three Republicans down to two each, for the general election. (See Bienvenue, Page 11A)



MIDDLEBURY RESIDENT MATTHEW Duquette spotted this black bear on Danyow Drive this past Sunday. The sighting is one of many Addison County residents have reported in recent weeks.

Bear sightings on rise around county

Advice offered to avoid visits

By MARIN HOWELL
ADDISON COUNTY — More and more Addison County residents are spotting bears on their properties, and they're not alone. A bear expert said county residents' increasing reports of bears passing through backyards and rummaging in garbage cans are on par with what officials are hearing from Vermonters in other parts of the state. Vermont Fish & Wildlife

Black Bear Project Leader Jaelyn Comeau said there are a few factors behind the increasingly common encounters, notably bears more often associating homes with food and the state's bear population having bounced back in recent decades. "We're now getting reports of bears in parts of the Champlain Valley, so lots of Addison County, the Connecticut River Valley, and places where 40 (See Bears, Page 14A)



Local heroes

MEMBERS OF THE Bristol Fire Department share the love with two boys on the route of Bristol's fabulous Fourth of July parade last Thursday. See more parade photos on Page 9A plus one special observer on Page 5B.

Independent photo/Steve James

Middlebury town manager to step down after 12 years

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — The town of Middlebury is in the market for a new town manager, following Tuesday's announcement that the shire town's longtime top administrator, Kathleen Ramsay, will be leaving in early September to take a new job with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns

(VLCT). Ramsay has served as Middlebury town manager since 2012, succeeding Bill Finger. She had previously served Middlebury, from 2000-2007, as assistant town manager. The 59-year-old has helmed Middlebury's municipal (See Ramsay, Page 12A)



By the way

Congratulations to newly elected officers of the American Legion Department of Vermont, a list that included some local veterans whose positions were decided at the Legion's Annual Department Convention held June 21 in Colchester. Those local elected included Salisbury's Tom Scanlon, the former department commander, as National Executive Committee member; and Orwell resident John Tester, (See By the way, Page 11A)

Vending machines to sell overdose meds

County lands 2 Narcan dispensers

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — Addison County is about to become only the third county in the state to host outdoor vending machines dispensing naloxone — a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose. Turning Point Center of Addison County (TPCAC) has landed an approximately \$100,000 state grant that will enable the nonprofit to acquire two such vending machines. Though specific spots have yet to be finalized, plans call for one of the machines for Middlebury and the other in Vergennes, both by this fall. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist, which binds with opioid receptors in the human nervous system to rapidly reverse the effects of an overdose. It can

be administered through injection but is most commonly delivered through a nasal spray known as Narcan, which is the product the two Addison County vending machines will offer — for free, according to TPCAC Executive Director Danielle Wallace. Based in Middlebury, TPCAC is one of 12 peer recovery centers in Vermont that offer support for individuals and their families seeking recovery from substance use disorder and other addictions. In addition to dispensing Narcan, the climate-controlled machines will offer test strips for both fentanyl and xylazine; sterile water; basic first aid, hygiene and wound-care kits; bleach; cotton; and tourniquets. The two machines and the (See Narcan, Page 15A)



Music in the air

BASSIST RASHAAN CARTER of Eureka Shoes closely follows his bandmates in a performance at Middlebury's Festival on the Green Monday night. Each evening and afternoon this week a great lineup of entertainers has performed. See more photos on Page 13A.

Independent photo/Steve James

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Community rallies after racist incident in Ripton

By JOHN FLOWERS
RIPTON — Middlebury College's 104-year-old Bread Loaf campus is a scenic bastion of serenity and creativity, a storied education hub adorned with a collection of yellow-ochre, green-shingled buildings nestled among lush trees and deftly manicured fields off Route 125 in the town

of Ripton. But that Rockwellian portrait was momentarily shattered by a senseless act of racism at around 7:10 p.m. on Sunday, June 30. Louis Smith, a scholar, educator and a returnee to the Bread Loaf School of English, was inside the campus apartment

he's sharing with his family this summer. His spouse, Millie, and their two children — ages 3 and 5 — were playing outside. Their laughter dissolved into stunned incredulity, however, when a young man in a dark, old-model pickup truck slowed on Route 125 as he neared the mom and two children and yelled, "Go home (f-word)

n****rs," and sped off. Others on campus heard the hate speech, too. Sadly, all were too stunned to get a license plate number. Vermont State Police are investigating the incident. Smith is Black, his wife is white, and their children are biracial. He believes he and his (See Neighbors, Page 15A)

The scoop: Where to get ice cream in Addison County



THE MAPLE MILKSHAKE and Oreo-maple cream sundae are just two of the ice cream treats available this summer at Vermont Trade Winds Farm in Shoreham. There are lots of options around for ice cream this summer.

Independent photo/Megan James

By MEGAN JAMES

ADDISON COUNTY — What is summer if not an extended excuse to go out for ice cream? There are many places to indulge this whim in our area, and several new spots have opened this season. We've compiled a list here.

The most exciting part of my Fourth of July weekend was trying out Vermont Trade Winds Farm's new ice cream bar. The Shoreham farm off Route 74 East — which I've visited for its maple open house and outdoor skating rink — now serves up creemees, sundaes and milkshakes on Fridays through Sundays, noon to 8 p.m.

I'm also itching to try out Cravens, the new food truck and creemee stand (they do churros, too!) on Route 116 in Middlebury.

Buying plants has never been sweeter now that Peet's Farm Greenhouses on Route 30 in Cornwall has a creemee machine.

Tragically, the Village Creemee Stand in Bristol is closed for the year, but it may reopen next year.

But Queen Bee's Snack Bar, which was destroyed in a fire last fall, has reopened on Hardscrabble Road in Monkton. They're expecting to have a creemee machine up and running again this month.

Plus, there's always Village Green Market in New Haven

village.

And Middlebury is now bustling with ice cream options: Chim Chimney Bakery opened earlier on Main Street this summer, and Shiretown on College Street always has a fun new special. Yogurt City, also on Main Street, is a topping-lover's dream. Vermont Maple Market, on Route 7 South at the Woodware business, does a perfect maple creemee, and A&W a little further south on Route 7 is a great place to get a root beer float or a sundae and watch your kids cartwheel in the grass.

In Vergennes you've got the incomparable Lu Lu on Main Street downtown — I'm still dreaming about the basil and sweet corn scoops I got there two years ago — and the abundant Olsen's, which is open 7 days a week on North Main Street.

Goodies Snack Bar off Route 17 in West Addison is worth the hike. As is Vermont Cookie Love (the cookie crumble!) in North Ferrisburgh off Route 7.

And there's nothing better than spending an evening watching the sun go down at Lake Dunmore's Branbury Beach, then stopping for ice cream at the Kämpersville store (Route 53) on the way home. Try it sometime.

If we missed any creemee stands, let us know by sending an email to news@addisonindependent.com.



SARA AUDET, LEFT, and Tia Reeves hold up a 1984 edition of the Addison Independent that features a story about them as children, when Reeves visited Middlebury every summer from New York City as part of the Fresh Air program. The Fresh Air "sisters" reunited this past weekend.

Independent photo/Alyana Santillana

Fresh Air sisters reunite

By ALYANA SANTILLANA

MIDDLEBURY — This past week, Tia Reeves, 54, of New York City, visited her Vermont sister, Sara Audet (néé Rheume), 54, of Cornwall.

It was the New Yorker's first time back in the Green Mountain State — the scene of some memorable and life-changing moments — in 27 years.

Reeves, a lieutenant with the New York Police Department, arrived in Addison County on July 3 for a brief vacation to relive the summers of her childhood with her Vermont family.

Reeves and Audet were first connected through the Fresh Air Fund, a free program that sends inner city children from New York City to suburban and rural destinations for two weeks every summer. Reeves's mother initially signed her up for the Fresh Air Child program because she wanted her daughter to have more diverse experiences outside of the concrete jungle. Audet's mother, Jane Holdman Smith of Middlebury, wanted her three children to broaden their horizons from the idyllic Vermont bubble.

Additionally, she wanted Sara, who had only brothers (Dean and Toby are both younger), to experience having a sister.

"Every year, I missed the last day of school because that was the day I would take the bus to Vermont. I told everyone that I was going to see my Vermont sister and my Vermont family," Reeves recalled.

For 11 years, Reeves would travel from Spanish Harlem in Manhattan to the Rheume family's home in Middlebury to spend two weeks enjoying all Vermont had to offer. Their favorite activities were skating and biking throughout Addison County, tubing on local rivers, swimming at Branbury Beach, and going berry picking. Tia would take Vermont souvenirs back to her mother in the city.

"I brought her back some Vermont

maple syrup once, and since then, she refused to use any other type of maple syrup," Reeves said.

While spending only two weeks in Vermont every year, Reeves became a part of the Rheume family. The two "sisters" kept in touch during the school year by exchanging letters. The pair had special purple stationery that was used specifically to write letters to each other. They updated each other at every major life event. Reeves told Audet about every promotion she earned with the NYPD. Audet invited Reeves to her wedding in 1997, which was the last time Reeves had visited Vermont.

"We shared milestones, whenever something happened to Tia, I felt like I was there," Audet said.

Though Reeves is closest with her sister, she developed a special bond with everyone in the Rheume family.

"My brothers loved to play Legos with Tia. At first, they didn't let me join them because they thought I was hogging Tia and they wanted time to have her to themselves," Audet said.

Reeves is an only child, so being a part of this bigger family dynamic was very special for her.

"I used to hate leaving them, on the bus ride back to New York, I wouldn't even play with the other kids, I would sit by myself and boohoo. Of course, I was thrilled to see my mom again, but I always missed my family (in Vermont)," Reeves said.

The last time the pair saw one another was in June of 2013. Audet accompanied her daughter on a school trip to New York City and spent a "New York Minute" having dinner with Reeves and her son, Tyler.

They had planned on Reeves reuniting with the family in Vermont in 2020, but the trip was derailed because of COVID. Her work in the NYPD was very demanding

(See Sisters, Page 7A)

New Haven man sentenced in fatal DUI case

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — A New Haven man will serve 5-10 years in jail, stemming from allegations he caused a July 25, 2020, fatal car accident on Route 7 in Salisbury when he was allegedly driving under the influence of drugs.

Brian Davidson, 41, appeared on Monday in Addison Superior Court, Criminal Division, facing charges of gross negligent driving with fatality resulting, gross negligent driving with serious injury resulting, driving under the influence (third offense) with death resulting, and possession of heroin.

The case until recently appeared headed for a summer jury trial until Addison County State's Attorney Eva Vekos and Davidson — represented by attorney Joshua Stern — agreed to a plea deal

calling for 5-10 years in prison, in exchange for Davidson's guilty plea to one felony count of grossly negligent operation with death resulting, and one misdemeanor count of negligent driving with serious bodily injury resulting.

Davidson, by Stern's count, had already served 1,361 days in jail as of Monday. So, with time served and concurrent sentencing terms, he could be paroled within 15-and-a-half months.

Monday's plea deal came after Addison Superior Court Judge David Fenster had rejected an earlier plea offer from Vekos's office that would have allowed Davidson to plead "no-contest" and be released with time served, according to Brad Walker, son of the late Joan Dayton, who was killed when a speeding Davidson failed to stop at the West Salisbury Road/Route 7 intersection and collided with a northbound vehicle on Route 7 driven by Center Merrill, 77. Dayton, 72, was a passenger in Merrill's vehicle.

Both Dayton and Merrill were Londonderry residents.

Merrill sustained non-life threatening injuries in the accident, as did Davidson.

As part of their investigation, Vermont State Police troopers searched Davidson's vehicle after the crash and found what they described as "several bags of suspected heroin and drug paraphernalia."

Davidson has spent the years since the accident incarcerated and in rehab for substance use disorder. He made more headlines on Sept. 3, 2021, when he fled a Burlington drug rehab facility. He was located and arrested a few weeks later in South Burlington.

Walker, who resides in Massachusetts, was candid in expressing his dissatisfaction with how the Davidson case was handled under Vekos's watch. He noted it's taken four years to arrive at a punishment plan for Davidson in an effort to move on from the

tragedy.

He said that, like Judge Fenster, his family didn't support the original plea deal for Davidson and was preparing itself for a jury trial that figured to reopen old wounds and add stress. Walker had hoped Davidson's plea deal would reflect two felony counts — instead of the one felony and one misdemeanor — in order to make the defendant subject to stricter prosecution should he reoffend.

"I think we feel a bit failed by the justice system — the Vermont justice system in particular," Walker said during a Wednesday morning phone interview with the *Independent*. "Mom's world was the state of Vermont. To have to fight so hard and so long for ultimately what felt scraps of justice within the Vermont legal system, was challenging."

Walker added he believes Vekos's own DUI citation complicated the prosecution of the Davidson case. Vekos recently dropped her challenge against having her driver's license suspended for six months following her Jan. 25 arrest for driving under the influence, which coincided with her inspection of the scene of a suspicious death at a home at 748 Swinton Road in Bridport. She pled not guilty to the charge on Feb. 12.

"(Vekos) affected the trajectory of the case as a result of her own actions, and she really didn't acknowledge that to us at all," Walker said. "When attorney Vekos was (on medical leave) following her DUI, I reached out to the AG's office asking, 'What's going on here; is this a situation where they could step in?'"

Walker was among several of Dayton's family members and friends who showed up at a

(See Davidson, Page 7A)

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CO-OP MEMBER DEALS

Members Take an Extra 20% Off

July 11 - July 17

Youth leaders to convene at Bread Loaf

By MARIN HOWELL

RIPTON — Community members are invited to Middlebury College's Bread Loaf Campus this Friday and Saturday to hear from students in Vermont and other parts of the country working to tackle various issues and enact social change in their communities.

Those students are a part of the BLTN Next Generation Leadership Network, or BLTN NextGen, a youth social action network connecting students across ten sites around the U.S. The network is a project of the Bread Loaf Teacher Network at Middlebury Bread Loaf School of English.

BLTN NextGen participants will gather at the Bread Loaf campus this weekend to connect with one another and share what they've been working on in their communities.

The public is welcome to attend several student presentations throughout the weekend, including a film fest on Friday night featuring documentaries produced by students in Vermont and other parts of the country.

"It'll be a mix of internally-facing (students) getting to know each other, sharing strategies, learning about each other's places, and also presenting and celebrating the work that they've done over the last year," Tom McKenna, director of communications for the Bread Loaf Teacher Network and coordinator for the BLTN Next Gen, said of the gathering.

The Bread Loaf Teacher Network is a professional development network for educators studying at the Bread Loaf School of English. The network was established in 1993 and has since evolved to include educators at independent and public schools throughout the country and abroad.

This summer, educators from 19 states, as well as Washington, D.C., and Scotland, are involved in the network.

"The core of it we think about in terms of innovative and transformative teaching, where we are looking at teaching and learning across difference, across borders,"

BLTN Director Beverly Moss explained. "Geographic borders, yes, but also class, race, gender, across differences where people come together with teachers from other areas; they put their students in conversation with each other."

At the foundation of the program is an idea coined by former BLTN Director Dixie Goswami that students are "resources to be tapped not problems to be solved." Writing is also central to the program.

Moss said the network is a space where teachers can get support.

"If they're the only teacher in our network from a rural area, they're not isolated. They have a community that they're tapping into through this network," she said.

NEXTGEN NETWORK

One of BLTN's goals is to develop a youth network as part of the network, Moss said, and in 2017 BLTN NextGen was founded. The network consists of 10 sites across the nation, from Vermont to rural South Carolina to the Navajo Nation.

"Those sites are almost always anchored by Bread Loaf teachers, alumni or people connected to the Bread Loaf Teachers Network," McKenna said.

McKenna noted that students in the network are self-selected and believe in making positive change in their communities through their literacy, which looks different from site to site.

"The number one thing I hear from youth (involved in the network) is that they feel listened to," McKenna said. "They feel like their voice is heard and not just ignored and 'Oh, you're just kids.' Instead, they feel like when they speak up, there are adults who are ready to help them organize, to take action."

BLTN NextGen students in Philadelphia and Aiken, S.C., have focused on gun violence prevention and awareness.

In Atlanta, students' work has centered around the oral histories of graduates of Booker T. Washington High School, the first public high school for African-Americans in

Georgia.

One of the network's social action teams is the Vermont-born What's the Story? (WTS), "a year-long, credit-bearing experience devoted to helping middle and high school students create and publish documentary films that effect positive change."

Students in the program produce a documentary film exploring a social topic of their choosing. Over the past several years, and with the pandemic as a catalyst, WTS has shifted into its current structure as a virtual program open to students around the country.

"A lot of people become interested in it just because it feels so different than what they're used to being offered in a class or a school that they attend," What's the Story Director Tim O'Leary of Ripton said. "We ask students to develop the question that they also want to answer and then to take 10 months trying to answer that on their own but also with support of a site leader from their area and me, meeting every month, and that ability to just dive deep is often lost in school."

This year groups of students from Vermont; D.C.; Santa Fe, N.M.; Aiken, S.C.; and Chelsea, Mass., took part in WTS. Students meet as a full cohort monthly on Zoom throughout the academic year, and O'Leary said the local sites help keep momentum going in each group week to week.

Each year WTS culminates with a showcase of students' films, an event that's taken place at Champlain College the past couple of years and this year will take place during this weekend's BLTN NextGen gathering at Bread Loaf.

Farren Stainton is an incoming Middlebury College freshman from White River Junction who's taken part in BLTN NextGen since she was in eighth grade.

She's participated in WTS, producing a film on climate change called "Our Changing Winters" that aired on PBS with other projects. Stainton has served on BLTN NextGen's Youth Advisory Board and has more recently been

focused on generating social action in her community around women's rights.

"NextGen is truly something special. It is a safe place for so many people to learn from each other through sharing and writing projects," Stainton said. "It has been the most rewarding to hear people share from their life lessons which allow me to adjust and learn more from the experiences I go through in my life."

Stainton expressed excitement for this weekend's gathering at Bread Loaf.

"This retreat is a great way to connect with people of more diverse backgrounds and to learn more about various social action topics," she said.

This year's gathering marks the first time NextGen participants will gather at the Bread Loaf campus since 2018, though cross-site gatherings have taken place in addition to the WTS showcase since then.

STUDENT FILMS & MORE

Over the course of the three-day retreat students will take part in community-building activities and present on the work they're tackling in their communities.

Presentations on Friday and Saturday will be open to the public and take place in Bread Loaf's Barn social space. On Friday evening, community members can view nine youth documentaries during a WTS film fest beginning at 7 p.m.

The film fest will run in three "sets" in which attendees will hear from filmmakers about their work and view the documentaries (each around 15 minutes). In between each set students will answer questions from the audience.

Films screened during the event will include:

- "To the Bone," produced by Middlebury Union High School students Jacques Snell, Jillian Dragon and recent graduate Bowie Berloso. The film explores the challenges faced by those struggling with anorexia and ways toward recovery through the perspective of someone with the eating disorder.

- "Depression: A Walk Through Mental Health," produced by recent Champlain Valley Union High School graduate El Pintair. It explores "the spike in depression and suicidal ideation by sharing the stories of real people who have experience with the topic."

- "Misrepresented: Native Americans in Film," produced by Eleseo Swentzell, a recent graduate of the Santa Fe Indian School in New Mexico. The film explores how the representation of Native Americans in film has evolved over the years, the misrepresentation of Native Americans in film and how those misrepresentation affect perceptions of individuals and tribes.

- "Gentrification in Chelsea, MA," by Joshua Alarcon, Jefferson Rivera, Richard Murcia and Alex Carey, all recent graduates of Chelsea High School. The film aims to "foster awareness and understanding of ongoing gentrification of Chelsea" by engaging residents in inclusive conversations, highlighting challenges and encouraging collaborative solutions.

A full list of the films can be found in a YouTube playlist at tinyurl.com/ycyj2dnk.

O'Leary said he's looking

BLTN NextGen Presentation Schedule

The public is invited to attend the following presentations from BLTN NextGen students in Bread Loaf's Barn social space this Friday, July 12, and Saturday July 13:

- **Friday 11-11:45 a.m.:** presentations and panel from Louisville, Ky., Philadelphia, and Chelsea, Mass., NextGen sites.
- **Friday 1:30-2 p.m.:** presentation from Aiken, S.C., site.
- **Friday 2-2:45 p.m.:** presentations and panel from Navajo Nation, Henrico, Va., and Washington, D.C., sites.
- **Friday 7-9:30 p.m.:** What's The Story Film Fest featuring films from students across five sites.
- **Saturday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.:** presentation (via Zoom) from Atlanta NextGen site and presentation from Santa Fe Indian School site.

forward to seeing students present their films.

"I hope that students at the Bread Loaf campus and engaging in a time-honored tradition of studying literature and writing also see the

value in holding up not just the voices of Shakespeare and the like but the voices of students, and what it means for them to take center stage in a curriculum and produce content digitally," he said.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News Briefs

Leah Croke of Ferrisburgh and **Catherine Schmitt** of Middlebury received their Bachelor of Arts degrees from Hamilton College at the school's Commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 19. Croke majored in Computer Science. Schmitt, a Neuroscience

and Philosophy major, graduated summa cum laude with departmental honors.

Eve McCormick has been named to the Siena College dean's list for the spring 2024 semester. McCormick is from Starksboro.



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School student Jacques Snell presents his film "The Touching Point" at the 2023 What's The Story film showcase. Snell is among several BLTN NextGen students from Vermont and around the country whose films will be screened at a showcase this weekend on Middlebury College's Bread Loaf campus.

Courtesy photo



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Editorials

Learning to cope with floods

As lightning flashes outside my office window this Wednesday evening and weather forecasters predict two or more inches of rain tonight into tomorrow, I reflect on the \$80 million to \$90 million of federal funding Vermont is slated to receive after last summer's floods.

Is it enough? How will it be used? What are the primary goals?

Done well, the money will reduce the damage caused by future flooding. Since Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, bigger culverts under roads such as Brandon's Main Street have been built to much success. Flood plains have been reestablished, residential houses that have repeatedly been flooded have been and are being bought out so owners can hopefully relocate in areas that aren't prone to flooding. The money is doled out town-by-town depending on the need for repairs and prevention.

Yet towns like Montpelier and Johnson have seen repeated flooding, seemingly overwhelmed by the amount of rain — and perhaps poor municipal plans that overbuilt on land at the confluence of waterways and in hollows too low to prevent constant flooding.

The up-to \$90 million in federal funding is three times the amount Vermont received post Irene, but it likely won't be enough.

Pete Fellows, a floodplain manager at the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, said if the state can use that money effectively, "I think we will be in good shape. Will we be ahead of the curve? I don't think so. There's just that much need out there."

It's a pragmatic answer for a pragmatic goal, which is to mitigate damage, not expect to avoid it.

In the meantime, towns can and should do their best to maintain wetlands and other natural features that mitigate flooding as well as restrict flood-prone areas to development — measures that aren't as easy to do as one might think. That's because many of Vermont's communities are built along waterways and many of its roads follow the canyons carved out by the state's streams and rivers — all part of the state's natural evolution we have to cope with today.

Angelo Lynn

Concerns about Biden grow

Two weeks after President Biden's debate with ex-president Trump, the news cycle has focused on Biden's frailty and the prospect of him stepping aside allowing Democrats to nominate a new candidate. The pros and cons of such a decision have captivated American voters.

With House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi recently encouraging Biden to carefully reconsider his decision to stay in the race, though saying the decision was his to make, and good friend and celebrity donor George Clooney urging him to step aside in an NY Times op-ed on Wednesday, the pressure on Biden to step aside continues to grow.

Vermont's congressional delegation is currently straddling the fence. Rep. Becca Balint was quoted in *VtDigger* this week as saying that while in Vermont this past weekend she "heard overwhelmingly from Vermonters that they would like to see President Biden step aside" and that she has conveyed that message to Democratic leadership. "Biden has an incredible record to run on, but folks are concerned about what they saw at the debate and his ability to win this election," she said.

Prior to the debate Sen. Peter Welch said he believed Biden was the best candidate to defeat Trump, but post-debate he's doubtful.

"People totally disregarded Trump and his lies and his performance, and are totally focused on Biden's age. And so those issues have been intensified and I think we have to take that very, very seriously, because job one for the Democrats is to keep Donald Trump out of office."

Sen. Bernie Sanders, like many progressives, remains in Biden's camp, even while admitting Biden is not as sharp as he once was.

"Biden is old," Sanders said. "He's not as articulate as he once was. I wish he could jump up the steps on Air Force One. He can't."

But rather than focus on Biden's age, Sanders says the election has to be about the policies each candidate would promote.

"Whose policies," Sanders asked, "have and will benefit the vast majority of the people in this country? Who has the guts to take on corporate America? Who is talking about expanding Medicare so we cover dental, hearing and vision? Who's talking about raising the cap on the taxes that people pay into Social Security so we can raise social security benefits and extend the life of Social Security for 75 years? Who's talking about a permanent child tax credit to cut childhood poverty by 50%? Those are the issues that Biden has talked about."

"The American people want change," Sanders continued. "It will either be the change of Trump's reactionary and xenophobic policies, or change that benefits working families. The choice is clear."

Unfortunately, that's not the choice many Americans are considering. Trump has been able to convince many Americans in red and swing states that he offers a better vision forward. Polls currently have Trump leading by 3 to 5 percentage points in each of the six swing states.

The dilemma facing Vermont's delegation is reflective of anxious Democrats around the country. Many Progressives are sticking with Biden as the status quo candidate; the candidate they know will advocate for the policies that most align with their goals. Moderate Democrats and Independents seem to be pressing for a younger candidate able to take on Trump and distinguish the Democrat's party platform from a reactionary Republican platform that advocates thrusting the nation into an authoritarian form of government. They want a more nimble candidate who can better expose Trump's dangerous agenda and his politics of revenge.

The party's problem is time. Pelosi danced around that issue, while trying to keep party discipline, after watching Biden deliver a forceful speech at the NATO summit on Tuesday and recount his many accomplishments.

"Let's just hold off" with any announcements about his campaign while he is hosting foreign leaders on the world stage, she told fellow Democrats. "Whatever you're thinking, either tell somebody privately, but you don't have to put that out on the table until we see (how it goes) this week."

Angelo Lynn



Plumber's helpers

MEGAN HARRIS AND her dad, Steve Gebeault, project some authority at the finish line of the Great Outhouse Race in Bristol on July 4. Together they helped oversee a series of exciting races. Read about it on Page 1B.

Independent photo/Caroline Jiao

What I've been reading

Three years ago, I joined Goodreads' annual reading challenge. Since then, I've read between 65 and 100 books a year. Frequently, I randomly choose books, then find that their topics are connected, like Camille Dungy's memoir "Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden" and Ron Rash's novel "Serena."

"Soil" is a memoir by poet Camille Dungy, who lives with her husband, and their daughter in Fort Collins Colorado. They are one of the few Black families in the city. She is a nature writer, a rarity among published Black women writers. I use the word "published" deliberately because for all I know there are hundreds of Black women nature writers whose works go unpublished or are not recognized as part of the genre.

Dungy had just received a Guggenheim Fellowship when the coronavirus pandemic and shelter-in-place mandates thrust her family into physical isolation. The memoir interweaves poems with stories about her grandparents and parents and this nation's troubling social and political histories. She writes about the 2020 wildfires that spread through western states, the deaths from police violence, and the protests. She describes in exquisite details the labor that went into her "prairie project," creating a landscape that sustains diverse plants, herbs, vegetables, without chemicals in a development where visual uniformity is mandated. Until the homeowner association rules were changed, residents were fined \$25 a day for such offenses as too tall grass, weedy vegetation, and a compost bin that can be seen from the sidewalk. Throughout the book

are examples of Dungy and her family and friends resisting many forms of compulsory racial, social, and political homogeneity.

The bio on Dungy's website states that she writes about "history, landscape, culture, family, and desire." At the risk of being reductive, I'd say Ron Rash's novel is about these as well.

"Serena" is set in Haywood County, North Carolina, during the Great Depression. The novel chronicles George and Serena Pemberton building a logging empire while competing for land that ultimately becomes The Great Smoky Mountains National Park. As their underpaid, overworked loggers strip the mountains of trees, the rapacious Pembertons expand their wealth and political influence, often through murder.

Rash has drawn from the histories of Haywood County, the depression, and the timber industry to allow readers to witness the lives of the fictitious couple and their logging crew. Loggers who are mutilated or killed are easily replaced by men who often travel hundreds of miles for employment. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, logging is still one of the nation's deadliest professions. According to the National Park Service, eighty percent of the Great Smoky Mountains were clear cut during the early twentieth century. In the novel, the workers express concern about what they've done to the landscape. Yet, they are pragmatists; they need to feed and shelter themselves and their families. And people need the products made from

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

Ways of Seeing

By Ruth Farmer



Busy columnist grants interview

Thank you, *Addison Independent* reporter, for having me come in for a sit-down interview. I'm afraid I only have a few minutes; as you know, this is a crazy-busy season for me.

But no doubt readers are clamoring to find out whether my life is as exciting as it sounds in my column. (You can reassure them that it is: in June I really did get a kitchen scale.)

What have I been doing lately? A better question would be "What haven't I been doing?" Just this morning, I finally moved the dirt pile that's been sitting on a blue tarp next to the driveway for a couple of months. I hadn't had a spare minute in weeks, but I finally managed to take care of it in between other chores.

No, you're mistaken. The reason I got it done was not because so many people had been asking me if the dirt pile and tarp were going to be permanent landscape fixtures. It's because today was literally the first free hour I've had since April.

As I'm always telling people, in the summer I'm up with the sun every morning and I don't sit down until I fall into bed each night. On top of my normal responsibilities, I have animals to feed and plants to water and weeds to pull and produce to pick and firewood to stack and more. I don't get a break.

What do you mean, "But isn't it true that you only

work part-time, and you don't have any kids left at home?"

So, because I have a freer schedule than most adults, I should somehow feel less pressured by the demands of summer? Are you suggesting that I am not, in fact, toiling every waking moment of these long, hot days?

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to get defensive. But you have no idea how busy I am. No matter how hard I work, I can't get caught up. "Leisure time"? Please. I don't have that luxury.

Well, yes, you're right: It was me you saw on the pickleball court yesterday evening. And on Sunday afternoon.

But pickleball is exercise, not fun; it's for my health. And even if I have been putting a lot of hours in on the court, they don't really count, because I'm not getting any better at the game. (You can leave that out of the story.)

The TAM? Yes, you may see me taking the dog onto the TAM a few times a week. Oh, it might be more scandalous to your readers to imply — entirely falsely — that if I were as overworked as I am constantly saying, I wouldn't have a chance to get out on the trail almost every day. But the boring truth is that I am a responsible dog owner. I hate the rich

(See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Police are true public servants

Standing at Greg's noontime, deli counter, next to one of our Middlebury police officers, I said, Hi, He extended his hand, his name, We greeted each other. He said, Nice to meet you. I thanked him for his service. We grabbed our hearty sandwiches.

If this is where and how community policing starts, I'll stand and wait in this line again.

Gary Margolis
Cornwall

Vekos updates her DUI case

I chose to withdraw my notice to contest the civil suspension because hindsight showed me that it was best for myself and for my community.

I steadfastly maintain that I was not under the influence when I went to the scene of a crime after being invited by law enforcement. I look forward to being judged by my fellow citizens at a trial in this matter in the future.

My overall message to the community is that it is always a better course to cooperate with law enforcement. We, as Vermonters have the right to refuse to submit to evidentiary testing, but there are sanctions associated with a refusal — such as a license suspension. I am willing to accept that sanction.

This suspension will not impact my ability to act as State's Attorney in any way. I intend to maintain my office in a successful and prolific manner as I've done the last year and a half while in office. In fact, my office has conducted four jury trials. I personally prosecuted and secured a conviction against a serial child rapist who was found guilty after trial of two counts of sexual assault of a child. My office also secured a felony burglary conviction against another defendant.

I am also proud to have recently launched a pre-charge program with the help of Addison County Restorative Justice (ACRJS). This program will allow law enforcement to use their discretion and send low-level cases directly to ACRJS and by-pass my office and the court entirely. I'm pleased to say that the program was put together with the consultation and cooperation of the Addison County Chiefs, State Police and the Sheriff's Office.

My office has — and will continue to be — fully operational, despite the challenge of understaffing. A new deputy prosecutor is slated to begin in September.

Eva Vekos
Addison County State's
Attorney

Biden has poor track record

Angelo Lynn referred to Biden's "wise decisions."

What are these "wise" decisions?

Leaving \$5 billion in equipment to the Taliban in the rout in Afghanistan?

Opening the southern border to 11 million illegal aliens?

Cumulative inflation of 19% since 2021?

Maximum damage to the energy industry in a brainless quest for a so-called "green" world?

Tim Vincent
Ferrisburgh

Article unfairly invoked suicide

I've never done this before but am compelled to do so.

As a person that works with the homeless, not houseless, homeless, and as a homeless person myself, I found the *Addison Independent's* July 4 article on Steven Parsons to be quite self-serving.

Using his tragic death by his own hands it seems that people are jumping in to throw out excuses and rigmarole talking points, when in fact they did not help or know

(See *Benson letter*, Page 5A)

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Letters to the Editor

Rep. Elder explains his bid for state Senate seat

My name is Caleb Elder and I'm running to represent Addison County, Rochester, Huntington and Buel's Gore in the Vermont Senate. For the past six years I have represented four Addison County towns in the Vermont House. In that time I have served on the Education, Ways and Means and Housing committees. Prior to my time in the House, I served on local school boards, and for the past four years I have been the House's board member for the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation. I think about the Vermont Education system all the time, and I'm acutely aware of the huge challenges we face right now.

One reason I'm focused on our school system is that my oldest daughter is getting ready for her first year in our public elementary school come September. So exciting! And yet, it took three attempts to pass our budget and then it was a nail-biter whether the state would actually be able to set a yield to fund the schools. I voted to override the governor on the yield bill, not because the tax increases are acceptable to me, but because to go past July 1 without a yield is wildly irresponsible governance. With that being said, as I look ahead to the next 12 budget cycles needed for my oldest child to complete high school, I know that we'll need structural change to get through those years. I am running for state senate, for the opportunity to deeply engage in the work needed to stabilize our entire education system.

Our public education system faces pressures of its own, different from our childcare system, or our colleges and universities. And yet, all of these challenges have related causes and, I believe, related solutions. For too long, we have fragmented our efforts to care for our children while educating them for the life ahead. These fragmented attempts are no longer sufficient, and need to be unified.

I'll provide a few examples:

- Since the pandemic, we have seen an increase in social and emotional health needs in our schools. With the retreat of federal monies, these costs are impacting school budgets. Some estimate that this "shift" is around \$25 million in FY '24. Efforts, such as the community school pilot in Vergennes, show us that wrap-around services in schools are a huge support to students and their families. However, these costs can't be borne by the school budgets alone. We need to redesign certain services under the Agency of Human Services budgets so that they are literally located in the schools. We have the space, but we need more help all under one roof.

- The FY '24 school budgets saw a one-year increase of \$50 million in teacher healthcare, bringing the new total to \$300 million per year. This is equivalent to adding a new child tax credit program every year, with no additional benefit. It's completely unsustainable. Interestingly, this pool of teacher healthcare is actually self-insuring, which means \$300 million is the amount actually to be spent statewide. And yet, we have no cost controls to ensure that we're paying the same price for the same procedure statewide. I believe we can drive some more competitiveness and transparency into the healthcare market by setting standard rates for this pool of money, statewide.

- Traditional higher education is also highly challenged, by some of the same demographic factors affecting preK-12 schools. However, we have some post-secondary programs that are thriving, such as technical degrees in engineering and nursing. Additionally, the value of non-degree programs is growing every year, and this area is so ripe for collaboration with the private sector. From construction, to robotics, to aeronautics, there are

so many places to partner with the private sector on technical education while reinforcing exciting careers paths for our kids, made right here in Vermont.

- Finally, I know that we need tax relief. Property tax payers are struggling to keep up with the meteoric rise of school budgets and they require action. One approach I would favor is actually removing education funding from residential property tax bills altogether. This was a recommendation of the Tax Structure Commission from a few years ago. While the idea was quickly dismissed by a joint study committee, I believe that was a mistake. Our current system is already "income based" but is inordinately complex. Additionally, progressivity of this system is capped, arbitrarily, at about \$140,000 in household income. If elected, I would push to re-examine this concept since I believe it has merit and could bring real relief to fixed-income homeowners.

It has been my honor to represent the Addison-4 district in the Vermont House for six years. Now, I'm applying for the job of Senator for this great district. Addison County has an important role to play in Montpelier. We have much to be proud of, and to share with the rest of the state. We have a proud tradition of excellent public schools, high-quality early childcare centers, thriving farms and deep connection with our woods, fields and streams. I believe I can represent our people well, and to help animate the notion of what *Freedom and Unity* can really mean, for us and our children. To quote Gary Snyder, we should, "stay together, learn the flowers, go light." For with lightness comes joy and possibility, two things we will need to carry with us into our shared future.

**Caleb Elder
Starksboro**

Vermonters must weigh in on health insurance hikes

For the third year in a row, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont and MVP Health Care are requesting double digit increases for their premiums in the Small Group and Individual markets. If the Green Mountain Care Board approves these rate requests, Vermonters who buy their health insurance through Vermont Health Connect will once again face higher health care costs in the New Year. Which presents the board with the very difficult challenge of balancing affordability for Vermonters and small businesses with the need to ensure that our insurance carriers remain solvent.

We need your help! Your testimony is key to this process. The Green Mountain Care Board cannot find the right balance if it does not hear from Vermonters like you who will be paying these bills. As the state health care advocate, our role in rate review proceedings is to amplify the voices of Vermont health care consumers to ensure the Board

understands the impact these proposed rate increases will have on ordinary people.

One notable bright spot for 2025 is that Vermonters who purchase plans directly from Vermont Health Connect will have more Premium Tax Credits next year than ever before. These subsidies will effectively eliminate the proposed rate increases for most Vermonters in the individual market and many will be able to get richer plans for the same or less monthly cost.

Unfortunately, this financial help doesn't exist for the Small Group market. Which means small employers (under 100) and their employees are particularly exposed to the increased costs in the proposed rates. Whether you and your employer grow food, serve people vacationing in Vermont, or provide a human service to people in need in our communities, these proposed rate increases will be felt most by you. The proposed rates impact

the Small Group and Individual markets only. They have no impact on Medicare supplemental, Medicare, Medicaid, or other types of health insurance that are not regulated by our state.

These rates are an indication of the costs of our health care delivery and financing system. Please tell the board how these increases will impact your life. If you can take a few minutes of your valuable time to weigh in, Visit: <https://bit.ly/3VZhvUi> to share your story by July 27, 2024, to bring attention to this critical issue.

If you need assistance submitting a public comment, or you want individual advice related to health insurance or access to care issues, contact the Office the Health Care Advocate's HelpLine at 1-800-917-7787 or visit www.vtlawhelp.org/health to submit an online help request.

**Michael Fisher
Lincoln**

Bray helped secure funds for Field Days project

I am writing to highlight work done this past Legislative Session by Senator Chris Bray to help Addison County Fair and Field Days. I am one of the Directors of Field Days. Most of us love Field Days and don't want it to change. We, on the Board of Directors, do what we can to make improvements to the grounds and the annual fair, while also maintaining its rural country fair feel and charm.

Recently, we learned Field Days is obligated to comply with the "3-Acre Rule" for stormwater permitting. This is because the Field Days grounds have a lot of gravel roadways and barns. These surfaces are considered "impervious" and stormwater that runs off those surfaces needs

to be managed. Lots of public schools (with the ability to float bonds) and large businesses (with lots of business revenue) have to comply with these rules too. We, however, have a small budget, the vast majority of our income coming from the 5-day fair in August.

We worked with an engineer and the state to determine our permit needs. The cost to build the stormwater treatment infrastructure we've been told we need in order to comply with the permit has been estimated to cost \$500,000!

This is when Senator Bray came in. We contacted him. Thankfully, he readily agreed to meet with us to let us voice our concerns. He heard those

concerns and worked hard on our behalf. With his help and leadership, funding has been secured to assist Field Days and the other three fairs in Vermont that need to address the 3-Acre Rule. The funds are being administered through the Agency of Agriculture. I don't think we would have achieved this outcome without Senator Bray's hard work and attention to our needs.

Thank you, Chris! I will be voting for you. I hope other Addison County Voters do as well.

**Benj Deppman
Vice President and Director
Addison County Fair & Field
Days, Inc.
Cornwall**

Benson letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

I knew him well, and know the person that spoke to him right before his action to end his life.

Who knew? Homeless people are struggling?

I find it quite frustrating that this human's death is being used in this article. He was failed upon in many levels, and no doubt, his

own will to live.

I also object to the GQ-style photo of an activist, and thank you for your work, with someone else's belongings in the background.

I consider that just in bad taste. Steven was a very complicated man, capable of deep peace and deep anger.

We had many conversations. He

was a man of peace, of volatility, of rage, of love, of humor.

He was a person that should have been cared for. Because he was striving to care for others. He just didn't know how yet.

I shall remember him for the rest of my life. If nothing else, he helped me.

**Will Benson
Weybridge**

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

trees: furniture, paper, buildings, containers, you name it.

Reading *Serena and Soil* reminded me to appreciate the beauty that surrounds me. My property has trees, bushes, wildflowers, and the vegetables that I grow in my small garden. These offer birds, bugs, rodents, me, and other sentient beings shelter, food, and beauty. It is a messy landscape compared to that of several of my neighbors, yet it nourishes me in many ways. Birds wake me up in the morning. I frequently see dragonflies flitting in the sun. Recently, I saw a fox trotting purposefully past my kitchen window. I eat the

chives, basil, greens, nasturtiums, and tomatoes my garden produces. I am fascinated by the flora and fauna that live on and pass through the land on which I live. Yet one of the first projects that I was compelled to take on was to remove trees that were one windstorm away from damaging my house (a neighbor had already experienced this).

Nature nurtures us, and it is more than utilitarian or financially beneficial. In different ways, *Serena and Soil* critique industries and actions that make life on this planet livable, comfortable, and beautiful for humans. The past and perspectives they reflect are not consistently positive, as they

deal with painful histories and troubling contemporary issues. Reading these books reminded me what happens when human needs and desires become out of balance with nature's capacity to provide. They show that nothing is as simple as it seems.

No matter how lightly we tread upon this Earth, we change the landscape. There is no such thing as no-impact living. That doesn't mean we should not be concerned. *Serena and Soil* show us that all choices have consequences.

Ruth Farmer is a published essayist and poet. She is sole owner of Farmer Writing and Editing (www.ruthfarmer.com).

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A)

smell of the forest and the feel of fresh air in my lungs. I only do it for the dog.

I see your agenda here, so let me get out in front of this rumor: Yes, we did buy very expensive Adirondack chairs for our deck this year, and yes, we do spend a lot of time sitting in them. That's called "getting your money's worth." As a frugal person, I value that.

I don't know what you're getting at with the term "active social life." Oh, "sources" have told you they've frequently seen me relaxing on Lake Dunmore

with friends? Ridiculous.

I mean, I may have done some swimming. Kayaking? Yes, but only once this year, and that was to see the loons on the island and check out the bald eagle nest. Technically, that was for ornithology purposes, not pleasure.

And if I do occasionally spend the entire day lounging on a friend's dock, what of it? Apparently, you've never heard of self-care.

It's a rare treat for me, because most of the time I'm racing around trying to get outside work done while also keeping the house spotless, which — believe me —

is one of my top priorities.

What do you mean, "Have you dusted or vacuumed even once in the past month?"

I absolutely would have if I'd had time. But how rude of you to even ask.

Had I known you were going to invite me here only to insinuate that — contrary to my constant complaining and dramatic brow wiping — I'm spending more of my summer having a good time than working, I wouldn't have agreed to come.

We're done here.

And now, if you'll excuse me, I'm late for pickleball.

Perhaps Trump should also bail

Since the debates, the media have been weighing suggestions that one of the presidential candidates should consider stepping aside.

Perhaps the Republicans might wish to consider this for their candidate, who failed almost completely to answer the moderator's questions?

**Robert Anderson
Bristol**

Letters can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 8A.



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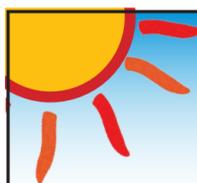
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ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Joanne Markey Weber, 82, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Joanne Markey Weber, 82, of Middlebury, Vt., passed away on Friday, June 28, surrounded by her family, after a long illness.

A lifelong Vermont resident, Joanne was born on July 27, 1941, to George and Charlotte Markey in Manchester, Vt. She studied nursing at St. Luke's School of Nursing, and married her high school sweetheart, Ken in 1960, to whom she was married for 62 years. Ken and Joanne raised five children, settling in Bristol, Vt. Joanne poured all her energy into this vocation and will be lovingly remembered as a great mom. She and Ken loved to take the family on adventures, hiking or camping in the wilds of Vermont, as well as traveling cross-country to California, Maine and Florida.

Later in life, Joanne went back and completed her nursing degree at the University of Vermont, and Ken and Joanne opened the St. Gerard Home, where they cared for terminally ill patients for 10 years. Upon retiring from that work, Joanne continued to pursue



JOANNE MARKEY WEBER

her passions: art, writing children's books, music, counseling, medical advocacy, and doting on her children and grandchildren. She was a champion for justice and hated to see anyone suffer or be estranged. In word and deed she fought to break down barriers and heal divisions.

Joanne is survived by her children: Kurt (Nancy) Weber,

Kevin (Margaret) Weber, Chris (Laura) Weber, Kendra (Timothy) Graton, and Craig (Eva) Weber; her grandchildren, Bailey, Tristan, Gus, Brian, Jennifer, Riley, Ellen, Damian, Aaron, Cameron, and Colton; six great-grandchildren, Calvin, Ben, Jacob, Lucas, Jesslyn, and Dayana; her brother Francis (Claire) Markey, and sister Andrea Gori.

Joanne will be remembered for her creativity, impish sense of humor, and her empathy and concern for others. For Joanne, laughter was always the best medicine. Her squeaky kisses will be sorely missed.

Services will be held at North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church on Friday, July 19, at 3 p.m. Joanne loved flowers, so be sure to share them with loved ones in her name, but if you'd like to make a donation, the family requests donations be made to Helen Porter Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 30 Porter Avenue, Middlebury, Vt., where she received loving care in her final days. ◊

Jean Waite, 85, of Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Jean Anna Bacceti Waite, loving wife, mother of four and dedicated healthcare professional, died after a long illness on July 2, 2024, at the age of 85 in Middlebury, Vt.

Jean was born on June 15, 1939, in Proctor, Vt., the oldest of three children. She often remembered her childhood surrounded by extended family in Proctor with fondness and humor. She graduated from Proctor High School as a National Merit Scholar and enrolled in the University of Vermont's nursing program. She made several lifelong friends there and graduated in 1961 at the top of her nursing school class.

Jean began her professional career during the summer of 1961, working with a mobile polio vaccine clinic in Vermont. She married Conrad W. Waite, of Cuttingsville, Vt., in early 1962 and the couple moved to Glens Falls, N.Y. Jean welcomed their first daughter in late 1962. She continued to work part time in Catskill, N.Y., and Proctor, Vt. Their second daughter arrived in 1964. In 1966, the family moved to Brattleboro, Vt., where identical twins completed the family in fall 1966.

Jean continued her career throughout her daughters' growing up, providing an example of competence, dedication and the importance of marital partnership to her daughters. She was a calm presence during the hectic years of child raising. She was a committed Catholic parishioner at St. Patrick's in Northfield, Mass., where she was an active participant in parish life. She was also the first woman in Vermont to chair a pastoral committee, which she did at St. Michael's in Brattleboro. Jean also volunteered her time at a free clinic in Brattleboro for years.

In 1972, Jean left clinical nursing to teach nursing at Greenfield



JEAN WAITE

Community College, where she was respected for her passion and excellence at nursing and teaching. In 1983, Jean enrolled at the University of Lowell, where she achieved the long-time goal of becoming a nurse practitioner, a role that wasn't common at the time. She graduated in 1985 and went to work at a small family practice in Hinsdale, N.H. Jean was known for her thoroughness, analytical mind, and openness to new medical ideas.

She retired in 2006 and lived with her husband on Lake Champlain in Shoreham. She loved nothing more than sitting on the deck overlooking the lake and the Adirondacks. She volunteered at the Shoreham Library and attended church at St. Genevieve's in Shoreham and Saint Bernadette's in Bridport with her husband. They also attended many local sports events throughout the year.

Jean enjoyed sewing, even creating several daughters' wedding gowns. She was an enthusiastic and coveted partner at bridge games with friends and enjoyed reading and working complicated puzzles. She loved to teach and help people in any way she could.

Jean was a skilled and dedicated gardener, supplying the family with vegetables all year round for nearly the entirety of her life. She was adventurous and willing to try new things, including making maple syrup in the family kitchen one memorable spring. She once drove a tank, rode in a hot air balloon, and, with her husband, competed in white water rafting races.

Friends and family remember Jean with love for her dedication and passion for her profession, her quick intelligence, sense of humor, and her abiding love for her husband and family. Her daughters especially remember her steadfast support during the ups and downs of their lives — she was always there when she was needed. She believed deeply in the importance of education. Her husband especially remembers her adventurous spirit and commitment to fair play.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, Blanche (Payette) Bacceti and Almo Thomas Bacceti, and brother William Bacceti. She is survived by her husband, Conrad; their children, Karen, Katherine, Sarah and Susan; her sister, Rita Bacceti; and five grandchildren.

Donations in her memory can be made to the Alzheimer's Association. There was a funeral at St. Bernadette's in Bridport on Wednesday, July 10, at 11 a.m., followed by a reception at the Shoreham Congregational Church.

Because Jean lived and worked in the Brattleboro area for 40 years, there'll be a celebration of life in Brattleboro in early October. In lieu of flowers, donations of any size can be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.

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

Brenda Joyce (Johnson) Bruyneel, 82, of Orwell

ORWELL — Brenda Joyce (Johnson) Bruyneel, 82, passed away at her home in Orwell with family by her side on May 23, 2024. Brenda was born Oct. 20, 1941, the daughter of Robert B. and Beatrice Eleanor (Reade) Johnson Sr. She was born in Goffstown, N.H. and raised in East Deering, N.H. She attended grade school in Deering and later attended middle and high school in Hillsboro, N.H.

In her early career, she worked for Hamblton Insurance Agency of Goffstown, then for Goffstown News as a secretary and layout designer for the paper and later in the Quality Control Department at Sylvania Electric of Hillsboro. She most enjoyed the ten years that she was the treasurer and manager of the Contoocook Valley Federal Credit Union in Hillsboro, N.H.

She was engaged to Stephen Bruyneel of Weare, N.H., and was married on Oct. 20, 1962. In 1973, she and Steve purchased a 150-acre tract of land in Orwell, Vt.



BRENDA JOYCE (JOHNSON) BRUYNEEL

Over the next many years, Brenda helped with the daily operation for the milk herd and raising their two daughters, along with supplemental employment with the Ayrshire Breeders Association of Brandon, but the job she loved the most came from providing early

child care for her two grandsons, Zachary, and Levi. In addition to childcare, Brenda later provided adult living assistance to several local individuals as well as care for both her mother and Steve's mother in their time of need.

Throughout her life she made numerous new wool braided rugs and collected fine china and other antiques. Brenda was a fiercely patriotic and enjoyed seeing the American flag flying on their farm. She spent a lifetime privately studying the bible and worshipping our Lord, loved her family and was extremely proud to tell everyone she was married for 61 years.

Brenda is survived by her husband, Stephen Bruyneel of Orwell; daughter Jennifer Morse (Tim) of Orwell; daughter Stephanie Corey (Rex) of Orwell; grandson Zachary Booska (Brittany) and great-granddaughter Oakley Booska of Orwell; and grandson Levi Booska (Samantha), and great-grandson Bohannon Booska of Troy, Vt.

A graveside committal service and interment will take place on Saturday, July 13, at 11 a.m., at the Mountain View Cemetery, Orwell, followed by a gathering of family and friends at the farm thereafter.

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

Jeannette Thibault, 93, of Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Jeannette Thibault, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on July 6, 2024, in her Charlotte home surrounded by family, at the age of 93. She was born to Alfred and Maria Comeau on Dec. 10, 1930.

Family meant everything to her. She was a devoted mother to Norman, Marcel (deceased), Rene, Paul (deceased), Paulette, Jim, Gary, and Claudette "Sis" and their spouses, Terri, Averil, Judy, Mary, and Kenneth. She was predeceased by her husband Claude. Jeannette was also an adored Memere to 22 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Her home was a sanctuary where family gathered to share stories and create cherished memories. In particular, Mom's Christmas celebrations were filled with warmth, delicious food, and traditions. Memere had a special bond with her grandchildren, whom she loved teaching and playing games with. She was delighted to attend their sports events and



JEANNETTE THIBAUT

activities, encouraging them to pursue their passions.

She was the definition of hard work and dedication, serving as the driving force behind the Thibault Farm. She taught by example, approaching every task with determination, resilience, and enduring faith. Instilling these values in her children, she raised them to believe they could achieve

anything they set their minds to.

In addition to her dedication to the farm, Mom enjoyed life to the fullest, known as the "Qwirkle Queen" to family and friends, she relished game nights. Other passions included bingo, dancing, and casino trips, where she could test her luck and enjoy the excitement of the games.

A very special thank you to our Bayada Hospice team, with deep gratitude to nurse Melissa Chenier for her thoughtful, kind and attentive care.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, July 11, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Charlotte.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Grand Central Station, PO Box 4777, New York, NY 10163 or online at www.michaeljfox.org.

Jeannette will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her memory will continue to inspire and guide us. ◊

Obituary Guidelines

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

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

Edith M. Miner, 95, of Pantton

PANTTON — Edith M. Miner, 95, passed away Wednesday, July 3, 2024, at Porter Medical Center in Middlebury.

She was born on Aug. 14, 1928, in Ferrisburgh, the daughter of Oscar and Margerite (Langeway) Stone.

She married her husband, Joseph H. Miner Jr., and they lived in Pantton, Vt., on the Miner Farm, where she raised two sons, Joe and David. She always worked hard all of her life. After her husband Joseph died in 1999, Edith stopped farming and traveled extensively

and helped to care for other people.

She was predeceased by her brothers and sisters, Barbara, Florence, Jessey, Gladys and Joe.

Edith is survived by her two sons, Joseph and his wife Loretta Butterfield Miner, and David; her grandchildren, Lorna Wittenrich and Jacob Miner; great-grandchildren, Alaina Wittenrich, Eloise Miner and Henry Miner; her sister Rose; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, July 16, at St. Peter's Cemetery in Vergennes.



EDITH M. MINER

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, PO Box 11, Vergennes, VT 05491. ◊

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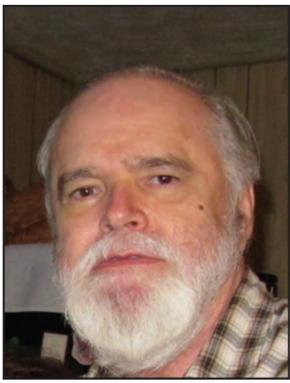
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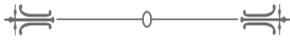
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OLIVER "JOE" NUNN

Oliver 'Joe' Nunn celebration of life

BRIDPORT — A celebration of life for Oliver 'Joe' Nunn, who died March 8, 2024, will be July 20 beginning at noon at 178 Lovers Lane in Bridport. Bring your memories. Refreshments will be served. ◊



MAURICE FREDERICK ARMELL

Maurice Armell graveside service

WALTHAM — A graveside service for Maurice Frederick Armell, who died Friday, April 12, 2024, will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 21, at North Ferrisburgh Cemetery, North Ferrisburgh, Vt. ◊



MICHAEL GRACE

Michael Grace celebration of life

BRISTOL — A celebration of life for Michael Grace, who died March 19, 2024, will be held Aug. 17, at the home of Danny and Debbie Grace, 21 Purinton Road, Bristol, Vt., from noon-4 p.m. Family and friends are invited. Share a dish if you want. Burgers and dogs provided. ◊

Davidson

(Continued from Page 2A)

sentencing hearing at the Mahady Courthouse this past spring to read their own statements about how Davidson's actions on July 25, 2020, had affected them.

Asked what he'd like people to know about his mom, Walker said, "Mom's interests were people, family, community and laughter," he said, noting Ms. Dayton, among other civic contributions, served as Londonderry's delinquent tax collector and as guardian ad litem with the local court system, looking out for the interests of those who couldn't speak for themselves.

"We're part of a large, close-knit family. She was a tight member of the community. That was her 'jam' — being a part of the community and volunteering. She was kind, compassionate and had this infectious laugh. She loved to share."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Jesse Daniel Phillips, 43, of Rutland

RUTLAND — Jesse Daniel Phillips of Rutland, Vt., passed away Sunday, June 23, 2024, at the age of 43.

Jesse touched the lives of many. He was known for his love of riding motorcycles with his brother Jerry, cooking, and his commitment to the Steelers. Jesse spent much of his working years as a mechanic. He was able to fix anything and was known as a true Macgyver.

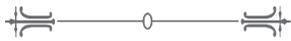
Jesse is leaving behind his only son, his pride and joy, Deegan Phillips of Westford, along with his parents, Cassandra Torrey and Chris Carton of Maple Falls, Wash., and Paul and Karen Phillips of Brandon; his siblings, Crystal Phillips and Tucker Mohan of Leicester, Jerry Phillips and Jaime Quenneville of Whiting, Kayla and Jamie Ainsworth of Corinth, and Erin Phillips and Greg Brooks of St. Albans. Jesse also leaves



JESSE DANIEL PHILLIPS

behind many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

At this time a small family gathering will be held in memory of Jesse. Please visit awrfh.com to share your memories. ◊



Ronald H. Curler, 84, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Ronald H. Curler, 84, passed away Sunday, July 7, 2024, after a brief illness.

He was born on Oct. 19, 1939, in Vergennes, the son of Gordon and Anna (Hallock) Curler. He graduated from Vergennes Union High School. A carpenter by trade, Ron worked at the Weeks School and for the State of Vermont for 37 years.

Ron enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. In his later years he enjoyed carefully mowing his lawn and driving his truck around the square.

Ron is survived by his partner of 42 years, Suzanne Johnson; his son Greg and wife Laura; his grandchildren Cameron and wife Kelly, Collin and wife Lindsay, Cailin and her partner Todd; and great-grandsons Emmitt and Kayde.

He was predeceased by his parents and a son, Timothy.



RONALD H. CURLER

A memorial service will be held at 5 p.m. on Monday, July 15, at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, PO Box 11, Vergennes, VT 05491. ◊

Sisters

(Continued from Page 2A)

and made planning the trip more complicated. However, this year Reeves was able to secure vacation time to finally visit.

During the trip, Reeves and the Rheaume family revisited many old memories. For the 4th of July, they visited the beach at Branbury State Park once again. After stopping by the *Addison Independent* on July 5, the women took a stroll in Middlebury and got maple

creemees in town. Later that night, Reeves accompanied Audet and her husband on their 27th wedding anniversary dinner at Fire and Ice.

Reeves said she knows many children who also took part in Fresh Air Fund visit, but most reunited with their host families fewer than a handful of times. But the bond Reeves built with the Rheaume family is rare and lifelong.

"Simply put, I love them," she said.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News Briefs

With grade point averages of 3.3 or better, two Bristol residents, **Devin Corey** and **Coby LaRose**, have been named to the dean's list at the University of New England for the 2024 spring semester.

Molly Tatlock of North Ferrisburgh received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and Psychology, Magna Cum Laude, from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, and completed her Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. Tatlock is pursuing a career in elementary education.

Via **Depatie** of Brandon has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2024 semester at the University of Hartford. The list recognizes students achieving superior academic standing.

With a GPA of 3.75 or above, and the completion of at least three credits for the semester three local students have been named to the dean's list at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn.: Environmental Studies major **Kieran Sheridan** of Cornwall, son of Michael Sheridan and Kristina Simmons; Kinesiology major **Trey Bosworth** of Weybridge, son of David and Lynn Bosworth; and Psychology and Spanish major **Liam Seaton**, also of Weybridge, son of Michael Seaton and Elizabeth McCracken.

Jordan Martin of Middlebury has graduated from SUNY Canton with an Associates of Applied Science degree in Construction Technology: Management.

Sanchez to take helm at RNESU

By STEVEN JUPITER

BRANDON—It's been a busy week for Rene Sanchez. On July 1, he took over as the new interim Superintendent at Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, the district that includes Otter Valley Middle and High Schools, Lothrop Elementary in Pittsford, Neshobe Elementary in Brandon, Otter Creek Academy in Leicester, and the Barstow School in the town of Chittenden.

Mr. Sanchez comes to RNESU from the Champlain Valley School District in Chittenden County, where he was Superintendent for the last 3 years. He takes the reins from Superintendent Kristin Hubert, who left RNESU at the end of the 2023-24 school year in June.

Mr. Sanchez learned of the position after he'd already decided to leave Champlain Valley, where he'd felt that he and the district had differing visions. The RNESU board had already interviewed other candidates without success when Mr. Sanchez expressed interest. It seemed like a good opportunity for both of them and Sanchez was happy to have found another superintendent position within commuting distance from his home in Williston.

"I love Vermont," he said. "My wife is from here. My family is here. I wanted to stay here."

But now he's had to hit the ground running, since he has barely two months to get up to speed before school begins in September. His office at RNESU in Brandon is still full of boxes to unpack.

"In some ways, starting over the summer is great because you've got time to catch up and tour the school buildings to see what needs to be worked on," he said. "But in other ways, it's a challenge because the staff and students aren't around, and I haven't had a chance to talk with them yet."

But he's eager to get to know his new community, asking where's a good place to grab lunch not only in Brandon, but also in Pittsford and elsewhere in the area. He may live in Williston, but he plans to become as much a part of the local community here as he can, whether by attending school events as part of his position or by patronizing local businesses.

"It's imperative that I spend time here," he said. "I'll be at sports and concerts. I'll make sure I'm available to the community."

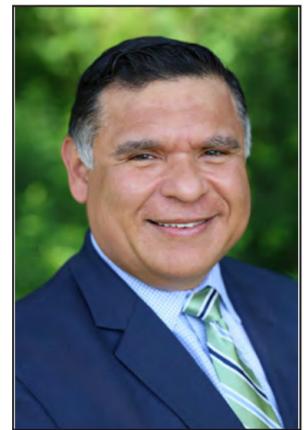
Having come to RNESU after a particularly difficult budget season in which many local residents expressed frustration with what they perceived as a lack of communication and sensitivity from the supervisory union, Sanchez understands that it's essential to create more open dialogue.

"Budgets were difficult everywhere in Vermont this year," he said. "But I hope to begin the budget process earlier and get more input and feedback from parents and the community. By giving the process more time, we can bring more people into it."

While acknowledging that Otter Valley wasn't unique in its budget woes, he also acknowledges the

undeniable differences between a district like Champlain Valley, which encompasses some of the wealthiest communities in Vermont (Shelburne and Charlotte, for example) and RNESU, where a significantly higher percentage of families face financial challenges. His work at RNESU will require a sensitivity to those issues that was perhaps less necessary at Champlain Valley.

"His understanding of the needs



RENE SANCHEZ

of rural students is what makes me truly enthusiastic about him," said OVUU board member Kevin Thornton, who sat on the hiring committee. "We were very, very lucky to get him."

Part of that required sensitivity is recognizing that there are alternative paths to success and students should be given the information and opportunities needed to make decisions about their futures.

"We need to be sure we're preparing students for whatever they want to do, whether it's college, trade school, or a job," said Sanchez. "Let students decide but give them the information and education they need. Vermont needs a skilled workforce. We need to provide enough seats at the tech centers (Stafford in Rutland and Hannaford in Middlebury, for example) to meet students' needs. I'm a very big fan of students getting certificates and licenses while they're in high school, to set them up for employment after graduation."

Another big challenge for Sanchez is that much of his leadership team across RNESU is also new to the district or to their particular roles there. There's been a lot of turnover since the pandemic. But Sanchez is confident that his years of experience as a school administrator will allow him to guide his team effectively.

"Rene brings many things to the table," said OVUU board Chair Laurie Bertrand. "He has a very experienced background in education, which we will need for our new principals and administration. He's also community minded and the boards want to find additional ways to connect to the community. We look forward to working with him this year."

Before Champlain Valley, Sanchez worked as an assistant

superintendent in South Bend, Indiana and as a principal in Houston and Austin, Texas. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame, a law degree from Ohio State, a Master's in Education from the University of Texas, and is completing his doctorate at Indiana University. It's fair to say he's devoted his career to education.

Sanchez is originally from Texas and grew up in an area where many community residents often felt unable to approach the local school board.

There was, he said, a perception that the schools must know what they're doing and shouldn't be bothered. Or that folks who weren't fluent in "education-ese" wouldn't be able to express themselves clearly and therefore stayed away. As a result, there wasn't open communication between the schools and the communities they served.

Sanchez operates differently. He's hoping to bring more transparency to school-community relations and will actively seek feedback from district residents, particularly since he's still unfamiliar with the Brandon-Pittsford area and the specific concerns of its citizens.

"I need to listen to educators, parents, and the community," he said. "It's not enough for the district to give the community its own version of events."

RNESU has struggled in recent years with low test scores at all levels. During this year's budget battles, those scores were often brought up by those who questioned the wisdom of giving more money to a district whose outcomes were often subpar.

"We need to be more transparent about assessment data," he countered. "I want to hear from teachers and principals. I want to hear about the great things our kids do but also about our pressure points. We need to return the focus to students and act with a deliberate amount of urgency."

With regard to RNESU's recent efforts at diversity, equity, and inclusivity, he said, "We also need to make sure that all students have the same opportunity to succeed in our schools, which includes feeling like they belong. If students are not able to belong, we need to intervene. All of our students are Vermonters. Every single one deserves the same education."

Though his office is still a work in progress — he's been on the job for just over a week — he already has some touches in place that give a sense of his own personality. He's a fan of sci-fi and comics, with "The Tick" a favorite. He mentions "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," a 1979 comedic sci-fi novel by Douglas Adams as having been an early influence on his approach to education.

"The point of 'Hitchhiker's' is that everything is interconnected," he said. "Everything is a push and pull. Education is heavily dependent on relationships. Once you recognize that, you can make the best decisions for our kids."

AN EVENT?

Email it to: news@addisonindependent.com

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Senator Chris Bray is addressing Vermont's affordable housing crisis:

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Taking on healthcare costs

Reference-based approach can cut soaring expenses

The 2024 Legislative session started and finished the same way — with universal concern about significant looming educational tax increases. Original estimates indicated average property tax bills could rise 18.5% for the upcoming year. In the end, using one-time stop-gap funding that defers the financial reckoning to future years, the actual increase was lowered to a still-significant 13.8%.

A primary driver of rising education costs (and the taxes that pay for them)? Teacher health care costs. Just this year, they're estimated to grow a staggering 16%. It doesn't need to be like this.

In 2021, my office recommended to the Governor and the Legislature a strategy used by other states, reference-based pricing, that would lower these costs, and which could be applied to both teacher health care and state employee health care. Unfortunately, until this year even efforts to study this approach have been denied. Three years later, the opportunity for savings is even larger, and the costs to Vermont taxpayers of policymakers' inaction mount by the tens of millions of dollars.

You may be wondering how much teacher health care costs are to begin with. According to the Vermont Education Health Initiative, through which most teachers receive their health benefit, the plan's costs grew from \$194 million in FY10 to approximately \$266 million in FY23. FY24 costs are expected to exceed \$300 million, and that does not include the state's share of most retired teachers' health benefits.

State employee health care faces the same pressures. Total spending for the Vermont state employee health plan has, with the exception of a COVID-related

dip in 2020, risen consistently and dramatically since 2010. In 2023 it jumped by the highest single year amount ever to \$196.6 million. The cost of the state employee plan has now grown by 109% since 2010, while the number of covered lives has grown just 19% in the same time period. These figures do not include prescription drug costs, which rose from \$22.9 million in 2010 to \$59.2 million in 2023.

Must these price increases eat into public education and services, or result in large tax increases? The short answer is "no."

Our 2021 report projected that reference-based pricing could save as much as \$16.3 million each year just for the state employee health plan. Given its larger size and costs, even larger annual savings would be possible in teacher health care.

How would "reference-based pricing" work? In the simplest terms, reference-based pricing establishes a fair price for a particular medical service, and then pays only that amount (or a fixed percentage of it) to any provider performing the services for people on the health plan. In other words, it sets a maximum price for which the plan will pay for a service rather than merely paying the byzantine prices negotiated by insurance companies and hospitals regardless of whether they are excessive.

What's the problem reference-based pricing solves? Both the State employee and teacher health care plans pay a wide range of prices for the exact same procedures to the state's hospitals. For example, we found that the difference between the highest priced provider for a CT Scan received 5.8 times more than the lowest priced provider.

Vermont is self-insured, which means that it pays a la carte for every medical service used by a state employee. When a state employee unknowingly chooses a relatively high-priced provider, the taxpayer funded plan pays the high price; when the same employee chooses a lower-priced provider, the plan saves money.

Have any other states adopted reference-based pricing and, if so, has it worked? Yes, and a resounding yes.

The State of Montana has used reference-based pricing for inpatient and outpatient services at acute care hospitals for their state employees since 2017. Independent researchers determined Montana saved \$47.8 million in state fiscal years 2017 to 2019 (avg. \$15.9m per year). The State of Oregon has reported on their experience with reference-based pricing for state employees and teachers. The audit they conducted based upon 2021 claims estimated \$112.7 million in savings for their plan due to reference based pricing.

In both states, there was no reduction in health care choice for state employees or teachers, and no observed impact on hospital operations.

A study of reference-based pricing in Vermont has finally been approved and will be released by December. If Montana and Oregon are illustrative, we can expect interest groups to fight this important cost-saving reform. But if Vermont chooses to pursue this strategy, and the Scott Administration, the Legislature, school administrators, and the unions representing the state employees and state teachers resist the guardians of the status quo, the taxpayers they serve will reap significant financial benefits.

In short, we do not have to sit by and let health care cost increases raise taxes and strain public education and state budgets.

Community Forum
This week's writer is Vermont State Auditor Doug Hoffer.

Letters to the Editor

Supreme Court has paved the way for autocracy

If the Supreme Court would actually listen, the following is what I would say:

Dear Court,
There are lawyers in my family. I am not one of them, but I am familiar with the English language, its subtle meanings and usage.

A local trash collector, drawing upon his high school history, can

explain in clear, simple terms how the court has in one day changed the basis upon which the United States is governed. Three equal branches died a sudden death without the consent of the people. Strict constructionists wonder what happened. Sabotage or suicide.

The resulting damage will please Orban and Putin, and

enrage Hamilton, were that possible. Your myopic vision suggests outside influence or corruption. In the end, extremist autocracy prevails.

Be careful out there. The next President's Palace Guard is free to lock you up, or worse.

Alexander Lyall
Middlebury

Bray has been catalyst for environmental protection

I encourage my Addison County neighbors to vote for our senior State Senator, Chris Bray, in the August 13 primary election.

Chris serves as Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee as well as on the Finance Committee and the Joint Carbon Reduction Committee. Over time he has been on numerous study groups and committees working on

agricultural practices and environmental issues. Chris is one of the most hard-working legislators I know. He studies the issues that come before him seriously and deeply, and he is among Vermont's most productive legislators. He was a lead sponsor of Vermont's Farm to Plate program, and he has sponsored several bills on environmental issues, protection from

dangerous chemicals, broadband development, renewable energy development, and many other subjects.

We need Chris's proven track record of leadership, experience, and dedication in the Vermont Senate. Please join me and vote to re-elect Chris Bray in the primary election on August 13.

Spencer Putnam
Weybridge

Democrats shouldn't give up on President Biden

I read the editorial about Biden stepping down and thought it was interesting and thoughtful. However, I disagree. History has many parallels and 1968 comes to my mind. In '68 there were many college protests about the Vietnam war: this year the college protests are about the Israel-Hamas war. The protests in both cases were basically about the killing of innocent civilians, many being children. The peaceful, legal protesters were arrested in both cases. Then, as now, the news focused on the more dramatic and "newsworthy" aspects of the protest rather than on the mostly peaceful protest and the main message of wanting the governments responsible for the wars to stop killing innocents.

In '68 there was pressure for LBJ to step down for the good of the country and be replaced with a candidate more likely to defeat the Republican Nixon. I don't think I need to draw the parallel here. LBJ did step down, and there was an open Democratic convention in Chicago. This year's Democratic convention is also in Chicago, another parallel on top of more parallels. Eugene

McCarthy and Robert Kennedy were strong, popular candidates at that time; Bobby Kennedy was murdered (a sad side note: there were so many assassinations of strong social movement leaders and politicians in the 1960s). The Chicago convention was a chaotic mess both inside the convention center and on the streets outside. Because of all the divisions in the Democratic party a strong popular person was not chosen, the person chosen to defeat Nixon was Hubert Humphery. Nixon beat Humphery by 301 to 191 electoral college votes. The popular vote was much closer, but as we all know, the popular vote does not count.

A new candidate will have little time to pull together a grass roots campaign, obtain the cash needed to run an effective nationwide campaign, develop a national staff, and develop a strategy to run an effective campaign. I fear a new candidate will end up being another parallel to 1968.

The media needs to stop focusing on how poorly the Biden campaign, and Biden himself, have been able to, "...

parley his accomplishments into victories." There is no doubt in my mind that his national campaign needs to change its approach from being too cerebral, trying to explain how things are better, and start using shorter message filled with emotions, as Biden did the day after the debate, "... I know right from wrong. I know how to get things done." The Democrats need to use social media more and borrow from the Republican playbook of national campaigning, minus the outright lying. It is a vote between having a democracy or a dictator.

We voters need to stop being pessimistic and saying Biden is going to lose the election. No one knows, and if we collectively keep repeating that mantra, it is more likely to happen, because that negative emotion is infectious. Positive emotion and confidence that Biden will win is also infectious. Again, no one knows, but I'd rather be on the positive side of uncertainty in this case since he is more than likely to be the candidate.

Peter Ryersbach
Starksboro

Bray has earned another term in the state Senate

In the upcoming Democratic primary this August, I am supporting Senator Chris Bray. As Senator, he has served Addison County and the state of Vermont extremely well since 2013, advocating in all his legislative work for the health of Vermonters.

Bray's care for our health includes everything from the health that comes from a cleaner environment to his advocacy for creating universal access to health care.

For a decade, in his role as chair of Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, Bray has

shepherded through important legislation on clean energy, greenhouse gas reduction, climate cost recovery, and environmental protections. These include programs to clean up the lake, to reduce exposures to forever chemicals, like PFAS, and to reduce the air pollution that is both a public health hazard and a key driver of climate change.

He was also a key sponsor of a bill that to create universal publicly-financed health care in Vermont through a phased in process, starting with universal primary care. If this bill passes, it

will not only control and possibly reduce costs by cutting out the insurance company middlemen, but it will greatly expand access to primary care, something all Vermonters need.

Over the years, Senator Bray has proved to be a responsive and accessible legislator, receptive to feedback from his constituents, and always ready to dig into new areas of policy. I am happy to vote for him again in the upcoming primary in August and hope he is re-elected.

Ellen Oxfeld
Middlebury

Letters to the editor can be found on Pages 4A, 5A and 8A.

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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Dementia Caregiver Workshop

Wednesday, July 17th
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Event is free.
Refreshments provided.
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An initiative of Dementia Friendly Middlebury





Everyone loves a parade!

THE TOWN OF Bristol hosts one of the biggest and best July 4 parades in Vermont, and this year's edition was no different. After a spectacular fireworks display on July 3, Bristol-area residents and visitors of all ages enjoyed a parade that included an assortment of firetrucks, veterans, cyclists, Revolutionary War reenactors, Scouts, cool antique vehicles, horses, bands and children. Some spectators along the downtown route were showered with candy handouts and/or water, delivered by an arsenal of squirt guns.





Beautiful boom

WHAT'S THE FOURTH of July without fireworks? When these Roman candles are set off above a body of water, viewers get double the fun with the reflection as well as the sparkle. These fireworks exploded above a private property off Lake Dunmore on Independence Day.

Independent photos/
Angelo Lynn



Oliver Stone speaking at MNFF

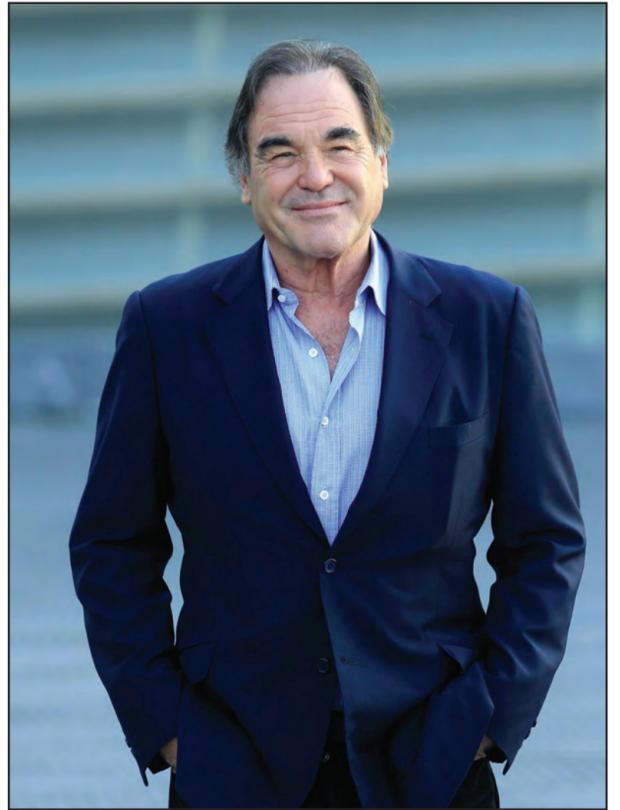
Iconic director will be in Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Four-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker Oliver Stone will be honored for “Impact, Imagination and Excellence” at the 10th Anniversary edition of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival that will take place Aug. 21-25. Mr. Stone will screen and discuss three of his films: “Platoon,” “Wall Street” and a third to be announced shortly. He will also participate in the Afternoon Conversation on Saturday, Aug. 24 at the Middlebury Inn with MNFF artistic director, Jay Craven.

Stone’s films are known for their visceral power and muscular engagement with history, politics and the leading issues of our times. His film “Salvador” opened a window on U.S. involvement in Central America; “Wall Street” took on corruption and insider trading; “JFK” forced a reconsideration of America’s still unsettled “crime of the century;” “Snowden” dug into Edward Snowden’s whistleblowing on U.S. government mass surveillance and “Platoon” rendered Vietnam in an essential new light that grew out of Stone’s own combat experience.

Platoon, which will be screened at MNFF10 on Thursday night, Aug. 22, at Wilson Hall on the Middlebury College campus, allowed an entire generation of veterans to finally see a validation of their own painful experiences of that devastating war. In 2019, the picture was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the United States National Film Registry for being “culturally, historically or aesthetically significant.”

Stone started his filmmaking career as a screenwriter for pictures such as “Scarface” and “Midnight Express,” for which he won an Oscar. He has also produced a wide range of films



HOLLYWOOD GIANT OLIVER Stone will be celebrated at the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival and will discuss his films in a personal appearance.

including Milos Forman’s “The People vs Larry Flynt,” Barbet Schroeder’s “Reversal of Fortune” and Wayne Wang’s “The Joy Luck Club.” His increasing number of documentaries include “Lula,” about Brazilian president Lula da Silva, and “Nuclear Now,” which makes a substantial and fully researched case for an American re-engagement with nuclear power to address the growing threat of climate change.

Stone tackles quintessentially American themes and character in his work — delving deeply and

passionately into his subjects. His restless curiosity leads audiences into new ways of thinking and can spark heated dialogues that alter conventional discourse.

Stone was born in New York City and attended Yale University and New York University, where his teachers included director and fellow NYU alumnus, Martin Scorsese. For his Vietnam combat service, Mr. Stone received multiple honors including the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart.

Brooks to lead Vermont Adult Learning

VERMONT — Vermont Adult Learning, the largest provider of Adult Education and Literacy services in the state, has hired Tara Brooks, M.Ed., as its new executive director. Brooks brings a wealth of experience in leadership, advocacy, policy development, and expanding revenue streams to the position, having previously served as the director of the Vergennes Recreation Department, events manager for the Vergennes Opera House, executive director of the Vergennes Partnership, director of after-school and summer services for the Addison Northwest School District, and most recently, director of operations for Heartworks Early Education.

“VAL has a long-standing tradition of supporting the people of Vermont and working towards a more inclusive and fair society,” Brooks said of her new position. “I am excited to join this important cause and play a role in VAL’s achievements.”

“Our Board searched for an Executive Director to enhance the organization’s commitment to adult education’s evolving needs, and Tara met all our requirements,” Board Chair Jim Coutts said. “Her background and achievements position her well to lead VAL as we offer comprehensive adult education and training opportunities to a growing population of adult learners. Our committed staff will continue their excellent work with Tara’s guidance.”

Under Brooks’ leadership, VAL is set to uphold its long-standing commitment to providing quality, no-cost education, literacy, and work-readiness services



TARA BROOKS

that enhance the lives of Vermonters. Brooks is dedicated to promoting inclusivity and fairness, and her results-driven approach aligns strongly with VAL’s goal of aiding learners from all walks of life. Her unwavering commitment to advancing VAL’s mission, supporting its staff, and ensuring its financial stability will build upon the excellent initiatives already in place.

You're giving me that cookie?

Cookie

mm...! Chomp! That is one cool tuckling Chomp! Yes, sir!

THE PIGEON COMES TO BURLINGTON!
A Mo Willems EXHIBIT

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Stop by the District Transfer Station, located at 1223 Route 7 South, Middlebury, during our normal business hours (M-F, 7 AM - 3 PM and Sat, 8 AM - 1 PM) to pick up a load. BYOS (Bring Your Own Shovel), please! You may load your own, or District staff will load your truck or trailer for \$10 per scoop.

The mulch may contain some larger-size pieces of wood, but should be suitable for new tree or shrub plantings, weed control, or trail cover.

The mulch is made from branches, brush, and clean dimensional lumber collected at the District Transfer Station.

Questions? Give us a call at 388-2333 or visit AddisonCountyRecycles.org

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Bienvenue

(Continued from Page 1A)

Appearing in the Aug. 13 primary ballot, in alphabetical order, will be Bienvenue; incumbent state Sen. Christopher Bray, D-Bristol; Huntington Republican Lanel James Cochran; current state Rep. Caleb Elder, D-Starksboro; incumbent state Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury; and Bristol Republican Steven Heffernan.

Bienvenue, 65, originally hails from New Hampshire but moved, with her family, to Addison County when she was a child. She attended Vergennes Union Elementary School and graduated from Vergennes Union High School in 1977.

Following high school, Bienvenue took a job as a secretary at the Basin Harbor Club in Ferrisburgh. From there, she joined the staff at the Middlebury Inn, working the front desk for a couple of years. She then spent 15 years as office manager for Bienvenue & Ackel, a plumbing and heating contractor in Vergennes.

She enjoyed the work, but Bienvenue — at age 40 and a mom to two children who by this time had left the nest — began to feel a pull toward the field of early childhood development.

"I was encouraged to get a degree in education, so that's what I did," she recalled of what would become successful studies at Community College of Vermont, which yielded an associate's degree and early childhood education directorship credentials.

Bienvenue was a good student and continued her education, earning degrees for Master Business Administrator, Master Educator and Extension Master Gardener.

"I didn't go to college until later on; there were a few 'hiccups along the way,'" she explained of her life's journey. "I enjoy learning, public speaking and expressing my opinions. I saw my confidence and writing skills soar."

Once credentialled, Bienvenue began working at spots that included Otter Creek Child Care Center, afterschool programs in Addison County. But she eventually landed in Rutland, where she quickly advanced from teacher to program director of the Vermonsters Day Care Center.

"The children seemed to appreciate my personality and style, and talking to me," she said with a smile. "I felt I had a good rapport with them. The relationship-building was very rewarding. I saw the children soar."

Bienvenue was also ready to soar, but then tragedy struck. She said she was assaulted twice, once in 2011 and again in 2012. She said she spent several years healing from injuries that took a heavy physical and emotional toll that limited her ability to work.

"I did a little volunteer work, took a part-time job in retail for a couple years, just trying to sustain myself through the whole experience," she recounted. "It was devastating..."

She was still in the prime of her professional life — age 52 — at the time of the first assault. Bienvenue lamented the fact that she hasn't been able to fully resume her professional career, but insists she's yet to retire.



LEICESTER REPUBLICAN LESLEY Bienvenue is seeking one of the two seats representing Addison County, Rochester, Huntington and Buel's Gore.

Independent photo/John Flowers

"After healing, I felt like I was ready to go again," she said.

Running for state Senate this year is part of her quest to dart back into the public fray. Bienvenue has received encouragement to run from folks who believe her life experiences, education and professional background would make her a good senator.

"I started practicing speech writing, studying the law and hooked into the Republican Party," said Bienvenue, who called herself a "moderate Republican" with a Catholic upbringing who's a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association.

IMPORTANT ISSUES

Having worked in the education field, Bienvenue — a new member of the Otter Valley Unified Union School Board — has strong feelings on the topic. She said she'd like to do an audit of the state's education funding system, believing there are examples of waste that could be trimmed to help lower costs for taxpayers.

"I'd like to see where we could cut back and where there's too much money being spent," she said.

Bienvenue cited, as a possible example, surplus school cafeteria food she believes is being thrown away.

"Perhaps we need to cut back on the serving size, or stop serving food that children refuse to eat, even though it stays on the menus because the government says you (have to have it)," she said.

Instituting more of a "reuse, reduce and recycle" ethos in the schools could also save money, Bienvenue argued.

As for in-the-classroom activities, she'd like to see schools place more emphasis on public speaking, to sharpen students' communication skills and build self-confidence.

Asked about school funding, Bienvenue said she believes property taxes should continue to be the foundation for revenues, but she believes other funding sources could be tapped to reduce some of that burden. She specifically proposed a tax increase on recreational vehicles and tobacco

products.

Bienvenue agreed with legislative opposition to Gov. Phil Scott's nominee of former Florida schools administrator Zoie Saunders as Vermont's new secretary of education. Lawmakers in part cited Saunders's limited knowledge of Vermont's public education system. Bienvenue believes the ed secretary should have strong Vermont ties.

Bienvenue also shared her views on:

• **The environment.** She believes Vermont has done a good job promoting recycling, composting and placing a premium on clean air, water and conservation. She said she doesn't believe the environment is in imminent danger from global warming and said the state should continue along its current path.

"It's educating the public at large about being responsible for keeping the forests, water and soils clean — which also saves money," she said. "If you do things the right way and don't damage anything in the first place, you don't have to repair it, because there's an expense associated with repair work."

• **Housing.** Bienvenue believes the state should take inventory of its abandoned/unused buildings — such as warehouses — and determined whether they can be rehabbed as housing.

"Let's find out who owns these (abandoned) buildings, buy them and get our equity lined up. See if they can be renovated. If they can't and need to be torn down, can we buy the land... and building more housing?" she asked.

• **Jobs.** "Vermont needs more practical, sustainable jobs with proper and appropriate leadership and payroll, especially for women," Bienvenue said. "We still have discrepancies in gender related employment. Professionalism, self-reliance, motivation and dedication will be the winner."

"As farmers speak of crop rotation, its time the Vermont Republicans to rotate as the majority in the Legislature and that means vote for Republican Lesley Bienvenue as Senator for Addison County."

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
as president of American Legion Auxiliary. Others elected included Joseph Zickmund, Post 10, as Department Commander; and William Brothers, Post 49, as Senior Vice Commander.

Amtrak recently announced changes that will lead to faster trips via the Ethan Allen Express, a train service between New York and Vermont that includes stops in Middlebury and Vergennes/Ferrisburgh. Amtrak officials specifically pointed to new schedules that reflect trip-time improvements for up to 15 minutes of less travel time. Ethan Allen Express southbound Train 290 will now depart Burlington 20 minutes earlier at 9:50 a.m., arriving in Rutland 35 minutes earlier, 30 minutes earlier in Albany, and will reach Penn Station in New York City at 5:17 p.m., which is 30 minutes earlier than the previous schedule. In addition, northbound Ethan Allen Express Train 291 will arrive at Burlington five minutes earlier, at 9:50 p.m. In Fiscal Year 2023, 86,638 passengers traveled on the Ethan Allen Express — compared to 50,515 customers in FY19. Amtrak credited this growth in large part to the July 2022 expansion of Ethan Allen Express service from Rutland to Middlebury, Vergennes and Burlington. For more information

about the Ethan Allen Express and its schedule, go to amtrak.com/ethan-allen-express-train.

Herpetologist Jim Andrews on Thursday, July 18, will give a PowerPoint presentation on the identification, natural history and conservation of the snakes and turtles found (or once found) in and around Lake Dunmore and nearby in Salisbury and Leicester. He'll also give information on how to help document their presence by sending in photos of what you observe. The free presentation, sponsored by the Salisbury Historical Society and the Salisbury Conservation Commission, will be held at the Salisbury Town Meeting House at 853 Maple St., and will begin at 7 p.m.

A large wood pile was recently chipped at Middlebury's Addison County Solid Waste Management District transfer station, and gardeners/landscapers can reap the benefits. Coarse wood chip mulch is now available for district residents while supplies last. Come collect mulch on a first-come, first-served basis. If you load it yourself, it's free, but if you request a scoop from the ACSWMD bucket loader, it's \$10 per scoop. Warning: There might be a significant wait time if staff and equipment are busy if assistance is needed for a bucket-loader scoop.

How'd you like to become "Batman," "Batwoman" or "Batperson"? Each July, the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife deploys community scientists to conduct a census of established bat colonies. Ferrisburgh's Rokeby Museum participates in this program yearly and is looking for volunteers to in July to count the colony at the museum. Volunteers will watch a roost site and count the bats leaving. The count takes place during the evening — 8:15-9:30 p.m. Potential watch evenings include July 16, 20, 21, 23, 28 and 30. In addition to volunteers, the Bat Census Team at Rokeby needs a team leader. If you have an interest in joining or becoming a team leader for the Rokeby Bat Census Team, contact Dean Leary at 802-425-2166, or email deanleary@gmavt.net.

Just a reminder that the Addison County Clerk's office, located at the Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury, processes U.S. passport applications and provides passport photos on Mondays, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and Thursdays, from 12:30-4 p.m. The office is closed on Wednesdays. Appointments — by calling 802-388-1966 or visiting addisoncountyclerkvt.com — are required. Payment is by cash or check only, no debit or credit cards.

ADDISON COUNTY School Briefs

Two Hannaford Career Center students, **Georgie Kiel** and **Margaret Orten**, both of Middlebury, were recognized at the 2024 SkillsUSA Championships, held in Atlanta, on June 26-27. More than 6,000 students competed at the national showcase of career and technical education.

Students were invited to the event to demonstrate their technical skills, workplace skills and personal skills

in 115 hands-on occupational and leadership competitions including robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking. Industry leaders from 850 businesses, corporations, trade associations and unions planned and evaluated the contestants against their standards for entry-level workers.

Kiel was awarded a Skill Point

Certificate in T-Shirt Design. Orten was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Related Technical Math.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the largest skill competition in the world. And is held annually for students in middle school, high school or college/postsecondary programs as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference.

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IN ADDISON COUNTY

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Turn to page 6B to find your next adventure.

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

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 Saturday, July 13

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STATE 4-H DAIRY Team coach Joanna Lidback of Westmore (right), observes as Addison County 4-H'ers (left to right) Brailey Livingston, New Haven, and Hailey Bartlett and Mackenzie Chase, both from Bristol, rank a class of dairy cows at the 2024 State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest, June 15 in Albany. Photo by Dawn Livingston

Locals compete at state dairy judging

ALBANY — Hillside Homestead, a 50-cow dairy in Albany, Vermont, was a busy place on June 15 as 4-H'ers gathered for the 2024 State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest.

The 24 4-H members, competing by age group, judged two heifer and four cow classes with their

scores for each class combined for an overall score and ranking. In addition, senior competitors, ages 14 to 18, provided oral reasons for two classes. Elizabeth Menard, Fairfield, served as the official judge.

Thirteen 4-H teens competed in the senior age group, vying for a

spot on the State 4-H Dairy Judging team, which will be selected at a later date. Capturing first place was Brailey Livingston, of New Haven. Mackenzie Chase of Bristol took home fifth and Hailey Bartlett, also of Bristol placed twelfth.

Ramsay

(Continued from Page 1A) government during some major events, including the COVID pandemic, construction of new town offices and a new recreation center, and the completion of a major downtown rail tunnel project.

After leaving Middlebury in 2007, Ramsay served as the top administrator of Pittsford, and then Killington, before returning to the county's shire town in 2011 as assistant manager and the heir apparent to Finger, who had given the selectboard word of his 2012 retirement plans.

"I feel right at home here," Ramsay told the *Independent* back in 2012, following her promotion to town manager. "I look forward to a long tenure."

That statement proved prophetic,

as 12 years is a long run these days in the realm of Vermont town managers.



RAMSAY

Ramsay has accepted a job as Municipal Operations Specialist for the VLCT's newly created Finance, Operations and Management Assistance Program. She'll be tasked with a position "working one-on-one with local officials of municipalities that were impacted by the 2023 floods to assess municipal operational capacity, determine targeted plans to address vulnerabilities, highlight opportunities and advance recovery and long-term resilience efforts," Ramsay said through an email.

Her last day on the job here will be Friday, Sept. 6.

Meanwhile, the Middlebury selectboard on Tuesday turned its attention to the recruitment process

for Ramsay's replacement. Ramsay has suggested a timeline through which the position:

- Will be advertised from July 10-24, with applications reviewed as they come in.
- A first round of interviews Aug. 5-16.
- A second round of interviews from Aug. 19-23.
- Background and reference checks of the most promising candidates Aug. 26-30.
- A job offer by Sept. 10.

It's a process that officials hope will lead to a finalist being able to start the job between Oct. 10 and Nov. 10.

In addition to this brief news summary, the *Independent* will offer a more expansive article soon noting Ramsay's contributions to, and impressions of, Middlebury's considerable transformation during her tenure.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Heffernan

(Continued from Page 1A) incumbent Democratic Sens. Chris Bray of Bristol and Ruth Hardy of Middlebury.

The pair of seats has drawn interest from candidates on both sides of the aisle. Heffernan joins a field of competitors that includes three Democrats, Bray, Hardy and Addison-4 state Rep. Caleb Elder of Starksboro, and two other Republicans Landel James Cochran of Huntington and Lesley J. Bienvenue of Leicester.

An Aug. 13 primary will decide which candidates advance to the Nov. 5 general election. The top two finishers in each primary will face each other in the November contest, as well as any independents or minor party candidates.

Heffernan is a life-long Bristol resident. After growing up on the family farm he married his high school sweetheart, Erin, and the pair began raising their own family in town, which includes three children and five grandchildren.

For over 30 years, Heffernan has served in the Vermont Air National Guard as an explosive ordnance disposal tech, traveling across the globe and serving two tours in Afghanistan.

During the early 2000s, he sat on Bristol's Zoning Board of Adjustment, a stint that included time serving as chair.

Heffernan owns and helps operate three local businesses: 802 Excavating and Heffernan Inspection and Repair, both based in Bristol, and GHR Metal Recycling, which has locations in New Haven, Pittsford and Moretown.

This is Heffernan's first run for elective office. He said he decided to throw his hat into the ring because he's concerned current legislators are not looking out for Vermonters.

"I truly feel our legislators have lost touch with what the majority of Vermonters want," he said.



REPUBLICAN STEVEN HEFFERNAN, a Bristol native and local business owner, is running for one of two seats state Senate representing Addison County, Huntington, Rochester and Buel's Gore. Independent photo/Marin Howell

He cited rising education taxes and higher fuel taxes as some of the issues that drove him to run and that he'd like to help tackle if elected.

"There must be better answers than just keep raising our taxes, and I don't feel our legislators have checked all those avenues."

— Steven Heffernan

Heffernan in particular pointed to the recently passed bill H.887, often referred to as the property tax "yield bill." The annual legislation is necessary for funding Vermont's public schools, and this year is projected to result in an average statewide education property tax increase of 13.8%.

The Legislature last month overrode Gov. Phil Scott's veto of the

he'd endeavor to help find ways to lower education taxes in the state. "As a legislator, you have access to a lot more data and people that are in the know and will be able to help you find out alternative methods, check with other states that have a good school system that seems to be working," he explained.

Heffernan also raised concern over H.289, legislation updating the state's Renewable Energy Standard that. Among other things, it requires most utilities to buy 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

Scott vetoed the bill, citing concerns over the plan raising Vermonters' utility rates. Lawmakers last month voted to override Scott's veto.

Heffernan said he'd like to see such efforts approached as a goal rather than a mandate.

"Our state is only (around) 650,000 people and the amount of energy we burn compared to a large city or even sprawling suburb is minimal, and why should we burden fellow taxpayers and Vermonters with this tax that will just make it harder for low-income elderly to survive, especially with the raising of school taxes, fuel prices, state income tax," he said.

Heffernan has pledged to help make Vermont a more affordable state to live in for current and future generations if elected.

"As a business owner and given yearly cost-of-living increases, anywhere from 3-5% is the norm, Vermont alone with these new taxes is putting my employees and their families further behind because the cost of living is way over 3-5%," he said.

He said he hopes to bring balance back to Vermont and look out for Vermonters if elected.

"Taking care of my fellow Vermonters is my true reason for running," he said.

He's also promised to advocate for Vermonters' fiscal wellbeing, health and wellness and environment.

"I have a great love for Vermont and those who live in it," he said.

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High energy

THE 40TH YEAR of the Festival on the Green started off this week with some great talent. Under the tent on the Middlebury town green, Samirah Evans (top photos) let her New Orleans roots show in an appearance with her band, The Handsome Devils. Clockwise from there are, saxophonist Michael Zsoldos (one of those Handsome Devils); the poppy bluegrass quartet Twisted Pine on Sunday night; Twisted Pine fiddler Kathleen Parks; violinist Charlie Burnham leads his Eureka Shoes bandmates Rashaan Carter on bass and Jean Rohe on guitar; Twisted Pine mandolinist Dan Bui enjoys a moment; Skye Steele of Eureka Shoes shares a vocal; and troubadour Jon Gailmor entertains a Brown Bag Lunch audience on Tuesday. The Festival continues through Saturday — go see a show!

Independent photos/Steve James



Bears

(Continued from Page 1A)
years ago, 30 years ago, we just didn't have many bears living," Comeau said. "All these increased sightings are reflective of a change in the distribution of Vermont's bear population."

That population had as recently as the 1970s been somewhat limited to the spine of the Green Mountains and the Northeast Kingdom, according to the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department, or FWD.

After settlers cleared much of Vermont for farmland resulting in habitat loss, and due to other factors, the state's bear population reached its lowest point around the 1850s. Improvements in habitat and management efforts have led to a strong comeback in Vermont's black bear population, Fish & Wildlife reports.

Now their numbers are higher than they have been in 200 years.

"Our bear population has slowly been recovering and reclaiming the full extent of its former range," Comeau explained.

The state's bear population has been largely stable since the mid-1990s, fluctuating between 4,000 and 7,500 — up for a few years then down for a few.

"Within those undulations we get to some of these high points, which is where we've been at the last few years, and we do start to kind of feel the pressure of living with these animals and sharing the landscape," Comeau said.

The department in September estimated that Vermont's bear population was at a five-year high of around 7,000 to 8,500 bears based on 2022 data. Today, bears can be found in every Vermont town except for the Lake Champlain Islands.

"It's a conservation success story, but it's also highlighting that we have to consider ways that we can adjust our behaviors to better share the land with these animals," Comeau said. "A lot of folks are seeing these bears, which is great, but a lot of times they're seeing them in situations that are not great for the bears and not great for the people."

LOCAL BEAR ENCOUNTERS

Those situations include bears rifling through trash cans or getting into bird feeders and chicken coops. County residents have

in recent weeks reported such incidents on social media, some of whom noting those instances marked the first time they'd seen a bear on their property.

Vermont Game Warden Dale Whitlock said this year he's received more calls than usual about bear sightings, particularly in parts of the county where bears have not been as prevalent in the past.

"This is my 28th year as a game warden and this is the first year I've ever had bear sightings and bear conflicts all the way to (Lake Champlain)," he said.

Whitlock noted that historically in Addison County bears have primarily been found in the mountain towns of Lincoln, Ripton and Bristol.

"This year, they're all over; Weybridge, Cornwall, and even as far west as Panton," he said.

The game warden said reports he's received largely consist of bears getting into unsecured trash and bird feeders.

"People get concerned because they're not used to it but it's nothing violent, public safety worthy or worrisome," he explained.

Whitlock noted that black bears are generally shy creatures.

"We're very fortunate here in Vermont that the black bear is as mellow and timid as it is," he said. "That being said, it's a wild animal, and people need to give them their space."

Vermonters can be good neighbors to black bears by learning to co-exist with the creatures and taking steps to avoid attracting bears to their properties, Whitlock said.

"Try not to treat every wild animal like a pest," he said. "You are living in their backyard, and they were here before us."

The *Independent* heard from several Addison County residents who've had recent bear encounters. Among them was Mark Stefani, a Middlebury resident who noticed a bear on his Monroe Street property in early May.

Stefani said at around 9:30 p.m. one evening, something set off a motion sensor light outside his home and he discovered the top of his bird feeder had been opened.

He grabbed a flashlight and went onto the deck to investigate,



A BLACK BEAR wanders through a Middlebury resident's front yard this past Sunday. Other residents have reported bear sightings in recent weeks, a trend reflective of increasing reports of bear encounters throughout the state.

Photo courtesy of Renee Ursitti

eventually spotting a bear in a maple tree around 10-15 feet away.

The bear came back down once Stefani turned off the light and went inside and was ultimately spooked off the property by Stefani making noise.

Stefani said it was his first time seeing a bear near his home, which is located just off Court Street near the high school.

"Living so close to Route 7, I've never had any problems with bears in the past," he said.

Stefani said he took down his bird feeder for a while after the encounter and hasn't seen another bear since that night. However, he's been keeping up with other residents' bear-related Front Porch Forum posts and noted one has been spotted more frequently around Buttolph Acres.

Stefani said such reports have driven him to consider taking further measures to avoid future bear encounters.

Danyow Drive resident Barbara Drapelick told the *Independent* she noticed a bear near her home on Wednesday, July 3.

"I was sitting on our screened porch reading when I heard some rustling in the tree line behind our house," Drapelick recalled. "I turned around to see what it was, only to see a bear come sauntering out of the trees. He proceeded to wander up into our yard and paused to sniff the fruit on our crabapple tree."

Drapelick said the bear was only 10-12 feet away but didn't seem to notice her inside the screened porch.

"I stood up to see if I could get a picture of him and my chair made a creaking sound. The noise startled the bear, he jumped (!), and trotted off across our yard, crossed Danyow Drive, and proceeded across our neighbor's yard on Rogers Road," she said.

Buttolph residents again spotted a bear passing through the neighborhood this past Sunday afternoon. Renee Ursitti said the bear hung out in her yard on Buttolph Drive for some time that day.

She underscored residents' responsibility to learn to live with black bears, "whose territories and climates are changing, reduced and destroyed due to human impact."

"This bear is obviously young and working out how to be a bear on his own. I saw no scary behavior," she said.



BUTTOLPH ACRES RESIDENTS spotted this black bear walking around the neighborhood on Sunday. Here, the bear hangs out near a tree in Renee Ursitti's yard on Buttolph Drive.

Photos courtesy of Renee Ursitti

SHIFTING BEHAVIORS

Comeau said there are three main factors involved in these bear-human encounters: the size of the human and bear populations, food availability and bear behavior.

"These are long-lived, smart animals, and we have been slowly teaching them over the past decade or so that we have a lot of food in our backyard," she said. "It's easily available, lots of calories, and so these animals are slowly shifting their behavior to start keying in on residential, backyard areas as a reliable place to find food."

Comeau noted that residents might not be concerned the first time or two a bear wreaks havoc on their garbage or bird feeders.

"It's a bit of an inconvenience, it causes a mess, but most people are pretty dismissive of it the first few times it happens," she said. "The problem is that for some bears, they start to become so keyed in on these human foods that it becomes a big part of their behavior, looking for these foods. It does escalate for some bears into situations that can cause real problems for people."

Comeau said the department is currently dealing with bears attempting to and succeeding in breaking into homes throughout the state.

"This isn't something that happens overnight. A bear doesn't go from eating blueberries and blackberries and beech nuts to — boom — going into someone's kitchen," she said. "This is a slow, learned behavior and a pattern in their behavior that happens through lots of opportunities getting into garbage, getting into bird feeders, getting backyard chickens."

Another concern is that bears feeding in more residential areas are more frequently interacting with busy roads.

"We are seeing big increases in the number of bears that are hit and killed by vehicles," Comeau said. "This is another issue that's putting some pressure on our bear population and also creates human safety issues."

So, what can Addison County residents do to avoid attracting bears to their property? One key step is to take down bird feeders for the spring, summer and fall months.

"Unfortunately, it's just such a huge attraction for bears," Comeau said. "We're trying to offer information to folks about how you can garden or landscape to attract birds instead."

Comeau noted the National Audubon Society's has a native plants database that details plants native to the area and what birds they help attract.

Residents can also take steps to secure their garbage.

"So, keeping your garbage in a sturdy shed, a locked garage, a basement, investing in a bear-proof garbage can or retrofitting your garbage can to make it bear resistant, so that bears don't have easy access to garbage," Comeau said.

The department encourages people to use ammonia-soaked rags or sponges where they store their garbage to eliminate odors that attract bears. Comeau also suggests using an electric fence to protect backyard bees or chickens and learning how to compost in a way that doesn't attract bears and other wildlife.

A comprehensive list of steps to avoid human-bear encounters and related resources can be found on the Living With Black Bears page on Fish & Wildlife's website.

Whitlock said residents he's spoken with have been able to resolve bear conflicts by removing unsecured trash and other bear attractants and discouraging/hazing the bear away if it continues to visit.

"People are going to see black bears, especially now that the population is getting bigger and healthier, so there's no reason to haze a bear off their property unless it's really close to the house, if you have children or pets or something

like that you're concerned about," he said. "You just want to make the bear know that you're the alpha on the property."

He noted that hazing the bear often isn't necessary, as the animal leaves once attractive food sources are removed from the area.

Comeau said the best time to take action is before residents' encounter a bear on their property.

"Once a bear has figured out about food on your property, it's going to be much harder to deter that bear from returning," she said. "It's much easier to keep bears away by never attracting them."

As for those that have already seen bears on their property, it's important to remain bear-aware, Comeau said.

"They're smart, they can live for multiple decades, and they remember every meal," she said. "You might have an issue with a bear right now, and that bear for the next five, ten years may continually check out your backyard to see if that food source has come back. So, that can just mean that you have to always be extra diligent once you start having bear problems."

Whitlock echoed that sentiment and added that avoiding bear encounters is a team effort.

"Most people are really good about it but it's a community effort because if you have one or two houses that are sloppy and leave attractants out for bears then it's going to become a problem for everyone," he said.

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Grant money will help pay for coaches

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — In addition to winning a big grant to place to naloxone vending machines in the Middlebury and Vergennes to fight drug overdose deaths, the Turning Point Center of Addison County has recently landed another grant and taken other steps to help people overcome substance use disorder.

The Middlebury organization landed a \$50,000 state grant that will continue to allow its recovery coaches to help people wherever they might be in the county. Turning Point Center first began offering “mobile” recovery services in January, thanks to an initial, \$43,000 grant. This latest grant will ensure the service can continue through next June.

Executive Director Danielle Wallace explained that mobile recovery coaching is key for people struggling with substance use disorder who are homebound, aren’t on a public transportation route, have lost their license due to a DUI offense, or who simply feel intimidated by sharing their stories in a group setting at Turning Point’s headquarters at 54A Creek Road.

“When I started going through our participant numbers, it was clear that once we get outside of Middlebury, our numbers plummet,” Wallace said. “We thought, ‘How can we change that? What if we’re able to meet with people where they’re most comfortable?’”

Turning Point officials have been meeting with folks in downtown Middlebury, and now have the resources to travel countywide to provide recovery coaching.

Interested participants can call TPC at 802-388-4249 and request a visit from the organization’s recovery team, which consists of four persons.

Separately, Turning Point Center collaborated with the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society (CVUUS) to offer bi-weekly meeting opportunities for the county’s LGBTQIA+ community. CVUUS will offer space for the meetings at its Middlebury campus, and TPC will provide personnel to lead the meetings — which have been scarce in the county.

Wallace said the meetings are slated to kick off on Aug. 22 and attendees needn’t be in search of substance use recovery services — though she noted the LGBTQIA+ community has been disproportionately susceptible to substance use disorder.

“Part of it is feeling like you have a community of support,” she said of the service. “That’s important.”

Finally, Turning Point is offering a five-week Writers for Recovery workshop at its Creek Road headquarters that began on July 8 and will be offered from 4-5:30 p.m. each Monday through Aug. 5. The drop-in workshop is led by Bianca Zanella. Writers for Recovery is a free amenity that helps people in recovery through “the power of the written word,” to help them process trauma and build self-esteem. Following the workshop, participants are eligible to publish work on the Writers for Recovery blog and in their annual print anthology.

Narcan

(Continued from Page 1A)

products they contain are an acknowledgement that opioid addiction is entrenched in our area and that steps can be taken to minimize deaths associated with substance use disorder, while also offering recovery services to those afflicted.

“The project will transform the landscape of available harm-reduction supplies for our target population by providing these supplies on a 24/7/365 basis to all who need them in the two communities selected for the machines,” reads TPCAC’s successful application for its Vermont Department of Health grant.

“The project is designed to dramatically increase the availability of these products in an effort to stem the overdose rate in Addison County and increase the safety of those engaging in substance misuse.”

TPC officials learned of the grant award last week. The Addison County vending machines will join ones already in place at the Johnson Health Center in Lamoille County and at Greater Bennington Community Services in Bennington County.

Turning Point staff will be tasked with periodically restocking the machines. Officials anticipate the Narcan will be tapped not only by those addicted to opiates, but by the friends and relatives of people at risk of overdosing.

The Department of Health in 2023 distributed 68,827 doses of naloxone to its community partners, who in turn were able to reverse 152 overdoses statewide.

Turning Point of Addison County began offering Narcan kits back in 2014, but officials reasoned the substance should be more readily available.

Wallace promised TPC will solicit community input to determine the best locations for the Middlebury and Vergennes vending machines. She said she isn’t concerned at this point about them potentially being vandalized or misused. She said stewards of the Johnson and Bennington vending machines have reported no such problems, as they’ve been placed in highly visible areas and are constantly monitored to help prevent misuse.

“We hope to place them in public spots where they’re easily accessible,” Wallace said.

Those who withdraw items from the Addison County machines will be able to do so anonymously but will be required to punch in a registration number that helps track use of the service, according to Wallace.

“We need to collect data,” Wallace said, citing information on how often the machines are being used, and what products are being used most.

Wallace said she’d eventually like to see TPCAC expand its harm-reduction offerings to incorporate safe syringes and a needle exchange, among other things. But she stressed Turning Point would need special permissions to add those services.

“We’d need to have a medical license or be an HIV/AIDS prevention provider,” she noted, adding “that isn’t out of the question.”



LOUIS SMITH (CENTER, holding “We Belong Here” sign) poses at Middlebury College’s Bread Loaf campus with many of those who have supported him and his family after they were targeted by hate speech from a driver who shouted at them while traveling down Route 125 during the evening of June 30.

Photo by Rabiah Khaliq

Neighbors

(Continued from Page 1A)

family were specifically targeted. “It was unnerving; if it had just been me, I wouldn’t have been as concerned,” he said during a recent phone interview.

“Racism if one of those things that’s always there, sadly. It springs up from time to time. But it’s still shocking when it’s so directed, pointed and aggressive.”

Smith said the act was cowardly but acknowledged “cowards do hurt people from time to time.”

So, for peace of mind, Smith stayed awake during the night of the incident, on the off-chance the drive-by racist might return to harm his family.

“You think of people being threatened during the time of reconstruction, with people sitting on their porch waiting for the Klan to show up,” he said. “Your mind starts to go there. That was a lonely night.”

But Smith would soon learn he was far from alone.

Members of the Bread Loaf and greater Addison County communities rallied behind the Smith family, showing support that culminated in an on-campus event on Tuesday, July 2, at which more than 20 supporters shared food and created signs bearing messages like, “We are your neighbor,” “I belong here; we belong here” and “All are welcome here.”

“It’s been awesome,” Smith said of the response.

Bread Loaf colleagues and staff have continued to help the family in both tangible and symbolic ways.

“A number of people said, ‘You’re not going to sit out on your porch (to keep vigil); we’ll sit out there for you. Go inside and be with your family, we’ll keep watch,’” Smith said. “The feeling of being taken care of was huge.”

The Smiths have taken a stance of being more visible in the face of a random act of ignorance and hatred.

“I’m not going to hide, I’m going to be here,” Louis said, “and to have that echoed by two-dozen people who are saying, ‘You’re our neighbor, you belong here and we want everyone to know that,’ is



SAMANTHA LANGEVIN, LEFT, and HaQuyen Pham were among more than 20 community members who made signs in support of a family that was targeted by hate speech at Middlebury College’s Bread Loaf campus in Ripton on Sunday, June 30.

Photo by Antoine Waithe

pretty awesome.”

Serena Kim provided a key spark in rallying the community for the July 2 “art-in” for the Smith family. In addition to being co-owner of Middlebury’s Swift House Inn, Kim is a second-year Bread Loaf student seeking her master’s degree in English literature. She’s a member of Addison County BIPOC+, the Vermont Releaf Collective, and Middlebury’s Students of Color Consortium, which supports the college’s BIPOC (Black, indigenous, people of color) community as it navigates an institution — and state — that’s predominantly white.

“It triggered a lot of horrible memories for me in experiencing racial trauma and I felt shock, because it seemed like such an ‘Alabama, circa 1940s’ thing to happen. I felt we had come so far that this was so stunning,” Kim said.

Kim noted Smith’s first impulse after the racist event was a desire to make a sign saying, “I’m not going anywhere.” She reasoned that other members of the BIPOC community could do the same, in solidarity.

“A lot of people, regardless of their race, felt sad and frustrated, and wanted to show their support,” she said.

Kim liked the idea of having “a lot of people of color on Route 125, being joyful and making art and showing we’re here. It was important to me that we be people of color at this (event), even though I know how supportive white students and the administration are. They want to help us and be present. But what happens in Vermont is if a lot of white people get together, it can look like any other day in Vermont. But if Blacks, Asians and Latinos gather on Route 125, it’s quite visible. I felt even our bodies were a protest.”

Like Smith, Kim believes the culprit in this case had prior knowledge of the family.

“The focus was a woman and

two very young children who really don’t present as Black. That meant that Louis was being monitored and it was an attack against his mixed marriage; that was really painful to me. We have to stand up as a community and show that’s not tolerated,” she said.

Smith and his family continue to feel the love in the aftermath of a hateful incident.

“I didn’t have to be the engine for all this happening,” he said, with gratitude. “There was this feeling of, ‘We’ve got you; you’ve got enough on your plate, we’re gonna take care of this for you. I feel like ‘ally’ can be a trite term, but to me, this is what ally-ship actually looks like: ‘You take care of yourself, we got the rest of this.’”

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Feel the breeze

AN EASTERN KINGBIRD hunts insects in a Lincoln meadow recently.

Photo by Dale Cockrell

ACSWMD receives grant to deal with household waste

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison County Solid Waste Management District recently received a grant of \$40,589 from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. The grant is used to help fund household hazardous waste collection and disposal for the District's 21 member towns.

Residents of these towns can bring household hazardous waste such as paints, cleaning products, herbicides, pesticides, automotive products, and many other toxic chemicals to the District's

HazWaste Center in Middlebury for safe and proper disposal, at no charge. These wastes are prohibited from disposal as trash to keep toxic, flammable, corrosive, and reactive materials out of Vermont's landfills.

The District HazWaste Center at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury is open year-round, every Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information, please contact Don Maglienti at 802-388-2333, ext. 222, or visit AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

ADDISON COUNTY School News

The following local students were named to the dean's list at Saint Michael's College for the spring 2024 semester: **Lillian Fleming** of Cornwall, **Lily Weaver** of Middlebury, **Thomas Bemis** of New Haven, **Phoebe**

Leah Croke of Ferrisburgh and **Catherine Schmitt** of Middlebury received their Bachelor of Arts degrees from Hamilton College at the school's Commencement ceremony on

Hussey of Ripton and **Audrey Scribner** of Vergennes. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the list.

Sunday, May 19. Croke majored in Computer Science. Schmitt, a Neuroscience and Philosophy major, graduated summa cum laude with departmental honors.

Addison County	Annual household income limit by household size				
	1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people
Low Income	\$61,050	\$69,750	\$78,500	\$87,200	\$94,200
Moderate Income	\$91,550	\$104,650	\$117,700	\$130,800	\$141,250

Efficiency Vt. updates household income limits

WINOOSKI — More Vermont households can now take advantage of Efficiency Vermont's rebates for home weatherization, climate-friendly heating systems, efficient appliances and more, thanks to updated income levels that expand eligibility to dozens of existing rebates and programs.

Many Efficiency Vermont programs are designed around median household income, with additional savings available for households considered low- or moderate-income. Updated income levels for 2024 mean a family of four earning \$142,700 in Chittenden County now qualifies as moderate-income. In Washington County, a 4-person household earning \$126,500 also qualifies as moderate-income. The updates mean more households now qualify for Efficiency Vermont's low- and moderate-income (LMI) offers, including:

- \$350 to \$450 off a ductless heat pump — plus a \$200 income-based bonus. Heat pumps bring the added benefits of air conditioning as well as heating, keeping you comfortable all year long. Homes with ductwork can get \$1,000 to \$2,000 back on a ducted heat pump, plus the income-based \$200 bonus.

- 100% of costs back — up to \$5,000—to buy and install a heat pump water heater. These water heaters use heat pump technology to provide your home with hot water for cooking, bathing, laundry, and more. Heat pump water heaters can cut a home's water heating energy costs by about half.

- Recoup 75% of weatherization costs (up to \$9,500) through Home Performance with Energy Star. Air sealing and insulation help homeowners save money by using less energy to heat and cool their homes, keeping indoor temperatures comfortable in summer and winter. Low-income households can qualify for free weatherization through the state's Weatherization Assistance Programs.

- 0% interest financing for 100% of your project with a Home Energy Loan. Zero-interest loans help spread out the cost of home weatherization and other improvements. Working

with an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor, a Home Energy Loan can be used for heating upgrades, air sealing and insulation, wood or pellet boilers or stoves, and health and safety improvements.

- Help for efficient home appliances: Qualifying ENERGY STAR-certified appliances — like refrigerators, freezers, washers and dryers, air purifiers, and more — are eligible for 0% interest financing. They use less electricity while still offering the latest features. Additional rebates are also available for clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, washer/dryer combination units, and window air conditioners. These can save households money and water, and improve indoor air quality and comfort.

- Up to \$29,500 for households damaged by 2023 summer flooding: Flood-impacted homeowners and renters can get up to \$10,000 on qualifying appliances, heating systems, and water heating systems. Another \$10,000 is available to upgrade a home electric panel, and an additional \$9,500 is available for weatherization projects.

New income thresholds are established annually by the federal Department for Housing and Urban Development. The Vermont Housing Finance Agency then calculates income tiers for Vermont's 14 counties. Those 2024 tiers are:

Changing income eligibility helps renters as well as homeowners. Efficiency Vermont's rebates for renters are based on newly-updated rent limits, not on renter income (not applicable for flood recovery rebates). That means more renters in manufactured homes, multi-family units, and studio or multi-bedroom apartments can access free products for renters and other offers and services.

To find your household income, take the monthly amount (before taxes) from your last one or two paychecks — including any paychecks for other family and non-family members 18 and older living in your household — and multiply that amount by 12. Find more details on calculating household income, including for households with six or more, on Efficiency Vermont's website: efficiencyvermont.com.

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SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Classifieds
- Legal Notices
- Police Logs

— MATT DICKERSON —

Beware the marmots

When the day began, we had no idea that our greatest danger would come from marmots. Bears perhaps, or winding mountain roads. But marmots?

Let me back up. The marmots came on the second day of our two-day visit to Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada range of California. We spent our first day on a long slow tour starting at our motel in the town of Three Rivers and driving up a steep, winding,



but well-paved mountain road through the main portion of the park, down into the adjacent Kings Canyon National Park, and back, with frequent stops for short hikes, photo ops, waterfalls, wildflowers, vistas of the mountainous landscape, and especially trees: the behemoth sequoias after which the park is named.

Our tour included a visit to some of the largest trees in the world, when measured by total mass. General Sherman, the world's heaviest known tree, was last measured at 274.9 feet tall, with its lowest branch a full 130 feet above the ground. Most impressive to me was its diameter of 36.5 feet at the base, making it almost the length of, significantly wider than, and with a footprint comparable to, our last house. And those numbers don't really capture the true majesty of the tree. Even standing next to it, I found it difficult to appreciate just how massive it is. Sherman is estimated to be about 2,200 years old. Sequoias typically reach their full height before the end of their first century of life, and from then on they are just steadily adding girth. Lots and lots of girth. (See Dickerson, Page 3B)

Politano wins big golf tourney

MIDDLEBURY — In a busy recent stretch for Ralph Myhre Golf Course and its members, the highlight was member Lucas Politano's participation in the New England Junior PGA Championship held at Shaker Hills Country Club in Harvard, Mass., on July 1 and 2.

Course officials said he was on fire, dominating the leaderboards of some of the biggest junior golf events in the Northeast. During the first round in Harvard, Politano dazzled everyone with an impressive performance, scoring seven birdies. He maintained his stellar play throughout the tournament, ultimately winning the prestigious two-day event by three strokes. His 141 was 3 under par.

This victory qualifies him for the National Junior PGA Championship at Congressional in Maryland at the end of July.

Other recent action included:

- VSWG State Day at Brattleboro Country Club on June 25, where Nicole Laberge in Flight 2 was 4th Place Gross; Susan Rand in Flight 1 was 6th Place Net, and Eileen Sims in Flight 3 was 7th Place Net.

- Thursday Men's League on July 4, when the team results were: 1st to Robert Kirkpatrick, Allen Smith and David Zarowin; 2nd to Steve Maier, Jim Dunn and Neil Mackey; 3rd to Jim Johnston and Uwe Luksch. The Low Net Player was Neil Mackey with a 70. Two golfers were closest to the pin: Ashley Cadwell and Jim Dunn.

- Friday Evening Mixer on July 5, when team results were: 1st to Craig Miner, Susan Miner and Father Skip Baltz; 2nd to Dale White, Garvi Jesso-White, Jill White and Brian Sperry; 3rd to Nicole Laberge, Bill Laberge, Cindy Wemette and Dave Wemette.



BY A TOILET-paper-thin margin in the final round of July 4's Great Outhouse Race in Bristol, Blue Ledge Farm falls to LaRose Surveys, allowing the Surveyors to claim a three-year winning streak.

Independent photo/Caroline Jiao

LaRose Surveys wins third straight outhouse title

By CAROLINE JIAO

BRISTOL — The annual outhouse race amidst Bristol's July 4 festivities never disappoints.

Twelve teams of three contestants each showed up ready to roll on West Street this past Thursday morning. The aim for all was an agile advancement to the finish line. The winners of each trial heat proceeded to the final round, with trophies awaiting teams that are either the fastest or the prettiest.

The unusual sport, billed by Bristol's 4th of July Committee as the World Championship, involves both speed and tactics, according to Gary Russell, who dropped the starting flag at the beginning of each race.

"The trickiest part is to navigate that chasm," said Russell, indicating the narrowed roadway between the two cranes that lift a gigantic American flag over the middle of the course.

The runners were acutely aware of this reality while they carefully strategized their route and prayed for good luck. Members of last year's winner, LaRose Surveys, shared their secret before the race.

"Left side," Ezekiel Savage declared.

"The right side is on a downer angle, so there's more steering" Kobe LaRose explained.

The two pushers planned to proudly continue their double-push strategy.

"We coined that method two

years ago," LaRose said. "It hasn't failed us since," Savage added — LaRose Surveys had won two straight years.

Bella Swift, the occupant of their porta-a-potty throne, was new to the team this year.

"This is my first and last time riding," she assured a reporter.

This year the saga of LaRose Surveys' battle against the Blue Ledge Farm team, led by Cameron Perta with fellow pusher Hayden Bernhardt and sitter Evan Thomas, continued to capture the crowd's attention.

"Every sport I play, it's all for this," Bernhardt firmly stated.

"I'm excited to go, been watching this since I was younger. Hopefully we can get the win," Thomas added.

Perta himself seemed to be susceptible to an ungodly amount of pressure from his audience.

"I'm incredibly nervous, almost embarrassingly so. I'd like to think I lead a balanced and reasonable life, but this is the most stressful thing I do all year," he shared.

While there was little doubt for the top two seeds this year, teams from Jackman's of Bristol Inc. and Bristol Co-Housing also quickly elevated themselves from their heats into the final race.

"If you ain't first, you're last," joked Elliot Diana from Jackman's.

"We're feeling good, we're here to play, we're here to have fun,"

said the Co-Housers catching their breaths after the first run.

As the drum rolled for the final round, the four winning teams of each heat dashed forward with the speed of their lives.

The two top seeds in the race,

LaRose Surveys and Blue Ledge Farm, quickly gained advantageous positions on the track, rushing forward almost head-to-head. The four outhouses, in the blink of an eye, squeezed through the middle

(See Outhouses, Page 2B)

"I'd like to think I lead a balanced and reasonable life, but this is the most stressful thing I do all year."

— Cam Perta



THE HOT FLASH trio — Katina Francis Ready, Amelia Lutz and Erin Talmage — say the key to their success is lovely outfits and many sparkles. They didn't make it out of the heats.

Independent photo/Caroline Jiao

Mid Marlins top Essex

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Marlins Swim Team on July 2 topped visiting Essex, 249.5-195.5, in the team's second meet of the Champlain Valley Swim League season.

The Marlins were scheduled to host defending league and state champion Burlington Tennis Club this Tuesday and visit Winooski this Thursday, July 11, before a short drive up Route 7 this coming Tuesday, July 16, to drop in on their friendly county rivals, the Vergennes Champs.

On July 2, Essex held a 9-8 edge in relay races, but the Marlins outperformed their visitors in the individual events.

Five Marlins claimed three individual wins apiece: Cassandra Bellmann, Felix Poduschnick, Henry Cadoret, Sadie Chance and Jurgen Pirrung.

Two more touched the final wall twice: Connor McNamara and Elizabeth Goldblatt Clark. In all, Middlebury swimmers won 25 of 38 completed individual events.

Marlins scoring points for their team with top-three finishes in those races were:

- BUTTERFLY**
- 10U girls: 1. Cassandra Bellmann, 17.32; 2. Vela Remaniak.
 - 10U boys: 1. Felix Poduschnick, 15.25; 2. Porter Mackey.
 - 12U girls: 2. Evelyn Fuller; 3. Nicola Power.

(See Marlins, Page 2B)

Champs hold their own against BTC

VERGENNES — Despite the fact that the Vergennes Swim Team had less than half the number of swimmers as host Burlington Tennis Club in a July 3 meet, the Champs made a decent showing in the Burlington pool and fell to the Barracudas by only 288 to 211.

BTC, the reigning Champlain Valley Swim League and state champion, fielded 133 swimmers compared to Vergennes's 62.

Several VST swimmers won multiple races on July 3, with some swimmers having strong performances and winning multiple races. Savannah Wallace had a clean sweep, winning all four of her girls 8 and under events. Riker Cooley (boys 8 and under) and Connor Husk (boys 12 and under) each won three individual events, and Jordan Hutchins won two girls 12 and under races and garnered second place in a third race.

The meet featured 10 relay events; BTC won six and VST team touched first in four.

The Vergennes Swim Team will host the Town of Essex Swim Team on Thursday, race at the CVSL Distance Meet in Middlebury on Saturday, and then go head-to-head vs. Middlebury in the shire town on Tuesday.

Champs scoring points for their team with top-three finishes in individual races vs. BTC on July 3 were:

- BUTTERFLY**
- 8U girls: 1. Savannah Wallace, 17.40.
 - 8U boys: 1. Riker Cooley, 18.53; 2. Rhett Cooke.
 - 10U boys: 2. Brantley Cooke.
 - 12U girls: 1. Jordan Hutchins, 32.75.
 - 12U boys: 1. Connor Husk, 32.28; 3. Enli Parrillo.
 - 14U girls: 2. Ella Bearor.
 - 14U boys: 3. William Warren.
 - 18U girls: 3. Acadia Clark.
 - 18U boys: 3. Luke Davis.
- BACKSTROKE**
- 8U girls: 1. Savannah Wallace, 21.37; 3. Margaret Smits.
 - 8U boys: 1. Evan Angier, 22.90; 2. Rhett Cooke.
 - 10U girls: 2. Scarlett Giroux; 3. Zoe Kress.
 - 10U boys: 1. Brantley Cooke, 18.59.
 - 12U girls: 2. Jordan Hutchins.
 - 12U boys: 1. Connor Husk, (See Champs, Page 2B)



HAYDEN BERNHARDT'S EXPRESSION shows he is in fierce combat mode as his Blue Ledge Farm outhouse nears the finish line in Bristol while teammate Cameron Perta laboriously collaborates in pushing their vehicle. Evan Thoma, in the meantime, sits gleefully inside the wooden frame.

Independent photo/Steve James

Miner and McPhee nab first-time wins

WEST HAVEN — Pat Miner of Monkton and Bubba McPhee of Rutland each collected their first-career Devil's Bowl Sunoco Sportsman Modified features on Sunday at Devil's Bowl. Addison County drivers won five other races, as well.

The Mid-Season Championship night ran double features for nearly all classes.

In the headline event, Miner and Johnny Bruno led the first 30-lap feature to green with Miner gaining the early lead. The race was halted on lap seven as Marty Kelly wound up backwards in the south end. Upon the restart, Bruno took the lead from Miner and held strong up front. Near the halfway point, the race was halted again as AJ Munger

and Dave Camara were tangled up on the backstretch. Miner retook the top spot on lap 21 and did not give it up. He scored his first-career win in the headline class. Vince Quenneville of Brandon came up to run second and Bruno was third.

McPhee won the second 30-lap sportsman contest with a late slide-job on race leader Orwell's Tim LaDuc. Munger led most of the race before LaDuc got by him on a restart on lap 21. McPhee won a short dash to the finish with LaDuc second and Bristol's Josh Masterson third.

The night's first O'Reilly Limited Sportsman Feature was won by Steve Miller of Vergennes. Adam LaFountain of Starksboro was fourth, Derrick Counter of

Leicester was fifth and Alex Layn of New Haven was ninth.

Salisbury's Freddie Little wired the second limited feature, taking the lead on the opening lap from polesitter Tyler Travis. Layn started 8th here and ended up second. Salisbury's Gary English Jr. was fourth, and Starksboro's Adam LaFountain was fifth.

Other local race winners on July 7 were:

- Hoosier Racing Tire Novice Sportsman Feature #2, Matt Cram of Leicester.
- Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint Feature #1, Gage Provencher of Bridport.
- Friend Construction 500cc Mini Sprint Feature #2, Quinn Quenneville of Brandon.

Marlins

(Continued from Page 1B)

- 12U boys: 1. Henry Cadoret, 34.97.
 - 14U girls: 1. Sadie Chance, 31.38; 2. Abigail Hamilton.
 - 14U boys: 1. Jurgen Pirrung, 31.58; 2. Constantin Bellmann.
 - 18U boys: 1. Connor McNamara, 26.75.
- BACKSTROKE**
- 8U girls: 1. Elizabeth Goldblatt Clark, 23.97.
 - 8U boys: 1. Lincoln Hunt, 26.82.
 - 10U girls: 1. V. Remaniak, 21.88.
 - 10U boys: 1. P. Mackey, 21.35; 2. Hudson Tolas.
 - 12U girls: 2. E. Fuller; 3. N. Power.
 - 12U boys: 2. George Martin;

- 3. Henry Schmitt.
 - 14U girls: 1. A. Hamilton, 34.25; 2. Fiona Mackey.
 - 14U boys: 1. Daniel Power, 38.44.
 - 18U girls: 3. Quinn Mackey.
 - 18U boys: 2. C. McNamara.
- BREASTSTROKE**
- 10U girls: 1. Ca. Bellmann, 20.87; 2. V. Remaniak.
 - 10U boys: 1. F. Poduschnick, 20.40.
 - 12U girls: 1. Camry Miner, 55.87.
 - 12U boys: 1. H. Cadoret, 42.75; 3. G. Martin.
 - 14U girls: 1. S. Chance, 34.76; 2. Selma Citarella.
 - 14U boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 39.84; 2. Co. Bellmann.
 - 18U girls: 3. Q. Mackey.

- 18U boys: 2. C. McNamara.
- FREESTYLE**
- 8U girls: 1. Goldblatt Clark, 24.96.
 - 8U boys: 2. L. Hunt.
 - 10U girls: 1. Ca. Bellmann, 16.90.
 - 10U boys: 1. F. Poduschnick, 14.06; 2. P. Mackey.
 - 12U girls: 2. E. Fuller; 3. C. Miner.
 - 12U boys: 1. H. Cadoret, 31.35.
 - 14U girls: 1. S. Chance, 27.81; 2. S. Citarella.
 - 14U boys: 1. J. Pirrung, 28.15; 2. D. Power.
 - 18U girls: 3. Q. Mackey.
 - 18U boys: 1. C. McNamara, 24.53.

Champs

(Continued from Page 1B)

- 35.90.
- 14U girls: 2. Ellie Brooks; 3. Annika Smits.

- 14U boys: 2. Rowan Neffinger.
- 18U girls: 3. Ella Romond.
- 18U boys: 1. Luke Davis, 26.78; 2. Will Clark, 27.53.

- BREASTSTROKE**
- 8U girls: 1. Savannah Wallace, 21.13.
 - 8U boys: 1. Riker Cooley, 24.38.
 - 10U girls: 1. Scarlett Giroux, 20.88.
 - 10U boys: 1. Martin Gee, 22.87.
 - 12U girls: 1. Jordan Hutchins, 40.09; 3. Juliette Angier.
 - 12U boys: 3. Skyler James.
 - 14U boys: 3. William Warren.
 - 18-U girls: 3. Ellie Eckels.
 - 18-U boys: 2. Noah Smits; 3. Alex Henley.
- FREESTYLE**
- 8U girls: 1. Savannah Wallace, 16.62.
 - 8U boys: 1. Riker Cooley, 16.78; 2. Rhett Cooke.
 - 10U girls: 1. Lydia Bearor, 16.84; 3. Scarlett Giroux.
 - 10U boys: 1. Brantley Cooke, 15.88.
 - 12U boys: 1. Connor Husk, 30.25.
 - 14U girls: 2. Ella Bearor.
 - 14U boys: 2. Rowan Neffinger.
 - 18-U girls: 1. Acadia Clark, 27.09; 3. Adrienne Smits.
 - 18-U boys: 1. Will Clark, 23.19.



A LARGE WOODCHUCK takes a ride up West Street in Bristol in the well-loved local cider company's outhouse on July 4.

Independent photo/Steve James

Outhouses

(Continued from Page 1B)

point of the race marked by the narrowly parked cranes, although the passage rendered the Surveyors a slight advantage against the rest.

As they were approaching the finish line, Perta from Blue Ledge Farm made one last forceful push against the back of his rig before letting go for fate to decide his outhouse's destiny. As fate would have it, the double-push method of the Surveyors proved to be the more successful strategy.

Given a toilet-paper-thin margin, LaRose Surveys, despite the absence of their beloved coach Richard Donnelly, eventually won their last race.

"We pulled the hat trick and we're done," Savage said.

As the three-year era comes to

an end with the Surveyors taking a bow, it's better to stay tuned for Perta's comeback next year.

"We already scheduled next year's practice," Perta said. "This is the most important thing I do in the entire year. I wish I was kidding."

The winner of this year's best-decorated outhouse prize, the ladies of Hot Flash, obviously breezed through their run (they trailed the heat winners by a very generous margin) as their decision to participate in the race was entirely last-minute. Katina Francis Ready, a local lawyer with her own law firm now dressed in her dazzling Captain Marvel costume and Mohican hair, explained how the Hot Flashers got in the race.

"It was a joke on Monday because they put a plea out for participants.

But it didn't finish as a joke at all," she said.

In a text she wrote to her fellow teammates, Ready said, "I was just on the phone with opposing counsel in a case and he asked what our strategy is! I was like... cute t-shirts and sparkles!!!"

Megan Harris, a longtime helper of the July 4 event in Bristol and a finish line holder at the race this year, noted the large crowds along West Street cheering on the racers in good natured fun. She loves the joy and fun of the day.

"I've been part of this the entire time since I was 36. This is my first time doing the outhouse race with my father, Steve Gebeault," Harris said. "It's just an amazing event, and I love seeing the population of my town grow."



CHARON HENNING AND her plastic flamingo, seated in an outhouse draped in rainbow strips and paper monstera leaves, enjoys a tropical ride fueled by Brandin Jones's push.

Independent photo/Steve James

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Woman cited on multiple counts

Vt. State Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — After responding to a July 7 incident, Vermont State Police cited Maria Trudeau, 30, of Barre for several offenses, including two counts of first degree aggravated domestic assault, interference with access to emergency services, two counts of unlawful mischief, and driving under the influence (second offense).

On July 7 at around 9 a.m., police received a report of a family fight at a campground located on Basin Harbor Road in Ferrisburgh. The police report that Trudeau had attempted to cause serious bodily injury to two family or household members with a metal shovel. Allegedly, Trudeau also intentionally caused damage to the victims' belongings and attempted to prevent them from calling 911.

Trudeau fled the scene on a motorcycle before troopers arrived. Police later located her

on Route 125 in Addison and detected signs of impairment. Trudeau was screened, placed under arrest and transported to the state police barracks in New Haven for processing. Trudeau was held without bail and later transported to the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility.

Troopers were assisted by members of Middlebury Regional EMS.

In other recent activity, state police:

- Cited Bryan Hathaway, 40, of Essex Junction for domestic assault. State police report that Hathaway caused injury to a household member around 7 p.m. on July 4 at Button Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh. Police took Hathaway into custody without incident and later released him with conditions and the citation.

- Cited Evan C. Bergeron, 24, of Essex Junction for driving under the influence on July 4 at approximately half past 11 p.m. Bergeron was noted to be substantially intoxicated inside a parked car on Route 7 near the intersection with Route 17 in New Haven.

Andy Kirkaldy Matt Dickerson Karl Lindholm

SPORTS WE'VE GOT IT COVERED!

Dickerson

(Continued from Page 1B)

Before we even got to General Sherman, and then again after seeing it, we stopped at several other sequoia groves to take in the wonder of the living giants. Most sequoia, even of the “small” ones (by comparison), were still breathtaking. Wandering through a grove in an area that was quieter and less touristy than the more famous named trees was profoundly inspiring with a sense of weighty and holy stillness.

On our second day, we decided to leave the more famous and heavily visited part of the park, and drive to the area known as Mineral King at the end of a dead-end road in the park’s newer southern section. The entire road is only 25 miles long, but the tour guide said to allow half a day just to make the round-trip drive. That warning didn’t fully register with me, until we actually started up the road.

Starting in town at an elevation of under 900 feet, the first portion of the drive outside the park was still in a residential part of town. Though the road was steep, winding and narrow, it was nonetheless well paved with houses built into the mountainside on both sides. Signs along the road warned of raiding bears, and sure enough we came around a tight corner to see a large black bear standing in the middle of the road. We stopped to admire it, and it seemed in no hurry to get out of our way until a car came down the hill from the other side, at which

point it jogged to the shoulder and watched us pass. Since it was already three hours after sunrise on a hot summer day, we were a bit surprised to see the bear still out and about until we drove around the next bend and saw the contents of a large Dumpster that hadn’t been properly secured strewn across the road, which had actually been the point of the numerous bear-warning signs.

Another couple miles up the road, as we continued winding our way upward toward 7,580 feet in elevation, the pavement gave way to dirt. Not only did the road get rough, but the mountain shoulder along which it ran also grew steeper. And unlike the previous day, there were no guardrails. We were driving along a one-lane road in which traffic was allowed in both directions, and in most places pulling too far off the shoulder to allow a car to pass would result in a very long tumble down to a river. Fortunately, being the less-visited part of the park, we passed almost no traffic in the other direction. Until the big dump truck came.

I think our average speed was less than 12 mph. Not even counting stops to walk among more sequoias, admire the views, and look for trout down in the river, plus one stop for fresh pie at a restaurant in a small enclave of private land grandfathered into the park, it still took more than two hours of driving to reach the end of the road at Mineral King.

And that was where we saw the



BRISTOL RESIDENT DEBORAH Dickerson is dwarfed by two large redwoods in Sequoia National Park during a recent visit to the California park — and these weren’t even the largest specimens.

Photo by Matthew Dickerson

sign warning us of the marmots. Apparently, the alpine cousins of Vermont’s famed woodchucks like to get underneath cars parked at the trailheads and start chewing. At first, this might not sound like a particularly dangerous threat to anything except your wallet and convenience until you learn that their favorite chewing target

are your brake lines — possibly because of something tasty in the brake fluid, or, as my friend Dave suggested, because manufacturers have switched from petroleum-based hoses to soy-based hoses, which could very well be a tasty marmot treat! Hearing this, I pondered my drive out: descending nearly 7,000 feet on a steep, narrow, winding road, and discovering I suddenly had no breaks.

“Don’t leave car untended, for more than a short moment,” the ranger warned. I decided to take her warning seriously.

The ranger went on to describe the recommended marmot-protection strategy used by backpackers — or anybody else wanting to leave their car unguarded: you lay a large tarp on the ground where you want to park, drive your car on top of the tarp, and then wrap up your car from bottom to top tying it back together over the roof. We looked out the window of the ranger station and saw that the ranger’s vehicle right in her own driveway was, indeed, wrapped up this way.

When we stopped at the parking lot at the end of the road, and I took a short walk up a trail to take a photo of waterfalls and see if I could spot any trout in the river, my partner opted to stay with the car.



A FOREST RANGER at a stop in Sequoia National Park told us that the best way to make sure marmots (western woodchucks) don’t chew on the brake lines of your car is to wrap the bottom in a tarp when leaving it unattended.

Photo by Matthew Dickerson

Marlins take on powerhouse BTC

By ALYANA SANTILLANA

MIDDLEBURY — On Tuesday night, the Middlebury Swim Team faced off against the reigning league champions, the Burlington Tennis Club Barracudas. Despite having half as many swimmers as the Barracudas, Middlebury put up a valiant effort at the July 9 meet. Nevertheless, the Marlins fell to the Barracudas, 328 to 159.

BTC brought 104 swimmers, and the Middlebury team had exactly half as many, with 52.

Four Middlebury swimmers won multiple races on Tuesday. Earning a clean sweep was 18-year-old Connor McNamara, who won all four of his races. Teammates Felix Poduschnick won three; and Cassandra Bellmann and Henry Cadoret won two races apiece.

The meet featured 10 relay races, with the Barracudas winning eight relays, and the Middlebury quartets touching first in two.

Marlins scoring points for their team with top-three finishes in individual races vs. BTC on July 9 were:

BUTTERFLY

- 10U girls: 1. Cassandra Bellmann, 18.23.
- 10U boys: 1. Felix Poduschnick, 15.52.
- 12U girls: 3. Evelyn Fuller.
- 12U boys: 1. Henry Cadoret, 42.03.
- 14U girls: 2. Sadie Chance.

- 14U boys: 2. Jorgen Pirrung.
- 18U boys: 1. Connor McNamara, 26.75.

BACKSTROKE

- 8U boys: 1. Cooper Butler, 22.27; 2. Lincoln Hunt.
- 10U boys: 1. Porter Mackey, 21.17.
- 12U girls: 3. Evelyn Fuller.
- 12U boys: 3. Harvey Bishop.
- 14U girls: 2. Abigail Hamilton.
- 14U boys: 3. Daniel Power.
- 18U boys: 1. Connor McNamara, 31.33.

BREASTSTROKE

- 10U girls: 1. Cassandra Bellmann, 21.37.
- 10U boys: 1. Felix Poduschnick, 20.78.
- 12U boys: 1. Henry Cadoret, 42.89; 2. George Martin.
- 14U girls: 1. Sadie Chance, 35.43; 3. Selma Citarella.
- 14U boys: 1. Jorgen Pirrung, 38.28.
- 18U boys: 1. Connor McNamara, 33.38.

FREESTYLE

- 8U boys: 1. Cooper Butler, 18.41.
- 10U boys: 1. Felix Poduschnick, 14.13; 2. Porter Mackey; 3. Wyatt Hill.
- 12U boys: 1. Henry Cadoret, 30.89; 2. George Martin.
- 14U girls: 2. Sadie Chance; 3. Abigail Hamilton.
- 18U boys: 1. Connor McNamara, 24.83



Looky there!

THE JULY 4 GREAT Uthouse Race in Bristol is usually a fast-paced affair, but this past Thursday the Bird Nerds racers got a bit distracted by avian activity in the crowd and introduced some “slow birding” to the annual event.

Independent photo/Steve James

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Nicely done

THE 2024 PEASANT Market this past Saturday in Middlebury was a mass of people milling around under tents, across the town green and in the basement of St. Stephen's Church among an even larger mass of donated household, sporting, kitchen, antique, garden and other goods for sale. And it was a success, with the market every year on the Saturday before Festival on the Green noting that the market brought in \$38,000, which will be donated to charities.

Independent photos/
John S. McCright

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ADDISON CO. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTR

Police recover stolen vehicle

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police recovered a vehicle on South Pleasant Street on July 6 that had been reported stolen earlier from the South Burlington area. Middlebury police also identified all the occupants of the car and shared that information with the South Burlington PD.

In addition to conducting continuous patrols of the Bakery Lane area to monitor a local settlement of homeless persons, Middlebury police last week:

- Spoke with an individual on July 1 about an ongoing dispute between some Jackson Lane neighbors.
- Investigated a report of a driver leaving the scene of an accident on Washington Street on July 1.
- Checked on a report of a parent allegedly yelling at a child in the Weybridge Street area on July 2.
- Responded to a report of a man yelling and swearing downtown during the early evening of July 2.
- Investigated a report of "suspicious activity" in the Mill Street area on July 2.
- Began an investigation into an alleged assault occurring in front of a Washington Street business on July 2.
- Served a no-trespass order on July 2 on a person not wanted at Shaw's Supermarket.
- Assisted in delivering help to a juvenile reportedly experiencing a mental health crisis in the Rogers Road area on July 3.
- Checked on a report of "transients" going through trash receptacles at the Jackson Lane apartments complex on July 3.
- Responded to a report of a vehicle being sideswiped while parked in The Centre shopping plaza lot on July 3.
- Assisted two local residents who reported being threatened on July 3.
- Investigated an alleged bear-dog incident in the Rogers Road neighborhood on July 3. Police said they saw neither animal.
- Assisted public works

**Middlebury
Police Log**

- officials at the scene of a downed tree on Halladay Road on July 3.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS on a medical call to Shaw's Supermarket off Washington Street on July 3.
- Responded to a report of a dog allegedly left in a hot vehicle at Shaw's on July 3.
- Assisted MREMS on a medical call in the North Pleasant Street area on July 3.
- Responded to a report of a dog allegedly left in a hot vehicle in the Porter Medical Center parking lot on July 3.
- Served court paperwork on a person in the Marble Works complex on July 3.
- Received a complaint about fireworks set off in the East Middlebury area on July 4.
- Arrested Henry Romp, 32, of Middlebury on two outstanding warrants, in the North Pleasant Street area on July 4. Police said he posted bail and was released on citation.
- Observed an open container violation in the Bakery Lane area on July 4.
- Investigated a petit larceny complaint off Golf Course Road on July 4.
- Assisted with a juvenile problem in the Rogers Road area on July 4.
- Assisted MREMS on a medical call to the College Street area on July 4.
- Conducted a welfare check on a man at a Buttolph Drive residence on July 4.
- Investigated a report of "suspicious behavior" behind Ilsley Library on July 4.
- Investigated a petit larceny complaint in the School House Hill Road area on July 4.
- Received a report that a loose dog had been struck by a vehicle on Route 7 South on July 4.
- Assisted MREMS during a

welfare check on a Kings Row resident on July 5.

- Spoke with a local resident concerned on July 5 about "issues that are occurring on Bakery Lane."
- Investigated an alleged theft from a Court Street store on July 5.
- Helped a person who reported receiving unwanted messages on July 5.
- Investigated a domestic disturbance at a Woodbridge Lane home on July 5. Police said the investigation is ongoing.
- Intervened in a domestic disturbance in the Perkins Lane area of East Middlebury on July 6.
- Received a report about possible "forged money" being found downtown on July 6.
- Received a report of a loose dog in the Bakery Lane area on July 6.
- Helped resolve a dispute among some Valley View Drive neighbors on July 6.
- Warned a man who wasn't controlling his dogs in the Bakery Lane area on July 6.
- Responded to a report of people arguing on Main Street during the afternoon of July 6.
- Assisted Middlebury Recreation Facility officials with a houseless person who was allegedly causing a disturbance in the Creek Road building on July 6.
- Responded to a reported dispute between the co-owners of a MacIntyre Lane business on July 6.
- Took, to Porter Hospital, a man found injured and passed out on Maple Street on July 6.
- Received information about a local houseless person experiencing a mental health crisis in the downtown area on July 7.
- Received a request to ask houseless persons to leave the town green gazebo during a July 7 evening event.
- Responded to a report about an argument between some people behind Ilsley Library on July 7.
- Investigated a caller's concern about "behavior in the downtown area" on July 8.

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Bristol Beat

Zeno Mountain Farm takes first place for beach float

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — Congratulations to Zeno Mountain Farm for winning first place in Bristol's 4th of July parade for their beach themed float. From tiki huts, fishing, lifeguards, "Tom Hanks" from the movie Castaway looking for Wilson, to playing volleyball and celebrating all things Barbie with bright pink costumes, Zeno Mountain Farm had it all. I can't wait to see what they come up with for next year!

On Tuesday, July 16, the library presents Ted Wesley: My Guitar Heroes at 7 p.m. Ted will be playing songs from some of his guitar heroes. Location will either be outside or inside, depending on the weather. Bring a chair for an outside concert. Light refreshments will be served. All ages are welcome.

Lots of things have expiration dates. Did you know that your library account expires every two years? This is simply an administrative feature that allows the library to update your account information. If you get a notice saying your account is about to expire, call 802-453-2665 or email Wendy at lincolnlbraryvt@gmail.com with your updated phone or email information and she will renew your account. If you use audio or kindle, being expired can make you lose your access to Libby. There are hundreds of expired patrons right now, so please contact the library if you would like your card kept current.

Another Pop-In People session will be held on Wednesday, July 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the library. Participants will be making fairy houses with Lisa Palmer. Materials and snacks will be provided.

The library is holding a contest to re-create a children's book week poster from years past. Stop by the library to view the poster and use your imagination to recreate it using your family, friends or

stuffed animals. Email or drop off a photo of your newly created poster and they will add it to their wall. Prizes will be awarded on Wednesday, Aug. 21. Posters will be judged on originality, closest to original and funniest, so be creative and have fun!

Poison Parsnip is up and starting to flower and now is the time to pull it! Pulling parsnip is helping our community to keep this invasive plant at bay. If you are one of the wonderful community volunteers that has adopted a section of road as part of the network of pullers, now is a great time to tackle your road.

When pulling, please wear long sleeves, pants, gloves and sneakers or boots to keep the potentially skin-irritating stuff off you. Pulling parsnip from the base of the plant after it rains helps to get it out easier. Lay the pulled plant on the side of the road parallel to the grass line. This helps to kill the plant without running the risk of seeding into the roadside and keeps it out of the way of walkers and cyclists. The library has fancy shovels that get at the root of the plant. Please feel free to check one out to help you pull.

There are still some sections of road in town looking to be adopted. If you are interested in learning more about adopting a road section, please reach out to Tina at cmscharf@yahoo.com or Christine at birong.smith@gmail.com.

Until next time ... Remember, Today Is The Tomorrow You Worried About Yesterday. If You Can Change Your Mind, You Can Change Your Life. If You Are Too Busy To Laugh, You Are Too Busy.



Parade fans

JESSE HANSON IS surrounded by members of his family and an aide as they all enjoy watching the Fourth of July parade pass by Hanson's Mountain Street home in Bristol this past Thursday. Hanson has seen a lot of parades; this year he celebrated his 100th birthday.

Independent photo/Steve James



MASON GILBERT WIDEAWAKE received a 50-Year Service pin at a recent meeting at Bristol's Libanus Lodge. Photo courtesy of Cecil Foster

Gilbert Wideawake awarded his 50-Year Service pin

BRISTOL — The Masons from Libanus Lodge 47 had a busy month of June. They held their first Ted Pilon Memorial Community BBQ on June 26 since Pre-COVID. They also initiated a new member into their fraternity, Mason Frasier as well as presented a 50-Year Service pin to Gilbert Wideawake.

The Masons would like to thank all those that bought raffle tickets. The first weekly drawing was held on June 28 and the three winners drawn

- are:
- First Place: Ticket 237 Tyler Johnson
 - Second Place: 217 Roger Berton
 - Third Place: 276 Linda Brown

Checks have been mailed out to the winners. We will announce the winners of the July winners next month, but checks will be mailed out weekly. There will be no Breakfast or Senior Lunch in July.

Monkton

Have a news tip? Contact Liz Pecor at rascal0406@gmavt.net

NEWS

MONKTON — Activities at the Russell Memorial Library are continuing through July.

A walk around Raven Ridge will take place on Thursday, July 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. This is part of the Plant Medicine Workshop No. 3. Only 12 people will be able to study and learn what plants are growing in the area and how to identify them. Check with russellmemlibrary@gmail.com for space availability. Plans are to meet at the library and carpool to Raven Ridge.

The library will host Storytime with Amy Huntington on Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to noon. Huntington is a Vermont author

and illustrator and will capture your attention with a special storytime. There will be a fun water play time after the story, so bring your bathing suits and a towel to participate. This event is sponsored by Clif Summer Readers Grant.

The following Thursday, July 18, will bring a fun Monkton Music Night featuring Edna and Las Hermosas Taco Tent at the library. This event will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Come and enjoy the library's first music night out on the patio. There will be kid's activities also. Las Hermosas will be serving food. This event will be sponsored by the 5 Town Friends of the Arts. Watch for more info as the date nears.

Bristol Police help a person make contact with public assistance

BRISTOL — Bristol police on June 21 responded to a report of a suspicious person on Mountain Street. Police helped the individual make contact with a social service organization to provide assistance.

Between June 16 and 22 Bristol police completed three foot patrols, conducted 15 traffic stops, and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School seven times, at Bristol Elementary School seven times and at local businesses six times.

Police also processed 20 fingerprint requests and conducted two welfare checks.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

Bristol

Police Log

- On June 17 enforced parking laws on Airport Drive.
- On June 18 received a cell phone found on Main Street and returned the phone to its owner.
- On June 18 checked on a couple of people sleeping in their vehicle on Lincoln Road.
- On June 22 assisted a disabled motorist on West Street.
- On June 22 helped someone gain access to their residence.

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July 12th Evan Jennison	July 19th Lowell Thompson	July 26th Danny and the Parts
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Peace.Fest on tap July 13 at the Sunray Peace Village

LINCOLN — Nestled beneath Mount Abraham and alongside the scenic Green Mountain National Forest, Peace.Fest returns for its third year at the Sunray Peace Village in Lincoln on Thursday, July 13.

Peace.Fest is designed as a substance-free and family-friendly festival, fostering a welcoming environment for everyone. From 2 to 10 p.m., Sunray Peace Village at 2202 Downingsville Road will pulse with live music spanning Latin Pop, Folk, Indie Soul, and DJ House Music. Attendees can also participate in creative and mindfulness-driven workshops, try their hand at mini-golf, engage in crafts suitable for all ages, and savor delicious food from local vendors.

The suggested admission fee of \$25 will support the event's sustainability. However, organizers welcome attendees from all walks of life with a suggested donation, ensuring accessibility to all. Ticket contributions, no matter the amount, directly support the efforts of Peace.Fest and to foster community, celebrate diversity and promote peace through this inclusive gathering.

Peace.Fest is a community event, by Vermonters, for Vermonters. The majority of the funds for Peace.Fest were given by family and friends, and volunteers, ranging from 15 to 80 make this event possible. This year, as a way to foster even deeper community connections, the local Lincoln church choir will sing non-denominational songs of peace at the start of the event.

Sunray Peace Village has been a transformative space, nurturing personal growth and fostering a sense of community and interconnectedness. This sacred place with its strong Native American roots serves as a beacon for promoting peace and understanding on a global scale. Sunray, which has been actively engaged in this work in Vermont for 40 years, is an international organization recognized as an accredited non-governmental organization by the United Nations Department of Global Communications. Dedicated to planetary peace, Sunray consults on issues vital to both Indigenous peoples and the environment, emphasizing sustainability and harmony through community-driven initiatives.



THURSDAY

July 11 Basin Bluegrass Festival in Brandon. Thursday, July 11, Basin Rd. Four days of great music with bands like Canaan's Land, Serene Green, Bloodroot Gap, The Seth Sawyer Band and Remington Ryde. More info and a full schedule at basinbluegrassfestival.com.

Playtime Party at the Platt in Shoreham. Thursday, July 11, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join a low-key playtime at the Platt before regular open hours. There will be books, toys and fun. Ages 0-3 and their adults.

Stephen Gratto in Middlebury. Thursday, July 11, noon-1 p.m., on the green. A school superintendent by day, Stephen Gratto moonlights as a physical comedian and circus performer. His performances are fast-paced and include exciting displays of many classic vaudeville and circus skills including juggling, unicycling, rope walking, object balancing and many other feats of daring, bravery and side-splitting foolishness. Free. A Festival on the Green brown bag performance. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

Book Donation Day in Vergennes. Thursday, July 11, 3-6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Bring your used books in good condition to the Bixby Library in the back parking lot. Fiction should be published after 2013 or a popular author, and non-fiction should be current and saleable.

Incredible Invertebrates in Orwell. Thursday, July 11, 4 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Come learn about insect pollinators and pollination and let's find them together on flowers.

Plant medicine workshop in Monkton. Thursday, July 11, 5-7:30 p.m., meet at Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Mark your calendar for Plant Medicine Workshop No.3 — a plant walk around Raven Ridge. Learn about what plants are growing and how to identify them. Walkers will meet at the library at 5 p.m. and carpool to Raven Ridge. Limit 12 students. Cost \$15. Email russellmemlibary@gmail.com to sign up.

Jack Neary's "First Night" play in Vergennes. Thursday, July 11, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. In this Middlebury Community Players performance, Danny Fleming's video store gets its only New Year's Eve customer a few minutes before closing. To his shock, he recognizes Meredith O'Connor, his high school crush. To his even bigger shock, he learns that she became a nun after high school. Only now, 20 years later, she's left the order and is wondering if she can find the love and romance that she mistakenly gave up. More info at middleburycommunityplayers.org.

Matt LaRocca & Friends in Middlebury. Thursday, July 11, 7-8:15 p.m., on the green. Matt LaRocca performs on both guitar and viola and currently is a member of Freeway Clyde, an 8-piece electric improvisation experience. Matt has worked as an arranger for Guster, Kat Wright, Francesca Blanchard, William Lee Ellis and many others. Free. A Festival on the Green performance. More at festivalonthegreen.org.

Myra Flynn in Middlebury. Thursday, July 11, 8:30-9:45 p.m., on the green. Singer/songwriter Myra Flynn, half Irish and half African American, crafts her original indie/soul songs in a blend of soulful vocals. Free. A Festival on the Green performance. More at festivalonthegreen.org.

FRIDAY

July 12 Green Mountain Club hike in East Middlebury. Friday, July 12, Frost Mountain. "Cancelled"

Basin Bluegrass Festival in Brandon. Friday, July 12, Basin Rd. See July 11 listing.

The Golden Goose Company on stage in Middlebury. Friday, July 12, 11:30 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See what a group of talented 8- to 12-year-olds have learned during THT Golden Goose Company theater camp, which focuses on physical theater and comedic acting while immersed in the world of The Brothers Grimm.

Tjovi Ginen workshop in Middlebury. Friday, July 12, noon-1 p.m., on the green. Tjovi Ginen is an ensemble of seasoned performers rooted in Haitian music and the sounds of Africa. Their songs tell of struggle and triumph, pain and power with Reggae and Ska rhythms and Jamaican dub poetry. Free. A Festival on the Green brown bag performance.

Brett Hughes in New Haven. Friday, July 12, 5-7 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Free music by the Vineyard pond. Wine available for purchase, as well as food from Dino Bones BBQ.

After-Hours Summer Party in Ferrisburgh. Friday, July 12, 5-8 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Support LCMM while enjoying a summer evening of live music, tasty eats and drinks, museum exhibits, and good company. Live music by the Unruly Allies. Tickets \$50 per person and include food for the night (pizza, salad, and ice cream) and one raffle ticket. Children under 10 free. More info at lcmm.org.

Tjovi Ginen in Middlebury. Friday, July 12, 7-8:15 p.m., on the green. Tjovi Ginen is an ensemble of seasoned performers rooted in Haitian music and the sounds of Africa. Their songs tell of struggle and triumph, pain and power with Reggae and Ska rhythms and Jamaican dub poetry. Come move and be moved with Tjovi Ginen. festivalonthegreen.org.

Jack Neary's "First Night" Play in Vergennes. Friday, July 12, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See July 11 listing.

Point CounterPoint Faculty Concert in Middlebury. Friday, July 12, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Constance Holden Memorial Concert. Admission is free, and goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

Krishna Guthrie Band in Middlebury. Friday, July 12, 8:30-9:45 p.m., on the green. The Krishna Guthrie Band plays roots, blues and rock music woven with influences of Krishna's grandfather, Arlo Guthrie, and great-grandfather Woody Guthrie. Free. A Festival on the Green at performance. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

SATURDAY

July 13 Monthly wildlife walk in Middlebury. Saturday, July 13, 7 a.m., Meet at Otter View Park, corner of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd.



Shiver me magic timbers

CAPTAIN YEO WILL be at the New Haven Community Library on Monday, July 15, at 5 p.m. to perform some pirate magic.

N.C. Wyeth, "Billy Bones" from 1911 edition of Treasure Island

Join Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land to survey birds and wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. More info at 802-388-6019.

Basin Bluegrass Festival in Brandon. Saturday, July 13, Basin Rd. See July 11 listing.

Ride to fight suicide in New Haven. Saturday, July 13, 9 a.m., Addison County Home Health & Hospice, 254 Ethan Allen Hwy. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Kick stands up at 10 a.m. Start and end at Addison County Home Health & Hospice. All proceeds benefit the Rutland Area Out of Darkness Walk to Fight Suicide. \$30 bike/\$10 passenger. More info and registration at AFSPVRideToFight@gmail.com.

Used Book Sale in Vergennes. Saturday, July 13, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Stock up for summer reading. Browse through the selection of used books for sale in the Otter Creek Room downstairs. Enter from the back parking lot. Choose from a large variety of fiction, non-fiction and children's books, and browse through the recent donations.

Storytime with Amy Huntington in Monkton. Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m.-noon, Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. This Vermont author and illustrator will capture your attention with a special storytime. There will be a fun water play time after the story, so bring your bathing suits and a towel to participate.

Paint your own flowerpot in Vergennes. Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m. and noon, Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. A fun summer family activity and all materials are supplied. Contact the library to register at bixbylibrary.org.

Kevin Karecks in Brandon. Saturday, July 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kennedy Park, 31 Center St. Picnic in the park to live music.

Farm tour and art exhibition in Brandon. Saturday, July 13, 11 a.m., Wood's Market Garden, 92 Wood Ln. Immerse yourself in a celebration of art and environment. Explore the farm's beautiful landscapes while enjoying an exclusive outdoor art exhibition by Mia Cabrera. Kids art activities. Free and open to the public. Fresh produce from the farm and art will be for sale.

Afternoon movie in Shoreham. Saturday, July 13, 1 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join us for a classic PG-rated fantasy adventure movie at the library. Air conditioning and popcorn provided.

VINS raptor show in New Haven. Saturday, July 13, 2 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, North St. Join us at the Town Hall/Gym for an exciting visit from Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) when they lead an imaginary journey across the United States and encounter some resident raptors in their ecosystems. Open to all ages and from any town. Free.

"The History of Tenryumura" on screen in Middlebury. Saturday, July 13, 3:30 p.m., Dana Auditorium, College St. A documentary on the World War II history of a small village in the mountains of Nagano Prefecture, Japan, and how one community reckons with a significant, tragic and painful segment of its past. Q&A and reception to follow with village leaders, the documentarians, and student translators. Free. Japanese with subtitles.

Takeout Summer Salad Supper in Vergennes. Saturday, July 13, 5 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, 127 Main St., across from the Opera House. Menu includes cold ham, potato salad, broccoli salad, roll and dessert. Cost \$12. Order by 7 p.m. Thursday, July 11, at 802-877-3150.

Street Dance with Vermont Jazz Ensemble in Middlebury. Saturday, July 13, 7-9:45 p.m., Main St. Vermont's premier big band, swingin' for over 47 years! Bringing the swing music of Sinatra, Basie and more to the streets of Middlebury to dance, dance, dance! Free. The final Festival on the Green event for 2024. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

Bach Bash in Granville. Saturday, July 13, 7 p.m., Granville Town Hall, 4157 Route 100. Rochester Chamber Music Society hosts its 26th

Annual Bach festival. Professional and amateur musicians celebrate the music of Bach and others with an afternoon read through of music with a guest conductor, followed by informal concert at 7 p.m. Admission by donation. No tickets required. More info at rcmsvt.org or 802-767-9234.

Jack Neary's "First Night" Play in Vergennes. Saturday, July 13, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See July 11 listing.

SUNDAY

July 14 Basin Bluegrass Festival in Brandon. Sunday, July 14, Basin Rd. See July 11 listing.

Food and Farm Fest in Orwell. Sunday, July 14, noon-4 p.m., on the green. A farmers' market designed to boost food system resiliency and celebrate Addison and Rutland County growers, producers and makers. More info at orwellfreelibrary.org/foodandfarmfest.

Jack Neary's "First Night" Play in Vergennes. Sunday, July 14, 2 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See July 11 listing.

MONDAY

Death Cafe of Addison County in Brandon. Monday, July 15, 9 a.m., lu.lu ice cream, 185 Main St. At a Death

Café, people gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death in a relaxed, open setting. A Death Café is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objective or themes. It is a discussion group, rather than a grief support or counseling session. Learn More at www.DeathCafe.com. More info contact Louella Richer at richer@portmedical.org.

Origami and sushi making in Bristol. Monday, July 15, 1-2:30 p.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Discover the art of rolling sushi and immerse yourself in the delicate craft of creating origami with Mao from Shinjuku Station. Space is limited. Registration required at lawrencelibraryvt.org/kids-events.

Cardboard Engineering in Shoreham. Monday, July 15, 4 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. What can you create? A robot? A vehicle? A house? Build with cardboard and create something amazing. Age 5 and up.

Pirate magic show in New Haven. Monday, July 15, 5 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Join "Captain Yeo" for a fun and interactive pirate-themed magic show at the library.

City Band in Vergennes. Monday, July 15, 7-8 p.m., City Green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

TUESDAY

July 16 Storytime in Ferrisburgh. Tuesday, July 16, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. This storytime focusses on accessibility. People move around differently: some walk and others use wheelchairs, walkers and canes. We'll discuss movement and what makes a building fair or unfair. Activities include reading aloud, discussion and drawing. Learning themes are designed for children ages 3-7, but babies, toddlers and everyone are welcome. Rain or Shine. Admission to Rokeby is free on Tuesdays after 1 p.m. Come early and explore the racial learning children's room, exhibits, grounds and story walk.

Read to Doss in Orwell. Tuesday, July 16, 4 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Read to Doss the therapy dog. Great for early and reluctant readers — or those that are looking for a furry friend to pet.

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Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Florida writes:

"We enjoy the paper so much. Thanks for your willingness to provide this service!"

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Around TOWN

Church, Grange combine efforts

SHOREHAM — Two different organizations in two different towns that share similar goals have resulted in a special collaboration. The Bridport Grange owns a building that was used for many community events, including dinners. Because of severe water damage, the building is now unusable. The Shoreham Congregational Church owns a historic building with a large Fellowship Hall that for more than a century was a major part of town activities. Building maintenance and repair issues have loomed

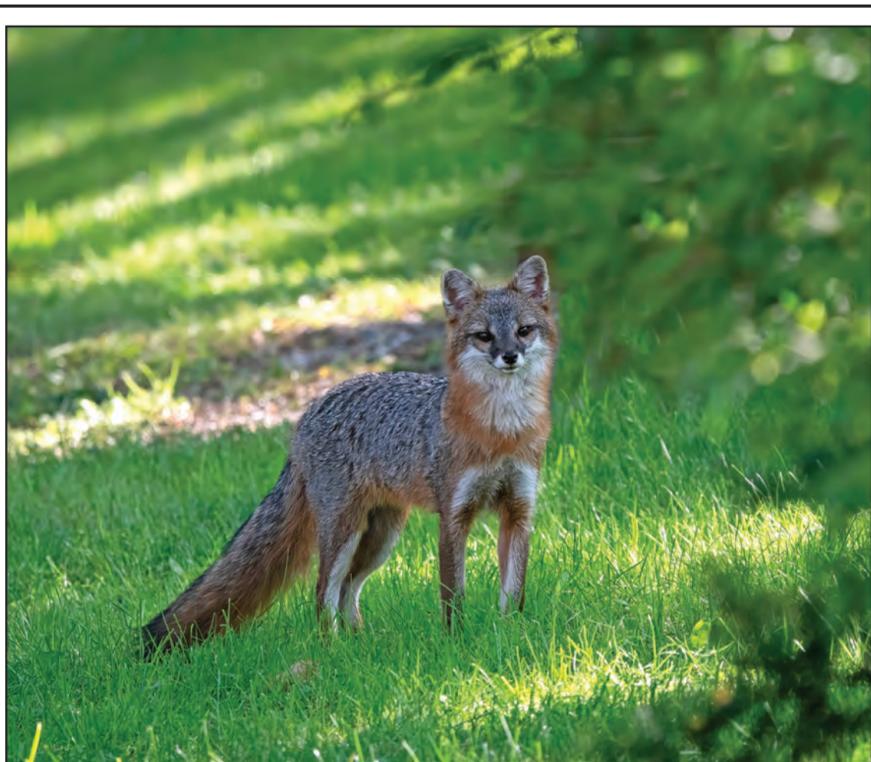
large for the small congregation for several years.

Both organizations have been involved in frequent fund-raising activities to bolster their respective building funds. Now they are joining forces to sponsor a series of events using the space at the Shoreham Congregational Church to benefit the Building Funds of both groups.

The first collaborative event will be a Spaghetti Supper on Saturday, July 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. The menu will include spaghetti with both meat and vegetarian sauces,

tossed salad, bread, beverages and dessert. The cost is \$12 for adults and children 12 and over, or \$6 for children under 12. Proceeds will be split between the two organizations. While reservations are not required, they would be greatly appreciated by calling or texting 802-989-8253.

By combining the workforces and resources of both the Shoreham Congregational Church and the Bridport Grange, they hope to create a community event for both towns that will benefit both of them.



Fabulous fox

A GREY FOX makes an appearance in a yard south of Middlebury on July 1.

Photo by Dottie Nelson



CALEB FOSTER OF Middlebury, left, recently received at Vermont Land Steward Award from the Vermont Land Trust, along with a check for \$500. His mother Trisha Foster celebrated at the family composting business, Moo Doo, in Middlebury.

Photo courtesy of Vermont Land Trust

Foster receives Land Steward Award

MIDDLEBURY — Caleb Foster of Middlebury recently received a Land Steward Award presented by the Vermont Land Trust, along with a check for \$500. Eight other students across the state also received awards.

Foster grew up on a dairy farm that has been in his family for several generations. He was nominated during his senior year at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center by Aaron Townshend, his Natural Resources Management instructor. In his nomination,

Townshend remarked on Foster's strong work ethic, open-mindedness, dedication, environmental responsibility and willingness to learn.

"We all share the same natural resources and rely on past generations to practice stewardship so that future generations may continue to thrive," said Townshend. "Caleb is exactly such a steward: he understands the value of the natural environment and is an advocate of its prosperity."

"I was born and raised in Vermont," Foster said. "I am the fifth generation on our family farm and the third generation on our family composting operation. I believe my purpose is to respect, appreciate and care for agricultural land and forests so that the generations ahead of me enjoy the beauty as much as I have."

Foster plans to obtain his Class A Commercial Driving License this summer and attend the Maine Compost School this fall.

Applicants sought for arts program

VERMONT — For the 33rd year, Vermont Folklife is seeking applicants for its Vermont Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program. With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts through a partnership with the Vermont Arts Council, this program supports the continued vitality of Vermont's living cultural heritage.

VTAAP provides stipends of up to \$2,000 for master artist and apprentice pairs to cover the time, materials, and travel expenses associated with learning an art form. 2024-25 applications from master artist and apprentice pairs will be accepted through July 21.

The 2023-24 VTAAP cohort consisted of 18 apprenticeships,

including Judaic ritual weaving, granite carving, Burundian dance and song, Scottish dance and fiddle, and Nepali sarangi playing. The almost 400 apprenticeships supported since the program's inception in 1992 represent a broad spectrum, from the arts and cultural practices of Abenaki, Yankee, and Franco-American regional cultures, to the arts of Somali Bantu, Tibetan, Bosnian, Bhutanese Nepali and other communities from immigrant and refugee backgrounds.

A traditional arts apprenticeship brings teachers and learners together who share a commitment to sustaining these art forms. It provides support to community-recognized master artists who have achieved a high

level of expertise in their art forms and less-experienced apprentices. Master artists and apprentices apply together and jointly plan when, where and what they expect to accomplish during the apprenticeship. Apprenticeships can take the form of anything from short-term, intensive sessions to meetings spread over a year.

This program supports master artists and apprentices who have already decided to work together. Vermont Folklife staff do not match apprentices and master artists. The purpose of VTAAP is to provide funding to help compensate master artists for their time and to cover the cost of travel and of materials used during the apprenticeship.

Information about the program is available in 14 languages on the Vermont Folklife website at vtfolklife.org/apprenticeship-program or by contacting Kate Haughey at khaughey@vtfolklife.org or (802) 388-4964.

VUHS honor roll

VERGENNES — Vergennes Union High School has released its honor roll for the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year. Students on the list include:

Grade 12 High Honors: Jackson Becher, Elizabeth Bennett, Devin Brisson, John-Henry Downing, Maci Forgues, Madelyn Giroux, Benjamin Hargett, Natalie Jackman, Alaina LeBeau, Ryder Messinger, Siobhan Potter, Calder Rakowski, Zoe Reid-St. John, Matilda Seyler and Kaelin Sullivan.

Honors: Ava Almeida, Jacob Badman, Alexander Badore, Ryleigh Charlebois, Jamison Couture, Benedict Diehl-Noble, Oakley Francis, Calvin Gramling, Ava Holmes, Orion Kadar, James Spillman and Chase Stokes

Grade 11 High Honors: Rory Couture, Ethan Croke, Luke Davis, Jackson Gernander, Ethan Hallock, Torrey Hanna, Sophia Johnson, Hannah Larrow, Megan Mentzer, Elsa Michaels, Lily Root, Gabriel Scribner and Jing Williams.

Honors: Owen Collette, Mary Cosgrove, Axel de Boer, Spencer Gebo, Katelyn Laberge, Brody McGuire, Zachary Norris, Reese Paquette, Isabella Porter, Fancisco Santiago-Loyola and Kaitlyn Wagner.

Grade 10 High Honors: Kyan Barcomb, Ila Crowley, Nilah Fitzgerald, Ava Francis, Amelia Giroux, Di Hunt, Gina LeBeau, Faith McAllister, Carter McGuire, Phoebe Raphael, Libby Ringer, Quincy Sabick, Dekota Safford and Eleanor

Wilkinson-Sachs. **Honors:** Allegra de Boer, Theo Elzinga, Abigail Flint, Scout Jacobson, Chance Koenig, James Petersen, Gabriel Roussin, Jady Steadman, Ashtin Stearns, Hunter West and Ryan Wright.

Grade 9 High Honors: Kelsey Becher, Eva Borah, William Clark, Eloise Eckels, Ryan Johnson, Autumn Loven, Khanlen Ouimette, Lola Rollins, Adrienne Smits, Noah Smits, Madeleine Stroup, Holland VanderWey, Acasia Visser and Ryenn Wisell

Honors: Nicholas Churchill, Kaiya Corbett-Anderson, Elliot Cosgrove, Connor Houghton, Alexandria Jewell, Georgia Krause, Liam McGuire, Heavenly Ramos, Colton Reed, Asa Root-Pratt and Benjamin Shugart.



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ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

For Rent

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.

HISTORIC 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT. Newly renovated 1860's farmhouse in Shoreham. Furnished and available mid-August. \$2300/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 BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2- br apartments. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

For Rent

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831. AJ Neri Property Rentals.

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.

FIREWOOD for sale. 802-247-9782.

Att. Farmers

WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2752, John Whitney.

OUR CLASSIFIED Ads Work!
 Call 388-4944 to place one!
 ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 11B and 12B.**

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (1)
- State of Vermont (2)
- United States Probation Office (1)

SEEKING TREATMENT PROVIDERS

The U.S. Probation Office in the District of Vermont believes that individuals subject to federal pretrial and post-conviction community supervision deserve access to quality, evidence-based treatment in the community. To that end, the District of Vermont will be soliciting for drug and alcohol, mental health, and sex offender specific treatment services, as well as drug testing services, for fiscal years 2025 through 2029. Requests for Proposals in these service categories will be made available on www.vtp.uscourts.gov/solicitations on June 17, 2024. Interested parties should contact Shawna Lapierre at Shawna_Lapierre@vtp.uscourts.gov or 802-951-0625 to be added to the Bidder's Mailing List.

PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF VERMONT

The Vermont General Assembly is proposing voters amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont as follows:
Proposal 3: This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to provide that the citizens of the State have a right to collectively bargain.

Article 2* of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 2*. [Right to collectively bargain]

That employees have a right to organize or join a labor organization for the purpose of collectively bargaining with their employer through an exclusive representative of their choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions and to protect their economic welfare and safety in the workplace. Therefore, no law shall be adopted that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to collectively bargain with respect to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety, or that prohibits the application or execution of an agreement between an employer and a labor organization representing the employer's employees that requires membership in the labor organization as a condition of employment.

Proposal 4: This proposal would amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to specify that the government must not deny equal treatment and respect under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin.

Article 2* of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution is added to read:

Article 2*. [Equality of rights]

That the people are guaranteed equal protection under the law. The State shall not deny equal treatment and respect under the law on account of a person's race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or national origin. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted or applied to prevent the adoption or implementation of measures intended to provide equality of treatment and opportunity for members of groups that have historically been subject to discrimination.

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)

General Assistance Emergency Housing Assistance Emergency Rules.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24-E06

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services

CONCISE SUMMARY: This emergency rule contains five amendments to the General Assistance program rules: (1) language regarding notices to terminate tenancy was added to the definition of constructive eviction in rule 2622; (2) language was added to rule 2650 authorizing DCF to withhold payments to hotels/motels in violation of lodging licensing rules; (3) the catastrophic and vulnerable populations eligibility categories in rules 2652.2 and 2652.3 have been replaced with the new eligibility criteria set forth in sec. E.321 of Act 113 of 2024; (4) the rule updates the basic needs standard chart in rule 2652.4 to align with the current Reach Up basic needs dollar amounts; and (5) the methodology for calculating the 30% income contribution in rule 2652.4 was changed from using the least expensive daily motel rate to either the current daily rate at the motel in which the temporary housing applicant is staying or if the applicant is not currently housed in a motel, the average daily rate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Heidi Moreau, Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families, 280 State Drive, NOB 1 North, Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-595-9639 Email: Heidi.moreau@vermont.gov URL: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/laws-rules/current>.

FOR COPIES: Amanda Beliveau, Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families, 280 State Drive, HC 1 South, Waterbury, VT 05671 Tel: 802-241-0641 Email: amanda.beliveau@vermont.gov.

Judicial Nominating Board Rules.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P024

AGENCY: Judicial Nominating Board

CONCISE SUMMARY: The rules govern standards for screening judicial candidates. These amendments: update conflict of interest standards to conform to new legislation; reduce duplicative interviews; emphasize the importance of writing for Supreme Court candidates; and minor miscellaneous edits to conform to statute and practice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Eleanor Spottswood, Judicial Nominating Board Tel: 802-391-0061 E-Mail: eleanor.spottswood@gmail.com URL: <https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/attorneys/judicial-nominating-information>.

NOTE: The two rules below have been promulgated by the Agency of Human Services who has requested the notices be combined to facilitate a savings for the agency. When contacting the agency about these rules please note the title and rule number of the proposed rule(s) you are interested in.

• Ambulance Services (4.226)

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P025

• Beneficiary Protections and Responsibilities (8.101)

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P026

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services

CONCISE SUMMARY: The proposed rules set forth the criteria for coverage and service delivery for Health Care Administrative Rules (HCAR). The amendment to HCAR 8.101 replaces Medicaid covered services rule 7101 as part of the sequential adoption of Health Care Administrative Rules designed to improve public accessibility and comprehension of the rules concerning the operation of Vermont's Medicaid program. It also amends Health Care Administrative Rule 4.226 to align with current practice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Ashley Berliner Agency of Human Services 280 State Drive Waterbury, VT 05671-1000 Tel: 802-578-9305 Fax: 802-241-0450 E-Mail: AHS.MedicaidPolicy@Vermont.gov URL: <http://humanservices.vermont.gov/on-line-rules>.

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
 Sales for 7/3/24 & 7/8/24

BEEF	LBS.	COST/LB	\$
Vanderway	1745	1.53	\$2669.85
Iroquois Acres	1475	1.44	\$2124.00
J. Allen	965	1.43	\$1379.95
Savello Farm	1780	1.40	\$2492.00
Blue Spruce	1815	1.30	\$2359.50
Gosliga	1420	1.30	\$1846.00
P. Livingston	1300	1.30	\$1690.00

CALVES	LBS.	COST/LB	\$
Sunderland	95	9.00	\$855.00
Savello Farm	87	9.00	\$783.00
Nolan Farm	105	8.75	\$918.75
A. Brisson	109	8.50	\$926.50
Barnes Bros.	96	8.20	\$787.20

Total Beef - 115 Total Calves - 235
 We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
 call 1-802-388-2661

(1603) Auto & Machine Shop Auction Closes: Tuesday, July 23 @ 10AM Preview: Tuesday, July 16 from 11AM-1PM EMAIL: HELPDESK@THCAUCTION.COM FOR APPT.



Over 50 lots of Automotive and Machine Shop, and Tools. Brands by Snap-On, Blue-Point, Coats, Dorman, Thexton, Actron, Isko, Amrox, Craftsman, Powermatic, Haas and more! Plus Toyota, Ford, Dodge, and International Bluebird. **Middlebury, VT**

THOMAS HIRCHAK COMPANY
THCAuction.com • 800-634-7653

LOCAL SPORTS

Steve James Andy Kirkaldy Matt Dickerson Karl Lindholm

WE'VE GOT IT COVERED!



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.



Shipping & Receiving

WowToyz, in Vergennes, is seeking motivated individuals to join our warehouse team full-time, Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:00pm.

Duties include:

- Picking and packing orders
- Unloading trucks and receiving merchandise
- Shipping orders via UPS and over the road

Ideal candidates are organized, dependable, enjoy physical work and are proactive self-starters. This is an opportunity to be part of a dynamic, growing company with room for advancement.

We recognize people as our most valuable asset. Our competitive salary and benefits package includes 401K with company match, dental insurance, medical insurance, prescription drug coverage, life insurance, paid sick time, paid holidays and paid vacations.

We offer competitive compensation packages commensurate with experience.

Email cover letter and resume to: resumes@wowtoyz.com



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

Public Notices can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 11B and 12B.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

I represent the Bowles Corporation. The company sold substantially all of its assets on July 3, 2024 and is currently in the process of winding up its business. I have been authorized by the company to administer that winding up. If you would like to submit a claim for amounts due to you from the Bowles Corporation you may do so by sending your claim in writing to:

Pease Mountain Law PLLC
 P.O. Box 279
 Hinesburg, VT 05461-0279

Your claim must commence within 5 years after publication of this notice. If your claim is not received within that 5-year period it will be barred pursuant to 11 V.S.A. §4108.

Your claim must include copies of all billing documents in support of your claim.

Dated: July 3, 2024

Michael T. Russell
 Pease Mountain Law
 PO Box 279
 Hinesburg, VT 05461-0279

Name of Publication:
 Addison Independent
 Publication Date: July 11, 2024

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

I represent Clean Earth Technology, Inc. The company sold substantially all of its assets on July 3, 2024 and is currently in the process of winding up its business. I have been authorized by the company to administer that winding up. If you would like to submit a claim for amounts due to you from Clean Earth Technology, Inc you may do so by sending your claim in writing to:

Pease Mountain Law PLLC
 P.O. Box 279
 Hinesburg, VT 05461-0279

Your claim must commence within 5 years after publication of this notice. If your claim is not received within that 5-year period it will be barred pursuant to 11 V.S.A. §4108.

Your claim must include copies of all billing documents in support of your claim.

Dated: July 3, 2024

Michael T. Russell
 Pease Mountain Law
 PO Box 279
 Hinesburg, VT 05461-0279

Name of Publication:
 Addison Independent
 Publication Date: July 11, 2024

EMAIL YOUR PUBLIC NOTICES
 to legals@addisonindependent.com
 and Jenna makes sure
 it gets in the paper.

Notes of appreciation

Peasant Market was a success

We are pleased, honored, and proud to announce that this year's St. Stephen's Peasant Market grossed over \$38,000 on Saturday, July 6, a \$13,000 increase from last year. We were hoping to turn the amazing amount of donations we received this year into even more money for the grants that St. Stephen's gives annually to area nonprofits, and we succeeded!

Every member of St. Stephen's volunteers helped in some way: donation intake, polishing silver, pricing items, baking pies, hauling tables, and putting up tents. We are incredibly grateful to all of them and to the wonderful volunteers from the community who lend a helping hand every year as well. We are also appreciative of Jerome Milks' family for their donations of his beautiful handmade cutting boards, a new addition to the market this year, and a profitable one.

Several of this year's grant recipients had information tables at the Market, sharing the great work that they do in Addison County. We are also grateful for the help of Middlebury College, Mt. Abraham High School, Festival on the Green, Potential View Property Management, Casella's, The Addison Independent, and the town of Middlebury. At one point last Saturday we surveyed the green and



All in the family

TWO YOUNG OSPREY at Dead Creek wait while their mother tears pieces from a fish to feed them. Dad was celebrating Father's Day by relaxing on a rung below the nest on the perch platform.
 Photo by Dottie Nelson

saw people of all ages carrying their treasures across the lawn, laughing and chatting with friends and strangers. It was a gift and a joy we will cherish, making every sweaty moment of work worthwhile. We look forward to seeing you next year!

**Shannon Bohler and
 Amy Beaupré
 2024 Peasant Market Co-chairs
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

**Waterthrushes:
 Winged Kings of the Bog and Stream**

By COLBY GALLIHER

If you're looking for warblers on a walk in the summer woods, your first instinct might be to look toward the canopy. But two closely related warbler species forgo those elevated environs for the



eddies and banks of forested streams and wetlands. These specialists of sylvan waters are a treat for any birder — and offer a challenging exercise in avian identification.

The northern waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*) and Louisiana waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*) are mid-sized, vocal warblers that breed in northern New England. Both forage in still and moving water.

"Waterthrushes are unusual for warblers in the way that they associate with rivers and streams, often feeding right at the water's edge, or on rocks and logs in the water," said Chris Elphick, a conservation biologist at University of Connecticut who specializes in wetland birds and ecosystems.

The two waterthrush species share many behavioral and physical characteristics. They occupy similar habitats, where they feed on aquatic invertebrates, small fish, snails, and even salamanders.

They also sport nearly identical coloring and plumage, with brown backs, white-to-yellow throats and bellies, and dark streaking on the breast and underparts. Both Louisiana and

northern waterthrushes have relatively long legs and bob and sway their rear ends when standing and hunting. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology points out that this tendency "might either help them avoid scaring off their prey or possibly startle their prey into motion."

These similarities can make it difficult to tell the two waterthrush species apart. Luckily, there are several distinctions between these birds that can help the discerning observer decide which is which. The first is their vocalizations, which are hard to miss as they resound through the understory near forested wetlands.

"The songs are different and probably the best way to tell them apart," said Elphick. The northern's song is faster and contains more whistles and slurs than the Louisiana's, which begins with several sharp notes and ends in a fast twitter. Elphick posited that waterthrushes' songs are especially loud because these birds "frequently occur near rushing water and need to be heard above the noise."

The second means of parsing these two warblers is their preferred habitat, but this method has its perils. The Louisiana waterthrush favors moving water. These birds stilt along the mosses, logs, and stones of streambeds, plucking their prey from the current. Breeding males establish territories by patrolling streams and delimiting their domains with boisterous song. Northern waterthrushes, meanwhile, tend to stick to still water. They skulk among the rushes and greenery of wooded bogs and swamps. But, in

a wrinkle for identification, northern waterthrushes will also frequent streams. (Case in point: on a recent hike through a forested preserve that features a flowing creek and several swampy areas, I found northern waterthrushes hunting in both the creek and the boggy sections.)

The third and final key to distinguishing these water-loving birds is their plumage, though this is also tricky. "The two species look a lot alike and telling them apart physically is hard," said Samuel Merker, a research scientist in ecology and evolutionary biology at University of Connecticut. Merker and Elphick both highlighted noteworthy nuances between the warblers: northern waterthrushes have heavier, darker streaking on their breasts and underparts, yellow bellies, and narrower and paler white eye-stripes than Louisiana waterthrushes.

Author and illustrator David Sibley offers additional guidance on his website: "A quick judgment of the ground color of the breast and eyebrow stripe will separate most waterthrushes: bright white on Louisiana, yellowish on northern. A

yellowish waterthrush is definitely a northern, while a whitish bird could be either species." He also suggests, "If you encounter a confusing individual, pay special attention to the width of the eyebrow stripe, and the pattern and extent of streaking on the breast and flanks. Many other features, such as bill size, can offer supporting clues for experienced birders."

Unlike many warbler and other songbird species, both Louisiana and northern waterthrushes have seen their populations increase in recent decades. This may be thanks to improvements over the last half-century in eastern North America's water quality, as cleaner, healthier waterbodies promote higher numbers of the aquatic invertebrates waterthrushes eat. Still, deforestation, pollution, and window-strikes all threaten waterthrushes' numbers.

In your search for warblers, remember to lower your eyes from the canopy when ambling by woodland streams and swamps. Whether by their rich songs or charming behaviors, the northern and Louisiana waterthrushes will reward your attention and help to hone your bird ID skills.

Colby Galliher is a writer who calls the woods, meadows, and rivers of New England home. To learn more about his work, visit colbygalliher.com. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: www.nhcf.org.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Green Mountain Power Corporation - Project No. 2674-037

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE LICENSE APPLICATION, FILING OF PREAPPLICATION DOCUMENT (PAD), COMMENCEMENT OF PREFILING PROCESS, AND SCOPING; REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE PAD AND SCOPING DOCUMENT, AND IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES AND ASSOCIATED STUDY REQUESTS

(June 18, 2024)

a. Type of Filing: Notice of Intent to File License Application for a New License and Commencing Pre-filing Process

b. Project No.: 2674-037

c. Date Filed: May 1, 2024

d. Submitted By: Green Mountain Power Corporation (GMP)

e. Name of Project: Vergennes Hydroelectric Project

f. Location: The project is located on Otter Creek in the City of Vergennes in Addison County, Vermont.

g. Filed Pursuant to: 18 C.F.R. Part 5 of the Commission's Regulations

h. Applicant Contact: John Tedesco, Generation Project Coordinator, Green Mountain Power Corporation, 163 Acorn Lane, Colchester, VT 05446; telephone at (802) 655-8753; email at John.Tedesco@greenmountainpower.com.

i. FERC Contact: Taconya D. Goar, Project Coordinator, Great Lakes Branch, Division of Hydropower Licensing; telephone at (202) 502-8394; e-mail at Taconya.Goar@ferc.gov.

j. Cooperating agencies: Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues that wish to cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document should follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item o below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that cooperate in the preparation of the environmental document cannot also intervene. See 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

k. With this notice, we are initiating informal consultation with: (a) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 C.F.R., Part 402; and (b) the State Historic Preservation Office, as required by section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 C.F.R. § 800.2.

l. With this notice, we are designating GMP as the Commission's non-federal representative for carrying out informal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

m. GMP filed with the Commission a Pre-Application Document (PAD), including a proposed process plan and schedule, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 5.6 of the Commission's regulations.

n. A copy of the PAD may be viewed on the Commission's website (<http://www.ferc.gov>) using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the docket number field, to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free, (866) 208-3676 or TTY, (202) 502-8659.

You may register online at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/ferconline.aspx> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support.

o. With this notice, we are soliciting comments on the PAD and Commission staff's Scoping Document 1 (SD1), as well as study requests. All comments on the PAD and SD1, and study requests should be sent to the address above in paragraph h. In addition, all comments on the PAD and SD1, study requests, requests for cooperating agency status, and all communications to and from staff related to the merits of the potential application must be filed with the Commission.

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file all documents using the Commission's eFiling system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/ferconline.aspx>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>. You must include your name and contact information at the end of your comments. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or call toll-free, (866) 208-3676 or TTY, (202) 502-8659. In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Acting Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852. The first page of any filing should include docket number P-2674-037.

All filings with the Commission must bear the appropriate heading: "Comments on Pre-Application Document," "Study Requests," "Comments on Scoping Document 1," "Request for Cooperating Agency Status," or "Communications to and from Commission Staff." Any individual or entity interested in submitting study requests, commenting on the PAD or SD1, and any agency requesting cooperating status must do so by **August 19, 2024**.

p. The Commission's Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, environmental justice communities, Tribal members and others, access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or OPP@ferc.gov.

q. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Commission staff will prepare either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental

impact statement (EIS) (collectively referred to as the "NEPA document") that describes and evaluates the probable effects, including an assessment of the site-specific and cumulative effects, if any, of the proposed action and alternatives. The Commission's scoping process will help determine the required level of analysis and satisfy the NEPA scoping requirements, irrespective of whether the Commission issues an EA or EIS.

Scoping Meetings

Commission staff will hold two scoping meetings for the project to receive input on the scope of the NEPA document. A daytime meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on July 18, 2024, at the Vergennes Opera House in Vergennes, Vermont, and will focus on the concerns of Indian Tribes, resource agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). An evening meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on July 18, 2024, at the Vergennes Opera House in Vergennes, Vermont, and will focus on receiving input from the public. We invite all interested agencies, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to attend one or both meetings. The times and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Daytime Scoping Meeting

DATE: Thursday, July 18, 2024
 TIME: 9:00 a.m. EST
 PLACE: Vergennes Opera House
 ADDRESS: 120 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Vergennes, VT 05491
 PHONE: (802) 655-8753

Evening Scoping Meeting

DATE: Thursday, July 18, 2024
 TIME: 6:00 p.m. EST
 PLACE: Vergennes Opera House
 ADDRESS: 120 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Vergennes, VT 05491
 PHONE: (802) 655-8753

Copies of the SD1 outlining the proposed date and subject areas to be addressed in the NEPA document were distributed to the individuals and entities on the Commission's mailing list and GMP's distribution list. Copies of SD1 may be viewed on the web at <http://www.ferc.gov>, using the "eLibrary" link. Follow the directions for accessing information in paragraph n above. Based on all oral and written comments, a Scoping Document 2 (SD2) may be issued. SD2 may include a revised process plan and schedule, as well as a list of issues, identified through the scoping process.

Environmental Site Visit

The potential applicant and Commission staff will conduct an environmental site visit of the project. All interested individuals, agencies, Tribes, and NGOs are invited to attend. Please RSVP Mr. John Tedesco of Green Mountain Power Corporation via email at John.Tedesco@greenmountainpower.com or by phone at (802) 655-8753 on or before July 11, 2024, if you plan to attend the environmental site visit. The time and location of the environmental site visit is as follows:

Vergennes Project Site Visit

DATE: Thursday, July 18, 2024
 TIME: 12:00 p.m. EST
 PLACE: Vergennes Falls Park
 ADDRESS: 103 Mechanic Street, Vergennes, VT 05491

Participants should meet at the Vergennes Falls Park public parking lot, located at 103 Mechanic Street, Vergennes. From there, participants will walk approximately 0.20 mile to the project. All participants are responsible for their own transportation to the Vergennes Falls Park public parking lot, and should wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes or boots.

Meeting Objectives

At the scoping meetings, Commission staff will: (1) initiate scoping of the issues; (2) review and discuss existing conditions; (3) review and discuss existing information and identify preliminary information and study needs; (4) review and discuss the process plan and schedule for pre-filing activity that incorporates the time frames provided for in Part 5 of the Commission's regulations and, to the extent possible, maximizes coordination of federal, state, and tribal permitting and certification processes; and (5) discuss the potential of any federal or state agency or Indian tribe to act as a cooperating agency for development of an environmental document.

Meeting participants should come prepared to discuss their issues and/or concerns. Please review the PAD in preparation for the scoping meetings. Directions on how to obtain a copy of the PAD and SD1 are included in item n of this document.

Meeting Procedures

Commission staff are moderating the scoping meetings. The meetings are recorded by an independent stenographer and become part of the formal record of the Commission proceeding on the project. Individuals, NGOs, Indian Tribes, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns are encouraged to attend the meeting and to assist the staff in defining and clarifying the issues to be addressed in the NEPA document.

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

July 11, 2024



Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society, hosted The Cat Daddy Jackson Galaxy (pictured center with Manny) on Tuesday for a one-on-one session with a couple resident cats as well as a workshop for staff, fosters and volunteers.

PHOTOS / HOMEWARD BOUND

Homeward Bound learns lessons from The Cat Daddy

Homeward Bound, Addison County's Humane Society, had what Director of Development Hannah Manley called a "once in a lifetime opportunity" on Tuesday afternoon, when the one, the-only, "Cat Daddy" Jackson Galaxy came to visit. Galaxy — cat behaviorist, *New York Times* best-selling author, YouTube sensation, and star of the television show "My Cat From Hell" on Animal Planet — came to

BY ELSIE
LYNN PARINI

the Middlebury animal shelter for a one-on-one with a few of the felines at the shelter, and to offer a workshop for staff and select volunteers (including myself).

"Jackson has been extremely complimentary of our shelter," Manley explained to the awaiting guests, while Galaxy finished up his work with Manny and Rocky — two cats currently available for adoption. "He's here because his wife is enrolled in the language school at Middlebury College."

Normally, Galaxy calls Los Angeles home, but he's been on a grand tour doing "two-day, cat-focused education at about 200 organizations in the past year," Galaxy said when he introduced himself to the small group gathered in the shelter's conference room. "There's a connection point that I see," he said. "We're all going through the same moment... We've had an arrangement for well over 10,000 years with cats; they took care of the mice and rats and we didn't die of dysentery... We have a great framework for domesticated dogs, but that hasn't extended to cats yet; with cats, we're still in this moment of evolution. So many of our biggest frustrations with cats come because we're looking at cats with dog-colored glasses."

Galaxy encouraged us to see and honor the "raw cat," the "ancestor," that's in every feline.

"We rolled out the red carpet for cats with the invention of cat litter in 1947 by Edward Lowe; we invited them inside to be a 'pet'... and that's when all the problems started," Galaxy said. "It's only

been, what, not even 80 years? Our expectations are totally unreasonable. I like leaning into the fact that cats just aren't there yet. They are not domesticated."

He went a step further even to say we should be "honored when a cat feels safe enough to come into our homes; and proud of them as hunters."

For shelters like Homeward Bound, Galaxy noted the importance of staff, volunteers and foster families.

"We are rescuers. That center that we all share represents safety," he said, admitting he often feels choked up during this part of the conversation. "We walk a fine line of offering safe space and challenging these animals by asking them to do something for us."

He urged us to go beyond just housing cats, as he dragged a feather-wand across the floor for the token cat in the room, Musashi. "We can train for confidence," he said. "They can leave you

SEE CATS ON PAGE 2

CATS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

closer to their best-selves than when they found you."

Homeward Bound shines bright with

an incredible support system of fosters and volunteers managed by Lauren Peterson, who's been a volunteer and foster for over 15 years, and joined the staff at the beginning of 2023. Peterson tallies around 200 volunteers and foster families who help the shelter.

What do volunteers do at Homeward Bound? Socialize cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, dogs, etc.; clean; take dogs on outings, events and sleepovers; transport animals to veterinary hospitals; assist the medical team in surgery; lend a hand at special events and with mass mailings around the holidays.

Foster families welcome animals into their homes and "provide time, space and love to kittens and puppies under eight weeks," Peterson said. "Also animals who are older, need socialization or a comfortable place while they recover from medical procedures."

Bob Davis of Bristol said his favorite part of volunteering is spending time with dogs. He added that his "second-favorite thing to do is spend time with the people at the shelter. I've never met a more caring group of people, their love for the animals is very obvious in the way they care for them, talk about them, and the excitement they have in working with them. I wish I had started doing this a lot sooner."

Dwight Griesman of Cornwall said he loves "walking with, giving and getting love from the pups, and getting kitty purrs. And of course helping the team there socialize and prepare the pets so they can find a loving home."

"What I enjoy most is seeing the progress cats make once here," said volunteer Evelyn Landis of Middlebury. "Having a nervous, frightened, or shy kitty gradually warm up enough to jump and curl up on my lap, having developed enough trust to relate and accept love in preparation for a new home, is so rewarding. I love being a part of this caring group of devoted pet lovers!"



Jackson Galaxy works with Manny (orange tabby) and Rocky (black DLH) on Tuesday at Homeward Bound.



Here are two of the nearly 200 volunteers and fosters that help out at Addison County's humane society.

PHOTOS / HOMEWARD BOUND

"SO MANY OF OUR BIGGEST FRUSTRATIONS WITH CATS COME BECAUSE WE'RE LOOKING AT CATS WITH A DOG-COLORED GLASSES."

— Jackson Galaxy

"For volunteers, I am eternally grateful," Peterson said. "The time, energy and love that people give our animals renews my faith in humanity. Working here and being in this position, every day I get to work with and engage with people who want to help and I am just so thankful and grateful to every one of them. Their time makes a massive difference to the quality of life of our shelter animals."

As amazing as it is to have such excellent care for animals at Homeward Bound, the goal remains to find each one a loving and supportive home. Let's

just "paws" a moment... and give a shout out to Homeward Bound placing 601 cats last year! Wow.

But, the reality is that cats keep coming in and the work continues. Currently, Cat Land is becoming crowded, so if you're looking to add a feline to your family... now just might be the time.

"Some people want that 'love at first sight' moment, or the feeling that a cat 'picked' them," Peterson said. "This is lovely and it does happen, but when people visit we have a conversation about what type of cat and personality would fit best in their home. We also encourage adopters to meet all good matches, even if they present as shy in the shelter."

And like Galaxy said, "Cats have mostly domesticated themselves." Now it's our turn to help them grow into the "fur-iously" fantastic felines that they are!

For more info visit homewardbound.org. Interested in volunteering? Contact Lauren at volunteer@homewardboundanimals.org.



TROUT



CHULA



CANYON



MINERVA

Volunteers needed for the Rokeby Bat Census Team

Each July the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife deploys community scientists to conduct a census of established bat colonies. Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh is looking for volunteers in July to count the colony at the museum.

Volunteers will watch a roost site and count the bats leaving. The count takes place in the evening from 8:15-9:30 p.m. on these dates:
 Tuesday, July 16 Tuesday, July 23
 Saturday, July 20 Sunday, July 28
 Sunday, July 21 Tuesday, July 30

In addition to volunteers, the census at Rokeby is in need of a team leader. If you have an interest in joining or becoming a team leader for the Rokeby Bat Census Team, contact Dean Leary: 802-425-2166 or deanleary@gmavt.net.

Otter Creek Music Festival brings free concerts and more

Originally known as the Salisbury Summer Series, established by architectural historian and Middlebury College professor Glenn Andres in collaboration with the Salisbury Congregational Church and Point CounterPoint Camp in honor of the Salisbury Church's 140th anniversary. In 2022, Andres invited musician and arts administrator Joshua Glassman to take the reins and expand the series into a festival format while preserving its beloved community charm.

The festival remains a cherished gathering for regional and summer audiences, offering a diverse repertoire spanning classical, folk, jazz, and theatrical performances. A cornerstone of the festival's success is its enduring partnership with Point CounterPoint Camp, now in its sixth decade, with camp faculty regularly showcasing their talents at the Salisbury Meeting House.

This season will again feature a handful of free concerts, which began at the Salisbury Congregational Church last Friday, and will continue through the end of August. No tickets are required; and donations are greatly appreciated.

FREE CONCERTS:

Friday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m.
Constance Holden Memorial Concert
Middlebury Town Hall Theater, Middlebury

Friday, July 26, at 7:30 p.m.
Salisbury Congregational

Church
Friday, Aug. 9, at 7:30 p.m.
Salisbury Congregational Church

Thursday, Aug. 22, at 7:30 p.m.
Salisbury Congregational Church

Friday, Aug. 30, at 7:30 p.m.
Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society
2 Duane Court, Middlebury

OTTER CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL:

This is the Otter Creek Music Festival's 45th season featuring world-class local and regional artists. Tickets are required for these concerts. Visit ottercreekmusicfestival.com/season to reserve your seat.

Friday, July 19, at 7:30 p.m.
Evan Allen Trio
Barn Opera House, Brandon

Saturday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m.
Counterpoint
Salisbury Meetinghouse

Sunday, July 21, at 3 p.m.
Champlain Trio
Barn Opera House, Brandon

Saturday, July 27, at 7 p.m.
Castle Of Our Skins
Clemmons Family Farm, Charlotte

Sunday, July 28, at 3 p.m.
Michael Arnowitz, Piano
Middlebury Community Music Center

Friday, Aug. 2, at 7:30 p.m.
Patrick Fitzsimmons
Salisbury Meetinghouse

Saturday, Aug. 3, at 7:30 p.m.
Helen Lyons, Soprano; and Elaine Greenfield, Piano
Salisbury Meetinghouse



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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.

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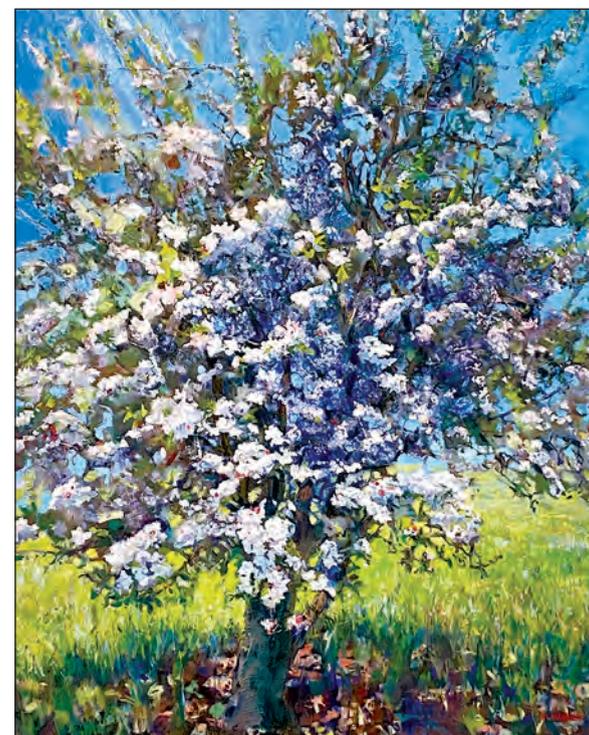
Local artists with family ties exhibit at Jackson Gallery

Mary and Fred Lower are spouses who share a painting studio in Middlebury. Cousins Judy Albright and Cristine Kossow live across the street from each other. Sisters Jennifer Steele Cole and Elinor Steele Friml grew up in Charlotte in a family of artists. The Jackson Gallery presents an exhibit of artwork by these six individuals, each with their own perspective and style. "It's All Relatives" is on view now through August.

Mary Lower paints large landscapes with depth of detail and texture. In the studio she also paints figures and still life compositions and states that "underneath it all, I am an abstract painter... I was the only girl in a family of boys in the deep south. Hunting, fishing and football were daily pursuits — Art became

mine." Fred is exhibiting portraits, though he also enjoys studio and plein air painting. He studied at UC Berkeley, and received his MFA from the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Mary has an M.A. in Art Education from NYU. They moved to Vermont in 1998. Fred taught painting and drawing for more than three decades at the Dalton School in NYC and Rutland Public High School in Vermont. Mary, who also taught at the Dalton School among others, has been instrumental in the operation of the Middlebury Studio School.

Judy Albright and Cristine Kossow both work in pastels. Both are members of the Vermont Pastel Society as well as other art organizations. Both moved to Vermont, Judy first, and then Cristine "when a house across the street"



"Spring Apple Tree" by Mary Lower.

came up for sale. Though they have much in common, they do not collaborate. Each has their own studio and artistic approach. Cristine, a Parsons trained illustrator, had a long career

SEE ART ON PAGE 14

Form and Nature: new artists opens show in Middlebury

Artist Ellen Rolli joined Edgewater in June. "Form & Nature: Contemporary Still Life Interpretations" is her solo exhibition, which opened June 28 at the Gallery at the Falls (1 Mill Street in Middlebury.) This exhibit will be on view through Aug. 10.

Rolli is a still life painter whose interest lies in interpreting her subject in an abstract, intuitive way. Her palette and vocabulary of textures often draw from the ocean landscape. Beyond this reference she chooses to allow her still life paintings to form from a process of chance, discovery, and dialogue that happens in the studio. Rolli's still life paintings play with perspective, through a flattening of the expected spacial relationships and a simplification of her chosen objects. Objects float on shifting planes of color and texture and become evocative abstract compositions.



ELLEN ROLLI

freedom, more risk-taking. As a painting evolves, I react to the dialogue between us. I do not search for the literal truth of subject; I seek an expressive, personal interpretation."

Rolli has her studio in Melrose, Mass., and was a graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design where she majored in Art Education and minored in Painting. She continued her study of painting when she was awarded a coveted residency at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Mass. She exhibits widely and her work is held in both private and corporate collections.

For more information call the gallery at 802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.



"Blue Striped Vessel with Orange Tulip" by Ellen Rolli.

"As a contemporary painter, I am interested in interpreting subject and emotion in an abstract, intuitive way. The process, daring paint application, color, texture, and the element of discovery inspire me," she said. "In my process, I use materials instinctively. This allows more

JOIN IN AND HELP SHAPE THE VERMONT ARTS COUNCIL

The Vermont Arts Council is creating its next strategic plan, and needs input from the arts community on what's working well, what's needed, and what big ideas they should consider. Join a Vermont Arts Ahead Conversation and/or take the online survey to help shape statewide priorities.

IN-PERSON CONVERSATIONS

These fun, 90-minute live events include a snapshot of what the council is doing now and discussions to plan the future. Light refreshments provided. Stick around after for optional networking and conversation. Registration isn't required, but is helpful.

One of these discussions will be held in Middlebury, on July 18, at the Town Hall Theater, from 5-6:30 p.m.

Accessibility: Each location is wheelchair accessible. Contact Michele Bailey with specific accommodations you need at mbailey@vermontartscouncil.org or at 802-402-4614. Voice and relay calls welcome.

ONLINE SURVEY

Can't join the in-person session? Or maybe you have more to share? No problem! Complete the survey online at vermontartscouncil.org/strategic-plan to share your insights, opinions, thoughts, and experiences that will shape the future of the Vermont Arts Council. Survey closes July 19.

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.

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.

"Form & Nature: Contemporary Still Life Interpretations." Ellen Rolli presents a solo exhibit featuring her still life paintings that play with perspective, through a flattening of the expected spacial relationships and a simplification of her chosen objects. On view through Aug. 10.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"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.

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, 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.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, you may be full of more energy than you have had in a while, helping you to sail through all of your tasks this week at a record pace. Enjoy this wave while you ride it.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, heed your body's messages that it needs some rest right now; otherwise, you may not be up for social engagements that are on the horizon. Pisces comes into your life this week.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. You cannot hang out with every person who is trying to get a piece of your time right now, Gemini. It's likely you will need to space out socializing over a few weeks to meet with them all.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, you have been working hard to make professional progress, and it might be time to think about your next step. It could be time to take your talents elsewhere.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, you are often drawn to unfamiliar experiences that can teach you something new. This week could provide a host of opportunities to try something new.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. It is time to get off the fence and commit to one decision or another, Virgo. Your professional life hinges on your ability to take a path and then stick with it.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, you might be tempted to accept every invitation that comes your way. However, it is better to be smart about the people with whom you associate. Use every opportunity to network.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, take a look at how things should operate before you hit the floor running. You want to be strategic in how you expend your energy; otherwise, you may experience burnout.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. You lean toward being one of the more passionate signs in the zodiac, Sagittarius. That passion will be on full display this week. You'll wear your heart on your sleeve.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Domestic issues come to the forefront, Capricorn. You're inclined to spend time at home with loved ones. Take this time to work around the house and yard.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/ Feb. 18. Aquarius, your popularity is growing and it's time to get out there and hang with the movers and shakers. Soon even more people will learn who you are.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Strengthen your ideas with a concrete foundation, Pisces. Only then will your plan come to fruition in the right manner, leading to better success.

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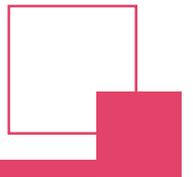
FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 12 — Buckminster Fuller, architect (d)
JULY 13 — Harrison Ford, actor (82)
JULY 14 — Woody Guthrie, singer-songwriter (d)

JULY 15 — Iris Murdoch, novelist (d)
JULY 16 — Ida B. Wells, activist (d)
JULY 17 — Wong Kar-wai, filmmaker (66)
JULY 18 — Hunter S. Thompson, writer (d)

CALENDAR

JULY 11-21
2024



THURSDAY, JULY 11

BASIN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL IN BRANDON. Thursday, July 11, Basin Rd. Four days of great music with bands like Canaan's Land, Serene Green, Bloodroot Gap, The Seth Sawyer Band and Remington Ryde. More info and a full schedule at basinbluegrassfestival.com.

STEPHEN GRATTO IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 11, noon-1 p.m., on the green. A school superintendent by day, Stephen Gratto moonlights as a physical comedian and circus performer. His performances are fast-paced and include exciting displays of many classic vaudeville and circus skills including juggling, unicycling, rope walking, object balancing and many other feats of daring, bravery, and side-splitting foolishness. Free. A Festival on the Green brown bag performance. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

PLANT MEDICINE WORKSHOP IN MONKTON. Thursday, July 11, 5-7:30 p.m., meet at Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Plant Medicine Workshop No.3 is a plant walk around Raven Ridge. Learn about what plants are growing and how to identify them. Walkers will meet at the library at 5 p.m. and carpool to Raven Ridge. Limit 12 students. Cost \$15. Email russellmemlibrary@gmail.com to sign up.

JEAN HANFF KORELITZ AND REBECCA MAKKAI IN CONVERSATION IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 11, 6 p.m., Everything Nice, 51 Main St. Jean Hanff Korelitz is author of "The Plot." Rebecca

Makkai wrote "I Have Some Questions for You," which Maureen Corrigan called, "a stylishly self-aware novel of ideas." They will appear downstairs at 51 Main in collaboration with Everything Nice. Korelitz's "The Sequel" will be published in October.

JACK NEARY'S "FIRST NIGHT" PLAY IN VERGENNES. Thursday, July 11, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. In this Middlebury Community Players production, Danny Fleming's video store gets its only New Year's Eve customer a few minutes before closing. To his shock, he recognizes Meredith O'Connor, his high school crush. To his even bigger shock, he learns that she became a nun after high school. Only now, 20 years later, she's left the order and is wondering if she can find the love and romance that she mistakenly gave up. Tickets \$10 at the door, cash or check only. More info at 802-377-3540 or visit middleburycommunityplayers.org/first-night.

MATT LAROCCA & FRIENDS IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, July 11, 7-8:15 p.m., on the green. Matt LaRocca performs on both guitar and viola and currently is a member of Freeway Clyde, an 8-piece electric improvisation experience. Matt has worked as an arranger for Guster, Kat Wright, Francesca Blanchard, William Lee Ellis and many others. Free. A Festival on the Green performance. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

MYRA FLYNN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, July 11, 8:30-9:45 p.m., on the green. Singer/songwriter Myra Flynn, half Irish and half African American, crafts her original indie/soul songs in a blend of soulful vocals. Free. A Festival on the Green performance. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN EAST MIDDLEBURY. *CANCELED* Friday, July 12, Frost Mountain.

BASIN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL IN BRANDON. Friday, July 12, Basin Rd. See July 11 listing.

THE GOLDEN GOOSE COMPANY ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 12, 11:30 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See what a group of talented 8- to 12-year-olds have learned during THT Golden Goose Company theater camp, which focuses on physical theater and comedic acting while immersed in the world of The Brothers Grimm.

TJOVI GINEN WORKSHOP IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 12, noon-1 p.m., on the green. Tjovi Ginen is an ensemble of seasoned performers rooted in Haitian music and the sounds of Africa. Their songs tell of struggle and triumph, pain and power with Reggae and Ska rhythms and Jamaican dub poetry. Free. A Festival on the Green brown bag performance. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

BRETT HUGHES IN NEW HAVEN. Friday,

July 12, 5-7 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Free music by the Vineyard pond. Wine available for purchase, as well as food from Dino Bones BBQ.

TJOVI GINEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 12, 7-8:15 p.m., on the green. Tjovi Ginen is an ensemble of seasoned performers rooted in Haitian music and the sounds of Africa. Their songs tell of struggle and triumph, pain and power with Reggae and Ska rhythms and Jamaican dub poetry. Come move and be moved with Tjovi Ginen. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

JACK NEARY'S "FIRST NIGHT" IN VERGENNES. Friday, July 12, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See July 11 listing.

POINT COUNTERPOINT FACULTY CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 12, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Constance Holden Memorial Concert. Admission is free, and goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

KRISHNA GUTHRIE BAND IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 12, 8:30-9:45 p.m., on the green. The Krishna Guthrie Band plays roots, blues and rock music woven with influences of Krishna's grandfather, Arlo Guthrie, and great-grandfather Woody Guthrie. Free. A Festival on the Green at performance. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.	
Channel 1071	4 p.m. Congregational Service	9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass	7:02 a.m. Tai Chi	Tuesday, July 16	
Friday, July 12	6:30 p.m. Eckankar	10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	7:30 a.m. Word Time with Miss Markee	6 a.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
Through the Night: Public Affairs	7 p.m. Catholic Mass	7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	7:20 a.m. Replay Runway	
6 a.m. Press Conferences	7:30 p.m. Energy Week	11 p.m. The Juxtaposition	9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s	7:30 a.m. School Board Meeting/s	
7:30 a.m. Congregational Church	8:30 p.m. The Juxtaposition	Thursday, July 18	2 p.m. Festival on the Green 2024	2 p.m. Kindergarten Orientation	
10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	10 p.m. Dr. John Campbell	Through the Night: Public Affairs	4 p.m. Festival on the Green 2024	3 p.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church	Monday, July 15	6 a.m. The Juxtaposition	9 p.m. Festival on the Green 2024	5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ	
6:30 p.m. Energy Week	Through the Night: Public Affairs	6:30 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs	Sunday, July 14	6 p.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
7:30 p.m. Public Affairs	5:30 a.m. Eckankar	8 a.m. Congregational Services	5 p.m. Festival on the Green	Wednesday, July 17	
11 p.m. Dr. John Campbell	6 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs	12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	11 a.m. Kindergarten Orientation	6 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	
Saturday, July 13	8:30 a.m. The Juxtaposition	8:30 p.m. Energy Week	11:50 a.m. Replay Runway	7 a.m. Tai Chi	
Through the Night: Public Affairs	9 a.m. Energy Week	9:30 p.m. Eckankar	12 p.m. Festival on the Green 2024	7:30 a.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
4:30 a.m. Dr. John Campbell	10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	10 p.m. Dr. John Campbell	1:30 p.m. Ancient Standing Stones	9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s	
6:30 a.m. The Juxtaposition	4 p.m. Dr. John Campbell	Channel 1091	4 p.m. Festival on the Green 2024	3 p.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
7 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs	5 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs	Friday, July 12	9 p.m. Poets and Authors	5:01 p.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	Tuesday, July 16	4 a.m. Festival on the Green	Monday, July 15	9 p.m. Poets and Authors	
4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service	Through the Night: Public Affairs	8:20 a.m. Replay Runway - Children's Fashion Show	5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	11 p.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
5:30 p.m. Eckankar	5 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs	8:30 a.m. Word Time with Miss Markee	6 a.m. Chair Yoga	Thursday, July 18	
6 p.m. Energy Week	9:30 a.m. Eckankar	9 a.m. All Things LGBTQ	7 a.m. Tai Chi	5 a.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
7 p.m. Catholic Mass	10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	10 a.m. School Board Meeting/s	7:30 a.m. School Board Meeting	7 a.m. First Tuesdays	
7:30 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	4 p.m. Congregational Services	3 p.m. Howard Coffin - Ancient Standing Stones	11 a.m. Kindergarten Orientation	7:30 a.m. Tai Chi	
Sunday, July 14	7 p.m. Selectboard Live, Public Affairs	4:01 p.m. Festival on the Green 2024	11:50 a.m. Replay Runway	8 a.m. Chair Yoga	
Through the Night: Public Affairs	11 p.m. Energy Week	9 p.m. Festival on the Green 2024	12 p.m. Festival on the Green 2024	9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s	
8 a.m. Energy Week	Wednesday, July 17	Saturday, July 13	4 p.m. Festival on the Green 2024	2 p.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
9 a.m. Catholic Mass	Through the Night: Public Affairs	4 a.m. Festival on the Green	6 p.m. Tai Chi	5:30 p.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service	5 a.m. Dr. John Campbell		6:30 p.m. Word Time with Miss Markee	7:30 p.m. Festival On the Green 2024	
12:30 p.m. Energy Week	6:30 a.m. Energy Week		7 p.m. Festival On the Green 2024	9 p.m. All Things LGBTQ	
1:30 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs	7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service			10 p.m. Poets and Authors	

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 13, 7 a.m., Meet at Otter View Park, corner of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Join Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land to survey birds and wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. More info at 802-388-6019.

BASIN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL IN BRANDON. Saturday, July 13, Basin Rd. See July 11 listing.

EXHIBIT OPENING IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. Come see a new exhibit that dives into the history of canal boats. Using research and artifacts recovered from shipwrecks in Lake Champlain by underwater archaeologists, as well as interviews with real people and interactive experiences, "Underwater Archaeology: Diving into the Stories of People and Canal Boats on Lake Champlain," shares lesser-known local stories of canal boats and the people who worked on board, providing unexpected points of connection for all with this key era of local history.

PEACE.FEST IN LINCOLN. Saturday, July 13, 2-10 p.m., Sunray Peace Village, 2202 Downingsville Rd. A substance-free and family-friendly festival, fostering a welcoming environment for everyone. Live music spanning Latin Pop, Folk, Indie Soul, and DJ House music, mindfulness-driven workshops, mini-golf, crafts suitable for all ages, and delicious food from local vendors. Suggested admission fee of \$25 or pay what you can.

KEVIN KARECKAS IN BRANDON. Saturday, July 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kennedy Park, 31 Center St. Picnic in the park to live music.

"THE HISTORY OF TENRYUMURA" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 13, 3:30 p.m., Dana Auditorium, College St. A documentary on the World War II history of a small village in the mountains of Nagano Prefecture, Japan, and how one community reckons with a significant, tragic and painful segment of its past. Q&A and reception to follow with village leaders, the documentarians, and student translators. Free. Japanese with subtitles.

THE GOSHEN GALLOP IN GOSHEN. Saturday, July 13, 4 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Since 1978 the Goshen Gallop has invited runners from across Vermont and around the world to tackle either the famous 10K or the equally awesome, but more merciful 5K run. Exceptional backcountry course in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area. Victory party post-race by the pond with wood-fired pizza party and

freewheeling pond dipping. All proceeds go to the BHOC. More info at ultrasignup.com/register.aspx?did=106991.

STREET DANCE WITH VERMONT JAZZ ENSEMBLE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 13, 7-9:45 p.m., Main St. Vermont's premier big band, swingin' for over 47 years! Bringing the swing music of Sinatra, Basie and more to the streets of Middlebury to dance, dance, dance! Free. The final Festival on the Green event for 2024. More info at festivalonthegreen.org.

BACH BASH IN GRANVILLE. Saturday, July 13, 7 p.m., Granville Town Hall, 4157 Route 100. Rochester Chamber Music Society hosts its 26th Annual Bach festival. Professional and amateur musicians celebrate the music of Bach and others with an afternoon read through of music with a guest conductor, followed by informal concert at 7 p.m. Admission by donation. No tickets required. More info at rcmsvt.org or 802-767-9234.

JACK NEARY'S "FIRST NIGHT" IN VERGENNES. Saturday, July 13, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See July 11 listing.

SUNDAY, JULY 14

BASIN BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL IN BRANDON. Sunday, July 14, Basin Rd. See July 11 listing.

FOOD AND FARM FEST IN ORWELL. Sunday, July 14, noon-4 p.m., on the green. A farmers' market designed to boost food system resiliency and celebrate Addison and Rutland County growers, producers and makers. More info at orwellfreelibrary.org/foodandfarmfest.

JACK NEARY'S "FIRST NIGHT" IN VERGENNES. Sunday, July 14, 2 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See July 11 listing.

"SEE YOU IN THE GARDEN" WITH CHARLIE NARDOZZI IN BRISTOL. Sunday, July 14, 4-6 p.m., Rocky Dale Gardens, 806 Route 17. Join Charlie Nardozzi for this Art on Main fundraiser.



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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Nardozzi will speak at and about Bristol's beloved Rocky Dale Gardens. Tour the exceptional display gardens and unique landscape of Rocky Dale under the educated and exuberant guidance of Vermont's favorite gardener. Q&A with herbal tea and treats will follow the tour. Tickets \$30, available at Art on Main, artonmainvt.com or at 802-453-4032.

MONDAY, JULY 15

CITY BAND IN VERGENNES. Monday, July 15, 7-8 p.m., City Green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

TUESDAY, JULY 16

GOLDEN HOUR PHOTO WALK AND SOCIAL HOUR IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, July 16, 8 p.m., meet in front of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Join the Moosalamoo Camera Club for a short walk around Middlebury, with plenty of opportunities to take pictures, to Mr. Ups to talk and get to know each other. For photography enthusiasts of all levels of experience. All forms of camera (digital, film, video, phone camera, etc.) are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

NATE GUSAKOV (SOLO) AND REMEMBER BAKER IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 17, 5-9 p.m. The Tillerman, 1868 N. 116 Rd. Hear live music in The Tillerman's barn. Music is free. Gusakov 5-6:30 p.m., followed by Remember Baker 7-9 p.m.

BLUES NIGHT IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, July 17, 6 p.m., Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Gold Course Rd.

BLOODROOT GAP IN BRANDON.

Wednesday, July 17, 6 p.m., behind the Brandon Inn. Locally sourced free range bluegrass. Part of Brandon's Music On The Riverbend summer series.

GAME NIGHT IN THE PARK IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Bristol will hold a game night during the Bristol Town Band performance. Lawn games for all ages begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by free brownie sundaes at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

BREAD & BONES AND PIZZA BY THE POND IN GOSHEN. Thursday, July 18, 5 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Pizza and live music by the award-winning Vermont-based acoustic trio, by the Pond and amongst the blueberries. Come earlier to hike or dip in the spring-fed pond. The pizza starts flowing at 5, music from 6-8. \$43 per person (age 12 and older) includes an all-you-can-eat pizza buffet, lemonade/iced tea, live music fees & all taxes and credit card fees. Add on options of salad and ice cream available too. Kids 7-11 \$23; kids 6 and under free. Reservations open the Sunday before event at blueberryhillinn.com/pizza.

REPTILES OF THE LAKE DUNMORE AREA IN SALISBURY. Thursday, July 18, 5 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 835 Maple St. Herpetologist Jim

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 9



Point CounterPoint

Friday, July 12
Middlebury Town Hall Theater,
Constance Holden
Memorial Concert

Friday, July 26
Salisbury Meeting House

Friday, August 9 Salisbury Meeting House
Thursday, August 22 Salisbury Meeting House
Friday, August 30 CVUUS, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury

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PUZZLES

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ACROSS

- 1. Book size
- 8. Indonesian Island
- 13. "The Sopranos" character
- 14. Plants often found in stews
- 15. Stern
- 19. Atomic #52
- 20. Often seen after a company name
- 21. Silk garments
- 22. Inhibiting hormone (abbr.)
- 23. Type of beer
- 24. Margarine
- 25. Throw lightly
- 26. Explains again
- 30. Raccoon-like

- animal
- 31. Sneaker parts
 - 32. Platforms
 - 33. Scored perfectly
 - 34. One's essence
 - 35. Strikes with a firm blow
 - 38. Makes tractors
 - 39. Music term
 - 40. Lack of energy
 - 44. Vestments
 - 45. ___ and feathers
 - 46. Total
 - 47. Gobbler
 - 48. One with Japanese immigrant parents
 - 49. Type of braking system (abbr.)
 - 50. Home of Rudy

- Flyer
- 51. Manageable
 - 55. Lugged
 - 57. Irritated
 - 58. Sea eagles
 - 59. Warm seasons

DOWN

- 1. About visual sense
- 2. Part of a horse's saddle
- 3. In a way, interchanged
- 4. Rocker's accessory
- 5. Very important person
- 6. It precedes two
- 7. Flavored
- 8. Musical notes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	
13								14					
15							16	17	18			19	
20						21					22		
23						24				25			
26			27	28	29				30				
			31					32					
			33					34					
35	36	37					38						
39						40					41	42	43
44					45						46		
47				48							49		
50			51						52	53	54		
55		56						57					
58								59					

	2		6				4	5
						8	2	
			5	2				
	8	9	7					1
			1				7	
7		4	9					
		2						8
	4			6	1			7
			3		6	1		

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

- 9. String instrument (slang)
- 10. Mister
- 11. Fine, light linen fabric
- 12. Absence of bacteria
- 16. Discounts
- 17. Area units
- 18. A description of one's life
- 22. Gazelles
- 25. Plumbing fixture
- 27. Makes especially

- happy
- 28. One side of something many-sided
- 29. Frosts
- 30. Defunct monetary unit of Guinea
- 32. Female animal species
- 34. School terms
- 35. Written law
- 36. Unpleasant aroma
- 37. Nuclear weapon
- 38. One who challenges

- 40. Opposite of first
- 41. Able to be utilized
- 42. Less interesting
- 43. Implants
- 45. Canister
- 48. Gestures
- 51. After B
- 52. Romanian monetary unit
- 53. Long-term memory
- 54. Cash machine
- 56. The Volunteer State



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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Andrews will give a presentation on the identification, natural history, and conservation of the snakes and turtles found (or once found) in and around Lake Dunmore and nearby in Salisbury and Leicester. He will also inform us on how to help document their presence by sending in photos of what we see.

MUSIC NIGHT IN MONKTON. Thursday, July 18, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Free music on the library patio along with kids activities and food from Edna and Las Herosas Taco Tent. Watch for more info as the date nears.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN ESSEX, N.Y. Friday, July 19, Split Rock Forest area. A moderate 5-6-mile loop hike at Split Rock Wild Forest a few miles north of Westport, N.Y. More info contact Ruth Penfield at ruthpenfield@gmail.com or 802-458-1116. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

BROADWAY BOOT CAMP FINAL PERFORMANCE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, July 19, 11:30 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant. Come see the culmination of a week's hard work when Broadway Bootcamp participants show what they've learned about the musical theater repertoire.

JUSTIN LAPOINTE IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, July 19, 5-7 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Free music by the Vineyard pond. Wine available for purchase, as well as food from Crooked Ladle.

JADED RAVINS AND PIZZA BY THE POND IN GOSHEN. Friday, July 19, 5 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Pizza and live music by, performing soulful Americana, and country rock originals by the pond and amongst the blueberries. Come earlier to hike or dip in the spring-fed pond. The pizza starts flowing at 5, music from 6-8. \$43 per person (age 12 and older) includes an all-you-can-eat pizza buffet, lemonade/iced tea, live music fees & all taxes and credit card fees. Add on options of salad and ice cream available too. Kids 7-11 \$23; kids 6 and under free. Reservations open the Sunday before event at blueberryhillinn.com/pizza.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN PORT HENRY, N.Y. Saturday, July 20, Cheney and Coot Mtns. Scenic, easy, 2-mile, and 1-mile hikes with a few hundred feet of elevation gain. Multiple viewpoints, including one of the Dix Range, Rocky Peak Ridge, and Giant Mt. from Cheney and the Lake and a canyon from Coot Mt. Contact leader Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or kcorey53@gmail.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

LINO PRINTING WORKSHOP

IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join Renee as she guides you through designing, cutting and printing your own lino print. At this 4-hour workshop, each participant will be able to create one design and make several single-color prints. This is for adults only, 18 yrs and older please. Space is limited. Register at ilsleypubliclibrary.org/lino-cutting-workshop/.

THE BAFFO BOX SHOW IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Performed in a one-of-a-kind stage by Modern Times Theater, this show packs classic hand puppetry, Dadaist ventriloquism, and stand-up comedy into a cardboard box and delivers it, with impeccable timing, live on stage. Tickets TBA. More info at townhalltheater.org or addisonarts.org.

GENEALOGY DAY IN CORNWALL. Saturday, July 20, noon-4:30 p.m., Town Hall, Route 30. The DAR Cornwall Chapter and Cornwall Historical Society welcome speakers Drew Bartley and Ed McGuire, who will answer questions on researching your ancestors/family history. One-on-one assistance will be available. Donations appreciated.

"THE CAMERAMAN" ON SCREEN IN BRANDON. Saturday, July 20, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. In "The Cameraman," Buster 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. Free. Live musical accompaniment.

"LOST NATION" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, July 20, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Jay Craven's Revolutionary War action-drama featuring Ethan Allen and Lucy Terry Prince stops in Middlebury as a part of the film's Vermont 50 Town Tour. Tickets \$15, available at the door or in advance at townhalltheater.org or kcprepresents.org.

POINT COUNTERPOINT FACULTY CONCERT IN SALISBURY. Saturday, July 20, 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Vermont's own professional chamber choir makes their Otter Creek Music Festival debut performing works by Beethoven, Brahms, and Bartók, as well as Fanny Mendelssohn and Clara Schumann. More info and tickets at ottercreekmusicfestival.com.



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Pets In Need

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Addison County's Humane Society

Kittens

We have **kittens** in the shelter and kittens in foster homes waiting to come back to the shelter for adoption. They likely won't be posted to our website because they get adopted so quickly, so please swing by the shelter during our open hours (Tuesday-Saturday, 9:00am-3:00pm) to meet those in-house or fill out our cat/kitten adoption questionnaire online.



Guppy

My name is **Guppy** and I am an energetic and shy girl. I arrived with 7 other cats, some of whom are my sisters! We get along really well and could be adopted in pairs. I enjoy cuddling and playing with them. My tongue is almost always out and I take really good photos! I am a little shy of people and am getting used to being pet. I am comfortable being around people, but am nervous of being approached. The nice staff at Homeward Bound is hard at work to get me comfortable being around people.

Tuna

My name is **Tuna** and I am a silly, playful, young girl. I really enjoy chasing after toys and sunbathing on the screened-in porch in my room. I arrived with 7 other cats, some of whom are my sisters! We get along really well and could be adopted in pairs. I also really enjoy watching the dogs play in their yards and have had positive interactions with canine friends. I am a little shy of people and am getting used to being pet.



Duke

Hi! My name is **Duke!** I'm a 6-year-old black and white shepherd/terrier mix. I'm a friendly and affectionate family dog looking for an active home with a yard I can hang out in. I walk well on a leash and know a few basic commands. I'd prefer to live with a female dog. In my first home, I lived with children. It takes me some time to warm up to new people, especially men. I should live in a cat-free home.

Rosie

Rosie is one of three dogs available through Homeward Bound's 3rd Party Adoption program, a listing for privately-owned Vermont and Essex County, NY, animals. Pets posted for 3rd Party Adoption are not at the shelter. Homeward Bound staff has not seen or evaluated these pets and all information provided is as described by the owner. For more information on Rosie, Luna, and Zues, please visit our website for full bios and owner contact information..



Want to learn more?

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EPISODE 4 RUMINATIONS ON THE RUN

TRAVEL

A summer travel-log series featuring 24 stops in 15 weeks. (Dec. 2023 – April 2024)

Birds walk the beach on Anastasia Island.

PHOTOS/ STEVE HARRIS

In our last few days on Jekyll Island, we returned to the Goodyear Cottage Gallery in the historic district. It offers jury-selected arts and crafts created by Island residents. We have visited three times now, and have been impressed by the high quality, wide variety and affordable prices. This year I left behind two works that will be haunting me for the next year. That's what this barrier Island produces; thoughtful remorse that we must leave it behind. I am somewhat consoled by the treasures ahead, and knowing we will return. It's our kind of Christmas — a home away from home.

BY JUDITH & STEVE HARRIS

After a week in Jekyll's protective embrace, isolated from conventional holiday noise, crass commercialism and crowds, we are on our way further south to set up camp near St. Augustine, Fla., America's oldest continuously occupied city. The Spanish claimed it first in 1513. By 1776, Anastasia Island's first plantation of orange trees in the New World shipped 65,000 oranges back to London and Madrid, the juicy sweetness hinting at the climate and possibility of this remarkable place. Spaniards controlled the region for over 300 years until 1827.

We made reservations to spend New Year's week on Anastasia Island. Like Jekyll, which is the barrier island protecting Brunswick, Ga., Anastasia shelters St. Augustine from the open Atlantic Ocean. Anastasia is built on a foundation of coquina — a porous limestone composed of ancient mollusks and marine invertebrates deposited for millennia. (It is also the name of a tiny clam shell that litters Florida beaches). These little bivalves have created a cay (pronounced key) slightly over 14 miles long and one mile wide. Coquina stone was also used to build many of St. Augustine's oldest structures.

Just across the Bridge of Lions from the historic city limits of St. Augustine, Anastasia Island's north end is a State Park of 1,600 acres where dog and vehicle-free beaches help protect sea birds and turtles that nest there. The remainder of the island is composed of a string of towns with white sand beaches and transparent Atlantic water. There are 6,800 permanent residents living on this cay, only 4% of whom are non-Anglo. (The pattern of whites dominating the edges of our country while peoples of color live inland seems to be a matter of income.) Added to the mainland city's 14,000 residents, folks in this region are hosts to over 6,900,000 tourist visits every year.

Dwarfed by Florida's largest city (Jacksonville, 1.34 million) 30 miles to the north, St. Augustine is a small town by comparison, making swells of visitors more apparent. When we arrived on Dec. 29, the sidewalks were packed, every available parking space was occupied, and traffic was delayed frequently by cars and vans stopping to discharge or pick up large groups of people in the middle of the road. The grounds of the fort — Castillo de San Marcos National Monument — looked like an NFL stadium with fans streaming in for Sunday's game.

Orlando, Fla., with 609,000 residents hosts 74 million tourists every 12 months — 120 times the number of inhabitants. Venice, Italy has 60,000 residents and 25 million tourists a year — more than 400 times the number of inhabitants. It takes effort to see beyond such crowds to the substance of a place as a visitor. As a resident, it would take a reservoir of patience and tolerance I can't imagine ever possessing. As visitors, we chose not to linger in St. Augustine proper, despite the long list of "must-sees."

One good way to collect intelligence and colorful local data in a new place is to get a haircut. In tourist towns, this requires an

appointment, no matter what the signs say about "walk-ins welcomed." I try to seek out a career stylist, reliably a woman in her 50s, likely a native and a seasoned professional. In St. Augustine Beach, she turned out to be Michelle, a fourth-generation native that gave me an old-school razor cut. She was glad to answer my questions and delivered them with captivating story-telling skill. Michelle described her youth growing up on the cay, what it was like to go to school there, what her favorite bar was, and the trouble she and her pals stirred up for entertainment. As a bonus, I got a great haircut. The skills required to live in a place overrun with visitors have built long-suffering sub-cultures amongst the locals, and Michelle's resulting yarns were full of a wistful pathos and humor. She had to pause occasionally to act out a scene or repeat one of her father's remembered gestures. When she was finished with my trim, I thanked her sincerely for the floor show and tipped her \$20.

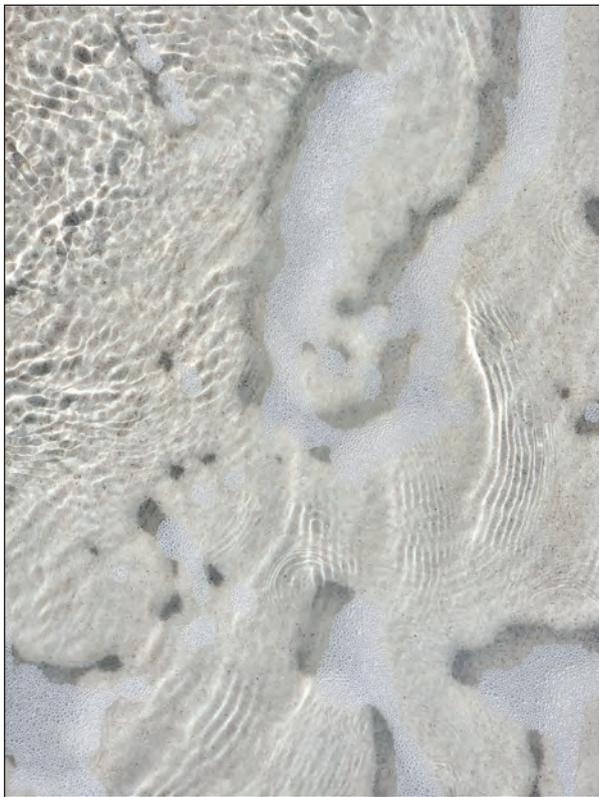
The physical draw of the beach here is paramount and clear the first time you set foot on it. Anastasia Island is the final jewel of almost 47 miles of islands, which form an interface between ocean and mainland. The cays start at the mouth of the St. Johns River in Jacksonville. The inland side of the barrier islands frames the Intracoastal Waterway. With your back to the east shore's developed tangle of human imprint, you can feel any residual anxiety accumulated while getting here melt away. With a bit of winter chill in the air, an empty beach is a great place to fly a kite — one of my favorite pastimes! The intense blue of the sky mixed with the clarity of the water and the abundance of shell litter is spellbinding. A large variety and quantity of sea birds, many new to a New Englander's experience, are everywhere. Their long and slender necks, bills and legs are at home near the water, graceful in flight and elegantly statuesque on land.

I am pleased we decided to stay for a week, despite our initial discomfort with the traffic. There is a great deal here worth exploring.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I walked a mile to the beach from our campground yesterday evening to watch an 8:30 p.m., fireworks display launched from the municipal pier, put on by St. Johns County in the Town of St. Augustine Beach.

It was completely dark and as I got nearer the beach, the crowd swelled with families and highly excited little people with glow sticks, flashlights and lots of questions, commentary and philosophical observations. It was a great, chatty, happy tsunami of protoplasm growing with each block until we all got to Route A1A, where the police and Public Works employees were out doing their best to control the cars, motorcycles, E-bikes and hoverboards surging toward the extensive public boardwalk.



Anastasia is built on a foundation of coquina — a porous limestone composed of ancient mollusks and marine invertebrates deposited for millennia.

Parking for cars along this strip of hotels, pizza joints and convenience stores is fugitive enough during the daylight, like most of Florida's ocean edge. This crowd seemed pre-conditioned, as most of the thousands of spectators walked in or rode free shuttle buses from inland parking lots.

There were clearly visitors like me in this crowd, but most of the throng had seeped out of the residential neighborhood lurking a few blocks behind the intense development of A1A, where every window is fighting for a glimpse of salt water. Every complexion was represented, and a babel of unintelligible languages created a soft wallpaper of barely suppressed excitement. For a full 25-minute sojourn in the dark, I never had to ask a question about where to go. I just stayed afloat in the rip current established by seasoned veterans.

I love fireworks (almost as much as flying a kite), especially for New Year's Eve, as they are a simple celebration of having survived the previous planetary trip around the sun and a pure expression of hope for the coming 365 days:



Flying a kite at Anastasia Island.

no jingoism, no religion, no murderous intent, just visual spectacle and joy! The exact moment I could not move forward any further, the first rocket went up; I should say the first barrage. For the next 20 minutes, the sky was filled with a larger quantity of pyrotechnics than I had seen in all my 73 years combined. In rapid succession appeared low geysers of lurid color, screaming shafts of spluttering showers, high blooms of every shape and continuous noise from hisses to thunderous reports. A spasm of punctuation to having made it to the first day of 2024, the event encapsulated the passing of a baton with a lit fuse. Nobody sat, everybody was thrilled.

What fun it was. Thank you, St. Augustine Beach!

Steve and Judith Harris met on a construction site in Burlington 37 years ago. They were married in Lincoln, Vt., nine years later and have lived on 15 acres alongside the New Haven River ever since. They are the principals in a two-person consultancy (Harris and Harris Consulting, LLC) that represents owners through the design, permitting, contracting and construction of commercial and municipal projects nationally. When not on job sites, the bulk of their efforts are conducted from their home office or Airstream travel trailer through the evolving technologies (ha ha) associated with remote work. Well into their 70s, their retirement has become a long transition with some lingering professional engagements too much fun to resist.

TRAVEL

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ARTS+LEISURE

WITH JUDITH & STEVE HARRIS

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**BRISTOL NEW LISTING!
28 NORTH STREET**

**MLS #5003800 | \$575,000
COMMERCIAL | 3668 SF | 0.28 AC**

Great investment opportunity. Formerly the Bristol Market, the building was completely renovated in 2004. Currently a cafe with dining space across the front porch, an office space, and shared 1st floor bath. Two 1-bedroom apartments on the second floor, one with a screened porch to watch the world go by down below. There is a three bay garage with storage above. This building is fully rented. The exterior was painted in 2023. Property has been a mainstay in downtown Bristol for generations.



**SALISBURY NEW LISTING!
750 & 720 WEST SHORE ROAD**

**MLS #5003225 | \$1,279,500
4 BD | 2 BA | 2400 SF | 0.34 AC
cottage:
3 BR | 1 BA | 1152 SF | 0.057 AC**

An incredible view across the lake and of the Moosalamoo mountain range—you will find yourself in awe of the beauty surrounding you. This property is well cared for and includes a year-round 4 bedroom house, a 3 bedroom seasonal guest cottage, and 50 feet of pristine lakeshore with two docks from which to enjoy it from. Beautifully landscaped with plantings, trees, stone walls, and pathways as well as a paved driveway with ample space for guest parking. Radiant heat and mini splits complement baseboard heat on the 2nd floor for multi-zone heating and cooling. Tons of storage, custom built-ins, tile/marble showers, granite and butcher block countertops, new lighting, and a screened porch are just a few of the highlights! Close to all kinds of excellent hiking and biking in addition to typical lake activities. A pub and market are just down the road. Middlebury is a 15 minute drive and Burlington less than an hour.



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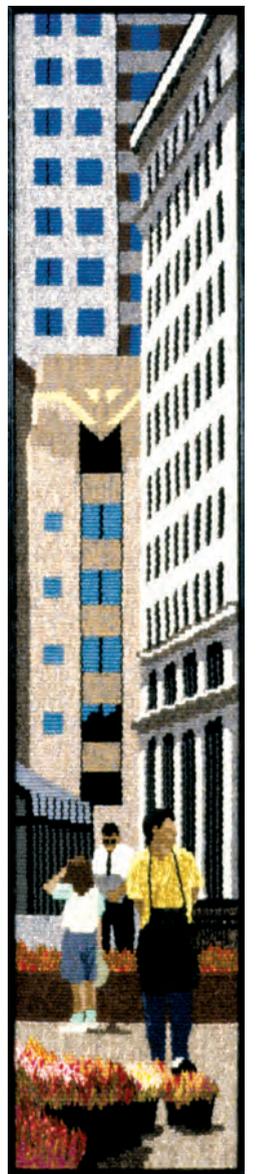


ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in graphic design, but felt it was time to return to painting and quickly found pastels. Animals and farmscapes are a specialty. Judy states that "my work in the medium of pastels is a celebration of the quiet beauty and comforting familiarity found within the everyday. Through both still life and landscape, I aim to capture the serene essence of home." She teaches classes and workshops in pastel and meditative drawing.

Jennifer Steele Cole and Elinor Steele Friml grew up in Vermont and traveled to visit relatives in the Boston area where their grandmother was a portrait artist and other family members ran a museum and a fine craft gallery. Both parents made art and worked for architects. Jennifer states that "my siblings and I were encouraged to create and build." She makes paintings and drawings that capture the agrarian landscape of Vermont. A signature characteristic of her work is the mixing of media within each composition. Elinor was introduced to the art of handwoven tapestry as a teenager and got formal training at the Edinburgh College of Art. She produces a combination of realistic and abstract compositions, often with architectural elements. She weaves by hand on an upright frame loom.



"Flower Seller" by Jennifer Steele Cole.

The exhibit runs from July 8 until Aug. 31 at the Jackson Gallery in the lower level of Town Hall Theater on Merchants Row in downtown Middlebury. All are invited to a reception for the artists on Friday, July 12, from 5-7 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday noon to five, and when performances are taking place. Entrance is through the front doors of the theater. For more info visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222.

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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"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.

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.
"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.

"Botanical." In this juried photography exhibit, images were created in the landscape, garden or studio that capture the spirit and character of plants, as well as our intimate connection to the plant world.. Juror Lee Anne White selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view July 5-26.

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.

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St., Middlebury
For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

"Sun's Out" captures all the joys of summer, spanning all mediums. Over 40 local artists have dived into their love for the sun-soaked season, drawing inspiration from the warmth of golden rays, the colors of blossoming flowers, the smells of barbecues and creemees, the buzz of wildlife and more! On view through Aug. 16.

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This charming three bedroom, two bath Cape style home is located only 5 minutes from downtown Middlebury. It offers a blend of classic design and the comfort of single level living. Large primary bedroom with ensuite, well-appointed kitchen with modern appliances and plenty of cabinet space. The living room offers a cozy atmosphere with natural light. Additional family room with a gas fireplace perfect for relaxing with a good book. Unfinished second floor presents a fantastic opportunity for design and finish to your taste. Spacious three car garage and a full basement. Enjoy Summer evenings in the screened in porch. This house is move-in ready!



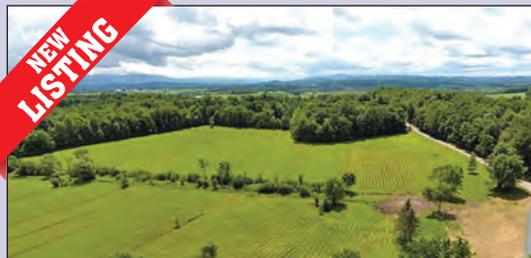
6 MAECLIFF CT., MIDDLEBURY
MLS #5003643 - \$489,000

This three bedroom Cape style home is only 8 miles from Middlebury and close to Bridport village. The house offers a large living room with a the wood burning fireplace. The glassed-in, three season room is a relaxing way to spend a pleasant afternoon. The yard is planted with an array of perennials, water gardens and ornamental trees and bushes, with a detached garden shed. Off the kitchen is a garden room, a sunny spot to start plants and to have herbs readily available for your favorite recipe. Cozy den, functional basement for storage, laundry and easy access to the back yard. Additional storage space above the two car garage. All in a beautiful park-like setting.



2494 RT. 125, BRIDPORT
MLS # 5003169 - \$443,000

Imagine building your dream home on a sprawling 56 acre property on a tranquil country road. This expansive piece of land is a picturesque blend of diverse landscapes. Gently rolling pastures and stretches of woodland, a haven for wildlife, perfect for quiet nature walks. The mix of woods and open pastures creates a versatile environment, promising both beauty and utility. The site has been permitted with the state for construction of a three bedroom septic system. 20 minutes to Middlebury.

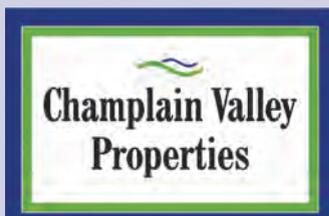


BARNES RD., WHITING
MLS # 5002820 - \$229,000

Unique, year-round property on beautiful Lake Sunset with 90' of lake frontage. Expansive, east-facing deck overlooks the picturesque lake. Amazing lake views from nearly every corner of the house. Open floor plan makes it a great place to entertain. Main floor bedroom, full bathroom and a separate laundry area with pantry. In the winter enjoy the Vermont Castings wood stove. Upstairs in the loft area you will find the primary bedroom with a 3/4 bathroom and another bedroom, both sporting lake views. Covered storage area for the wood, garbage and recycling and a separate shed for kayaks, water toys and more. Standby automatic generator. This well-maintained property is being sold fully furnished.



2436 PERCH POND RD, BENSON
MLS# 4995887 - \$599,000



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JULY 26 Golf With Your Friends, 7:00 to 11 am (Neshobe Golf Course)
Classic Picnic, 11:30 am to 3:30 pm (Branbury State Beach)

JULY 27 5K Running/Walking of the Tigers, 10:00 to 11:30 am (Middlebury Rec. Center)
Tour de Addison County, 1:00 to 2:30 pm (Middlebury Rec. Center)
High School Tour, 3:00 to 4:30 pm (MUHS)
Alum/Coaches/Teachers Mingle, 5:00 to 7:00 pm (Memorial Sports Center)
All Classes Celebration, 7:00 to 10:00 pm (Memorial Sports Center)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS GO TO WWW.MIDDLEBURYTIGERS.COM



Senior Lifestyles

A special Publication of the Addison Independent | July 11, 2024

Recognize mind & body changes for what they are

By CAROLINE JIAO

ADDISON COUNTY — As people age, we can see our bodies lose their youthful resilience. What is a little more difficult to reconcile, sometimes, is when our minds become a little less nimble.

Some cases of memory loss are serious. Up to 13,000 Vermonters have Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, according to the Alzheimer's Association. More than 20,000 family members, friends and healthcare professionals are providing care for them.

But other cognitive changes that we see as we age are less daunting, but still important to recognize.

"Everyone's worried about their memory," said Kristin Bolton, executive director of Elderly Service Inc. in Middlebury. "The portrait of aging is so unlike children growing; there's all these milestones. But for growing old there are no milestones. Some people have strokes when they're in their 50s and are very disabled by those, and other people are running marathons when they're 80. There's no playbook, no right or wrong."

So what are the ways that older people and their families can address the cognitive changes that come with aging?

Margie Bekoff, 73, a certified therapeutic harp practitioner, understands the potential of music with its mysterious effects on the human brain.

"Music is stored all over the brain. It's not only tied to our intellect but also our emotions," she said.

As a harpist, she has witnessed first-hand the magic that music has on many people, including her parents.

She remembers a Passover dinner when the family sang songs together, and her mother, whose

voice hadn't been heard for years due to her cognitive loss, suddenly started singing along, in pitch, all lyrics in Hebrew.

"We were all in tears," Beckoff recalled.

She has come to understand that music not only helps with reviving people's memory but also has a calming effect on agitation. That came home to her a little later when Beckoff's mother was in hospice care.

"My father was all pacing and breathing heavily," she remembers. "My mother was at the end of her life. We somehow found a harp at the hospice, so I started playing. By the end of my playing, my father said to me, 'If there's any way you can do that to other people, I want to help you.'"

These experiences directly inspired Beckoff to her current career working with the Helen Porter Nursing Home and Porter Hospital providing palliative support.

Bekoff's friend Priscilla Baker, a former mental health counselor and expressive arts therapist, is also aware of the incredible power of music to the human brain.

"What is documented is that singing with someone with dementia, they'll know every lyric to the song," said Baker, who volunteers for the Wellspring singing group, whose mission is to sing for people at their end of life.

Ron Hallman, the coordinator of communications and development at Elderly Services, is moved whenever he sees the power of music.

"During sing-along events, we've seen people who have dementia all of a sudden mouthing words from the song from 50 years ago," he said.

"They may be having their heads down and eyes

(See Loss, Page 3)



ALL PEOPLE EXPERIENCE some cognitive loss as they age. Harpist Margie Bekoff has seen how music, with its mysterious effects on the human brain, can help restore some memories and calm people's agitation.

Independent photo/Caroline Jiao



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LOSS

(Continued from Page 2)

closed, but their lips start moving. It just goes to show the power of music is really profound.”

This points out another hard thing about aging: people lose some of their independence with the loss of physical abilities and memory.

At Elderly Services, they keep engaged with their aging bodies and through physical activity and through social activity. Creating in a tight-knit community where everyone feels cared for is essential to combating loneliness, another factor that correlates to memory loss.

“We know loneliness has really detrimental effects on health, both mental and physical,” Bolton said. “So bringing people together in a community setting

can help people stay as functional as possible, whatever physical or cognitive status they’re at.”

The center recently got a grant from the Vermont Prevention Lead Organization, the goal of which is to address a substance abuse issue with older adults.

“The goal that group had for the grant was to create social connections, and that’s all we do,” Bolton said.

One way of building community is to have fun together. At Project Independence, there are structured activities throughout the day to keep the elders engaged.

“I think the power of friendship and community is really healing for people,” Bolton said. “I also think we’ve designed a place that’s beautiful, so it can be calming to people if they experience any anxiety. There’s a lot of fun things to do and a lot of distractions.”

When asked for advice to give about

aging, people offer different perspectives.

“Physical activity is always good,” Baker said. “It keeps the mind stimulated, and it’s helpful for creativity. Another helpful thing is nature. Even just sitting on a park bench listening to the birds, or going for a walk, going to bodies of water, absorbing the vibrations, if you will, of the natural world.”

“I think the important thing is to own it and learn more about it,” Bekoff said. “There used to be a lot of stigmas around old age, but now I’m happy to see there’s less of that, and people do well with what they can. It’s the joie de vivre, or joy of life!”

Elders like Baker, who is in her 70s, find a sense of fulfillment by immersing themselves in volunteer work.

“Starting in my 40s, I started imagining retirement, and I would spend my time volunteering. That’s something I’ve always valued,” Baker said. “I also really believe strongly that people, especially when they age, they need to step aside for younger people to carry the torch.”

One of the things Baker started doing right before retirement was becoming a tour guide at Ferrisburgh’s Rokeby Museum. That opened the door to history for her.

“I started reading books and going to online lectures. So that’s a personal way that I stretch my mind,” she said.

SEEING LIMITATIONS

While appreciating the many possibilities that come with age, Bolton recognizes the limitations that many still face.

“What’s challenging for people is their

own perceptions of their failing bodies,” she said. “So we try to create a lot of focus on what’s positive about aging, that would be the capacity to love and forgive, the wisdom that comes from experience, the ability to focus on other people and support them.”

Bolton has always had a positive association with being with older people. Her mother was a social worker, and as a child Bolton would go around with her mom to nursing homes.

“I’ve realized the challenge is aging gracefully, how do we accept the losses of our bodies, how do we try to keep as healthy as possible, how do we take good care of our brains,” she said.

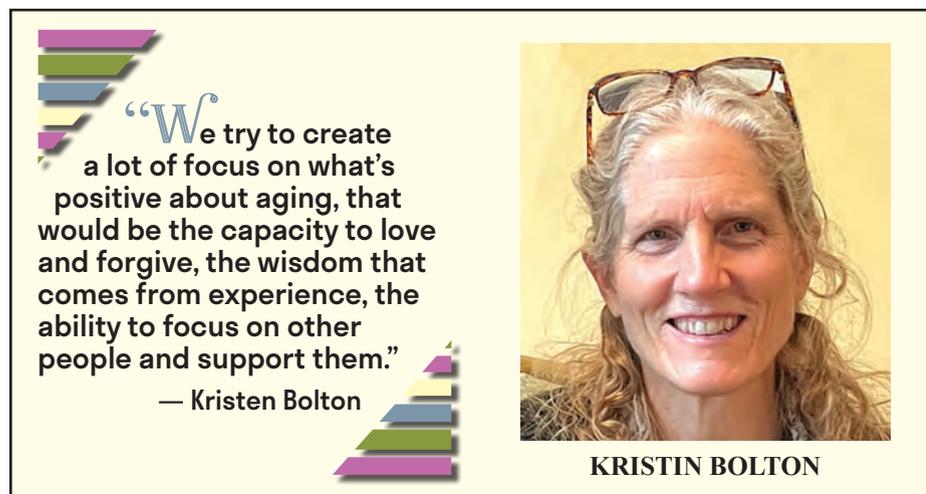
People working with seniors are especially aware of the many incredible lessons time has to offer.

“I think a lot of people, myself included, are worried about memory loss,” Bolton acknowledged. “But also it’s humbling to be around people who are very wise and focused on their energy and communication. It’s good to have models on aging that are positive as well, and I feel that the media doesn’t portray that enough, so I feel privileged to be around people who I admire so much.”

“These human beings, despite their physical limitations and even the cognitive loss, they’re wonderful people, very loving people. I feel like in the end that’s what matters, to be a loving person, that’s the endgame.”

Baker puts it more simply:

“I just want to live each day to the fullest.”



“We try to create a lot of focus on what’s positive about aging, that would be the capacity to love and forgive, the wisdom that comes from experience, the ability to focus on other people and support them.”

— Kristen Bolton



KRISTIN BOLTON



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Getting together to move

A GROUP OF seniors gathered near Otter Creek off Mill Street in Middlebury one day last week to learn about and practice chair tai chi. It is a gentle, low-impact exercise that helps keep muscles toned, increases flexibility and can improve cognitive health. On the cover of this section, Hildgund Schaefer of Bristol teaches seated tai chi in the Elderly Services Inc. class. Right, Doris Downs raises a hand to the sky. Below, the group gathered for a photo includes, left to right, front row, Charlotte Plotnick, Schaefer, Downs and Sybille Saunders; back row, Elderly Services assistant Hayden Bernhardt, Paul Bourgeois, Fern Wyman and Frank Naef.

Independent photos/Steve James



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Help keep elder drivers safe

Want to know more about keeping older drivers safe? The Vermont Department of Health has resources for seniors, caregivers, healthcare providers, law enforcement and more.

The department's goal is to keep older Vermonters safe, mobile and independent, while making sure our roads and communities are accessible for everyone.

Most older drivers, or people over 65, are very safe drivers. Older drivers are more likely than younger drivers to use seat belts regularly and follow the rules of the road. Their years of experience in handling different road and traffic conditions are invaluable. But, as we age — and we are all aging — we may experience changes in vision, physical fitness and reflexes, which may cause safety concerns. We may be more likely to take medications that could impair our ability to drive safely.

People over 65 also have a higher likelihood of being injured or killed in a traffic crash, and the likelihood increases as we age. In 2021, almost 20% of deaths and 17% of injuries on our roadways were among people 65 and older (Vermont Agency of Transportation Data).

Luckily, there are ways we can stay safe on the roads as we get older. Learn more and find resources in the sections below.

Although most older drivers are very safe drivers, as we age, we may experience changes in vision, physical fitness, and slower reflexes which can cause safety concerns. The risk of being injured or killed in a traffic crash also increases as we age.

Examples of aging-related conditions that may cause physical and cognitive changes include:

- Stroke
- Diabetes
- Peripheral neuropathies
- Arthritis
- Parkinson's disease
- Alzheimer's disease
- Heart/lung disease
- Glaucoma
- Macular degeneration
- Loss of peripheral / night vision

As we age, certain medications may also affect our ability to drive safely. Medications could include:

- Pain medications
- Sleeping pills
- Seizure medications
- Muscle relaxers
- Anti-nausea medications
- Eye drops
- Blood pressure and heart medications
- Any medication that can cause drowsiness, dizziness, blurred vision, muscle relaxation

If you have questions or concerns about any of your medications, talk to your care provider or a pharmacist.

The Centers for Disease Control offers some steps that you can take to stay safe on the road:

- Always wear your seat belt and never drive impaired by alcohol, drugs or medicines.

• Discuss any medical issues with your
(See Drivers, Page 6)



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drivers

(Continued from Page 5)

doctor to determine if they might affect your driving.

- Discuss stopping or changing your medicines with your pharmacist or doctor if you experience any side effects that could interfere with safe driving, such as blurry vision, dizziness, sleepiness, confusion, fatigue, and/or loss of consciousness.

- Have your eyes checked by an eye doctor at least once a year. Wear glasses and corrective lenses as directed.

- Plan your route before you drive.

- Drive during daylight and in good weather when possible.

- Consider potential alternatives to driving, such as riding with a friend, using

public transit, or using ride share services.

- Download and use CDC's MyMobility Plan for tips and resources on how to stay mobile and independent as you age. Head online to tinyurl.com/DriverMyMobility.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR OLDER DRIVERS

In the Driver's Seat: A Guide to Vehicle Safety Technology. This guidebook, created by The Hartford insurance company, will help you understand and use vehicle safety technology while you are in the driver's seat.

Your Road Ahead: A Guide to Comprehensive Driving Evaluations. This guidebook, created by the Hartford, describes the benefits of having a comprehensive driving evaluation from an occupational therapist with specialized driver evaluation training.

Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program



FGP offers opportunities for volunteers to serve as classroom aides in Addison County, providing mentoring and support to children of all ages.

Foster Grandparents can serve from 10-30 hours a week and receive a stipend, training and travel reimbursement if income-eligible. For more info on how to become a Foster Grandparent, please call 802-468-7056 or visit volunteersinvt.org

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Action sitting

SENIORS LEARNED AND performed chair tai chi outdoors in Middlebury last week in a session set up by Elderly Services Inc. Sitting while doing tai chi is beneficial for seniors who may not be steady on their feet. Fern Wyman, left, keeps her arms in motion during the session. Below, Elderly Services aide Hayden Bernhardt, left, Paul Bourgeois and Frank Naef follow Hildgund Schaefer's lead.

Independent photos/Steve James



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Do you need care for a loved one during a wedding, reunion, or other special event this summer? We can help! Call us to discuss.

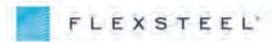
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