



Pre-Primary

Learn who is running and read candidate Q&As in our Election Guide, tucked in Arts + Leisure.



Pool titles

Champ and Marlin swimmers won many races at their league championship meet. See Page 1B.



Field Days!

The county fair returns next week; see our comprehensive guide to all the fun.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Vergennes mayor faces health scare, is optimistic

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — In a July 26 email to Vergennes City Council members, city department heads, city hall employees, and selectboard chairs in neighboring communities, Vergennes Mayor

Chris Bearor revealed he has been diagnosed with a form of eye cancer that he said a specialist in Boston described as “very treatable.”

Bearor wrote he does not expect
(See Bearor, Page 16A)

State healthcare system needs Rx

Officials clamor for major overhaul

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Dr. Bruce Hamory has given plenty of dire prognoses to patients during a half century of toiling in the healthcare trenches.

On Tuesday evening, his grim forecast was not for an individual,

but for an entire healthcare system — Vermont’s healthcare system.

Hamory is an independent clinician hired by the Green Mountain Care Board, or GMCB, which regulates the delivery of health care in Vermont. He was hired to recommend ways of

revitalizing the state’s financially floundering healthcare delivery network. He and his team from Oliver Wyman’s Health and Life Sciences Practice were in Middlebury on Tuesday evening as part of a listening tour that will culminate in a final report and options for administering CPR to a state healthcare system that is fast

becoming insolvent.

“This will require concerted system transformation, sustained over time... an unrelenting effort,” Hamory said of the challenge ahead, one he stressed will require effort from all healthcare stakeholders.

The Hamory study is an
(See Healthcare, Page 11A)



LOCAL FILM DIRECTOR Andy Mitchell’s new documentary, “Inside the Mind of a Dog,” will be shown on Saturday, Aug. 10, at Middlebury’s Memorial Sports Center — and dogs are being encouraged to attend in hopes of breaking a world record. Here, Mitchell has fun with his own dogs, Boon, a golden retriever, and a street mutt named Nola.

Independent photo/Steve James

Local filmmaker puts dogs on Netflix

Pups invited to challenge world record at Middlebury screening

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Except for stars like Lassie, Rin Tin Tin or Benji, dogs are generally barred from movie theaters and sports arenas.

But on Saturday, Aug. 10, humans will take a backseat to their best friends at Middlebury’s Memorial Sports Center, where dogs will scamper down a red carpet for the

screening of a pooch-related documentary called “Inside the Mind of a Dog,” directed by local filmmaker Andy Mitchell.

And if the Memorial Sports Center does in fact “go to the dogs” to the tune of 220 or more hounds for the Aug. 10 mutt-stravaganza, Middlebury will grab a Guinness world record for “most dogs to attend a film screening.”

Attendance should be good, considering

Mitchell’s pedigree and track record. He’s a four-time Emmy Award-winning film director, cinematographer, producer, writer, storyteller and underwater cameraman. During his more than 25-year career, Mitchell has documented a wide variety of films on subjects that include rock stars, great white sharks, natural disasters, Buddhist monks,
(See Filmmaker, Page 15A)

Huntington Republican seeks Vt. Senate seat

Cochran underscores budget issues

By JOHN FLOWERS

HUNTINGTON — After just three years of residency in Huntington, Republican Landel James Cochran in 2018 decided to invest in his community. He ran successfully for a seat on the town’s selectboard and was recently elected to a third straight three-year term.

Now Cochran, 36, wants to expand his public service impact, as one of two state senators representing Addison County,



COCHRAN

Huntington, Rochester and Buel’s Gore.

But first, he’ll have to pass two election hurdles in a race that thus far features six hopefuls: Leicester Republican Lesley Bienvenue; incumbent state Sen. Christopher Bray, D-Bristol; Cochran; current state Rep. Caleb Elder, D-Starksboro; incumbent state Sen.

Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury; and Bristol Republican Steven Heffernan.

The three Democrats and three
(See Cochran, Page 12A)

City 8-year-old works to buy treats for EMTs

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — Over the past two summers, 8-year-old Vergennes resident Hunter Warner has made about \$200 mowing lawns, shoveling snow and doing other yardwork for his neighbors, plus taking care of a to-do list for

his parents, Stacey and George Leggett.

Hunter, who will enter second grade at Vergennes Union Elementary School this fall, has spent all those earnings at Olsen’s Ice Cream on Main Street, next to
(See Warner, Page 16A)

Mosquito control district leaders resign abruptly

By MARIN HOWELL

SALISBURY — The Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District Board of Trustees is looking to fill three leadership roles after a handful of former leaders recently resigned from their positions.

The board of trustees governs the local insect control district, which serves the towns of Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen, Pittsford and Proctor.

Former board chair Jeff
(See Mosquito district, Page 12A)

By the way

The Town of Starksboro is looking for the community’s assistance in identifying local hazards to aid in updating the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is especially important in light of recent flooding in the town and other local areas. Please complete the following short
(See By the way, Page 11A)

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Firefighters have good, clean fun at Vt. Muster Games

By CAROLINE JIAO

MIDDLEBURY — Saturday was a typically hot summer day, and there was a lot of cool water splashed and sprayed in the G. Stone Motors parking lot in Middlebury.

But it wasn’t kids playing in the water — it was adult men and women.

“We used to do these games all the time; there’s been a big push to try to get them back because it builds comradery, it builds friendship that lasts forever,” said John “Peeker” Heffernan of Bristol.

He should know. He was an enthusiastic referee for Saturday’s water competitions, known as the “Muster Games.” They occurred as part of the Vermont State Firefighters’ Association annual meeting. The games and meetings brought firefighters from around the state to Middlebury. While there were typical group gatherings and meals, a highlight for many were Saturday’s Muster Games.

The Muster Games are a set of competitions consisting of six matches that simulate scenes of emergency, where multiple firefighting skills must be demonstrated for a team to win. Each team, typically from a fire department, selects six to eight individuals, depending on the rules, to fight “fire” for honor.

For example, the “midnight alarm” game asks
(See Muster Games, Page 14A)



A MIXED TEAM of Addison County firefighters passes buckets of water up a ladder during the bucket brigade competition at Saturday’s Muster Games in the G. Stone Motors parking lot in Middlebury. It coincided with the Vermont State Firefighters Association’s annual meeting.

Photo by Dylan Montagu

Vt. Dragonheart Festival, Aug. 3-4

Three county women find solace in boat racing

BY ALAENA HUNT

For those struggling with cancer or losing a loved one to cancer, it can be hard to find a strong community to support them. But Eugenie Doyle, Rene Saenger, and Barb DeWitt found one in DragonHeart Vermont, a dragon boat racing organization based on the Burlington waterfront.

Now, in their own version of the Olympic games, the three Addison County residents will be traveling to Ravenna, Italy this Sept. 3-8 to compete with DragonHeart Vermont in the Dragon Boat Racing Club Crew World Championships.

This year is special to the three women because it's the

20th anniversary of the Vermont organization, which will be commemorated at the 18th Annual Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival, to be held this coming weekend, Aug. 3-4, on Lake Champlain.

Started in 2004 by Linda Dyer and her husband, John, soon after they moved from Philadelphia to Vermont, the club now owns seven 40-foot boats and two 30-foot boats along with two community boat docks on the Burlington waterfront. This year, the Vermont club will send 100 paddlers to the world championship.

Doyle, a co-owner of Last

Resort Farm in Monkton, found DragonHeart shortly after she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007.

"Treatment for breast cancer is really not that much fun. It's actually not fun at all," Doyle explained, "And on so many levels, you know, emotionally, physically, spiritually, it's challenging. And at the table to sign up for this organization, it was a whole other tone set. It was about athleticism. It was about giving back to the community. It was about positivity."

She has gotten so involved with the organization that Last Resort Farm is one of the biggest donors

The Lake Champlain Dragon Boat Festival is a charity event that supports cancer survivors in our local community. There are three divisions for racing: Community Teams, Breast Cancer Paddler teams, and Sport teams.

Racing for Breast Cancer teams and Sport teams begins at noon on Saturday, Aug. 3. Community, Sport, and Breast Cancer teams will all race the 200m course on Sunday, Aug. 4, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

of sunflowers to their annual flower ceremony, a time to honor those who have lost their battle with cancer, which happens during the festival each year.

Traditionally, pink carnations are used at the flower festivals, but Doyle doesn't like them much because they remind her of bad prom corsages. Therefore, she asked the founder, Linda Dyer, if they could use sunflowers instead. Now, almost every year spectators and participants throw Last Resort Farm sunflowers into the water to honor those who have passed.

All three women agree that DragonHeart Vermont has a beautiful persona of hope and resilience.

(See DragonHeart, Page 6A)



THE BREAf LOAF Mountain Zen Community has acquired the former podiatrist's office at 76 Court St. in Middlebury, which will soon absorb the group's functions and those of its popular downtown community drop-in spot, called Gather. Joshin Byrnes stands in front of the new place.

Photo courtesy of Kathleen Byrnes

Zen center to move

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community (BLMZC) has sold its Zen center at 3958 Route 30 in Cornwall and is readying a new homebase at 76 Court St. in Middlebury that will also absorb the functions of its popular downtown community drop-in spot called Gather at 48 Merchants Row.

Gather — a 1,400-square-foot venue in the downtown where people can (for free) congregate, eat food, use shower and laundry facilities, and partake in entertainment and therapeutic programming — will remain in its rented Merchants Row spot until its lease expires next spring. The service, which has proved particularly valuable to members of Middlebury's houseless community, will then travel to what will be BLMZC's new, 4,600-square-foot home at 76 Court St., which most recently housed Middlebury Foot Care.

BLMZC calls itself a "welcoming place to learn about and practice meditation, share Buddhist teachings, and to create relationships that are mindful, caring and responsive to the unmet needs of others," according to its website. Its leader is Joshin Byrnes, a Zen priest.

He described BLMZC's rationale for the move in a recent post on the group's website.

"We have wanted to create an integrated community Zen right where we live — one that has many dimensions to it, like meditation, study, and direct service, but where they are all woven together and integrated, and perhaps most importantly, very accessible to whoever wants to come together in a spiritual community of belonging."

It was in 2017 that a nascent BLMZC bought its Cornwall home, which was then a bed and breakfast called "The Willow and Lotus." The former owner was ironically a Vietnamese woman whose family had operated Zen temples in her homeland, Byrnes noted.

She chose BLMZC's bid for the property, which the group has used for such activities as daily meditation, weekly talks, periodic retreats, study and practice groups, and a residential space for members moving through the Zen ranks toward priesthood.

Along came the COVID pandemic in 2020, which changed meeting dynamics for groups like BLMZC. The group reduced in-person gatherings and emphasized virtual association — a model that allowed BLMZC to reach devotees both locally and globally.

"COVID really changed the picture," Byrnes said in a recent interview.

But the lifting of social distancing rules and the presence of a COVID vaccine has prompted a return to in-person events, including for BLMZC. In February 2023, the group launched Gather, a secular offering that ushered in new opportunities for get togethers. The group also initiated a free food truck service in Middlebury and beyond.

These activities gave BLMZC leaders more confidence to step up in-person activities while retaining virtual options for out-of-state fans. They reasoned a Court Street setting would offer more opportunities for interaction than the Cornwall location.

"It was a hard decision for us to sell the building; we cared for it a lot," Byrnes said. "But people (post-COVID) were less willing to drive those few miles from Middlebury to Cornwall... Our live attendance went down, but virtual attendance went up dramatically."

The new Court Street home, according to Byrnes, will provide an answer to a question he's had for a long time:

"What's it like to put all the parts of our practice together, under one roof, and let the membrane between those practices become more permeable?"

76 Court St., according to Byrnes, has ample parking, is easy walking

(See Zen, Page 7A)



Addison County residents Barb DeWitt, top left, Eugenie Doyle (with sunflower), and Rene Saenger (in the back of the boat with her crew) are part of the 200-strong Dragonheart Vermont club that paddles out of the Burlington waterfront. They are part of 100 members that will travel to Italy in early September to participate in the World Championships.

Photo by Lee Krohn

Short film highlights life, legacy of Vt. farmer

'Love of the Land' will screen at Middlebury's Marquis Theater on Aug. 7

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Romaine Tenney loved the Ascutney farm he spent his life on.

So much so that when the farmer's property was on the path of construction for Interstate 91 in 1964, Tenney refused to leave his home or accept any buy-out offers from the state. His family farm was ultimately seized by the state as eminent domain, and in the early hours of Sept. 12, 1964, Tenney let his animals loose and set fire to his barns and home while barricaded inside.

Now, nearly 60 years after Tenney's death, a new, animated

short film titled "Love of the Land" aims to shed light on the Vermont farmer's story. The film will be screened at the Middlebury Marquis Theatre next Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 6:30 p.m., followed by a presentation and Q&A led by director, writer and filmmaker Travis Van Alstyne.

While the film highlights a key part of Vermont's history, Van Alstyne said Tenney's story in many ways connects to our envisioning of the state's future.

"We don't have any necessarily large infrastructure projects like a major highway going in. However, I think the ideas of the changing

landscape are still as important today," Van Alstyne said of the film. "Especially as we talk about housing and development, it brings up questions of progress and what is needed within the state, which is desperately more housing, but in doing so, does that start to change the character of Vermont? It brings up lots of questions like that."

Van Alstyne, a Vermont native, first heard Tenney's story while growing up in Chester, about a half-hour drive from the former Tenney farm in Ascotney.

"Growing up, probably three or so times, someone relayed Romaine Tenney's story to me," Van Alstyne

recalled. "One pivotal time that I heard about it, a friend and I were taking a late-night drive through Ascutney when I was probably 16. He relayed the story that his parents had told him about Romaine Tenney, and the story always kind of stuck in the back of my brain. It was a very Vermont story; it was very connected to place."

The story of Romaine Tenney stayed with Van Alstyne as he moved to Georgia to study animation at the Savannah College of Art & Design before returning to Vermont to pursue a career in the tech industry. In 2020, Van

(See Tenney, Page 3A)

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Tenney

(Continued from Page 2A)

Alstyne decided to dive deeper into his animation work and got started on his first animated film. He knew immediately what story the project would focus on.

“When I decided to do a film on Vermont history, (Tenney’s story) was the one that kind of jumped to the forefront,” Van Alstyne said.

The filmmaker began researching Tenney, reading articles about the former farmer and connecting with the Weathersfield Historical Society.

“They actually brought me to Romaine Tenney’s grave site, and I was taken aback, very emotional, to read his epitaph, which was ‘Guardian of his land and friend to all,’” he said.

Van Alstyne also got in touch with a few of Tenney’s relatives, including his great-nephew Dylan Tenney.

To bring Tenney’s story to life in the film, Van Alstyne used a rotoscope animation technique, a method that consists of the animator tracing over live-action footage frame by frame.

Originally Van Alstyne planned to hire an actor to act out the scenes he’d later animate. However, the pandemic prompted him to shift course and ultimately step into the role of Tenney.

“In some ways, I got to get my feet into Romaine’s shoes and dress up like Romaine and act out the 75 different shots that are in the film,” he said.

Van Alstyne spent four years making the film, about two of which were dedicated to animation. The filmmaker said he spent nights and weekends working on the project while balancing his day job.

He wrapped up work on the film this past Valentine’s Day, a fitting end date for the project Van Alstyne

calls “a labor of love.” An estimated 3,000 digitally hand-drawn frames and more than 1,000 hours of animation went into the four-year project.

Van Alstyne collaborated with several Vermonters on the film — background art was designed by Burlington artist Julianna Brazill, music was performed by Andover’s Ida Mae Specker, sound design was provided by Alex Knowles, sound effects by Georgie Darling of St. Johnsbury, and Waterbury Center farmer and filmmaker George Woodard narrated the film.

“That was one thing that was really important to me, was to collaborate with other Vermonters or people with Vermont connections,” Van Alstyne said. “It was a handful of people that I got to work with to bring this together, which made it more special.”

The completed short film is around eight minutes long and focuses on the last year of Tenney’s life. The film also touches on Tenney’s legacy, noting that for 55 years following Romaine’s suicide and the construction of Interstate 91, a single maple tree stood as the last remnant of Tenney’s farm. The dying tree was cut down in 2021.

“Beyond sharing his story, I think (the film) really makes people consider and question what progress means,” Van Alstyne said.

The filmmaker pointed to a few other themes the film touches on, such as suicide prevention and sense of place.

“I think as Vermonters, we’re really connected to our sense of place; our land, the seasons, the landscape itself,” Van Alstyne said.

The upcoming Middlebury screening is the latest showing of “Love of the Land,” which has been screened throughout the state this summer. The short film has received several awards and recognitions, including the Best Animation Short award at the Touchstone Independent Film Festival in Cocoa Beach, Fla., and an Audience Award for Best Short at the Vermont Film & Folklore Festival.

“Love of the Land” was also among the projects to receive funding in the inaugural year of Vermont Public’s Made Here Fund, an initiative aimed at broadening and diversifying storytelling in Vermont.

Following the screening on Aug. 7, Van Alstyne will offer a presentation on the historical aspects of the film and an inside look at creating the project.

“I give information about Romaine Tenney himself; I share some photos and some video, and I also talk about the construction of the highway and a behind-the-scenes look at how the rotoscope animation is done,” Van Alstyne said.

Those interested in attending the Aug. 7 showing can find more information at tinyurl.com/48hstsc9.

Van Alstyne said he hopes to continue telling Vermont stories and working with fellow Vermonters to bring those stories to life through animation. Such projects are at the heart of his work with Travis Animates, the one-man production company he formed in 2022.

“I’m hoping this is the first of many,” Van Alstyne said.

“The story always kind of stuck in the back of my brain. It was a very Vermont story; it was very connected to place.”

— Travis Van Alstyne



A NEW ANIMATED short film entitled “Love of the Land” details the story of Romaine Tenney, a Vermont farmer whose land was on the path of construction for Interstate 91 in the 1960s. Residents can learn more about Tenney’s life and legacy at an Aug. 7 screening of the short film at the Middlebury Marquis Theatre.

Photo courtesy of Travis Van Alstyne

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Editorial

Vt's health care system is so broken reform can't wait

Here's the only good news about the bad news concerning Vermont's health care system — it's so bad reform can't wait. We absolutely must make substantial changes and do it quickly.

That's the kernel of hope in what was an otherwise sobering look at the state of Vermont's health care system as presented by Dr. Bruce Hamory's team of consultants (Oliver Wyman's Health and Life Sciences Practice) on Tuesday night at Middlebury's Ilsley Library. Hamory's team was hired by the state to assess the system's needs.

It's not new news. Anyone who has been paying attention knows Vermont's health care costs have exploded over the past few years. Still, the numbers are staggering:

- Nine of the state's 14 hospitals posted negative operating margins in 2023 (Porter was one of the few in the black).
- Monthly health insurance premiums for the lowest cost Silver marketplace plan between FY2018 and FY2022 increased 108%, from \$474 to \$948. Medium household income during the same period rose 22%, from \$60,781 to \$73,991.
- It gets worse: Today, 12.4% of the state's population is 65-74 years old; by 2040, it's expected to be 24.4%. Meanwhile, those 20-64 currently make up 53.8% of the population, but by 2040 that will drop to 40.3%. That trend will send commercial insurance rates even higher.
- Nor can we blame health insurance companies for hiking rates. Data suggests insurance companies have been facing big losses in recent years. BlueCross-BlueShield reportedly lost 46.8% in FY2022, and 24.8% in FY2023, and insurance companies are required by the state to maintain a sufficient cash buffer to be able to afford claims filed. It's why state regulators will likely approve more health insurance rate hikes.

Doing nothing, Hamory told the jammed-packed community room at the library, is not an option. Vermonters simply can't afford such annual increases.

So, what's the solution?

It's complicated. Basically, we have to redesign a system specifically suited for today's needs and Vermont's unique demographics; unique because we are this rural, aging state where this point of inflection demands change, and demands it now.

What that means, in part, is addressing some big societal problems:

- We must have more affordable housing, so we can create a bigger workforce and ensure workers for our health care system, along with solving a host of other issues;
- We need more assisted living, nursing and other group homes for Vermont's aging population;
- We must create new pathways for appropriate levels of care, more recovery options and treatment from home; greater use of telemedicine, data and the like that reduces cost. And on and on.

In a 32-page report, Hamory laid out the problem, explained the basis of a recovery plan, and encouraged the Middlebury area — as well as the rest of the state where similar presentations have been made — to get involved and use political "pressure" to force the change. (A more detailed report and suggestions will be presented later this fall.)

The proposed changes, Hamory said, "will require concerted system transformation, sustained over time... an unrelenting effort."

If you're thinking this sounds like a Mission Impossible movie, it is daunting. But if we break it down community by community it seems more realistic.

- The Middlebury area, for example, is on track to put in 100 units of affordable and workplace housing with the Summit Properties project that was started two years ago. A town task force could seriously consider how we might attract more assisted living or other group homes (is a subsidy possible?), as well as other measures to ramp-up smaller housing developments. We need to do that planning now and put community resources together to make it happen. Vergennes and Bristol are working on similar efforts.
- Porter Hospital has addressed many cost-saving steps that can be realized through shared resources, is working on providing more specialty services closer to home to limit costs to patients, and the hospital works well with the relatively large number of other health care related services in the county. What other approaches could help shave costs?
- Our local career centers, as well as the state college system, are incorporating health-care related classes and programs into their curriculums, but can we do more and do it better?

In short, these aren't the types of obstacles that make a Mission Impossible movie sizzle. Viable solutions exist. But it will take a "concerted" and "sustained" effort by every community-center in the state, and there will be substantial debates on how that change happens without upsetting some of the very providers we need serving in their highest capacity with adequate reward.

It won't be easy, but the pressure isn't going away.

Owen Foster, who grew up in Middlebury and is the chair of the Green Mountain Care Board, aptly captured the scale of the problem: "In a nation with some of the worst healthcare costs in the world, Vermont stands out as one of the states with the highest healthcare costs in the country." But he offers this glimmer of hope: "This is dour and concerning, but I also want to say it's an immense opportunity... We're able to pause right now and look at what we have and look at what we need and intentionally design a system that will work for us."

The GMCB has taken the first step with this study. The next step is harder: outlining a path forward that offers tangible rate relief. If it can do that, we're confident Vermonters will apply the pressure to make it happen.

Angelo Lynn



Bucket up!
JUST LIKE IN a real emergency, a group of Addison County firefighters works together during the bucket brigade competition at Saturday's Muster Games to accomplish a task. The games reinforce skills but also build camaraderie among firefighters from different departments.
Independent photo/Caroline Jiao

Never alone on a walk in the woods

I walk along a trail that winds into the woods. Leaves overhead dapple the sun, harlequin patterns of light and shade moving on my path. I breathe in; breathe out. Trees cool the air, embrace the earth. I don't know how people manage without some woods or fields or perhaps a shoreline to walk upon. The breeze that fills my lungs clears away my stress. Look! There is a squirrel scampering up the tree's side, chittering as it goes. The walking is not difficult, but it encourages me to breathe more deeply, to move with more purpose. The sun-warmed pine needles at my feet lift their scent, remind me of camping trips when I was a child.

If someone were with me, they might begin to speak of politics or climate concerns — important issues. On my own, I let my thoughts center much more on the moment, on the here and now. Memories do seep in. There were times when I was still working that I might take groups of students to clear trails, to experience those trails, to enter places they may never have gone before. Afterwards, there would be activities that would challenge them to work as a group. They would need to overcome some obstacle, often requiring both physical and problem-solving skills. I might hold a rope a couple of feet off the ground, another adult holding the other end. The whole group of students would need to get themselves over the rope without ever touching the rope.

For the entire duration, until success, everyone in the group needed to maintain physical contact with at least one other person. This might be the toe of one shoe touching the heel of another's, or it might

be a supportive hand as the rope was being crossed. Perhaps this doesn't sound too difficult, but it is indeed a challenge with a varied mix of kids.

Usually, after several starts, they would succeed. What they figured out, as they worked on the task, were the following: Stay connected. Take time to plan. Encourage everyone's input and truly listen to all the ideas or concerns. No put-downs. Be cautious with your assumptions. Simply because you might be the strongest academically or athletically, someone you hadn't thought much of just might be better at tackling this kind of situation. If your attempt fails, regroup, talk it though, and make another try.

It might take several times, each one with a slightly different approach. If everyone will work together and keep up the effort, success is pretty much guaranteed.

My path is now along a brook; it chortles beside me, tempting me to remove my boots and dabble my toes. I lean back on a fallen log, looking up to the sky through the overhanging branches. What those students did — isn't that what we need to do? Stay connected. Consider all points of view. Support everyone. Stick with it (don't get bored or discouraged, walk away, complain, berate). Work together. Respect each other. Don't give up.

Breathe. We are all in this together, whether it is a classroom, a community, a nation, or the world. Take a walk somewhere without distractions. Clear your head. Ease your heart. Some years back, there arose

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

Ways of Seeing

By Laurie Cox



Biden calls for judicial reforms

Editor's note: This Op-Ed was posted by the Washington Post on July 29, 2024, and is based on a speech given by President Biden in Austin, Texas, on the same day.

This nation was founded on a simple yet profound principle: No one is above the law. Not the president of the United States. Not a justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. No one.

But the Supreme Court's 6-3 decision on July 1 to grant presidents broad immunity from prosecution for crimes they commit in office means there are virtually no limits on what a president can do. The only limits will be those that are self-imposed by the person occupying the Oval Office.

If a future president incites a violent mob to storm the Capitol and stop the peaceful transfer of power — like we saw on Jan. 6, 2021 — there may be no legal consequences.

And that's only the beginning.

On top of dangerous and extreme decisions that overturn settled legal precedents — including *Roe v. Wade* — the court is mired in a crisis of ethics. Scandals involving several justices have caused the public to question the court's fairness and independence, which are essential to

faithfully carrying out its mission of equal justice under the law. For example, undisclosed gifts to justices from individuals with interests in cases before the court, as well as conflicts of interest connected with Jan. 6 insurrectionists, raise legitimate questions about the court's impartiality.

I served as a U.S. senator for 36 years, including as chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. I have overseen more Supreme Court nominations as senator, vice president and president than anyone living today. I have great respect for our institutions and the separation of powers.

What is happening now is not normal, and it undermines the public's confidence in the court's decisions, including those impacting personal freedoms. We now stand in a breach.

That's why — in the face of increasing threats to America's democratic institutions — I am calling for three bold reforms to restore trust and accountability to the court and our democracy.

First, I am calling for a constitutional amendment called the No One Is Above the Law Amendment. It would make clear that there is no immunity for crimes a former president committed

(See *Biden*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Albert touted for House seat

I am proud that one of the first votes I will ever cast will be for Jeanne Albert. Jeanne is everything I look for in a candidate: she is passionate, principled, and has proven her dedication to Addison County many times over. As a young voter, I am supporting Jeanne because I know she will fight for the things I care about. Jeanne believes in green energy and will advocate for a smooth and financially responsible transition to alternative energy sources. She supports climate justice initiatives which are becoming increasingly important with the terrible floods Vermont has been experiencing. Jeanne is an educator and so I know that protecting children in schools through common sense gun laws is high on her priority list.

Jeanne is ready to bring Addison County values to Montpelier. I encourage you all to check out her website jeanneforvermont.org to learn more. Ready to vote for her? Early voting is already underway. Reach out to your town clerk to make your voice heard or make sure you get to the polls before 7 p.m. on August 13th.

Eliza Doucet
Starksboro

Rogers Road is a safer place

Now that the speed bumps on Rogers Road have been in place for a couple of months, I would like to offer the opinion that they are the best thing to happen on that road since it stopped being a dead end. Living, as I do, between the speed bumps gives me a unique vantage point. It is almost impossible to measure the increased safety of the children, the walkers, the handicapped, the cyclists, the workers and pets. Traffic has slowed down considerably and any driver who crosses the bumps at an appropriate speed need not worry about damage. Even the occasional sound of a trailer hitting the bumps pales in comparison to the increased safety and overall quiet enjoyed by those of us who live here.

They have been so effective it would border on negligence to not have these installed yearly.

I want to thank the Greater Buttolph neighborhood for their support and thank those responsible for making ours a safer and quieter place.

Michael Rowe
Middlebury

Biden has given the nation hope

President Joe Biden is an American hero. Yes, when I listened to him deliver his July 24 speech, I realized how much he had declined physically since the January State of the Union speech, when he gave a commanding performance. Well, he is an aging American hero.

This morning, reading anything about Biden, I just get weepy. I am moved by his personal courage in so many ways. We are in the midst of the passing of a generation of leaders. The best of them have listened to the people, taken hold, and done their best to steer us through. Biden has been a public servant for 50 years. He will leave us honorably in six months, having passed the test of our republic, listening to the people, and now choosing to pass the baton peacefully on to a younger generation of leaders.

Eight years after the Women's March on Washington, I continue to be inspired by it, even if it didn't immediately rid us of Trump. I keep remembering how our two busloads from Addison County pulled into a rest stop about 40 minutes outside of DC. As we pulled into the plaza and rubbed our sleepy eyes, we began to register what we were witnessing. There was an exhilaratingly endless parade of buses entering the plaza! We disembarked from those

(See *Gleason letter*, Page 5A)

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Letters to the Editor

Please support your award-winning newspaper

Shortly after reading the cover article of this week’s *Seven Days* newspaper titled: ‘It was eye opening that we could lose that much money,’ I walked to the Salisbury PO and got my weekly *Addison Independent* newspaper. There it was, thick this week including four sections of “Profiles in Community” featuring many of you. Of course the front news section, sports section and Arts & Leisure were there too.

The *Seven Days* article highlights the grim statistics regarding the nationwide loss

of 2,900 local newspapers since 2005 and two more fail each week. Vermont has fared better, and many including our dear Addy Indy, award-winning year after year, are creatively doing things to make it work. As Angelo said in the article, “We’re not just sitting by as we die.” And as Lisa Mitchell, executive director of the Town Hall Theater says in the same article, “The *Addison Independent* is the Gold Standard of Journalism. This year it was selected as the best weekly newspaper at the New England Newspaper and Press Association

annual contest.”

Earlier this year The Addy Indy began a campaign called ‘Addy All-Stars’. Those of us who donate at least \$50.00 (or more) on top of our annual subscription fee, can join this Addy All-Stars club.

People! We need the *Addison Independent* to stay alive and strong. It is hugely vital to our Addison County community health in so many ways. Step up and become an Addy All-Star!

**Kathryn Schloff
Salisbury**

Many helped make Bristol’s July 4 events successful

The Bristol 4th of July celebrations this year were nothing short of spectacular, and we have our wonderful community to thank for it. From the vibrant parade to the lively outhouse races, the day was filled with joy, laughter, and a profound sense of togetherness.

Firstly, we extend our deepest gratitude to all the participants, volunteers, and attendees who made this year’s Independence Day festivities unforgettable. Your enthusiasm and community spirit truly embodied the essence of this beloved holiday.

This year’s parade showcased the creativity and dedication of our community members. The floats were a testament to the hard work and imaginative spirit that defines our town. We are thrilled to announce the winners of this year’s float competition:

- First Place: Zeno Mountain Farm
 - Second Place: Shaw’s Supermarket
 - Third Place: Girl Scout Troop 51876
- The outhouse races, always a crowd favorite, brought an extra level of excitement and competition to the day’s events. This year’s race saw fierce competition, but in the end, Larose Surveys emerged victorious, demonstrating not just speed, but also exceptional ingenuity and teamwork.
- We would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the event organizers, local businesses, and sponsors who supported the celebration. Your contributions were invaluable in ensuring the success of the event. Special thanks to our local police, fire and rescue departments for

ensuring the safety and smooth flow of activities throughout the day.

As we reflect on this year’s festivities, we are filled with gratitude and pride. The 4th of July is a time to celebrate our nation’s independence, and this year it also served as a reminder of the strength and unity of our community. We look forward to many more celebrations together and to the continued tradition of coming together in the spirit of joy and camaraderie.

Thank you once again to everyone who participated, attended, and supported the 4th of July celebrations. Here’s to many more joyous and memorable events in the future!

**Christine Lathrop
on behalf of the Bristol 4th
of July Committee**

Biden

(Continued from Page 4A)

while in office. I share our Founders’ belief that the president’s power is limited, not absolute. We are a nation of laws — not of kings or dictators.

Second, we have had term limits for presidents for nearly 75 years. We should have the same for Supreme Court justices. The United States is the only major constitutional democracy that gives lifetime seats to its high court. Term limits would help ensure that the court’s membership changes with some regularity. That would make timing for court nominations more predictable and less arbitrary. It would reduce the chance that any single presidency radically alters the makeup of the

court for generations to come. I support a system in which the president would appoint a justice every two years to spend 18 years in active service on the Supreme Court.

Third, I’m calling for a binding code of conduct for the Supreme Court. This is common sense. The court’s current voluntary ethics code is weak and self-enforced. Justices should be required to disclose gifts, refrain from public political activity and recuse themselves from cases in which they or their spouses have financial or other conflicts of interest. Every other federal judge is bound by an enforceable code of conduct, and there is no reason for the Supreme Court to be exempt.

All of these reforms are supported by a majority of Americans — as well as conservative and liberal constitutional scholars. And I want to thank the bipartisan Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States for its insightful analysis, which informed some of these proposals.

We can and must prevent the abuse of presidential power. We can and must restore the public’s faith in the Supreme Court. We can and must strengthen the guardrails of democracy.

In America, no one is above the law. In America, the people rule.

— Joe Biden
President of the United States

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

the concept of “Spaceship Earth.” Here we are, traveling through space, and it is what we have — our Earth, our globe. We have it together; we have it to share. Get out into it — not just the buildings and streets, not the social media and tweets. See that little orange flower

pushing up through the gravel at the edge of the road? Listen to the birds’ morning chorus. Make a connection with another person. Give them a hand. Maybe, if we keep at it, we can overcome the challenges that are before us.

Sometimes people equate going “into the woods” with getting lost.

Gleason letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

buses with pink hats and signs, chattering and laughing, unified in our readiness to march on Washington and to speak out. We are the people of a

democracy, and we will continue to speak out. Biden has been a strong representative of the people. We can thank him by voting for a candidate for president who will honor our republic. Let’s honor Joe

Biden by rolling up our sleeves and working hard to elect Kamala Harris as the next president of the United States.

**Theresa Gleason
Middlebury**

Albert is well equipped to serve Addison-4 district

We are writing to ask for your support and vote for Jeanne Albert in the upcoming Democratic Primary. A career long educator with a strong background in state and community service, Jeanne has prioritized attention to key issues facing Vermont today: Public Education, Climate Crisis and the Environment, Housing and Healthcare. We urge you to visit her website (jeanneforvermont.org) to learn more about Jeanne, her background and civic engagement and her stance on these and other issues.

We especially want to highlight Jeanne’s strong and unwavering advocacy for public education. This was abundantly clear to me, Jim Warnock, as a colleague working closely with her and others as part of the Save Community Schools 501(c)(3) organization that successfully moved Lincoln out of the MAUSD district to ensure our vibrant community school would not be closed. Lincoln is a public K-6 elementary school and the community was favorably disposed to school choice for grades 7-12. Contrary to the letter submitted by a former lawmaker in support of Herb Olson’s candidacy that

appeared in last week’s issue (Former lawmaker endorses Olson for House seat), Lincoln did not “privatize the education of Lincoln children after 7th grade.” Lincoln did join some 80+ towns in Vermont that offer some form of school choice (elementary or secondary and in some towns, both).

In fact, Vermont pioneered school choice in this country dating back to 1869 which includes to this day recognizing private schools (St. Johnsbury Academy, Thetford Academy, Burr and Burton to name a few) as the designated high schools for numerous Vermont towns. In addition to her highly skilled analysis of school funding and associated legislation in our Save Community Schools efforts, Jeanne currently serves as the chair of the Lincoln School District Board, working tirelessly to provide the best possible outcomes for all of Lincoln’s students.

Sadly, it is rather offensive and misinformed for the aforementioned letter to then go on to state: “Even today, as she claims to be a public school supporter, she could lead Lincoln to send their children to public schools and stop

the voucher system currently in use in Lincoln”. Lincoln students in fact are largely attending public schools. A simple review of this past school year, AY 23/24, shows that 89 students, grades 7-12, from Lincoln attended a public high school or an approved independent school. The breakdown:

- 78 (87.6%) attended Mt. Abraham middle/high school
- 4 (4.5%) attended other public secondary schools
- 7 (7.8%) attended approved independent schools

As you can see, 92% of Lincoln students in grades 7-12 attended public schools. Suffice it to say, we would all benefit from closer attention to the data and less inflammatory language in assessing candidates and their qualifications.

We have no doubt that Jeanne will prove to be an effective representative and a real asset in Montpelier as the state wrestles with a number of very significant and consequential issues. Make your vote count in the upcoming Democratic Primary!

**Jim Warnock and
Jim Dumont
Lincoln**

Bray has earned another term in the state Senate

There have been many claims made by the candidates in the upcoming primary for Vermont statewide offices.

But there is one candidate that stands apart for the simple reason that he has actually gotten things done. Not made empty promises to “work on things” and not just spoken up on issues without actually resolving them or working hard to create solutions.

That candidate is State Senator Christopher Bray.

Look up the records of these candidates online. Dig deeper

than who voted for what. Look for the person or committee that sponsored — and successfully negotiated and passed — bills.

Anyone can propose a bill. Anyone can say they “plan to work hard” or that they “support families, schools, and the environment.” But what do they have to show for these claims? What benefit have we, as constituents, received if these claims don’t become working laws?

Bray’s record of leadership — introducing, sponsoring,

revising, and bringing bills successfully to the floor — is outstanding. In his years as our Senator from Addison County, he has successfully developed and passed more than 70 important laws that affect the environment, our farmers, housing, working families, and the health of our population and state. If you want real work done, I urge you to vote for Chris Bray in the upcoming primary on August 13th.

**Christine Frandino
Weybridge**

Elderly Services’ ESI College Returns Summer 2024 — In Person!

Marta Zaraska’s Growing Young: How Friendship, Optimism and Kindness Can Help You Live to 100

Tuesdays, August 7, 14, 21, 1:30-3 p.m.

Books, purchased separately, are available at the Vermont Book Shop at a discount.

An exploration of why kindness and connection are just as important as broccoli and bicep curls, this well-researched and engaging book asks us to consider how strengthening social connections, cultivating a positive attitude, and being kind is as close as we may ever get to the fountain of youth. Instructor **Elise Blair** trained and worked in the Netherlands as an industrial social worker and had a private psychoanalysis practice for 30 years. She is a former teacher, board member and president of the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis.

Register Now!
at elderlyservices.org
or call
802.388-3983

Vermont’s Weather Hazards and A Changing Climate in Vermont

Tuesday, August 13, 10-11:30 a.m.

Vermont’s weather has always been a topic of conversation, and the impacts of climate change are now being felt. Hear how a seasoned meteorologist understands the weather of our past and future. We’ll review some of Vermont’s historical weather events and look at our changing climate. Instructor **Scott Whittier** is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist (since 2008) at NOAA/NWS Burlington, VT Forecast Office and has been at NWS Burlington since 1993. Scott was awarded the Northeast States Emergency Consortiums Emergency Manager of the Year for Vermont in 2013 for his efforts with Tropical Storm Irene (2011) and Vermont’s Catastrophic Full Scale Exercise (2010).

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Kathleen Marie (Wall) Barnes, 89, of Harwich Port, Mass.

HARWICH PORT, Mass. — Kathleen Marie (Wall) Barnes of Harwich Port, Mass., formerly of Barre, Vt., and Watertown, Cheshire and Hebron, Conn., passed away peacefully on June 7, 2024, surrounded by loved ones.

Kathleen was born to Franklyn and Marie Wall on April 8, 1935, in Watertown, Conn. Loving wife of Jack (John Joseph) Barnes (1932-2023) for 65 years, mother, grandmother, sister (Franklyn Wall (1936-2017), and aunt, she is survived by her sister, Barbara Lukos, her five children (Kristine Marie Barnes Kirkaldy (Andrew) of Middlebury, VT; Mary Alicia Barnes (Russell Wright) of Natick, Mass.; Timothy John Barnes (Tamara) of Portland, Conn.; Matthew Aaron Barnes (Rachel) of Chatham, Mass.; and Mark Andrew Barnes (Ericka) of Middletown, Conn.; her 10 grandchildren (Connor, Kaitlyn, Kiera, Ryan, Jacki, Sage, Cathleen, Liam, Fiona, and Jacklyn); and several



KATHLEEN MARIE (WALL) BARNES

nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

After graduating from Connecticut Teachers College, Kathleen occasionally took on roles as a teacher and artisan but mainly devoted her life to

supporting her family. She was an avid gardener, quilter, seamstress, and cook. She enjoyed her husband Jack's and the family's various camping and boating adventures while providing delicious food, occasional band aids, and patience. Kathleen and Jack traveled to numerous states and ventured abroad to Germany and Ireland. In later years, she stayed closer to home, visiting Jack in an Alzheimer's long-term facility and tending to her treasured vegetable and flower gardens.

A celebration of life will be held at Nickerson Funeral Home, 87 Crowell Road, Chatham, Mass., on Saturday, Sept. 28, at 3 p.m. Donations in Kathleen's memory, a way to honor her life and legacy, may be made to Cape Cod Alzheimer's Family Support Center in Brewster alzfamilysupport.org, Association to Preserve Cape Cod apcc.org/get-involved/donate, or Harwich Conservation Trust, harwichconservationtrust.org.

Joreen P. Kovacs, 75, formerly of Shoreham

PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. — Joreen P. Kovacs of Plattsburgh, N.Y., formerly of Shoreham, Vt., passed away with her children by her side June 25, 2024, at the age of 75.

Joreen was born in Rutland, Vt., to Marion (Paternaude) Sartwell and Orlo Sartwell. The family relocated to Danbury, Conn., when she was young, where she attended school, graduating from Danbury High School, class of 1966. Shortly after that she married the love of her life, Joseph G. Kovacs on May 25, 1968.

Joreen and Joe traveled overseas while Joe was enlisted in the U.S. Army. In 1973 they settled in Shoreham, Vt., where they would raise their two children. Joreen ran a successful upholstery business and later worked in insurance. After the children were grown, they relocated to South Carolina and then Florida for the second half of their married life and retirement years. In most recent years, after the passing of her husband Joe and her mother, Joreen resided in Plattsburgh, N.Y., to be closer to



JOREEN P. KOVACS



family.

Joreen is survived by her sister, Denise Green of Derby, Conn.; daughter Michele Larocque (Jason) of East Middlebury, Vt.; and her son, Joseph A Kovacs (Sarah) of Peru, N.Y.; also her grandchildren, Katelyn Larocque and Aaron Larocque of East Middlebury, Vt. and Syrie Miller, Amelia Kovacs and Opal Kovacs

of Peru, N.Y.

Joreen was predeceased by her parents, Marion and Orlo Sartwell, her husband, Joseph G Kovacs, and her brother, William Sartwell.

Per her wishes there will be no services. The family will hold a private service at a later date.

Donations may be made in her name to: The American Lung Association at www.lung.org.

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.

Janis Lampley, 87, longtime Brandon resident

RUTLAND — Janis Lampley passed away on July 15, 2024, in Rutland, Vt., at the age of 87.

Jan was born in Washington State in June of 1937. She was known for her love of cooking, and sense of humor, and enjoyed playing cards with friends. Jan was married to Jack A. Lampley for 58 years. Together they had two daughters.

Jan is survived by daughters Julie Noel and Laurie Scott, their spouses Jeff Noel and Marshall Scott, and her grandchildren Amanda Noel, Ian Noel, Raymond Scott, and Pedro Scott.

Jan was preceded in death by her husband Jack, and her parents



JANIS LAMPLEY

George Lawrence and Jewell Welborn Lawrence.

Jan will be deeply missed by her family and friends, but reunited with those who have gone before.

email us:

You can reach us at
news@addisonindependent.com

Yvonne Marie Morgan, 86, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Yvonne Marie Morgan, age 86, of Middlebury, Vt., passed away on July 23, 2024, with her children and family by her side. She leaves a legacy of love.

Yvonne graduated from Bristol High School in 1955. She married Ray Morgan in 1957, and they celebrated 61 years of marriage before his passing in 2019. Yvonne raised her four children and worked at the Middlebury Telephone Office before attending the Vermont College of Cosmetology in 1971. After graduation, Yvonne established her own business and became a licensed hairdresser. She continued to own and operate Yvonne's Hairstyling well into her 70's. Throughout her career she built community, friendships and served as wise counsel to so many.

Yvonne was a faithful member of St. Mary's Parish, teaching catechism, serving on parish committees, and doing for others wherever needed. In addition to her faith, Yvonne was defined by family, cherished friendships, love, and hard work. She was the fifth of 16 children born to Peter and Bernadette Cousino. She was devoted to this extended family all throughout her life, as they were to her.

Yvonne would rarely sit still. She enjoyed refinishing



YVONNE MARIE MORGAN

antique furniture, decorating and maintaining her home, gardening, visiting and taking care of the people she loved. Yvonne's hobbies also included decorating a Victorian dollhouse — it is a treasure. She loved to make things beautiful. She is known for her popovers, love of a good radish or cucumber sandwich, and sharing a cup of tea.

Yvonne's final life chapter was marked by the loss of her son, husband and memories. In this time, her essence remained, her feistiness intensified, and the love she gave came back to her. Countless moments have become

cherished memories of a life well lived and Yvonne's journey home. She is free.

Yvonne was predeceased by her husband, Ray, and son, Michael Morgan. She is survived by son, Christopher Morgan of Middlebury, Vt., and daughters Kathy Malzac (Paul) of Monkton, Vt., and Jaye O'Connell (Kenny) of Essex Junction, Vt.; six grandchildren, Justin, Kayla, Kirsten, Mackenzie, Jacob and Lily; two great-grandchildren, Sawyer and Lydia, and a third to arrive later this year.

Yvonne leaves three sisters, Anne Myrick, Patricia Atkins and Mary Bingham and two brothers, Roger and Charles Cousino. She is predeceased by her parents, sisters Marjorie Paquette, Veronica Mayer and Linda Roscoe and brothers Lucius, Guy, Ambrose, Eugene, Joseph, and Peter Cousino. She also leaves many special nieces and nephews.

This family was her heart.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary's Parish in Middlebury, followed by burial at Mount St. Joseph Cemetery in Bristol, Vt. A reception will be held at St. Ambrose parish hall in Bristol immediately after the burial.

Contributions may be made to Addison County Home Health & Hospice.

Nancy C. Mandigo, 88, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Nancy C. Mandigo peacefully passed away surrounded by her family on July 25, 2024, in Middlebury, Vt. Nancy, age 88, was born in Providence, R.I., to Velma (née Atwood) and Sanford LaVoy Sr. Nancy graduated from Burrillville High School in 1954, where she met Bill Mandigo, her husband of almost 59 years. Together Nancy and Bill raised their boys, Billy, Jeff, Glenn and Doug.

Always a hard worker, Nancy held jobs throughout her life, from her first position as an office manager to her last, and favorite, in the Scituate High School cafeteria. While raising her boys, Nancy often worked third shift so she could be home in time to see them off to school. Nancy (and Bill, of course) were proud their hard work allowed them to send all four boys to college.

Hill Road was a welcoming place for family, friends, and guests. Nancy's fridge and cupboards were always full, and most notably the freezer was stocked with everyone's favorite flavor of ice cream. She was famous for her apple and pecan pies, and her baking continued when she moved to Vermont, where her grandchildren became especially fond of her coffee cake.

Nancy adored her eleven grandchildren and they brought great joy to her life. Even when



NANCY C. MANDIGO

her memory began to fade, Nancy always remembered her grandchildren, whose visits and phone calls would light up her face.

Nancy was a loving and loyal friend to Carol Hauser and Bea Bailey and her sister, Judy Perry. She loved talking on the phone with her friends and would also meet them to go shopping and bicycle riding.

Nancy and Bill moved to Middlebury, Vt., from Rhode Island in 2017 to be closer to family. When she was no longer able to live alone, Nancy moved to Shard Villa Residential Care Home and most recently resided in the Helen Porter Rehab and Nursing Memory

Care Unit.

Nancy will be remembered by her family and friends for her love, generosity, and strength. Nancy was predeceased by her husband, Bill. Nancy leaves behind her family, Billy and Jane Mandigo, Jeff Mandigo, Glenn and Terri Mandigo, and Doug and Megan Mandigo, as well as eleven grandchildren and a beloved niece, Rebecca Perry. She is also survived by her sisters Barbara, Cynthia, and Sandy. Nancy was predeceased by her parents, Velma and Sanford; her sisters Judy, Marcia and Tana; and her brother Butch.

Nancy enjoyed her time at both Shard Villa and the Memory Care Unit, becoming friendly with the staff who cared for her. In particular, she enjoyed participating in the activities at the Memory Care Unit, and despite never wanting to play cards with Bill and her grandchildren at the table (though she loved listening to them), she became quite the avid Bingo player. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to either organization. The addresses are as follows: Shard Villa Residential Care Home, 1177 Shard Villa Road, Salisbury, VT, 05769; Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing Home Memory Care Activities Fund, Porter Medical Center, Office of Development, 115 Porter Drive, Middlebury, VT 05753.

DragonHeart

(Continued from Page 2A)

DeWitt joined the organization in 2007 at first to honor a friend who had passed away from breast cancer, but then in 2019 became a breast cancer survivor herself. She said this organization has brought a lot of beauty into her life.

"I think, if you're in a bad place before you go to practice, when you get on the boat and you are out there with your teammates trying to stay together, to work, to get this boat up and moving, you know, you definitely come off the water in different spirits than when you went on," said DeWitt.

Beyond the athletic component, these women make the trek to Burlington a couple times a week because of the community that

DragonHeart has brought them.

"I have met incredible people, so strengthened, so supportive," Devitt continued. "At any point in your life, whatever you're going through, if you're happy, they're happy with you. If they're sad, they're sad with you, but they don't let you dwell in the sadness."

Saenger, the newest member of DragonHeart Vermont of the three women, joined only a year ago after losing her husband to colon cancer. Although she hasn't been in the organization long, she feels the same way about it as Dewitt and Doyle.

"It's just been so much fun to meet new people and do a sport that everybody is so supportive of you. You know, I'm not the best paddler.

I'm still learning, but they're all behind me," Saenger said.

For Saenger, the annual Dragon Boat Festival is one of her favorite parts about the organization. "I just think that if somebody comes to the festival, if they try paddling at all, they're going to be hooked, both by the sport and the beauty of being on the lake, and by the people."

Just like the small communities in Addison County, DragonHeart Vermont supports, uplifts, and celebrates its members. "I would urge people to support DragonHeart Vermont however they can," added Saenger. "They can go to the festival; they can make a donation ... It's an organization that gives back to the community."

"We have the most giving people," says Linda Dyer. "They give it all on the water, and they also give it all to help us with our community mission."

Editor's note: For a longer, in-depth story on DragonHeart Vermont go to VermontSports.com.

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Letters to the Editor

Elder’s experience makes him the ideal candidate

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Caleb Elder for Vermont Senate representing Addison County, Buel’s Gore, Huntington, and Rochester. Caleb’s dedication to serving his community and his proven track record of leadership — including his six years as a member of the Vermont House of Representatives — make him the ideal candidate for this important position.

Caleb’s experience in the House has given him invaluable insight into the legislative process and the importance of working collaboratively to address the

needs of his constituents. During his time in office, Caleb has shown a willingness to listen to all perspectives and find common-sense solutions to complex problems. His primary focus as senator will be to find innovative, pragmatic ways to advocate for fiscally responsible education reform and addressing the housing crisis across Vermont.

In addition to his legislative experience, Caleb has a strong record of community involvement and a deep understanding of the issues facing Vermont. He will work to create a strong economy that works for everyone.

His intelligence, pragmatism, creativity, and dedication to making a positive impact on his community make him the ideal candidate for State Senator.

I urge my fellow residents of Addison County to join me in supporting Caleb Elder for Vermont Senate. With his leadership, dedication, and expertise, I am confident that he will be a strong voice for our community and will work tirelessly to make Addison County — and all of Vermont — a better place for us all.

Wendy Harlan Ripton

Town plan needs to be actionable, not a pipe dream

In response to last week’s editorial, re: the Town Manager position and town priorities, here are some thoughts and concerns.

I hope someone (that is, the selectboard chair) is having Kathleen Ramsay update the current Town Manager job description and, as well, offer her recommendations as to what should be changed for smoother operations. Perhaps more importantly, someone needs to get her “off the record” and get her candid perspective on Middlebury’s issues and needs.

Re: priorities for Middlebury — We believe the overarching priority for the “real Middlebury” is increased low- to moderate-income housing. Nominees for 2nd and 3rd priorities are public safety throughout the area and improved integration of Middlebury College students and faculty with the town.

I’ll open with two cautions:

1. Setting priorities is a good thing, but unless they are actionable it’s only a feel-good exercise.
2. Setting actionable priorities is very different than what passes for “planning” as practiced in Vermont municipal affairs. The state requires a “town plan” by statute with all the accompanying bureaucratic grandeur. Consequently, municipalities periodically produce “Town Plans.” Their principal benefit is to provide employment for planners and typically are called to their highest service as doorstops.

The 2017 Middlebury Town Plan is 231 pages long and includes 37 pages on “implementation,” best characterized as blather. Another example, the “2020 Middlebury Downtown Master Plan,” doesn’t even pretend to be a plan. In its own words it is at best a “vision.” It claims to be a “playbook,” but

it offers no more than an earnest “wish list,” a catalog of aspirations. Glaringly absent is any attention to the resources — financial, human, legislative, etc. — required for action to realize the vision.

Now, two questions:

- Appropriately, you invited “Middlebury-area residents” to offer their priorities. When we talk about “Middlebury” what do we really mean?

Apropos your question, we need an actionable definition of where we expect the priorities to be acted upon. The Town of Middlebury is a bounded piece of land defined more than 250 years ago, together with its inhabitants. However, in the real world of 2024, “Middlebury” is an economic/market area centered on that original town plus some portion of the adjoining communities’ residents who work, shop and travel through. And we can’t forget the part-time but large population of Middlebury College students. It seems to me that the 2024 definition is the only sensible one.

- Who will be responsible for acting on the priorities and what authority(ies) will be attached?

To complicate action on priorities, each town has its own government structure (and, in a sense, Middlebury College as well). A core problem is the silo effect. Those multiple town governments are each required to honor their original boundaries and, in my experience, there’s precious little communication/coordination between/among the Town of Middlebury’s government and its neighbors.

Further, my sense is that the Town of Middlebury’s government has a tradition of passivity and parochialism. At best, only lip service is paid to the whole of

modern “Middlebury” and then typically left to non-government entities for action. While there appears to be no near-term solution to the archaic governance structure, the constituent towns’ leaders could and should think and act in the context of today’s reality. How about if a “new Middlebury commission” is formed for coherent, coordinated action on housing?

And now to end with some good news.

- I’ve conducted an absolutely unscientific survey of perhaps a dozen non-resident/occasional visitors asking, “How does Middlebury look to you?” With one exception, all gave positive answers. (The one remembered how “quaint” the town was 40 years ago!)
- I’m impressed by the encouragement being provided to Midd students to innovate. That’s real progress for the College. Heretofore the posture appeared to be to look down on anything like “career” education. I hope that suggests a subtle and positive directional change.
- Assuming our nation survives this election cycle, I think there will be an upsurge in interest in healthy communities as places to live and work. The community that “new Middlebury” offers is quite special. I think the “Profiles in Community” section in last week’s Indy should be transformed into a magazine and a website then distributed to every household in “Middlebury” and stacked in entries to real estate offices, hotels and motels. That compilation of people, businesses, services and stories is a compelling testament to the spirit of community we enjoy.

Bruce Hiland Middlebury

Lincoln Store opens creemee stand

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — The Lincoln General Store has long been a one-stop-shop for residents, offering everything from household items to hot breakfast options. Now, the store is gearing up to add another well-loved item to its list of offerings — creemees.

The general store in July got the zoning go-ahead to repurpose an old ice house storage building next door to the shop into a creemee stand. Now that renovations are complete, the creemee stand will

open for business on Aug 6.

Once operational, the stand will be open daily from 3 p.m.- 8 p.m. The stand will offer two flavors of creemees, with or without sprinkles.

Available flavors on opening day will be vanilla and maple.

“That’s as extensive as the menu will be for this season,” said Jen Smith, general manager of the Lincoln General Store. “Next year we hope to expand some of the ice cream and toppings offerings.”



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Zen

(Continued from Page 2A)

distance from downtown, is accessible by public transportation and has a yard for outdoor events and activities. There’s also the small residential component.

Plans call for BLMZC to gradually transition its new home, which will soon undergo some basic interior renovations that will create a meditation hall and the new spot for Gather. Byrnes said the transition should be complete by next summer.

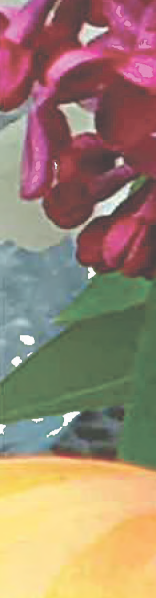
Meanwhile, a family with children has purchased BLMZC’s former Cornwall home.

Byrnes and his colleagues hope their group’s relocation plans go smoothly.

“Of course, there are a lot of conversations and decisions ahead of us,” he wrote in his recent post on the BLMZC website. “As community Zen practitioners we will listen intently and strive to meet the community’s needs within

our passions, interests and capacity, and the skillful means that deepen our collective awakening to the interconnected oneness of life.”

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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Addison County Obituaries

Willard Wilton Dickerson Jr., 88, of Brandon

BRANDON — Willard “Butch” Dickerson Jr. died on July 20, 2024, at the age of 88, six years after the loss of his wife of 62 years, Clara May Dickerson. He will be remembered for his generosity, hospitality, love of his family, passion for fishing and ice cream and the Detroit Tigers and Boston Celtics, and especially for his deep Christian faith and character, and his long-term commitment to Christian ministry.

He was predeceased by two younger brothers, Walter and Larry, and one grandson Brad, and is survived by sisters Miriam and Susan as well as by four sons and a daughter: Willard “Jody” Dickerson III, Melvin “Ted” Dickerson, Anh Thu Nguyen Tran, Matthew Dickerson, and Thanh Dickerson, as well as their spouses, and by six granddaughters, six grandsons, eight great-grandsons, and his first great-granddaughter, born shortly before his passing.

Born on Nov. 9, 1935, Butch was second of five children, and the oldest son, of Willard W. “Spike” and Norma Dickerson. He grew up in rural central Michigan, where he enjoyed fishing with his father and brothers in the lakes of his home state as well as on annual wilderness fishing trips to rivers and lakes of Ontario. After graduating from high school, he studied industrial engineering at M.I.T. in Boston, where he came to Christian faith, and then did one year of graduate school in business at what was then a joint program between M.I.T. and Harvard Universities.

He played numerous sports throughout his life, including as the starting center of his high school basketball team that went to the state championships during his senior year. His sons remember weekly touch football games on the meadow down the rural dead-end road where Butch and Clara May lived for half a century, and Butch continued playing

racket sports into his 70s. Music also remained important to him throughout his life. In high school, he attended Interlochen Center for the Arts summer music camp (as a trombonist), while in college he sang with the M.I.T. Logarithms men’s a capella singing group, and for many years well into his 80s he sang with a Trinity Church men’s barbershop-style ensemble.

Butch met and started dating Clara May during his junior year of high school, and the two married six years later, when both graduated from college. They remained married for 62 years, and had three biological sons, as well as three foster children who came to them from Vietnam in 1980. Butch served as Anh Thu’s adoptive father when she was married, and Thanh took the Dickerson name when he became a U.S. citizen.

In 1965, on a visit to Bryant Pond, Maine, Butch met Milton Mills. This led to the establishment of the long-lasting friendship between the Dickerson and Mills families. Through Milton, Butch and Clara May purchased a (small) lakeside cottage that they quickly fell in love with. Over the years, he spent many hours fishing in the lake, listening to loons at night, and trying to keep pine needles off the small lawn. It would become one of Butch’s favorite places on earth, where he hosted many guests, including church groups, friends, and international students in addition to his family. Eventually, four generations of Dickersons would come to cherish “the cottage” in Bryant Pond.

Over his lifetime, Butch started a number of successful businesses, including an educational computer company and a mini-golf course with batting cages. The ventures dearest to his heart were: 1. Logos Bookstore, a small independent bookstore in Harvard Square that he managed for nearly a decade; 2. the International Fellowship House, a Christian ministry that provides

clean, safe, and affordable housing for international students in the Boston area; and 3. the Roblealto Children’s Home in Costa Rica, which supports itself through a poultry and pork business. After running his own bookstore for many years, Butch became the Executive Director of an association of independent bookstores, and then worked for the American Booksellers Association as their Director of Education. His work in the 1990s helping independent bookstores led to his travel all over the world to teach management strategies at book conventions, including in Singapore, Malaysia, Egypt, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Russia.

Throughout his life, Butch was involved in numerous Christian ministries including Intersarsity Christian Fellowship, for which he served on full-time staff for eight years, and the Latin American Mission Society, for which he served on the board (including a term as President). He also loved, and was loved by, Trinity Church in Bolton, Mass., where he was a member for more than 50 years, taught adult Sunday school, served as an elder, led the youth group, and on two occasions served as interim pastor. When Butch was widowed in 2018, his Trinity Church family took excellent care of him, and when he moved to Vermont to live with his son and daughter-in-law, many members of his former church continued to visit and stay in contact with him. During the final two years of his life, he was cared for at Wintergreen North in Brandon, Vt., where he was much loved by the staff.

Willard W. Dickerson’s memorial service will be held at Trinity Church in Bolton, Mass., on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024. Those wishing to honor him may make gifts in his name to the International Fellowship House in Boston at ifhboston.org. ♡



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DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

Email your Letter to the Editor to: news@addisonindependent.com



Rotarians help

MEMBERS OF THE Rotary Club of Middlebury, aided by three members of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association from Burlington, on July 20 gathered debris cut by the town’s public works crew at the Washington Street Cemetery. Once the living vegetation is under control, work to upright and clean the stones will begin next year. Volunteer workers shown here are, left to right, Tom McNugh, Larry Jones, Alex Wolff, Rachel Sherman, Paul Horn, Gabriel Karsch, Ben Fuller and David Clark.

Photo by Patty Pruitt

Ferrisburgh

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

NEWS

FERRISBURGH — Join the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall for a special screening of the film “Lost Nation” on Friday, Aug. 9, at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall. The film begins at 7 p.m. followed by a discussion with the film’s award-winning Director, Jay Craven. This much-awaited film is set in the time of the American Revolution and tells a fictionalized yet historically based version of the stories of the African American poet Lucy Terry Prince, played by Eva Ndachi, and the Green Mountain Boys’ Ethan Allen, played by Kevin Ryan. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$14 at the door. This newly released film adds an important perspective for Vermont history. We are grateful to the Union Meeting Hall planners for bringing it to Ferrisburgh. More information is available at unionmeetinghall.org/programming-and-events

The Friends of the Union Meeting Hall will be hosting a Frederick Douglass-themed art contest, which will be displayed inside the historic building during the Sept. 15 Ferrisburgh Day celebrations. The contest is a way for the Union Meeting Hall to celebrate its historic roots. Douglass, a former enslaved person, was a tireless reformer and anti-abolitionist. He spoke at the UMH property in July, 1843, as part of the “100 Conventions” as supported by Rowland Robinson of Rokeby. The art contest, “Frederick Douglass: Legend and Legacy,” encourages children in grades 6-8 to create a representation of Frederick

Douglass and can include aspects of his work and contributions, such as depictions of his writing or speeches. Attendees to Ferrisburgh Day will have the opportunity to vote on their favorite piece, with the top three finalists receiving cash prizes. There will also be a silent auction of the art, with all the proceeds supporting the FUMH’s efforts to restore the historic building. For more information, visit unionmeetinghall.org/programming-and-events

Everyone is encouraged to vote in Vermont’s Primary Election. Early voting can be done by mail up to Aug. 7. To vote early and in person at the Town Clerk Office, please vote by Monday, Aug. 12, by 2 p.m. In-person voting will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall. Residents are welcome to call the Ferrisburgh Town Clerk’s office at 802-877-3429 with questions about how to vote or how to register as a Ferrisburgh Voter. More information is also available at the Vermont Secretary of State’s website: sos.vermont.gov/elections/election-info-resources/

Ferrisburgh resident and author, Judy Chaves, will be leading one of her popular history-focused guided hikes of Mt. Philo on

Thursday, Aug. 22, at 9:30 a.m., as part of the Mt. Philo State Park’s 100th birthday celebration. Come discover the mountain’s fascinating history and find evidence of that history hidden in plain sight throughout the Park. The hike is free, but tickets are required and available through Eventbrite — listed with lots more information under “Mt Philo History Hike,” or use the link www.eventbrite.com/e/mt-phil-hil-hil-hil-hil-hil-tickets-945162906697. Come

celebrate and learn about this gem we have in our backyard. Chaves will have copies of her book, “Secrets of Mt. Philo,” available for purchase.

The Ferrisburgh firefighters are holding their annual Chicken Barbeque on Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Fire Station on Route 7. The chicken is ready for consuming at 4:30 p.m. and the fun keeps going until the food runs out. Jerry’s barbeque sauce (the recipe is a well-guarded secret) is world famous and not to be missed. Please plan on getting this yummy take-out dinner for your family’s enjoyment — the funds raised support the firefighting capacity for our community, making this an important event.

LCMM is calling lake lovers of all ages to come to an interactive, light-

hearted, and educational puppet show showcasing content from the humorous science-themed graphic novel, “Our Scrumptious Lake PHYTOTASTIC!” by Vermont authors Sandy Murphy and Karen Nesson. Engaging, whimsical puppets explore Lake Champlain’s aquatic ecosystem while stirring empathy, evoking laughter, and inspiring lake stewardship. This free program will be on Saturday, August 3 at 1:00 PM, with copies of “Our Scrumptious Lake PHYTOTASTIC!” available for purchase at the event. For more information, contact the museum at info@lcomm.org or 802-475-2022.

The Bixby Library is hosting Artday Fridays this summer by offering a different art project each Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the library throughout the summer. The schedule for August is: Aug. 2 - Paint a Bookmark; Aug. 9 - Collage Art; Aug. 16 - Air Dry Clay; and Aug. 23 - Painting Initials. For more information on these sessions and all the summer events at Bixby, visit bixbylibrary.org.

Ferrisburgh Grange “King Pede” card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of Aug. 3, 17, and 31. These community get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper and then on to the games! King Pede involves “trick-taking” such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. These are fun events, but come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

Rokeby’s famous Pie and Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, Aug. 11, from 1-4 p.m. Come and enjoy lots of homemade pie and Ben & Jerry’s ice cream. There will be live music from Vermont Folklife’s Sugar in the Pan Trad Band, raffle baskets, games from Let’s Grow Kids, and a chance to explore the historic home, grounds, and exhibits at Rokeby.

Rokeby Museum has been offering a series of gallery talks throughout this summer. On Aug. 15, at 12:30 p.m., join

John Strong Mansion to host event Aug. 10

ADDISON — There will be a special program about Bennington Battle Day at the DAR John Strong Mansion/ Museum on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 1 p.m. Jonah Spivak, the Communications Coordinator for Bennington and a local history buff, has been working on 250th-related planning since

2017. He lobbied for the creation of a VT 250th Anniversary Commission and this was established by executive order in 2020. The talk is free and open to the public. Bring your own chair.

The Mansion is located at 6656 Route 17 in Addison.

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — The children from the WWJD Summer Bible Camp of the United Church of Lincoln will be having a bake and lawn sale on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. next to the Lincoln General Store. All proceeds benefit the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes and an orphanage in Haiti that the church helps sponsor. Stop by and help support the kids in their efforts with this special outreach project.

Early and absentee voting for the Vermont Primary Election has begun. You can request a ballot by filling out the form on the My Voter Page at.mvp.vermont.gov or by visiting, calling or emailing the town clerk’s office. Be sure to request a ballot as soon as possible so you have ample time to receive it and get it back to the town clerk’s office before the deadline.

FROM THE TOWN

Please join us in welcoming Trish Waugh, our new town administrator. Trish is a Lincoln

resident who has spent the last decade overseeing human resources, payroll, grants administration, and IT systems as the business and customer care manager for Stowe Electric Department. She coordinated disaster relief efforts for public utilities across the state as the North Region mutual aid coordinator for the Northeast Public Power Association and is a member of the Society of Human Resource Management. She also served on Lincoln’s Zoning Board of Adjustment from 2018 to 2023 before its transition to the Development Review Board.

We’re grateful to have Trish leading our team through a time of swift transition in Lincoln — feel free to introduce yourself next time you’re at the town office.

Until next time ... Your Success And Happiness Lies In You. Believe You Can And You’re Halfway There. You Matter.

Leicester

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

NEWS

LEICESTER — The Democratic Caucus for the town of Leicester is meeting on Monday, Aug. 5, at 6 p.m., at the Senior Center, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the position of Justice of the Peace for the town.

The Republican Caucus for the town of Leicester is meeting on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 9:30 a.m., at the Senior Center for the purpose of nominating candidates for the position of Justice of the Peace for the town.

Dr. Lindsay Varner, Rokeby’s Executive Director and Co-curator for a gallery talk about the ongoing Seeking Freedom exhibition. Dr. Varner will discuss how the Rokeby curators approached presenting the difficult histories and stories that informed this exhibit. Seeking Freedom explores the history and ongoing legacy of enslavement in the U.S. and the complicated story of the Robinson family as they evolved from enslavers in earlier generations to abolitionists in the 19th century. For more information, visit rokeby.org.

Rokeby Museum is offering five free racial learning and anti-bias programs for young children ages 4 to 6. Racial learning is a growing field based on the science of childhood development and the research indicates that toddlers and young children make racial observations and absorb stereotyping. Racial and anti-bias learning provides children with language, concrete reasoning, and space to make sense of our many similarities and differences.

It offers guidance for children to process the prejudice and inequity they observe in the world around them and learn how to act against it. Activities will include drawing, hands-on discovery, read-a-loud, and mixing paint to discover our unique skin color. Age-appropriate discussions will include laws, racism, resistance, learning about child activists, and more. While lessons are designed to be sequential, the children will have ideas to take away whether attending one or all sessions. The August sessions are held every Saturday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit rokeby.org.

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



2024 Middlebury Lions Club Auction

Thank you to these local merchants for generously providing goods, services, and gift certificates for our 2024 Lions Club Auction. The continued support of both the merchants and the auction bidders allow our club to give over \$70,000 a year back to our communities. The Middlebury Lions Club is proud to be celebrating 72 years of service to our community.

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Congrats to our 50/50 raffle winner, David Preble of Middlebury, VT!!

VARS seeing progress in 2024

Works with towns to secure future

By ANDY KIRKALDY
VERGENNES — Leaders of the communities the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad serves, and of the nonprofit ambulance and emergency medical service itself, agree VARS has made major progress in the past year.

VARS Operations Manager Jenna Lindemann provided the best measure of that improvement. In the summer and fall of 2023 the independent agency based on Pantown Road in Vergennes could not respond to calls for service for an average of 100 and 150 hours a month.

This year, Lindemann told the Vergennes City Council on July 9, VARS has gone from one fulltime employee in January, Lindemann herself, to a staff that includes three full-timers and one part-timer. The result was a reduction in its out-of-service time to an average of 60 hours a month.

“We’ve upped our salaries, and we’ve continued to advertise to bring people down, and we’ve increased our fulltime staffing,” Lindemann told the council. “The numbers in that look a lot better.”

At times, VARS still must call for backup, typically from the Charlotte or Bristol rescue squads. It also occasionally supports those agencies.

In a typical month Lindemann said VARS handles about 90 calls, an average of three a day. But what can happen is “one shift a week” those calls come in bunches, and VARS still must call for help.

One reason the agency must make those calls is that VARS still lacks personnel to run both of its ambulances at the same time.

“Ambulances are always equipped and ready to go. (But) we only staff one full crew 24/7,” Lindemann said. “We do have a few members that live in town that may be able to staff a second ambulance if there are multiple calls at once, or an incident warrants it. However these instances are limited to their availability.”

COMMUNICATION UPGRADES

That’s one of the issues that has led a group of selectboard members, one from each of the four primary towns VARS serves as the primary responder, plus Vergennes Mayor Chris Bearor, to start meeting regularly with VARS representatives to discuss the agency’s current status and future needs.

Most recently that committee met with VARS on July 18. The group plans to meet again soon, probably next week, to discuss the status of their effort. That meeting will include the civic leaders only,

members said.

VARS has also begun to issue regular reports to the communities it serves, including call volumes and out-of-service hours.

VARS serves the city, Addison, Ferrisburgh, Pantown and Waltham as the first responding agency, plus smaller portions of Monkton and New Haven. All pay on a per capita basis for VARS’s service.

Ferrisburgh Selectboard Member Walter Reed, who represents his town on the committee, said service outages and delays were two reasons the group formed.

“Very few people were aware how often the agency was out of service,” Reed said. “That sparked us to join this, to gather someone from each town, to see what we could do to help them to grow.”

One of the group’s goals is to craft one contract for all the towns VARS serves. In June the committee sent along a draft to VARS, but it is on hold until details are worked out. Reed said there are no major variances, but differing payment schedules and contract language were unnecessary and cumbersome. Thus streamlining the deal into one document made sense.

“Each one of our towns, when we got together, it seemed like we had a different contract all for the same purpose,” Reed said. “So we merged all of our contracts together and came up with a universal one.”

Lindemann said a single contract would relieve VARS from unnecessary paperwork and ensure all communities are treated equally.

“The communication becomes easier, and the understanding. It’s not updating every single town,” Lindemann said. “There was some discussion that they (the contracts) were different, which they were not supposed to be. It’s also updated for current language.”

Bearor said a deal could also be longer term and create predictable financials for the towns.

“We might be able to do a two-, or three-, or five-year contract with them,” said the city mayor. “And we could forecast that instead of getting a 50% bump like we did this year.”

BUMP IN THE ROAD?

Despite optimism, the process developed glitches. Bearor and Reed said VARS did not provide necessary financial information at the July 18 meeting.

“I like they are communicating with us and giving us the information. Jenna is giving us all the monthly information, all the hours out of service, how many calls in each town, and all the logistics of it. I really like that and appreciate that,” Bearor said. “Jenna is doing everything she can to get

us all the information she can, but I’m frustrated that all the financial information wasn’t presented to us at this last meeting.”

Bearor added VARS could have sent an email before the meeting explaining that not all the data was going to be available, and offering to postpone the meeting.

But Lindemann said it was not entirely accurate that all information was not provided. She emailed the *Independent* with the documents she said were available on July 18: An April 2024 Profit & Loss Budget Performance; an Annual Budget (\$473,000); a list of six bank accounts totaling about \$480,000, two of which were dedicated to ambulance replacement; a list of planned upcoming expenses; and the agency’s staffing and pay scale.

What Lindemann acknowledged that VARS did not offer on July 18 was a projected agency per capita estimate of what it would take financially to be “fully staffed” in the future. She said the committee requested that on June 28, not allowing VARS enough time to prepare such a comprehensive projection.

“To us, it takes more than the roughly 20 days that they provided to fully give them a good picture what restructuring staffing with different pay rates and budgets (would look like),” Lindemann said. “But otherwise we provided all the other information that they were asking for.”

Still, Reed said VARS waited until the meeting to hand out a printout, while it would have been more useful if the information had been available beforehand to allow the committee members to study it and then talk about it together with VARS.

“We did not have an opportunity to discuss it as a group,” he said.

Bearor said the missing information is important for civic officials to evaluate what is necessary for VARS’s future, and in the short term to iron out contract details

“How much they make on billing for their calls? How much are they storing away (in capital funds)? There’s a lot that needs to come out. How much do you need to survive,

and how much do you need to stock away? How much should you be putting into this, too?” he said.

Still, he when asked if he saw things as half empty or half full, Bearor chose the latter.

“I’m going half full. It’s just one of those things where there’s room for improvement in communication,” he said.

Lindemann is confident VARS financial data will soon be satisfactory, and the contract issues will be settled reasonably quickly.

“I would say we’re hopeful in the next few months,” she said. “They have submitted a draft to us that we are in the process of reviewing, so hopefully the back-and-forth is short.”



A rare bird

LEUCISM IS A rare genetic mutation in birds that results in reduced feather pigmentation, a condition that occurs about once in 30,000 birds. This leucistic purple finch drew the gene-pool short straw (and is beautiful for it!)

Photo by Dale Cockrell

LONG-RANGE QUESTIONS

Bearor, a former EMT himself, and Reed suggested VARS could consider broader community representation on its board, which now consists of agency members.

Reed said that idea came up at the July 18 meeting as a way to improve communications and create stronger ties between the agency and the communities.

“Maybe one person from each town should sit in on their board to just be ears and see what’s going on to see if we can help that way,” he said.

Bearor wondered whether VARS should become a municipal corporation, such as Charlotte Rescue, and all agree relying on volunteers to fill out the agency’s roster is not the answer.

“Volunteering is pretty much out of the question,” Bearor said. “They’ve already gone to a paid staff.”

Lindemann said she is confident in the recruiting efforts that are critical to the agency’s growth.

“We’ve upped our salaries, and we’ve continued to advertise to bring people down, and we’ve increased our full-time staffing,” she told the city council. “We’re transitioning into that full-time model ... I’m hopeful within the next two or three months we’ll have more fulltime staff.”

But concerns remain if recruiting can meet the needs for growth, especially given the challenging labor market.

Reed said that while Census data over the past 30 years through 2020 did not show much population growth in VARS’s service area, that there was an influx after COVID. And he pointed to housing developments “popping up” in the region, to Vergennes elderly and

affordable housing projects that have been built in recent years, to Vergennes Grand Senior Living coming online within 18 months with 80 beds, and to the more than 100 workplace units on the drawing board for land near the city police station.

It’s time for local leaders to look to the growing needs of their communities, Reed said, including rescue service. He suggested communities maybe even look at charging developers impact fees.

Reed and Bearor emphasized the committee is committed to helping VARS meet the challenges it faces

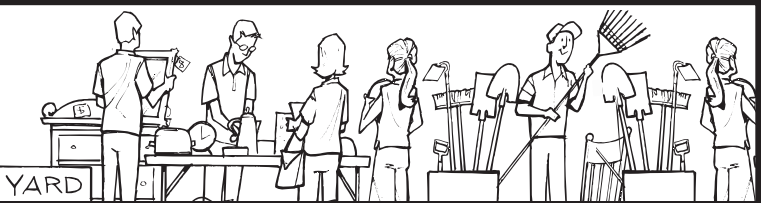
in growing to meet the region’s needs.

“I’m happy they’re discussing this with us, and that we’re working as a team,” Bearor said.

Lindemann said she welcomes the outreach.

“At this point, we’re still continuing to have discussions with them. And they’re definitely back and forth on adjusting the contract and the discussions of us trying to improve,” Lindemann said. “But I think talks are going well. And I hope it’s creating a better environment for us with the towns.”

And Reed summed up. “We need to help VARS today for tomorrow,” he said.



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Camp culminates with community event at local farm

By MARIN HOWELL

STARKSBORO — Community members are invited to Starksboro’s Sentinel Farms this Thursday to watch local youth take to the stage in an original production and learn more about the various programs offered at the farm.

Sentinel Farms, located at 4118 Route 116, is the site of a beef operation run by Starksboro farmer Kerry Kurt and the home to the nonprofit Unbound Grace, founded by Kurt in 2007. Through the nonprofit, Kurt offers several farm-based educational programs for youth, including an ongoing Horse & Theater Camp that will culminate with the community event on Thursday evening.

Attendees will have a chance

to view the original production campers have created this summer, enjoy cheeseburgers made with Sentinel Farms beef, and learn more about the programming offered through Unbound Grace. The evening will kick-off with burgers at 4:30 p.m., and performances will begin at 5:30 p.m. Those interested in attending can contact Kurt at 802-377-1066.

The Horse & Theater Camp at Sentinel Farms is offered for three weeks throughout the summer and open to youth of all ages and experience levels. Kurt said this year’s campers range in age from 5-14.

Those participating in the camp work with youth theater director Mickey Pekar throughout the week

“Building sources of durable, enduring relationships into our community is needed and it’s helpful.”

— Kerry Kurt



CAMPERS AT SENTINEL Farms’s Horse & Theater Camp smile while working with the farm’s horses. The camp is aimed at helping local kids build confidence, learn skills and develop lasting relationships.

Photos courtesy of Kerry Kurt



CAMPERS AT THE Horse & Theater Camp offered by the Starksboro nonprofit Unbound Grace will take to the stage with an original production on Thursday. The community is invited to watch the free performance and learn more about the various youth programs provided by the organization at Sentinel Farms.

to develop a character they’d like to portray on stage. Campers then use those characters to knit together a story, which is presented to an audience at the end of the week.

In addition to delving into theater, campers also learn how to take care of horses and chickens and about other farm operations.

Kurt said a big aspect of the camp is helping youth develop lasting relationships — both with the surrounding environment and their fellow community members.

“Building sources of durable, enduring relationships into our

“When children are confident, when all beings are confident, we don’t tend to be violent, we tend to be caring and loving.”

— Kerry Kurt

community is needed and it’s helpful,” Kurt said.

Another focus of the camp is helping youth build confidence through engaging, hands-on activities.

“When children are confident, when all beings are confident, we don’t tend to be violent, we tend to be caring and loving,” Kurt said.

Kurt sees the camp and all of her work at Sentinel Farms as a means of achieving her overall goal of promoting community health and wellness, particularly when it comes to what we eat.

That goal is what guides her approach to raising beef, she said. Kurt uses a method she calls retro-regenerational farming — a blend of “retro” farming practices without the use of hormones or herbicides and with the use of “regenerative” practices that work with nature rather than adding to or damaging it.

“I do the best that I can to steward the land in a loving way, and make sure that all of the natural animals are welcome,” Kurt said. “It’s their place.”

Through her beef operation to the youth programs she runs, Kurt



said she hopes to encourage fellow community members to treat the world around them with love and care.

“All life should be respected and treated as sacred, which means that you would care for it to the best of your ability,” Kurt said.

Those that stop by Sentinel Farms this Thursday can hear more about the farm’s operations and how to get involved in or support various programs. Kurt noted Unbound Grace’s camps are open to all youth regardless of their financial situation. Those interested in supporting the

nonprofit’s programs can learn more at unboundgrace.org.

Sentinel Farms is planning to expand its offerings for local youth this fall with the opening of a new mechanical arts/welding studio. Kurt said the winterized classroom will provide a space for youth at the farm to continue learning and developing friendships throughout the fall and winter months.

“That’s going to start likely in August and will meet one afternoon after school for a couple hours,” Kurt said, adding that the farm is currently seeking help with supplies and labor to finish the project.

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Hunter education course registration set

VERMONT—If you or someone you know would like to go hunting this fall but have never taken a hunter education course, this is the time to act. Vermont’s volunteer hunter education instructors are now holding a limited number of courses throughout the state.

A person must pass the basic hunter education course before they can purchase their first hunting license.

“Most of these courses are held in August and September,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s Hunter Education Coordinator Nicole Meier. “All of our instructors are volunteers. They teach because they are passionate about hunting and want to ensure that Vermont’s

safe hunting legacy continues. We credit Vermont’s strong safety record with our volunteer instructors.

“Volunteer instructors are the backbone of the Vermont Hunter Education Program. They are vital to Vermont’s strong record of safe hunting. Hands-on and in-person learning from an experienced instructor are the best ways to become familiar with the skills associated with safe hunting.

“Courses are available in basic hunter education, bowhunter education, trapper education, and combination hunter-bowhunter education. We expect more classes to be posted throughout August and September. If you don’t see a

class in your area listed yet, keep watching the website or call our office for more information at 802-828-1193.”

You must be 18 years old and a resident of Vermont to take the online hunter or bowhunter education courses.

The courses will be listed as they become available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s website www.vtfishandwildlife.com. On the Home page, click on Hunt and then Hunter Education and Find a Certified Course. To register for a course, go to register-ed.com/programs/Vermont.

A Vermont hunter education card entitles you to hunt in all 50 states, as well as some international locations.

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Cochran

(Continued from Page 1A)
Republicans will duke it out in separate primary runoffs on Aug. 13. The top two vote-getters in each primary will advance (along with any independent or minor party candidates) to the Nov. 5 general election.

Cochran is a St. Michael’s College graduate who works as a data services manager at Vermont Systems, a software company in Essex Junction. His job keys on supporting the U.S. Army’s Child and Youth Management System and in building custom analytics tools.

Landel and his spouse Rachael have a 2-year-old daughter, Cora. Having a perch on the Huntington selectboard has allowed Cochran to troubleshoot myriad community challenges — some of which, he noted, have stemmed from policies devised in the state Legislature. He said he wants to play a role in reversing or adjusting some of those policies — particularly those that are having an impact on property taxes and housing development rules.

As voters prepare to go to the polls, Cochran hopes they scrutinize the Huntington selectboard’s budgeting track record since he’s been a member. He pointed to statistics showing year-to-year town budget increases of 4.5% in 2020, 1% in 2021, 4.3%

in 2022, 4.9% in 2023 and 4.8% in 2024. “We set a hard, annual (budget increase) ceiling of 5%,” Cochran said. “We know we have a varied population and can’t force people out of their homes with our own policies, so we try the best we can to maintain the same level of service year to year, with minimum impact to taxpayers.”

He acknowledged most Huntington residents have tended to vote blue, but he hopes the issue of affordability transcends party lines. “People are very concerned about spending responsibly. And that’s exactly why I’m running for this seat. I think I can help find that level of responsibility that I think a lot of Vermonters find is missing right now,” Cochran said.

He noted Vermonters’ property tax bills are pegged to rise by an average of 13.8% during fiscal year 2025. This increase, Cochran believes, is largely a byproduct of H.887, a tax yield bill that became law after a legislative override of Gov. Phil Scott’s veto.

“Vermonters can’t afford this,” he said of the tax increase.

“The first thing we have to do is get property taxes and education spending under control; they’re really the same problem,” he said of what should be one of the Senate’s top priorities next biennium.

He believes a major contributor to recent property tax hikes has been how education property taxes are currently amassed and distributed. Basically, towns pass their school budgets in March, the state then calculates how much needs to be raised to fund the entire public education bill, and the money is then distributed accordingly. “Essentially, we have a blank check funding model for schools, where the communities that actually foot the bill are not necessarily the communities that are passing the school budgets,” Cochran said.

His proposed remedy: Set school funding parameters *before* school budgets are passed. Cochran acknowledged local voters currently have local control on voting their district school budgets, but they don’t have control over other districts spending the money they’ve put into the public education till.

“The total amount the state is

“The first thing we have to do is get property taxes and education spending under control; they’re really the same problem.”

— Landel Cochran

going to take for education funding and the equity distribution for those funds has to be set and distributed to our school districts before they base a budget around it. And then, anything they want in addition to their share as allocated by the pool, that needs to come directly from the voters in that district,” he said.

Cochran believes most Vermonters are not only dissatisfied with their school tax bills. They’re also unhappy with the quality of education they’re receiving for their financial outlay.

“Last year, Vermont was third highest in (per capita) education spending out of 50 states, while household income was 32nd. Vermonters are looking for more bang for their buck, before we’re looking for more spending,” he said.

Public schools have been enlisted to provide more services to meet children’s needs, according to Cochran. In addition to delivering education, schools are also being asked to deliver social services, healthcare, and other amenities for students in need.

“Healthcare is not education, and we provide some of those services through schools. I’m not against that idea; I’m against the idea of saying it’s a school budget issue. If we’re going to increase our health services in schools, we need to do that with healthcare dollars and not

education dollars,” he said. Communities deserve the ability to pay for non-education services through other means (than the property tax), Cochran submits. “Education funding right now is empowered to take property taxes. As a state, we need to have the discretion... to provide social services through our general fund,” he said.

OTHER ISSUES

Cochran feels strongly about other issues, and offered a glimpse during his interview with the *Independent* and through his campaign website, landelvt.com:

- Affordable housing. He offers a three-pronged approach that includes building homes in urban centers, ensuring that current residents aren’t taxed out of their abodes, and softening the state’s land use rules to facilitate building in rural communities.

- Infrastructure and Municipal Support. “Vermont roads are simply underfunded,” he said. “Roads are not optional and many roads in the state are below a minimum acceptable condition. State grants for road and bridge projects are in short supply and have barely increased in amount in the past 20 years. Towns are handed increasingly high standards for road construction, but not much funding to implement them. It is this sort of single-sided policy

that puts an additional burden on residents of small towns to foot the bill. Smart policy needs to include holistic solutions, towns don’t have many good options to keep up with rising costs.

- Overregulation and economic growth. “Vermont is not friendly to new business. Taxes are high, the labor market is overstretched, location is isolated and developing land is very difficult and time-consuming. Our rural communities need businesses and we have the space. We need to craft policies that remove barriers to business startup and growth, not policies that create barriers.

- “Retire the veto-proof supermajority.” Cochran noted Democrats hold veto-proof numbers in both the House and Senate. He believes such a makeup can undermine democratic principles.

“Gov. Scott is the voice of reason in Montpelier and he needs help,” he claimed. “If he doesn’t have support in the House and Senate, his veto decisions will continue to be steamrolled. Bring balance back to the Vermont General Assembly so both parties are forced to work together.

“If we don’t have checks and balances, we go unchecked and unbalanced,” Cochran added.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Mosquito district

(Continued from Page 1A)
Schumann and former vice chair Doug Perkins stepped down from their offices following the board’s July 10 meeting, according to interim chair Stephen Belcher, who served as board secretary before taking over the job as chair and is now serving in both positions.

“I felt there were trustees on the board who were so highly critical of the leadership work we were doing that it was time to give them

the opportunity to step up and take the lead,” Schumann told the *Independent*. “It seems however after this past Tuesday’s meeting (July 23) they are not overly inclined to do so.”

Perkins on July 25 noted Belcher, as interim chair, speaks for the district.

Trustee Lynne Peck has also resigned from her post as treasurer, though she is still serving as bookkeeper of the insect control

district. When reached for comment, Peck noted that district operations will continue as the board looks to fill the open officer positions.

“Despite all of this, the work is still being done and it’ll continue to be done,” she said.

While some trustees have criticized the board’s former leadership, others have commended the former chair and vice chair’s work. Peck remarked in a July 24 article in the *Rutland Herald* that “Doug and Jeff were both in my opinion excellent leaders and I worked very well with them and they’ve enabled me to do a difficult job.” According to the *Herald*, trustee Paul Vaczy agreed Schumann and Perkins had done a good job, and Belcher noted the former leaders “did much to improve communication between the district and member towns.”

But, according to the unapproved minutes for the July 10 meeting, trustee Sharon Stearns raised concerns about the condition of the district’s trucks and “asserted that future planning should await the needs of the immediate season.”

“She denounced the leadership for creating a hostile relationship with the staff (Will Mathis concurred, opining that the past two years had been the worst of his employment),” read the

unapproved minutes, which continued: “Sharon’s later remarks led to criticism of the Chair, accusing him of threats against the Board. She did not desist, at the Chair’s request. The motion to adjourn was passed while she was still talking.”

While no longer serving in their former leadership positions, Schumann, Perkins and Peck are still representing their respective towns on the board. Schumann represents Salisbury and Perkins and Peck are both Leicester representatives.

A special meeting was held on Tuesday, July 23, to find replacements for the three officers, though no one at that meeting stepped up to fill the roles, Belcher said.

With no one else stepping into the vacant leadership roles, Belcher has become de facto interim board chair.

He said the board will revisit the topic of board leadership at their next meeting in August.

“Between meetings I will send out a request to the members to reconsider what they might be willing to undertake for the board and we will have a discussion of the options as an agenda item,” Belcher said.

He is optimistic the board will find trustees willing to step into the open leadership roles, noting

that not everyone was present at Tuesday’s meeting and that there are board members with experience who could take on the positions.

“I am not giving up hope of somebody saying they are willing to step up,” Belcher said.

When asked if the open leadership positions would interrupt district operations, Belcher referred to Peck’s comments at the last meeting that they will not.

He added that there haven’t been as many operations this year due to dryer weather.

“The pools that used to produce abundant larvae and mosquitos were extraordinarily dry in April and May, which meant that there weren’t that many breeding mosquitoes outside of the year-round wetlands,” he explained.

Belcher noted that sampling around the district is required prior to treatment.

“My understanding is that we trap mosquitos on practically a daily basis at various sites around the district. The number of the human-biting mosquitoes we have to have as a minimum threshold in the trap before we go out and spray the adulticide (has) simply not been meeting that threshold,” he said.

Peck noted the same goes for larvicide, in that there are various stipulations the district must follow before applying larvicide.

“We’ve just had a good summer so far,” Peck said. “That could change, but we’re ready.”

Bristol man charged with luring a child

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Attorney General’s Office has announced that Robert Lavallee, 31, of Bristol was arraigned on Monday on one felony count of luring a child. The charge was the result of an undercover criminal investigation initially conducted by the Henderson County Sheriff’s Office in Illinois and later referred to the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (VT-ICAC) with assistance from Homeland Security Investigations.

Prosecutors allege that Lavallee communicated online via Facebook with a Henderson County Sheriff’s officer posing as a 13-year-old minor. The defendant engaged in sexually explicit conversations with the investigator.

Lavallee pleaded not guilty at the July 29 arraignment in Vermont Superior Court, Addison Criminal Division. Judge David Fenster ordered conditions of release that prohibit Lavallee’s contact with minors and restrict his access to the internet.

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

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

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

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Reports of man asking for sexual favors

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police received separate reports on July 26 about a man allegedly requesting sexual favors from women in Seymour Street and South Village Green neighborhoods. The case remains under investigation.

Meanwhile, in a separate series of incidents, police dealt with Joey Ewen, 47, who is houseless. On Monday, July 22, at a quarter to 6 p.m., officers cited Ewen for disorderly conduct, after investigating a complaint about a man yelling obscenities in the Bakery Lane area. That same night, at around 10:30 p.m., police cited Ewen for disorderly conduct, criminal threatening and assault on law enforcement by bodily fluids, following an incident at Porter Hospital.

Then on Friday, July 27, at around 12:30 p.m., police encountered Ewen on Merchants Row and arrested him on an outstanding arrest warrant.

In addition to conducting daily foot patrols downtown to monitor members of the local houseless community, Middlebury police last week:

- Took a stray dog to Homeward Bound on July 22.
- Checked on the welfare of a toddler allegedly seen running around a Bakery Lane parking lot on July 22.
- Responded to a dispute between some South Village Green neighbors on July 22.
- Investigated a graffiti incident in the Mill Street area on July 22.
- Checked a letter, for the potential presence of dangerous substances, that had been received by a Middlebury College professor on July 22. Police said no dangerous substances were found.
- Cited Mari J. Hill, 54, of Vergennes for driving under the influence, following a traffic stop on Seminary Street on July 22 at 3:13 a.m.
- De-escalated an argument between some people behind the Ilsley Library on July 23.
- Served a no-trespass order on July 23 on a person not wanted at a Middlebury Discount Beverage.
- Received a report about a potential Sex Offender Registry violator being in Middlebury on

Middlebury Police Log

- July 23.
- Helped a discharged patient with a ride from Porter Hospital on July 23.
 - Responded to a report of a tree branch on power lines at the intersection of Quarry Road and Orchard Lane on July 23. Police closed the road until a Green Mountain Power crew had fixed the problem.
 - Responded, with Middlebury firefighters, to a report of someone stuck inside an elevator at Middlebury Union Middle School on July 23.
 - Investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle at the Abbey Pond Trailhead on July 23.
 - Intervened in a domestic dispute off Kings Row in East Middlebury on July 24.
 - Helped Bristol police cite a man who was in custody at Porter Hospital on July 24.
 - Responded to a report of a man yelling at a woman in the Bakery Lane area on July 24.
 - Served a no-trespass order on July 24 on a person not wanted at a downtown business.
 - Served a no-trespass order on July 24 on a person not wanted at the Subway Restaurant on Court Street.
 - Informed the Vermont Department for Families & Children on Jul 24 about a case involving a local juvenile driving a vehicle in Middlebury.
 - Helped Middlebury Regional EMS set up a helicopter landing zone off Collins Drive on July 24.
 - Served a no-trespass order on July 24 on a person not wanted at a downtown business.
 - Checked on the welfare of a Washington Street resident on July 25.
 - Informed Vermont Fish & Wildlife about an injured deer near the intersection of Route 116 and Quarry Road on July 25.
 - Arrested 33-year-old Anthony W. Fitzgerald on an outstanding warrant on July 25.

- Intervened in a verbal dispute between two people on the town green on July 25.
- Received a report on July 25 that a dog was missing in the Washington Street area.
- Responded to a trespassing complaint in the North Pleasant Street area on July 26.
- Responded to a complaint about people drinking alcohol in the Ilsley Library parking lot on July 26.
- Arrested 41-year-old Matthew Hill on an outstanding warrant in the Bakery Lane area on July 26.
- Gave a courtesy ride — from The Centre shopping plaza to a bus stop — to a man suspected to have been under the influence of opioids on July 26.
- Told a small gathering of people off Cross Street to turn their music down at around 10 p.m. on July 27.
- Responded to a report of gunshots near 428 Court St. on July 27.
- Were informed that someone had vandalized construction equipment at a South Street location on July 27.
- Checked on a report of a loose dog in the Court Street area on July 27.
- Assisted Vermont State Police on a call on Route 7 in New Haven on July 28 at 1 a.m.
- Responded to a report of people laying in the road at Adirondack Circle on July 28 at 3 a.m.
- Were informed on July 28 that a footbridge off South Street Extension had been vandalized.
- Investigated a reported theft from the Hare of the Dog store on Court Street on July 28.
- Spoke on July 28 with a local woman who said a man living on the Abbey Pond Trail had been making her “feel unsafe.”
- Received a complaint about a person “possibly” smoking marijuana in a vehicle parked in the Methodist Lane area on July 28.
- Diverted some campers who had settled on Middlebury Union High School property on July 28.
- Responded to a reported domestic dispute at a Monarch Court home on July 28.
- Cited Timothy E. Edwards Jr., 36, of Middlebury for disorderly conduct, following reports of a fight in the Bakery Lane area on July 28.



Mini marvel
A HUMMINGBIRD CLEARWING moth hovers near some Joe Pie Weed, about to take a sip of nectar.
Photo by Dale Cockrell

Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — Vergennes police on Sunday, July 28, cited a city resident for allegedly trying to extort money from a family member. Police allege Will Phillips, 27, concocted a story that he was in jeopardy and requested money to resolve the situation. They cited and released him.

Between July 22 and 28, Vergennes police also conducted 16 cruiser patrols, 11 traffic stops, one VIN inspection and one property watch; responded to a false alarm; processed six pre-employment fingerprint requests; and:

On July 22:

- At the station, discussed with the recent recipient of a no-trespass order, its circumstances.
- Heard a complaint from a West Main Street resident that a trash company had allowed litter to spill from a truck; the complainant

said he had also spoken with the company.

- Took a call reporting hit-and-run damage to a vehicle.

On July 23 dealt with a report of a homeless person panhandling at the city pool by buying her a pizza and putting her in touch with helpful resources.

On July 24:

- Responded to Panton Road, where a vehicle had gone off the road.
- Took a call reporting hit-and-run damage to a vehicle parked on Main Street.

On July 25:

- At the station, served a relief-from-abuse order.
- Checked the welfare of a South Maple Street resident, who was found to be OK.

On July 26:

- Accepted a cell phone found

by a citizen. Its owner picked it up this past weekend.

- Checked the welfare of a Hillside Acres apartment resident, who was found to be OK. Police described this as an ongoing issue.

On July 27:

- Accepted a credit card found by a citizen. As of Monday police had not found its owner.
- Took a complaint about construction noise at about 2:30 p.m. Police noted the property in question had a zoning permit.
- Were told a pickup truck was spinning in circles in the Big Barn Furniture parking lot; it was gone when police arrived.

On July 28 heard a complaint about possible theft of electric power on Main Street and determined it was a misunderstanding.



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A VERGENNES FIREFIGHTER faces a moment of truth as three competitors push the water polo ball into the goal with their fiercely spraying nozzles.

Photos by Dylan Montagu

Muster Games

(Continued from Page 1A)

firefighters to wear full turnout gear head to toe, calls for their response to a sudden twilight mission, then connect a hose to a hydrant, and then shoot water at a target.

The “bucket brigade” has a more traditional heritage where buckets of water are passed hand-to-hand to the top of a ladder to fill a large barrel.

The most dreaded event might’ve been the self-contained breathing apparatus endurance test, in which fully equipped firefighters broke a sweat in 90-degree weather to chop wood, crawl around several traffic cones carrying a hose, retrieve a dummy, and then shoot water at a target.

In stark contrast, “water polo” was pure fun — it’s like soccer in that teams try to move a ball across the parking lot, but instead of kicking it, a team holds high-pressure water hose and directs the spray against the ball to “kick” it into the goal, what the opposing team uses its own hose to kick the ball in the opposite direction.

This year’s teams saw collaborative efforts, as a few participants combined to form Addison East and West squads, making a total of four teams along with Bridport and Weybridge.

That’s because participation had dipped a little over the years with the impact of the pandemic and other scheduling reasons.

The conference coincided with the 80th birthday of the Addison County Firefighters Association, or ACFA, which was founded in 1944 and has been promoting fire training and education as well as providing mutual aid among its member departments since its existence.

Vergennes Fire Chief David DiBiase, chair of ACFA sports committee, said it took some motivation to get the Muster Games off the ground.

“We were people that played every year, and we thought, ‘Boy, we could do this too!’” he said. “So we put our names in and say, ‘Hey we would like to take over this committee and run these games.’ I bet it’s been over 15 years now that we’ve been doing it.”

Salisbury’s Justin Allan, who recently took over Heffernan’s position as president of ACFA, believes the game are a good representation of fire departments’ endeavors and good spirit.

“We all work together, take care of any business, and lead everybody in the right direction,” he said.

He gave his gratitude to G. Stone Motors for providing the venue for the games.

HEAD IN THE GAMES

It is a harsh truth that recruitment struggles are not new to local volunteer fire departments, and the tipping numbers translate into the



FIREFIGHTERS SPRAY STREAMS of water at a ball trying to get it over the goal line in their water polo match for the annual fire department Muster Games in Middlebury on Saturday. Carrying the water hose is no easy feat and takes teamwork.

games’ turnout, which led to the conjoining of teams that appears to be a common practice in real missions too.

“We work together on fire scenes, so we follow the same rules that if you didn’t have enough people per se, you use your neighbors to make yourself full,” DiBiase said.

There used to be a time when the field was filled with a total of 20 teams across the county.

“There is a decline of volunteerism across the state, the country, really,” DiBiase explained. “The training has got a lot more stringent as a requirement to be a firefighter. There are a lot of places that have different needs. There are people who don’t have as much time in their lives to volunteer as they once were. It’s pretty common among most places nowadays.”

But despite all the hardships and strenuous requirements, the comradery established among fellow firefighters is what keeps everyone together.

“The fire service is the greatest group of people I’ve ever worked with,” Heffernan said. “I don’t know if there’s any other

organization like it. You can go anywhere in the world, tell them you’re a firefighter, and they’ll invite you into their station and show you what they’ve got, and basically treat you like a brother.”

Perhaps it is not too important

at this point which team won the games. The fact is that people showed up, and will continue to show up, both in these games of celebration and in scenes of dire danger where they are needed.

“Our heart is helping people,”

Allan said with a smile two days prior to the games at the Salisbury Fire Department regular meeting. “We keep everybody together as one group and lead them into the future and all the new ways.”



DURING SATURDAY’S MUSTER Games, a team works together to connect a hose to a hydrant before shooting a target with high-pressure water, just as they would on a real mission.



THE MOST DREADED trial out of all the Muster Games must be the SCBA Endurance test. A team has to wear full gear, chop down some wood, crawl through several roadblocks carrying a water hose, retrieve a dummy, and eventually water down a target.



THE WATER BRIGADE match is a throwback that simulates firefighting in the olden days — buckets of water must be carried up a ladder to fill a bucket with efficiency.

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Filmmaker

(Continued from Page 1A)

music, reality, science, Sasquatch, dolphins, diamonds, dingos, gorillas, celebrities, mosquitos and countless more subjects.

One of seven honorees at this year's Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, Mitchell has amassed more than 100 film credits for National Geographic, Disney+, Netflix, Nat Geo Wild, Discovery, Animal Planet, Smithsonian, POV and PBS. He has filmed on every continent and in every ocean, and finally gets to enjoy some limelight in his backyard, with "Inside the Mind of a Dog," which will be released on Netflix on Aug. 9.

Narrated by actor Rob Lowe, the much anticipated "Inside the Mind of a Dog" documentary is Mitchell's follow-up to "Inside the Mind of a Cat," which came to Netflix in 2022. Mitchell worked with Red Rock Films for both productions.

"We've had it in our mind to do this since the first one," Mitchell said. "The 'Cat' movie over-performed for them; it did way better than anyone thought it was going to, which was great."

How great? It ranked top 10 nationally on Netflix the week of its release.

Now Garfield is giving way to Fido, and the viewership numbers should be even better this time around, if animal ownership stats are a good harbinger.

According to Forbes Advisor, 44.5% of U.S. households own at least one dog, compared to 29% for cats.

"The whole time we were doing 'Cats,' we were thinking, 'Wouldn't it be so great if we could also do this with dogs?'" Mitchell said.

And they did.

Here's the movie tease from Netflix:

"Explore the ancient and complex human-dog relationship, reveal cutting edge research and offer at-home tips for dog owners everywhere. Following our main characters — a brilliant, super trained border collie; a precocious pug; and a lovable rescued mutt — our team of elite canine experts from across the globe, dive deep into our best friend's hidden mind, to answer everyone's biggest canine questions."

Red Rock and Netflix gave Mitchell and his team immense freedom in researching and filming "Inside the Mind of a Dog."

It involved far more than a crew simply pointing a camera at four-legged friends in dog parks and other places where canines congregate. The 74-minute documentary took 15 months to film at around seven locations, stretching from Santa Rosa, Calif., to Long Island, N.Y. Oh, and

they also took in-flight footage of some extremely cute puppies headed from Santa Rosa to Duke University.

Mitchell & co. worked with behavioral scientists from Duke, Harvard, the Universities of Pennsylvania and Arizona, among others, who are finding out what makes dogs tick.

Among them was Brian Hare of Duke, a professor in Evolutionary Anthropology, Psychology and Neuroscience. He runs a lab on campus that researches the "evolution of cognition" through the study of domestic dogs.

"There's this burgeoning science community around dogs and cats, and things they used to think they couldn't learn anything from. But they're realizing they can learn a lot from dogs' brains," Mitchell said. "What's cool is we're learning a lot about ourselves through them."

One of Mitchell's favorite aspects of the movie is how it showcases, and celebrates, the relationship between humans and dogs — the origins of that successful pairing and why the former gets so

attached to the latter.

"An underlying theme of the movie is, 'Survival of the friendliest,'" a beaming Mitchell recounted. "Especially in this day and age, (the human-dog bond) needs to be out there more."

The team followed an entire class of 18-month-old training dogs and saw one of the graduates get placed with a family.

"The through-line of the movie is how a service dog is trained," Mitchell said.

And the "backbone of the movie," according to Mitchell, is its work with a service dog company called "Canine Companions." With multiple locations nationwide, Canine Companions trains and provides service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities, and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice and educational settings," according to its website, canine.org.

PUPPY KINDERGARTEN

Mitchell and his crew also filmed at a "puppy kindergarten," the brainchild of the aforementioned Brian Hare. It's a classroom in which scientists study the puppies' minds and behavior as they mature, flagging young dogs that would make particularly good service dogs or police dogs.

Another of Mitchell's movie angles: Following a group of performing dogs from a Maryland company called "Mutts Gone Nuts." The dogs travel with their human handlers, regaling humans with tricks and antics.

"We spent a number of weekends

with them, using a phantom high-speed camera, throwing Frisbees and capturing amazing footage," Mitchell recalled. "That was super fun."

"Inside the Mind of a Dog" seeks to educate, but there are also several outrageously cute, "aww!" moments with pups whose special talent is dispensing unconditional love.

"We did a number of sessions where we would rent out an Air BNB and got everyone we knew in the area to swing by with their dogs," Mitchell said.

The product is now polished and ready, and Mitchell is pleased "Inside the Mind of a Dog" will have a local screening as part of its rollout.

And who came up with the idea of using a world record attempt as a promotional tool for the Aug. 10 viewing at Memorial Sports Center?

"Our 13-year-old son, Billy," Mitchell said.

Turns out Billy had noticed the existing world record of 219 dogs at a movie screening had been set last fall at a Los Angeles showing of "Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie."

"He said, 'You should beat that, dad,'" Mitchell said.

Time will tell. If you live in the Middlebury area with a dog that gets along well with others, see the accompanying story for info on registering for the Aug. 10 showing.

Homeward Bound, which has been a supporter of Mitchell and this film, will get a portion of donations made at the screening. Homeward Bound's Hanna applauded MiddleburyUndergroundD for the creativity behind this event.

"It's not every day that people, or dogs for that matter, have the chance to try and set a world record!" Manley said. "We traditionally have 100 dogs at our Woofstock: Walk for the Animals event, so I think it is very possible to gather up 220 or the movie screening."

Michael McAuliffe is a leader of the nonprofit Friends of Middlebury Hockey group, which oversees that sports center. He noted the founding mission for the center was that it serve as a multi-purpose facility for the community, beyond its use as an ice skating and hockey venue during the winter. With that in mind, the Memorial Sports Center this summer has hosted the Middlebury Parks & Recreation Department's Camp Kookamunga, Middlebury Union High School reunion ceremonies and other activities.

"A movie about dogs provides one more opportunity to engage with our community and provide a service, and that's what we're all about," said McAuliffe, who has two dogs — Sonora and Luka.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



ANDY MITCHELL'S NETFLIX documentary "Inside the Mind of a Dog," which will be screened in Middlebury Aug. 10, explores the ancient and complex human-dog relationship. The film follows several canine main characters, including a lovable rescue mutt, plus dogs catching flying discs. Graphics courtesy of Netflix and Red Rock Film

How to register for this film screening

- MIDDLEBURY — If you'd like your dog(s) to attend the Aug. 10 screening of the new documentary "Inside the Mind of a Dog" at Middlebury's Memorial Sports Center — and potentially break a world record for "most dogs to attend a film screening" in the process — read on.
- The film (see story on Page 1A), to hit Netflix on Aug. 9, is directed by Middlebury's own Andy Mitchell and is narrated by actor Rob Lowe. It's billed as a "highly entertaining, deep dive ... to uncover the mysteries of the world's most popular pet."
- If the Memorial Sports Center screening can attract 220 or more dogs, the world record is in the bag.
- The film (view the trailer at tinyurl.com/4ahx4h2r) will begin at 4 p.m.; doors will open at 3 p.m. Dogs arriving late won't be counted in the attempt.
- There are other rules that must be followed to ensure a bona fide record and a safe, pleasurable viewing experience.
- Registration for your pet is quick and easy — just a photo and a few questions for owners. Online pre-registration (tinyurl.com/bdwaxwpd) before the event is highly recommended, but it can also be done at the door. Pre-registration provides for preferred seating, free popcorn, doggy treats, and other fun giveaways. A licensed vet and emergency pet care will be on site.
- Here are the Guinness Book of World Record rules:
- Dogs must be leashed at all times. Crates can't be used.
 - Dogs must be accompanied by a handler at least 16 years old. One dog per handler.
 - Dogs must have natural appearances (no clothes, dyed hair or accessories).
 - Dogs must be at least 1 year old to be included in the count.
 - Free registration (highly recommended) will be completed at the beginning of the event.
 - Participants and their dogs need to be in place for 10 minutes during the movie screening.
 - Dog owners are responsible for the behavior of their dogs at all times.
 - Dogs with aggressive history won't be allowed to attend.
 - Dogs must have current licenses and vaccines.
 - Dog waste must be cleaned up by the owners.
- John Flowers

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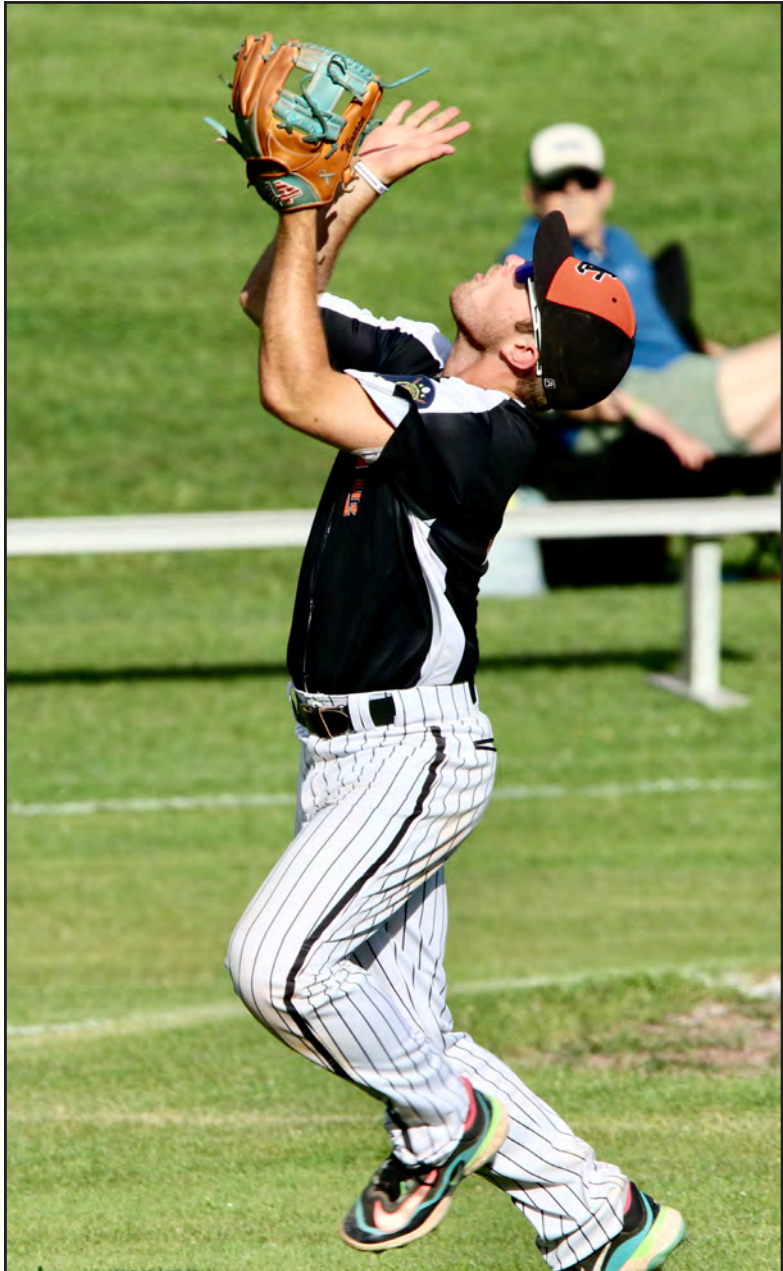
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AC SECOND BASEMAN Cole Warren makes an over-the-shoulder catch of a ball a Montpelier batter hit into shallow right field during the Thursday, July 25, American Legion baseball game at Middlebury Union High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

Legion baseball team just misses tourney

Montpelier edges out Addison County in tense season-ending contest

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — In a showdown on Thursday, July 25, to determine which of the two teams would reach the Vermont American Legion Baseball State Tournament, Montpelier edged Addison County, 3-1, in a tense game played at Middlebury Union High School.

The teams had been virtually tied for the fourth and final Northern Division playoff berth. AC had been scheduled to host second-place St. Johnsbury and seventh-place Franklin County on Wednesday and Thursday, and those games had been initially rescheduled to Thursday and Friday, respectively. But according to AC Coach Tim Paquette after Wednesday’s rainout both those teams said they would rather forfeit. And meanwhile Montpelier had similar issues.

Paquette said the league commissioner then ruled the two teams should simply square off on Thursday to decide the No. 4 seed rather than rely on forfeited results to decide the matter; the commissioner awarded AC home field based on a tiebreaker. It was just the latest scheduling twist in a Legion schedule plagued by this summer’s unpredictable weather and some teams’ forfeits.

Regardless, Montpelier’s victory then pushed its record to 11-7-2, while AC wrapped up its best season in recent memory at 11-9. AC made the tournament a year ago, but with a 6-12 mark, and then did not fare well in the playoffs.

Paquette was disappointed AC

came up short on Thursday, but not with his team’s overall effort this summer. He also recalled that half the AC roster brought MUHS its first baseball title, and said the AC team with players from the Vergennes and Mount Abraham high schools as well as MUHS gelled well in June and July and pulled out some tough wins.

“We doubled the wins. We didn’t make the playoffs. That was our goal at the beginning of the year, was to go a little further, but I trade these playoffs for the state championship,” he said.

As for the Thursday game, AC just didn’t swing the bat well against the relatively soft serves of two Montpelier pitchers, managing

just four combined hits off starter and winning pitcher Mathieu Fecteau (4.1 shutout innings, two hits, three walks, two strikeouts) and reliever Domenic Connessi (2.2 innings, two hits, one walk, one unearned run, two strikeouts).

AC hurlers Tyler Kimball (three innings, three hits, two strikeouts, *(See Legion, Page 3B)*)



AC CATCHER CARTER Paquette slaps the tag on airborne Montpelier runner Ethan Wichrowski at home plate during the Thursday, July 25, American Legion baseball game at Middlebury Union High School.

Independent photo/Steve James

Maier duo prevails at Ralph Myhre

MIDDLEBURY — The father-son team of Steve and Jeff Maier prevailed in the First Flight of the Ralph Myhre Golf Course’s annual Dud Phinney Member-Guest Tournament, which the course staged from July 26 to 28.

The Maiers edged the second-place duo of Luther Tenny and Steve Merrill, while the pairing of Kyle Goodman and Hogan Beazley finished third in the top flight.

In Flight 2, Kelly Kelton and Jeff Sherman prevailed, with Kris Kelton and Ross Lengyel taking second and Dan Myhre and Justin Landry in third.

Andrew Myhre and Colin Babcock won Flight 3, followed by David Zarowin and Joe Bartlett in second. Two teams tied for third: Mark Gagne and John Wallace, and Bryon and Jesse Emilo.

In Flight 4, Christopher Wilson and Jim Odorisio took first, with Don and Seth Dayton in second and Robert Keiner and Ken Thomas in third.

In Flight 5, Robert and Gabe Cameron won, while Kyle and Kelton finished second. Kevin Cheney and Tom White took third.

Flight 6 saw Don Kenney and Mark Friedman come out on top, with two duos tied for second: Raymond Gale and Rick James, and Neil Mackey and Bart Frisbie.

In Flight 7, Kevin and Dylan Newton took first place, followed by the teams of Bill Cunningham and Bucky Danyow in second and Michael and Pierre Bordeleau in third.

Finally, in Flight 8, Douglas Biklen and Alex Knopp finished first, with Jeff and Mark McDonough in second and Bill Laberge and David Wemette in third.

The Overall Points Winners were Christopher Wilson and Jim Odorisio. Closest to the Pin winners were Dylan Newton, John Myhre, Ben Cadoret, Rob Keiner, Colin Babcock, Cam Fitzgerald, Patrick Fallon (twice), Ken Hypes, Dave Wemette, Kit Wilson and Kris Kelton.

Brett Everest was the Under-55 Longest Drive winner, and the 55 and Up Longest Drive winner was Kris Kelton

In youth play news, on July 23 Ralph Myhre member Brady Fallon *(See Maiers, Page 2B)*

Local swimmers fare well in league meet

By ANDY KIRKALDY

WINOOSKI — Vergennes Champs swimmers combined to win 20 races and claim third place in Champlain Valley Swim League’s championship meet, hosted on this past Friday and Saturday in the Winooski municipal pool.

Middlebury Marlins swimmers won eight races and took fourth in the seven-team meet, which was won for the third straight summer by the Burlington Tennis Club team, also the two-time Vermont Swim Association champion.

All the teams will head this weekend to the Upper Valley Aquatic Center in Hartford for the state championship meet.

Younger Vergennes swimmers racked up many of the Champs’ points. Savannah Wallace and Riker Cooley, competitors in the youngest division, won four races apiece, and Cooley helped Champ U-8 relay teams pick up two victories, along with double.

Champ U-10 swimmers Connor Husk and Brantley Cook earned three and two wins, respectively, and Ella Bearor, Ellie Brooks, Will Clark and Scarlett Giroux earned one league championship

apiece.

U-10 competitor Felix Poduschnick led the Marlins with three convincing victories, and U-12 swimmer Henry Cadoret won twice. Netting one league title apiece were Cooper Butler, Porter Mackey and veteran Connor McNamara.

The team scores were Burlington Tennis Club, 868; St. Albans, 725; Vergennes, 510; Middlebury, 317; Winooski, 261; Burlington Country Club, 152.5; and Winooski, 124.5.

Scoring points for the Champs and Marlins with top-12 finishes were the following:

INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

- U-8 girls 100: 1. Savannah Wallace, V, 1:30.09.

- U-8 boys 100: 1. Riker Cooley, V, 1:41.32; 2. Rhett Cooke, V.

- U-10 girls 100: 5. Mikhan Ouimette, V; 7. Mabelle Fidalgo, V.

- U-10 boys 100: 1. Brantley Cooke, V, 1:36.11; 6. Patrick Martin, M.

- U-12 girls 100: 10. Cecilia Neffinger, V; 11. Reese Matton, V.

- U-12 boys 100: 1. Connor Husk, V, 1:18.32.

- U-14 girls 100: 4. Lauren Husk, V.

- U-18 girls 100: 8. Ellie Eckels, V.

- U-18 boys 100: 2. Will Clark, V; 3. Connor McNamara, M.

- U-18 girls 200: 4. Louisa Orten, M.

BUTTERFLY

- U-8 girls 25: 1. Savannah Wallace, V, 17.14; 8. Rose Phinney, M; 10. Margaret Smits, V.

- U-8 boys 25: 1. Riker Cooley, V, 19.89; 7. Lincoln Hunt, M.

- U-10 girls 25: 3. Cassandra Bellmann, M; 4. Scarlett Giroux, V; 11. Mary Mcguire, V: 12. Lydia Bearor, V.

- U-10 boys 25: 1. Felix Poduschnick, M, 15.45; 3. Brantley Cooke, V; 4. Porter Mackey, M.

- U-12 girls 50: 7. Camry Miner, M; 8. Nicola Power, M; 10. Cecilia Neffinger, V; 12. Vivian Romond, V.

- U-12 boys 50: 1. Connor Husk, V, 31.28; 8. Tobin Howell, V; 9. Henry Schmitt, M.

- U-14 girls 50: 1. Ella Bearor, V, 28.66; 2. Sadie Chance, M; 4. Mitzi Poduschnick, M; 6. Jordan *(See CVSL, Page 2B)*



CHAMP U-18 SWIMMER Noah Smits powers his way along his lane in a breaststroke race during the CVSL championship meet this past weekend in Winooski.

Photo courtesy of Josh Romond

Shrine Bowl is this weekend

VT and NH clash in 71st football showdown

By ANDY KIRKALDY

CASTLETON — Five players from the region’s three high school football teams are expected to play this Saturday in the 71st annual Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl, in which top recently-graduated high school football players from Vermont and New Hampshire square off.

Three hail from Division I Middlebury Union High School: Defensive back/wide receiver Jackson Gillett, Linebacker/running back Gavin McNulty, and two-way lineman Tim Whitney Jr. From the cooperative D-II Mount Abraham/Vergennes

program running back/receiver Jamison Couture was selected, and from D-III Otter Valley two-way lineman Derek Li made the team.

Poultney Coach Dave Capman will lead the Vermont squad in the game, which is set to be played on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Vermont State University Castleton’s Dave Wolk Stadium.

New Hampshire has a 50-17-2 series lead, but the showdowns have generally been competitive in recent years. Vermont won, 28-6, in 2023, snapping a three-game losing streak, but prevailed in the three previous contests.

Tough night for area drivers

Quenneville posts only local triumph at Devil’s Bowl

WEST HAVEN — West Haven’s Johnny Bruno won on his hometown track for the second time on Saturday night, claiming the victory in the Devil’s Bowl Speedway’s main event, a 30-lap Sportsman Modified race.

It wasn’t a big night for local drivers. Although six placed in the top 10 in the Sportsman Modified race, Brandon’s Quinn Quenneville posted the only triumph, in a 20-lap 500cc Mini Sprints race.

Bruno outdueled Fair Haven’s Billy Lussier for the Sportsman Modified win after they shared the front row at the start. Bruno took the lead for good on the 17th lap, while Lussier held on for second.

Whiting’s Jimmy Ryan finished third, Orwell’s James Hanson took fourth, and Brandon’s Joey Scarborough was sixth. Orwell drivers Randy Ryan and Tim Laduc ran 7-8, and Brandon’s Vince Quenneville Jr. took 10th.

New Hampshire’s Kamden Duffy scored his first Limited Sportsman win of the year after passing Springfield’s Bob Kilburn late in the 25-lap race. Salisbury’s Gary English finished third, and Vergennes drive Steve Miller was sixth.

Bradford’s Thomas Placey won the 20-lap Novice Sportsman feature from his 10th starting position in what was his first time in a sportsman modified-type car at Devil’s Bowl. Placey

took the lead on lap 17 after the leader suffered a minor accident. Salisbury’s Nick Austin-Neil moved into second, and Whiting’s Logan Denis was third.

East Montpelier’s Will Hull won the 25-lap McGee Automotive Family Sprint Cars of New England feature. Hull was the only Vermont driver in the field.

Whitehall, N.Y.’s Adam Mahoney won one of the biggest Mini Stock features of the year, a 20-lap race with 35 entrants. He dueled East Middlebury’s Chris Sumner for much of the race before taking the lead for good on the 15th lap, leaving Sumner to settle for second. Brandon’s Mark Mahoney was fifth, Orwell’s Ron Alger was ninth, and Cornwall’s Brian Blake took 10th.

The 500cc Mini Sprints also went 20 laps, and Quinn Quenneville broke a recent bout of bad luck to win after starting 10th and making his way to the checkered flag.

The points race in the series switched leaders again when Orwell’s Ray Hanson finished second and Bridport’s Gage Provencher was third, allowing Hanson to leapfrog Provencher into first place. Brandon’s Kevin Smith was sixth in the race.

Devil’s Bowl will offer two nights of racing this weekend, on Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 6 p.m.



MARLIN U-12 SWIMMER Camry Miner competes in the butterfly leg of a medley relay race at the CVSL championship meet this past weekend in Winooski.

Photo courtesy of Josh Romond

CVSL

(Continued from Page 1B)

Hutchins, V; 7. Abigail Hamilton, M; 8. Annika Smits, V.

- U-14 boys 50: 7. Daniel Power, M.
- U-18 girls 50: 3. Acadia Clark, V; 7. Madelyn Giroux, V; 9. Adrienne Smits, V.
- U-18 boys 50: 3. Noah Smits, V; 8. Calder Rakowski, V; 9. Cohen Howell, V.
- U-18 girls 100: 2. Ella Bearor, V; 3. Acadia Clark, V.

BACKSTROKE

- U-8 girls 25: 3. Margaret Smits, V; 7. Ellie Butler, M.
- U-8 boys 25: 1. Cooper Butler, M, 22.26; 3. Evan Angier, V; 4. Lincoln Hunt, M; 6. Bennett Blacklock, V; 11. Ezra Norwood, V.
- U-10 girls 25: 5. Mabelle Fidalgo, V; 7 Vela Remaniak, M.
- U-10 boys 25: 1. Brantley Cooke, V, 20.40; 6. Jaxon Phelps, V; 8. Porter Mackey, M.
- U-10 girls 50: 12. Vivian Romond, V.
- U-12 boys 50: 8. Enli Parrillo, V; 12. Beowulf Yarbrough, V.
- U-14 girls 50: 1. Ellie Brooks, V, 33.15; 2. Abigail Hamilton, V; 4. Fiona Mackey, M; 11. Lila Hescocock, M.
- U-14 boys 50: 2. Rowan Neffinger, V; 4. Daniel Power, M.
- U-18 boys 50: 3. Calder Rakowski, V.
- U-18 girls 100: 4. Ellie Brooks, V; 7. Ella Romond, V.
- U-18 boys 100: 1. Will Clark, V, 58.25; 7. Weston Wright, M.

BREASTSTROKE

- U-8 girls 25: 2. Rose Phinney, M.
- U-8 boys 25: 2. Evan Angier, V; 3. Cooper Butler, M.
- U-10 girls 25: 1. Scarlett Giroux, V, 19.90; 2. Cassandra Bellmann, M; 6. Lydia Bearor, V; 8. Anya Zelonis, V; 8 Mikhan Ouimette, V.
- U-10 boys 25: 1. Felix Poduschnick, M, 19.38; 6. Martin Gee, V, 11. Patrick Martin, M.
- U-12 girls 50: 3. Cecilia Neffinger, V; 6. Bianca Spafford, M; 7. Gretchen Hill, V; 10. Reese Matton, V.
- U-12 boys 50: 1. Henry Cadoret, M, 40.81; 11. Enli Parrillo, V.
- U-14 girls 50: 3. Selma Citarella, M; 4. Sophia James, V; 6. Mitzi Poduschnick, M; 7. Jordan Hutchins, V; 11. Lauren Hill, V.
- U-14 boys 50: 4. Rowan Neffinger, V.
- U-18 girls 50: 5. Ellie Eckels, V.
- U-18 boys 50: 2. Noah Smits, V; 6. Cohen Howell, V; 8. Alex Henley, V.
- U-18 girls 100: 4. Sadie Chance, M; 6. Selma Citarella, M; 8. Sophia James, V; 9. Ellie Eckels, V; 10. Jordan Hutchins, V.
- U-18 boys 100: 2. Noah Smits, V; 3. Connor McNamara, M; 11. George Martin, V; 12. Skyler James, V.

FREESTYLE

- U-8 girls 25: 1. Savannah Wallace, V, 15.76; 7. Rose Phinney, V; 10 Margaret Smits, V.
- U-8 boys 25: 1. Riker Cooley, V, 16.54; 3. Rhett Cooke, V; 5. Coper Butler, M; 8. Evan Angier, V; 9. Lincoln Hunt, M.
- U-10 girls 25: 5. Lydia Bearor, V; 6. Mabelle Fidalgo, V; 11. Vela Remaniak, M.
- U-12 boys 25: 1. Felix Poduschnick, M, 14.21; 2. Brantley Cooke, V.
- U-8 girls 50: 1. Savannah Wallace, V, 34.06; 8. Margaret Smits, V.
- U-8 boys 50: 1. Rhett Cooke, V, 39.85; 4. Lincoln Hunt, M; 7. Bennett Blacklock, V; 8. Declan Husk, V; 11. Elijah Neffinger, V.
- U-10 girls 50: 4. Lydia Bearor, V; 9. Cassandra Bellmann, M.
- U-10 boys 50: 1. Porter Mackey, M, 34.79; 9. Martin Gee, V.
- U-12 girls 50: 7. Reese Matton, V; 9. Nicola Power, M.
- U-12 boys 50: 1. Connor Husk, V, 28.16; 2. Henry Cadoret, M; 9. Enli Parrillo, V; 12. George Martin, M.
- U-14 girls 50: 2. Ella Bearor, V; 3. Sadie Chance, M; 7. Abigail Hamilton, M; 8. Ellie Brooks, V; 9. Selma Citarella, M; 11. Sophia James, V.
- U-14 boys 50: 2. Jorgen Pirrung, M; 3. Rowan Neffinger, V; 9. Daniel Power, M.
- U-18 girls 50: 4. Adrienne Smits, V; 6. Acadia Clark, V; 9. Madelyn Giroux, V.
- U-18 boys 50: 2. Will Clark, V; 4. Cohen Howell, V.
- U-12 girls 100: 9. Bianca Spafford, M.
- U-12 boys 100: 4. George Martin, M.
- U-14 girls 100: 5. Fiona Mackey, M; 6. Casey Clark, V.
- U-18 girls 100: 2. Adrienne Smits, V; 9. Quinn Mackey, M.
- U-18 boys 100: 1. Connor McNamara, M, 52.47.
- U-12 boys 200: 1. Henry Cadoret, M, 2:34.15; 5. Tobin Howell, V.
- U-14 girls 200: 2. Fiona Mackey, M.
- U-14 boys 200: 2. Jorgen Pirrung, M.
- U-18 girls: 4. Quinn Mackey, M; 5. Louisa Orten, M.

- U-12 girls 200: 5. V (J. Angier, C. Neffinger, V. Romond, R. Matton); 6. M (C. Miner, B. Spafford, N. Power, W. Hunt).
- U-12 boys 200: 3. V (B. Yarbrough, E. Parrillo, C. Husk, K. Cooley).
- U-14 girls 200: 2. M (A. Hamilton, S. Citarella, S. Chance, M. Poduschnick); 3. V (E. Brooks, S. James, E. Bearor, J. Hutchins); 4. V (A. Smits, R. Roberts, C. Clark, L. Hill).
- U-14 boys 200: 2. M (D. Power, G. Martin, J. Pirrung, H. Cadoret); 3. V (R. Neffinger, S. James, T. Howell, E. Yarbrough).
- U-18 girls 200: 2. V (E. Romond, E. Eckels, A. Clark, A. Smits); 7. M (F. Mackey, Q. Mackey, L. Orten, L. Hescocock).
- U-18 boys 200: 1. V, 1:51.62 (W. Clark, A. Henley, N. Smits, C. Howell).

FREESTYLE RELAYS

- U-8 boys 100: 1. V, 1:18.32 (E. Angier, R. Cooley, R. Cooke, B. Blacklock).
- U-10 girls 100: 2. V (S. Giroux,



CHAMP U-12 SWIMMER Juliette Angier slices through the water in the backstroke at the CVSL championship meet this past weekend in Winooski.

Photo courtesy of Josh Romond

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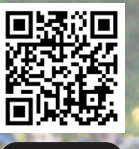
Beatty receives Fulbright MUHS grad also named to NESCAC All-Academic team

BRUNSWICK, Maine — Parker Beatty, a Middlebury Union High School alumnus, recently graduated from Bowdoin College, where he was a neuroscience major and a two-year captain of the Bowdoin track and field team. Beatty was named to the NESCAC All-Academic team and has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Taiwan in the coming year. Beatty also helped the Bowdoin team win a NESCAC Sportsmanship award, and this past winter broke the school record in the 60-meter hurdles with at time of 8.18. He was selected as an All-New England athlete for his efforts, and was



PARKER BEATTY

the Maine state champion in the event.



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Maiers

(Continued from Page 2B)

prevailed in the Vermont Junior Tour Match Play Championship hosted by the Kwiniasa Golf Course. In a VSWG State Day at Rutland Country Club on the same day, course member Nicole Laberge finished in a third-place net tie. In regular Thursday Men's League play on July 25, the team of Eric Bergland, Joe Thilbourg and Jim Dunn prevailed. The trio of Mike Battaglia, Richard Romagnoli and Uwe Luksch was the runner-up despite Battaglia shooting the day's lowest net score. Battaglia also won a closest-to-the-pin contest. Taking third was the threesome of John Davis. Tom Maxwell and David Zarowin. Davis also won a closest-to-the-pin contest In Friday Evening Mixer play the next day, the winning team was Cindy Dodds, Claudine and Ed Bruley, and Karen Holbrook. Finishing second was the foursome of Deb and Jim Hadeka and Joe and Sarah Cotroneo, and the duo of Charlene and Jim Bryant was third.

ADDISON COUNTY School News

Silas Conlon of Cornwall and **Abby Johnson** of Starksboro have been named to the dean's list at Tufts University in Medford, Mass. for the spring 2024 semester. Dean's list honors require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Siena Dowgiewicz of Cornwall and **Parker Kayhart** of North Ferrisburgh have been named to the dean's list for the spring 2024 semester at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn.

Aiden Cole of Weybridge was named to the dean's list for the spring 2024 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Cole is enrolled in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts.

Man called police more than 300 times

ADDISON COUNTY — Police have been getting a lot of phone calls from Cormick M. Cantwell, 41, of Middlebury, and they say it was too many.

On July 23, Vermont State Police, assisted by the Middlebury Police Department, cited Cantwell for disturbing the peace by use of a telephone. State police allege that from May 13 through July 23 Cantwell called and harassed both state and local police dispatchers. During this period, Cantwell called and harassed the dispatch centers a total of 334 times, police said.

In a separate case, state police reported two recent encounters with Andrew R. Malzac, 31, of Middlebury. First, on July 15 at around a quarter after 11 p.m., state police attempted to stop a car after an observed motor vehicle violation on Washington Street Extension near the intersection with Colonial Drive in Middlebury. The vehicle failed to stop despite the emergency lights and siren, increasing its speed and continuing northeast on Washington Street Extension. Troopers did not pursue the vehicle.

Police were able to identify Malzac as the driver.

Then, on July 18 at 12:50 a.m. state police stopped a car on Weybridge Road in Middlebury and identified the driver as Malzac. Troopers detected indicators of impairment, took Malzac into custody and cited him for driving under the influence and for violating court ordered conditions of release.

Because he resisted, troopers also cited Malzac for resisting arrest.

Going back to the July 15 incident, police cited Malzac for eluding police.

Troopers were assisted by members of the Middlebury Police Department.

Meanwhile, state police in the second half of July responded to two separate traffic crashes that sent people to the hospital.

In the first, on July 18 at a little before 5 p.m., troopers went to the site of a crash on Route 22A near Cross Road in Bridport.

Police report that 18-year-old Subash Tamang of Bridport was driving a 2017 Chrysler 300 sedan northbound on the state highway

when the car crossed the centerline and attempted to pass multiple vehicles in the northbound lane. The Chrysler left the road on the southbound shoulder, struck a tree and crashed onto the southbound shoulder of Route 22A. All five occupants of the car were transported to the University of Vermont Medical Center for treatment of their injuries.

The car was a total loss. Traffic tickets are pending.

Troopers were assisted by members of the Bridport Fire Department, Middlebury Regional EMS, and CDR Towing.

The second bad crash came on July 23 on Route 17 in Starksboro. Police said that at a little after 4 p.m. that Tuesday, Jordan Pike, 26, of Bristol was driving a CFMOTO 450NK motorcycle eastbound on Route 17 when she rounded a corner and struck a guardrail. Pike was thrown from the bike and suffered critical injuries. She was airlifted to UVM Medical Center for life threatening injuries.

In other recent activity, troopers:

- On July 15 announced that they had cited Abdullah Darcin, 32, of Ferrisburgh with driving negligently and speeding. State police report that on June 18 at a little after 11:30 p.m. troopers got a call about a one-car crash on Basin Harbor Road in Ferrisburgh. Police alleged that Darcin had been driving his motor vehicle at 70 mph in a 40 mph zone, and subsequently crashed the vehicle.

- On July 16 at around 12:30 a.m. saw a motor vehicle violation on Court Street near Rogers Road in Middlebury and stopped the car. Police cited Ryan P. Prim, 25, of Bristol for violating court ordered conditions of release, driving with a criminally suspended license and driving without a motor vehicle without an ignition interlock device.

- On July 17 at approximately 4:12 p.m. responded to a reported citizen dispute at a home on Ripton Road in Lincoln. Police said that Calvin C. Joos, 28, of Burlington came to the home of 64-year-old Timothy M. Brokaw and physically assaulted him after Brokaw told Joos to leave the property. Troopers cited Joos for aggravated assault and unlawful trespass.

Vt. State Police Log

- On July 19 at a little after 1 p.m. responded to a report of a single-vehicle crash on Cross Road near Route 30 in Cornwall. Police said that Richard Quesnel, 39 of Salisbury was mowing the edges of the road on a farm tractor when the tractor struck a utility pole, causing the wires to fall. Police cited Quesnel for driving with a criminally suspended license and without a required an ignition interlock device.

Troopers were assisted on scene by members of the Addison County Sheriff's Department, Middlebury Regional EMS and Cornwall Fire Department.

- On July 19 at a quarter to 8 p.m. went to Ten Acre Campground in Addison on a report of an intoxicated man who was trespassing. Police arrested Donald F. McDaid, 65, of Palm Coast, Fla., and cited him for unlawful trespassing and driving under the influence. When McDaid resisted troopers and used obscene language, they also cited him for resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.

- On July 21 shortly after 10 a.m. got a report of a vandalism at the intersection of Route 53 and Route 7 in Salisbury. It was discovered someone had painted a swastika and a racial slur on the roadway using black spray paint. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the New Haven state police barracks at 802- 388-4919 or leave an anonymous tip online at vsp.vermont.gov/tipsubmit.

- On July 27 at 9:40 p.m. stopped a motor vehicle on Basin Harbor Road in Ferrisburgh. They cited Ivan Tighe, 44, of Burlington for driving under the influence.

- On July 29 at 10 p.m. logged a report of a possible family fight in the Maple Street area of New Haven. While at the address, police said they found that Danielle Hemmingway, 49, of New Haven had furnished alcohol to several people under the age of 21. Police cited Hemmingway for furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Legion

(Continued from Page 1B)
one run) and reliever Tucker Morter (four innings, two hits, three walks, one earned run, one strikeout) nearly matched them.

AC played good defense, with just one error, but failed to take full advantage of Montpelier's four errors and left three runners on third base with fewer than two outs.

"We didn't hit the ball well tonight. It was one of those nights where the baseball gods weren't on our side in the hitting department," Paquette said. "The defense was good, the pitching kept us in the game, and the bats went cold."

Montpelier took the lead in the top of the first. Leadoff hitter Tanner Arsenault reached on an infield hit, and Trevor Arsenault laced a double into the left-center gap to score him. AC catcher Carter Paquette threw out Trevor Arsenault trying to steal third to

help limit the damage, and it was 1-0.

In the bottom of the inning AC center fielder Alex Sperry singled with one out, stole second and reached third on a passed ball. But he was caught trying to steal home, and the threat went by the boards.

AC threatened off Fecteau again in the second. Eyon Tembreull led off with a walk, and Ryan Brouillard reached on an error to put two runners on with none out. Tembreull advanced to third with one out on a fly ball, but the runners were stranded when Fecteau induced a pop-up and a groundout.

After quiet third and fourth innings that included Morter taking over for Kimball, AC threatened

again in the fourth. Tembreull led off and reached second base on an error. With one out Tucker Wright walked, and he and Tembreull worked a double steal to put runners on second and third.

Aiden Fuller then struck out on a pitch in the dirt that bounced away from the catcher, but took off for first with the dropped third strike. He was out

at first while Tembreull headed for home on the throw, but he was caught in a rundown for the third out.

Montpelier then struck in the fifth, scoring twice when Morter issued two walks and allowed a single to the 7-8-9 batters to the order. One run scored on a Tanner Arsenault sacrifice fly to left on which Fuller made a terrific running catch, and another came home on an infield error on a ball hit by Trevor Arsenault. But Morter bore down to retire the Nos. 3 and 4 hitters in the order, and AC faced only a 3-0 deficit with still three at-bats left.

After Fecteau hit Xavier DeBlois with a pitch to lead off the AC fifth, Concessi retired the next three hitters on a strikeout and two more pop-ups — AC hit nine gentle fly balls or popups for outs during the game.

AC finally broke through in the sixth. Paquette led off with a line single up the middle. Tembreull followed with a grounder to short, forcing Paquette, but he reached second on a throwing error on the relay to first base. With two outs Tucker Wright — another outfielder who made a fine running catch — lined an RBI single to plate Tembreull.

AC had one last baserunner in the seventh when Concessi walked Morter with one out to bring up the top of the order, but a popup and a grounder to third ended the local nine's successful season.



AC CENTER FIELDER Alex Sperry does all he can to elude the tag of the Montpelier catcher, but is out in his attempt to steal home during the Thursday, July 25, American Legion baseball game at MUHS.

Independent photo/Steve James

ADDISON COUNTY

School Briefs

Three local students, **Maggie Conklin**, **Harper Sinclair** and **Finlay Stover**, all of Middlebury, have been named to the spring 2024 dean's list at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa.

Conklin, a sophomore, is the daughter Mary Conklin of Middlebury, and James Conklin of West Point, Va., and graduated from MUHS. Sinclair, a senior majoring in neuroscience and also a MUHS graduate, is the daughter of Neil and Alyssa Sinclair. Stover, a sophomore, is the daughter of James Stover of Middlebury, and

Piper Stover of Orford, N.H., and graduated from Vermont Commons School.

With a GPA of 4.0, **Natalie Adams** of Monkton Has been named to the president's list at Bryant University for both fall and spring semesters this year.

VTSU announces spring 2024 honors recipients

RANDOLPH — Vermont State University has released it's honors lists for the spring 2024 semester and a number of local students have been named to the list. With GPAs of 4.0, the following students were named to the president's list for the spring 2024 semester:

Addison: Ian Devries.
Brandon: Cade Landesman.
Bristol: Abigail Gendreau and Bre Rockwell.
East Middlebury: Reilly Knipes.
Ferrisburgh: Samantha Hallock and Luke Bergmans.
Leicester: Ryleigh
Lincoln: Dom DeNapoli and Emma Jackman.
Orwell: Declan Anderson
Salisbury: Mahaila Gosselin and Alexa Whelan.
Starksboro: Jack Eickenberg and Adam Palmer.

Vergennes: Mo Simonds and Taylor Stearns.

Whiting: Grant Thurston.
The following students were named to the dean's list, maintaining 3.5 or greater semester average.

Addison: Michael Davis and Jeffrey Perez Pedraza.
Brandon: Keith Carrara, Raluca Cristea, Morgan Currier, Emily Doty, Emma Falquero, Kylee Forrest, Klara Hopkins, Jayden Ihinger, Cole Letourneau, Alex Polli and Casey Sue Thompson.
Bristol: Leyla Dickason, Madison Gile, Emily Mason, Sherman LaRose and Kelsey McCormick.
Bridport: Michael Plouffe.
Salisbury: Bridget Audet .
East Middlebury: Reese Fitzgerald.
Ferrisburgh: Felicia Poirier.

Leicester: Jordyn Bessette.
Lincoln: Josh Fosgate and Elizabeth Nault.

Middlebury: Tyler Buxton, Courtney Countryman, Rosa Kehoe, Rosie Nop, Marshall Sanchez and Oak Slavin
New Haven: Keleigh Boise, Justin Bolduc, Colin Butterly, Jordan Charland, Grayson Lyons and Caleb Russell.

North Ferrisburgh: Sam Cowan.

Orwell: Carson Babbie, Allison Lanthier and Dylan McKee.

Ripton: Alek McElhaney Tapley

Salisbury: Jillian Nop

Vergennes: Jamie Bergeron, Kyleigh DuBois, Payden Garthaffner, Hannah Lawrence, Noah Letendre, Audrey Tembreull and Owen Whitney.

Whiting: Shayla Phillips and Zack Quesnel.

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Vt. cliffs now open to hikers

VERMONT — Hikers and rock climbers can return to Vermont cliffs now that peregrine falcon nesting season has ended. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, in collaboration with Audubon Vermont, has confirmed that all the young falcons have learned to fly and should not be disturbed by human presence on the cliffs.

“The young peregrines have fledged, and nesting data suggest many of Vermont’s falcons had another successful year,” said Vermont Fish and Wildlife’s nongame bird biologist Jillian Kilborn. “The falcon’s nesting success is due to a combination of factors, including good weather early in the nesting season and cooperation from hikers and rock climbers who observe a respectful

distance from nesting falcons during this critical period.”

According to Audubon biologist Margaret Fowle, who coordinates the monitoring effort on behalf of the Fish and Wildlife Department, biologists and volunteers monitored peregrine pairs that occupied at least 45 Vermont cliffs in early spring and summer.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife and Audubon Vermont partner to monitor and protect peregrine nesting sites in Vermont. Peregrine falcons were removed from the state’s Threatened and Endangered Species List in 2005. Ongoing cooperation from recreationists and continued monitoring efforts by Vermont Fish and Wildlife and Audubon Vermont will help ensure the peregrine’s recovery in future years.



aug1

THURSDAY

Stuffed animal adventure and sleepover in Orwell. Thursday, Aug. 1, 4 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Bring in your stuffy for a party and stuffy only sleepover. Pick up your stuffy on Friday and hear all about the silliness.

aug3

SATURDAY

Town-wide yard sale in Brandon. Saturday, Aug. 3, begins at 9 a.m., locations around town. With dozens of yard sales registered on the official listing and scores more set up around town, Brandon will be a busy place. Pick up a listing sheet and follow the sales. Enjoy the views and find the bargains that others are missing. Rain or shine.

American Red Cross blood donation in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Critical call for blood and platelet donors: Help save lives now with the Red Cross. \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email for coming to give in August. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Morgan Horse Farm Vermont Day in Weybridge. Saturday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 74 Battell Dr. See demonstrations of the Morgan’s versatility as a performance horse. Petting opportunities at lunch, educational activities in the main barn in the afternoon. Bring lawn chairs and picnic on the spacious grounds while enjoying the beautiful Morgan horses at this national historic site. Free. Rain or shine.

Used book sale in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., town offices plaza. Friends of Ilsley Public Library are well-stocked and have lots of fiction and non-fiction books to choose from. Rain location, Community Room, Ilsley Public Library.

Bake and lawn sale in Lincoln. Saturday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lincoln General Store, River Rd. The children from the WWJD Summer Bible Camp of the United Church of Lincoln have organized this sale to benefit the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes and an orphanage in Haiti that the church helps sponsor. Stop by and help support the kids in their efforts with this special outreach project.

Miniature golf in Starksboro. Saturday, Aug. 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Starksboro Public Library, Route 116. Nine-Hole mini golf will be set up in the parking lot at the Starksboro Library. Join in to welcome The Portable Mini Golf Company. All ages welcome.

Puppet show in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, Aug. 3, 1 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. LCMM is calling lake lovers of all ages to come to an interactive, light-hearted, and educational puppet show showcasing content from the humorous science-themed graphic novel, “Our Scrumptious Lake PHYTOTASTIC!” by Vermont authors Sandy Murphy and Karen Nesson. Free. More info at info@lcmmm.org or 802-475-2022.

aug4

SUNDAY

Breakfast fundraiser in Middlebury. Sunday, Aug. 4, 8-10 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Menu includes pancakes, sausage gravy/biscuits, bacon, hash, sausage, hash browns, eggs to order, scrambled eggs, toast, coffee and orange juice. Adults \$12/ children \$6. Open to the public. All proceeds benefit Veterans’ Programs.

Summer salad cook-off in Orwell. Sunday, Aug. 4, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Farmer’s Haven, 318 Route 22A. Who doesn’t love a good summer salad. Three categories to enter or taste — pasta salad, potato salad and veggie salad. Free to enter salads, make all three types or just one. Make around 10 pounds. Winners get cash prizes. Competition runs during the farmers market. \$5 to taste. More info contact makayla.davis96@gmail.com or 802-349-3038.

Hike into History in Orwell. Monday, Aug. 4, 1-4 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. On this guided tour, walk in the footsteps of Revolutionary War soldiers. Mount Independence Coalition President Stephen Zeoli is your guide. He will tell you about some events leading up to the Revolution, as you look at traces reflecting the importance of Mount Independence in 1776 and 1777. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. Cost included with museum admission.

City Band in Vergennes. Monday, Aug. 4 7-8 p.m., City Green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

aug6

TUESDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Tuesday, Aug. 6, Field Days Rd. The county’s annual fair kicks off its 2024 run. Fun and entertainment for all.

aug7

WEDNESDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Wednesday, Aug. 7, Field Days Rd.

Hop farm tour in Starksboro. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Hops, 5459 Route 116. As part of Open Farm Week, come see, smell and learn all about hops. Enjoy a guided tour of the largest hop farm in New England. Hops grow vertically up strings to the top of a massive 18-foot trellis. Walking through the yard is like entering a different world, surrounded by walls of living plants. An overview of the farm’s history, the hop industry, the fundamentals and challenges of hop growing, CVH’s unique Vermont growing practices, variety selection, followed by a visit to the processing barn.

Town Band on the Green in Bristol. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit back and enjoy this 150-year tradition.

The History of the Keewaydin Environmental Education Center in Salisbury. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 7 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Join Tim Tadlock, director of the Keewaydin Environmental Education Center (KEEC), to learn more about the history of Keewaydin, KEEC and the unique experience



Tour it for free

THE JOHN STRONG Mansion and Museum will offer a free tour day Saturday, Aug. 10, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. As a bonus, historian Jonah Spivak talk about the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bennington.

Photo by Rossana Ramani

aug8

THURSDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Thursday, Aug. 8, Field Days Rd.

Storytime with Angela Kunkel in Bristol. Thursday, Aug. 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Join Vermont author Angela Kunkel for a very special storytime where she’ll read from her new picture book, “World More Beautiful: The Life and Art of Barbara Cooney.” Copies will of Angela’s book will be available for purchase at LML for you to get signed by the author.

aug9

FRIDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Friday, Aug. 9, Field Days Rd.

aug10

SATURDAY

Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven. Saturday, Aug. 10, Field Days Rd. Closing night fireworks.

Monthly wildlife walk in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 10, 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 Trust 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.

Garlic braiding workshop and tour in Monkton. Saturday, Aug. 10, 10 a.m.-noon, at Last Resort Farm, 2246 Tyler Bridge Rd. This popular braiding workshop will be held on a Saturday to make it accessible to more garlic lovers. The workshop will include a tour of our hoophouses and fields. Part of Open Farm Week. Cost \$35, includes instruction and material for a 16 bulb braid. Register online at lastresortfarm.com.

Story Time with Claire Nivola and Thacher Hurd in Monkton. Saturday, Aug. 10, 10 a.m.-noon, Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. Spend the morning with these two local picture book authors and illustrators. Pack your bathing suits and towels as there will be water play on the patio after the story time.

“Squirrel in a Tree: A Maple’s Busy Morning Adventure” in Salisbury. Saturday, Aug. 10, 11 a.m., Salisbury Free Public Library, 918 Maple St. Join us in welcoming children’s authors and musicians Linda Bassick and Greg Rothwell for a special Children’s Storyhour. They’ll share music from their album and we will meet the new book’s authors and illustrator.

John Strong Mansion and Museum free tour day in Addison. Saturday, Aug. 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., DAR John Strong Mansion, 6656 Route 17. Come see this local treasure and listen to historian Jonah Spivak talk about the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bennington.

“Lost Nation” on screen in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. An encore showing of 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 kccpresents.org.

aug11

SUNDAY

Food and Farm Fest in Orwell. Sunday, Aug. 11, 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.

Pie and Ice Cream Social in Ferrisburgh. Sunday, Aug. 11, 1-4 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. We love pie! Join Rokeby to celebrate summer and community with this annual event. Free.

Foodaroo 9 in Middlebury. Sunday, Aug. 11, 4-8 p.m., Marble Works. Foodaroo unites the state’s most talented culinary artisans and beverage

aug12

MONDAY

American Red Cross blood donation in Brandon. Monday, Aug. 12, noon-5 p.m., American Legion, 550 Franklin St. Critical call for blood and platelet donors: Help save lives now with the Red Cross. \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email for coming to give in August. Book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

City Band in Vergennes. Monday, Aug. 12, 7-8 p.m., City Green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

aug14

WEDNESDAY

Salisbury village, tavern and mills history in Salisbury. Wednesday, Aug. 14, 7 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Join Barry Whitney and the Salisbury Historical Society for a presentation about Colonel Thomas Sawyer of Massachusetts, Clarendon, Vt., and finally of Salisbury, who, while passing and repassing through the area noted the water privileges in what is now Salisbury Village. A mill wright by training, Sawyer built the first mills and tavern in Salisbury.

aug15

THURSDAY

First-time kindergarteners meet and greet in Starksboro. Thursday, Aug. 15, 10:30 a.m., Starksboro Public Library, Route 116. Meet other children (and their parents or guardians) who are off to kindergarten in the fall. Enjoy activities, make new friends, and share how you are feeling. Also runs Aug. 22. Make both dates or just one.

aug16

FRIDAY

Seeking Freedom Gallery Talk - “Addressing Difficult Conversations” in Ferrisburgh. Thursday, Aug. 15, 12:30-1 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Join Rokeby Museum’s Executive Director and Co-curator of Seeking Freedom Lindsay Varner for a tour of the exhibition and a discussion on how the curators approached presenting difficult histories and stories in it. Members free/ \$5 non-members or free with price of admission.

aug17

SATURDAY

Town-wide yard sale in Bridport. Saturday, Aug. 17, 9 a.m.-end of day, locations around town. Those interested in being on the map should call Charlene Barrett 758-2850 by Aug. 7.

Bennington Battle Day. Saturday, Aug. 16. Free admission to all Vermont State Historic Sites, including Mount Independence in Orwell, Chimney Point in Addison, and Hubbardton Battlefield in Hubbardton.

Pocock Rocks music festival and street fair in Bristol. Saturday, Aug. 17, 3-8 p.m., downtown. Live musical performances from six well-known and loved regional bands, and host over 30 vendors of microbrews, wine, hard ciders and spirits, to specialty foods, gifts and crafts. There will be activities for the kids, and, of course, Bristol’s own incredible restaurants and shops. Money raised from the Pocock Rocks Music Festival & Street Fair supports the community-building efforts of Bristol CORE.

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ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT



It’s not too late to get your entry ready for Field Days

ADDISON COUNTY — Have you been busy canning, gardening, knitting, or painting? It’s not too late to consider entering an exhibit at the Addison County Fair and Field Days, which begins next Tuesday, Aug. 6. The Home and Garden Departments welcome entries in Foods, Flowers, Garden Products, Handicrafts, and Art & Photography. We encourage all amateurs in those areas to share

your passions with the community. We also welcome commercial garden, flower, and nursery competitors. Local businesses and individuals generously sponsor prizes, and every entry gets a ribbon. More information can be found on the website at addisoncountyfielddays.com or by calling Megan Sutton at 802-545-2475. See you at the Fair.

Hike set at Mt. Independence on Aug. 4 with Stephen Zeoli

ORWELL — The Mount Independence State Historic Site is hosting a guided hike into history on Sunday, Aug. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m., with leader Stephen Zeoli, president of the Mount Independence Coalition, the site friends group, will share his wealth of knowledge about the Revolutionary War at Mount

Independence and what you can see on the grounds. Wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring water. It will be a great afternoon, combining a walk with compelling history. The hike is included in the price of site admission: \$8 for ages 15 and up, \$1 for children 6 – 14, and under 6 free. Call 802-948-2000 for more information.

Monkton

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

MONKTON — Would you like to learn how to create a wonderful flower arrangement? Come join in on the fun at the East Monkton Church on 405 Church Road on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 1 to 3 p.m. Karey Ann French of Silver Spring Farm on Silver Street will be there to demonstrate the basics of floral arrangements. You can either bring your own flowers and vase or get some flowers and container from Karey. The traditional vase isn’t required, as funky or silly things to put flowers in are welcome also. This intergenerational event is meant to be welcoming to all ages from children to great-grandparents. So come one, come all. Have fun and enjoy conversing with your neighbors. Donations to Karey Ann and to the East Monkton Church Association will be warmly welcomed. For questions call 802-453-7575.

Nivola and Thacher Hurd. These two local picture book authors and illustrators will be at the library from 10 a.m. to noon. Claire Nivola who lives in Newton, Mass., and spends summers in Vermont, is an author and artist of children’s picture books. Some of her books include “Life in the Ocean,” “Planting the Tree of Kenya” and “Star Child.” Thacher Hurd was born in Vermont but has lived in California most of his life and has written and illustrated over 25 children’s picture books. A special note: Pack your bathing suits and towels as there will be water play on the patio after the story time. Mark your calendars to register for an “End of Summer” party on Aug. 24 at the Silver Street Alpaca Farm! You will need to register plus fill out a waiver to participate as you will be around the alpacas to learn about and meet them. There will also be a story time. Email russellmemlibrary@gmail.com to register. Watch for more information as the date nears.

ADDISON COUNTY School News Briefs

Three local students, **Noah Engvall** of Bristol, **Mason Kaufmann** of Weybridge and **Emily Rooney** of Vergennes were named to the dean’s list at Clark University

in Worcester, Mass. Engvall and Kaufmann received second honors, while Ronney was named to first honors.

New disc golf course takes shape in Middlebury

By **ALYANA SANTILLANA**
MIDDLEBURY — Addison County has many facilities where people can participate or compete in a variety of individual or team sports. The most recent addition is the newly built Middlebury College Disc Golf Course, which officially opened to the public on July 1. A disc golfer with the online handle “shanevproctor” on the udisc.com website expressed his excitement after he saw the Middlebury course. “I love the shots and design. It was perfectly difficult from the blue pads and I hope they are able to add nine more holes here,” he wrote. Players in disc golf toss a disc from a tee toward a “hole,” which is an elevated mesh metal basket. Disc golfers track the number of throws it takes to sink the disc in the basket, as in golf comparing the result to the designated par number for the hole.



GOLFERS THROWING DISKS at the new course in Middlebury, located behind the Red Kelly Trail off Middlebury College’s traditional golf course, aim at baskets including this one.

Independent photos/John S. McCright

The Middlebury course features nine holes that run through the woods south and west of the Ralph Myhre Golf Course. Most of the holes are par 3, except for the par 4 fourth hole which is 508 feet from tee to basket (the shortest hole is 245 feet). Until recently, disc golfers who wanted to play on a regulation course had to travel to Pittsfield or Rutland, although it should be noted Vergennes last year added a course in Falls Park in its Otter Creek Basin area, and has long had a more open course at Vergennes Union High School. “Middlebury was in somewhat of a disc golf desert in Vermont,” said Angus Barstow, a professional disc golfer who lives in Middlebury. For many years, Middlebury College students expressed interest

in having a disc golf course on campus. Some proposals made it through the earlier planning stages of planning before faltering. However, Hans Kindstedt, a Middlebury student from Shelburne, along with Barstow and another local professional disc golfer, Bradley Schott, were determined to bring the project to fruition. Barstow found the location and created the design. In May 2023, Kindstedt and fellow Middlebury student Hayden Laster approached College President Laurie Patton with the proposal, and she backed it. Patton directed Kindstedt to the Middlebury Lands Committee,

which gave final approval for construction. Barstow, a Middlebury resident, was happy to finally find a home for a local course. “We reached out to a lot of organizations in the community who are in charge of new developments, and a lot of them were interested in the idea, but none of them really saw the value in having a disc golf course in town,” he said. “But administrators from the college saw ... a great opportunity for Midd to collaborate more with locals.” A Middlebury College alum financed the project with a \$15,000 donation. The donation funded baskets, decks, and other installations, and paid for the Ralph Myhre Golf Course maintenance crew to help build the course. Volunteers chipped in, too. “A lot of the work with the land, picking stuff up, taking care of

debris, was done by volunteers. We had a lot of them and it was a big help,” Kindstedt said. Course construction started in February. Schott oversaw much the labor and contributing over 300 volunteer hours himself. This included digging, clearing fairways and installing targets. **FILLING A NEED** Backers believe the new facility will have a positive impact on the state’s disc golf community, as it will fill an existing gap in Vermont. Many of the sport’s top facilities are in Vermont, but none were within a 40-minute drive of Middlebury. The new course will allow more local athletes to practice more easily. And they said it paves the way for younger and older players to be introduced to the sport. Despite requiring a modest level of physical fitness, it is a lifelong sport for all ages. “One of the best things about disc golf is the accessibility. Really anyone can try it out, and we hope that people do. We hope to add more holes and to one day be able to host tournaments there,” Schott said. There is no need to make reservations, nor are there formal tee times. Any group or individual with a disc or Frisbee is welcome to play on the course. Discs can be purchased at the Middlebury College bookstore for those who don’t have them. The course is next to the Ralph Myhre Golf Course. To get there, one must use the Trail around Middlebury, or TAM, that borders holes 10 and 11 — the trail is called Red Kelly. The course is right behind the Hadley House and Barn. There is no entry fee. “It’s really awesome, and I’m so proud of how it turned out. I can’t believe we were able to open a course before I graduated. I’m from Shelburne, so I’ll be back in the area sometime soon and I’ll definitely be playing there often,” Kindstedt said.



CONSTRUCTION OF THE new course in Middlebury relied very heavily on volunteer efforts to build facilities, including this platform (left) at the beginning of one hole, and this marker for the start of the second hole (right). The recently opened disc golf course offers free entry for all.



The 2024 Addy Indy Garden Game

The Garden Game is heating up with four fantastic new entries this week!

First up, **Donna Bezanson** dazzled us with two stunning submissions. Her 16” long, 10” circumference cucumber and 12.5” x 11” red pepper both claim the top spot in their respective categories.

Gary Miller returned with one of his specialties: a plump red tomato. Measuring 12” in circumference, Gary’s tomato is the first of the season and sets a high bar for future contenders.

Wrapping up the week, **Linda Miller** showcased a green bean that stood out at a respectable 7.75” in length, earning its place as a star entry.

We can’t wait to see what our local green thumbs have for us next week!

Play the Garden Game!

Do you have veggies to share in our pages? We welcome entries from any of the listed categories. Bring your entry into our office between 9am and 4pm Monday-Friday and we’ll measure it and snap a photo. Each week we’ll publish new entries and update our frontrunners for each category in the contest. At the end of the season, each category winner* will be eligible to receive a gift certificate from our Garden Game sponsor, Middlebury Agway.

*Please note: Each individual is eligible to win one gift certificate, even if they win multiple categories.

CATEGORIES & FRONT-RUNNERS:

- Asparagus (length x circumference)
- Beet (circumference)
- Broccoli (diameter)
- Cabbage (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 28”
- Cantaloupe (circumference)
- Carrot (length x circumference) - Gary Miller, 20” x 1.5”
- Cauliflower (diameter)
- Corn (length x circumference)
- Cucumber (length x circumference) - Donna Bezanson, 16” x 10”
- Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Carol Krawczyk, 11” x 17”
- Eggplant (circumference x circumference)
- Fennel (length x circumference)
- Green Bean (length) - Linda Miller, 7.75”
- Kohlrabi (circumference)
- Leek (length x circumference)
- Melon (circumference)
- Onion (circumference)
- Parsnip (circumference)
- Pepper (circumference x circumference) - Donna Bezanson, 12.5” x 11”
- Potato (length x circumference)
- Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
- Radish (circumference)
- Rhubarb (length)
- Rutabaga (circumference)
- Summer Squash (length x circumference)
- Sunflower (diameter)
- Tomato (circumference) - Gary Miller, 12”
- Turnip (circumference)
- Winter Squash (length x circumference)
- Zucchini (length x circumference)

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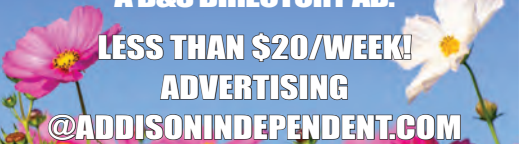
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CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalananalateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

Public Meetings

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennesfreethinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Public Meetings

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

VERMONT SUPPORT LINE Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT - TALKS.

Services

CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

Services

MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

ODD JOBS: WEED flower beds, some landscaping, property clean up, brush cutting, lawn work. Call us today, we do other jobs too. 802-999-2194, John.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted


AMERICAN FLAT-BREAD MIDDLEBURY Hearth is seeking a part time Bartender to work both independently and alongside our talented Head Bartender. We are looking for a mature, energetic individual who enjoys the excitement of a busy restaurant, loves wholesome food & creative beverages, a warm fire and

Help Wanted

interesting conversation. Must be available nights and weekends, have a positive attitude, and enthusiasm for learning new things. Prior bartending experience is preferred. We are an inclusive environment and encourage applicants from all legally working age groups, races, and gender identities. Stop in for an application or send resume to joe@american-flatbread.com.

Help Wanted



Help Wanted

TOWN OF GOSHEN TOWN TREASURER

The Town of Goshen is seeking an organized and motivated candidate for its **Town Treasurer**. The 10-15 hour per week position offers the flexibility to set their regular office house and work in a community of approximately 160 people located in Addison County, Vermont.

The **Town Treasurer** is responsible for keeping records of all the Town's funds, including receipt, investment, and disbursement of funds; keeping a record of taxes voted, billed, and collected; collecting other funds received by the Town; and paying orders drawn on Town accounts. The Treasurer manages payroll; works closely with auditors to annually reconcile Town accounts; adheres to internal controls; and provides support to the Listers, Town Clerk, Delinquent Tax Collector and Select Board in budgeting, capital budgeting, grants management, and reporting.

A detailed job description is available from the Goshen Select Board Chairperson. Salary commensurate with experience.

The position is advertised until filled.

To apply, please e-mail a cover letter, resume, and three references to selectboard@goshenvt.org with Goshen Town Treasurer in the subject line.

The Town of Goshen is an equal opportunity provider and employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, gender, or familial status.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

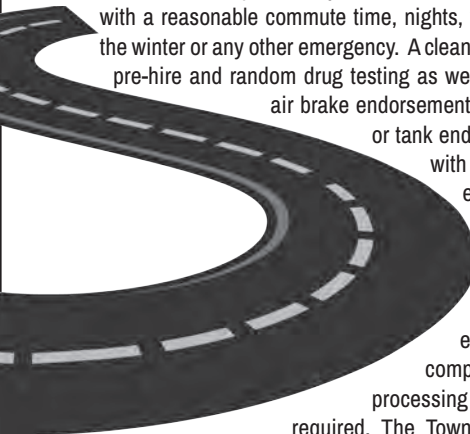
Help Wanted

Town of Cornwall Highway Personnel Position

The Town of Cornwall is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Highway Personnel position. This position reports to the Road Foreman and involves the performance of road maintenance operations year-round. This person must be available to work, with a reasonable commute time, nights, weekends, and holidays through the winter or any other emergency. A clean driving record, the ability to pass pre-hire and random drug testing as well as having a Class B CDL with air brake endorsement is required. A Class A CDL and/or tank endorsement are a plus. Experience with municipal snowplow trucks and equipment, road grader, loader, and other road maintenance equipment is preferred.

A High School diploma or equivalent as well as basic computer skills e.g., email, word processing and spreadsheets, are also required. The Town of Cornwall offers competitive wages and benefits which include health insurance and retirement.

Applications and job description are available at the Cornwall Town Clerk's Office or on the Cornwall website. Submit a cover letter and resume of past work history with the application to the Town Clerk by 4:00 pm, Friday, August 09, 2024.



Here at the Addy Indy, we're looking for a
Circulation / Front Desk Manager.

A successful candidate will be eager to grow our subscription base and newsstand sales, able to manage organizational tasks, and provide excellent customer service.

If you are a self-sufficient, independent worker, who will bring a smile to work Mon-Fri, ready to connect with our community and help manage digital and paper subscriptions, we want to meet you!

We welcome ALL creative ideas for how to best serve and engage our readership, so bring on the goofy faces and wild ideas for how to help our independent newspaper thrive!

Please send a cover letter, resumé and references to:

Elsie Parini elsie@addisonindependent.com

**ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT**
58 Maple Street • 802-388-4944
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities



Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is seeking classroom aides to assist in educational settings throughout Addison County. The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is a federally funded program that has successfully placed thousands of volunteers in educational settings nationwide. Individuals must be at least 55 and willing to work a minimum of 10 hours per week. Participants receive travel reimbursement, fifty paid vacation/sick days, and a tax-free hourly stipend if they are income eligible.

**If you are interested or would like more information, please contact
RSVP at 802-468-7056.**

**AmeriCorps
Seniors**



SWIFT HOUSE INN

MIDDLEBURY VT

EVENING MANAGER

Swift House Inn is Middlebury's premiere lodging and dining establishment. Reimagined as a boutique inn, Swift House and its fine dining restaurant Jessica's, aims to deliver Vermont style and service in a design forward environment.

THE ROLE

As Evening Manager, you'll have a crucial role welcoming arriving guests to the property. As first point of contact, you will set the tone for our guests' stay, providing concierge-type information about the Inn, Middlebury, and beyond. In addition, you will be a key liaison with our restaurant Jessica's at Swift House Inn, assisting in-house and local guests with reservations. You will ensure a smooth handover to the morning staff by following nightly closing processes for the Inn and the restaurant.

OTHER DUTIES INCLUDE

Assisting guests on the telephone to make reservations at the inn and the restaurant. Answering guest queries about the Inn and its amenities, anticipating and troubleshooting guest issues as they arise.

Taking pride in the appearance of the Inn's common areas ensuring all areas are appropriately staged.

Being the last staff member to leave at night, ensuring all buildings are secure for our guests' safety and handover to the overnight security team.

WHAT YOU BRING

A passion for hospitality and a desire to provide anticipatory guest service.

An out-going, well spoken, and polite personality.

A love for Vermont and a knowledge and enthusiasm for all it has to offer.

A desire to learn, grow and constantly improve the service offered to our guests

Hospitality experience is helpful, but not necessary as we will provide extensive on the job training.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

This is a full-time evening position with hours Wednesday to Sunday from 3:00 p.m. to close (usually around 10:30-11:00 p.m.). Dinner is provided the nights the restaurant is in operation. Paid time off, room sales bonuses, discretionary bonuses, employee discounts, and a clothing allowance are some of the perks.

Pay \$19-22 /hour with overtime and holiday pay at 1.5X.

APPLY WITH RESUME AND COVER NOTE TO OFFICE@SWIFTHOUSEINN.COM

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
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Address: _____

Phone: _____

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Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

RATES

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

• 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
• \$2 internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

- | | | |
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| ☐ Garage Sales | ☐ Wood Heat | ☐ Boats |
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| ☐ Adoption | | ☐ Vacation Rentals |

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The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for errors in ads, but will rerun classified ad in which the error occurred. No refunds will be possible. Advertiser will please notify us of any errors which may occur after first publication.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

PART-TIME SHARED LIVING Provider sought, 2 weeks on with 2 weeks off. Physically active, college educated, healthy eaters with an intellectual interest in Autism needed to share their home with a man in his late 30's. He enjoys climbing mountains and other physical fun, poetry and music. Ideal match is an Addison County resident

Help Wanted

with great communication skills who can provide consistent structure and routine. Tax free compensation of \$21,730 per year, a generous respite package and shared room and board of \$407 per month. Call Sharon Mallory at Community Associates 388-4021 to express an interest or ask questions.

Help Wanted

RESPITE CARE - BRANDON Seeking an individual who would be willing to provide respite support/ care in your own home.

Help Wanted

This is a per diem flexible position for an elderly lady. Flexible employer and excellent pay. For more information 802-398-5657 or respit2022@yahoo.com.

Help Wanted

COLBY HILL LANDSCAPE COMPANY

LANDSCAPERS WANTED

Colby Hill Landscape Company, located in Bristol, is hiring for the 2024 Landscape season. We are looking to hire people to work on Hardscapes (walkways and patios) as well as plantings and some garden maintenance.

We offer:
- A great work environment
- Paid Holidays
- Retirement plan
Experience helpful but we are willing to train.

Please contact Dave Brett at:
(802) 363-9958

Seeking a driver for Thursday paper delivery.

Must be available from 5:30am to 3:00pm on Thursdays.

Potential for additional hours as needed and on a flexible basis.

Competitive
wages/a great way
to make extra
money!

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Contact Harris Gerner
(802)388-4944 ext. 104 or
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Visit our website to apply.

The Residence at Otter Creek
350 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT 05753
www.residenceatottercreek.com

Help Wanted

SHARED LIVING PROVIDER sought for a 70-year-old gentleman with a mild intellectual disability, who likes to lead a simple life. He needs a first-floor bedroom, as he uses a walker to get around outside the home. Ideal location of the home is Brandon area. He is safe to be home alone for up to 4 hours at a time. He enjoys being home playing video games or watching his favorite shows, and eating out once a week. No children at home is preferred. Tax-free provider payment, respite budget and Room & Board. Contact Jennifer Murdoch at Community Associates/CSAC. (802) 388-4021

THE TOWN OF LINCOLN is seeking a qualified and motivated part-time assessor. The right candidate will respond to all public requests for Lister documents and property owner questions. They will also oversee the administrative functions of the Lincoln Assessor's Office, which include but are not limited to valuation of property, ownership changes, processing current use exemptions, tracking permitted changes, documenting all changes, and reconciling the Grand List. Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications and experience with NEMRC Grand List, VT-PIE, CAMA systems, and MYVTAX preferred. Email Tim McGowan, Selectboard Chair, at timcgowan@lincolnvrmont.org to apply.

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, dock, rowboat and canoe included. \$999. weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

Help Wanted

For Rent

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.



ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/ month. 802-558-6092.

DOWNTOWN BRANDON, 2 bedroom apartment. 1500 sq. ft., completely renovated apartment. \$2000/mo includes utilities (heat/electric). Gorgeous hardwood floors, original 10 ft tin ceilings and brick accent walls. Large bedrooms, each with ample closet space. Brand new washer/dryer. Dedicated parking spot. No pets/no smoking. Can come furnished. Call Mark at 908-391-6608 for tour.

Help Wanted

For Rent

GOSHEN: Housesitting opportunity, periodically shared with the home owners, in a scenic rural spot, 14 miles to Middlebury. \$650/month, plus light snow removal. Large space for gardening! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL/RETAIL. 1,250 sq.ft. Exchange Street, Middlebury. 802-388-4831.

MIDDLEBURY SUGARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www. SummitPMG.com.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

SALISBURY: Fully furnished one bedroom basement apartment. Electricity and heat included. No pets. \$1250 a month. Call 802-238-6497. Available September 1st.

For Rent

SUDBURY: Share a home with avid reader in her 60s who enjoys human services work, volunteering and classical music. \$650/month plus sharing companionship. Must be cat-friendly! Private bath. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO.

For Rent

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

For Rent

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. 462-2755, John Whitney.

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 9B and 10B.

Addison (1)	Orwell (2)
Addison County Courthouse (1)	Ripton (3)
Addison County Regional Planning Commission (1)	Slate Valley UUSD (1)
Airport Auto Self Storage (1)	Starksboro (1)
Goshen (1)	Vergennes (1)
Monkton (1)	Waltham (1)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF GOSHEN, VERMONT

Date of Issue: July 22, 2024 Closing Date: August 12, 2024, 6:30pm

The Town of Goshen, in Addison County, Vermont, is seeking the services of a qualified consultant to create a new Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Goshen (2020 population of 172). The plan will be submitted to FEMA for approval.

The selected consultant(s) shall 1) demonstrate the ability to identify various hazard mitigation strategies that will eliminate or greatly reduce the impact of hazards that may affect the municipality and 2) have experience related to mitigation planning work.

Submit sealed bids to the Town of Goshen, 50 Carlisle Hill Rd., Goshen, VT 05733 by 6:30pm on August 12th, 2024.

Full details can be found at <http://goshenvt.org>

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT ADDISON UNIT CIVIL DIVISION DOCKET NO: 23-CV-01298

GS MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES TRUST 2021-RPL1

PLAINTIFF

VS.

ANDREW H. MONTROLL, ESQ., ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF MADELINE R. ABAJIAN AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 289 TOWN LINE RD, N FERRISBURGH, VT 05473
DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Madeline Abajian, to Citifinancial, Inc., dated June 19, 2007, and recorded in Book 123, at Page 290, of the Town of Ferrisburgh Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by Assignment of Mortgage recorded in Book 177, Page 103, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at August 14, 2024 at 1:00 PM at 289 Town Line Rd, N. Ferrisburgh, VT 05473 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To Wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Charles Wright and Madeline Abajian by Warranty Deed of Charles Wright dated May 22, 1989, and recorded May 23, 1989, in Book 71, at Page 3 of the Town of Ferrisburgh Land Records and further described therein.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

The public sale may be adjourned one or more times for a total time not exceeding 30 days, without further court order, and without publication or service of a new notice of sale, by announcement of the new sale date to those present at each adjournment or by posting notice of the adjournment in a conspicuous place at the location of the sale.

Terms of Sale: \$10,000.00 to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time of sale, with the balance due at closing. The sale is subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

The Mortgagor is entitled to redeem the premises at any time prior to the sale by paying the full amount due under the mortgage, including the costs and expenses of the sale.

Other terms to be announced at sale.

GS Mortgage-Backed Securities Trust 2021-RPL1
Caryn L. Connolly, Esq.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
23 Messenger Street, 2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com

Help Wanted

AGWAY

Positions offer generous, twice a year
bonuses as well as an employee
discount on all products!

Warehouse Worker

Loading and assisting with customer orders from the yard, warehouse and store; Stocking shelves and Filling propane tanks. Skills/Qualifications: Ability to lift 50 lbs repeatedly throughout the day. Ability to demonstrate strong organizational skills. Valid Driver's License.

Weekends and dependability a MUST! Forklift & Skid steer experience a plus. Preferable age 18+.

Cashier - Customer Service

Immediate Openings available. Must be able to work until 6pm. Weekdays and Weekends a MUST. Up to 40 hours per week.

Wage commensurate with experience.

Please send resumes to info@middleburyagway.com or fill out an application at **Middlebury Agway**, 338 Exchange Street, Middlebury VT.

Please no phone calls.

Middlebury Agway 338 Exchange St. - Middlebury, VT.

Experienced Carpenters Wanted!

Are you an experienced carpenter in the Addison County area and looking for a new opportunity to showcase your skills?

Join Our Team!

Our leading construction company is seeking talented carpenters to join our dynamic team.

With a reputation for excellence and a commitment to quality, we offer a rewarding work environment where your expertise will be valued.

We offer competitive pay and a comprehensive benefits package.

Please send resume and brief cover letter outlining your experience to admin@smithmclain.com.

Come
build
with us!



In print or online,
find your dream job
with help from
the Addy Indy.

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

TOWN OF ADDISON, VERMONT

WARNING AND NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Addison, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at Addison Community Center (f.k.a. Addison Central School) in said Town on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, with polls open from 7a.m. to 7p.m. to vote by Australian ballot on the following Article 1 and on the following nonbinding advisory Articles 2 and 3:

ARTICLE 1: SHALL THE VOTE TAKEN ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022, AUTHORIZING A BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO MILLION, SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, NINETEEN DOLLARS AND SIX CENTS (\$2,068,019.06) BE RESCINDED AND REVOKED?

ARTICLE 2: (Nonbinding advisory article) SHALL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWN OF ADDISON IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000 BE ISSUED TO FINANCE THE COST OF MAKING IMPROVEMENTS AND MOVING THE TOWN OFFICES TO THE FORMER ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL, INSTEAD OF RENOVATING THE TOWN HALL FOR USE FOR TOWN OFFICES?

ARTICLE 3: (Nonbinding advisory article) SHALL THE VOTERS AUTHORIZE THE SELECTBOARD TO USE THE EXISTING TOWN HALL FUND TO MAKE LIMITED REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE TOWN HALL TO ENSURE THE STRUCTURE IS PRESERVED FOR FUTURE USES?

THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ADDISON, VERMONT ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED AND WARNED TO MEET AT A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING ON THE ABOVE ARTICLES ON TUESDAY AUGUST 20 AT ADDISON COMMUNITY CENTER AT 7p.m."

Jeff Kauffman Sr., Selectboard Chair
Roger Waterman, Selectboard Vice-Chair
Steve Torrey, Selectboard Member
Rob Hunt, Selectboard Member
Peter Briggs, Selectboard Member

PUBLIC NOTICE

POLICY WARNING

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District Board will conduct a public hearing at their meeting on August 19, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. and take action on the following policy:

C9 WELLNESS POLICY

Copies of the policy are available on the district website at [slatevalleyunified.org](#)

Brooke Olsen-Farrell
Superintendent of Schools

AUCTIONS

MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY

COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 7/25/24 & 7/29/24

		COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Blue Spruce	1370	1.63	\$2233.10
Gosliga	1770	1.50	\$2655.00
M. Eastman	1510	1.55	\$2340.50
B. Danyow	1235	1.425	\$1759.88
J. Fifield	1700	1.40	\$2380.00
Ethan Allen	1570	1.40	\$2198.00

		COST	
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
H. Degraff	87	10.00	\$870.00
Barnes Bros.	82	10.00	\$820.00
Nolan	79	10.00	\$790.00
M. Churchill	90	6.40	\$576.00 (H)
Defreest	94	6.00	\$564.00 (H)
Monument	90	5.60	\$504.00 (H)

Total Beef - 136 Total Calves - 307
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

AIRPORT AUTO SELF

STORAGE

44 SCHOOL HOUSE HILL RD
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753
Kristal D'Avignon
50 Ossie Rd., Middlebury, VT 05753
Unit #1, furniture and toys
Sale Date: Saturday, August 17, 2024

FULL PASSPORT

SERVICE

The Addison County Clerk located in the **Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury** is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS
Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm
Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday - **Closed**
Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm
Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED
For appointment, go to [www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com](#) or call 802-388-1966.

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT

PROBATE DIVISION

ADDISON UNIT

DOCKET NO.: 23-PR-00670

IN RE ESTATE OF:

MARGARET HARTLEY

MACFADDEN

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Margaret Hartley MacFadden, late of Cornwall, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.

Dated: 07/22/24

Rose Torrey
1559 Birch Hill Rd.
Brandon, VT 05733
802-247-1425
[rosetorrey@gmail.com](#)

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 7/25/24
Address of Probate Court:
7 Mahady Court
Middlebury, VT 05753

Public Notices

can be found in this

ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 9B and 10B.

TOWN OF ORWELL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Orwell is soliciting proposals from a qualified consultant to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This work is funded by a Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant through FEMA. Scope of work including approval from FEMA is required to be complete by November 21, 2026. For a complete RFP, interested parties please contact the Orwell Town Office at 802-948-2032 or by emailing [selectboard@townoforwellvt.org](#). RFP submission deadline is August 19, 2024, at 4PM.

TOWN OF WALTHAM

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR SUBDIVISION PERMIT

Application: #24-202 Sketch Plan Review for a Two (2) - Lot subdivision submitted by Herman & Greta Buzeman, 1248 Maple Street, Parcel #04/20/01.01, Agricultural District (A-10)

The Development Review Board will hold a Public Hearing on this application on August 19, 2024 at the Waltham Town Hall, 2053 Maple Street. The meeting opens at 5:30PM, and the hearing is scheduled on the docket at 6:15PM.

A copy of the application is available at Waltham Town Offices during regular business hours of 9am to 3pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE

ORWELL PLANNING COMMISSION

PURPOSE: TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE REVISIONS OF THE TOWN PLAN
DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024, AT 7:00PM
LOCATION: ORWELL TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, 436 MAIN ST., ORWELL, VT 05760
BY ZOOM [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88129886127](#) ID #88129886127
PHONE: +1-646-558-8656 ID #88129886127

PURSUANT to 24 VSA §4384, the Orwell Planning Commission is charged with preparing or amending the town plan for the municipality. Accordingly, the Planning Commission must hold at least one public hearing within the municipality after issuing public notice.

This PUBLIC NOTICE is to notify any interested person that the Orwell Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to receive public comment, consider revisions and approvals, and schedule submission to the Orwell Select Board. If adopted, the draft Town Plan would replace the current town plan, which is presently expired.

Under provisions of 24 §VSA 4384, a copy of the drafted town plan is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office and may be viewed on the Town of Orwell website at [https://www.townoforwellvt.org](#).

DATED in Orwell, Vermont this 17th day of July 2024.
Joseph Andriano, Chair
Orwell Planning Commission

CITY OF VERGENNES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on August 19, 2024, 7pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Review for Applications #2024-20 and #2024-21 by Sienna Apartments LLC to merge the existing lots and construct a Multi-Family Dwelling and Accessory Structure at the property located at 0 Armory Lane and 25 Armory Lane. Reviews will consider Article VII, Article VIII, Article X and Section 1605.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by ZOOM, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.

Join by computer: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85906470948](#), meeting password: 689859.

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; Meeting ID: 842-5290-1890; Meeting Passcode: 689859.

For participants joining by phone: To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9. To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6 If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

You must participate in the public hearing either in person or in writing, in order to take any subsequent appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" appeal municipality with regard to appeals to Environmental Court from Development Review Board decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider testimony or information provided during public hearings on the application. Interested parties should therefore assure that their participation in the public hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their desired considerations.

A copy of the application is available for public review by contacting David Austin at [zoning@vergennes.org](#).
July 29, 2024
David Austin,
Zoning Administrator

TOWN OF MONKTON

CANCELLATION OF TAX SALE

In connection with the Town of Monkton, Vermont tax sale scheduled to take place at the Monkton Town Clerk's office on the 29th day of August, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon, as previously advertised in the Addison Independent, notice is hereby given that said tax sale has been CANCELLED and will be rescheduled for a later date.

Dated at Monkton, Vermont this 23rd day of July, 2024.

William C. Joos, Town of Monkton
Delinquent Tax Collector

TOWN OF RIPTON

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Community House on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 7:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing and review and site plan review of application (#24-15) from Philip & Carol Beaudoin for approval of their plans to pave their driveway of their property located at 1446 Vt. Rte. 125 (Tax Map ID# 10-01-24).

Remote access to the hearing may be had by contacting the Town Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

The application is available for inspection at the Town Office. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard at the hearing may do so in person, or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearing.

N.B.: Participation in the hearing is necessary to establish status as an 'interested person' and the right to appeal decisions rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 §§4465(b) and 4471(a). Participation consists of offering, through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,
Levi Doria, Co-Chair

TOWN OF RIPTON

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Community House on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 8:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing and review and site plan review of application (#24-16) from Middlebury College for approval of their plans to remove a dam and install water-intake facility on their property located off Steam Mill Road (Tax Map ID# 11-01-10).

Remote access to the hearing may be had by contacting the Town Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

The application is available for inspection at the Town Office. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard at the hearing may do so in person, or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearing.

N.B.: Participation in the hearing is necessary to establish status as an 'interested person' and the right to appeal decisions rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 §§4465(b) and 4471(a). Participation consists of offering, through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,
Levi Doria, Co-Chair

TOWN OF RIPTON

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Community House on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 7:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing and review and site plan review of application (#24-09) from Robert & Heidi Recupero for approval of their plans to erect a storage shed in the front set-back of their property located at 620 Goshen Road (Tax Map ID# 10-01-62).

Remote access to the hearing may be had by contacting the Town Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

The application is available for inspection at the Town Office. Interested parties who wish to appeal or to be heard at the hearing may do so in person, or may be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications relating to the application may be filed in writing with the Board either before or during the hearing.

N.B.: Participation in the hearing is necessary to establish status as an 'interested person' and the right to appeal decisions rendered in that hearing, according to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. 117 §§4465(b) and 4471(a). Participation consists of offering, through oral or written testimony, evidence or a statement of concern directly related to the subject of the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,
Levi Doria, Co-Chair

TOWN OF STARKSBORO

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

NOTICE OF HEARING

The Starksboro Development Review Board (DRB) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, August 22, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. to review the following application:

- Application #24-501 is requested by Kevin P. and Sandra E. Kelley for an amendment of previously approved subdivision #2012DRB-02SD on original parcel F4171E (Book 99, pg 174) resulting in parcel F4171W.4 (former Lot 5). As proposed, this amendment requires site plan review and approval by the Town. The hearing review will be conducted pursuant to Sec 424 of the Starksboro Land Use and Development Regulations. Parcel F4171W.4 is a 7.3-acre parcel with frontage on Meadow Brook Dr. in the Agricultural, Scenic, and Rural Residential (ASRR) district. Application #24-501 is available for review at the Town Office.

Zoom Meeting ID: 878 8416 6793
+ 1 929 436 2866 US
Meeting ID: 878 8416 6793
Passcode: 44885153

Interested persons may attend or send a representative. Pursuant to 24 VSA § 446 (a)(1)(C) and 4471 (a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Nancy Boss, Zoning Administrator
Date: July 25, 2024

MEETING OF THE ADDISON COUNTY

REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14 AUGUST 2024 AT 12PM

A meeting of the Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) will be held on 14 August at 12pm (in person at the ACRPC office 14 Seminary St with Zoom option). Details can be found at: [https://acrpc.org/acrpc-remc/](#)

Meetings are held quarterly, with future meetings scheduled for the:

- Second Wednesday of November
- Second Wednesday of May
- Second Wednesday of February
- Second Wednesday of August

The REMC conducts All-Hazards preparedness planning and coordinates with Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the statewide Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

The REMC is made up of **Local Emergency Management Directors and Emergency Services Representatives** from each municipality in the region. Representatives from fire departments, emergency medical services, law enforcement, media, transportation, hospitals, the department of health district office, organizations serving vulnerable populations, and any other interested public or private individual or organization, are welcome to attend and participate!

For more information, contact ACRPC Emergency Management Planner Andrew L'Roe at [alroe@acrpc.org](#) or 802-388-3141 x3.

EQUIP AUCTIONS

AUGUST 14 & 15

HUNDREDS ITEMS SELL NO RESERVE!

BID NOW!

AUG 14

LR9402

'19 Kubota M7-171 Premium MFWD

LOCATED IN NEW HAVEN

NEW HAVEN

AUG 15

NN9476

'19 Peterbilt 579

semi truck

AUG 14

EI3963

'22 John Deere 560M

round baler

AUG 15

NQ9676

'21 Peterbilt 389

semi truck

purple

wave

AUCTION

INVENTORY INCLUDES: tractors, semi trucks, roll-off containers trucks, round balers, combines, sprayers, no-till planter, equipment trailers, corn heads, draper head, grain bagger, grain bag unloader, batwing rotary mowers, and more. All items are sold "AS IS." 10% buyers premium applies. 866.608.9283

purplewave.com

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison

August 1, 2024



Eva Garcelon-Hart, the Stewart-Swift Research Center Archivist and curator of the current fashion exhibit at the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury, stands with two exquisitely dressed mannequins. These ladies will welcome visitors on Saturday, Aug. 10, for a Vintage Fashion Festival.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

WHAT WILL YOU FIND IN 'GRANDMA'S TRUNK?'

It's time to dig out those vintage pieces of attire stuffed in the attic trunk, or snapped tight in a hatbox at the back of your closet. It's OK if they're dusty and wrinkly; now is their time to shine!

The Henry Sheldon Museum is hosting a special Vintage Fashion Festival on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Fashion historians, accessory makers and mending artists will be available to answer your questions, plus hairstylist Ray Lingle will give a demonstration of vintage hairstyling and talk about how to use modern tools to achieve it. Guests of all ages are welcome to join the museum's summer interns for fun and whimsical hat making. Go zany with lots of bells and whistles or make a simple hat that does the job — the choice is yours. Then cool off with some delicious sheep's milk gelato served in the garden by Bridport's Fairy Tale Farm. Admission to the museum is free during the event.

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

The Vintage Fashion Festival is part of the Sheldon Museum's exhibit "From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic Middlebury," which will be on view until Jan. 4, 2025. In fact, the Sheldon opened the first iteration of this exhibit back in the fall of 2023. At first, the exhibit focused on the archives and featured local advertisements, newspapers, fashion magazines, photographs, trade cards, catalogs and all manner of documentation about historic Middlebury fashion in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Surprised by the exhibits popularity, curator and archives specialist Eva Garcelon-Hart has added to exhibit this year to "make it more fun!"

"We added hats, combs, three dresses," she said walking through the exhibit in the back room. "Now it's a little more complete. I want to show what women in this small town wore, and how they were able to put together these fashionable outfits at a time when many were making their

own clothes by hand. Can you imagine?!"

Garcelon-Hart walked clockwise around the room describing the items (some in cases, some not) in chronological order.

"Women were subscribing to these fashion magazines and clearly gaining knowledge," Garcelon-Hart marveled. "It is so amazing how in sync the women were with the fashion of their time."

At next Saturday's event, visitors will have the opportunity to gain their own knowledge of any vintage pieces they bring with them from the incredible experts who will be on hand.

CLOTHING, HATS & SHOES

Costume designers Summer Jack and Aaron P. Mastin will share their knowledge of historic fashion. Jack, a faculty at the Middlebury College Theater Department,

SEE TRUNK ON PAGE 3

THE MONTH IN POETRY



Susan Jeffs is a poet, editor, and writing mentor from the southern Adirondacks. Her poetry book, "Breathing Lessons," was published fall of 2023 by Shanti Arts Publishers of Maine and can be found on the publisher's site, the usual online outlets, and in regional bookstores. Her poems have been published in many anthologies and journals throughout the country. She is currently taking new clients for editing their manuscripts and individual works, and offers workshops using poetry to explore our connections to the vital wisdom of the natural world. Her website is SusanJeffs.com

There's a suddenness to the way this poem opens. All at once we are right there, with the speaker and the rush of words, emotion and sensuous imagery. Peony buds and blooms unfastened.

The poem is rife with unfolding images and feeling, ones both said and not said. So much appears to be coming alive, to be blossoming — summer, a new encounter, maybe love. And so much remains uncertain which is the poem's draw and its tension, conveyed in part by the image of a door with no descriptors and by a blank card like "a white sheet hanging in a rainstorm." But it is clear that a new world has opened up through an experience that isn't quite named, but that leaves the speaker changed.

And afterward, no words have come but the feeling of them is there and isn't that more important? That feeling arrives in the gloriously sensuous line "this summer wind against my skin," but not just any summer wind; a summer wind with the feel of hundred words. Something has definitely happened here.

In the poem's final lines we're left with yet more ambiguity and uncertainty. A door with no handles (or hands!) but also no locks — a place with more questions than answers. And so we're propelled back into the poem, back into the peony buds and the rain and the summer wind to see what else we might find. A fine place, I'd say, to spend a summer day.

ON THE INSIDE OF SUMMER

LOVE POEM #7

*The peony buds swelled for days
as the ants unfastened the blooms
now a shower has left them
lying open in the grass.*

*If I buy you a card
with a picture of a door
will you understand?*

*I am trying to think of a hundred words
for this summer wind against my skin.*

*So far, the card is blank inside.
A white sheet hanging in a rainstorm.*

*The door with no lock
no handles. No hands.*

— By Alison Prine

Alison Prine's latest collection of poems, "LOSS AND ITS ANTONYM" (Headmistress Press, 2024) won the 2023 Sappho's Prize in Poetry and came out in March. Her debut poetry collection, "STEEL" (Cider Press Review, 2016), was named a finalist for the 2017 Vermont Book Award. Her poems have appeared in Ploughshares, The Virginia Quarterly Review, Five Points, Harvard Review, Prairie Schooner, and others. She lives and works in Burlington, Vt. Visit her at alisonprine.com.



Basin Harbor

PIZZA BY THE POOL

Hattie's Pies is Basin Harbor's home for pizza. From tried-and-true classics to some of our chef's more inspired creations, Hattie's has you covered.

Open from 12pm – 7pm

Call to order, pick up at Basin Harbor's Ranger Room: 802-475-7868





TAVERN ON THE TEE

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.

RALPH MYHRE GOLF COURSE
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 11 A.M. TO 7 P.M.
317 GOLF COURSE ROAD, MIDDLEBURY, VT

TRUNK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

designed costumes for over 150 operas, plays, musicals, TV series and motion pictures. Mastin has worked on major Hollywood movies as a costumer for background actors, including on the films "John Adams," "12 Years a Slave," "The Underground Railroad" and "Manhunt." He is currently on the staff of the Washington Heritage Museums in Fredericksburg, Va.

HISTORIC "HAIRDOS"

Ray Lingle will give a demonstration of vintage hairstyling and talk about how to use modern tools to achieve it. Lingle has been a hairstylist for 25 years, and enjoys many hand crafts like quilting and knitting. He is currently a senior stylist at "Parlour" in Middlebury.

VISIBLE MENDING & SUSTAINABILITY

Sarah Ashe will share her skills on how to creatively mend your clothes and make them unique and lovable. Sarah, a local artist, creates stitched fabric collages. She applies this approach to bring new life to her family wardrobe.

CROCHETING & KNITTING

Mimi Wlodarczyk, an avid knitter, crocheter and fiber arts enthusiast, will explore traditional knitting techniques and patterns. Mimi has always enjoyed experimenting with creative fiber arts projects such as embroidery, weaving, fabric stamping and Shibori dye techniques.

VERD MONT BUTTON CLUB

Members of the Verd Mont Button Club will share examples of their fabulous collections of vintage and antique buttons, button materials, and the history of buttons. The Verd Mont Button Club is a statewide organization of button enthusiasts including collectors, craft people and artists. You might see them at Field Days next week.

Yes, this exhibit/event/extravaganza has it all! If you've been waiting for a time to come and explore the Sheldon this is it... What are you waiting for? Come and dive into "Grandma's Trunk" — who knows what you'll discover!

DID YOU KNOW?

On **Thursday, Aug. 8**, from noon-1 p.m., costume designer Summer Jack and exhibit curator Eva Garcelon-Hart will present an **informal tour of the "From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic Middlebury" exhibit**. They will discuss how local women dressed in the 19th century, how they learned about fashionable trends, and reveal the intricacies of fashionable dress wearing and making.

The **"Hooked on Rugs"** silent auction featuring over 30 handmade hooked rugs by the late Suzanne Douglas is still open for bids. **The silent auction will close Aug. 31**. For more info visit henrysheldonmuseum.org or 802-388-2117.

**10TH
ANNIVERSARY
MNFF****WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY
AUGUST 21-25
PASSES & OPENING NIGHT
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!****EXPERIENCE &
CONNECT WITH
MNFF HONOREE****OLIVER
STONE****THU 8/22 7:15PM
WILSON HALL
PLATOON****FRI 8/23 7:15PM
TWILIGHT HALL
THE UNTOLD HISTORY
OF THE UNITED
STATES: CHAPTER 2
ROOSEVELT, TRUMAN
AND WALLACE****SAT 8/24 4PM
MIDDLEBURY INN
PATIO****COFFEE WITH OLIVER
STONE HOSTED BY
MNFF ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR JAY CRAVEN****SAT 8/24 7:15PM
TOWN HALL
THEATER
WALL STREET****FULL FESTIVAL SCHEDULE ONLINE AUG 1!****middfilmfest.org**

MIDDFILMFEST



PRESENTING SPONSOR



MiniBury

A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ADDY INDY

A RELIABLE RESOURCE FOR PARENTS SEEKING FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, CAMPS AND CLASSES IN AND AROUND MIDDLEBURY

Team Pie

Cake is fine, but I love pie: The buttery crust. The jammy filling. The custard!! The non-negotiable addition of vanilla ice cream. The joy of a whipped cream dollop.

When I was about 10, I won first place in a pie-eating contest at a harvest festival. With my hands tied behind my back, I dove in face first and devoured an entire (kid-size) apple pie.

When my husband and I got married, we opted out of wedding cake, serving strawberry-rhubarb pie with ice cream instead. But pumpkin pie was my first love. Pumpkin pie is the one true meaning of Thanksgiving. Every year I'm thankful for... this perfect piece of pumpkin pie.

So I was delighted to find an email in my inbox earlier this week inviting me to be a judge in this year's King Arthur Baking pie contest at Middlebury's Foodaroo on Aug. 11.

Would I like to sit with a panel of judges and eat all the pies and talk in great detail about their characteristics?

Do you even need to ask? I told the organizer it would be my great honor and pleasure.

I'm hoping to taste as many pies as possible at this event, so please, register to compete (middunderground.org/baking-contest-registration). There are two separate contests, one for kids and one for adults. Get the whole family in on it. Wow me with your creations!



Bring your kids to the Sheldon

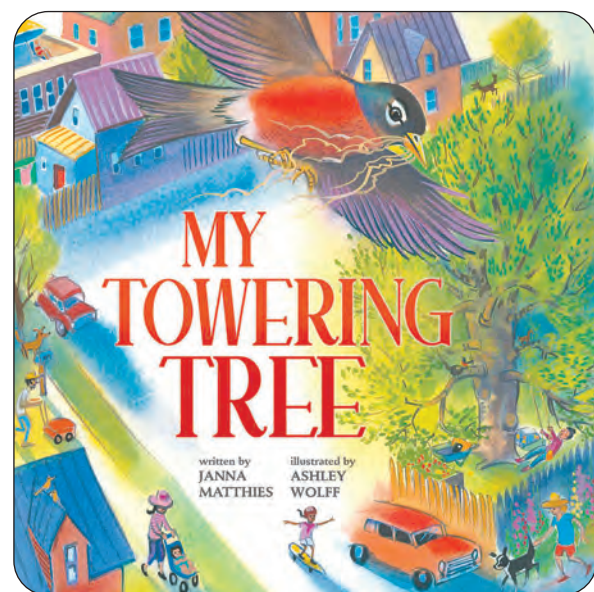
When Coco Moseley took the helm at Middlebury's Sheldon Museum last year, she knew she wanted to create more opportunities to bring kids and families into the space. To that end, the museum has hosted free hands-on family activities under the tent in the garden on Saturdays this summer. On Aug. 10, the Sheldon will open a brand new kids' makerspace for all ages to play, create and tinker any day the museum is open.

Come in and try your hand at painting a 3-D animal pet, woodworking and pixel art. Kids 18 and under get in free; adults pay regular admission to the museum. Learn more at henrysheldonmuseum.org/makerspace.

While you're at it, don't miss a very fun event, also on Aug. 10, called "Grandma's Trunk." It's a vintage fashion festival featuring Victorian clothing and accessories, historic hairdo demos, costumes to try on, hats to make — and gelato to eat!

Meet Ashley Wolff and her new book!

If your kids love the "Miss Bindergarten" and "Baby Bear" books by local children's illustrator Ashley Wolff, they'll probably enjoy her new book, "My Towering Tree." Want to meet her and get a book signed? Head to the Ilsley Public Library in Middlebury on Aug. 6, at 6 p.m. for a book release event.



See more online

MiniBury.com

THINGS TO DO • MEET PARENTS & FRIENDS
NEWS FOR FAMILIES • TIPS, TRICKS & TRENDS • CALENDAR

ART ON EXHIBIT

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.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury

For more info visit townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery or call 802-382-9222.

"It's All Relatives: Local Artists with Family Ties" featuring work by Mary and Fred Lower, Judy Albright, Cristine Kossow, Jennifer Steele Cole, and Elinor Steele Friml. On view July 8-Aug. 31.

K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St, Vergennes

For more info follow @kgrantfineart on Instagram.

"Soft Openings" celebrates the lush, transient beauty of Vermont summers through the diverse perspectives of five Vermont-based woman artists: Arista Alanis, Megan Bogonovich, Cameron Davis, Pamela Fraser and Wylie Garcia. On view Aug. 3-Sept. 28, with an opening reception on Aug. 3 from 6-9 p.m.

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.

"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

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Your feelings this week may not be entirely trustworthy, Aries. You could end up worrying for nothing, and being pulled into difficult situations for the wrong reasons.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, if you are feeling a little lost these days, it could be that you need a change in perspective and location to help you get inspired. Plan a short trip to recharge.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. You cannot serve as mediator or help friends establish harmony if you are all over the emotional map, Gemini. Work your way through your emotions before offering to help.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, you may be so caught up in a specific vision for the future that you are not open to new ideas that are equally beneficial and possible. Be more receptive to what others offer.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, once you give a certain plan a little more thought you may determine it isn't worth your time right now. Perhaps you've been building this idea up in your head.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, you are eager to share your ideas and vision with others, but right now the audience isn't as receptive as you would have hoped. Do not give up; people will come around.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, you have a way of doing things, and right now you're not ready to deviate from that routine. With time you may be able to branch out and try a new approach.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. People are receptive to your words and you often speak with assertiveness Scorpio. Do not let this go to your head, though. Aspire to be humble while exhibiting confidence.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, this is one of those weeks when you can get into trouble if you let your emotions be the driving force behind your actions. Make an effort to balance emotion and reason.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. This is your week to really shine, Capricorn. Let others know what you're made of, but be sure you do not do something at another person's expense just to get ahead.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, if you do not like the course you are on, you have the ability to change things whenever you want. Nothing is set in stone at this point, so start dreaming up new ideas.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, there are so many ways you can be creative and express yourself. This is a week of true inspiration and exploration. Nothing is off-limits if you desire it.

Join us for the last few days of The Great Northern Yarn Haul!

Ends August 4th

Wed-Thurs 11am-5pm
Fri 11-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm
Sun 12-4pm
Closed Mon-Tues

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUG. 2 — Isabel Allende, writer (82)
AUG. 3 — P. D. James, writer (d)
AUG. 4 — Greta Gerwig, filmmaker (41)

AUG. 5 — Anthony Edwards, basketball player (23)
AUG. 6 — Michelle Yeoh, (62)
AUG. 7 — Ralph Bunche, political scientist (d)
AUG. 8 — Roger Federer, tennis player (43)



Amongst our friends and relatives, Florida makes a troubling impression. Home to disputed elections, toxic politics, unaffordable home insurance, and filled with Spring Break partiers and other dangerous, non-native species, we are frequently asked why we have visited so many times since we became campers in 2013, and why we keep returning. It is a valid question, and I feel obligated to enumerate the salient characteristics that have led us back here to winter, convinced that we haven't yet touched the bottom of this balmy educational opportunity.

BY **JUDITH & STEVE HARRIS**

The first and most obvious reason is the amount of her land that is public. Surprisingly, Florida has the 14th largest amount of public land (29%) in the United States, right behind New York with its huge Adirondack Park. Our home state of Vermont is much more representative of its northeastern peers at 25th with 15.8% held in public trust, which includes a huge swath of National Forest straddling the

ridgeline of the Green Mountains. A second surprise is the ease of escaping the crowds. Florida's average population count per square mile of 406 people is the 8th most densely occupied state, but a quick glimpse of density maps shows that 90% of the residents live on 10% of its land. This is like the way most humans utilize their brain capacity, 10% overcrowded, 90% light on activity. Thirdly, Florida's crown jewel of coastline is 1,350 miles long, longer than any other state's exposure to salt water except Alaska, and half of that (663 miles) is beach. While everything below the high-tide line is public, access to much of the sand is controlled through private communities, many of them gated. Fortunately, 100 of those beach miles are State Parks, empty of development and open to everybody. Additionally, there is the sheer number of those State Parks, no two of which are the same. There are more than 50 of them in Florida, and as a system they are distinguished as the first four-time Gold Medal winner by the National Recreation and Parks Association. This is music

to the ears of travelers looking for reliable and helpful receptions to public amenities. Florida also has a wide diversity of natural landscapes to offer to the curious, much of it graced with walking trails that are frequently handicapped accessible. If you are fond of water for its calming beauty and recreational opportunities, Florida has an embarrassment of riches to offer. Twenty percent of her almost 66,000 square miles is water, mostly fresh, in 7,700 lakes, rivers and springs of 10 acres or more. There are also 4,500 islands of the same size. All of these geographical features make for a rich expectation of discovery, as well as intensive property development, drawing home buyers like moths to a porch light. The land under your feet in Florida itself is a tourist of sorts, having originally drifted across the ocean from Africa, probably without a visa, and attaching itself to America's southeast corner where she became either ocean bottom or flatland savannah through multiple ice ages. It is that geographical history that accounts for her huge aquifer pulsing through hundreds of feet water-soluble limestone.

The point for us is that there are beautiful and unique things to experience here, both natural and man-made, and many are available to appreciate without a crowd. Some of these things require a sense of adventure to uncover as they can be off the beaten path. But when you find a spot that meets your enjoyment profile, it creates an indelible memory.

WAKULLA SPRINGS

We enjoyed a fine example yesterday. Wakulla Springs is the largest, deepest spring in the world. It is the centerpiece of a 6,000-acre State Park in the Panhandle about 45 miles south of Tallahassee.

In 1934, Edward Ball, a homegrown tycoon, bought the real estate and developed it as "an attraction" focused on "the preservation of wildlife and the surrounding habitat." He must have developed a sense of obligation to the natural world as his wealth was based on extracting its resources. Mr. Ball and his Dupont brother-in-law established the Saint Joe Paper Company (90 miles west of the Springs) that harvested 98% of Florida's long-leaf coastal pine flats for their cardboard business and replanted them with the faster growing slash pine, planted in rows and resembling unending telephone pole farms.

For his guest house/lodge project, he brought in the best craftsmen he could find, settled on a style called Mediterranean Revival, and told his designers and builders to use only locally available materials whenever possible. He then went on about his business; stuffing Florida's coastal landscapes into the "wet" end of his paper mills and distributing the paper



The Lodge's interior in Mediterranean Revival style.

by rail (most of which he built and owned) to his other box factories (which he also built and owned) and to the printing presses of the state's newspapers (most of which he...well...you get the picture...)

The Lodge opened in 1935, after Ed fenced the whole place "to keep out the riffraff." Yup, he said that, right in the middle of the Great Depression. He also paid for a 45-mile extension of telephone service and built a menu on hearty home-style American cooking, all of which is still featured in the dining room.

In the spirit of a remote wilderness lodge for the wealthy and influential, it was furnished and operated to serve members of Mister Ball's social class until his heirs transferred it State ownership in 1993. It is currently run by a concessionaire, and they are serious about keeping it authentic and spotlessly maintained. Staying there is affordable; rates are no more than today's daily rate for a good suburban chain motel and there are vacancies next month!

As design and construction professionals throughout our active careers, both Judi and I were struck by the durable good taste invested in the place. The architecture consists of mostly hard surfaces all around; stucco and clay roofing tiles on the exterior, tiled floors and plaster walls on the interior. The large windows are the originals, and all the original plumbing, faucets and flooring have been carefully restored or replaced in kind. They strive to keep it looking like the day it opened almost 90 years ago.

The ornately painted, coffered ceilings in the public areas of dining room, lobby and viewing porch are the equal to any ceiling I have ever seen in America. There are rooms in the world that will stay locked in your memory once you have walked through them. These spaces will linger in your mind. The bright light reflected off the surface of the spring is easy to enjoy when experienced from the cool and soft darkness of the interior. I noticed everybody speaking very softly here, the atmosphere is appropriately reverential. Clearly thought-through and unfettered by budget, this kind of work product only comes to truly elite designers and craftspeople once or twice in a career, if they are lucky.

The very helpful desk clerk responded to our curiosities about the accommodations with a room key and advice about how to handle the period elevator, and how not to book the rooms adjacent to the noisy shaft. The spirit of spare but sturdy materials of the interior design are authentic down to the slightest detail, including reproductions of the original furnishings, linens, curtains and carpet.

The Springs are a gob-smacking wonder. Manatees, alligators, turtles and fish abound, like a sprawling, unfenced private zoo. But here, the exhibits are free to come and go as they wish.



The Spring water in winter with a tour boat in the distance.

The deepest portion of the most prolific water column is 350 feet straight down. Cave diving here is world-famous. The Lodge conducts hour-long pontoon boat tours with biologist guides 365 days per year, weather permitting. The Wakulla River enters the property as a trickle and departs as a full-grown river.

The Lodge's sunporch overlooks a "protected" swimming area and tour boat dock complete with a concrete double-decker diving/jumping and observation deck. We remarked to each other that aquatic wildlife can't read, and wouldn't be hampered by either signs, or the polyethylene rope suspended by floats. Floridians seem accustomed to sharing water with dangerous creatures.

The super-wealthy of the American elites have left many deep and indelible footprints since the days of the 100-member Jekyll Island Club in South Carolina (early 20th century) to the mansion retreats on Cumberland Island (now in ruins and maintained as a wild and isolated forever place) down through Florida. Many of them have been preserved, passed along to various state ownerships and are now available for us, "the riffraff," to taste a previously inaccessible "amuse la bouche." Our ticket for a day of hiking, wonder and admiration was \$6. It is days like this one that make us believe there is much more to Florida than what most visitors come here expecting to find.

— sbh

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.

CALENDAR

AUG. 1-11
2024



THURSDAY, AUG. 1

MARC & BILLY AND PIZZA BY THE POND IN GOSHEN. Thursday, Aug. 1, 5 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Marc Shapiro and Billy Corbett (formerly Etna Old Time) are a new-old-time duo rooted in the hills of Vermont and New Hampshire. Marc and Billy forage from a collection of newer tunes and traditional tunes and stew them in a broth of bluegrass and folk. 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.

FRIDAY, AUG. 2

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN HUNTINGTON CENTER. Friday, Aug. 2, Huntington Community Forest. Exploratory hike in a newly acquired 245-acre town forest with about 5 miles of existing trails and a few hundred feet elevation gain. Fields, forest, wetlands, riverside, dirt roads and peaks of Camel's Hump. Be prepared for bugs/ticks of summer, wicking clothes (no cotton please), poles are handy, food and water and your personal gear for a safe hike. Please leave pets at home. Limit of 6. Contact Cecilia Elwert at

ceciliaelwert@yahoo.com for more information.

KEVIN KAREKAS IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 2, 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.

BRISSON BOSS & PELLETIER AND PIZZA BY THE POND IN GOSHEN. Friday, Aug. 2, 5 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Brisson Boss & Pelletier deliver original songs and acoustic covers with skilled playing and stirring vocal harmonies. 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.

PATRICK FITZSIMMONS IN SALISBURY. Friday, Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. A finalist in several national songwriting competitions, Fitzsimmons makes his Otter Creek Music Festival debut performing covers and originals of great Americana. More info and tickets at ottercreekmusicfestival.com.

SATURDAY, AUG. 3

ART FESTIVAL IN ORWELL. Saturday,

Aug. 3, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., town green, 480 Main St. Visit Orwell's 2nd Annual Art Festival and see the town's creative artists display and sell painting, pottery, photography, collage, digital, fiber art and much more. Kids craft and art area provided by the Orwell Free Library, so bring the entire family! For the latest info go to facebook.com/Orwellartists.

MORGAN HORSE FARM VERMONT DAY IN WEYBRIDGE. Saturday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 74 Battell Dr. An event featuring demonstrations of the Morgan horse's versatility as a performance horse. Petting opportunities at lunch, educational activities in the main barn in the afternoon. Bring lawn chairs and picnic on the spacious grounds while enjoying the beautiful Morgan Horses at this national historic site. Free. Rain or shine.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENT BASICS IN MONKTON. Saturday, Aug. 3, 1-3 p.m., East Monkton Church, 405 Church Rd. Karey Ann French of Silver Spring Farm will be on hand to demonstrate the basics of floral arrangements. Bring your own flowers and vase or get some flowers and container from Karey. Welcoming to all ages from children to great-grandparents. Donations to Karey Ann and to the East Monkton Church Association will be warmly welcomed.

GALLERY AND ART OPENING IN VERGENNES. Saturday, Aug. 3, 6-9 p.m., K. Grant Fine Art, 37 Green St. Join us at K. Grant Fine Art to celebrate the opening of "Soft Openings," paintings and

sculpture by Vermont-based women artists, including Arista Alanis, Megan Bogonovich, Cameron Davis, Pamela Fraser, and Wylie Garcia. More info visit kgrantfineart on Instagram or contact Kristen at kristen@kgrantfineart.com.

KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, Aug. 3, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center, Route 7. The evening begins with a sandwich supper and then on to the games. King Pede involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. These are fun events, but come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

HELEN LYONS AND ELAINE GREENFIELD IN SALISBURY. Saturday, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Soprano and Vermont Public host Helen Lyons makes her OCMF debut alongside pianist Elaine Greenfield to close out the OCMF 2024 season with works by Florence Price, Fanny Mendelssohn, Margaret Bonds, Lili Boulanger, and others. More info and tickets at ottercreekmusicfestival.com.

MONDAY, AUG. 4

HIKE INTO HISTORY IN ORWELL. Monday, Aug. 4, 1-4 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. On this guided tour, walk in the footsteps of Revolutionary War soldiers. Mount Independence

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 10

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Friday, August 2 Through the Night: Press Conferences, Candidates & Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 6:30 p.m. Energy Week 7:30 p.m. Public Affairs 11 p.m. Dr. John Campbell Saturday, August 3 Through the Night 4:30 a.m. Dr. John Campbell 6 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Sunday, August 4 Through the Night 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Energy Week 1:30 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week	Monday, August 5 Through the Night 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 5 p.m. Dr. John Campbell 8 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Tuesday, August 6 Through the Night 8:30 a.m. Vote for Vermont 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 11 p.m. Energy Week Wednesday, August 7 Through the Night 5 a.m. Dr. John Campbell 6:30 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Thursday, August 8 Through the Night 8 a.m. Congregational Services 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8:30 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Dr. John Campbell	Channel 1091 Friday, August 2 6 a.m. Good Plants 7 a.m. Vermont Master Naturalist 8 a.m. ME2 Burlington Orchestra Spring Concert 9:07 a.m. Vermont Humanities Lecture - Through A Sheep's Eyes 11 a.m. All Brains Belong Brain Club 12:01 p.m. The Horse Traders at the Town Hall Theater 2:50 p.m. Antarctica Penguins 4 p.m. Woodstock VT Poetry Festival 4:53 p.m. Ken French Presents Music In Vermont 5:37 p.m. Make Music Day Vermont - VT Fiddle Orchestra at Christ Church 6:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7:30 p.m. Justin Morgan's Horse - Amanda Gustin 8:33 p.m. Through A Sheep's Eyes 10:30 p.m. Festival on the Green (FOG) 2024 - Bon Debarras 12:13 a.m. Krishna Guthrie & Dobet Gnahore at the Chandler Music Hall Saturday, August 3 5 a.m. Vermont Master Naturalist 6 a.m. Good Plants 7 a.m. Make Music Day	8 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 9 a.m. The Horse Traders 12 p.m. Krishna Guthrie & Dobet Gnahore 2:20 p.m. Woodstock Poetry Festival 5:06 p.m. Champlain College Student Video Showcase 5:58 p.m. FOG 2024 - Eureka Shoes 7:10 p.m. Vermont Master Naturalist 8:08 p.m. Through A Sheep's Eyes 10 p.m. FOG 2024 - Bon Debarras Sunday, August 4 6 a.m. Good Plants 7 a.m. Vermont Master Naturalist 8 a.m. ME2 Burlington Orchestra 9:07 a.m. Through A Sheep's Eyes 11 a.m. All Brains Belong 12:01 p.m. The Horse Traders 2:50 p.m. Antarctica Penguins 4 p.m. Woodstock Poetry Festival 4:53 p.m. Music In Vermont 5:37 p.m. Make Music Day Vermont 6:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7:30 p.m. Justin Morgan's Horse 8:33 p.m. Through A Sheep's Eyes 10:30 p.m. FOG 2024 - Bon Debarras 12:13 a.m. Krishna Guthrie & Dobet Gnahore Monday, August 5 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7 a.m. Tai Chi	12 p.m. FOG 2024 - Le Winston Band 5 p.m. FOG 2024 - Twisted Pine 6:51 p.m. Antarctica Penguins 8 p.m. Ethan Allen Homestead Tuesday, August 6 5 a.m. FOG 2024 - Twisted Pine 7:30 a.m. Make Music Day Vermont 12 p.m. FOG 2024 - Myra Flynn Band 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. From the Archives 10 p.m. Poets and Authors 11 p.m. FOG 2024 Wednesday, August 7 5:19 a.m. Make Music Day VT 6:07 a.m. Woodstock Poetry Festival 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Music In Vermont 8:43 a.m. Student Video Showcase 09:35 a.m. Tai Chi 10 a.m. Vermont Master Naturalist 11 a.m. From the Archives 7 p.m. FOG 11 p.m. FOG 2024 Thursday, August 8 5 a.m. Make Music Day Vermont 7 a.m. The World Fusion Show 7:30 a.m. Tai Chi 8 a.m. Chair Yoga 9 a.m. New England Cooks 10 a.m. From the Archives 5:30 p.m. All Things LGBTQ	

PUZZLES

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ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. A solution
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. Blood group
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Gov't lawyer
- 20. Actor Ciaran
- 22. Calendar month
- 23. Very willing
- 25. __ ex Machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Type of berry
- 29. Distinctive practice
- 30. Popular pickup truck model
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer

- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A situation you can be in
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Fiber optic network (abbr.)
- 48. Belgian composer Walter
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 55. Musical or vocal sound
- 56. Yankees' great Judge
- 58. Dickens character

- 59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
- 60. South Dakota
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Former Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Hospital unit

DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Arts and crafts supplies
- 4. Containers
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. A way to greet in a friendly way
- 7. Bulged downward

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5	6	4		3				

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

- 8. "A Day Without" singer
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. Negative
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Prominent in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Sincere
- 18. Not in
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Bill Murray chased one
- 26. Pouch

- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start over
- 32. Wild white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Visual way of interacting with a computer (abbr.)
- 38. Up-to-date
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property

- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Malaise
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Inauthentic person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. Central Japanese city
- 59. Garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. The man
- 68. Top government lawyer

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

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SUN'S OUT

THRU AUG 17

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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Coalition President Stephen Zeoli is your guide. He will tell you about some events leading up to the Revolution, as you look at traces reflecting the importance of Mount Independence in 1776 and 1777. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. Cost included with museum admission.

CITY BAND IN VERGENNES. Monday, Aug. 4 7-8 p.m., City Green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

MONDAY, AUG. 5

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN THE ADIRONDACKS. Monday, Aug. 5, "Adirondack Surprise." *RESCHEDULED FROM AUG. 14* This moderate hike will be decided based on weather. Anywhere from 5-10 miles. Maybe a high peak, medium peak or some CATS trails. Contact Ellen Cronan for more information, 908-595-2926. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

TUESDAY, AUG. 6

ASHLEY WOLFF IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Aug. 6, 6 p.m., Community Room, Ilesley Public Library, 75 Main St. Middlebury native and Leicester resident Ashley Wolff will present her newest children's picture book collaboration, "My Towering Tree." Written by Janna Matthies and illustrated by Wolff, "My Towering Tree" is a tribute to the wonderful worlds that exist in a backyard, from a towering tree to a garden bed to a buzzing bee. In addition to reading the book (children are welcome), Wolff will discuss her long career and her artistic process.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7

NATE GUSAKOV BAND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 5-9 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 N. 116 Rd. Hear live music in The Tillerman's barn. Music is free. A warm-up band 5-6:30 p.m., followed by the Gusakov Band 7-9 p.m.

SIXFOXWHISKEY IN FERRISBURGH. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 7-9 p.m., Basin Harbor, 4800 Basin Harbor Rd. Join Basin Harbor for their free summer concert series. Open to the public.

"LOVE OF THE LAND" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 6:30 p.m., Marquis Theater, 65 Main St. Come to a local screening of this short animated film based on the true and tragic story of Vermont farmer Romaine Tenney. It focuses on the last year of his life, in 1964 Vermont. After the eight-minute short film screens, the filmmaker will give a presentation on the behind-the-

scenes process of making the film and answer audience questions. Tickets \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door. More info at loveofthelandfilm.com/middlebury.

SOULFUL INTENTIONS IN BRANDON. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 6 p.m., behind the Brandon Inn. Soulful rock at Brandon's Music On The Riverbend free summer concert series.

TOWN BAND ON THE GREEN IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Aug. 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit back and enjoy this 150-year tradition.

THURSDAY, AUG. 8

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN KILLINGTON. Thursday, Aug. 8, hike Gifford Woods and Killington Peak. Visit one of the few old growth forests in Vermont with stately, 350-year-old yellow birch, hemlock and sugar maples. We will walk through the woods and observe some of the features that make old growth forests so special. The hike will be 2 to 3 miles of slow walking and feeling the spirit of the place. An optional addition is to take a gondola ride up Killington Peak (\$40+). Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or kencorey53@gmail.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org

BRETT HUGHES AND MATT FLINNER AND PIZZA BY THE POND IN GOSHEN. Thursday, Aug. 8, 5 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Enjoy wood-fired pizza and live music by this entertaining duo. \$43 per person (age 13 and older) for all-you-can-eat pizza and soft drinks. Kids 8-12 \$23; 7 and under free! BYOB. Reservations: blueberryhillinn.com/pizza.

"HISTORIC FASHION IN MIDDLEBURY: A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Aug. 8, noon-1 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Costume designer Summer Jack and exhibit curator Eva Garcelon-Hart will present an informal tour of the "From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic Middlebury" exhibit. They will discuss how local, 19th-century women dressed, how they learned about fashionable trends, and reveal the intricacies of fashionable dress wearing and making. Admission is free and open to all.

FRIDAY, AUG. 9

BRETT HUGHES IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 9, 5-7 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Free music by the Vineyard pond. Wine available for purchase.

DANA AND SUSAN ROBINSON AND PIZZA BY THE POND IN GOSHEN. Saturday, Aug. 9, 5 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Enjoy wood-fired pizza and live music. \$43 per person (age 13 and older) for all-you-can-eat pizza and soft drinks. Kids 8-12 \$23; 7 and under free! BYOB. Reservations: blueberryhillinn.com/pizza.

ART OPENING IN BRISTOL. Friday, Aug. 9, 5-6:30 p.m., Art on Main, 25 Main St. Opening reception for "Home is Where the Art Is," featuring resident artists Judith Bryant and Denise Letendre. The show will run until Aug. 28.

SERGEI GRATCHEV, CARILLONNEUR, IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 9, 6 p.m., Middlebury Chapel. The Middlebury College campus and surrounding neighborhoods will ring with the sound of carillon bells at this annual free summer series. Each year, musicians from around the world come to Middlebury to perform in the bell tower, soaring high above the college campus. The timing of the series has shifted this year, with Friday concerts in August, and a new Fall Festival on Saturdays in September and October. Free and open to the public.

"LOST NATION" ON SCREEN IN FERRISBURGH. Friday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, Route 7. Join the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall for a special screening of "Lost Nation" including Q&A with award-winning director Jay Craven to follow. Tickets \$12 in advance/\$14 at the door. Food and refreshments available for purchase. Tickets are limited and can be purchased by visiting unionmeetinghall.org/programming-and-events. More info at unionmeetinghall@gmail.com.

POINT COUNTERPOINT FACULTY CONCERT IN SALISBURY. Friday, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Admission is free, and goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

SATURDAY, AUG. 10

MONTHLY WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 10, 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 Trust 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.

ELECTROSTATIC CATS IN BRANDON. Saturday, Aug. 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kennedy Park, 31 Center St. Picnic in the park to live music.

"GRANDMA'S TRUNK" VINTAGE FASHION FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 10, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Beat the summer doldrums and join experts in a variety of Victorian clothing and fashion accessories in the Sheldon gardens. Bring your vintage hats, dresses, shoes, and other items to learn about. Fashion historians, accessory makers, mending artists, and more will be available to answer your questions. The event will also include fun activities for children. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org/events or 802-388-2117.

"FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE" ON SCREEN IN

BRANDON. Saturday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. This sweeping drama of a divided family with members caught up on opposites sides during World War I was the breakthrough film for Rudolph Valentino, introducing the sultry tango and launching him to stardom. Live musical accompaniment. Free.

"LOST NATION" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. An encore showing of 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 kcppresents.org.

GRANDMA'S TRUNK – VINTAGE FASHION FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 10, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Bring your vintage hats, dresses, shoes, and other items to learn about. Fashion historians, accessory makers, mending artists, and more will be available to answer your questions. Featured experts will share their knowledge of historic fashion, the history of buttons with antique examples, how to creatively mend your clothes, traditional knitting techniques and patterns, and a demonstration of vintage hairstyling. The event will also include fun activities for children including whimsical hat making for all ages. Invite your friends and family and don't forget to dive into your Grandma's trunk! Admission is free and open to all. For more information visit henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/grandmothers-trunk or call 802-388-2117.

SUNDAY, AUG. 11

FOOD AND FARM FEST IN ORWELL. Sunday, Aug. 11, 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.

PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL IN FERRISBURGH. Sunday, Aug. 11, 1-4 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. We love Pie! Join Rokeby to celebrate summer and community with this annual event. Free.

FOODAROO 9 IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Aug. 11, 4-8 p.m., Marble Works. Foodaroo unites the state's most talented culinary artisans and beverage makers, with an emphasis on Addison County and Chittenden County vendors and farms. From food trucks to brick-and-mortar operations, this outdoor event showcases creative, locally-sourced cuisine. Attendees taste their way through a huge diversity of vendors while musicians, street performers, dancers and more showcase the best of Vermont's thriving maker movement. Tickers \$5/kids under 12 free.

CALL TO ARTISTS and animal lovers



BRISTOL ANIMAL HOSPITAL is redecorating and would love to display the talent of the community! Local artisans who make animal-related or animal-themed crafted items, as well as wall artwork from rising local artists are welcome.

The office is not quite ready for wall art yet, but they do have wall cubbies available now. Small prints and crafts would work best for now. The spaces are about 12- x 18-inches square, and about 12-inches deep.

Young adults and teenagers who are just beginning to grow their art careers are encouraged to inquire.

Those interested should contact Karen Hart, Practice Manager, at KarenHartCVPM@gmail.com or call 802-LUV-PETS (588-7387).

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Pets In Need HOMEWARD BOUND Addison County's Humane Society



Betta

My name is **Betta** and I am a playful and sweet 2-year-old gal. I am looking for a new home where I can be an indoor/outdoor cat with tons of playtime. My favorite things include catnip, treats, and exploring. I get along with most cats but I have no experience with dogs.



Minow

My name is **Minnow** and I am a nervous but friendly girl. Freeze-dried chicken is my favorite treat and it has helped me come a long way in socializing with staff. I am a calm cat and haven't been very playful, although I do enjoy wand toys. I arrived with 7 other cats, some of whom are my sisters! We get along well most of the time and could be adopted in pairs.



Sugar

My name is **Sugar** and I am a lovely young momma. I was brought to Homeward Bound with my 3 kittens after we were found in a box next to the river. My favorite activities include playing and cuddling with my kittens. I may like to be adopted with one of my kittens, but I am protective of them from other cats. I have no experience with dogs.



Ashe

I'm **Ashe**, a 5-year-old Blue Heeler/Staffordshire Terrier mix and I weigh around 75 pounds. In my previous home, I lived with young children, cats, and livestock. I do tend to chase cats and am a little bit too interested in them. Because I can be nervous and insecure, I would do best in a home with older children. Treats and food are my favorite, and they help me warm up in new situations. I love to play with toys and to be outside where I can run. I'm an absolute cuddle bug and love to be around family. I like to go for walks and I know a few basic commands. I came in with skin issues that are being resolved.



Bunnies

We are the cutest batch of **baby bunnies** you'll ever meet, born on June 15, 2024, to our amazing mom, Silky. There are eight of us: three brown and five black, and we're all Rex Mixes like our parents. We will stay pretty small, around 4 pounds-just the right size for cuddles and adventures! We're not ready to leave Mom just yet, but we are available to be claimed for adoption! Come visit us and see our playful antics!



Want to learn more?

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you!
802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT



THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

The farmhouse of a lifetime in Weybridge

After 30 years of enjoyment, the owners are making way for you to live in and love this home as much as they have. This humble Federal style Vermont farmhouse will surprise and delight you around every corner. A palette of appealing interior colors complements honeyed wood floors. Built-ins are everywhere, as are abundant storage spaces and extra rooms for work or hobbies. Ornate details and unique original features focus on historic charm, while improvements will allow you a well-lived lifestyle. The “half girl” 1840’s homestead barn will start your wheels turning even if you’re not quite ready to put it to full use right away. In the meantime, store your gardening and yard equipment in the detached garage/workshop. In the heart of the village, this property has enough land to allow you breathing room, while retaining the neighborly communion for which Weybridge is so well known. The 1.8 acres are choreographed with mature landscaping, stone walls, fruit trees, colorful, fragrant and well-sited plantings, along with outdoor spaces from which to enjoy it all. From one proud owner to the next, this picturesque property will leave you gratified to maintain for a lifetime.



*This week’s property is managed by IPJ Real Estate.
More info at middvermontrealestate.com.*



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4	1	8	5	2	3	9	6	7
7	9	2	8	4	6	1	5	3
8	3	1	2	9	5	7	4	6
5	6	4	7	3	1	8	9	2



LEICESTER NEW LISTING!
1805 LAKE DUNMORE ROAD
MLS #5006176 | \$199,900
2 BD | 1 BA | 1008 SF | 0.54 AC

This ranch home on over 1/2 acres is a great opportunity! The open kitchen/living room are what today's buyers are looking for. The kitchen has a sliding door that goes out to a large deck overlooking a lovely back yard. Perfect for one level living, you'll find both bedrooms, a full bath, and laundry on the main floor. The one car attached garage and full basement will be of great use. This home recently got a new roof. This home will not qualify for conventional financing as it needs a new oil tank, furnace and possibly a septic tank. Being sold as-is.



MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
341 WEYBRIDGE STREET
MLS #5006613 | \$389,000
2 BD | 2 BA | 1156 SF | 0.19 AC

Walk to town from this sweet cottage in Middlebury! The charming wrap around front porch greets you as you pull up to the property. The home features a standing seam roof, hardwood floors, and some original woodwork and features. The kitchen features beautiful glass cabinet doors on a built-in hutch. The fireplace at the end of the living room is not currently used but with some updates could be usable once again! A first floor room makes a great office, or could be a first floor bedroom. Upstairs are two good sized bedrooms with a full bath to share. An open landing space leaves room for a sitting area or desk. The front porch is where you will want to sit to watch the passersby and greet friends. The owner has added weatherization upgrades to the basement with insulation, vapor barrier, and a new energy efficient hot water heat pump. An attached garage/shed will come in handy to store gardening implements, bikes or equipment. Living so close to town and Middlebury College, you're sure to enjoy all this college town has to offer!



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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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.

"Abstraction." Abstract images combine shapes, color, pattern, texture and imagination to create an image that is largely independent of visual reality. For this exhibition photographers created abstract lens-based images made and modified in whatever way they chose. Juror Janet Jeffers selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view Aug. 2-23.

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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2494 Rt. 125, Bridport
MLS # 5003169 \$429,000

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 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.



436 Middle Road, Middlebury
MLS #5000861 \$249,000

This affordable home has a wonderful .92 acre lot and is in a great Middlebury location. It is close to the Middle School and an easy walk to the other schools. The lot has lovely trees and foliage around the perimeter, which makes it private. The driveway is shared with the adjoining lot which will be coming on the market soon. The house needs some work, but at this price it is worth making the investment



144 Cedar Drive, Addison
MLS #5006918 \$75,000

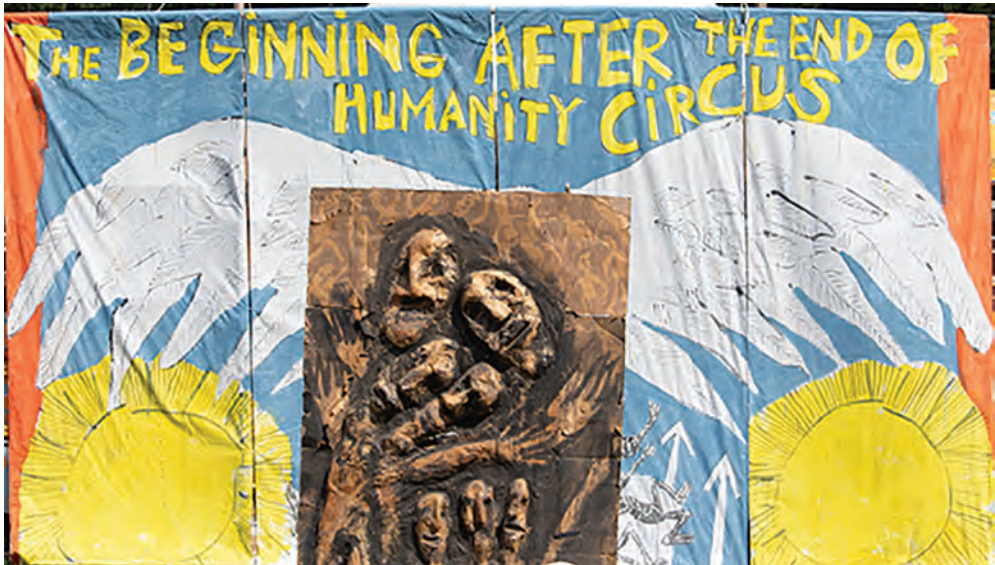
Mostly wooded 0.64 acre lot located near Lake Champlain with deeded lake access. It is a perfect spot to build your seasonal retreat or year-round home. Preliminary work has been done to determine the possibility of a 2-bedroom single family home. There is also work underway to design a septic system for state approval.

**Champlain Valley
Properties**



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT
802-989-7522 | ChamplainValleyProperty.net





The Circus is Coming!
Bread and Puppet

The Beginning After the End of Humanity Circus
Sunday, September 1 at 4:30pm

On Sunday, September 1st, Town Hall Theater presents Bread + Puppet’s Medium Big Tour at the Addison County Fair Grounds in Vergennes, Vermont. The performance of “The Beginning After the End of Humanity Circus” will be set against the iconic Bread + Puppet hand-painted bus – and begin with Bread & Puppet’s brass band at 4:15pm.

This year’s show will be a spectacle of protest and celebration that addresses the urgent themes of the moment using paper maché, dance, and a live brass band.

Circus is perhaps the most iconic of the many performance genres for which Bread & Puppet is known. A Bread & Puppet Circus is a large-scale political puppet show which borrows from traditional Circus tropes and is performed in-the-round. Made up of a bright, raucous melee of short acts using diverse puppetry styles, it spans many moods, from slapstick to the sublime.

After the show, Bread and Puppet will serve its famous sourdough rye bread with aioli, and Bread and Puppet’s “Cheap Art” – books, posters, postcards, pamphlets and banners from the Bread and Puppet Press – will be for sale.

All ticket proceeds benefit Bread and Puppet Theatre and Town Hall Theater. Tickets are required and available for purchase at townhalltheater.org. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. If you need assistance with the price of the ticket, please contact tickets@townhalltheater.org or call 802-382-9222.

Bring chairs, picnics, and a sense of humor.

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August 15 & 16
At 7pm
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Primary Election

The Addison Independent

VOTER GUIDE 2024

Your guide to the Primary candidates,
the issues and local polling information

Read what local candidates have to say

ADDISON COUNTY—Vermont's Primary Election is coming up on Tuesday, Aug. 13. Make sure you are registered, and then cast a ballot for the candidates you wish to advance to the Nov. 5 General Election.

You can vote in the Primary for one party only, so you will cast a ballot for Republicans, Democrats or Progressive.

All of Addison County's incumbent state senators and representatives (except for Rep. Joe Andriano of Orwell) are running for re-election. Challengers have stepped up to make sure there will be competition for the two state Senate seats representing Addison County, Huntington, Rochester and Buel's Gore as well as in the Addison-4 House district, which comprises Bristol, Lincoln, Starksboro and Monkton.

There will be three candidates for each major party in the state senate and Addison-4 primary ballots, so that means there will be four competitive local races here.

As part of our election coverage, the *Addison Independent* has published stories on most of the challengers and we give space in the regular paper for updates from incumbents during the Legislative session, as well as for regular Legislative stories.

For the four competitive local races, we asked each candidate the same five questions. See the list of questions, and then evaluate how each answered them.

On the ballot you will see the following candidates in competitive races:

Republican — State Senate:

Lesley Bienvenue, Landel Cochran, Steven Heffernan (vote for two)

Addison 4: Lynne Caulfield, Chanin Hill, Renee McGuinness (vote for two)

Democratic — State Senate: Christopher Bray, Caleb Elder, Ruth Hardy (vote for two)

Addison 4: Jeanne Albert, Mari Cordes, Herb Olson (vote for two)

Polls on Primary Election Day, Aug. 13, open at different times in each town, but they all close at 7 p.m.

To check on the status of your ballot, use Vermont's online ballot tracking service at mvp.vermont.gov or contact your town clerk.



Candidate Questions

The following five questions, along with a requested word limit, were asked of each local candidate in a competitive race for the Vermont House or Senate.

The questions are not repeated in the context of each candidate's response, but are recalled by subject at the beginning of each answer.

Primary Election Day is Aug. 13.

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Tell us something about yourself. (Up to 100 words).

2) THREE ISSUES: What are the three most

pressing issues the Legislature will face during the next biennium? (Up to 300 words)

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: How would you solve the state's education financing problem? Please be specific and please don't cite "more local control," as taxpayers already have the power to approve or reject their school spending plans at the ballot box. (Up to 300 words)

4) HOUSING: Vermont is in a housing crisis and many young families can't afford the few homes that

come on the market. How would you promote the development of more affordable housing in the state? (Up to 300 words)

5) CLIMATE: Do you support the Vermont Climate Action Plan? If yes, what are its best features? If not, what are its shortcomings? (Up to 200 words)

Note: Each candidate was asked to write their own perspectives and without ghostwriters. The electorate has a right to know how well they can articulate their thoughts and express them to the public.



LESLEY J. BIENVENUE
REPUBLICAN
STATE SENATE

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: My current affiliations are RNC - Republican National Committee, ACRP - Addison County Republican Party, member and Secretary. Volunteer member of the Festival on the Green organization, AARP - American Association of Retired Persons, Member of the Public Library, NRA - National Rifle Association, Green Mountain Pass holder for the VT Parks and Recreation Department. (By the way - 100th anniversary of the Vermont Department of

Parks and Recreation 1924.

My Facebook page has an extensive list of my volunteerism over my lifetime currently 1700 hours in numerous different organizations recently forty hours at the Festival on the Green 2024. Additional hours will accrue at Fair and Field Days in August with the Republican Party booth. Stop by and chat.

Credentials are: MBA, MEd, and EMG Graduate.

Religion - Catholic

Non-smoker.

Preference for a glass of wine now and then.

2) THREE ISSUES: Affordability is the main concern amongst Addison County Residents which includes tax increases and employment opportunities with appropriate wages. Available quality housing that is affordable. Finances is the prime worry of our citizens. Negligent criminal practices. Maintain law and order. Justice must be upheld. Excellence in education, focusing on curriculum development.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: I believe our current property tax program is the best for funding education. The State

(See Bienvenue on Page 11)



CHRISTOPHER BRAY
DEMOCRAT
STATE SENATE

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: First, my Vermont roots reach back to 1846, and I have a deep love for our state; and, second, my parents raised me and my siblings to believe that we could become anything we wanted, and, along the way, we must help our community. As a result, I have taken on many forms of public service, from coaching and refereeing, to fire and rescue, to boards and commissions, and, for the last 16 years, the Vermont General Assembly. Serving as a senator has

been the greatest privilege of my life, and I love the work, the endless learning, and most of all, the people.

2) THREE ISSUES: There are many pressing issues for the next legislature to address; they include education (see Question 3 below); affordable housing (Question 4 below); economic development; an aging population; affordable health care; mental health care and substance abuse treatment; and climate change—this last one being a major focus of my work as Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee for the last decade, so I will focus on that.

Climate Change. Vermonters in general want to live in harmony with our beautiful surroundings. We are natural stewards. At the same time, Vermont's median income is only 86% of the national average, so we are always mindful of costs, including the cost of change—even changes that will ultimately save us money.

Climate change is real, pressing, and already costing Vermonters millions and even billions of dollars each year (a single major flood here can cause over \$1 billion of damage). Climate change is driven by

(See Bray on Page 4)



LANDEL COCHRAN
REPUBLICAN
STATE SENATE

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: I have been serving on the Huntington Selectboard since 2018 and I got into local government to help my town make smart decisions. I believe I can help guide state policymaking in the same way. Although I am not registered with either national party, I am running on the Republican ticket because I support Governor Scott. I'm 36, married, and we have a 2-year-old daughter. Nothing matters more to me than her future. Senator is a tough job but I will be

honored to take on the challenge if the voters of the district give me the opportunity.

2) THREE ISSUES: The big three issues for the next legislative session are affordability, economic growth, and climate resiliency. I have heard from quite a few lifelong Vermont Democrats that they are disappointed with the legislature's inability to control spending. On a quest to help the Vermonters most-in-need, our legislature has grown the scope of our government beyond what Vermonters can afford. You cannot solve equity problems in Vermont by creating equity problems.

Economic growth is a vital element to solving our fiscal problems. At this point Vermont is a top-ten state in education spending, property taxes, and electric bills. We could afford this if our state's median household income is also top-ten, so let's focus on making that happen. That means attracting new business to the State and carefully reviewing our existing policies that are discouraging companies from investing here.

As the climate continues to change in unpredictable ways it is essential we better defend ourselves. Our outdated, insuffi-

(See Cochran on Page 4)



CALEB ELDER
DEMOCRAT
STATE SENATE

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: My name is Caleb Elder and I am running for a Senate seat in the Addison District. I grew up in Bristol where I attended public schools prior to attending Middlebury College. For the past 6 years I have represented the Addison-4 District in the Vermont House. In that time I have served on the House Education, Ways and Means and Housing Committees. Prior to my time in Montpelier, I served on two local school boards for Starksboro and then

MAUSD. In 2020 I was appointed by House Speaker, Mitzi Johnson, to serve 6 years as the Vermont House's board member at the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

2) THREE ISSUES: In the coming biennium I feel that our most pressing issues will be:

- Charting a path for the sustainable future of our public education system, while restructuring our property tax system. We need to have serious, non-partisan, conversations about cost-containment, since we cannot solve this problem by simply raising revenues. I believe the future of public education, and how we pay for it, will be the single biggest topic of the coming biennium and is one of the main reasons I feel compelled to run for the Vermont Senate in 2024.

- Continuing our work on housing: bolstering the labor force, improving and streamlining regulation for housing developers and continuing to fund permanently affordable housing projects. We have made some strides in reducing regulatory barriers for new residential housing, but there's a lot more we can do. Building out

(See Elder on Page 5)



RUTH HARDY
DEMOCRAT
STATE SENATE

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: As a senator, my top priorities are to work for, communicate with, and advocate for my constituents. I collaborate with Vermonters to develop sound legislation on issues including healthcare, education, and government accountability. I have lived in East Middlebury for 20+ years, where my husband and I have raised three kids. I ran the Open Door Clinic and Emerge Vermont, worked for Middlebury College and Planned Parenthood, and served many years on local school and childcare center boards. Each fall, I teach at the College or MUMS. I enjoy making pizza, hiking, and writing. Read more at ruthforvermont.com.

2) THREE ISSUES: We must focus on: 1) a plan to finance and strengthen public schools; 2) reducing costs and increasing sustainability of our healthcare system; and 3) improving resiliency of public infrastructure and small towns in the face of climate change. This year, rising school budgets, due to factors such as pandemic recovery, student needs, and facility costs, created an unsustainable statewide property tax increase, straining Vermonters' wallets and patience — this must be addressed.

The school budget challenge was exacerbated by a significant increase in employee healthcare costs, in part because Vermont has one of the most expensive hospital systems in the country. We also have long wait-times to access medical care. This fall, the Green Mountain Care Board will release a report with recommendations on hospital sustainability that will guide next steps for hospitals, the Agency of Human Services, and the Legislature. I will advocate for this work next session and also focus on expanding access to comprehensive healthcare. We must make sure that all Vermonters can find a doctor and afford healthcare when they need it.

The floods have devastated communities across the state. Many small towns, mostly run by volunteers, do not have the infrastructure or personnel capacity to adequately deal with the complexities of flood recovery, federal and state programs, and extensive planning and reconstruction. I led efforts to improve the government response to flood recovery this session. We need to continue engaging with municipalities and residents to support their recovery efforts, build local capacity, and make towns across Vermont more financially, structurally, and administratively resilient in the face of ongoing

climate change.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: Vermont has one of the country's most equitable, and complex, school funding systems. We also have one of the most expensive K-12 systems per pupil, due to our small, rural schools and commitment to high-quality education. With declining enrollments, increasing student needs, and variations across school districts, our funding system isn't fully working to equitably balance costs. This session, we created a Commission on the Future of Public Education to recommend changes to our school funding formula and create a vision for the public school system to ensure equity, quality, and efficiency. This Commission should evaluate and recommend funding formula changes, better integrate pre-K education into public schools, and revisit alternative funding sources for PK-12 schools so fewer costs fall on property taxes.

More work also is needed to reduce administrative costs, efficiently upgrade and use school facilities, and potentially further streamline school governance. Vermont's school buildings are some of the oldest and poorly maintained in the country. It may save money and improve education to combine or repurpose some schools, rather than invest in renovating under-enrolled, facility-challenged school buildings. Some school districts could likely be restructured or potentially combined to reduce administrative costs and improve equity.

We should reduce the types of expenses that are funded through the Education Fund. Vermont's school voucher program increasingly subsidizes private and religious schools with public tax dollars — this needs to stop. Schools are also increasingly asked to pay for social and health services for kids. While these services should continue to be delivered through schools because that's where kids are, they should not be funded through property taxes.

4) HOUSING: We have invested *significant* funding in housing in recent years, supporting a multi-faceted approach to housing access and development. We allocated funding and flexible financing for statewide affordable housing construction. We revised Act 250 to make it easier to build housing in town centers and designated areas, permitted accessory dwelling units and duplexes everywhere, and encouraged denser housing for more efficient land use. We increased housing development tax credits to spur construction and fund energy-efficient, affordable manufactured homes. All of this work takes time, but new housing units are starting to come online as a result. However, flooding over the past year has delayed some development and created an even more urgent need because people lost their homes to flood damage.

Tax reform is also an effective tool. We must reduce property taxes for many Vermonters to ensure affordability. We modified the property transfer tax to exempt the first \$200,000 in value to ease the cost of buying a primary residence, created a 3% surcharge on short-term rentals, and imposed a 3.4% tax on the sale of second

(See Hardy on Page 11)



STEVEN HEFFERNAN
REPUBLICAN
STATE SENATE

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: Born and raised in Vermont, grew up on a family farm in Bristol, learned the value of family, honesty, hard work and learn to live with in your means. Married my high school sweetheart and had 3 children. They have blessed us with 5 grandkids to date.

I'm serving our country and state as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal tech for more than 30 years, in the Vermont Air National Guard. I own and operate three businesses with my partners.

I love this state and am concerned about where it's headed and the future it holds for my grandchildren.

2) THREE ISSUES: Without a doubt the biggest two issues will be education and s5 fuel tax. I believe most Vermonters are concerned about this because it will have an instant impact on their finances. Thirdly, transportation, our roads and bridges need many improvements around our state.

These are what I believe are Vermonters' top 3 issues. I haven't gone into detail because most people just want answers not a long-drawn-out explanation. As your Senator I will do my best to keep issues and laws to their simplest form when possible.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: Solving the state's education finance problem will not be an easy task. Schools are decreasing in attendance, special needs amplify costs and building maintenance are a few reasons our taxes go up. I will start looking for answers by talking with other states that have good working school systems. Find out how they do it and if it could work here in Vermont. I would also consult our local school leadership, superintendents, teachers, janitors and others on ways to help reduce costs and save taxpayers money.

There will be some hard choices to be made in the future and we need leaders that will make the right choices that will work for all Vermonters.

One thing is crystal clear, Vermonters are not going to be able to handle more tax increases. We as a state have to find ways to give our children great education and not break our tax payers finances.

4) HOUSING: As someone who does construction, I can say one of the costliest parts is what it takes to get through the permit process. From a landowner getting through wastewater permitting, to the builder wading through ACT-250. This state at this point is NOT a build friendly state. I would like to see our state agencies

(See Heffernan on Page 4)

Re-elect
Mari Cordes

Elect
Jeanne Albert



WORKING FOR YOU IN ADDISON-4

BRISTOL, LINCOLN, MONKTON, STARKSBORO

Return your early ballot by Primary Day, August 13th, or vote in person!

Paid for by:

Mari Cordes for Vermont House
21 Main, Bristol, VT
MariCordes.org

Jeanne Albert for Vermont House
PO Box 415, Bristol, VT
jeanneforvermont.org

Bray

(Continued from Page 2)

the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of our fossil fuel powered economy. Vermonters use costly polluting fossil fuels in two major ways—for heating and transportation. These days, there are proven ways to reduce both costs and emissions.

For example, if you replace a fossil fuel powered car with an electric one, you can save, over the average 12-year lifespan of a vehicle in Vermont, tens of thousands of dollars (approximately 47%), AND you reduce GHG emissions by nearly 98%.

In a similar way, you can heat using cold climate heat pumps that run on clean electricity, not fossil fuels. This change too requires an investment, and it too delivers savings; the five-year average heating cost for a heat pump saves 15% over heating oil, and 34% over propane.

If re-elected, I will continue to work on programs make the transition to these cleaner, money-saving technologies affordable for all Vermonters.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: At the outset, it's worth reminding ourselves that school districts (and local voters)—not the legislature—determine the overall spending in Vermont on education. Legislators do not control local school budgets.

It's also important to remember that in order to make taxes fairer (that is, based more upon ability to pay), education property taxes for 70% of Vermonters are income-sensitized; that is, these Vermonters do not pay the full education property tax; instead they pay based on their income. For 2024, the amount paid is capped at 2.54% of a

household's income for household income up to approximately \$90,000/year, with tapering supports extending to approximately \$130,000 of annual household income.

This year, as I member of the Senate Finance Committee I was able to help craft a 30% reduction in the education property tax from the state's initial 20 cent increase, to 13.8% (many Addison County districts are well below this). This 30% decrease saved \$70M in education taxes.

Even so, next year, we must do better. Therefore, I also proposed a study group, now underway, to address both education costs and delivery.

I'm also proposing two further actions:

First, we deliver a wide array of important social services at schools, including free food for all children, counseling, and health care. These services make our communities stronger and healthier, and, therefore I propose that we treat them as a "community expense," that is, as an obligation of the state's general fund, which has broader and more varied revenue streams supporting it. As a result, the education fund obligation, and thus the education property tax, will both be reduced.

Second, as Auditor Doug Hoffer has pointed out, the state of Vermont could, with no loss of quality, standardize its payment schedule for medical services and procedures, including for teachers, saving tens of millions of dollars each year. Every \$11 million saved equals a penny off the education property tax.

4) HOUSING: The Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee took on affordable housing directly this past session by defining Smart Growth districts that will be Act 250-free for the development

of housing. In addition, we made these districts 400% larger for the developers of affordable housing, as defined by the federal government based on household income.

Our committee's work last year made feasible the new Middlebury Seminary Street development being moved forward by the college and a private developer. Similar opportunities now exist in 16 Addison County towns and villages, and more will become eligible when they define smart growth areas.

At the same time, the committee mindfully preserved the critical role that Act 250 has played over the last 54 years to preserve and protect the green landscape in many forms, ranging from working farms and forests, to conserved and undeveloped fields, woods, mountains, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

In short, we created an opportunity for the development of quality housing, including affordable housing, while also keeping Act 250 robust and healthy.

Senate Natural also passed legislation that makes housing more affordable through energy efficiency. All affordable housing must be built to the state's higher energy efficiency code, which adds a modest cost to the initial construction, but creates a lifetime of energy savings that pay for that additional investment many times over.

In addition, the committee moved forward training programs to teach science-based, engineered methods for constructing durable energy-efficient housing. This quality housing in turn helps consumers to reliably build wealth and security by protecting them from purchasing a home constructed using substandard, energy-

wasting methods. These laws also create a fair and level playing field for contractors, so that those who build in compliance with the energy code can be distinguished from builders who do not.

5) CLIMATE: In 2020, the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee (SNRE) helped write the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), which defines a pathway for Vermont to meet its energy needs while reducing the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are the primary drivers of climate change.

Because the legislature is a part-time organization (meeting for 4+ months each year), the GWSA created a year-round 23-member working group, the Vermont Climate Council (VCC). The VCC studies means of reducing GHG emissions and improving Vermont's resilience in the face of climate change, which is creating hotter, more violent weather (including floods and droughts), poorer air quality, and other consequences. The VCC produced its first Climate Action Plan (CAP, 2021), and is now working on a 2025 revision.

The CAP provides SNRE with helpful research that assists the committee when writing new laws, such as the Affordable Heat Act in 2023 and this year's revised Renewable Energy Standard (RES 2.0). Next session, SNRE will use other research and recommendations from the CAP to put Vermont on the most cost-effective, money-saving pathway to a clean energy future with reduced consumption of fossil fuels. Following an initial investment phase through 2030, the non-partisan Joint Fiscal Office estimates that implementing the CAP will produce \$6.4 billion in net savings to Vermonters.

Cochran

(Continued from Page 2)

cient, and underfunded public infrastructure needs to be updated and protected before we sustain more damage. Fixing our deficiencies before they are literally washed out costs much less than replacing them after they fail.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: The education funding mess is a direct result of two things. First, the supermajority in the State House has expanded spending dramatically in the past few years which results in less money available for education from Vermont's General Fund. The remaining amount needed for education funding comes from property taxes. The "hole to fill" has been much larger in recent years because Vermont's revenue is going elsewhere. Programs and services started during the COVID era on federal dollars are now siphoning from the General Fund.

The second cause is the 2022 update the legislature did to property tax equity distribution amongst school districts across Vermont. In our broken system, school districts

create their budgets, have voters in their district approve the budget, and then send the bill to the State. The State then calculates the total amount needed to fund all of the school districts, and then adjusts that tax burden up for wealthier districts, or down for less-wealthy districts. That's where everything went wrong. The ups and the downs changed substantially in 2022 so that the actions of one school district have significant financial impacts on the taxpayers in other school districts. These policies resulted in property tax increase of 8% across the state last year and 13.8% this year.

The long-term solution will take time. However, there are some immediate changes we can make. I suggest changing the order of the funding process so the property tax funding pool is calculated and apportioned before school budgets are made. All additional amounts needed would come directly from taxpayers in their own district. No more blank checks. The size of the funding pool should be a reasonable increase upon the size of the previous year's pool. Reasonable increases are proportional to increases in Vermont household income.

4) HOUSING: We need to work aggres-

sively against the affordable housing crisis from three different angles. First, the recent updates to Act 250 and the efficient building standards that just went into effect July 1 make building your own house a lot more difficult and expensive. I support easing land use and building restrictions only for owner-occupied housing and only in specific areas designated by each city and town. Our housing shortage is serious enough that we need to worry about the supply of homes more than making sure those homes are perfect.

Second, affordable housing also includes everyone who is barely getting by to stay in the homes they already have. We have to stop this onslaught of property taxes. We cannot do 13.8% again next year.

Third, we need to continue supporting affordable housing development in our population centers. The legislature has started working on this front and it needs to be continued. It is imperative that we do not lose sight of what affordable means as well. To most of us, \$400,000+ is not an affordable home.

5) CLIMATE: Vermonters are by and large very concerned with our changing

children and their families to stay here.

5) CLIMATE: I do not, reason why Vermont has a population of about 650,000, our effect on climate change is almost unnoticeable. Also, Vermonters are doing it, solar, EV/ Hybrid cars and weatherizing. Why should we tax ourselves more

climate and we want to do something about it. We are also smart enough to know that making home heating oil and electricity more expensive is not going to make our climate go back to normal. Climate change is a global issue with global players. Most Vermont residents already strive to reduce our collective carbon footprint and we do happen to live in the middle of a gigantic carbon sink. Furthermore, the Global Warming Solutions Act allows outside parties to sue Vermont over certain carbon metrics. Let us change this law before the State, and in turn the taxpayer, is tied up in court. I am in favor of plans that support a greener future without heavily penalizing Vermont present.

With the substantial floods of this and last summer, we are facing the reality of a changing climate. We need to bolster our flood-prone communities and protect our homes and infrastructure from the very-real threat of another flood. We want our tax dollars spent on solutions that protect us from an unpredictably changing climate, not on costly attempts to chip away at a global problem.

to do something that won't have any real change. There are states affecting climate change more than Vermont and are doing less about it. Vermont is a small and mighty state and should continue to do what it can to help with climate change, but we should set it as goals and not mandate.

Heffernan

(Continued from Page 3)

help rather than deter. In doing so it would help lower costs and make building more affordable.

Vermont is a beautiful state, and we all want it to stay that way, but if we don't make permitting easier for projects that will be good for Vermont we will not grow. Young people and couples will most likely go somewhere else because they can not afford to live here. I personally want my

Elder

(Continued from Page 2)

our downtowns and villages will require a sustained 10-year effort, so we should expect to keep engaged on this work for the foreseeable future.

- Supporting cities and towns affected by the 2023 and 2024 floods, and helping them to prepare for future flooding events. We don't yet know whether Vermont will receive a federal emergency declaration for the 2024 floods, but I know we are all hoping for that as soon as possible. The FEMA support will be critical, but of course it only goes so far. After back-to-back years of catastrophic flooding, some Vermont communities are facing an existential threat. We put over \$30M into flood recovery addressing the '23 floods and I anticipate there is just as much need in responding to the floods from earlier this month.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: 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 now directly impacting school budgets. Some estimate that this "shift" is around \$25M in FY '25. 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 the Agency of Human Services budgets so that some supports for kids and families are literally located in the schools. We have the space but we need

more help, all under one roof.

FY '25 school budgets saw a one-year increase of \$50M in teacher healthcare statewide, bringing the new total to \$300M per year. This benefit is negotiated at the state level and cannot be changed by local school boards. This annual increase is equivalent to adding a new child tax credit program every year. We need greater transparency for how this money is spent, since the same procedure can be priced very differently around the state. We owe it to taxpayers to make sure we're getting predictable, transparent pricing for this \$300M.

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. Our current system is already "income based" but is inordinately complex. Additionally, progressivity of this system is capped at about \$140,000 in household income. If elected, I would push for this concept since I believe it has merit and could bring real relief to fixed-income homeowners.

4) HOUSING: For years, Vermont has had relatively little new housing creation. Now that there is more demand on the housing economy, this lack of supply is driving up prices and new housing simply isn't coming on line fast enough. In order to counteract this trend, we need to focus on workforce development, affordable housing initiatives and streamlined regu-

lations for home builders. We have an opportunity to build greater connections between our high school vocational centers and the building trades. For example, the VSAC Advancement Grant program provides students with skills they can immediately turn into job opportunities, as they add to their skills and knowledge.

If we want to attract more young people into the building trades, as employees or as business owners, then we need to support them with ongoing training and support. This should include education around starting and running a small business, along with the actual skills of the trade. Housing is an exciting sector of our economy, promising great demand for the coming decade. Building science is also becoming increasingly complex, and requires greater education as well as hands-on learning opportunities. If we have students showing interest and aptitude for building trades, we need to have education programs ready for them. And further, we should give them support in forming a business plan and developing their dream.

From a regulatory level, I think we need to make sure we are getting out of the way of our own ambitions. If we want more residential housing, then we need to think strategically about removing barriers to investment in this market. While publicly funded housing is a piece of the puzzle, it is a small piece. We need the private sector involved in our buildout of new housing and in order to do that we need a predictable and scalable regulatory environment. This could mean exemptions to Act 250 for certain types of residential housing devel-

opment. We could even permit residential housing as a "public good" and remove it from Act 250 altogether. We take a similar approach with renewables, and it has been effective.

5) CLIMATE: Yes, I fully support the VCAP because it attempts to wrap our arms around the grave threat of climate change and to clearly lay out what steps we must take to reduce carbon emissions. Of course, it's a massive document that is evolving and it necessarily has strong points and weak points. But the very endeavor of putting this problem, our collective task, into one document is powerful and important. In terms of the plan's best features, I look to the promise of the workforce development section. This part of the plan aligns with my own vision for how we build out the necessary housing workforce. We need public-private partnerships with industry leaders, ongoing training and certification, and new investment in trade apprenticeship programs. Achieving the goals of the VCAP - whether through renewable energy generation, electrifying home heating or electrifying transportation - will require skilled tradespeople at every turn. Without that workforce, our ability to achieve the goals laid out in the VCAP will be deeply undermined. Additionally, by focusing on the workforce that will help Vermont accomplish this transition, we center the young people coming of age in this challenging time. I believe we can create opportunities for young Vermonters amidst this climate crisis, as we help them build and utilize the skills our state, country and planet require in this moment.

We All Stand with Ruth!

Ruth's colleagues in the State House from across the Addison District endorse her re-election for Senate

Rep Joe Andriano, Orwell – "An independent voice who fights for her constituents"

Rep Peter Conlon, Cornwall – "Leadership has defined Ruth's service for years"

Rep Mari Cordes, Bristol – "A sister with a fire in her belly – that is Ruth"

Former Rep Mike Fisher, Lincoln – "A consistent & strong voice for fairness"

Rep Diane Lanpher, Vergennes – "A remarkable woman who does all the hard work"

Rep Jubilee McGill, Bridport – "Unwavering commitment ... an exceptional Senator"

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JEANNE ALBERT
DEMOCRAT
ADDISON-4

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: I've called Vermont home for nearly 40 years, the last seven in beautiful Lincoln. I'm currently Chair of the Lincoln School District Board, and recently served on the tri-partisan Legislative Apportionment Board, which redrew Vermont's House and Senate districts, following the 2020 Census. I've been teaching college math for over 30 years, after earning my PhD from Dartmouth.

I want to make a positive difference for my community and I enjoy collaborating with people who bring a diverse set of perspectives to the conversation. I'm ready to bring my strengths to Montpelier to tackle our state's tough challenges.

2) THREE ISSUES: (1) The future of public education in Vermont, with particular focus on finance, governance, and infrastructure.

Following an unprecedented increase in statewide education spending, and the failure at Town Meeting of one-third of district budgets, the Legislature established the *Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont*. The Commission's charge is exceptionally broad, and includes examining nearly every element of our system of public education. Its final report is due Dec. 1, 2025, with a preliminary report-- including short-term cost-containment options-- required by December 15, 2024.

(2) Support for working families, through a range of interconnected programs and initiatives.

We must sustain thriving communities where all Vermonters can afford to live and work. This essential goal incorporates many interconnected issues, including affordable housing; workforce development; accessible, quality childcare; paid family and medical leave; saving for retirement; and health services.

While we've made notable progress in several areas-- such as availability of high-quality, affordable childcare; the Vermont Saves retirement plan; increasing support for community mental health and substance use services; and positive steps toward addressing the statewide housing crisis-- we must build and expand on this progress.

(3) Setting a course for the transition to clean renewable energy and transportation systems for all, while strengthening climate resilience.

(See Albert on Page 8)



MARI CORDES
DEMOCRAT
ADDISON-4

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: I am a strong, independent woman. I have been a mason tender, vegetable farmer, union president, and Vermont RN for 36 years. Having created successful healthcare policy even before becoming a legislator, my experience as a working nurse has been invaluable to legislative healthcare policy-making. Community, organizing to make things better for all to enjoy life in Vermont are priorities. A constituent and her wife once said that when they see my lawn sign in someone's yard, they know they would be safe there. I love traveling with my family, riding my bicycle, kayaking, fishing, hunting, and exploring the wilderness.

2) THREE ISSUES: (1) Cost of living, (+ property taxes, housing), and (2) ever increasing healthcare costs (that drive up property taxes) are challeng-

ing for a small state with a small taxbase to address -- we can, and have. (3) We must strengthen, not dismantle, our public education system.

We know that property tax rates are a big problem. Legislature is required by law to raise revenue necessary to pay for all school budgets voted in across the state. Contrary to the administration's irresponsible and angst-provoking communications, after hundreds of testimony and hours with stakeholders and experts, the legislature's yield bill reduced property tax rates from the average projection of 20% to about 13-14%. Being a statewide average (skewed by a small number of districts) rates in our district were much lower than 13-14%. The costs of living and healthcare are not going to decrease; we will continue to work on lowering the tax burden next year.

Despite a progressive tax system, our state government is not raising enough revenue to provide basic services, which consequently increases the cost of living for low and middle-income taxpayers who can least afford it. This pressure leaves most of us "fighting under the table for scraps". We can, and intend to change this. The top 1% of Vermont income-earners are paying a smaller portion of their income in state taxes than middle income Vermonters. Corporate profits are also protected and paying less than their fair share.

Good democratic governance is responsive and accountable to the people.

(See Cordes on Page 10)



LYNNE CAULFIELD
REPUBLICAN
ADDISON-4

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: I grew up in Southern Vermont. After graduating from Brattleboro Union High in 1972 and the University of Vermont in 1976, I taught physical education at Brattleboro Union High School. I also coached field hockey, skiing, and tennis. My husband and I were married in 1977 and we spent two years as missionaries to England. We founded CHEV, Christian Home Educators of Vermont. My five children were home educated through high school which afforded them many rich and wonderful opportunities for their many skills and talents. My husband died 18 years ago after a three-and-a-half-year battle with pancreatic cancer during which I was his primary caregiver. I became a registered nurse after he died. As a home ecologist, my children and I have had many opportunities to care for fellow

citizens and the environment including singing at local nursing homes, serving as ushers at the Marlboro Music Festival, volunteering for the Red Cross, Green Mountain Club, Green Up Day, Connecticut River Clean Up, Special Olympics, Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, and many others. I am running because I believe our freedoms must be protected.

2) THREE ISSUES: Debt, education, and affordable housing

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: The education issue is not about money, it is about quality. Throwing more money at education will not necessarily produce healthy and mature adults who can think critically and act wisely. Parents should be involved in curricula choices for their children. There should be vast opportunities for school choice. Our curricula should start with the basics like reading, writing, and, arithmetic. Budgets should start with the basics and be carefully crafted to stay within the allocated amount. Students should be taught how to think critically not what to think. Removing the social change engineering aspect from schools will save time, money, and heartache.

4) HOUSING: One way to help with the affordable housing crunch is make living in Vermont affordable so there will be a workforce to build/renovate housing. Act 250 needs to be rehabilitated so builders and landowners aren't hamstrung by all the legal obstacles that currently exist. Lumber and materials that

(See Caulfield on Page 9)



CHANIN HILL
REPUBLICAN
ADDISON-4

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: I'm Chanin Hill and I'm running for one of Addison-4 house seats. I'm a lifelong resident of Addison County with most of those years spent in Bristol. I currently live and work on the family farm, Four Hills Farm here in Bristol. I'm married to my husband Brian Hill 31 years, have three children and three grandchildren. I'm running because I'm increasingly concerned about how unaffordable our state is becoming and I know that much of that is being driven by policies at the state level.

2) THREE ISSUES: Affordability is a big concern for all. From housing cost, taxes of all kinds, fees and inflation it is becoming too costly or the average citizen and small business owner to live and thrive here in Vermont.

Education is big player in not only

the affordability but also about quality. We pay as much if not more than many private schools would cost per pupil and our results are average. We need to focus more on the basics of education and remove politics from the classroom.

I am also concerned about safety. There was a time when I never considered locking my house or car, much less installing cameras to protect my home and business but that's where we're at. With homelessness, drug addiction and a lack of accountability for many crimes we've taken empathy and turned it into enabling with some of the legislation that's been passed recently. Allowing people to continue to harm themselves or others without providing guidance and accountability will simply allow the problem to progress.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: From when the state implemented their plan for how we should fund schools till now many bills with requirements that are costly have been passed and affected the base costs of education. I think we may have to go to the beginning and look at each piece of legislation that has had an impact on costs and figure out which were necessary and effective for our students and their educational outcome. Although some costs cannot be avoided many can be controlled or even eliminated. With enrollment down across most districts, the number of faculty, staff and administration do not appear to be reflective of this.

(See Hill on Page 9)



RENEE MCGUINNESS
REPUBLICAN
ADDISON-4

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: I am running for Addison-4 House to restore affordability, safety, and liberty to Vermont. Defending and supporting the family structure, as well as preserving the means for Vermonters to support their families, are top priorities. My work as Vermont Family Alliance (VFA) Policy Analyst for the past two years, researching and testifying on bills that undermine parent's and legal guardian's role in the lives of their children, has provided me with experiential understanding of the legislative process and the U.S. and Vermont Constitutions, which I hope to utilize as a state representative to further serve Vermonters.

2) THREE ISSUES: I agree with Gov- Phil Scott's top three priorities in the upcoming biennium: affordability, public safety, and housing, and will collaborate with the governor and my colleagues in the legislature on these issues.

The state needs to reduce spending rather than continue to raise taxes and fees, which are currently straining families and businesses.

I will work on legislation that increases penalties for drug dealers, imposes higher bail, stops the "catch and release" of both violent and non-violent offenders, introduce the repeal of the "safe" injection site legislation, which will draw more drug dealers and addicts to Vermont, and introduce legislation for addiction recovery services, which I consider the more humane, compassionate response to addiction over enabling the continued use of life-destroying drugs.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: Every time the legislature passes education legislation, it gets more complicated and expensive. I will work to reverse this burdensome trend. H.887 (Act 183) not only passed education tax funding for 2025, but also created a 13-member Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont, which will determine, "what roles, functions, or decisions should be a function of" local or State control, (p.6) directed by a steering group and paid consultants. H.887 also has a provision to create a new position within the Agency of Education for the purposes of providing "a wider range of data" to guide future legislation. Compensation for these newly created positions will come from the Education Fund, further increasing taxes.

The State mandate for the provision of free meals for all students regardless of family income costs \$29 million. We

need to return to the free and reduced lunch program to provide food for children who are truly in need.

Act 60 has demonstrated that equity in per-pupil spending does not result in improved or equal academic outcomes for all students. The solution is to repeal Acts 187, 60, and 127 (S.287, 2022), which causes education funds to flow from less affluent towns to sanctuary cities, because English Language students are weighted 2.5 times more than students of families at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, and weighted more than 5 times the standard categories by grade level.

School Choice legislation, introduced in 2024 but not taken up, would instill accountability and create a competitive environment, leading to improved academic outcomes.

I would also address the cost of health insurance in order to reduce the cost of this benefit for public school teachers and employees, as the Affordable Care Act has caused insurance premiums to almost double over the past decade.

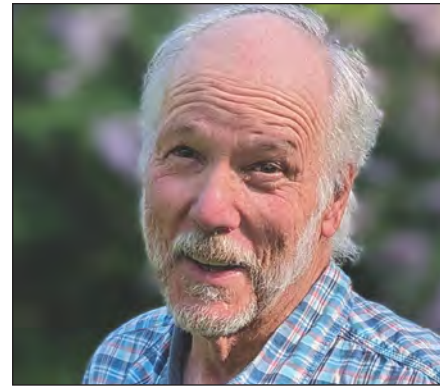
4) HOUSING: According to landlords and builders I have heard from, we can promote affordable home ownership by reducing state-mandated regulations that dramatically increase the cost of building, and therefore purchasing, a home, which I will pursue. H.687 (Act 181), "an act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection through land use," at 171 pages, fails to streamline the Act 250 process. It adds another level of bureaucracy, complexity, and expense by creating a six-member Land Use Review Board Nominating Committee, "created for the purpose of assessing the qualifications of applicants for appointment to the Land Use Review Board in accordance with section 6021 of this title," along with adding several other boards and positions, compensated at taxpayer expense. I will work toward truly streamlining the Act 250 process.

We also cannot move forward with conserving 50% of Vermont's land, which will cause the cost of land for homebuilding to skyrocket. I will work with the towns that I represent to offer legislation to my colleagues in the legislature.

5) CLIMATE: I do not support punitive, economically sacrificial environmental policy that does nothing to improve Vermont's environmental health. The Global Warming Solutions Act contains a provision allowing anyone to sue the state at taxpayer expense if Vermont fails to meet CO2 emissions reductions mandates. The Conservation Law Foundation is already considering a lawsuit, as Vermont will fail to meet the 2025 mandate. How will taxpayer money to pay for damages from a lawsuit improve the global climate?

Also, fuel dealers are unable to calculate a pre-buy bulk or budget price for their customers for this coming winter because under Act 18, the Public Utilities Commission does not submit their recommendations on how to calculate the cost of carbon credits until January 15,

(See McGuinness on Page 9)



HERB OLSON
DEMOCRAT
ADDISON-4

1) PERSONAL BACKGROUND: When we moved to the community 50 years ago, we were told we would be fine — as long as we pitched in. Community service creates our moral center, binding the individual and the community with each other. My community service resume includes: Mt. Abe High School Board, Starksboro Planning Commission, mediating between state regulators and the village water system, and advocating to save our school. My work skills and experience: Assistant Attorney General with human services agencies, Legislative Counsel for 16 years, and General Counsel-corporate regulator. I want to continue to serve our community in Montpelier.

2) THREE ISSUES: 1. Montpelier needs to fix the education property tax mess. Our children's education is the

highest priority of a decent and hopeful society, but we are in danger of losing public support for education because of recent extraordinary education property tax increases.

2. Vermont should be a place where our daughters and sons can afford to live and build a home. Montpelier has spent a lot of time, effort and public funding on increasing housing opportunities in cities and larger population centers. Rural Vermont communities need housing too.

3. Get a grip on health care inflation. The health care sector is spending more and more of the resources of individuals, businesses, government, and schools. Universal primary care can help by emphasizing lower cost, effective care by primary care practitioners, rather than relying on more expensive hospital care.

I have the skills, experience, and temperament to lend a hand in addressing these challenges. I was an Assistant Attorney General representing a variety of human services agencies. I was Legislative Counsel to the Vermont General Assembly, providing policy and legislative drafting advice. I was a General Counsel regulating health insurers, hospitals, banks, and securities firms. Through these experiences, I developed the temperament to get things done in Montpelier: (1) Respect everyone, regardless of policy differences. (2) Collaboration, good will and good relationships make for good solutions to our problems.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: First, (See Olson on Page 9)

ELDER for SENATE

ADDISON COUNTY SENATE



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EDUCATION,
THE ENVIRONMENT
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Get to know the Primary STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

The following candidates' names will appear on the Primary ballot for the parties indicated.
The incumbent is indicated by (inc). A contested race features a *

DEMOCRATIC BALLOT

Governor *	Esther Charlestin of Middlebury
Governor *	Peter K. Duval of Underhill
Lieutenant Governor *	David Zuckerman (inc) of Hinesburg
Lieutenant Governor *	Thomas Renner of Winooski
Attorney General	Charity R. Clark (inc) of Williston
Auditor Of Accounts	Doug Hoffer (inc) of Burlington
State Treasurer	Mike Pieciak (inc) of Winooski
Secretary Of State	Sarah Copeland Hanzas (inc) of Bradford
U.S. Senator	Bernie Sanders of Burlington
U.S. Representative	Becca Balint (inc) of Brattleboro

PROGRESSIVE BALLOT

Governor	Marielle Blais of Brandon
Lieutenant Governor	Zoraya Hightower of Burlington
Attorney General	Elijah Bergman of Danby
Auditor Of Accounts	Linda Gravell of Waterbury
State Treasurer	Tim Maciel of Brattleboro

REPUBLICAN BALLOT

Governor	Phil Scott (inc) of Berlin
Lieutenant Governor *	Gregory M. Thayer of Rutland City
Lieutenant Governor *	John S. Rodgers of Glover
Attorney General	H. Brooke Paige of Washington
Auditor Of Accounts	H. Brooke Paige of Washington
State Treasurer	Joshua Bechhoefer of Cornwall
Secretary Of State	H. Brooke Paige of Washington
U.S. Representative	Mark Coester of Westminster
U.S. Senator	Gerald Malloy of Weathersfield

Albert

(Continued from Page 6)

As many families in our district and across the state tragically experienced, Vermont's shifting climate means we now regularly experience what used to be "extreme" events, that destroy homes and businesses, devastate farms, and critically disturb natural ecosystems.

Along with ensuring that we meet our emissions reduction goals, during the next legislative session there will be significant focus on expanding improvements we've made in flood recovery and resilience. We also must continue our transition to clean renewable energy and transportation systems in a manner that is affordable and equitable for all.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: The foundation of democratic society is universally accessible, high-quality public education. Vermont's system for funding education is commendable for its commitment to equity.

However, the extreme complexity of education financing is undermining faith in the system overall. In particular, the connection between voted budgets and education tax rates is so obscured that a sense of local control has been eroded, generating mistrust.

Meanwhile, extreme pressures from the Covid pandemic continue to affect district budgets: federal support has ended, but the needs of students and staff have not. The pandemic also drove up property values, which led to spikes in education taxes, and the pause in state funding for facilities has taken a toll on both school buildings and budgets. This "milestone" structure is important, so that we can understand if we are on track to meet our goals, or if we are falling short and must take corrective action.

Reforming this complex system will be an enormous and challenging task. Legislation passed this Spring establishing the *Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont* indicates as much. Here are some ideas I hope will be examined.

- Using income as the basis for education taxes— instead of property plus income-based credits— would be more equitable, transparent, simpler to implement, and potentially save money overall.

- Moving expenditures that aren't directly related to education out of the Education Fund— especially rapidly increasing costs that school districts don't control, such as mental health services and employee health benefits— would make district budgeting more predictable at the local level and more manageable at the state level.

- Expanding implementation of the community-schools model, which creates a coordinated hub of support for families, would increase community connectedness and ultimately reduce the costs of social services.

Working together, we can design public education governance structures that prioritize thriving community schools, within a sustainable, financial funding model that is affordable for taxpayers and preserves local decision making.

4) HOUSING: All Vermonters should have a safe and affordable place to live. A dire shortage in affordable housing causes instability and hardship for families and communities, and exacerbates labor challenges for Vermont businesses.

Lack of affordable housing connects to other critical challenges, as well. For example, increasing housing in Vermont's downtowns and rural communities means increased opportunities for young families to live close to an elementary school. These schools are the heart and soul of our communities and provide the best foundation for young learners. Increasing affordable housing strengthens our public schools, which then strengthens the vitality of our communities and encourages more families to stay in—or come to—Vermont.

Housing connects to climate and the environment, too, as catastrophic flooding has become more and more common in Vermont. Having a stable and safe place to live is also a critical element of health and well-being— for children, especially— and is closely linked to social and emotional health.

I am encouraged by recent reforms to Act 250 that will help increase the availability of affordable housing in downtowns and village centers. Another promising initiative comes from the office of the Vermont Treasurer, through its Local Investment Initiative. This program prioritizes increasing housing supply and affordability as well as removing barriers to equal opportunity.

Balancing the protection of Vermont's natural beauty and landscapes with the need for more affordable housing requires thoughtful planning and listening to a range of views. We need to ensure that we strike the right balance and that all communities have the opportunity to thrive.

5) CLIMATE: I support Vermont's Climate Action Plan. We must make the transition to clean renewable energy, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions according to regular milestones is a necessary first step.

Under the plan, by 2050 we are committed to reducing emissions by at least 80% below 1990 levels, and must be at least halfway to that goal by 2030. Also, by 2025, emissions must be 26% below 2005 levels. This milestone structure is important, so that we'll understand if we are on track to meet our goals, or if we are falling short and must take corrective action.

I also strongly support other elements of the plan, such as the commitment to a just transition: one where all regions of Vermont see benefits, especially our most vulnerable communities and individuals. In addition, the Plan envisions critically important investments in climate resiliency across the state.

In order to fulfill the promise of the Plan, we must accurately measure emissions and track trends. I am concerned that there are insufficient safeguards to ensure that emissions data used are reliable. Another improvement: I would like to see evidence of how we plan to hold ourselves to the commitment to a just transition.

Olson

(Continued from Page 7)

don't change the core fairness principle that the quality of a student's education should not depend on the wealth of the town where the student lives. (Brigham)

Second, Stop pushing false solutions. Closing a rural elementary school doesn't save as much as some imagine, and should not be undertaken before making administrative reforms that do not directly impact student learning. Meanwhile, closing a school loses important educational benefits for students, especially for lower income students.

Third, Fixing the education property tax mess has a tax component, and a spending component. Tax revenue allocated to the Education Fund has shifted away from corporate and individual income taxes. We should be looking to reduce reliance on property taxes to fund education. On the spending side, we need to conduct a deep financial audit of whether all spending from the Education Fund is necessary, and whether, even if necessary, spending levels are reason-

able and cost-effective. Let's start with some obvious candidates for examination. (1) Many local districts complain about costly mandates from Montpelier. Mandated spending should be identified, and accepted, rejected, or revised as appropriate. (2) Health benefits constituted 16% of recent increased education spending. Ask the Green Mountain Care Board to focus on cost containment as their highest priority. (3) Student behavioral health needs and costs have exploded. Behavioral health services are covered under both public and private health insurance plans. Are insurers paying their fair share? (4) Administrative spending in some districts exceeds national norms. Identify administrative and operational cost saving reforms.

4) HOUSING: The cost of housing is one of the main reasons why our daughters and sons have difficulty affording to live and raise a family in Vermont. I was working with a young family several years ago in a school advocacy effort, and they could not find a home for any price in our community, much less at a price they could afford.

We need a sense of urgency about the

housing crisis in Vermont. It's not enough to say "I support affordable housing BUT ..." (But, I want the homes around me to look like mine. But, manufactured home parks should be located somewhere else. But, I want to limit the land available for housing in rural communities in order to permanently preserve certain land I like.)

Montpelier has devoted considerable time, effort and public funding to support housing in cities and larger population centers. Rural Vermont communities need more housing also.

- Design housing programs that fit the scale of a rural Vermont community. Rural Vermont generally builds homes one unit at a time, or as a small, 5-10-unit project. Recently legislated programs incentivizing 75-unit projects are not relevant to rural Vermont.

- Rural Vermont communities usually do not have public infrastructure, such as municipal sewer and water. We should explore initiatives to help with community water and septic systems for smaller scale, rural housing projects, or with assistance with the upfront infrastructure costs for owner-built homes.

- We should look into expanding the concept of graduated permit fee amounts based on the size of the housing project. We should also look into whether some permits for smaller projects can be self-certified by licensed professionals.

- Land costs in Vermont have skyrocketed. If the supply of buildable land is limited, the cost of land will increase,

whether that is because of land purchased for second homes, zoning restrictions, or the permanent conservation of buildable land. Housing in rural Vermont communities will benefit from policies that do not restrict the availability of buildable land for housing.

5) CLIMATE: I support the Climate Action Plan. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting clean energy and transportation is good for our environment, and can be good for society.

We are already experiencing the very real and costly effects of climate change. When Hurricane Beryl swept through my town, Starksboro, a few weeks ago a wall of water came down from the Lewis Creek headwaters, trashing bridges, flinging vehicles, damaging homes, and upending lives. Skiing and snowboarding are suffering from milder winters that don't deliver enough snow. Agriculture is experiencing torrential rains, or conversely severe droughts. Climate change is also bringing all manner of exotic tick borne diseases.

It is essential that there be a just and sensible financial transition to clean energy and transportation that will ensure low and moderate income Vermonters get the assistance they need, and that local small businesses are not harmed. Otherwise, we will face backlash that will leave us divided and worse off. We should work to build consensus to address this urgent issue together.

Caulfield

(Continued from Page 6)

can be produced in Vermont will provide jobs and sustainable forestry practices to protect our beautiful landscape.

5) CLIMATE: The biggest threat to all the issues discussed thus far is our climate and effected ecosystem we live in. The action plan needed is to expose and halt geoengineering and subsequent weather manipulation. The ongoing atmospheric aerosol spraying and microwave/radio frequency transmissions are

wreaking havoc on our farm land, our air, and our water. (geoengineeringwatch.org) Aluminum and barium are primary elements named in climate engineering patents. High levels of heavy metals have been found in whales, human and cow milk, with links to autism risks. Vermont agriculture and infrastructure cannot withstand the increasing risk of extreme weather and flooding. Our green mountains, hills, and valleys need all of us to preserve the beauty we all love.

Hill

(Continued from Page 6)

4) HOUSING: Act 250 needs to be reformed along with many other pieces of legislation that put up barriers for potential home builders, buyers, new businesses and existing businesses to make the necessary investments to either stay or do business here in Vermont. I would not support any additional legislation that would inhibit growth around the state.

5) CLIMATE: I do not support the Vermont Climate Action Plan. Many don't know but Vermont is already the lowest emitter of Co2 in the United States with less than 0.1% total emissions and

methane emissions at about 0.2% we are already one of the cleanest states in the US. I would say that Vermonters both individually and businesses are already doing a very good job. I'm all for having goals but the way this piece of legislation is written, if we fail to meet our goals it allows for anyone or any organization to sue the State of Vermont (i.e. taxpayers). We will not meet the lofty goals set by this and we need to remove the portion of this that allows for this and re-examine with current science and current data if we should not simply repeal the entire thing.

McGuinness

(Continued from Page 7)

2025. This negatively impacts customers who need the financial security of locking in a price.

The solutions would be to repeal the Global Warming Solutions Act, the Affordable Heat Act, and the Clean Heat Standard and prioritize financial resource-

es toward expansion and upgrades of our water and sewer treatment plants to eliminate the dumping of millions of gallons of sewage into our waterways every year: this would directly improve the quality of our environment.



I'm Herb Olson, a candidate for the VT House of Representatives for Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro. I raised my family here and have served our community for 50 years. I know state government, having been an Assistant Attorney General, Legislative Counsel, and General Counsel-corporate regulator.

Montpelier needs to do a better job of listening to rural Vermont communities.

- ✓ **Fix the education property tax mess.** We are in danger of losing public support for our children's education.
- ✓ **Rural Vermont needs housing too.** Vermont should be a place where our daughters and sons can afford to live and build a home.
- ✓ **Get a grip on healthcare inflation.** Universal primary care can help.
- ✓ **Early education.** Our kids' development and education depend on it.

I invite voters to meet me on August 7th at 7:00 pm at Howden Hall in Bristol to hear your questions and concerns.

Please vote for me in the Democratic primary on August 13th.

HERB OLSON

for VT HOUSE

Paid for by Herb Olson for VT House. 4577 Ireland Rd., Starksboro, VT 05487

herb.olson123@gmail.com

Herb Olson for VT House

401-829-1678



Cordes

(Continued from Page 6)

Our collective strength and compassion are the most important qualities that will allow us to meet the significant challenges we face. Sen Wellstone: “We all do better when we all do better”. Good governance is key to that. I honor these values and will continue to work to uphold them.

3) PAYING FOR SCHOOLS: I had experiences as a kid where adults showing up for me changed the trajectory of my life. And public education is where most of that support happened. I want to make sure that our education system is there for our kids when they need it, and that education staff have the tools they need.

I introduced legislation to fund education using a more progressive income-based method, completely separate from property taxes, shown to be more stable and fair. I supported the 2024 Commission on the Future of Public Education to ensure “all students are afforded quality educational opportunities and an efficient, sustainable and equitable system...”.

Vermont’s current funding system is complex, and measures passed to date have not been successful in addressing root causes, especially related to increases in cost of living and cost of healthcare. So we must continue to work to lower

property tax burdens immediately, at the same time, with the Commission, we’re creating major structural change to protect Vermonters and our education system from the pressures of economic root causes being felt across the country. It is not wise to make such major structural change in a hurry as the governor suggests; instead we must allow for constituent voices to be heard in the process of significant focus with education and education finance experts.

The Commission will provide the following reports: (1) a formal work plan, with maximal public engagement, by 9/15/24; (2) preliminary findings and recommendations by 1/15/24; and (3) final findings and recommendations by 12/1/25.

While protecting the integrity and strength of local districts, we may need to look at state-wide management and re-sourcing of certain school-based services in order to contain costs, such as mental health services, healthcare/insurance, school construction and maintenance, and more.

4) HOUSING: The success of Act 76, the Child Care bill, is apparent. More spots are available for kids, more parents are able to afford childcare and get back/stay in the workforce, and more early childhood educators/centers are able to contribute to Vermont’s economy. We need to continue to make Vermont enticing for young families by making sure that they have an affordable place to live,

as well as keep elders safely in their own homes.

There is a proven place for short term rentals (STRs) in a tourism economy like Vermont’s. Families, retired people and people with limited income can add income diversity. Also, we must protect Vermont residents, renters and homeowners/buyers from the “Airbnb effect”. Unregulated STRs have been shown to have a negative impact on long term renters and homeowners by adding to increases in housing values/costs, outpricing a place to live for the long term residents of the area, and limiting their ability to raise children and contribute to the local economy. The influx of wealthy 2nd home owners during the pandemic has added to the problem.

Next steps:

Continue to reduce regulatory burdens to all aspects of affordable home building, while continuing to provide state financial support and access to federal funding for affordable housing projects, including application and infrastructure support for local and municipal governments.

Provide state (e.g. licensing, rental registry) and local power (e.g. zoning) to not only regulate short and long-term rentals, but provide entities with adequate financial and human resource support to design -together- equitable community rental housing plans with voices of short and long term landlords, renters, those impacted by racial, ethnic

and economic disparity, and town/city/rural planners at the table.

Continue to invest in trades’ workforce development, starting at age appropriate student levels.

5) CLIMATE: Yes, as long as the plan continues to be a living document updated at least every 4 years, any strategies from the plan continue to be subject to approval of the legislature with significant public and stakeholder input (e.g., as has occurred with the latest Renewable Energy Standard bill and Network Geothermal bill of which I introduced the original version), and the voices of youth and marginalized people are truly supported and empowered in the process.

The devastating impacts of the climate emergency are painfully evident. We have created strong policy with a focus on protecting those who can least afford the impacts of climate change, as well as the tools and strategies we need to survive. Because of the unprecedented investment by the Biden administration and bipartisanship at the federal level, we have significant financial support to make a just transition for those that want to participate. Those that don’t want to participate will still be afforded these protections, including economic, while they can maintain the status quo for their heating and transportation choices (at least while fossil fuels are available and viable).

RE-ELECT SENATOR CHRIS BRAY

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- \$100+ million in economic activity
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“Chris never clocks out from his responsibilities in the Senate.”
—Bobby Stoddard, Builder, Bristol



PRIMARY ELECTION ON AUGUST 13 — EARLY VOTING NOW UNDERWAY

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Hardy

(Continued from Page 3)

homes. Last year we passed legislation to improve the property appraisal process and collect better data about properties throughout the state, which could lead to more equitable, targeted tax policy.

We must focus attention and funding on diverse supportive housing and long-term care residences. Such housing, as well as a harm-reduction approach to opioid use and adequate mental health care, are crucial to addressing the homelessness crisis. Similarly, we streamlined the state's emergency housing program, which provides short-term housing through motels and community shelters. The state must better monitor and improve operation of this program for the long run.

5) CLIMATE: I do support the Vermont Climate Action Plan. The Plan was the result of the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA), which I voted for when it passed in September 2020. The GWSA created legally binding green-

house gas emission reduction requirements for the State of Vermont, with the first deadline for reductions coming next year in 2025. The Plan seeks to reduce the worst impacts of climate change via a wide range of emission-reduction strategies, focused on the thermal heating, transportation, and agriculture sectors, and economic and equity considerations.

Unfortunately, since the passage of the GWSA and the creation of the initial Climate Action Plan, Vermont has sustained numerous natural disasters that can be linked to climate change, including several catastrophic floods, off-season freezes, damaging winter wind storms, and extreme heat events. Thus, while emissions reductions are more urgent than ever, we must also focus on pragmatic climate resiliency to help Vermont withstand dramatic weather events. We literally have to rebuild Vermont towns to prevent and tolerate extreme floods, heat, wind, and ice, and must do so without leaving Vermonters with lower-incomes behind. It is crucial that proactive climate change prevention and equitable resilience go hand-in-hand.

Bienvenue

(Continued from Page 2)

of Vermont has recently passed laws regarding additional educational financial resources such as increasing the rooms and meals tax earmarked for education. One of my recommendations is to significantly increase taxes on cigarettes. This tax would be allocated for education projects such as replacing furniture and building improvements through grant programs. My expectation is that this tobacco tax would eventually become obsolete when this toxic chemical is permanently banned. Shut down all tobacco companies and no imports. These buildings could be cleaned out and turned into a textile manufacturing company such as footwear. Vermont does not have enough employment opportunities. All people are to be paid for services and poverty will become extinct.

My second recommendation is to evaluate our school cafeteria program. The cafeteria is disposing of way too much food. Composting is an expensive clean up. Menus need to be revised. In addition, I recommend students have recess first and then lunch. Many students socialize a lot during lunch and their food gets cold or they run out of time and the food is thrown away. The intention is that the socialization would occur during recess and not have such a heavy impact on lunch.

Reduce, reuse, recycle materials should be used for curriculum development in our schools. Henceforth, reducing taxes.

4) HOUSING: Utilizing existing building properties that have been abandoned. Contacting the current owner and purchasing the property at fair market value and renovating the structure for

housing. That old barn that has been sitting empty for twenty years could be a single-family home or a four-apartment complex. Addison County Residents are requesting country living rental properties. They can not afford to purchase single dwelling homes. All rentals must be a two bedroom floor plan for financial efficiency, this concept accomodates all family structures.

5) CLIMATE: Vermont has been consistently improving upon environmental protection issues. Our recycling program began in the late 1980's and look where we are today. The Vermont Natural Resource Council has passed into law H.126 also known as Act 59 demanding community resilience and biodiversity. Currently Vermont has 76 percent forestland. The intention is to preserve and protect 30 percent of this land by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050 which should meet our needs in this state. Most recently Vermont purchased Wheeler Mountain in Sutton, VT one of the plan of action initiatives. Vermont is the 3rd most forested state out of 48. Forestry management is a huge proponent in climate control, building strong healthy forests for clean air, soil, shade and providing our wood products as necessary but at full grown capacity. Solar panels and wind turbines have provided energy as well as climate control abilities. It is imperative that excessive lifestyle habits be abolished. Clean up is expensive. Repair is expensive. Decline in appreciation value. Reduction in available commodities. Be educated. Moderation is a requirement for manageability. All aspects affect our financial status.

Henceforth, my leadership sets ideals supporting community values, collaboration, communication and compliance. Elect Lesley Bienvenue as the moderate Republican Senator for Addison County.

Get to know the Primary COUNTY CANDIDATES

The following candidates are running for the Vermont House or Representatives of Vermont Senate. Their names will appear on the Primary ballot for the parties indicated.

The incumbent is indicated by (inc). A contested race features a *.

DEMOCRATIC BALLOT

State Rep. Add 1	Amy Sheldon (inc) of Middlebury
State Rep. Add 1	Robin Scheu (inc) of Middlebury
State Rep. Add 2	Peter Conlon (inc) of Cornwall
State Rep. Add 3	Diane Lanpher (inc) of Vergennes
State Rep. Add 3	Matt Biron (inc) of Vergennes
State Rep. Add 4 *	Herb Olson of Starksboro
State Rep. Add 4 *	Jeanne Albert of Lincoln
State Rep. Add 4 *	Mari Cordes (inc) of Lincoln
State Rep. Add 5	Jubilee McGill (inc) of Bridport
State Senator Add *	Caleb Elder of Starksboro
State Senator Add *	Christopher Bray (inc) of Bristol
State Senator Add *	Ruth Hardy (inc) of Middlebury
High Bailiff	Dave Silberman (inc) of Middlebury

REPUBLICAN BALLOT

State Rep. Add 3	Rob North of Ferrisburgh
State Rep. Add 4 *	Chanin Hill of Bristol
State Rep. Add 4 *	Lynne Caulfield of Monkton
State Rep. Add 4 *	Renee McGuinness of Monkton
State Rep. Add 5	Del Thompson of Bridport
State Rep. Addison Rutland	Jim Casey of Hubbardton
State Senator Add *	Landel James Cochran of Huntington
State Senator Add *	Lesley J. Bienvenue of Leicester
State Senator Add *	Steven Heffernan of Bristol
High Bailiff	Ron Holmes of Middlebury

How to vote in Vermont's 2024 primary election

BY VTDIGGER.ORG

To take part in this month's primary election, you must be registered to vote in Vermont, though you may still register on the day of the election.

There are two ways to vote:

1. Early voting by mail or in person, from June 29 to Aug. 12
2. In person at your polling place on Tuesday, Aug. 13

All U.S. citizens who are residents of Vermont and will be 18 or older for the general election on Nov. 5, 2024, are eligible to register to vote in the primary election.

VOTER REGISTRATION

To vote in the primary, you must be registered to vote in Vermont, though you may still register on the day of the election.

If you're not registered, there are multiple ways to do so:

- In person at your town clerk's office in the days leading up to the election.
- In person at your polling place. You may register at your polling place on the day of the election (Aug. 13).
- You may also register online or by mail using a paper registration form, both available via the Secretary of State's Office website, but be sure to leave several days for your registration to be processed if you are using these methods.

According to the Secretary of State's Office, first-time registrants will be required to submit a photocopy of a valid form of ID. Acceptable documents include:

- Valid photo ID (driver's license or

passport)

- Current utility bill
- Current bank statement
- Another government document

First-time Vermont voters must also take the voter's oath, a short statement one may recite to oneself.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting is available from June 29 to Aug. 12. There are multiple ways to request and submit your ballot.

Request your ballot:

- In person at your town clerk's office, OR
- Online or by mail using a paper registration form via the Secretary of State's Office website.

Then, submit your ballot:

- By mail, OR
- Drop it off at your town clerk's office.

Early ballots must be received at your town clerk's office by close of business on Aug. 12. If you're mailing your ballot, send it by Aug. 5 to allow a week for delivery.

For the primary, you will be offered a ballot from each of the major parties: Democratic, Republican and Progressive. You must pick one ballot to complete. However, all three ballots — including the two blank ones — must be returned in the envelope provided.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

To vote in person on Aug. 13: Find your polling place on the Secretary of State's Office website. Polls open at various times from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

Who does what in Vermont government

BY VTDIGGER.ORG

As voters prepare to fill elected positions for the next two years, they may be wondering what are the primary responsibilities of each elected position in Vermont state government?

There are six elected officers in Vermont who serve the entire state, along with 180 state legislators who represent smaller districts. These positions are filled through a general election every two years in November. The state's three major parties choose their nominees for these offices through primary elections held in August.

This year's general election is Nov. 5. The primary is Aug. 13.

As voters prepare to fill these positions for the next two years, VTDigger has summed up the primary responsibilities of each:

STATE LEGISLATOR

Members of the Vermont House and Senate propose, debate and approve state laws. They play a key role in writing the annual state budget, which determines how Vermont spends its resources, as well as determining tax policy. The Legislature confirms certain appointments made by the governor, including judges, and conducts oversight of the executive branch. Though the two chambers have similar powers, the Vermont Senate has 30 members and is elected largely along county lines, while the House has 150 members who typically represent a handful of towns or a portion of a city.

**THIS YEAR'S
GENERAL
ELECTION IS
NOV. 5.
THE PRIMARY IS
AUG. 13.**

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Vermont's attorney general leads an office that, like county-level state's attorneys, can represent the state in all civil and criminal legal matters. The attorney general tends to focus on more significant cases in state and federal court — and joins other states in national litigation. Lawyers in the office advise state officials, departments and agencies on questions of law. They defend legislative acts and administrative rules in court. The office enforces state laws on civil rights, charitable fundraising and consumer protection, as well as particular areas of criminal justice, including gun regulations, computer crimes and fraud by health care providers against the federal Medicaid program.

TREASURER

Vermont's state treasurer leads an office that serves as the bank for all state activities. The treasurer manages the state's cash accounts, including processing checks and reconciling vendor payments and payroll. The office is also tasked with the investment of state reserve funds and the issuing of all state bonds. It oversees the state's three major employee pension programs and other retirement benefits for state employees, teachers and the staff of participating municipalities. It also receives, holds in trust and seeks to return abandoned or unclaimed financial property.

SECRETARY OF

STATE

Vermont's secretary of state leads a team tasked with a wide range of essential administrative functions, from overseeing the integrity of elections to maintaining the state's historical records. Among other duties, the office licenses, investigates and disciplines those in more than 50 professions. It maintains records on businesses and other organizations registered to operate in the state. Along with overseeing elections, the office also receives and retains campaign finance reports and the registration of all active professional political lobbyists.

GOVERNOR

The governor of Vermont leads the state's executive branch. The officeholder appoints those who lead the agencies and departments that provide all state government services, as well as state judges. The governor proposes a state budget to the Legislature each year and can veto bills the Legislature passes, with some exceptions. This person carries out state laws and implements the state budget. The governor oversees the Vermont National Guard and can assume additional powers during a time of emergency.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont's lieutenant governor is largely a ceremonial role. The officeholder serves as the presiding officer of the Vermont Senate, able to vote on measures before the body only in case of a tie. The lieutenant governor steps in to perform the governor's duties when that person is out of the state or incapacitated. More informally, people in the role have used it as a platform for advocacy and to convene Vermonters in public discussions of important issues to the state.

AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

Vermont's auditor of accounts seeks to hold state government accountable by evaluating how taxpayer funds are spent. The auditor's office performs and contracts a variety of required audits of the activities, receipts and expenditures of the state. It also regularly takes on performance audits to determine whether a particular public program is reaching its intended purpose or whether a particular department or agency is operating efficiently.

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OFFICIAL PROGRAM

*A Special Publication of
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ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS

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Welcome

The Addison County Fair & Field Days Board extends a cordial invitation to you, and your friends and family to exhibit at this year's Addison County Fair & Field Days on August 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 2024. It is our pleasure to present the opportunity for area citizens to showcase the quality products which they have produced. The guidelines and rules are in this booklet for anyone wishing to enter something in the competitive exhibit departments. We extend our sincere appreciation to all who have exhibited in the past, and look forward to working with new, as well as past exhibitors, during our 2024 fair.

Addison County Fair & Field Days, Inc.

1790 Field Days Rd, Vergennes, VT 05491
802-545-2557 (phone) • 802-329-2133 (fax)
Visit us at AddisonCountyFieldDays.com

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Fancy fried foods	24
Verd Mont Button Club	30



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About this Field Days Program

For many Vermonters, the Addison County Fair & Field Days is a Top 10 summer event — and for good reason. Vermont doesn't just talk about its agricultural roots, it lives them. Milking cows, shearing sheep, growing food — those are all things we do day in and day out in this part of New England. Agriculture is an integral part of Addison County life and economy, and it is also a lot of fun. At Field Days we celebrate that essential part of the Vermont character every year.

Tens of thousands of people from the Champlain Valley and beyond come to the fair every year to celebrate their agricultural roots — or to get back to those roots.

The best farmers, sugarmakers, cooks, bakers and all kinds of crafters compete for bragging rights — as do those brave men and women who get behind the wheel in the demolition derby and the tractor pull (not to mention the folks who work with the powerful draft horses). And don't forget Wednesday's skillet toss. More often than not, the winners turn out to be our neighbors, or the folks down the road who we see at the grocery store and at our kids' school concerts.

Children with livestock of all kinds — cows, calves, sheep, lambs, rabbits and many sorts of fowl — work for weeks and months leading up to the fair, grooming their animals for show-ring competition. Adults compete for the coveted Leona Thompson Bowl. Younger crafters try to earn the Frances Monroe Youth Award.

Contestants young and old — and every age between — gather fruits and vegetables from the garden and sugar and spices from the pantry; then cook them up into a smorgasbord of jams, pickles, cakes and cookies for competitions in the Food Department.

There are exhibits, pulls (tractor, truck, horse, oxen and pedal-tractor), animal judging, horse shows, carnival food by the ton and plenty of midway rides.

Oh, and don't miss the armwrestling if you can help it.

This program is designed to serve as a guide to Field Days. A complete schedule of events can be found as well as profiles of this year's entertainers.

There is plenty to see and do over the five days of the fair — Aug. 6-10. Come and see it all!



Message to Superintendents

The *Addison Independent* will publish the results of as many Field Days competitions as we can get our hands on. Event superintendents should take their results to the Field Days office immediately after the events. Field Days staff will make copies and the *Independent* will publish the information as quickly as possible.

Thank you!



FIELD DAYS RESULTS

LOOK FOR COVERAGE FROM THIS YEAR'S ADDISON COUNTY FAIR & FIELD DAYS IN THE *ADDISON INDEPENDENT*.

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2024 Admission

Your ticket price includes parking, gate admission, re-admission, grandstands, all Field Days shows & exhibits. Ticket office opens at 7:30 a.m.

ADULTS (ages 12 and over)

Tuesday – Saturday Daily Admission \$15

SEASON PASS \$60

SENIOR DISCOUNT

Free on Tuesday with Green Mountain Passport
(Green Mtn Passports can be purchased at your local Town Clerk's office)

CHILDREN (ages 6-11)

Daily Admission \$5

SEASON PASS \$20

CHILDREN (5 years and under)

FREE all days

RIDE BRACELET – Buy a \$25 bracelet and it is good for rides all day.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

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Cover photo by Steve James/Addison Independent



2024 Dedication

This year we are pleased to dedicate our fair to sunshine and warm weather! After a year of mud and rain, we are enlisting the help of Mother Nature to give us warm days, sunshine, and cool breezes!

We thank all the 2023 fair personnel, exhibitors, vendors, volunteers, and fair goers for your support during last year's rainy event.

This year promises to bring all the usual vendors, rides, fair food, exhibits, kids, and animals and all their glory!

Although paving the parking lot was not in the cards or the state's groundwater rules, we have a beautiful new livestock barn to house the beef and open dairy cattle. We hope you will enjoy our green grass and improvements to a few really soft areas of the grounds and roads.

See you at Addison County Field Days, Aug. 6 through 10, 2024!



**Tickets
Sell Out!**

"The Taste of Vermont"

at Addison County Fair & Field Days
Dining Hall • Tuesday, August 6th
Sittings at 5:15, 6:00 and 6:45
Adults: \$15 Children 10 & under: \$8



Tickets available now at:
Middlebury Inn in Middlebury, Pratt's Store in
Bridport, the Field Days office
or at fielddays@gmavt.net.
Beginning Aug. 6th,
tickets will only be available
at the Field Days office.
Call 545-2557



Green Mountain
Passport Day

Opening Day Parade
6:00PM

Sanctuary Band
7:00PM

Bracelet Rides – ALL DAY for \$25
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4-H animal lease program creates champions

By SOPHIA
AFSAR-KESHMIRI

For the second year in a row, Jonathan Chamberlin's daughter, Paige, 9, was able to show animals at the Addison County Field Days Fair in 2023 through the same 4-H lease program that he participated in as a child.

In this day and age the majority of the 4-H'ers that lead their animals around the fairgrounds show pen are participating as part of this animal leasing program, according to Addison County 4-H educator Martha Seifert.

The program gives Addison County kids who don't live on farms the opportunity to experience the animal husbandry lifestyle. It was initiated 25 to 30 years ago "because there's fewer and fewer of us that grew up on farms," Seifert said.

"And this gives kids the opportunity to work with large animals," she said.

The 75th annual Addison County Fair and Field Days kicked off at the county fairgrounds in New Haven on Aug. 8, 2023, and ran through Saturday evening, which capped off with fireworks.

Rain always seems to come to the fair; last year it arrived on the first day and was more plentiful than usual. Organizers canceled that Tuesday evening's Demolition Derby, but scheduled to hold it on Wednesday evening — there's ALWAYS a demolition derby.

Due to muddy conditions on that Wednesday, Field Days officials had closed the main public parking entrance and welcome center located off Route 17 and were asking that attendees enter the fairgrounds via the farm gate on Field Days Road instead. The main entrance was expected to re-

open by Wednesday evening.

Back at the show arena, youngster paraded their cows, all much bigger than their human-counterpart, around the competition pen in surprisingly crisp and unstained white uniforms.

The New England-wide 4-H animal loaner program is set up so that host farms choose whether or not families pay a fee for participation.

"Some of them (families) pay like \$1 for the year, and others, there's no fee," Seifert said.

"It teaches some responsibility, decision making, critical thinking, all those life skills."

And it doesn't hurt that the kids have fun too.

Chamberlin, 43, didn't grow up on a farm, and neither do his kids, and the program has provided the opportunity for himself, Paige and his 12-year-old son, Colin, to raise animals.

At the 2023 4-H Field Days cow competition, the hard work that Paige has been putting in since April yielded a blue ribbon for her Spring Asher Calf named Rain.

"It teaches some responsibility, decision making, critical thinking, all those life skills."

— Martha Seifert

gled into a perfect Paige-sized-nook between Rain and another calf when asked for a photo.

She gave an emphatic "Yeah!" when asked if she had fun raising cows.

And with a huge smile, she said she enjoyed the activities of walking and talking to Rain.

Paige leased Rain from Blue

S h e showed her love for the animals as she hopped o v e r to the animals a n d s n u g -



PAIGE CHAMBERLIN, 9, snuggles up between two cows in the 4-H dairy barn at the 75th Addison County Field Days Fair this past August. Like her father before her, Paige doesn't live on a farm so she leases a cow from Blue Spruce Farm to raise and show at the fair.

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

Spruce Farm in Bridport, the same farm that Middlebury Union High School student Emma Dearing, 17, had been leasing from for 10 years.

In the 2023 competition, she and her red and white Holstein named Believe-Alliah were awarded Junior Champion in the Holstein category.

When asked what she has most enjoyed about the program, she said she loves the people she's had the opportunity to meet.

Blue Spruce Farm owner Eugene Audet, 63, proudly watched as the two champions got their photo taken. He said his farm has been participating as a host for the 4-H lease program for years.

He reiterated Seifert's statement that the program allows non-farm kids to see what farm-life is like.

Additionally, he said participants learn to communicate with the larger 4-H community that

they are involved in, whether that pre-competition or during days in the 4-H barn at Field Days.

Another Addison County farm, Four Hills Farm in Bristol, has been hosting participants for many years as well. Sadie Moulton, 29, first started leasing from the farm 15 years ago, and on Tuesday her sister Bella Roell, 13, and her niece Kylee Shepard, 12, both showed in Tuesday's Field Day competition and won awards for their Four Hills Farm calves.

Moulton said that in total, the family had five kids show 11 calves at this year's fair.

"We have six kids (at the fair) but one technically isn't old enough to bring (a calf) yet but helps a lot," she noted.

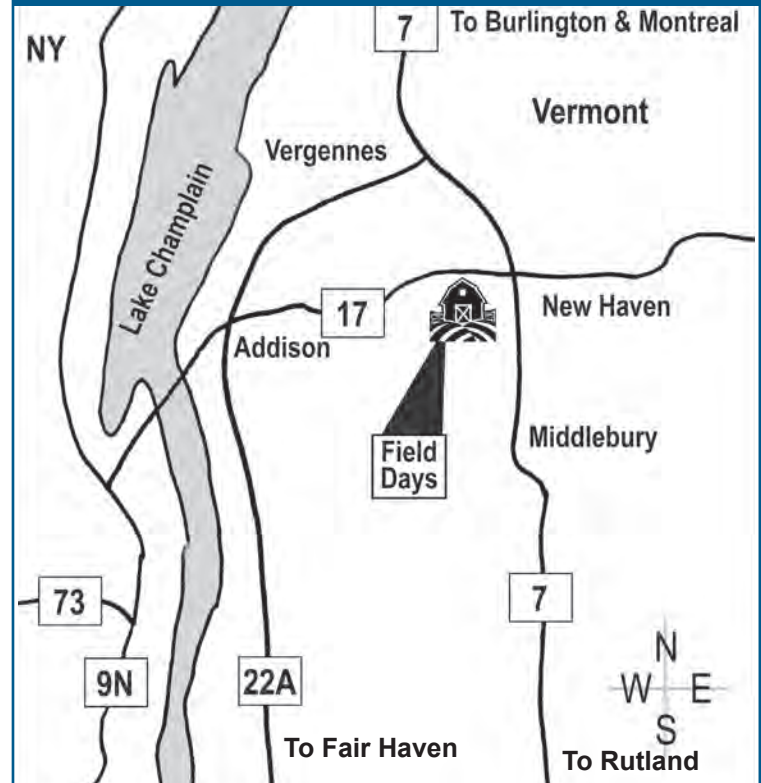
The family said that they were grateful for how hands-on, helpful and "really generous" Four Hills Farm has been throughout the process and over the years.

2024 Daily Activities

*Please Note: Most exhibits will be removed
on Saturday night at 10:00.*

10 a.m.-10 p.m. Children's Barnyard Open
10 a.m.-10 p.m. 4-H & Youth Building Open
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Antique Equipment Building Open
9 a.m.-9 p.m. Maple Sugar House Open
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Twist O' Wool Guild Demos
(Twist O' Wool Guild tent)
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Forest Festival Exhibits
& Demonstrations (forestry building)
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Home & Garden Building Open
with continuous craft demos
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Lucien Paquette Exhibit Building
Open Daily Maple Products Demonstrations
(maple sugar house)
Noon-midnight Midway Open (approximately)
1 p.m.-4 p.m. Milking Parlor Demonstrations

How to get to Field Days



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Schedule of Events

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024
Opening Ceremony & Parade, Demo Derby,
Dinners & Shows

Morning

- 8:30 a.m. Western Only 4-H and Open Youth Junior Horse Show (horse area)
- 9 a.m. 4-H Dairy Conformation Classes (animal show arena)
- 10:30 a.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)

Afternoon

- Noon-6 p.m. Cairo Northern Clowns (Front of FFA Food Booth)
- Noon..... Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) - FREE
- Noon..... Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
- 12:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
- 1 p.m. Midway Opens (approximately) \$25 all day ride bracelets
- 1 p.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)

- 1 p.m. Circus Adventure (entertainment show area)
- 1 p.m.-5 p.m.... Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE
- 1:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
- 1:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
- 1:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment
- 2 p.m. Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration (sheep show tent)
- 3 p.m. Pirate Man Dan (Show tent)
- 3 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
- 3 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
- 3:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
- 3:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
- 3:30 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment)

(See Schedule of Events on page 13)

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Field Days Grounds Map

1. Kelly James Natural Resources Pavilion

2. Public Safety Building

3. Dusty Chuck 4-H Food Booth

4. 4-H Exhibit Building

5. Youth Food Booth

6. Field Days Main Office

7. Milking Parlor
& Dairy Bar

8. Dairy Palace Arena

9. Bandstand

10. Twist O' Wool Guild Tent

11. Pavilion

12. Show Tent

13. Handmowing Area

14. Lucien D. Paquette Exhibit Building

15. Horse Area Manager's Booth

16. 4-H Dairy Barn

17. Open Dairy Show Barn

18. Beef Cattle Tent

19. Antique Equipment Buildings

20. Show Area

21. Frances Monroe Home
& Garden Center

22. Sara McCarty Children's
Barnyard

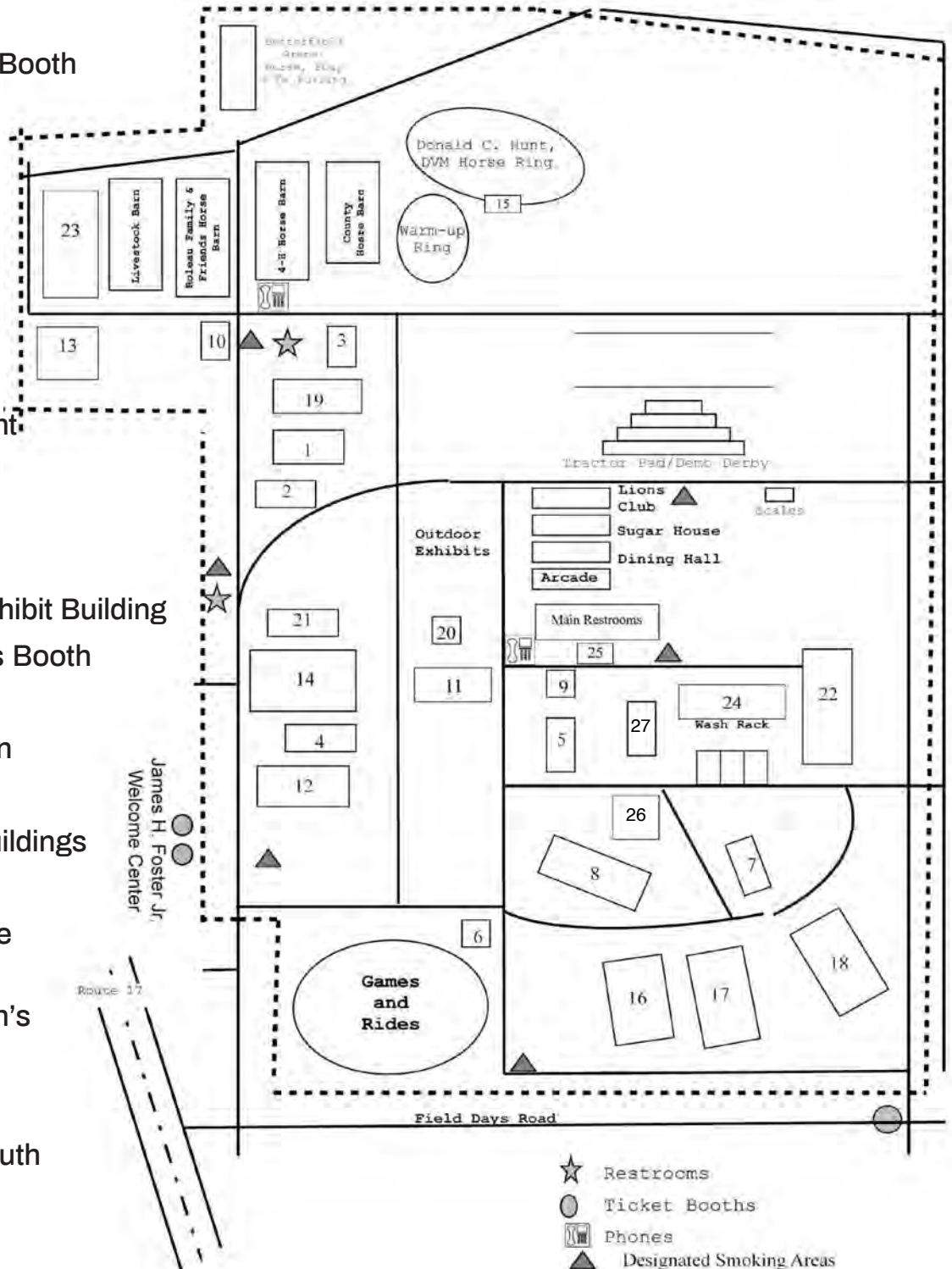
23. Sheep Tents

24. Pony Rides & Free Youth
Activities

25. Infant Comfort Station

26. Addison County Toy Barn

27. Poultry Tent





Schedule of Events

show area)
4:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-
Entertainment
5:15 Vermont Products Dinner-1st Sitting
(dining hall)
5 p.m. Gymkhana (horse area)
5:30 p.m. “Robinson’s Racing Pigs” (dairy area)
6 p.m. Vermont Products Dinner-2nd Sitting
(dining hall)
6 p.m. Circus Adventure (show area)
6:45 Vermont Products Dinner-3rd Sitting
(dining hall)
7 p.m. Sanctuary Band (bandstand)
7 p.m. G. Stone Motors Demo Derby (Tractor
Pad)
7 p.m. Dan LaPointe-Glorybound Country/
Gospel (show tent)

WEDNESDAY

**Agricultural Shows & Demos, Caber Toss,
Karaoke and The Demolition Derby**

Morning

8:30 a.m. English Only 4-H and Open Youth Jr. &
Sr. Horse Show (horse area)
9 a.m. Open Dairy Show-Holsteins, Ayrshires,
Milking Shorthorns
9:30 a.m. Ox Pulling (Butterfield Arena)
10 a.m.-noon ... Children’s Activities (children’s barnyard
area) - FREE
10:30 a.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique
equipment area)
11 a.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)

Afternoon

Noon-6 p.m. Cairo Northern Clowns (Front of FFA
Food Booth)
Noon..... Midway Opens \$25 all day ride
bracelets
Noon..... Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
Noon..... Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) -
FREE

(See Schedule of Events on page 14)

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Schedule of Events

Noon..... Goat Show (sheep show tent)

Noon..... Men's Caber Toss (tractor pad)

12:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)

1 p.m. Ladies Iron Skillet Toss (tractor pad)

1 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)

1:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)

1:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)

1:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (show tent)

2 p.m. Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration (sheep show tent)

2:30 p.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)

3 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)

3 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)

3 p.m. Pirate man Dan (Show tent)

3:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)

3:30 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)

4:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (show tent)

5:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)

6 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)

7 p.m. Karaoke Talent Night with DJ Amanda Rock (signup at 6:30) (show tent)

7 p.m. G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby (tractor pad)

7:30 p.m. Third Shift Band (bandstand)

THURSDAY
Tractor Pulls
Morning

8 a.m. Annual ACFFD Open Horse Show (horse area)

9 a.m. 4-H Dairy Fitting & Showmanship Classes (animal show arena)

9 a.m. 4-H & Other Youth Sheep Show (sheep show tent)

10 a.m. Hand Mowing Contest (antique equipment demo area)

10 a.m. VTPA Tractor Pulling-Antique & Enhanced Antique Tractor Pulls

10:30 a.m. Pony Pulling (Butterfield Arena)

10:30 a.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)

11 a.m. Pedal Tractor Pull (show tent) (sign-ups at 10 a.m.)

11:30 a.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)

11 a.m.-3 p.m. . "Sparky's Lovebug Love!" (Connor Home Stage in Paquette Bldg.)

Afternoon

Noon-6 p.m. Cairo Northern Clowns (Front of the FFA Food Booth)

Noon..... Midway Opens (approximately) \$25 all day ride bracelets

Noon..... Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) - FREE

12:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)

1-5 p.m. Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE

1 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment

Continued on next page

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Schedule of Events

show area)
1:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
1:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (show tent)
1:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
2:30 p.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
3 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
3 p.m. Pirate Man Dan (Show Tent)
3 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (children's barnyard area)
3:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
3:30 p.m. Circus Adventure (show area)
4 p.m. Beef Showmanship/Fitting Show (Senior, Intermediate, Junior, & Novice) & Market Classes (animal show arena)
4:30 p.m. Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (show tent)

5:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
6 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)
7 p.m. G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby (tractor pad)
7 p.m. Nickel & Dime (Band Stand)
7:30 p.m. Animal Costume Class (animal show arena)
8 p.m. Rehab Roadhouse (Show Tent)

FRIDAY

More Shows, Armwrestling and Pulling Competitions

Morning

8:30 a.m. Exhibitors' Breakfast (dining hall)
9 a.m. Open Sheep Show (sheep show tent)
9:30 a.m. Draft Horse Show (horse area)
10 a.m. Working Steer & Ox Show
10 a.m. - Noon Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE

(See Schedule of Events on page 16)

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Schedule of Events

10 a.m. VTPA- Garden Division- Youth, Adult Stock, SportStock, ATV, Super Stock Open, Pro Diesel, 4 Cyl Mods (tractor pad)
10 a.m. Horse Pulling (Butterfield Arena)
10:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
11 p.m. Pirate Man Dan (show tent)

Afternoon

Noon-6 p.m. Cairo Northern Clowns (front of the FFA Food Booth)
Noon..... PeeWee Dairy Showmanship (animal show arena)
Noon..... Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) - FREE
Noon..... Midway Opens \$25 all day ride bracelets
Noon..... “Robinson’s Racing Pigs” (dairy area)
Noon..... PeeWee Dairy Showmanship (animal show arena)

12:15 Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of Entertainment (Show Tent)
1 p.m. Tom Joyce, Magician (bandstand)
1 p.m. 4 Abreast, Show Division (horse area)
1 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)
1:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
1:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
1:30 p.m. Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
2 p.m. Magic Workshop w/Silver Circus (entertainment show area)
2 p.m.-5 p.m. ... Children’s Activities (children’s barnyard area) - FREE
2:45 Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of Entertainment (Show Tent)
3 p.m. Future Showmanship/Fitting Class & Beef Conformation & Group Classes (animal show arena)

Continued on next page



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Schedule of Events

- 3 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 3 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
 3:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)
 3:30 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)
 4 p.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
 5 p.m. Armwrestling-Kids 16 & under (sign up at 4 p.m.)(show tent)
 5:30 p.m. "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 5:30 p.m. Miniature Horse Team Hitching Demonstration (children's barnyard area)
 6 p.m. Circus Adventure (show area)
 6 p.m. VTPA- Truck Division- Stock St. Legal, Mod St. Legal, Work Stock Diesel, 2.5 Diesel, 2.6/3.0 Pro Diesel, 2WD Mini, VT V8 Minis (tractor pad)
 7 p.m. Armwrestling-Adults (weigh-ins 5 p.m.)(show tent)
 7 p.m. Blues and Beyond Band (bandstand)
 7 p.m. NYTPA - Sanctioned Super Farm & Limited Pro Tractor Pulls (tractor pad)

SATURDAY

Dairy Show, Pulling Competitions & Firworks! Morning

- 9 a.m. Open Dairy Show-Jersey, Brown Swiss & Guernsey
 9:30 p.m. Draft Horse Show (horse area)
 10 a.m. Wanda Goodyear Memorial Baked Bean

- Contest (picnic pavilion)
 10 a.m. VTPA-Farmstock, Open 4WD, Hot Farm, Super stock 4x4, Altered Farm, Street Legal Semi, Single Engine Mod Pulls (tractor pad)
 10 a.m. - Noon Children's Activities (children's barnyard area) - FREE
 10:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
 10:30 p.m. Youth Sheep Blocking and Fitting Contest (sheep tent)

Afternoon

- Noon-6 p.m. Northern Cairo Clowns (front of FFA food booth)
 Noon..... Pirate Man Dan (show tent)
 Noon..... Midway Opens (approximately) \$25 all day ride bracelets
 Noon..... Dig For Treasure! (youth activity area) - FREE
 Noon..... "Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)
 12:30 p.m. Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)
 1 p.m. Rack 'N Reel's Sling Shot Competition (sign up at noon) (Butterfield Arena)
 1 p.m. Six Horse Hitch, North American Classic Six Qualifier (horse area)
 1 p.m. The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)
 1:30 p.m. Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)
 1:30 p.m. 4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)

(See Schedule of Events on page 18)

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Schedule of Events

1:30 p.m.	Buffalo Barfield Unherd-of-Entertainment (Show Tent)		
2:30 p.m.	Turkey Calling Contest (Butterfeld Arena)		
3 p.m.	4H & Youth Poultry Show (Bandstand)		
3 p.m.	Pirate Man Dan (Show Tent)		
3 p.m.	Antique Equipment Demos (antique equipment area)		
3 p.m.	Sheep & Wool Garment Lead Line Class (sheep show tent)		
3 p.m.	Sheep Shearing/Handling Demonstration (sheep tent)		
3 p.m.	"Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)		
3:30 p.m.	Duck & Goose Calling Contest (sign up at 2:30)(Butterfeld Arena)		
3:30 p.m.	4-H Hands on Workshop (4-H exhibit building)		
3:30 p.m.	Circus Adventure (Show Tent)		
3:30 p.m.	Tom Joyce, The Magic Man (bandstand)		
4 p.m.	4H & Open Youth Rabbit Show (animal show arena)		
5 p.m.	Home & Garden Awards & Leona Thompson Bowl Presentation (home & garden bldg)		
5:30 p.m.	"Robinson's Racing Pigs" (dairy area)		
5:30 p.m.	Miniature Horse Team Hitching Demonstration (children's barnyard area)		
6 p.m.	The Silver Circus Show (entertainment show area)		
6 p.m.	VTPA-VT V8 Minis, Altered Farm, Street Legal Semis, S.S. 4x4 Pickups, Hot farm, Pro Stock, Single Engine Mod Pulls(tractor pad)		
7 p.m.	Rust & Ruin (bandstand)		
7 p.m.	Dance Party w/DJ Tony Lamoureux (Show Tent)		
7 p.m.	NYTPA - Sanctioned Super Farm & Limited Pro Tractor Pulls (tractor pad)		
9:15 p.m.	Farm Credit East Closing Fireworks Display (set of east of horse area)		

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Middlebury Short Stop
Otter Creek Bakery
Paris Farmers Union
Rosie's
Shaw's
Stone Mill Public Market
Vermont's Own
Village Depot
Walgreen's

NEW HAVEN:
Jiffy Mart
Village Green Market
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N. Ferrisburgh Short Stop

ORWELL:
Buxton's Store

RIPTON:
Ripton Country Store

SALISBURY:
Kampersville Store
(seasonal)

SHOREHAM:
Shoreham Service Center

STARKSBORO:
Jerusalem 4-Corners Store

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Friends & family crash together at the Demo Derby

NEWBIE TRAINS TO DO THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT SHE WOULD DO ON THE ROAD

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI

After motor enthusiasts waited an extra day for the popular G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby at the 2023 Field Days, which was postponed a day due to rain, Moriah Sullivan Hebert opened the event by singing the National Anthem for the fifth year.

Unlike the previous four times, after she hit her last note, the 23-year-old scurried down the steep stairs from the announcer's box, through the muddy grounds and hopped into a rare spot of bright pink in a row of automotive lemons adorned with less eccentric hues.

Then she competed in the

first heat.

Hebert Sullivan and the other drivers ran in a 2023 demo derby that may have appeared violent, but was no exception to the family-friendly spirit Addison County Fair and Field Days is known for. In the moments leading up to the first round of smashing, crashing, chasing and clanging, love pervaded the pit.

Friends chatted and brothers joked. While Hebert Sullivan was getting ready to sing, her husband, Tyler Hebert, 26, was enjoying some pre-competition camaraderie.

Hebert Sullivan's pink car, which had "Flower Power," scrawled on its side, sported a drawing of its namesake attached to the roof.

Meanwhile, although this was Hebert Sullivan's debut derby, it



MORIAH SULLIVAN HEBERT and husband Tyler Hebert support each other after Sullivan Hebert's first run in the Field Days Demolition Derby this past August. Sullivan Hebert's Flower Power car was knocked out in the first heat, but Hebert raced to second place in the 6-cylinder feature.

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri



CODY CURTIS OF Vergennes was back at the Field Days Demolition Derby last year to compete for a second time. Curtis first decided to participate in 2022 after being diagnosed with brain cancer two years ago. Before last year's contest he said, "I'm gonna give it all. I'm gonna try to bring a trophy." Then, just a day before his 33rd birthday, Curtis won his heat in the derby, with "my frog (decoration) in my passenger seat."

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

wasn't her car's: It had run in a previous demolition derby.

Getting ready for this new driving experience was easy for novice demo derby competitor. She said her derby prep included "thinking to myself do the opposite of what you ever want to do on the road."

Although she was knocked out early in the first heat, her car, so smashed that it looked like the back half had been removed, never lost its rooftop decoration, which poked through the cloud of dust stirred up by her fellow participants.

Sullivan Hebert summed up her inaugural ride:

"Love the experience, a little sad at myself because I felt like I should have been in there longer. I had a lot more to give, but my car didn't.

Then she echoed the words of many demo derby drivers:

"But next year, I feel like I'll be back and better than ever."

Actually, when she laid eyes

on what would become her first demo derby car, Sullivan Hebert was not so enthusiastic, according to her husband.

"That car came about, and she was mad at me for buying more cars," Hebert said. "And I somehow talked her into running it, and she loved it. She wants more."

Now she's hooked, he said.

"She wants to get another car for next year. So that's a win," Hebert said.

And that wasn't Hebert's only success of the night; he placed second in the 6-cylinder feature.

While it was his wife's debut derby, Hebert's came when he was only 16; the minimum age to participate.

"This is definitely one of the things he's passionate about," Hebert Sullivan said of her husband.

When asked what he enjoys about the event, Hebert said, "The adrenaline ... that's the majority of it."

Continued on next page



THE WHITNEY FAMILY made a big dent at last year's Field Days Demolition Derby with seven members rumbling through the competitions. Timothy Whitney Jr. won the 6-cylinder feature and his dad, Timothy Sr., was second in the minivan bout. Shown from left, the Whitneys are Daniel, Timothy Jr., Timothy Sr., Marci, Greg, Isaac and Caleb.

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

"And, however, watching everybody come around, helping everybody else out," he added.

The couple, who live in Bristol and recently used the fairgrounds for a second celebration of their union, wasn't the only family competing.

Brothers Caleb and Isaac Whitney from Brandon, who are 18 and 16 years old, respectively, both had cars in the pit, along with five other family members: two other brothers, their cousin and their aunt.

It was Isaac's first time competing.

"We've watched it our entire lives," said Caleb, who signed up for the first time last year.

It was Caleb's older brother Greg who cost him first place in his first derby: "Lost to my older brother, who got first all because my car caught on fire."

"We brought 11 cars to the demo," according to their aunt Marci Whitney, 42, of Cornwall, who also competed for the first time this year.

"Figuring one of us should at least be able to place," Caleb

quipped.

His prediction came true. His uncle, Marci's husband Timothy Whitney Sr., and their son, Timothy Whitney Jr., both placed; they drove to second in the mini-van feature and first in the 6-cylinder feature, respectively.

Tim Sr. inspired Marci to give the derby a try as a driver.

"I have watched my husband Demo for over 20 years," she explained when asked what made her decide to compete.

However, the 2023 derby marked both her debut in and retirement from the sport. She says she will not drive again.

"I didn't finish great but I accomplished what I went for. I hit hard, and I can check it off my bucket list," she said. "The family is what makes it so much fun. We are very close family, and this gives us another reason to get together."]

In 2024 the G. Stone Motors Demo Derby has been expanded to run three evenings! Look for it on the Tractor Pad at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

The 2024 Garden Game Is Here!

Each summer the Addy Indy and Agway partner to present the Garden Game, awarding prizes for the largest entries in each of the fruit and veggie categories below:

Asparagus (length x circumference)	Onion (circumference)
Beet (circumference)	Parsnip (circumference)
Broccoli (diameter)	Pepper (circumference x circumference)
Cabbage (circumference)	Potato (length x circumference)
Cantaloupe (circumference)	Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
Carrot (length x circumference)	Radish (circumference)
Cauliflower (diameter)	Rhubarb (length)
Corn (length x circumference)	Rutabaga (circumference)
Cucumber (length x circumference)	Summer Squash (length x circumference)
Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only)	Sunflower (diameter)
Eggplant (circumference x circumference)	Tomato (circumference)
Fennel (length x circumference)	Turnip (circumference)
Green Bean (length)	Winter Squash (length x circumference)
Kohlrabi (circumference)	Zucchini (length x circumference)
Leek (length x circumference)	
Melon (circumference)	

How do you play the Garden Game?

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Visit addisonindependent.com/contests for more info.





Firearm raffles allowed

By AMELIA SEEPERSAUD

Amidst all of the excitement of the annual Addison County Fair and Field Days, the Paquette Building hosts a variety of different local Vermont organizations and businesses.

Though firearms are not physically allowed into the fair, during Field Days last summer groups were allowed to hold gun raffles open to everyone in attendance. Two groups in particular hosted in the building held such gun raffles: the Vermont Traditions Coalition (VTC) and the Vermont Trappers Association (VTA).

VTC had three gun raffles going and one large raffle selling at \$100 a ticket for an ATV. The gun raffle was open to anyone at the fair who was interested and eligible to own a gun. They didn't verify eligibility or run a background check themselves as they sold each ticket. According

to VTC Treasurer Michael Bard, "When they win the raffle, the transfer will go directly through a firearms dealer, and they do all the background checks."

The Vermont Traditions Coalition is primarily a volunteer coalition made up of different Vermont organizations that align with each other's goals. As their website states they're a group "working to protect their cultural heritage."

"We work in the legislative and regulatory processes," Mike Covey, the group's executive director, said, "advocating for hunting, fishing, trapping, snowmobiling, forestry, public land access, public land management. All the things that kind of connect Vermonters to the landscape."

VTC Treasurer Bard explained that the organization's goals at the fair were to fundraise and also to let people know what



VERMONT TRADITIONS COALITION Treasurer Mike Bard, left, and Executive Director Mike Covey were happy to talk to folks at Field Days about their organization, but they also were raffling off guns to get people to stop at their booth.

Independent file photo/Steve James

they're about. For Bard, the ability to talk with people at Field Days was the most significant incentive for being there.

"If we didn't sell a single raffle ticket but we spoke to a lot of people, we'd have done a good job," he said.

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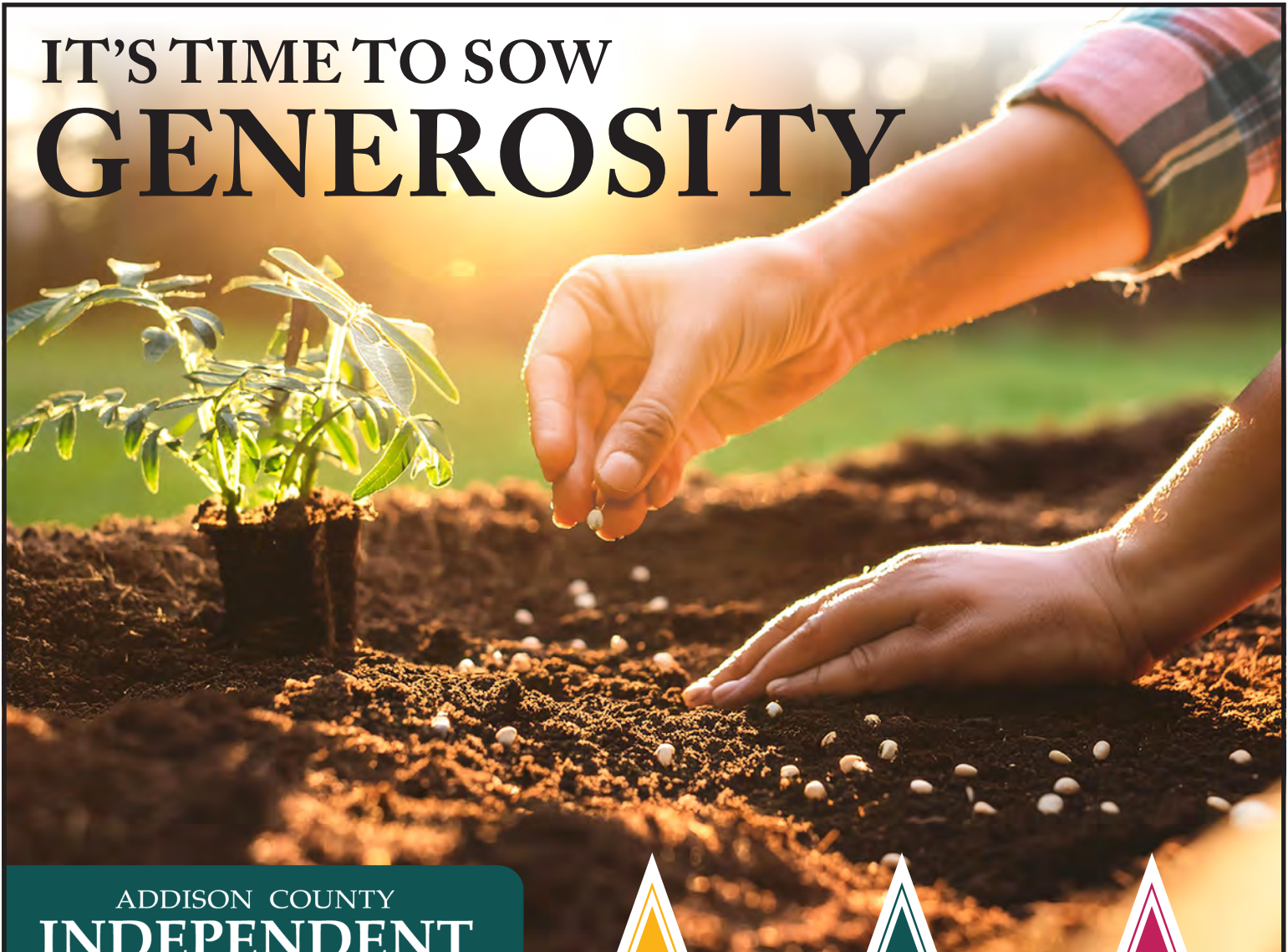


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Arrrrgh you ready for Pirate Man Dan?

By AMELIA SEEPERSAUD

Each year, families flood into the show tent at the Addison County Fair and Field Days, and sit on the edge of their seats in anticipation of the beloved entertainer known as Pirate Man Dan.

Pirate Man Dan (offstage he's called Daniel Jolley) has been performing at the New Haven fairgrounds for almost a decade. He began his first show of last year's fair on Tuesday, with a question for the audience:

"Who here's seen my show before?"

Every hand in the tent shot straight into the air, to which he remarked that this was the only place where everyone's seen it before.

Elizabeth Curran from Whiting attended the show with her husband, son and visiting grandchildren. Curran and her family have been attending the pirate's shows for years.

"We really enjoy his performance, we come to every one," she said. "We really like how much he interacts with the audience. We truly go to every show.... There are 10 of them this week, we'll be at all of them."

Jolley's family-friendly performance mixes comedy with thrill, keeping audiences coming back for more.

Before he was Pirate Man Dan, Jolley was a professional clown.

"My parents were professional part-time clowns," he told the *Addison Independent*. "I was homeschooled. A lot of kids learned sports and they got really good at basketball or whatever. And I got good at unicycling, twisting balloons and juggling, and I just kind of grew up with it."

He's been performing professionally at fairs all over the Northeast and the South for a dozen years now. It was in 2016 that he made the switch to his Pirate Man Dan persona.

"I was looking to build a mobile platform that I could do shows off of," he said. "And the only thing I could think of that was flat at its base was a boat. And I literally built the entire character off of that. At the same time, the clown scare happened and I had this in the works. That year I had 21 fairs and the next year I had 23 fairs and 21 of them went with the pirate."

Though he performs in many



PIRATE MAN DAN, a.k.a. Dan Jolley, rides his unicycle at a Field Days show in 2023, getting the crowd energized as he's about to create a balloon animal behind his back.

Independent file photo/Steve James

fairs across the country, Addison County Field Days feels particularly special for Jolley having grown up in Groton, Vt., himself.

"This fair was the fair my parents took me to growing up," he said. "I'm probably in the top 20 of performers countrywide in the fair industry. That all basically started with this little Vermont boy because of this fair."

He explained that the Addison County Fair and Field Days is one of the few places he doesn't need large backdrops and signs to pull people in. He knows that here, perhaps because it's where he's grown up, that folks get his humor and will always fill the tent.

"Performing here feels like this is where my roots came from."

Fancy fried foods featured at Field Days

By SOPHIA
AFSAR-KESHMIRI

Tammy Shattuck, 50, introduced Field Days fairgoers to her fried pies at her treat's debut event in 2023.

The Rutland County resident transformed this classic fork-and-knife-dessert into a mobile handheld, with all of the wonderful pie parts intact, but contained within a more petite semicircle pie-crust package.

It was perfect for strolling the muddier-than-usual fairgrounds,

peering over fences at animals or watching the demolition derby.

Shattuck's mobile alternative for a sweet fair snack beats the classic and challenging-to-eat fried dough in the convenience category. After receiving the treat in its parchment paper sleeve, I was thankful I wasn't experimenting with tactics to eat the sweet and sugary circle pizza sans slices. I watched one fairgoer employ the "hold-the-parallel-plate-edges-and-nibble-the-front" technique, only to eventually be

forced to slide the snack forward.

Shattuck was inspired to sell these handheld fried halfmoons, filled with your choice of apple, caramel apple, cherry, strawberry rhubarb, apricot raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, raspberry or peach, after her brother revealed the pie-cooking tactic he saw, "they did out west," she said.

Shattuck assured a tentative customer that they are "absolutely" tastier than your average pie.

On the first day of Field Days in 2023, which was kind of rainy

(what a surprise), she wasn't sure if she'd be taking her stand to any more events. But by the following evening, about midway through the G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby, business was booming and it was looking like her fried pies have a bright future at other fairs.

Amongst the food booths another featured fried snack was also inspired by the west.

Cassandra Wagner, 28, from Richmond, was selling fried

See Foods on page 25

Art exhibits showcase innovation

By AMELIA SEEPERSAUD

The Home and Garden Building on the Addison County fairgrounds exhibited 203 pieces of art submitted by folks from “all around the county and beyond” during Field Days last year, as Handicrafts Superintendent Lee Greenwalt describes it.

Each year, the day before the fair opens, a contest is hosted in which exhibitors can come with their handicrafts, which are then judged and may be selected for a wide array of ribbons and prizes. Then, the exhibits are displayed for Field Days fairgoers to observe and enjoy.

In 2023 the fair accepted entries from 69 exhibitors, 19 of them being youth exhibitors (ages 5-18) and four being golden years exhibitors (age 80+).

“The most interesting thing for me,” Greenwalt said, “is seeing how innovative people are. People have just wild ideas and new crafts. Every year I see something new here. People put their heart and soul into it and they love getting their ribbons and prizes.”

Last year you could swing by the Home and Garden Building to see a wide variety of eclectic crafts, from hexagonal hats, to bouquets made of buttons, to elaborate dollhouses and more. There will surely be an eclectic collection of fantastic crafts this year, too — go check 'em out!



HANDCRAFTS SUPERINTENDENT LEE Greenwalt describes some of the Addison County-made art on display in the Home and Garden Building on the fairgrounds during the 2023 Field Days.

Independent file photo/Amelia Seepersaud

Every year, the Home and Garden Departments at Addison County Fair and Field Days host amateur competitions in five areas in the Frances Monroe Building. The competition in 2023 had more entries in almost every department than it has had for years. The Monroe Building was filled with many beautiful exhibits.

In addition to prizes offered by local businesses and individuals, two special awards are granted annually. Since 1974, the best all-around adult participant in the Foods and Handicrafts Departments is awarded with the Leona

Thompson Award, named for long-time Extension Agent Leona Thompson. Last year's winner was Mary Howard.

Starting in 2012, the Home and Garden Departments began honoring former Director Frances Monroe with an award in her name for a youth 18 and under who has submitted outstanding entries in at least two departments. The 2023 winner was Normandie Cesario.

Congratulations to these two talented people.

Who will win in 2024?

Foods

(Continued from, Page 24)

cheese curds with just one more Field Days under her belt than Shattuck. She sells at Vermont events similar to Field Days.

“I’m from Wisconsin originally. And so (fried cheese curds) was a huge part of my childhood,” Wagner said.

At Wagner’s stand, a rectangular chalkboard adorning her business name, The Curdeous Cow, listed the various dipping sauces she offered: marinara, maple syrup, homemade ranch, homemade spicy ranch or homemade creamy horseradish.

She said kids usually opt for the maple syrup option.

These beer-battered fried nuggets have their origins at Rodgers Farmstead in Berlin. Wagner noted that this was where she sources her curds, and wanted to ensure that their origins got a shoutout.



TAMMY SHATTUCK, LEFT, and her assistant, Jennafyr, are ready to hand out more fried food at their booth on the first day of Field Days in 2023.

Independent photo/
Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

Good Luck to all Participants!

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FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

Strolling among the exhibits, checking out a ride in the midway, eating lots of “good” food — all that is standard fair fare. One thing that is always fresh is the live entertainment at Field Day, and the 2024 edition of the country fair will have a lot of live acts. Some of them are old favorites, but there is plenty that is new, as well.

One new act that you should make time to see is the **Silver Circus**, starring variety artist Andrew Silver. The act features a unique blend of magic, juggling and physical comedy. You’ll be delighted by his humorous, high-spirited showmanship, mystified by his astonishing magic, and his dexterity is guaranteed to take your breath away. He’s doing 11 shows during the week, including juggling, clowning and magic workshops on three afternoons. Check out the schedule for the performances in the entertainment show area.

On the musical front, Field Days will feature six local bands, and three of those are new to the fair.

The first of the newbies is **Third Shift**, which will play on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Bandstand. This five-piece dance band from South Burlington features the dynamic vocals of Colleen McLaughlin and a range of styles from jazz and contemporary pop to classic rock, soul, and R&B.

You’ll enjoy another band new to Field Days if you go to Bandstand on Friday at 7 p.m. when **Blues and Beyond** takes the stage. Led by Danny Roda in South Royalton, Blues and Beyond brings positive energy and great songs to the stage, infusing blues, jazz, soul, and dance rock favorites.

If you like acoustic, American and country rock, then go see the third new band — **Rust & Rain** — on Friday at 7 p.m. at the Bandstand. This band is husband and wife, Josh and Beth Adams, with bassist Tom MacMillan, and they feature amazing vocal harmonies and fancy fretwork. This trio hails from Chester in Central Vermont.



PEDAL TRACTOR

If that’s not your kind of thing, at the same time on Friday in the Show Tent you can go hear **DJ Tony Lamoureux** do his Dance Party. He will take musical requests from fairgoers.

Not new to Field Days, but singer Lori Towle will return to the Bandstand on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. with the band **Sanctuary**. Look and listen for rock from the ’80s and more danceable covers from Towle, Tom Lawson, Justin Brault, John Wallace and Jerry Cloutier.

Two other familiar bands you can enjoy again are

FEATURING

ANDREW SILVER OF THE SILVER CIRCUS

THIRD SHIFT

TOM JOYCE, THE MAGIC MAN

SANCTUARY

RUST & RAIN

PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

SKILLET TOSS

PIRATE MAN DAN



SKILLET TOSS

Nickel & Dime (an Addison County dance cover band featuring your favorite songs from the ’70s and beyond) at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Bandstand and **Rehab Roadhouse** (a four-piece ensemble that specializes in the intersect between B-side ’70s classic blues and more modern jam) the same night at 8 p.m. at the Show Tent.

But entertainment at Field Days goes way beyond musical performances.

Just about everywhere you turn there will be some sort of entertainment act going on.

Here are some special things to look for:

- The **Field Days Opening Parade** steps off from near the tractor

(See *Entertainment* on page 28)



FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT



THIRD SHIFT

pad at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. This year's theme sounds fun; it's "Addison in Wonderland." All entrants are asked to assemble 45 minutes before the parade start time on the east side of the tractor pad on the road to the north of the parking area. There will be prizes for the winning entries. Contact Benj Deppman at 724-1381 or any Field Days director if you plan to participate.

- Head to the Show Tent on Wednesday at 7 p.m. when Addison County DJ Amanda Rock will lead the ever-popular **Karaoke Talent Night**. Amanda will help get the energy flowing so you all can let your inner performer come out on stage. Sign up for a spot in the show beginning at 6:30 p.m. You will probably find a few diamonds in the rough among your Addison County neighbors when it comes to singing.

- If you like the thrill of motorsport competition there will be more of it for you this year as the G. Stone Demolition Derby is expanding from two days to *three*. Look for it at the Tractor pad on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

But not everything is new. On Thursday at 11 a.m. head to the Show Tent, where girls and boys ages 4-10 will compete in the **Pedal Tractor Pull**. This is the youngsters' version of the real thing. Come on down and watch the fun and cheer for your favorite puller.

Continued on next page



TOM JOYCE THE MAGIC MAN



FIELD DAYS ENTERTAINMENT

Pulling tractor and sled is provided by Field Days. Sign-ups start at 10.

Another old favorite comes along at 9:15 p.m. on Saturday evening when Field Days entertainment draws to a close with a classic — the **Champlain Valley Equipment Closing Fireworks Display**, which will be set off east of the horse area but viewable throughout the grounds.

APPEARING REGULARLY

In addition to all of the special performances above, the fair offers a full slate of daytime entertainment, with some performers appearing each day, often several times. Here is a look at those:

- A popular performer returning this year is **Pirate Man Dan**, who will be offering his “Pirate Adventure Experience” twice a day at the Show Tent. Dan Jolley of Groton, an experienced clown, will offer a fun show for all ages — he says, “even teenagers.” The friendly pirate’s act includes balloons, magic, unicycling, stilts and bubbles. One reviewer said Pirate Man Dan “put on a great show. Not only did all the kids in the room enjoy him, but he had the adults all laughing at his jokes.”

- **Cairo Northern Clowns** are scheduled to walk the grounds daily to provide a smile and a laugh when you least expect it.

- Look for **Buffalo Barfield’s “Unherd of Entertainment”** to tickle your funny bone in the show tent at various times. Gregg “Buffalo” Barfield and his wife, Michele, have created a unique and entertaining comedy and variety music show. The South Carolina-based act’s unique blend of music and comedy has been described as “Jeff Foxworthy meets Jimmy Buffett.” The show is a blend of Americana, country, blues and oldies rock ’n’ roll music with a touch of down home “clean” comedy. This one is good for the young kids.

- **Tom Joyce, the Magic Man**, will appear twice a day at the bandstand. Check the schedule to see when he is performing. He’s absolutely fabulous with the kids, but grown-ups will enjoy the show, too. He’s funny, but his magic is actually mysterious — it’s the best of both worlds



SILVER CIRCUS



SANCTUARY

- **Robinson’s Racing Pigs** will run their hilarious competition several times a day near the dairy area. It combines the livestock portion of Field Days with the levity of an entertaining show.

- Also in the audience participation category, are two events at mid-day on Wednesday: the **Men’s Caber Toss** at noon (men toss a telephone pole (caber) end over end) and the **Ladies’ Cast Iron Skillet Toss** at 1 p.m. (ladies throw skillets for distance and accuracy). Head to the tractor pad for this fun.

- Another contest of brute strength that is also a lot of fun to watch is the **armwrestling** competition at the Show Tent on Friday evening. The kiddos will start it off with youths 16 and younger squaring off in real, head-to-head competitions at 5 p.m. (get on the sign-up sheet at 4 p.m.). After the learners have warmed up the audience, the big boys and girls take their turn facing off against competitors in their weight classes. Adult Armwrestling starts at 7 p.m. (weigh-ins at 5 p.m.) with bouts in left- and right-hand.



Verd Mont Button Club unites enthusiasts

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESH-MIRI

One day at last year's fair, Verd Mont Button Club member Sheri Ross, 73, enthusiastically showed off a collection of small, big and beautiful buttons displayed on pillows that the Verd Mont Button Club stand in the Home and Garden Barn at Addison County Fair & Field Days.

Button collectors and enthusiasts from across the state have been connecting through the club, which has been dedicated to the niche hobby since 1979.

From March to November, members gather monthly to compare notes — and of course buttons.

"The Verd Mont Button Club was founded ... in order to bring into a relation of mutual helpfulness and cooperation, organizations and persons who pursue the hobby of collecting buttons, to

promote educational exhibitions, to encourage research, to publish and disseminate information among its members, and to preserve for the future generations all that is beautiful and historical in buttons," explains a club pamphlet.

Things can even get competitive.

"Club members participate in national and regional button shows and conventions sponsored by the Northeast Regional Button Association and the National Button Society," the pamphlet reads.

Ross, who still has a hint of a Southern accent, said she began collecting when she was 19 years old.

"I just went to the flea market in Nashville a lot and yard sales. I went to auctions every Saturday with my mom. And I just loved them," she said.



VERD MONT BUTTON Club members Sheri Ross, left and Lynn Bladgen staff the club's table at the Addison County Fair and Field Days in 2023, where they shared their interesting hobby with fairgoers.

Independent photo/Sophia Afsar-Keshmiri

Ross pointed out pillows festooned with two types of "realistic" glass buttons, of which she

said her personal favorite resembles the same creature printed all across her shirt — frogs.

See a barn frame loom in action at Field Days

By AMELIA SEEPERSAUD

The Antique Equipment Building at the Addison County Fair & Field Days fairgrounds is home to a wide range of antique farming and household equipment. The 2023 fair was no exception.

On display was an array of farming tools, a skein winder, a buggy jack, a 1920s stove and more. Some of the equipment dates back to the 19th century.

Occupying a central spot in the room was a large barn frame loom dated to the 1870s.

"Every year we make a warp (a set of yarns stretched in place on a loom), we bring it here, and we dress the loom and a variety of people weave on it, and that's part of the excitement," crafter Lausanne Allen told us last year.

"We made that in April," she

continued. "It's eight yards long and we hope to finish weaving it this week."

"We will," volunteer Candace Polzella piped in.

Polzella talked about the new additions they had to the building's equipment last year.

"What we're doing different this year is we have these two spinning wheels that have been donated," she said.

As they spoke, they were in the process of wrapping cot-

"Every year we make a warp (a set of yarns stretched in place on a loom), we bring it here, and we dress the loom and a variety of people weave on it, and that's part of the excitement."

— crafter Lausanne Allen

ton threads around the wheel's bobbin (the part of the spinning wheel the thread is wound around).

"The fun part is that anyone involved in homestead arts has to be able to solve problems with

what they have at hand," Allen said. "It's the Yankee ingenuity of us. And so here we are, we'd like some waxed-linen to do this with, but we have some schleppycotton that would break if we

sneezed on it. But we're actually going to make sure it does the job."

They described the loom as having initially been "askew." It's been a group effort to maintain the loom and to keep it in working condition.

Allen described the fair as a village coming together as it always has.

"Yesterday and the day before, the village was waking up," she said. "You saw people coming in and spending hours making the village happen. And it just makes you realize that when farmers would come to the aid of each other, there was that spirit of 'we're all in this together.' And that's true of the fair too, you see people who come out year after year to help make things work."



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