



Rehoming art

As woodcarver Norton Latourelle retires, he looks to place old friends in new homes. See Arts + Leisure.



Roar of victory

Field Days offered more crash & bang with 3 days of Demolition Derby. See Sports, Page 1B.



Film festival

Plan your watching experience with the Mid New Filmmakers Festival Guide inside.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Senate candidates emerge from primaries

Incumbent Dems. Hardy, Bray make the cut

By JOHN FLOWERS
ADDISON COUNTY — Incumbent state Democratic Sens. Chris Ruth Hardy of Middlebury and Chris Bray of Bristol will advance to the Nov. 5 general election. That was decided by voters who filled out the Democratic ballot in Tuesday's primary elections.

Hardy and Bray — both veteran lawmakers — drew competition from a fellow Democrat in their quest for another two years each representing Addison County, Huntington, Rochester and Buel's Gore in the state Senate. The opposition came from Rep. Caleb Elder of Starksboro, who (See State senate, Page 12A)

Heffernan, Cochran earn Republican nod

By MARIN HOWELL
ADDISON COUNTY — Bristol's Steven Heffernan and Huntington's Landel James Cochran prevailed in Tuesday's Republican primary for the Addison Senate district, both finishing ahead of Lesley J. Bienvenue of Leicester. Heffernan was the top vote-getter, receiving 1,928 votes. Cochran was

second with 855, and Bienvenue garnered 599, according to results reported to the *Independent* by town clerks.

Cochran and Heffernan will now advance to the Nov. 5 General Election, where they'll face Democratic incumbents Sens. Chris Bray of Bristol and Ruth Hardy (See GOP senate, Page 12A)

Field now set for Add-4 House races

Cordes and Olson will represent Democrats on November ballot

By JOHN FLOWERS
BRISTOL — Those filling out the Democratic ballot in Tuesday's Addison-4 primary picked incumbent Rep. Mari Cordes of Bristol and Herb Olson of Starksboro to move on to the Nov. 5 general election, when residents of Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro will make a final decision on who will represent them in the

Vermont House. Cordes was the top vote-getter with 872 tallies, followed by 671 for Olson, who eclipsed Lincoln Democrat Jeanne Albert's total by a mere 54 votes. Albert garnered 617.

Cordes, a three-term incumbent, topped the three-person field in Monkton, Bristol and Lincoln, while Olson's (See Addison-4, Page 7A)

Hill and McGuinness picked in three-person GOP primary

By JOHN FLOWERS
BRISTOL — Republicans Chanin Hill of Bristol and Renee McGuinness of Monkton will carry their party's banner in the race for the two House seats representing Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro.

Hill and McGuinness were the top two vote-getters among three candidates vying in Tuesday's GOP primary for the

Addison-4 House district. Hill (tinyurl.com/msbenam6), with 435 tallies, was the top vote-getter, followed by McGuinness, who garnered 295 tallies. Monkton's Lynne Caulfield finished third, with 212 votes.

As expected, Hill scored big in her hometown of Bristol, where she garnered 212 tallies, (See GOP primary, Page 7A)

Charleston will face Scott for governor

By SARAH MEARHOFF
VTdigger.org
VERMONT — Gov. Phil Scott, the incumbent Republican, will face Democratic challenger Esther Charleston, an educator and former selectboard member from Middlebury, in Vermont's general election this November.

The Associated Press called Tuesday's Democratic

gubernatorial primary for Charleston less than an hour after polls closed. In her race for her party's nomination, Charleston competed with Peter Duval, a former Underhill selectboard member who had previously run statewide as a Republican.

Charleston won 49% of the vote to Duval's 19%, according (See Charleston, Page 12A)

Non-traditional learner earns diploma as adult

By CAROLINE JIAO
MIDDLEBURY — On Tuesday, Aug. 20, Vermont Adult Learning will host its graduation ceremony at the Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College. The event aims to recognize the achievements of 35 students who have earned

either a high school diploma, or a General Equivalency Diploma, or have been inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society.

Marleen Lawyer, 24, of Vergennes is one of those who got (See VAL, Page 13A)



Giving every last ounce

THE CROWD REACTS as Middlebury's Lucy Bowdish shows great form in the 10-and-under skillet toss competition at Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven last week. See Lucy's sister Billie and more Field Days photos and stories on Pages 2A, 3A, 10A, 11A and 6B.

Independent photo/Steve James

A year after Act 76, childcare offerings surge

By JOHN FLOWERS
MIDDLEBURY — A recent, massive infusion of new money into Vermont's childcare system through a new law has helped create 1,000 new slots statewide and spurred a renaissance in the industry here in Addison County, which had sustained major losses in childcare offerings during the COVID pandemic.

State and local officials on Aug. 7 converged on Middlebury's Mary Johnson Children's Center (MJCC) to celebrate the impacts of Act

76, a sweeping childcare revitalization law that since its passage last year has generated an additional \$125 million to allow childcare centers to expand their enrollment, upgrade their facilities, and increase compensation and professional development opportunities for their educators and staff.

Fueled by a 0.44% payroll tax, the new mandate has also broadened the number of Vermont households eligible for assistance through the Child Care Financial Assistance

Program (CCFAP). That program in April began offering tuition aid to families earning up to 400% of the federal poverty level, a bar that'll move up to 585% this October.

The current federal poverty line is \$31,200 for a family of four.

"We are turning a corner; this has been a remarkable amount of progress in a short period of time," said Aly Richards, CEO of Let's Grow Kids, a nonprofit childcare advocacy (See Childcare, Page 15A)



By the way

A film crew working on a documentary about renowned author and sustainable agriculture pioneer Wes Jackson will stop by Morgan's Tavern at the Middlebury Inn on Thursday, Aug. 15. The crew will film the Jazz Collective, a group featuring local jazz pianist Bill Vitek, and (See By the way, Page 13A)

Vermont lifestyle lures biotech duo to buy lumber yard

Noh & Burgess purchase Goodro's

By JOHN FLOWERS
EAST MIDDLEBURY — What do two, 37-year-old friends do after successfully incubating and growing two successful biotechnology companies in the greater Boston area?

They become owner-operators of an established lumber business in East Middlebury, Vt., of course.

Not exactly a script you'll see play out in *Forbes*, but Andrew Noh and James Burgess — the new owners of Goodro Lumber in East Middlebury — don't stick to scripts. They do what feels right, and for them, that meant gratefully taking a path less traveled for heretofore white-collar entrepreneurs looking for a new challenge.

"Our joke is that we followed the natural trajectory of moving from biotech into lumber," Burgess said with a broad smile during a

Monday interview, conducted with Noh at the duo's new acquisition.

"We fundamentally believe that work and community are inseparable," Noh said. "We wanted to find a business that is a community, that allows us to access community."

"Our first rule of thumb is, 'Don't screw anything up.'"

— James Burgess

The duo officially took possession of Goodro Lumber on July 29, acquiring it from Mark Thomas, Cindy Thomas, Tim Comes and Marie Warner.

"We are thrilled to kick off the fifth chapter in the history of Goodro Lumber," reads a statement from Noh and Burgess announcing the ownership change. "We are honored to continue the legacy of exceptional quality and outstanding service that Goodro Lumber has been known for, for over four generations."

Established in 1930 by Harry and Mildred Goodro, the business (See New owners, Page 16A)



LONGTIME BUSINESS PARTNERS James Burgess, left, and Andrew Noh recently left the biotech world to begin the next chapter of their professional lives — as the new owners of Goodro Lumber in East Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James

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GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER linemen pick up an electricity transformer that was broken when it smashed onto Route 116 after its utility pole fell during the 60 mph winds on Friday evening. Power was restored in the area by Saturday morning.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Tropical Storm Debby sweeps through Vermont

Hundreds in Addison County lose power due to high winds, Route 116 closed

By **JOHN S. McCRIGHT** and **VT Digger.org**

ADDISON COUNTY — High winds on Friday afternoon and evening toppled trees and knocked down powerlines throughout the Green Mountain State, resulting in more than 50,000 Vermonters losing power.

In Addison County at least 500 people in Middlebury were without power on Friday evening, with many more in other Addison County towns, according to the Green Mountain Power outage tracker. A few places here didn't get electricity back until Sunday.

As of Monday morning, 1,300 customers still needed to be reconnected to the power grid, but only one of those was in Addison County, with the rest mostly in Chittenden and Franklin counties.

The heavy weather came as

the brunt of Tropical Depression Debby hit Vermont on Friday evening. The National Weather Service in Burlington detected gusts in excess of 60 miles per hour.

Heavy rain first arrived in Vermont overnight Thursday, as remnants of Debby, originally a hurricane, moved in from the south and west, dropping up to 2 inches of rain in some northern and central parts of the state.

The storm prompted tornado and flood warnings across Vermont, including a tornado warning in Addison County. Vermont Emergency Management had not heard of any flood related damage but received reports of road closures in Addison County.

Trees were down across the region. In Middlebury, authorities closed Route 116 north of Quarry Road, where trees had fallen onto

electric wires and knocked some utility poles over. Residents in Bristol and Lincoln also reported damage due to fallen trees, though damage was thought to be more widespread.

On Case Street in Middlebury, Kathy Sagendorf saw snapped power line fall in her front yard. The line was broken but electricity arched between two live sections that touch on the ground. A flame was ignited, the ground was scorched and some of the soil was turned into a hard, glass-like substance from the intense heat.

The fire was quickly extinguished, and no one was injured. But residents in the Mead Lane/Butternut Ridge neighborhood were trapped for hours while Green Mountain Power and other crews cleared fallen trees off Case Street,

Route 116. There was evidence that trees had been down on the highway further north into Bristol and Monkton. A GMP crew was seen still making repairs on Route 116 in Middlebury on Sunday afternoon.

Meanwhile, in Bristol there are a couple of areas on the Bristol Trail Network that need some attention following last week's storms. Stewards of the trail will point out areas in need of work, but they're also reliant on hikers to point out trouble spots.

While tossing aside sticks off the trail is great, please don't undertake any work that involves tools without checking in. Much of the trail is on private property, and work requires coordination with those landowners.

If you want to help clear the Bristol trails, have some available (See Debby, Page 3A)

Hand Mowing draws all ages

By **CAROLINE JIAO**

NEW HAVEN — Nearly every year since the late 1960s, the young and the old with a special loyalty to hand tools gather to show their skills at the Addison County Fair and Field Days hand-mowing competition.

On every "ready, set, mow!" a contestant lifts their scythe and ventures into the tall grass, and just minutes later, a strip of the field is left with clean stubs and freshly mowed hay.

Judd Markowski, one of the co-organizers for the past six years, performed as a lively and humorous emcee who used his commentary to attract passing fairgoers to join the audience.

One may wonder about the use of these labor-intensive hand tools in modern days with various electric or fuel-powered machines — what's the point of hand-mowing when a tractor can perform the job so much faster?

Pau Schwartzkopf, a skilled contestant and a volunteer judge, was ready with an answer.

"When my first-born son was a baby, I'd start the gas mower and it would wake him up. So I didn't have time to mow because I was a new parent. When I did have time, he was napping, and I'd wake him up," he explained his dilemma. "So I would play around with the scythe more and more when he was sleeping. Then I got pretty good at it. He'd be sleeping in the garden, and I could mow right around him and not wake him up."

This was 12 years ago, and now he only uses scythes to mow his property. The baby who enjoyed that serenity of hand-mowing rhythms competed for the first time this past Thursday.

Schwartzkopf is not the only one who brought his children. Finn Yarborough of Ferrisburgh lined up with his three sons for their turns.

"The contest is a very supportive place, and it's a really fun place to learn," Yarborough said.

His hand-mowing experience started with a friendship with the Markowski family when he and his wife moved to Ferrisburgh 15 years ago. He has been honing his skills since.

There are not only young faces but also familiar elderly ones. According to Markowski, "They just keep showing up, year after year." Marc Shattuck was one of the two competing in the senior category. He zoomed through his field in less than two minutes. With more than 40 years of practice, he made it look so easy.

"I'm 70. I used to be faster," he told a young reporter.

If a person not familiar with the history of the county fair looks closely at a sign-up sheet for the mowing contest, they'd discover Shattuck's father's name, Rodger Shattuck — the seniors category for people age 80 and older is named after the elder Shattuck.

"My father was a professor, so I grew up around all these (See Mowing, Page 3A)

"It's very meditative, it's very peaceful. I feel good having a hand tool and using it instead of using electricity or gas."

— *Michaela Stickney*

Field Days to address stormwater runoff issue

Clean Water Act permit required; it could cost \$500K to implement fixes

By **CAROLINE JIAO**

NEW HAVEN — Addison County Fair and Field Days, Vermont's largest agricultural fair, has cleared a lot of hurdles over its nearly eight decades of offering fun, competition and education about our collective past and current community.

The latest hurdle is the need to properly deal with stormwater runoff at the Addison County fairgrounds, where Field Days last week ran another successful event.

"Field Days just wrapped up another successful year, and we are already working on the grounds and being ready for next year," Benj Deppman, vice president of the ACFD board, told the *Independent*.

Part of the work to be done is addressing the water issue.

The 2015 Clean Water Act is intended to protect waterbodies, wetlands and aquatic ecosystems,

while also conserving water resources and keeping untreated stormwater runoff out of rivers, lakes and streams. As it implements the law, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in September 2020 issued the General Permit 3-9050. It is a rule that requires landowners with properties with three or more acres of impervious surfaces — hard surfaces such as roofs, roads and parking areas — to treat stormwater runoff. The Field Days site is one of those properties.

Deppman said in an email that the fair in early 2014 acquired a Three-Acre Permit, which is the first step in complying with the DEC rule.

A full permit application is now required, which must include an Engineering Feasibility Analysis to determine a "best-fit" system that uses modern stormwater treatment practices to filter,

store or soak up runoff. Once the stormwater system plan is approved, landowners will have up to five years to install the new stormwater systems.

"There was a delay between promulgating the rule and implementation," Deppman wrote. "So, we have about four and a half years still remaining on our existing permit."

The money needed to meet the permit's requirements is another issue that needs to be addressed.

"We learned the cost to comply is likely approximately \$500,000," Deppman wrote in the email. "We are hoping to explore some alternatives that could bring that cost down."

The DEC currently offers the Permit Obtainment Assistance program to help eligible three-acre sites with engineering design and permit obtainment costs. The program is funded by the American

Rescue Plan Act.

"So, the cost is very high, but we are hopeful we can bring the cost down, and also it remains to be seen how much will need to be paid for by Field Days," Deppman wrote.

Deppman mentioned that given the cost of complying with the requirements, the board is still actively exploring alternatives.

"We are asking engineers, for example, whether we could relocate the system to another location that would allow for a simpler and less expensive treatment option?" Deppman wrote.

While the board is hopeful it will find a more cost-effective solution, Deppman said it is too soon to determine the feasibility of any approach at this point.

"Regardless, the board of directors does not expect this will threaten the fair," Deppman wrote.



MARC SHATTUCK PROUDLY shows his steel scythe, with which he nailed both the open and the senior category at the annual Field Days hand-mowing contest. As a skilled metal worker, he builds his own scythe because he can.

Independent photo/Caroline Jiao



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Aug 15 - Aug 21

Bristol unveils capital improvement plan

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL—The town of Bristol is putting together its first capital improvement plan (CIP).

The plan compiles into one document the town's capital budgets and programs that have previously been included in annual Town Reports, the Town Plan, budgets and various other documents. It's made up of two main components: a capital budget for the current fiscal year and a capital program identifying projects proposed for the next five years.

According to the CIP, the document is intended to "maintain a stable tax rate; to plan for orderly growth and development consistent with the town's fiscal ability to provide facilities and services and in accordance with the Town Plan; and to anticipate facility and service needs and develop funding plans to address them." Adoption of a CIP is also required as part of the renewal process for Bristol's Downtown Designation, a status

that provides technical assistance, financial incentives and other benefits to support community revitalization.

An initial public hearing on the CIP was held during the Bristol selectboard's meeting on Monday. Town Administrator Valerie Capels provided a brief overview of the planning document, which in addition to this year's capital budget, outlines the town's priority capital funding needs, a recommended financing schedule and potential funding sources.

The CIP also includes highlights from the Bristol Town Plan and recent capital improvements and investments made over the past five years. Recent projects detailed in the plan include a 2022 sidewalk scoping study on Airport Drive, this year's purchase of a 4.7-acre property on Hewitt Road to house a future Public Works Department facility, and an ongoing feasibility study of options for the site of a new police station.

"This kind of narrative will be

helpful going forward just for historic context, to remind people of the level of effort that has gone into a lot of these different types of projects," Capels said.

The CIP also includes descriptions of, and recommendations for, various projects around town. The capital budget and improvement program included in the CIP lists various capital projects and funding sources for fiscal years 2025-2030, as well as contributions to reserve funds, debt payments and expenditures for various town departments. Some of the ongoing or planned projects included in the CIP include paving roads around town, sidewalk projects and work on town buildings.

Capels noted the CIP is a work in progress with additional descriptions and information in the process of being added. A more complete version of the CIP is expected to be available ahead of the selectboard's Aug. 26 meeting, when a final public hearing on the document will be held.



AS TROPICAL DEPRESSION Debby passed through Bristol on Friday, high winds knocked trees over on homes, including this one on Church Street. No injuries were reported.

Photo by Tom Pollak

Mowing

(Continued from Page 2A)

professors, which was great, because they had all these ideas, but I couldn't figure it out when I was young," Shattuck recalled. "I just want to work with my hands."

And that he did. Now a skilled welder, Shattuck had built his scythe with metal, which is deceptively light. The snath is made of steel, and he uses an aluminum weld to sharpen the blade.

Why does he go to all the work? "Because I can," he said proudly.

Markowski confirmed that the individual mower's scythe is supposed to suit their body.

"Everybody has their completely own way of doing it," he said.

For many, scything brings them closer to the natural environment and the land, providing a sense of inner peace that they seek.

Michaela Stickney, co-

organizer with Markowski, is one who finds the soothing power of hand-mowing inspiring.

"It's very meditative, it's very peaceful. I feel good having a hand tool and using it instead of using electricity or gas," she said. "The grass is my teacher. I like to connect with the earth. I like to get up early in the morning to feel the grass between my toes. It's honoring the planet. It's also great exercise."

Schwartzkopf feels similarly. Apart from the quietness, it's the bond with the land that brings Schwartzkopf to his scythe.

"It brings a greater connection to the land because as I'm mowing, I'll see things like volunteer plants I want to keep. Like I'll hit a patch of wild strawberries and I'll just mow around it," he said.

The entire contest lasted six hours. People continued to clap and cheer for each contestant as it was their turn. At the end of the day, it was less about the

competition, but the mutual learning between the young and the old.

In just the past week, Stickney had taught two workshops, one at the Bread and Puppet Theater, and another at the Middlebury College organic garden (The Knoll). The four Knoll summer interns also made it out to the field and competed last Thursday, each taking a badge home.

"Maybe we just want to keep things alive for whatever reason," Markowski said. "Maybe that's what the whole fair is dedicated to."

Many agree with this observation.

"It's one of those lost arts that isn't actually lost," Yarborough said. "It's a special opportunity to be part of something very, very old."

Or, to put it simply as Schwartzkopf did, "For anybody who hasn't tried it, they should try it!"



HANDMOWING VOLUNTEER ORGANIZER Judd Markowski shows how the craft is done while competitor Finn Yarborough waits his turn with scythe in hand at the Field Days Handmowing competition this past Thursday.

Independent photo/Caroline Jiao



WHEN A TREE knocked over a utility pole off Case Street in Middlebury Friday evening, the broken electric line created a small fire on the ground near the entrance to Mead Lane. No one was hurt, but the road was closed for hours.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Debby

(Continued from Page 2A)

time this week and have a pole saw and/or a chainsaw, please email knight@gmavt.net.

As we have seen throughout the summer, small storms with highly localized rainfall can quickly cause additional flooding and road hazards. Addison County Regional Planning Commission officials are urging residents to prepare their homes and families for potential hazards, and heed messages from state officials and emergency responders.

A great step is to sign up for "VT-Alert" to get critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons or evacuations. You'll receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, or text messages. To register, go to vem.vermont.gov/vtalert.

If your home is affected by flooding or other disasters,

there are a number of resources available: Call Vermont 211 or visit vermont211.org to report any flood damage; the phone numbers are 2-1-1, or 866-652-4636 or 802-652-4636. If you need assistance with cleanup of homes, businesses or non-profit organizations, you can call the Vermont Crisis Cleanup Hotline at 802-242-2054. To donate funds to help flood victims, visit the Vermont flood response and recovery fund online at vtfloodresponse.org.

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Editorial

Moving past 'gut instincts' to choose our next president

As the Democratic Convention gets under this coming Monday through Thursday in Chicago it's worth reflecting on the status of both parties, the leadership at the top and why voters interested in choosing a candidate based on policy and facts, rather than a "gut instinct," might want to catch a night or two of the convention to learn where the party stands.

Interestingly, a recent study showed most of us vote for political officeholders from a "gut instinct" and then "rationalize" our choices afterward with the facts we gather. That suggests we first size up candidates based on what we like — their appearance, body language, attitude, speech, the ability to connect, and the "bubba factor" — that person we'd like to have a beer with at the local bar or perhaps coffee or tea at a café. We gravitate to the person who reflects our inner self.

Almost all of us know that Trump's pitch is to create a dark and gloomy image of America in decline that only he, as the Messiah, can fix. It's a premise devoid of facts and built on a continuous repetition of lies, but it's appealing to those struggling and who want a savior.

Democrats under Harris have adopted a more optimistic message that reflects the nation's strong economy, while acknowledging the financial struggles many face. Harris has adopted the mantle of a happy warrior and has pledged to fight for middle-income Americans. As a long-time teacher, football coach, military vet, congressman and governor, Walz is a good complement to Harris' optimistic vision.

But to the extent policy matters and governance matters, we'd all do well to understand what both parties stand for and intend to do.

Trump's biases and upcoming agenda are well-known as defined by his embrace of Project 2025, which basically believes in creating a stronger role for the president, weakening the authority of Congress, and replacing the current non-partisan bureaucratic workforce with partisans in lockstep with Trump's rule. Project 2025 would eliminate the federal department of education to give states and local governments more control (including the ability to ban more books, drop academic standards, and promote religious schools at the expense of the public school system). The plan also advocates for cutting federal agencies like the IRS, agencies that regulate the environment (mining, logging, drilling and other exploitations of the land); and increase partisan oversight of the Department of Justice and FBI. The plan would spend billions on building more of the border wall and would deport millions of immigrants. The plan abandons any concerns with climate change and would pursue maximum fossil fuel use and development. As before, tax cuts would benefit the very rich.

Naturally, Republicans would continue to amplify cultural concerns like banning transgender athletes, denying abortion procedures, limiting birth control, and promoting white nationalism — among other radical ploys that would transform government into a one-party ruling regime. At least that is the hope of the conservative Heritage Foundation which conceived of the 180-day playbook to radically change America's form of government. (If you think that's an overstatement, read the plan.)

In foreign affairs, Trump's emphasis on isolationism in his first term dramatically undermined America's status as a trustworthy world power, weakened NATO and the United Nations, while befriendling numerous dictators. A second term could be worse, including selling out Ukraine to Russia and undermining European security.

As for his running mate, JD Vance, he has very little experience governing anything and has some of the cookiest political ideas to ever cross the political stage (not counting Trump's), including a wacky idea to give more votes to adults with kids. Seriously?

Democrat Kamala Harris and her running mate Gov. Tim Walz of Minnesota would continue to build on President Biden's foreign policy initiatives, continue the successful fight to bring inflation under control (now under 3%), expand the economy in technology that's critical to keeping a leading edge, create tax benefits to help middleclass families, expand affordable health care and work to create more affordable housing. Tax cuts would be extended for specific areas like the 2023 child tax credit of \$3600 per year for kids under 6 and \$3,000 per year for kids 6-17, as passed by Congress under President Biden. Harris and Walz would also recognize the threat of climate change and do what the nation can to reduce its carbon footprint.

On foreign policy, Harris and the Democrats would continue to support Ukraine in its battle against Russian aggression, strengthen NATO and the United Nations, and counter the tide of anti-democratic behavior across the world that is strengthened when leaders like Trump attack and denigrate America's system of justice and our democracy.

The comparisons on policy could go on and on. It's a worthy discussion that is too rarely tackled in the national media. For those interested, search Project 2025 online and read what it says, understanding the document itself is a propaganda tool from a conservative perspective. There are ample critiques of Project 2025, which should be read as well to understand the opposite perspective.

For more about how Harris and Walz would govern, tune into coverage of the Democratic Convention this Monday through Thursday to get a clearer picture of their party's stances on the issues and the direction they hope to take the country.

And to borrow a closing phrase from one of our Middlebury College summer interns in an op-ed she writes on what the upcoming election means to her (see it on Page 5A), she boils it down to this: "This is not a battle between liberals and conservatives or the elites and the working class. This is a battle for decency. This is our chance to again become a nation whose political divide is of policy, not identity and empathy. This is our chance to make America great again."

Angelo Lynn



Name that tune

DO YOU LIKE a really tall unicycle? Do you like bagpipe music? How about both at the same time? Street entertainer Colin Campbell earned some big smiles and applause with this trick at Sunday's Foodaroo in Middlebury's Marble Works. Then he turned it up a notch and juggled knives as well — see a photo of that on addisonindependent.com.

Independent photo/Steve James

Nature often puts colors on display

Insects have a bad reputation, but so much of summer is bound up in them: crickets chorusing in the hayfields, cicadas droning in the heat, jeweled dragonflies gleaming against the reeds, butterflies fluttering between flowerbeds.

I think my favorite are fireflies. It's a thrill every year to see them glimmering against the dark fields like a mirage. When, walking home in darkness, I glance down to see a speck of green light in the dirt, and recognize a glowworm. There's something magical about the show, these lights floating through the summer twilight.

The first time I saw it, I was fifteen, still living at home in Montana. You don't see fireflies much out west, particularly in Montana, where summer nights are short and cold enough to make it hard for the insects to show off. I didn't even know they could live there; for me, fireflies were something you read about in books, not something in real life.

I used to like to drive down to a little man-made lake near the Yellowstone River. It felt like an oasis at the edge of the city, fringed by venerable cottonwoods and populated by enormous flocks of geese and ducks. My father and I used to canoe there. I'd catch turtles and let them loose in the boat, then watch them walk up and down with their scaly legs.

That one summer, as I approached the water at dusk, glowing lights winked in and out of the shadows. I stopped still, transfixed. Then came back, bringing friends, then a boyfriend, all of whom watched in wonder.

The performance lasted just a single summer. I've never seen them in the state again.

Even in places like Vermont, they feel ephemeral. And though there are a lot of fireflies — 120 species in North America alone, and 2,400 worldwide — there aren't a lot of ground-based creatures that can match them at making light. Fungi can do it, and some bacteria, one kind of tropical snail, some centipedes and millipedes, and a handful of insects. That's pretty much it.

Move to the oceans, though, and it's a whole other story. Around three fourths of marine animals display bioluminescence, including creatures as big as sharks.

They do it through a molecule that sends out light when hit by oxygen. The substance is called luciferin, for lucifer, Latin for "light-bearing." (The reaction is speeded up by a catalyst called luciferase.)

Long before it acquired this devilish name, the Spanish, invading the islands now known as Puerto Rico, ran across a bay whose water glittered at night. The locals will tell you that the native Taino had revered the place, which looked like galaxies fallen to earth, but the Spanish believed it the work of the devil. They moved enormous chunks of stone into the mouth of the bay, hoping to block further contamination from the ocean. It did disrupt the movement of the dinoflagellates, the microscopic plankton that emit the glow. Before, they had washed in and out of the bay, their luminescence fading as they dispersed into the open water. Now, those that had been trapped remained, multiplied, concentrated. Others slipped in and, because of the shape of the channel, could not leave.

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

Ways of Seeing

By Erin Ruble



MALT offers wealth of activities

Last Monday, 20 local campers — including James' daughter, Sofia (5) and Jamie's daughter, Frankie (9) — gathered at the Otter Creek Gorge trailhead for the MALT Hunt for the Snipe Camp. Excitement and optimism permeated the group as they readied to track the mythical creatures. Before long they were off on a muggy, buggy, and muddy adventure to kick off a fun week of exploration in the woods.

The Hunt for the Snipe Camp is just one of many educational programs MALT offers each year. Only a few years ago, the organization offered few such programs, but now MALT reaches over 400 youth in addition to adults and families each year. The positive impact we've delivered through expanded programming leads us to envision what the future of MALT looks like, and we want to include your feedback in helping outline our future plans for serving the community.

This summer, our camps will again provide unforgettable experiences for children aged 5 to 13. From "Treasure Hunters" to the new "Urban Explorers" camp, we create immersive opportunities for campers to explore and appreciate the natural wonders of Addison County. By expanding our locations to include urban green spaces, we demonstrate the interconnectedness of our environments and inspire stewardship beyond

Community Forum

This week's writers are **Jamie Jo Horton, Executive Director of the Middlebury Area Land Trust and James Cryan, MALT Board Member**

the wilderness.

Beyond summer camps, MALT offers education programs catering to various age groups and interests. Our afterschool programs bring environmental education to our schools, engaging students with opportunities to get dirty and cultivate a love of the natural world throughout the year. For adults, we provide workshops, lectures, and guided hikes exploring the ecological, historical, and cultural aspects of our region.

As we approach our 40th anniversary, we are taking stock and creating our MALT Vision 2040. Of course, we will remain committed to our educational offerings as we continue our vision-setting process. We envision a future where every community member has access to meaningful opportunities to connect with and learn about the natural world. By cultivating curiosity, wonder, and responsibility, we inspire a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship.

We invite you to dream big with us:

- Why do you value MALT?
- By 2040, what do you envision for MALT?

Please share your ideas here: bit.ly/maltvision! Together, we can create a community that values and protects Addison County's natural treasures for generations to come.

Letters to the Editor

Local paper a true treasure

Thanks to Kathryn Schloff for her inspiring letter to the editor about the excellence of the *Addison Independent* and plight of local newspapers nationwide and in Vermont. I want to underscore and support how fortunate residents of the Champlain Valley are to have the *Addison Independent* as their local newspaper.

I have lived in Central New York since 1995 but have continued to subscribe to the paper and am probably better informed about Middlebury and Addison County than about my current hometown of Hamilton, N.Y. Our *Mid-York Weekly* declined, was sold and then stopped publication. The *Oneida Dispatch*, a former daily at the north end of the county, is owned by a hedge fund and publishes three days a week. The *Syracuse Post Standard* closed its Madison County office years ago and also publishes three days a week. It is a good news source but we are just too far away to matter.

I marvel at the depth and detail of the coverage in the *Independent*. It is truly a fine paper to be treasured and nurtured. Thanks to all who make it prosper.

Bruce Moseley
Hamilton, N.Y.

Venezuela hit by election fraud

I was born in Caracas, Venezuela, and have held dual citizenship since birth, thanks to my mother, who was born and raised in the United States. As one of few Venezuelans in Addison County and Vermont, I have always felt a profound connection to both my Venezuelan roots and my American upbringing. This unique perspective has fueled my passion for justice and democracy, particularly in Venezuela. Since I was 16 years old, I have been actively involved in anti-government demonstrations, following the dramatic turn towards authoritarianism after the attempted coup d'état in April 2002.

The recent 2024 presidential election in Venezuela is a stark reminder of the ongoing struggle for democracy in my birth country. The ruling party, the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), committed massive electoral fraud, with the centralized National Election Council announcing dictator-president Nicolás Maduro as the winner without providing much detail or evidence. The democratic opposition, led by María Corina Machado and Edmundo González Urrutia has overwhelming evidence of fraud, showing that González actually won over 67% of the vote.

This blatant fraud is not an isolated incident: It has far-reaching implications. Massive protests are expected in the coming days and weeks, and the government is likely to commit atrocities against the people. The steady exodus of Venezuelans to neighboring countries and the United States is likely to increase dramatically following this fraudulent election. The situation is not just a Venezuelan issue: It is a global concern. As autocracy gathers momentum, Venezuela's example is likely to encourage dictators everywhere.

I urge our politicians and representatives in Congress to take more interest in Venezuela and do more for its people. The international community must take a stand against this blatant disregard for democracy and human rights. We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the suffering of millions of Venezuelans. It is time for decisive action to support the democratic aspirations of the Venezuelan people and to hold the Maduro regime accountable for its actions.

The future of Venezuela hangs in the balance, and the world must not remain silent. Let us stand together in solidarity with the people of Venezuela and demand justice, democracy and human rights.
(See *Manrique letter*, Page 5A)

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Letters to the Editor

Porter support staff engaged in contract talks

Porter Medical Center is many things. It's a hospital, where we come in our most vulnerable moments. It's a system of medical care, where we turn to our doctors when we need answers. It's a home where the elderly and the sickest of our community can seek refuge when they have no other safe haven. Porter is a center of care at the heart of our community that keeps it healthy.

So what is at the heart of Porter? Part of Porter are the doctors and nurses. As wonderful as they are, the vast majority of Porter is an unacknowledged powerhouse behind the curtain, the 300+ recently unionized technical and support staff that keep Porter running.

We provide a home for the growing population of aging patients needing around-the-clock care in our nursing home. We clean up to 1,000 pounds of linen a day for your beds and exam tables, and we keep every part of the building clean and disinfected. We make and deliver the food you eat. We assist the surgeons performing emergency cesareans or repairing dangerous fractures. We collect and test the blood that your doctor depends on for the diagnosis of conditions such as heart attack or infection. We answer the phone or check you in, so that you can get the care you need. If you are suffering from a life-threatening condition such as a stroke, we are the people performing the imaging that diagnoses it.

And we are struggling. We do not feel seen, or cared for by the institution that we give so much to. This April, by an overwhelming majority, we, the technical and support staff of Porter, chose to unionize so that together, our collective calls for change might be

loud enough to hear. The reasons for us coming together this way are very clear:

- 65% of us make less than \$23.33 per hour, Addison County's living wage according to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, while 47% of us don't even make \$20 per hour. These low wages mean we struggle to make ends meet:
- 49% of respondents to our union survey said they have a hard time paying their rent or mortgage.
- 51% cited difficulty with other debt or loans.
- 53% said they are challenged to afford enough food.

These are powerful statistics, and behind them are faces you have probably seen:

- Kendra Powers is a full-time radiologic technologist, and a single mother to two young children. Currently, the average cost of childcare for two young children in Vermont is over \$26,000 a year. Rental rates within a 30-minute drive of Porter are 38-51% of Kendra's take home pay, without utilities.

- Flynn Shepard is a fulltime patient care assistant. In order to be able to afford rent, the only "real food" that they eat is what they get from the Porter cafeteria; at home it's ramen noodles.

UVMHN emphasizes that we are one network instead of individual hospitals, yet, at UVMHC, support staff are paid almost 20% more while techs are paid nearly 90% more than at Porter. Why is staff at Porter worth so much less to the network?

More hurtful still, from 2020 through 2023, PMC spent over \$18 million on 256 travelers. The lowest paid traveler in that time made \$45 per hour, 50% more than the average wage for

techs and over twice the average support staff wage. Why are our shoulders, heavy from serving this community loyally for years, sometimes decades, so much less valuable?

Another priority for our union is safe staffing to improve patient and resident care. Helen Porter staff have shared powerful stories:

- Memory Care LPN Megan Burrows described having to distribute meds to 20 residents in an hour, on the verge of collapse after being forced to work 12-hour shifts three days in a row.
- Post Acute Care LPN Kathy Supernault spoke of the danger of rushing through critical tasks like wound-care and delivering meds because current staffing ratios don't take into account patient acuity.

These concerns impact staff, patients, and residents who call Helen Porter their home. Porter is renowned for high quality beginning-of-life care; in a rapidly aging state, wouldn't it behoove us to be just as renowned for high quality end-of-life care?

We are Porter; we are central to this beautiful, rural community in Vermont, a vestige of empathy and decency to many of us that live here. Across the country, rural medicine is disappearing, withering away under the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing modern healthcare. We want Porter to be a success story. We want to prove that a community that cares and provides for those serving in its most essential roles can survive, and thrive, and in doing so, keep our community healthy.

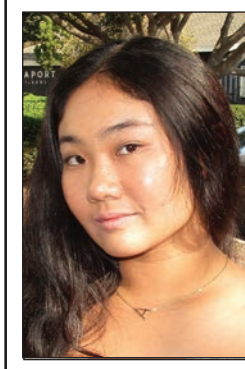
Paige Kernan, Pediatrics Office Representative
Maya Schnell, Radiologic Technologist

What the election means to me:

It is a battle for decency

For the better part of the past eight years, different aspects of my identity have been used as weapons in the tug-of-war between the two major factions of American politics.

On one hand, I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, in an upper middle-class suburb just minutes away from Vice President Kamala Harris. I hail from Filipino immigrants, who are celebrated for being healthcare workers and branded as the "good" immigrants coming into the country. I am educated, and I've long prided myself for using research and theory as a basis



Summer intern Alyana Santillana is a Middlebury College student who was born in The Philippines and grew up in California.

for my political opinions.

By most measures, every aspect of my upbringing would classify me and those around me as the so-called "Coastal Elite." On the other hand, parts of my identity also mirror the identities of those who have fallen for Trumpism. My family and I have been devout Christians for as long as I can remember, and I like to believe that my religious convictions have influenced my moral beliefs on politics and the world. The nature of Asian immigration to the United

States made it so many of my fellow Asian immigrants subscribe to the idea of "pulling yourself up from your bootstraps" and the notion that hard work, and that alone, dictated one's success in this country.

My life after 2016 was marked by numerous crises of identity, allegiance and morality.

"Does forming an opinion from the perspective of one aspect of identity undermine the other?" I wondered.

Yes, politics, by nature, is complex. But today's politics are an abomination.

Donald Trump and his rhetoric have forced the American people to choose between common sense and an extreme, far right ideology that is not what Conservatism used to be. No longer is the Republican Party the party of traditional (See Alyana Santillana, Page 7A)

Political climate in constant state of flux

This election year, 2024, also marks the end of my four years studying abroad in a U.S. college (well, not technically, since I wouldn't graduate until February 2025). Four years at Middlebury was four years under the Biden administration as a noncitizen, a student from China.

The color blue sort of tinted my time here, I guess.

To push it back a little, four years ago, the current president was running against a strong opponent (Trump) whose administration had caused many ripple effects, one of which, on an extreme micro level dare I say, was the complete halt of the U.S. embassy issuing student visas during early periods of the pandemic, mine included (ask me why I became a Feb. at Middlebury College).

So, what does a U.S. election mean to me?

If this question was asked of me a decade ago, I'd say it doesn't mean anything. At that point, a kid such as myself feels quite distant from any political nitty-gritty. Perhaps an average citizen back home is intentionally kept that way: I don't feel I have a say in those matters. The closest I came to "politics" is that my middle school math teacher is a standing committee member at the City People's Congress in our district.

I was not sensitive to any news either. I remember watching China Central Television reporting Trump's triumph, and that was about it. People were talking about how his presidency would change everything, but it didn't seem concrete. It would be years later when I became more conscious of the trade wars, the raised foreign taxes, the skyrocketing inflation with the influx of U.S. dollars in the global market due to changes in fiscal policies, the violence against Asians in the U.S. amidst COVID, and a peculiar rising fanbase for Trump in the Chinese internet among many other phenomena I had begun to try wrapping my head around.

I was among the lucky ones who was spared from experiencing extraneous shutdowns in either country. By the time I arrived in the U.S. in Sept. 2021, the conditions in Beijing and Middlebury were



Summer intern Caroline Jiao is a Middlebury College student from Beijing, China.

relatively under control.

The relief I felt through my safety eventually became a plaguing sense of guilt.

I couldn't have imagined being in Shanghai during the spring of 2022 when another COVID outbreak triggered another forceful lockdown and series of tragedies across the city (apartments were barged in, certain pets were slaughtered for "sanitary reasons," people who needed emergency

healthcare did not have access, etc.). In comparison, my two years of homesickness seemed less than minor.

Thinking back on the Biden administration's first years, the pandemic seems, ironically, already a distant memory. In the global scene, the U.S. has had more to worry about, given the eruption of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in the winter of 2022 as well as the ongoing genocide in Palestine.

I remember hearing people back home say Biden had been a safe option for voters to stay away from Trump, and it was unclear what his presidency could substantially achieve during the short span of four years.

(See Caroline Jiao, Page 7A)

Ways of seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

Now, the bay the Spaniards had hoped to quench glows many times brighter than any other surface water. Dip a hand in on a dark night and your fingers will glow. The water ignites every time a paddle enters it, sparks with every drop of rain. Look down and you can see the broad wings of a manta ray glowing in the depths; up, and flying fish gleam as they jump over the waves.

Everyone sees the color a little differently: green, aqua, cobalt, turquoise, white, even yellow or red. Most cameras can't capture it. On a dark night, it shines bright enough to read a book by its light, but even a half-moon will flatten its radiance.

So do storms. Hurricane Maria, which devastated the island, blackened the bay. A few months later, however, the glow returned. Now it shines brighter than before, its concentration of dinoflagellates thicker than ever.

So what lesson should we draw

from this radiant water? Sometimes our intentions backfire most superbly, and our efforts to destroy something wonderful preserve it instead.

And sometimes efforts are needed to preserve it. Other bioluminescent bays have faded over time, as unbridled tourism destroys them. People swim in the water, slathered with sunscreen and bug spray. Development cuts down the mangroves that feed the dinoflagellates. Pollution runs into the water and poisons them. And houses, roads, and stores string lights that drown their radiance in fluorescent bulbs.

I've only recently become aware of the harm all these lights cause. Environmentalists warn that we've created an "insect apocalypse" not only through chemicals, habitat depletion, and climate change, but also through light pollution. Up to a third of insects drawn to a light will die from it, exhausted or picked off by predators. Many

others are stressed, disoriented, or otherwise disrupted. And lights are everywhere.

It's so easy for us to live in a human world, paying attention to purely human conveniences. Leave a porchlight on without a thought to the moths it kills. Illuminate the coast without thinking of how it will confuse the sea turtle babies on their desperate path to the ocean. Light up cities without worrying about the birds dragged out of their migration, who slam against windows or get tangled in spotlights. Let the streetlights, floodlights, city glow swamp the fireflies and other creatures that need darkness to survive.

If we switch those lights off, give space to another world, what wonders will we behold?

Erin Ruble is an immigration lawyer and aspiring amateur naturalist. She lives with her family in New Haven, where she occasionally finds opossums in the living room and mice in her shoes.

Manrique letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

rights for al. The opposition has presented documented evidence of electoral fraud, supported by the voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) from all electronic voting machines, which remains

unchallenged. The fraudulent election is expected to result in heightened protests and a significant increase in the exodus of Venezuelans. The situation in Venezuela is likely to embolden autocratic regimes globally, making international intervention crucial.

Now more than ever we must rally to support Venezuela. The fight for democracy and human rights is a universal struggle, and our solidarity and action can make a difference.

Tuco Manrique
Middlebury

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ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

Thomas Skidmore Sherman, 58, formerly of Ripton

ESSEX JUNCTION — Thomas Skidmore Sherman, 58 of Essex Junction, Vt., was born in Burlington, Vt., on Feb. 2, 1966. He was adopted shortly thereafter by Robert J. Sherman and Ann Skidmore Donley Sherman. In the midst of what had been a brave and admirably uphill battle with stage two lung cancer, Tom passed away in his home unexpectedly on July 30, 2024, of unrelated natural causes.

Tom grew up amongst the picturesque mountains and back roads of Ripton, Vt. He was a 1984 graduate of Middlebury Union High School and a member of the tennis and cross-country ski teams. After High School, he spent some time in Florida, but quickly returned to Vermont,



THOMAS SKIDMORE SHERMAN

where he settled in the Burlington and Essex Junction areas, working as a delivery driver and more

recently in retail sales.

From a young age, Tom had a passion for sports, but none greater than his love for ice hockey. In his free time, Tom could be found behind the boards, chatting with the coaches and players of the Boston Bruins or UVM Men's Ice Hockey teams (many of whom knew him by name). In addition to sports, Tom had a genuine interest in learning about his ancestry and enjoyed researching and meeting both his extended adoptive and biological families.

Tom is survived by his sister, Kate Eldridge and her husband Micheal of Quechee, VT.

Donations can be made in Tom's memory to the University of Vermont Cancer Center. ♦

Sheldon Gerald Sax, 76, of Cornwall

CORNWALL — Sheldon Gerald Sax passed away on Aug. 8, 2024, at the age of 76, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was born in Toronto, Canada on Aug. 31, 1947, to Irving and Lillian Sax. His father was a pharmacist and his mother a homemaker. Shel graduated from the University of Toronto and later obtained a master's degree at Simon Fraser University. He worked at Middlebury College for 34 years, mostly in educational technology — helping professors and staff better use technology in the classroom. Before that he built acoustic guitars for a living.

Shel was a true mensch and family man. He was humble and modest, even for a Canadian. He liked to play the guitar, watch hockey, wear slippers, and stay up late. He had a sharp mind and an exceptional vocabulary. He could stack an incredible number of suitcases into a car trunk with the touch of a Tetris grandmaster. And he made a bed with perfect hospital



SHELDON GERALD SAX

corners, a skill he attributed to years at summer camp.

He loved to golf with his like-minded friends and spent many hours traversing the Ralph Myhre Golf Course. He appreciated a good joke and had a clever wit. He was opinionated, especially about current events, and more than happy to share his views. His close

friendships from school, summer camp, and university lasted his entire life.

He is survived by his beloved wife Peggy, who is a psychologist in Middlebury. They first met while picking fruit on a kibbutz in northern Israel, near the Lebanese border. Shel and Peggy were married for 52 years. He will always be immensely proud of his two sons. Peter is an Assistant United States Attorney and lives with his wife Molly in Portland, Ore. Jordan is an emergency physician who lives with his wife Dana in Berkeley, Calif. Shel adored his four wonderful grandchildren.

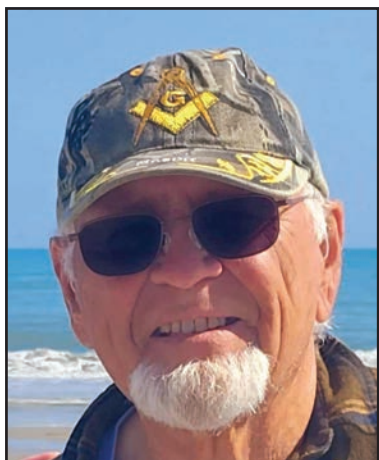
A funeral service was held on Sunday, Aug. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College. Burial followed at West Cornwall Evergreen Cemetery on Route 74.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the United Way of Addison County or the Oral Cancer Foundation. ♦

Mead C. Murphy, 82, of Orwell

ORWELL — In the early hours of Aug. 1, 2024, our beloved Mead C Murphy, 82, passed away peacefully after a courageous fight against glioblastoma. He was surrounded by the love of his family. Born on Long Island, N.Y., on Nov. 7, 1941, he was the only child of Cornelius and Martha (Clark) Murphy.

From a young age he was tough, surviving a near fatal brush with meningitis, suspected to be contracted after a visit to Coney Island. As a youngster he spent time at the family summer home in Wallingford, Vt. He attended Vermont Academy and eventually graduated from Wallingford High. There he met his future wife Donna (Jenkins). On July 14 of this year they celebrated their 62nd anniversary. His love for Vermont and country life vs. city life led him to pursue an education at VTC studying agriculture. Early on he farmed in Wallingford but eventually found his land with Donna in Orwell.



MEAD C. MURPHY

He ran a successful dairy farm there, working alongside Donna and his children. After years of farming he found himself in the business of selling agricultural and turf seed for Seedway, eventually helping to bring a local office to Shoreham. For years he was a friendly face at Douglas Orchards, from making cider to selling produce. He was a talented wood

carver, gifting many of his creations to family and friends, which will be forever cherished. Mead and Donna had lots of traveling adventures that eventually led them to Myrtle Beach S.C. It was there they found their home away from home enjoying the snowbird life. During their time there they made countless memories with wonderful friends.

Mead was predeceased by his son Daniel Murphy. He survived by his wife, Donna Murphy; son David Murphy; daughter Jennifer Murphy; and daughter-in-law Carol Murphy. He was proud Gramp to Janielle, Joseph and Kalee. He was also great grampa to Oliver, Raegan, Henry, Carter, Paisley, Oaklyn and Evelyn. He was a member of the Orwell Masonic Lodge.

A private Masonic service will take place on Aug. 24.

In honor of Mead, help a shelter animal if you can. Sanderson Funeral Home will have obituary posted. ♦

Marion Schueler Werner, 97, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Marion Schueler Werner passed away peacefully on Aug. 8, 2024, at the age of 97.

Born on Oct. 8, 1926, in Rochester, N.Y., Marion was the daughter of Eugene and Marguerite (Miller) Schueler. She graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School and then attended St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, Md. She loved her years at St. Joe's, creating long-term friendships, studying biology and chemistry, playing on the college's basketball team and serving as student body president. In the decades since she graduated in 1948, she made regular trips to campus for reunions, most recently for her 70th. She met her husband, Fred, on a blind date and they were married in 1951. Their family of five children was started the following year and life never slowed down after that. In 1971 she and Fred moved their family from Rochester to Middlebury, Vt., where they comfortably settled and made many friends.

Marion enjoyed a variety of careers over her lifetime. During the summers in between college semesters, she supported World War II efforts by working as a "Rosie the Riveter", soldering control box components for B-29s and vividly recalled the day the



MARION SCHUELER WERNER

war ended. Later, she worked in the University of Rochester's cancer research department as chief medical technician to one of the research doctors. Her next career — mother to five children — included volunteer work with Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts, religious education, hosting an international exchange student, the Addison County Chamber of Commerce and Porter Hospital (RSVP). She also was generous in supporting her many friends.

She and Fred tried a short stint with retail before she worked as a religious education coordinator for St. Mary's Parish and in the

banking field. Marion was a passionate supporter of Project Independence (Elderly Services). She believed in their mission and enjoyed Project so much that, after years on their staff, she retired and then served there as a volunteer. Over the past couple of years she returned to Project as a participant and considered their staff as another family. Also tucked into her busy life were pleasures such as travel, reading, gardening and college basketball, and she passed many evenings watching the Boston Red Sox.

Marion is survived by her daughters, Joan (Ray) of Indiana and Meg (Peter) of New Hampshire; her sons, David (Cheryl) of Middlebury, Jim (Betsy) of Wyoming and Peter (Karleen) of Brandon; 13 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Fred, of 38 years, her two sisters and her brother.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held on Saturday, Aug. 24, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary's Church, Middlebury.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Marion's memory to Elderly Services, P.O. Box 581, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to St. Mary's Parish, 326 College Street, Middlebury, VT 05753. ♦

Margaret Ann Bell, 93, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Margaret Ann Bell, 93, of Vergennes, passed away Friday, Aug. 9, 2024 at The Arbors at Shelburne.

She was born June 19, 1931, in Bridgton, Maine, to Frederick and Nellie May Linscott, the fourth of six children. Margaret graduated from Bridgton High School in 1949. After graduating, she worked as a soda clerk at the local drug store. Margaret married Robert C. Bell in Bridgton, Maine, on March 23, 1951. In 1960, Margaret and Robert moved to Vermont with their son, Gene, where she worked at H.P. Hood Farm Supply as a bookkeeper until her retirement.

She enjoyed being in the garden, doing puzzles, baking, sewing and knitting. For several winters in a row, Margaret proudly knitted over 100 hat and mitten sets and quietly donated them to local children in need.

Margaret and Robert attended



MARGARET ANN BELL

many agricultural fairs. Their favorites included Addison County Field Days, Champlain Valley and Fryeburg Fairs. They worked together in the pulling ring for several years.

A devoted mother and Mimi, Margaret never missed an

opportunity to support or cheer on her family. She attended many athletic and school events with enthusiasm and pride.

Margaret is survived by her son, Gene and his wife, Barbara; her granddaughters, Stephanie Bell, Jamie Fernandes and her husband Brian, and Jessica Brigante and her family; and her great-grandson, Mack Fernandes. She also leaves behind her sister, Marlene, and two very special nieces, Loma Bell and Marlene James. She is predeceased by Robert, her husband of 68 years; her parents Frederick and Nellie May; and her siblings Frederick, Ralph, Phyllis, and Marion.

The family wishes to send many heartfelt thanks to all the members of The Arbors at Shelburne for the loving care they gave to their mother and Mimi.

A private graveside service will be held in Gorham, Maine. ♦

Minda Jean LaFountain-Brown, 60, of Bridport

BRIDPORT — Minda Jean LaFountain-Brown, 60, left this earth to join her mom and dad on Aug. 5, 2024, at UVM medical center, surrounded by her loving family.

Minda spent most of her time helping everyone she could. That was her passion in life. Minda could often be found with her glasses on, listening to her loud rock and roll music and joking around. She wouldn't have been Minda without her teasing and wonderful sense of humor.

The funeral will be held at Sandersons Funeral Home, 117, South Main Street, Middlebury, Vt., on Saturday, Aug. 17, at 10 am. ♦



MINDA JEAN LAFOUNTAIN-BROWN

Marilyn Pike Clark, 71, of Lincoln

LINCOLN — Marilyn Pike Clark, 71, passed away Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, at Helen Porter Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury.

She was born on Dec. 13, 1952, in Burlington, the daughter of Cortland and Betty Monahan Clark.

She was a homemaker and she enjoyed spending time with her family. She enjoyed and participated with her friends at the nursing home.

She was predeceased by her daughter, Michele Clark Calcagni, in 2017.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Philip; two grandsons, Zachary Calcagni of Pennsylvania and Kameron Calcagni of Rutland; brothers and sisters Bruce Pike and wife Wanda of Fletcher, Barbara Haire and Husband David, Robert Pike and wife Denise, and Karen Payea all of Hinesburg; several nieces and nephews; and her dogs, Liberty and Daisy.

Special thanks to the nurses and staff at Helen Porter Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center.

There will be no funeral services. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Helen Porter Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center Activities Program, 30 Porter Drive, Middlebury, VT 05753. ♦

Obituary Guidelines

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

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

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Obituaries

Orval D. Davis, 90, of Orwell

ORWELL — Orval D. Davis, 90, passed away Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, at Rutland Regional Medical Center in Rutland, surrounded by his family.

He was born on June 20, 1934, in Mansonsville, Quebec, Canada, the son of Gerald and Marion Draper Davis.

He came from Canada in the mid 1950s and worked on farms and became a U.S. Citizen on Feb. 9, 1976. He served in the U.S. Army during the Cold War. He played old time fiddle and did woodworking projects.

He was predeceased by two daughters, Donna and Doreen; a son, John; his wife, Theresa Davis; and eight brothers and sisters.

Orval is survived by three children, Kathy and husband Richard (Ricky) Persons, Timothy



ORVAL D. DAVIS

Davis and wife Elina, and Kevin Davis; 11 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Iris

and Pansy; a brother, Scott; and several nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to the nurses and staff at Mountain View Center and Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Visiting hours will be held on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes with a funeral following at 11 a.m. at funeral home. Interment will be at St. Peters Cemetery in Vergennes with military honors. A gathering will follow at American Legion in Vergennes.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Make-A-Wish Foundation of Vermont, 6655 Shelburne Road, Ste 300, Shelburne, VT 05482.

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

Breakfast to be served in Shoreham on Aug. 31

SHOREHAM — Shoreham Congregational Church will kick off Labor Day weekend with a breakfast on Saturday, Aug. 31, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Plain or blueberry pancakes or French toast will be on offer,

with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, home fries, quiches, and beverages. The cost is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children and \$30 for families. Organizers encourage diners to bring a non-perishable food item or paper

product for the Food Shelf to help those in need.

Once fueled up, folks can head out to Shoreham's town-wide yard sale and cap the day off with the Fire Department's barbecue starting at 4:30 p.m.

Addison-4

(Continued from Page 1A)

195 tallies were enough to give him a win in his hometown of Starksboro.

Olson out-pollled Albert in Starksboro, Bristol and Monkton, while Albert topped him in her hometown of Lincoln.

Cordes and Olson will face Republicans Chanin Hill and Renee McGuinness (see story on Page 1A) in the general election.

Interest in the Addison-4 race was fueled by a decision by incumbent Rep. Caleb Elder, D-Starksboro, to pass on reelection in order to run for a Senate seat (see story on Page 1A).

Cordes (tinyurl.com/26jyms2z) said, "I'm very grateful to the Addison-4 district — my neighbors and the community — for their support. It's clear they want to keep working with me, especially since we have such big problems to address."

She specifically cited decoupling education funding from property taxes (in favor of an income-based approach) and revitalizing the state's healthcare

system as the top two items on her to-do list for the 2025-2026 biennium.

As a longtime Registered Nurse and current member of the House Committee on Health Care, Cordes believes she's well-positioned to tackle the state's healthcare issues, recently detailed by the *Independent*.

Olson (tinyurl.com/26ryvzvt) is a retired attorney who spent 15 years (1987-2003) as a member of the Vermont Legislative Counsel, helping state lawmakers draft bills targeting healthcare, economic development, taxation and other weighty policy issues. He also served stints representing his community on the Mount Abraham Union High School board, and on the Starksboro Planning Commission.

"I want to thank everyone who supported and helped me. I hope to earn the right to represent our district come November," Olson said Wednesday morning.

He gave kudos to Albert for her campaign.

"She's a really good person, and Starksboro in particular is

very grateful to Jeanne and to Lincoln; they helped us out big-time when we were trying to save our school," he said, alluding to a previous Mount Abraham Unified School District discussion about potentially shuttering a few of its elementary schools.

Olson said he did some door-to-door campaigning this summer and expects to do more of it in the weeks leading up to Nov. 5. He renewed a lot of acquaintances during his travels.

"Over 50 years, you get to know a few people in the county," he said.

Albert (tinyurl.com/2r3u8tz2) was disappointed by her narrow loss but was pleased with the help and support she received.

"I had an amazing team of young people in particular, who worked on my campaign. That was so inspiring, and I know how fired up they are about using the tools we have to make things better," she said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

GOP primary

(Continued from Page 1A)

compared to 105 for McGuinness and 84 for Caulfield. Hill also triumphed in Lincoln (43 tallies, versus 29 for each of her opponents) and in Starksboro, earning 83 tallies, compared to 67 for McGuinness and 36 for Caulfield.

McGuinness (tinyurl.com/3zu2ytxd), prevailed in her hometown of Monkton, notched 94 votes, versus 87 for Hill and 63 for Caulfield.

The two Republicans will now face incumbent Rep. Mari Cordes, D-Bristol, and Starksboro Democrat Herb Olson in the Nov. 5 general election.

Hill was very pleased with her showing, especially in Bristol, where she's a driving force behind Bristol's Four Hills Farm, — one of the largest dairy operations in the Champlain

Valley. She serves on the Bristol Planning Commission, as well as on the town's hazard mitigation committee.

"I've lived in Bristol my whole life and we run a business here, and I think that helped me get over the hump," she said.

Hill spent a lot of time at Addison County Fair & Field Days last week, networking with hundreds of prospective voters, listening to their concerns.

"I think that moved things along," she said.

Now that she's advanced through the primary, McGuinness vowed to intensify her campaign for the Nov. 5 stretch. She said she'll spend a lot of time describing her positions on various state issues and plans to convey Cordes's voting record — particularly as it relates to state spending.

"I'm very pleased and honored to be advancing. I consider it a huge responsibility and I want to start serving people now, and to educate voters on some of the legislation that's passed," McGuinness said. "Hopefully that might open their eyes to reasonable plans from Republicans to bring affordability back to Vermont."

McGuinness is a policy analyst with the Vermont Family Alliance, a non-profit advocacy organization that, among other things, tracks "current and proposed policies and laws that infringe on parental rights, and (exposes) the potential harms that could occur when such policies and laws are made," according to its website.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Goshen woman faces charges

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police this week sorted out a case that started back in June and resulted in four serious charges against a Goshen woman.

Back on June 28 at 12:30 a.m., troopers from the New Haven barracks responded to a reported domestic disturbance at a residence on Capen Hill Road in Goshen. State police investigated and determined that 41-year-old Kristan Mason of Goshen caused bodily injury to a household member in violation of conditions of release stemming from a previous assault on the same victim.

Police said that Mason drove away from the scene with a criminally suspended license. They also determined that New York had issued an arrest warrant for Mason.

After multiple attempts to locate Mason, troopers found her and took her into custody without incident on Aug. 11.

Mason was lodged at Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility before being arraigned on charges of first degree aggravated domestic assault, violations of conditions of release, driving with a suspended license, and

Vt. State Police Log

being a fugitive from justice.

That wasn't the only dangerous assault case that state police dealt with recently.

On Aug. 6 at a quarter after 10 p.m. troopers responded to a reported motor vehicle complaint near Sand Road in Ferrisburgh. They allegedly found that Peter Hoehl, 46, of Shelburne used a motor vehicle to cause serious bodily injury to a household member. Hoehl was taken into custody without incident and cited for first degree aggravated domestic assault and recklessly endangering another person.

In other recent activity, state police:

- On Aug. 5 at around 5:30 p.m. stopped a car on South Street in Bristol and cited Genevieve Dahlen, 27, of Bristol for driving with a criminally suspended license.

- On Aug. 6 shortly after 4 p.m. a trooper on Route 116 in Bristol observed a vehicle traveling southbound at a high rate of speed while passing another

vehicle. The vehicle was found to be traveling 98 mph in a posted 50 mph zone during a time of heavy commuter traffic. Police stopped the vehicle and cited driver Jeffrey Bruckner, 69, of Warren with gross negligent driving and issued a \$710 ticket for speeding.

- On Aug. 6 at 10 minutes to 6 p.m. stopped a car on States Prison Hollow Road near Route 116 in Starksboro. Police ended up citing Matthew M. Larrabee, 23, of Hinesburg for driving under the influence.

- On Aug. 10 shortly before half-passed 10 p.m., came across two vehicles at Sycamore Park in Bristol. After talking to a driver, they cited Gabriel Litch, 24, of Brandon for driving under the influence, second offense, and driving with a suspended license.

State police stationed at the New Haven barracks and other law enforcement agencies in Addison County this week are conducting DUI sobriety checkpoints. These checkpoints are focused on people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Vermonters are urged to use a designated driver when necessary.

Alyana Santillana

(Continued from Page 5A)

family values, economic freedom and patriotism that those close to me had once subscribed to.

No, in its ruins, the contemporary Republican Party is one that idolizes a self-serving billionaire that brands himself as the Messiah to his working-class followers.

What I regret most about contemporary politics is the growing resentment between Americans and the absence of empathy and mutual understanding. I am not a "Coastal Elite," nor am I a heathen who supports killing traditional values, nor am I a classist who wishes to see working class families suffer under capitalism.

I am a student who remembers being an eight-year-old kid practicing barricading the door to my third-grade classroom in preparation for a school shooting. I am a young woman who's watched her college friends from Texas weep about their bodily autonomy be at the mercy of a corrupt Supreme Court. I am a Christian, who's watched people weaponizing my faith in a loving Lord to stand in a street corner bearing a sign that says, "God Hates Gays." I am a child of immigrants, who sees little difference between my family's

pursuit of the American Dream and those being detained at the border.

As for my affinity with the "other side," Democratic Vice Presidential pick Tim Walz said it best, "They are not the enemy. They are my family. They are good people who feel like they've been left behind."

I've long grappled with the fact that many of those I've grown up with are, in fact, Trump supporters. Not because they support his abysmal policies or because they're racist, xenophobic or anything of the sort. It is because they're working class, uneducated, vulnerable people who have long felt alienated by the rhetoric of the Democratic Party, which on the surface can be condescending and exude elements of classism.

In short, this is what the election means to me: In Kamala Harris I see a woman of color who has long been a champion for women and the middle class. Before she was Vice President Harris, she served as my U.S. Senator, my Attorney General and my District Attorney. She was the one who won thousands of dollars for homeowners in my region and forced accountability for law enforcement.

On a personal level, she is a fellow Bay Area Asian who takes

pride in being from the birthplace of the Black Panther Party and the Disability Rights Movement and the hub for Student Activism. She is the daughter of immigrants who was taught the value of education and service from an early age.

In Tim Walz I see a former educator who's dedicated his life to influencing the youth. Like many members of my family, he is a veteran and has made it a point in his political career to make life better for veterans. He is a Christian family man, who embodies Christian family values of community and compassion.

In Donald Trump and JD Vance I see two men who have weaponized the struggles of decent, everyday Americans who have traditionally turned to the Republican Party to be their advocates, now being coerced into supporting fascism.

In this election, I see an opportunity for this country to come back to itself, a country that celebrates diversity and opportunity. This is not a battle between liberals and conservatives or the elites and the working class. This is a battle for decency. This is our chance to again become a nation whose political divide is of policy, not identity and empathy. This is our chance to make America great again.

Caroline Jiao

(Continued from Page 5A)

In retrospect, their scopes were so limited given the multiple wars afoot around the world that are now on the nation's plate. If the political scientist John Mearsheimer's prediction about a pending US-China war is accurate, I have about a handful of years on my clock to figure out where I'll physically be.

Wars. Such an unimaginable thing at the beginning of the century, at least for a privileged kid like me. In 2001, coincidentally on the date of my birth, the next Olympics was announced to be held in Beijing; the same year, China joined the WTO. Six years later, I sure did witness athletes and audiences arriving from

around the world in Beijing. The vision of a global village seemed so reachable. Possibilities seemed endless. Countries working together toward a brighter future — the kind of promise you'd see in a national leader's address on TV.

I had to grow older to learn about the 2008 global financial crisis, which came side by side with the Olympics, that overshadowed the following decade. It would be even later that I learned about Mearsheimer's opinion, or political theories along those lines: the regional hegemony — the "they" and the "us."

Facing the current election, I could try to think from my country's perspective as to which candidate would benefit the

prospect of our foreign policies and global relations. I could analyze my country's reaction or anticipation for either a more friendly, or "iron fist" leadership.

I could also try to weigh the options of going back home or staying in the U.S. for further studies.

But I just feel tired. I remain opinionless and powerless. It feels hard to end on a hopeful note, reminiscing about a world promised with possibilities.

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Foodaroo!

GOOD WEATHER PREVAILED at Foodaroo in Middlebury's Marble Works on Sunday ... until the clouds moved in and rain started to fall around 6:45 p.m. Still, it seemed that a large crowd enjoyed a world of cuisine for all cravings from Japanese to gyros, and grilled cheese to cheese steaks. Clockwise from above left, Shaneall Ferron dishes up Jamaican food at the Thingz from Yaad food stall, eaters spill out of the parking lot into the grassy park above the creek, and street entertainer Colin Campbell juggles clubs on a skateboard before mounting a very tall unicycle and juggling knives while playing bagpipes.

Independent photos/Steve James and John S. McCright



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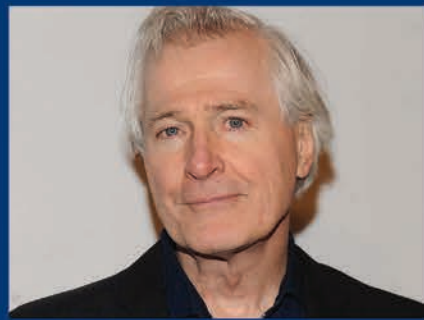
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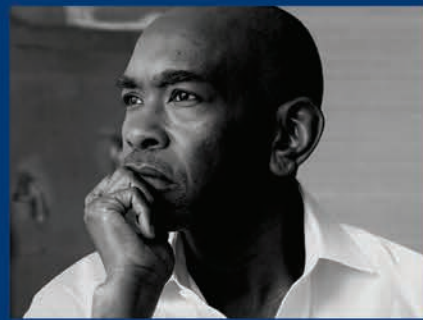
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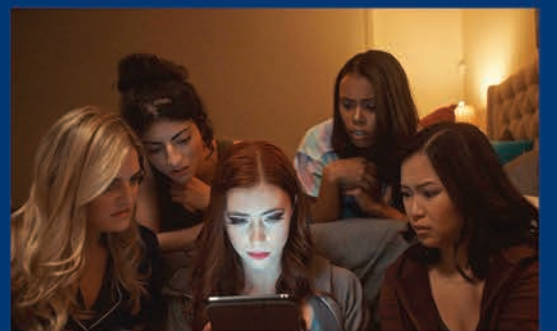
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ONE OF THE Robinson's Racing Pigs competitors emerges from the water hazard during a race at Addison County Fair and Field Days in New Haven last week.

Independent photo/Steve James

Racing pigs make splash

By ALYANA SANTILLANA

NEW HAVEN — It is the second race of the first day of the Addison County Fair and Field Days. Cookie Monster takes her mark, and she means business.

Shakin' Bacon pulls up next to her, looking as fierce as ever.

Belly Roll, the previous race's champion, looks more at ease.

But do any of them have what it takes to beat Piggy Minaj, who marches onto the start line with steel in her eyes?

Reigning champion Belly Roll takes a comfortable lead early on. She hits every curve with ease. Cookie Monster and Shakin' Bacon are not too far behind, but Belly Roll has a comfortable lead. She's about to cross the finish line victorious, but the tenacious Piggy Minaj gathers a burst of energy

for a last second sprint! It is just enough to overtake Belly Roll, and Piggy Minaj finishes this heat as champion.

Field Days welcomed Randy and Sharon Ross and their Robinson's Racing Pigs. The company, the originator of the concept of pig races, has been in the business for over 40 years. Founder Paul Robinson began staging pig racing at the Florida State Fair and has been doing travel circuits around the country at fairs ever since.

The pigs live on the tour bus and undergo training during their travels. They often find motivation in prizes, usually in the form of an Oreo cookie. While Piggy Minaj took the win in today's race, all of the pigs have their turns being victorious. Likewise, they all have their off days.

Twist O' Wool Guild spins tales

By CAROLINE JIAO

NEW HAVEN — The Twist O' Wool Guild is making its annual return at Addison County's fair, in fact celebrating its 45th anniversary at Field Days.

The guild was founded in 1979 and has since grown exponentially. According to President Ellen Kavanagh, sometimes people come all the way from Grand Isle County and upstate New York. The guild currently has around 70 to 100 active members.

Guild members have witnessed the evolution of hand-spun wool.

"Back in the late 1970s and early '80s, there was nothing online to buy," Kavanagh said. "So it was all local fiber shed. There were fiber festivals, so we bought colored braids."

The eye-catching centerpiece featured in the guild's tent is its annual guild Afghan, which is made up of over 80 square blocks of knitted and crocheted patterns. Members started working on this in November 2023, and each participant contributed some yarn from their own stash, allowing a wide range of colors.

The brown seam that bound all the colored blocks together is especially noteworthy — it's all hand-spun yarn using wool from Jacob sheep, which is a primitive breed that typically has four or sometimes even six horns. Its wool is soft but durable and pleasant to work with for a collaborative project, according to one of the guild's info sheets.

As per their tradition, the Afghan will be raffled off, and the proceeds from the sale of tickets go to their general funding. Tickets will be available until the Oct. 3 guild meeting.

Throughout the years, the guild has made good use of its funds, hosting many workshops, some of which invite local artisans to give natural indigo dye tutorials. At the demonstration table in the tent, they display wool naturally colored and welcome visitors to come and feel it.

Kavanagh recalled the guild's

first debut at the fair with nostalgia and a sense of humor. The early 1980s was just when they had demonstrated spinning greased wool that was supposed to be waterproof.

"The first few years we're here at the Field Days, we were spinning in grease because it was trendy. That's what they did in Australia, so we were doing it here," she said.

They were already planning for their next year's collaborative project. They've retrieved freshly shorn wool from the shearing demonstration in the nearby sheep tent. At next year's fair visitor's find out what artwork guild members created with the bundled sheep hair.

Not so far from their tent, two long-time guild members — Kelly Leary and her daughter Vivien

Sorce — are weaving on a pair of looms.

For no less than five years, the mother-daughter duo has been volunteering to demonstrate using a large barn loom and a smaller inkle loom to weave fabrics on the scene, giving viewers an authentic taste of what farm work was like back in the day.

Leary has been spinning for about 16 years and weaving for about 10.

"Give it a try, it's a blast," she suggested.

Sorce, who has been sewing and weaving for about seven years now, concurs with her mother's observation.

"Even though it looks hard, it's worth the hard work to see the magic," she said.



AT THE TWIST O' Wool demonstration at Field Days last week, Kelly Leary shows fairgoers how to weave fabric on a smallish inkle loom.

Independent photo/Caroline Jiao

People play with animals at Field Days

By ALYANA SANTILLANA

NEW HAVEN — The annual Addison County Fair and Field Days has many opportunities for local youth to be exposed to a variety of animals. They can watch cow-judging events like the conformation and showmanship competitions. They can root for their favorites at the pig races. They can even learn how their winter clothes are made during the sheep shearing demonstrations.

Last week, Field Days also gave children the opportunity to hang out with local animals.

The Children's Barnyard, usually open between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., featured goats, sheep, chickens, horses and bunnies that children could get up close and personal to. They could even enter a pen to pet three baby goats. This enabled them to see the different personalities that these cute creatures have.

"My favorite goat was the grey one because it was friendly. The white one always ran away," said six-year-old Emma.

Next to the Children's Barnyard was the poultry tent, which featured dozens of different chickens and ducks, among other types of birds. Children who are sensitive to rooster crows should beware, as such sound is always present in the tent.

In the same area was the horse section. One side had many different horses at rest, just there to be admired. On the other, more shaded side, were ponies brought by Harvest Moon Valley Ranch. A group of five or so horses were in a carousel formation. There, children were able to enjoy a nice pony ride in a controlled setting.

Other animal areas within the fair included the open dairy show barn, the sheep tents, and much more.

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THE 2024 EDITION of Addison County Fair and Field Days wrapped up on Saturday, but we wanted to take a look back at a few of the sights. Clockwise from top left, a view of the midway from the Ferris wheel; Middlebury 7-year-old Billie Bowdish chucks a skillet; Connor Hillman, 6, of Salisbury cranks on his pedal tractor; Bristol's Stephen Cobb gives it his all as he throws for a win in Wednesday's caber toss competition; Normandie Cesario of Cornwall holds Daisy while Sid Van Der Wey of Nea-Tocht Farm in Ferrisburgh holds Daisy's mother, Polly; Cole Paterson (left), Leo McKenna and Landon Johnson don furry scarves of animal pelts at the Vermont Trappers Association booth; Abigail Gusakov of South Starksboro rides Atlas, a four-year-old mustang; and 13-year-old Colin Chamberlin of Addison shows his pride in the Grand Champ Ayrshire he showed at Field Days.

Independent photos/Steve James



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State Senate Primary						
Addison County, Huntington, Rochester and Buel's Gore						
TOWN	Democratic			Republican		
	Christopher Bray	Caleb Elder	Ruth Hardy	Lesley Bienvenue	Landel James Cochran	Steven Heffernan
Addison	92	42	97	57	58	165
Bridport	54	38	68	38	39	136
Bristol	260	270	291	49	120	246
Cornwall	129	73	171	14	26	49
Ferrisburgh	178	87	170	40	74	165
Goshen	15	8	28	10	3	10
Granville	13	4	17	1	5	6
Hancock	18	10	22	1	6	13
Huntington	133	119	212	4	64	46
Leicester	35	29	50	19	24	45
Lincoln	137	186	178	14	23	55
Middlebury	693	386	855	77	61	171
Monkton	129	154	169	30	81	131
New Haven	111	133	150	32	53	148
Orwell	40	65	70	39	24	76
Panton	42	19	63	21	12	38
Ripton	59	64	60	6	1	8
Rochester	43	33	118	12	16	28
Salisbury	62	31	72	20	9	30
Shoreham	63	39	89	25	16	57
Starksboro	117	163	136	15	71	105
Vergennes	152	82	194	50	40	115
Waltham	26	26	41	14	13	35
Weybridge	109	79	114	3	9	25
Whiting	12	8	11	8	7	25
TOTAL	2,722	2,148	3,435	599	855	1,928

GOP senate

(Continued from Page 1A) of Middlebury (see story on Page 1A) for the two state Senate seats representing Addison County, Huntington, Rochester and Buel's Gore.

Heffernan is a life-long Bristol resident who owns and helps operate three local businesses: 802 Excavating, Heffernan Inspection and Repair, and GHR Metal Recycling. He's previously served on Bristol's Zoning Board of Adjustment and has spent more than 30 years serving in the Vermont Air National Guard as an explosive ordnance disposal tech.

He expressed gratitude for voters' support following Tuesday's contest.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who voted today," he said on Tuesday night. "I am extremely humbled and appreciative of their votes, and now the real competition is going to begin."

He said he's hoping to reach more voters ahead of the Nov. 5 election. "I need to spread the word and

increase my herd," Heffernan said, referring to his cow-embled campaign signs. "I don't believe the current legislators are going to change their views or their voting history."

Cochran was also pleased with Tuesday's results.

"I would just like to say that I'm excited to continue working, trying to get my message out there and give folks another good option for representation in Addison County," he told the *Independent*. "I'd like to congratulate Steve Heffernan on his win and look forward to meeting more people before Nov. 5."

Cochran has served on the Huntington selectboard for several years and currently works as a data services manager at Vermont Systems, a software company in Essex Junction. His role focuses on supporting the U.S. Army's Child and Youth Management System and in building custom analytics tools.

He said his campaign centers around affordability and common sense policy and that he plans to

continue focusing on those issues moving forward.

"I think largely the Legislature understands well what Vermonters want but we need to live within the means that we have in our economy," Cochran said. "I'm looking forward to seeing if I can help by representing Addison County with common sense and a little bit more budgetary restraint at the level our economy can afford."

Bienvenue expressed disappointment following Tuesday's primary contest and said she plans to see about options for running in the general election.

"I expected to get more votes than I did, so discouraged that the person who's best for the job, because I have a master's degree, did not get voted into place," Bienvenue told the *Independent* on Wednesday morning. "I guess it has to do with money, that I did not have enough money to advertise enough, but I'm still going to continue on and running in the general election."

Charleston

(Continued from Page 1A) Until November, she told to unofficial results from the Secretary of State's Office. An unusually high 32% of voters wrote in another name or left their ballot blank.

At an election night celebration in Burlington, Charleston told VTDigger that clinching the Democratic nomination "feels amazing." Now the first woman of color representing a major party on Vermont's gubernatorial ballot, Charleston called her primary victory "history in the making."

"That means raising a lot more money. That means knocking on doors. That means seeking endorsements."

— Esther Charleston

Until November, she told her plan was to "go hard" campaigning for Vermonters' votes. "That means raising a lot more money," she said. "That means knocking on doors. That means seeking endorsements."

For the first time in roughly two decades, Scott faced no primary challenger on Tuesday, according to his campaign manager, Jason Maulucci. In a written statement after the results came in, Scott — who is seeking his fifth two-year term in office — thanked voters

"for once again placing their faith and trust in me."

Two other candidates are slated to appear on the gubernatorial ballot this November: Eli "Poa" Mutino, an independent from Barre City, and June Goodband of Springfield of the Peace and Justice party. Neither had to compete in a primary election.

Another Addison County candidate for statewide office was Josh Bechhoefer of Cornwall. He won his uncontested bid for the Republican nomination for state treasurer. He will compete against incumbent Mike Picciak in November. Bechhoefer was recruited to run for the seat by the Vermont GOP this spring.

State senate

(Continued from Page 1A) eschewed reelection in Addison-4 district in an effort to join the state's highest chamber.

But when the dust had settled Tuesday, Hardy had won the most votes (3,435) spread among the senate district's 25 towns, while Elder finished with a respectable 2,148 votes.

Hardy and Bray will face Republicans Landel James Cochran of Huntington and Steve Heffernan of Bristol in the general election (see story on Page 1A).

Hardy was pleased with her first-place showing.

"I'm honored that the Democratic voters have again made me the top vote-getter in the Addison Senate district," she said. "I'm happy they've recognized my hard work and decided to move me forward in the election. I thank everyone for their support."

Hardy added she "took nothing for granted" in this year's primary and promised to take the same approach during the weeks leading up to the general election.

"It's an important election for our country and I want to make sure everyone gets out and votes, and that voters have the opportunity to hear from me and see me out working hard, as always," she said. "Based on what I'm seeing on the Republican side, it seems like we'll have some good, serious opponents. I look forward to talking about the issues and working hard."

Hardy (tinyurl.com/3exzrvzf) is rounding out her third term in the Senate. She currently chairs the Senate Committee on Government Operations, and

serves on the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, the Canvassing Committee and the Judicial Retention Committee.

Her past civic service has included stints on the Mary Hogan Elementary School board, the UD-3 school board and the Addison Central School District board.

Elder's (tinyurl.com/4j8y7dxy) participation in Tuesday's primary made it a more rigorous contest in a decidedly blue county in which incumbents have typically been given a free pass from same-party challengers. Bray acknowledged the headwinds he faced on Tuesday. The six-term Senate incumbent drew considerable criticism in some circles for his support of the proposed Affordable Heat Act, a proposed reconfiguration of the state's Fish & Wildlife Board, and his vote against overturning Gov. Phil Scott's veto of a sweeping data privacy bill.

Bray — who chairs the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee — said he heard the criticism through emails and in person during this past winter's Addison County legislative breakfast series, during which he was often the only local lawmaker in attendance. But he maintained that his positions — particularly on measures designed to fight global warming — were based on what he believed was most environmentally sound, versus what was most popular.

"I know I was walking around with a target on my back," Bray said. "No (legislative) committee has received more vetoes than Senate Natural

Resources & Energy. On the flip side, no committee has had more successful veto overrides than our committee. I feel like I live in the hot seat."

"I know there were some people loaded for bear out there," he added. "I talked to some people who said, 'We're coming after you.'"

Bray acknowledged contested primaries — typically characterized by low turnouts — are when an incumbent can feel most vulnerable. His trepidation was reflected in his campaign spending. Bray raised \$25,540 by Aug. 1 and spent \$21,688. That was tops among all Addison County office seekers.


"I think there were people thinking, 'This is our chance to pick him off.' It's not a comfortable feeling, but I'm very comfortable with the work I've been doing," Bray said.

In addition to his committee chairmanship, Bray (tinyurl.com/34rbdk4s) also serves on the Senate Finance Committee, Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, and the Joint Carbon Reduction Committee.

He thanked his supporters. "I appreciate all the support I received from a really large team of people," he said. "No one in the Legislature moves a bill on their own, or passes a bill on their own, and no one gets elected on their own."

Efforts to reach Elder were unsuccessful as the *Independent* went to press on Wednesday.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.




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VAL

(Continued from Page 1A)

a high school diploma. Vermont Adult Learning, first established in 1980, aims to providing supportive and professional space for unconventional learning paths. It has served adult students, age 16 and older, who did not acquire a high school diploma due to life circumstances to learn the skills and knowledge they need to prosper in 21st-century Vermont. Now it has centers in seven of Vermont's 14 counties.

Lawyer welcomed Vermont Adult Learning's approach to teaching.

"It was the idea of it being less traditional," Lawyer said.

Lawyer took classes at Lake Region Union High School in Barton for two and a half years before deciding to continue studying through VAL in the Burlington branch. Earlier this year, Lawyer transferred to the Middlebury branch to finish earning credits in a modern technology class and a personal finance class, the latter being a requirement for all VAL students.

"You learn about taxes, and you learn about how to adult with money," said Lawyer, who uses the pronoun they.

Lawyer enjoyed working with Colleen Wedge, who taught the personal finance course.

"She helped me not be afraid to ask questions," they said. "For a long time, when I would ask questions, teachers would get annoyed with me. They would be like, 'Are you stupid?' But she would be like, 'It's not stupid to ask all the questions in your head.' So she helped me feel more comfortable asking and feeling it's OK to be curious."

With encouragement from Wedge, Lawyer conducted a research project about money exchange as the course's final assessment. They said it was not



MARLEEN LAWYER OF Vergennes took a non-traditional path to earning a high school diploma, which they will receive from Vermont Adult Learning at a ceremony next week.

only an enlightening endeavor but also helped them learn more about how money flows internationally. Lawyer feels proud that the project had been useful.

"I think the teacher said she might include some of that in her lessons since it was fun," Lawyer said.

The finance course was not the only gateway through which Lawyer started exploring and planning for their future through VAL. A research course on career options is commonly required as a graduation credit.

"I would love to go to cosmetology school," Lawyer said. "I'm really good at the science stuff, and I've done my mom's hair and nails since I was little, so it's something I've always enjoyed, and I think it would be fun to take it to a more professional level."

Lawyer found encouragement using a career simulator that VAL provides. The simulator is a set of computer algorithms that maps out the viability of certain career paths.

A user enters basic numeric factors like salary level, price of rent and tax rate to get an idea of what it looks like to live in a particular place doing a particular job.

"Basically, I moved out of Vermont in the simulator to a new place, had some savings, and had a slightly broken vehicle," they said with a laugh. "I lived there for around three months in the simulator, and it showed that I could do it. It was cool just to see that I could actually do it on my own. It's not impossible."

Lawyer has also enjoyed their VAL writing assignments. They especially take pleasure in genres like fantasy and sci-fi. The thought of becoming a writer now seems not so out of reach.

"I love creating worlds that are different from ours, that somewhat has parallels," they said. "It's fun for me to make characters and feel emotions through them."

Creativity and imagination are two of Lawyer's main ways of learning, and the teaching methods

Immigrant grateful for his education

By ALYANA SANTILLANA

WHITING — Manuel Vargas Guzman, 35, of Whiting came to America in pursuit of a better life for himself and his family.

Originally from De La Cruz, Mexico, Guzman moved to Vermont about three years ago. A friend told him about a job opportunity at a dairy farm, and he began working alongside many other immigrants. His work allowed him to purchase a car and get housing in Addison County.

"I have a lot of friends, I am very grateful to be in this country. I have a job, a roof, a bed. I am happy," he said.

Though he is grateful for the life he has here, he misses his family in Mexico very much. He has two younger siblings, a sister and a brother. He hopes to return to Mexico and start a dairy farm of his own, bringing with him the business and agricultural skills he learned while living in Vermont.

"I think people who want to come here should learn English because it makes life so much easier. You need English to communicate with everybody and you have more opportunities with English," he said.

Vargas Guzman is following his own advice; he takes English classes at the Vermont Adult Learning Center every week.

Next Tuesday, Aug. 20, Vermont Adult Learning will host its

Graduation & Celebration at the Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College. The event recognizes the achievements of its students, including Vargas Guzman, who will be among nine inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society. Also at the ceremony, eight students will collect a high school diploma, and eight more will get their GED, which is a diploma equivalent.

Though Vargas Guzman is making progress in learning grammar and vocabulary, he is finding it difficult to gain opportunities for immersion and practice with native speakers. He hopes to gain a stronger command of the language to increase his opportunities in the United States.

Editor's note: This interview was conducted in Spanish and quotes were translated to English.

What follows is a Spanish language version of the story.

WHITING — Manuel Vargas Guzman, 35, de Whiting, fue al Estados Unidos para obtener mas oportunidades para el y su familia.

Originario de De la Cruz, Mexico, Vargas Guzman fue a Vermont hace tres años. Su amigo le habló de un trabajo en granja lechera. Él trabaja con otras migrantes de Latinoamérica y otros países. Con el dinero del trabajo, su pudo compre un coche y vive en condado Addison.

"Estoy agradecido de estar aquí (Estados Unidos). Tengo un trabajo, una cama, una casa. Tengo amigos. Estoy feliz," el dijo.

Aunque está agradecido por su vida aquí, extraña a su familia en México. Tiene dos hermanos menores, un hermano y una hermana. Quiere regresar de México y empezar una granja lechera, con su nueva habilidad en negocio y agricultura.

Tiene consejo por otros migrantes que quiere ir al Estados Unidos, "Aprende inglés, porque es necesario por comunicarte, y vida aquí es más fácil si lo sabes inglés. Lo necesitas para todo," el dije.

El estudian Vermont Adult Learning a Middlebury todos los lunes.

En martes proximo, 20 de agosto, habrá una graduación y celebración por Vermont Adult Learning a Middlebury College. Vargas Guzman es uno de nueve estudiantes que serán admitidos a National Adult Education Honor Society.

Vargas Guzman está progresando en vocabulario y gramática, pero quiere practicar más con hablantes de inglés con fluidez.

"Es difícil practicar porque gentes no tiene tiempo, o a veces, paciencia conmigo, y no quiero preguntarles," el dije.

Manuel quiere mejorar en inglés para tener más oportunidades aquí.

they experienced in VAL courses did well in pulling those qualities out and making them shine.

"I really enjoyed being able to use my creativity and not be judged for it," they said. "Because I really love using my imagination to understand what I'm being taught."

Having learning disabilities including dyslexia, ADHD and autism, Lawyer recalled many struggles connecting to other

people when they were little. VAL became a good match for them since the mode of one-on-one communication and tailored course schedules gave Lawyer more freedom to take breaks and experiment.

"If I didn't find something cool about what I was taught, it wouldn't stay, like it would just leave my brain," they joked.

In retrospect, Lawyer was thankful for the learning

experience through VAL, and they encouraged fellow students to stay determined.

"Stick with it! Just keep doing it," they said. "I think it's better to take your time than rushing because then you get a better understanding of what you want to do. There were many times I wanted to just give up. But I didn't. It took me six years, which is a long time, but I took breaks in between, but I got it at the end."

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

record a song that'll be included in the documentary. Vitek has collaborated with Jackson for over three decades, including in the New Perennials Project, which Vitek leads at Middlebury College. While in Vermont, the film crew was slated to visit some of the project's partners, including the Bread & Butter Farm in South Burlington and Baby Carl's Happy Apocalypse podcast.

A new kids' space just opened in Middlebury! There was a grand opening of the Henry Sheldon Museum's new makerspace last weekend, and it was great. Inspired by the museum's current innovation exhibit, and in collaboration with Middlebury Makerspace interns Kurt and Taylor, the new space is designed for play, creation and tinkering. There's a Rigamajig set, a magnetic wall marble run, a sewing machine, a 3-D printer, and a stop-motion animation station. During the grand opening two kindergartners were making art at a sunny table by the window. The makerspace is open every day the museum is open — Wednesday to Saturday — and admission for kids is free.

The creators of "Megan's Meadow" — a carefully curated pollinator garden specializing in native pollinator plants, located on

the north side of Porter Hospital and across the parking lot from the Middlebury Regional EMS — invites you for a free, guided walk-through on the property this Sunday, Aug. 18, from 3-5 p.m. The garden was installed by members of the Middlebury Area Community Garden. Representatives from Pollinator Pathway and the community garden will be on hand to answer questions and help guide you toward creating habitats for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife in your own landscape. Email hollypearsall@hotmail.com with any questions.

Tri-Valley Transit reached a major milestone this summer when it provided its 5 millionth ride. TVT is the public transportation provider for Addison, Orange and Northern Windsor counties; it formed in 2017 when Addison Country Transit Resources merged with Stagecoach. The organization's 5 million ride benchmark includes riders boarding public bus routes, taking Dial-a-Ride trips, and those receiving specialized transportation services. TVT Executive Director Jim Moulton said this was much more than just a big number. "Each ride we give is one more person going to work, providing for their family, engaging in their community, or accessing a needed service. To

make that difference 5,000,000 times is humbling." TVT surpassed 200,000 rides in a year during fiscal year 2024 for the first time since the COVID pandemic, as more people returned to using public transit. TVT commuter routes run along the I-89, I-91, Route 116 and Route 7 to provide access from more rural communities to larger population centers. For more information, go to trivalleytransit.org.

Folks at the Addison County Solid Waste Management District appreciate all enthusiasm for recycling, but it's important to recycle right. ACSWMD officials at the Middlebury transfer station are unfortunately finding in recycling too many pouches, manila envelopes, paper envelopes lined with bubble wrap, candy wrappers, cellophane, chip bags, frozen food bags, grape bags, grain and feed bags, pet food bags, cherry bags, meat and cheese packaging, metallic and foil packaging, mulch and soil bags, vacuum seal bags, and pre-washed salad mix/lettuce bags. They want to remind you that these kinds of items must instead go in the trash. Remember: when in doubt, throw it out. To learn more about plastic bag and film recycling, check out tinyurl.com/3uky5kwz. For questions, call the District Transfer Station at 802-388-2333.

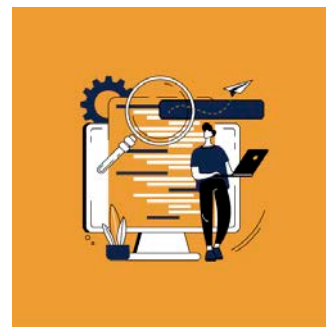
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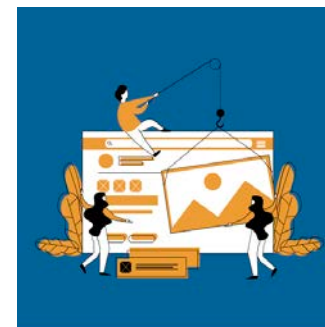
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OPINION?

Email it to: news@addisonindependent.com

Dog turnout for world record falls short by just 10

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — It looks like an attempt in Middlebury this past Saturday to score a world record for the number of dogs to attend a film screening failed by around 10 pooches. But organizers of the effort — related to the Middlebury premier of local filmmaker Andy Mitchell's new documentary, "Inside the Mind of a Dog" — continue to pour over video to see if their initial count of 210 canines

might have been understated.

The *Independent* reported on Aug. 1 that Mitchell had hoped to collar at least 220 dogs for the Aug. 10 screening of "Inside the Mind of a Dog," which Netflix released on Aug. 9 to considerable acclaim and viewership. A count of 220 would have eclipsed, by a single pup, the existing Guinness world record for most dogs to attend a film screening. "There were 280 registrations, but about 70 no-shows," lamented Lisa

Mitchell, who is Andy's spouse, the director of Middlebury's Town Hall Theater and a driving force behind "Middlebury Underground," a local arts and event production organization that helped steer the dog-attendance-record quest.

Mitchell said some people showed up at Saturday's screening with dogs who hadn't been registered before entering the Memorial Sports Center, so there's still a chance the record could

become Middlebury's.

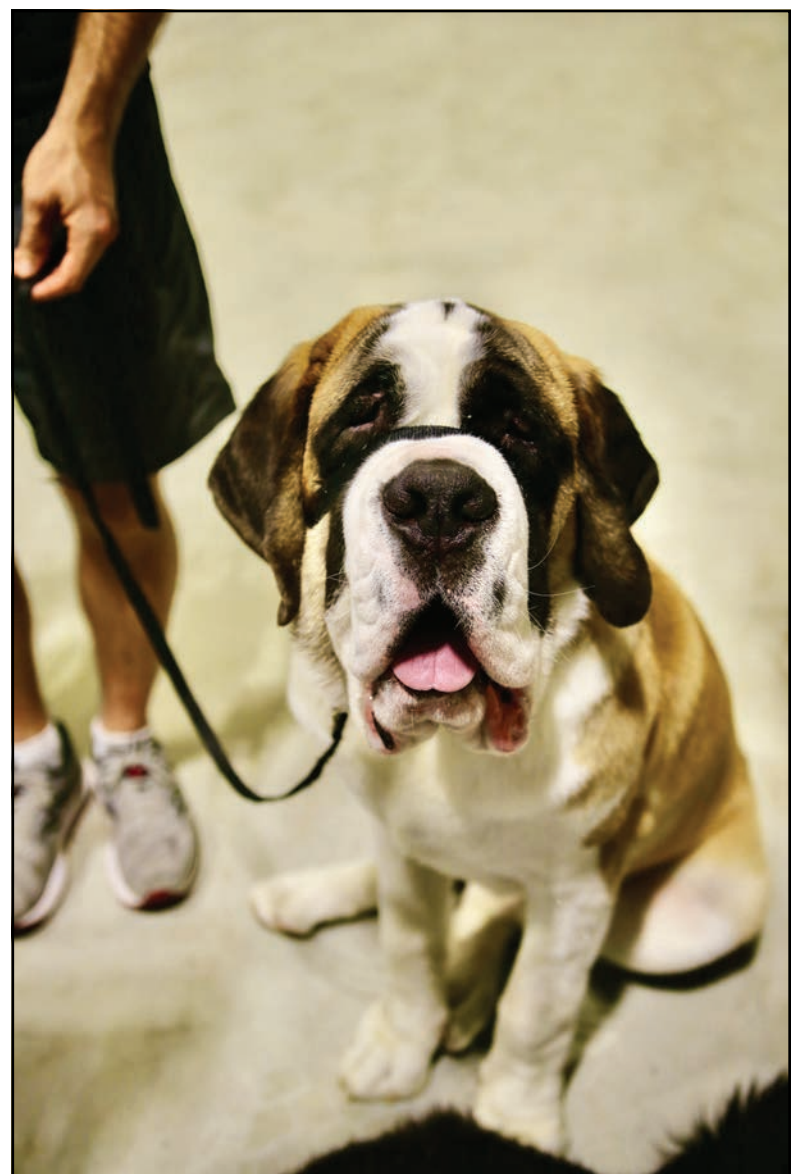
And there'll be a big silver lining even if the Guinness record continues to be tethered to the 219 dogs who attended "Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie" last fall in Los Angeles; "Inside the Mind of a Dog" was in the top 10 of all movies on Netflix in the U.S. this past weekend. And in England, it's ranked No. 3 in kids' movies.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



DOGS PLAYED A starring role both on-screen and in the audience at Saturday's showing of Andy Mitchell's documentary "Inside the Mind of a Dog" at Middlebury's Memorial Sports Center. The audience fell 10 dogs short of setting a Guinness World Record for "Most Dogs at a Film Screening," but attendees seemed to have a good time. Counterclockwise from top left: Dogs and their owners spread out for the show; Oliver, a setter, and his pal Charlie double-date with Hannah and Turner of Leicester; Buster and his human, Rick Marshall; a spoiled pup takes in the show from its owner's arms; Heinz, a St. Bernard, came all the way from Woodstock with his human, Debra Kappel; Elsa, a regal King Charles spaniel, brought her human Serena Kim of Middlebury; and SoSo, a Chihuahua-terrier mix, brought Paley Anderson from Orwell.

Independent photos/Steve James



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Childcare

(Continued from Page 1A)
organization based in Burlington.
“Public investment in childcare is working.”

Just three years ago, the *Independent* reported the closing of Middlebury’s Sunshine Children’s Center at 13 Washington St. Ext., which had maintained 20 childcare slots.

Two years ago, we reported on how some local childcare centers were having to pare back hours due to staff shortages, driven by low wages.

But there’s been a big rebound since the 2023 passage of Act 76, which triggered a 0.44% payroll tax that’s created a reservoir of money to stabilize existing childcare centers, spawn new ones, and make the service more accessible to young families — a demographic that’s declining in the Green Mountain State.

Among other things, Act 76 has contributed to the following childcare gains in Addison County:

- The recent launch of the Red Clover Childcare Center in

the Congregational Church of Middlebury, offering 24 slots for children ages six weeks to 3 years old.

- This year’s start of a major expansion of Middlebury’s Otter Creek Child Center at 150 Weybridge St., a project designed to create 77 new childcare slots (for a total of 139) and 28 related new jobs by the spring/summer of 2025.

- Creation of new slots — with more on the way — at MJCC, which serves kids at its 81 Water St. campus, the Cooperative Nursery School at 391 E. Main St. in East Middlebury, and at Orwell Village School.

Specifically, MJCC will establish a new toddler program (serving around 10) in what is currently an unused classroom at 391 E. Main. The center is also mapping out a modest addition to the Barrera House on its 81 Water St. campus that would create a second classroom for infant care — the most sought-after childcare commodity in the state right now.

Renovations are underway in East Middlebury, which already houses a preschool program serving 11 preschoolers.

Implementation of Act 76 resulted in a quick turnaround in MJCC’s fortunes and prospects — including education and advancement opportunities for the center’s 24 full-time-equivalent staff, according to the nonprofits assistant director, Darcy Bean.

“We’ve been able to give bonuses to staff, increase wages, create a salary scale based on education, and we have a lot of our staff in college right now,” Bean said.

MJCC Executive Director Kristen Dunne elaborated on the Act 76 boost as she took visitors on a tour of center facilities.

“Our pay scale used to be like this,” Dunne said, pinching her fingers close together. “Most of our staff with children here were on subsidies themselves. With Act 76, we’ve been able to move that scale pretty wide.”

In other words, experienced, licensed teachers can be better rewarded for their credentials.

Dunne credited the new law with allowing centers to make it easier for their employees to become more credentialed.

“65% of our staff are in school, working toward a degree or a credential,” she said with pride. “Prior to Act 76, there were zero (in school). They now have hope that there’s something to work for.”

Act 76 funds have allowed MJCC to increase its benefits package by around \$500 this year, according to Dunne.

“We’re also investing in professional development,” she added. “We’re able to send our staff on a flight, to a place to do some deep learning. I finally feel like we’re focusing on our pedagogy, creating time for that.”

IN BRISTOL

Abbey Gendreau is executive director of the Bristol Family Center (BFC), which now serves around 45 families at its Lovers



STATE SEN. RUTH Hardy, D-Middlebury, converses with 3-year-old Lucas during a recent tour of the Mary Johnson Children’s Center.

Independent photo/John Flowers



STATE SEN. RUTH Hardy, a Middlebury Democrat, met up with her daughter Anya while touring the Mary Johnson Children’s Center on Aug. 7. The tour was part of a celebration of the impacts of Act 76, a new law that’s funneling millions of dollars into the state’s childcare system — including MJCC, where Anya is working this summer.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Lane facility. The center is fully enrolled, with a wait list of more than 75 — just for its infant program.

Gendreau said Act 76 has increased, from around 25% to more than 40%, the percentage of BFC families able to secure a childcare subsidy.

“It’s really been amazing, and I’m curious to see what the next bump, in October, will do for the number of families able to access subsidies,” she said.

Like its counterparts, BFC was able to give its staff raises and offer professional development opportunities.

Entering this fall, BFC will carry around 15 FTE workers — more staff than it’s ever had. And 15 is three more than it had prior to Act 76’s passage last year.

Like MJCC, BFC now has some financial flexibility to address deferred maintenance at its HQ.

“We are looking to repair our building, we’re doing some window renovations so we can

be more (energy) efficient and we’re thinking about the future in general,” Gendreau said.

Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, had plenty of reasons to smile at the Aug. 7 gathering at MJCC, which her children once attended. Hardy — member of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee and an architect of Act 76 — got to see some tangible effects of the law’s passage and got to see one of her daughters, Anya, a college student who’s working this summer at MJCC.

“It’s been very exciting to see all the progress that’s been made in the past year,” Hardy said.

“Most importantly, it’s what it means for our community — our kids and families here, and their ability to have a high-quality place to send their kids, to be able to go to work knowing their kids are being taken care of, relieving some of the stress many young families are feeling in our state. I’m thrilled and proud of the work, and couldn’t be happier with the

results,” she added.

Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall, was also among those present. He chairs the House Education Committee and believes a more robust childcare system will pay dividends down the road.

“Not only is the investment we’re making in childcare showing immediate, significant and important results right now, there will be big, long-term benefits to our school systems, in terms of students arriving in schools ready to learn and hopefully needing far fewer supports,” he said.

Among others making the trip to MJCC were Vermont Senate President Pro Tem Phil Baruth and House Speaker Rep. Jill Krowinski. The latter called Act 76 a “triple win” for the state, citing the new law’s impact on childcare access, employment and ability to attract and retain young families.

“Those investments are critical,” she said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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New owners

(Continued from Page 1A)
originally functioned as a mill, producing custom-sawed lumber primarily for furniture. In 1950, it jumped into the retail building-material niche. Goodro's is now one of East Middlebury's anchor businesses, with its lumber yard at 388 East Main St. and its kitchen, bath & flooring division located at 3255 Route 7 South.

Goodro's has faithfully served Addison County for four generations, and its owners were looking to pass the baton to a fifth.

So how did two friends with an abundance of business acumen but no construction background nail down a deal for a small-town lumber company?

The Burgess-Noh association goes back around 12 years. Both eschewed their respective quests for an MBA to get hands-on experience in the business world. The duo co-founded OpenBiome — a healthcare nonprofit that created the nation's first public stool bank for fecal transplant therapies — and Finch Therapeutics, a biotechnology company that develops microbial therapies.

It was rewarding work, but the two friends found themselves at a crossroads as they entered their mid-30s. Both were starting families, which introduced a new set of priorities going forward.

"We asked ourselves, 'What do we want for our families in the long-term, and Vermont seemed to have the right mix of values that we wanted,'" Noh said. "We love being outdoors, we love smaller communities."

Greater Boston afforded a lot of opportunities, but "smallness" was not one of them.

"We had had a great experience in (the biotech) world, but wanted to change course a little," Burgess said.

Burgess was the first to bid

farewell to biotech and the Bay State. He, his wife Meg Broughton and their young child moved to Vermont (Stowe) in the fall of 2021 during the COVID pandemic. It's a state that Burgess had frequently visited for ski trips and sightseeing, and the time seemed right to act on an impulse shared by his wife: "What if we lived here?"

Meanwhile, Noh continued to work at Finch, but knew it was only a matter of time before he'd reunite with Burgess on a business endeavor. Noh already had a connection to Vermont, though his wife, Sarafina, who had attended

Middlebury College and graduated in 2011. Also, her grandparents Max and Lois Kraus moved to the county's shire town two decades ago.

GETTING SERIOUS
Last October, Burgess and Noh got serious about their next move.

"We sat down and said, 'What do we want to do next?'" Noh recalled.

They agreed they wanted to produce something tangible. Science and drug development had been

gratifying, but it's a field that's necessarily marked by trial and error.

The partners became very deliberate in picking their new business opportunity. They limited their search to Vermont, consulted brokers, acquired a database of all Green Mountain State businesses, and created a website — milaridge.com — outlining their entrepreneurial wish list. In essence, they wanted an established business with at least a 10-year history, one they could operate for the next 30 years.

"(We are) looking to preserve and grow your people, reputation, and legacy while maximizing your exit value in the sale of your company," they stated on their website.

Burgess and Noh visited multiple



THE NEW OWNERS of East Middlebury's Goodro Lumber, Andrew Noh, left, and James Burgess, say they won't be stuck in an office but look forward to actually operating the business.

Independent photo/Steve James

candidates, and Goodro rose to the top of their list.

"It felt like it checked all the boxes for us, and in particular, we got the sense that people here cared about each other and the community," Burgess said. "The business is almost 100 years old; it's been very consistent and steady — in line with what we were hoping for."

It also was of a scale the partners were looking for.

OpenBiome had a staff of 65, while Finch grew to around 200. Goodro has a staff of 18 full-timer, which was in the new owners' sweet spot.

"I think James and I felt we were happiest and having the most impact collectively when our teams were somewhere between 10-25 people," said Noh, alluding to a

number that allows management to be truly known their employees, and that enables a workforce to easily gather in one room for occasional meetings.

Before finalizing a deal, Noh and Burgess of course met with Goodro ownership.

"They walked us around (the property) and asked us, 'What's drawing you to this?'" Noh recalled.

The buyers' answer was they wanted a business with a small, dedicated team that felt like family.

Bingo.
"(The previous owners), in first describing their team, said, 'We're a family here.' James and I at that point knew they spoke our language," Noh said.

The partners found plenty of other pluses to forging a deal.

Among them — an experienced GM in Tim Comes, who agreed to stay on through the ownership transition and beyond.

"It's wonderful to have Tim keeping things steady for the team and customers. He's also been fantastic acting as a mentor and guide for us," Burgess said.

The new owners have no plans to make big changes at a business that's stood the test of time. They might make some technology tweaks if needed to help their team, and they'll listen to employees' and contractors' advice on possible product additions. But they don't want to tinker with what's been a successful business blueprint.

"Our first rule of thumb is, 'Don't screw anything up,'" Burgess said.

He and Noh also served notice they're not going to dispassionately

ensconce themselves in a side office. They want to be true owner-operators.

"We have energy and a total willingness to listen to new ideas, but our message is, 'We're not here to change anything; this business works,'" Burgess reiterated. "It would've worked with or without us. I'm glad we're here to offer a succession plan."

Noh and Burgess said they're grateful with the way Goodro employees have welcomed them. And "going to the office" this past week has certainly been a change from their past workplace experiences.

"Here, you walk through the pine shed and it smells amazing," Noh said. "You can't beat that."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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ALEXIS WHITNEY, WHO won a Field Days Demo Derby heat on Wednesday, took to heart the organizers' suggestion that drivers should decorate their cars with slogans and names of family members or friends.

Independent photo/Steve James



THIS SMASH-UP OCCURRED during the first heat of Tuesday's Field Days Demo Derby. Surprisingly, the 77X car driven by Brian Sheppard, despite its mangled back end, won the heat, and Sheppard drove it well in Thursday's finale.

Independent photo/Steve James

Tierney prevails over field to take home \$3,500 Demo Derby prize

By ANDY KIRKALDY

NEW HAVEN — When the members of the Vergennes Fire Department reacted quickly to put out the second engine fire in Chance Mahoney's battered dark sedan, that left only one vehicle running out of the 25 that started Thursday's action-packed, deafening and rain-soaked finale on the third and final night of the G. Stone Motors Demo Derby at Addison County Fair and Field Days.

That gray sedan, topped off with a "Tinker Tierney" sign on that Aug. 8, belonged to Brandon Tierney. And he walked away with \$3,500 for dishing out and taking bone-jarring blows in two heats over Tuesday and Thursday last week.

Drivers qualified for the compact car finale by managing to survive heats on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday as one of the final two drivers running, or by being named the "Mad Dog" driver by announcer Kylie Martell. To earn that honor a driver must be the most aggressive behind the wheel in the first two minutes of a heat.

The Field Days Demo Derby also offered heats for V-8s, minivans and pickups, but those larger rides weren't allowed to compete for the big bucks in the compact final.

Before the finale began, organizers called for a front-loader to scrape mud and water off the surface of the track, a move that gave the cars more traction than the almost helpless minivans in the heat that came just before it

(see below).

As a result, despite the crowded and still slippery arena, the 25 drivers got after each other.

Among those who were notable for aggressive driving behind the wheel — at least to an observer trying to keep track of the mayhem through the smoke and steam — were Mahoney, who as well as finishing second earned the Mad Dog award; Tyler Hebert, whose car announced, "It's a girl"; Alexis Whitney; Trey Daniels; Aiden Putnam, aka "Ice Cold"; Nick Ouellette; Kyle Bianchi and Carter Markwell.

Other competitors couldn't be identified by cross-checking car numbers with names provided by organizers, but we saw you, drivers of 26, 48X and 98X — you all showed up to dance.

One driver was too aggressive and was disqualified for violating the rules (yes, there are rules, especially limiting special preparation of the cars). His violation was hitting drivers' doors, a dangerous move, once too often. The driver, whose name is omitted to protect the guilty, protested, and on the way out during the stoppage in the action he exchanged gestures and pleasantries with derby fans behind the fence.

In the demo enclosure, one by one the cars broke axles, suffered from overheated engine, or had wheels fall off, and they lay dead in the mud, leaving just three cars running: Ouellette's, Mahoney's and Tierney's. Also running regularly were Vergennes

firefighters. The fourth car running was 98X, and action stopped while firefighters ran to snuff the blaze, and then there were three.

Ouellette's white sedan gave up the ghost shortly after that, and that left Mahoney's dark sedan and Tierney's gray sedan to duel for the big payday. Mahoney gave Tierney's ride a couple shots, and then they met head-to-head, but not too hard, up against the concrete

blocks on the far side from the grandstand.

Then flames shot up from Mahoney's hood. Firefighters sprang back into action and put it out. But when the two cars clashed again, another fire started in Mahoney's engine. Back came the firefighters: The battle was over, and the trophy was Tierney's. The two drivers popped out of their cars and embraced as rain continued to

fall.

EARLY HEATS

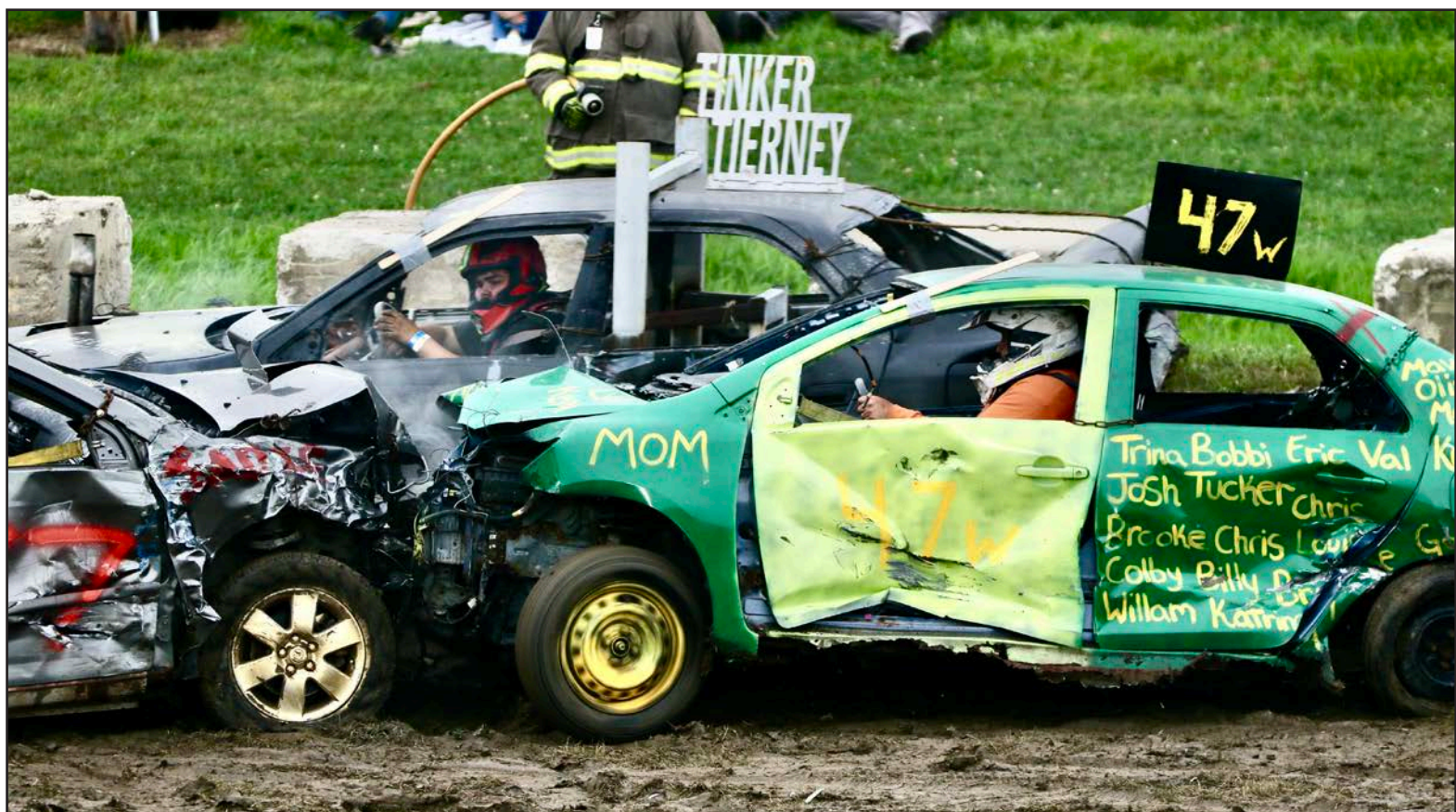
The Demo Derby ran three heats on Thursday before the big compact car finale. In an active Compact Heat One, Kyle Bianchi and Bubba McPhee drove hard and qualified for the finale as the drivers of the last two cars running, while Trey Daniels earned the Mad Dog nod.

Also making impacts in the

heat were Ross Whitney, Landon Lathrop and Chuck Haven.

Ten competitors squared off for the Compact Heat Two. Bridget Sheppard and Logan Boyer qualified for the finale as the last running, while Logan Many was named the Mad Dog driver.

Also delivering crowd-pleasing thumps were Reid Lumbra, Chance Mahoney, "Bad Dog" (See Derby, Page 3B)



BRANDON TIERNEY, DRIVING with a Tinker Tierney sign, earned \$3,500 by winning Thursday's finale, the compact car feature, at the Field Days Demo Derby. He dodged this dust-up in a Tuesday qualifying heat, but drove aggressively in that heat and in the finale.

Independent photo/Steve James

We named most of the state champion swimmers, but not all of them

CORRECTION: Reporting the results of a youth state meet with hundreds of athletes in scores of competitions across 14 gender and age groups is a monumental task. Organizing those big data dumps is a big job, but we asked to do it, and we should do it well.

The results for the Vermont State Swim Association's championship meet, which was the subject of a long story in last week's sports section, stretched across 19 pages, with three columns of results on each page. Our reporter gamely took on the project of pulling out names and places for the Vergennes and Middlebury swim teams, rationalizing their results into each stroke and each age and gender group. The result was nearly 2,000 words long.

Unfortunately, we left out some key races and some important names from the final story as it appeared in print. We inadvertently left out results for the boys' age 9-10 breaststroke, in which Vergennes 10-year-old Martin Gee won in a time of 21.53.

We dug into the results and see that we also sadly overlooked a couple other state champions.

Middlebury's Sadie Chance won the 14 and under girls 100 individual medley, but we missed that; though we did note that she won the 50 breaststroke. We reported that Vergennes 8 and under swimmer Savannah Wallace had won four individual races and one relay, but we neglected to mention a second relay win and the girls 50 freestyle individual title.

Vergennes 8 and under boys' swimmer Riker Cooley won two more titles than we gave him credit for. He not only won the 100 IM, 25 free and 50 free (as we reported); he also claimed the 25 butterfly and 25 breaststroke titles.

We included Vergennes 18 and under swimmer Acadia Clark's win in the 50 backstroke in the listings, but we also should have noted her state title in the write up introducing the results.

To see the official Vermont State Swim Meet results yourself, head online to tinyurl.com/VtStateSwim24.

Congratulations to all the kids who swam at the state meet. We are sorry for the ones we didn't give proper recognition and respect to. We'll see you at the pool next year.



Eyes on the prize, or the camera

CALVIN PLOUFFE PEDALS his way to the top in the 4-year-old division of the Pedal Tractor Pull at Addison County Fair and Field Days this past Thursday. He definitely had a competitive gleam in his eye. More photos on Page 2B.

Independent photo/Steve James

Ralph Myhre to hold golf club championship

MIDDLEBURY — In regular Thursday Men's League play at the Ralph Myhre Golf Course on Aug. 8, the team of Jim Stahl, John Myhre, Douglas Biklen and Uwe Luksch prevailed with a net total of 119, with the quartet of Mike Adams, Tom Lachenman, Neil Mackey and Marsdin Van Order in second scoring 122.

Two teams tied for third, each with a net total of 124: one was the foursome of Robert Cameron, Allen Smith, Jim Dunn and Richard Romagnoli; the other was the quartet of Steve Maier, John Davis, Matthew Biette and Tom McGinn.

Mike Adams shot the day's best low net score (72). The Closest-to-the-Pin winners were Joe Thilbourg on Hole 7 and Dan Small on Hole 14.

Ralph Myhre Golf Course will host its annual Club Championships on Aug. 24 and 25. This will be a fun weekend filled with friendly competition to decide the top golfers for 2024 in the women's, men's, senior, super senior (new this year), and junior divisions. Competition will begin with tee times both mornings, starting at 9 a.m.

Adventures in Alaska's Gruening State Historic Park

It's 5 a.m. on Aug. 2 — my second morning at Eaglerock Cabin in Alaska's Ernest Gruening State Historic Park. It's been light outside for some time — a reminder of the long Alaska summer days — but my internal clock is still in Vermont, four time zones to the east, so I've been awake for a while too. I rise, don sweatpants and a jacket, and walk down a short path to the rocky shoreline of Amalga Bay, making my way past the ripe black currants, watermelon berries and huckleberries toward where Peterson Creek tumbles down a series of small cascades from a pond into salt water.

On days with exceptionally high tides, the ocean flows into the pond making it technically a unique lagoon called the Peterson Salt Chuck. At present, however, the tide is out and so the water is falling almost 20 feet. There is a metaphoric quiet to the place, especially in the early hours when I am the only human about. But it is not at all quiet in the literal sense. In addition to the constant rumble of the waterfalls and the lapping of waves on the rocks, gulls and crows are constantly squawking as they circle around looking for food on the exposed intertidal zone. Now and then, a bald eagle hanging out in the trees or atop the large rocks responds with its piercing, high-pitched cry. The birds are probably hoping for some salmon for breakfast. Chum salmon — also known as keta, silverbrite and dog salmon — are trying to swim up Peterson Creek to spawn. Their dead carcasses are everywhere. So is their smell.

But despite the irresistible urge to spawn, the salmon can't make it up the creek because a grate has been placed across the mouth of the pond. The pool below the grate is so packed with salmon it looks like a sardine can. It took me a day to get the full story behind the grate. There are numerous species of salmon native to the area, but chum salmon are not native to Peterson Creek. To support the

commercial fishery, they were raised by a hatchery and released as fry into Amalga Bay. Unlike farm-raised fish, they live the lives of their wild salmon cousins: hunting for their food in coastal waters of Alaska, while trying to avoid the creatures that want to hunt them. Mostly they live like wild salmon. After years in the ocean, when the season comes for them to spawn (July for chum salmon), the hatchery puts a temporary grate across the river in order to prevent them from entering — at least in large numbers — which could potentially upset the river's ecological balance. In a couple weeks, the grate will come up to allow the native coho salmon in. But for now, the narrow pool below the grate is thick with fish.

I haven't come this morning to look at nearly dead salmon, but it is partly because of them that I came. I'm hoping to see the sow black bear with two spring cubs that has been a regular visitor, taking advantage of a very easy sort of food. She doesn't even need to open the sardine can. The fish have nowhere to go to escape her. And I know she has visited at some point in the last 12 hours from the appearance of a fresh pile of her scat and a couple more salmon carcasses on the shore. That's one reason I am walking out in the open on the rocks, and not through the trees.

Although the sow and cubs do not appear, within three minutes I see a lone black bear in the pool, 30 yards away. Stepping on top of a tall rock to get a good view (without actually going any closer), I watch. The food is so plentiful and easy that the bear doesn't have to stay long. Soon it disappears into brush on the same side of the river as me. I continue to watch the pool, waiting for it to reemerge, until I realize it has circled around behind me — most likely to avoid human interaction

— and popped out the woods 30 yards behind me. It wanders down the beach, past the cabin and around the point.



MATTHEW DICKERSON

Unfortunately, the previous day somebody saw one of the bears at the same spot, got spooked and emptied their can of bear spray. Then they left the can lying on the ground. And that, ranger Brad Garasky told me as he stopped by the cabin, was why he did not shake my hand. He'd just been handling the can and didn't want to get any chemicals on me.

Garasky is not only the chief ranger for all the Alaska State Parks in the southeast district, he is also the only ranger for all the parks in the Juneau area. Considering the size of that range, he would seem to have his work cut out for him. So you might think that on his days off, the last thing he'd want to do is go to one of those parks. But he told me that the state parks are his favorite places to spend his time off. And I believed him. I first met Brad nearly two years ago in September of 2022 hiking a trail to Cowee Meadow in Point Bridget State Park. And, yes, it was on his day off. I had a few questions about the area, and I'd fortuitously bumped into the best possible person to ask.

Two years later, and I was back in the Juneau area for another artist residency with my daughter-in-law McKenna. On our first full day, Brad popped in to see how we were doing. We talked about the bear and the empty can, both of us conjecturing that it was very unlikely somebody actually needed to spray it since the bears have been coming to that spot for days, ignoring the numerous human visitors to the park, eating a quick meal, and peacefully disappearing.

Then we talked about why he appreciates the state parks so much. His list included the diversity of

parks: cultural-historical diversity, ecological diversity and the diversity of opportunities.

"There's something for everybody," he says. "Culture. Hiking. Fishing. Boating. Even learning how to live off the land from the traditions of native peoples who have been doing it for centuries."

He notes that while commercial harvesting is not allowed in state parks, harvesting for personal consumption is, whether it's fish or berries. There is obvious delight in his face and voice as he says this.

Writing my column from Eaglerock, it's easy to agree with Brad. Our lunch included fish from the river. My breakfast yogurt was garnished with three different types of berries plucked from bushes near the cabin. A steady stream of visitors can be seen down by the water, including families with children. Others are casting lures out into the saltwater hoping to hook Dolly Varden char or perhaps a fresh salmon. When I look up from my computer, my eyes gaze across the bay at snow-lined and glacier-capped peaks of Tongass National Forest and Glacier Bay National Park.

And I think also of the culture of the cabin itself, knowing that it was here that Ernest Gruening — once governor of the territory of California — wrote many magazine articles and a book about Alaska. It was also where he entertained such important figures as Adlai Stevenson and Justice William O. Douglas. Although I can't imagine the fascinating conversations that took place here, I have no problem understanding why Gruening was so inspired.

When the bear has wandered out of sight on this early morning, I head back to the cabin, stopping long enough to pick a handful of huckleberries and black currants. Later, when I've finished my column and gotten some work done on a book, I might go out and cast some flies to trout. Or maybe I'll just sit by the Salt Chuck and hope to see another bear.



Pulling their weight

ALWAYS A POPULAR event, the Pedal Tractor Pull at Addison County Fair and Field Days draws kids from Addison County and beyond to try their pedaling power. Pictures top to bottom, 4-year-old Reagan Whittemore of Bridport; Salisbury's Tatum Hillman, who won the 7-year-old category; and Robert Balfe of Bridport, another 4-year-old.

Independent Photos/Steven James

Andy Kirkaldy Matthew Dickerson Karl Lindholm

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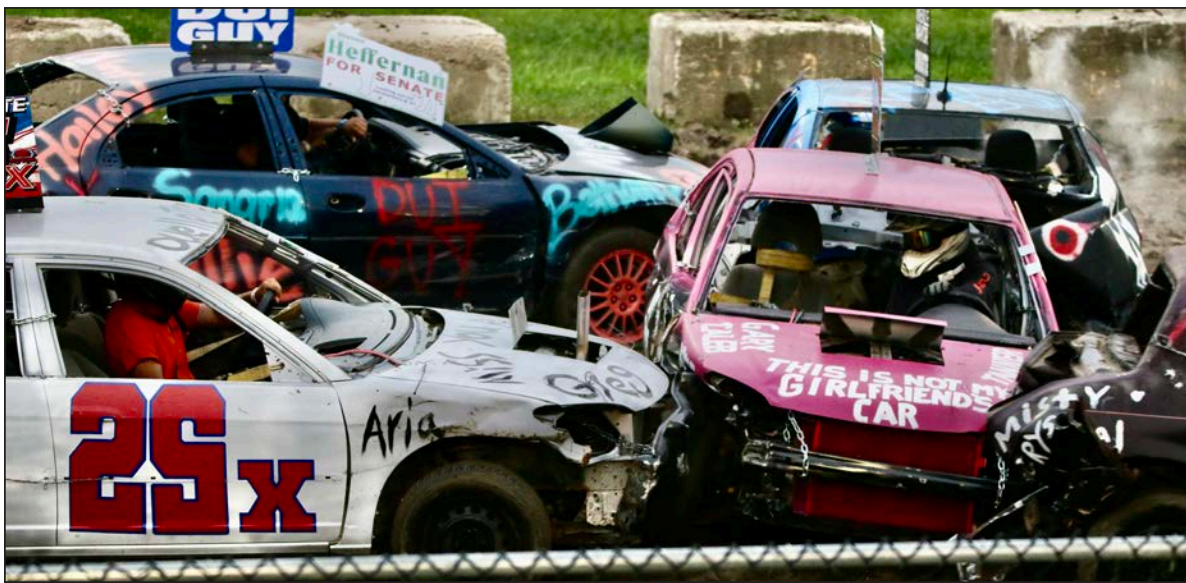
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NICK OUELLETTE HAD an active Field Days Demo Derby in his 25x ride. As well as soundly thumping this car with an ownership statement on its hood on Tuesday, he qualified for Thursday's finale by being named that heat's "Mad Dog" winner. He then finished third in the finale.

Independent photo/Steve James

Derby

(Continued from Page 1B)

Dylan Mason, and Ricky Stalkup, whose car claimed, "If you ain't first, your last." Sadly, according to that logic Ricky joined another seven heat drivers in last.

The card also ran a five-vehicle minivan heat that was as exciting as listening to a pitch for investing in Bitcoin. It wasn't the drivers' fault, but a hard rain struck just before the heat was set to begin, and the minivans might have well been

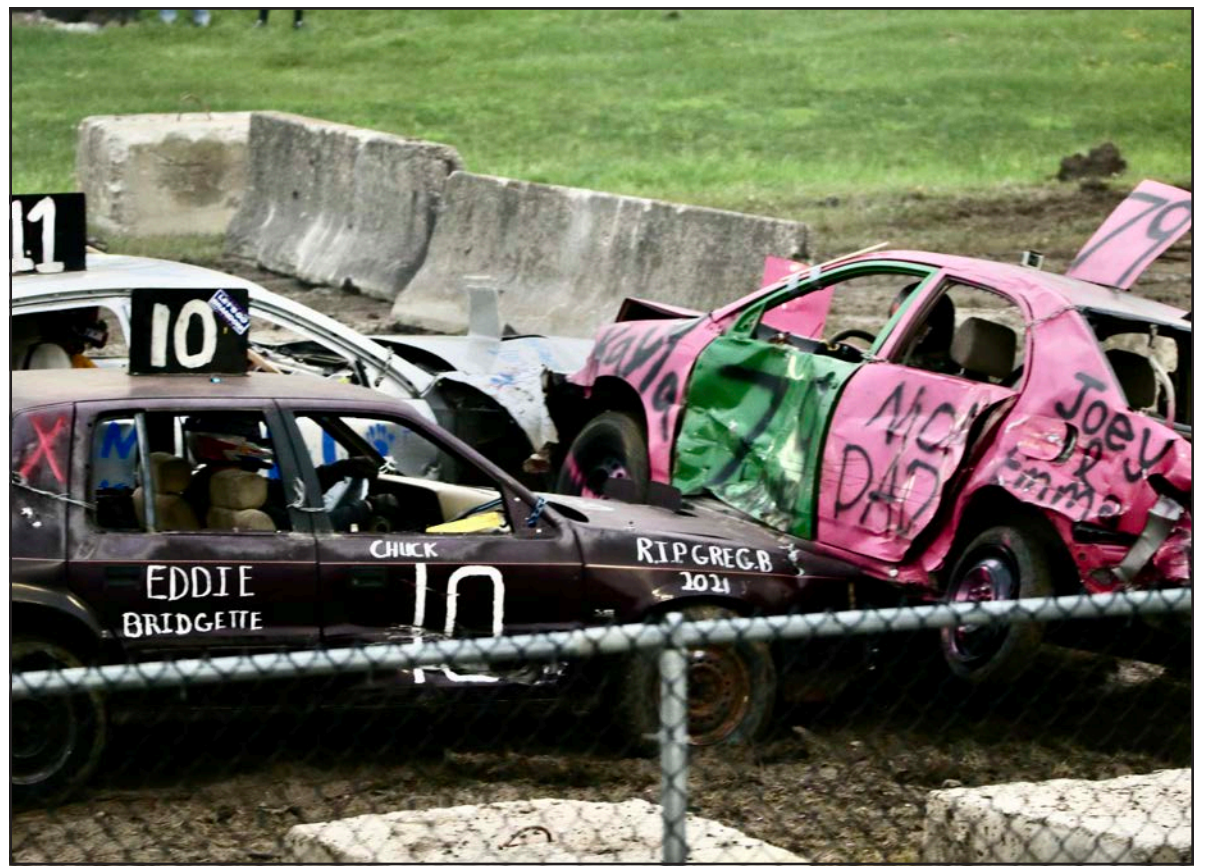
novices on ice skates.

Despite the drivers' best intentions, rain drops were hitting the minivans harder than they were hitting each other. It was an open question if the vans would run out of gas before they could do enough damage to knock each other out of commission. One couldn't even move in the mud, and another, actually a rainbow-colored SUV, made it about 50 feet to the right before getting bogged down next to

the concrete blocks.

Given the pouring rain and lack of both action and shelter, most fans headed for dryer places on the fairgrounds while the minivans churned in the mud.

Finally a third van stopped running, and after a few more harmless love taps organizers persuaded the last two drivers, Nick Ouellette and Josh Kennett, to split the winner's share. Ouellette won the Mild Dog, er, Mad Dog award.



THE DRIVER OF the No. 79 car, top, in a Tuesday Field Days Demo Derby heat thought it would be nice to honor his Mom and Dad on his car. But the No. 10 driver, Chuck Haven, showed no parental respect in this collision. Haven also advanced out of the heat to qualify for Thursday's finale. Below, it's generally considered smarter to ram your opponents with the back end of your car. In a Field Days Demo Derby heat on Tuesday, it wasn't clear if anyone came out ahead.

Independent photos/Steve James



Demo Derby results for Tuesday and Wednesday

By ANDY KIRKALDY

NEW HAVEN — The popular G. Stone Motors Demolition Derby expanded to three nights at Addison County Fair & Field Days this year, with vehicles jousting on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Heat winners (survivors?) on the first two nights on the dirt rectangle surrounded by concrete blocks qualified for Thursday's grand finale, with the driver of the last vehicle moving earning \$3,500 in cash.

See a separate story on Page 1B for Thursday's results, including the rain-soaked, action-packed, 25-driver championship heat.

Tuesday's heat winners, including one driver per heat

designated by announcer Kylie Martell as the "Mad Dog" winner for being the most aggressive in the first two minutes were:

Heat One: Brian Shepard, Brandon Tierney, and Mad Dog Aiden Putnam.

Heat Two: Isaac Whitney, Eddie Haven, and Mad Dog Connor Pouliot.

Heat Three: Zach Lavoie, Chuck Haven, and Mad Dog Nick Ouellette.

Minivan Heat: 1st: Max Rheume; 2nd: Mad Dog Isaac Whitney. (Minivans not eligible for finale.)

V-8 Heat: 1st: Zack Daniels; 2nd: Tommy Woodbury; 3rd: Joe Kemp. (V-8s not eligible for finale.)

The talk on Wednesday, even the next day, was of a big first-heat hit Gary Grant delivered in a 2012 Honda Accord against a Subaru wagon that rolled the Subie on its side; there is more to demo derby than winning.

Wednesday's heat winners were:

Heat One: Alexis Whitney, Carter Markwell, and (unsurprisingly) Mad Dog Gary Grant.

Heat Two: Mad Dog Tim Fredrick, Clancy Dunbar.

Heat Three: Gabe Cousino, Trevor Hallock and Mad Dog Tyler Hebert.

Truck Heat: 1. Mad Dog Ty Smits; 2. Matt Bashaw. (Trucks not eligible for finale.)



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snowbowl
MIDDLEBURY

Free choir camp to be held on Aug. 24

MIDDLEBURY — St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on the green in Middlebury, will host a free choir camp on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. led by by Robert Ludwig, who has devoted his career to working with young singing voices. The camp is designed for girls age 8-16 and boys with unchanged voices — normally age 13 or younger. There is no charge for the camp, which will include a mixture of learning new music, work on music literacy and vocal production, and fun activities.

The camp is open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Campers are asked to bring their own packed lunches and a water bottle.

A special feature of this year's camp will be work on the great late 19th-century masterpiece, Requiem, by French composer Gabriel Fauré. Participants in the camp are welcome to audition with St. Stephen's Director of Music, Robert Ludwig, to be part of a treble choir from St. Stephen's and Burlington's St. Paul's Cathedral that will be featured in a Nov. 3 concert of the Fauré at St. Paul's Cathedral by the Vermont Choral Union and the Montreal period instrument ensemble, L'Harmonie des Saisons. Those accepted for the concert ensemble would be expected to attend rehearsals in September and October

in Middlebury or Burlington, plus at least one rehearsal at the Cathedral.

All campers are also welcome to consider becoming a part of the St. Stephen's Treble Choir, which rehearses on Tuesday afternoons during the academic year and sings on Sunday mornings with the adults of the St. Stephen's Choir. As part of this group, the trebles are weekly singing the finest of historical church music, ranging from Palestrina, Bach, and Mozart to Gospel music, spirituals, and contemporary music composed by living composers. Choristers also receive training through the Royal School of Church Music "Voice for Life" curriculum, continually improving their skills in music literacy and vocal production.

Ludwig served as director of professional choirs of boys and girls at Long Island's Cathedral of the Incarnation, as well as serving as artistic director of the Bangor Area Youth Choir and director of choral music and music theory at New York's Garden City High School.

All campers need to be registered in advance so that adequate materials will be available. A registration form for the camp is available at the church office, 3 Main Street, Middlebury. For more information or to register please contact Robert Ludwig at rludwig@ststephensmidd.org or call the church office, 802-388-7200.



THURSDAY

aug 15 **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.

Seeking Freedom Gallery Talk — "Addressing Difficult Conversations" in Ferrisburgh. Thursday, Aug. 15, 12:30-1 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Join Rokeby 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.

FRIDAY

aug 16 **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.

Carillonneur George Matthew Jr. in Middlebury. Friday, Aug. 16, 3 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. This year's series features Friday concerts in August, and a new Fall Festival on Saturdays in September and October. Free and open to the public.

The Art of the Pig silent auction in Brandon. Friday, Aug. 16-Sunday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. View and bid on 85 uniquely decorated pig shaped boards as part of Brandon Artists Guild's fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds will go to local schools for art supplies. More info at brandonartistsguild.org/events/art-of-the-pig-silent-auction.

SATURDAY

aug 17 **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.

Mount Independence-Hubbardton Military Road car tour. Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., begins at Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. Jim Rowe, historian of the Crown Point Road Association, is your leader to look at the 1776 Mount Independence-Hubbardton Military Road. The tour will travel to the Hubbardton Battlefield.

Quiche luncheon in Shoreham. Saturday, Aug. 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. Enjoy a slice of our famous meat, vegetable, or cheese quiche along with salad, beverage, and angel food cake with Vermont strawberries for dessert. Relax with friends after the activities of early August. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Shelf to help those in need. Cost \$10.

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.

Chicken Barbeque in Ferrisburgh. Saturday, Aug. 17, 4:30 p.m. until to food runs out, Ferrisburgh Fire Station, Route 7. The Ferrisburgh firefighters are holding their annual Chicken Barbeque. The fun goes until the food runs out. Jerry's barbeque sauce (the recipe is a well-guarded secret) is world famous and not to be missed. Funds raised support the firefighting capacity for the community.

SUNDAY

aug 18 **Town-wide yard sale in Bridport.** Sunday, Aug. 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., locations around town.

"Art of the Pig" silent auction in Brandon. Sunday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Join Brandon Artists Guild for a "pig-tastic" time at its 25th anniversary celebration. Bid on your favorite pig and help raise funds for art supplies for local schools. Bidding closes at 4 p.m.

Mushroom Exploration Walk with Meg Madden in Orwell. Sunday, Aug. 18, 1-3 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. Mushroom expert Meg Madden leads a walk to look for and learn about mushrooms on Mount Independence. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Limited spaces; call 802-948-2000 well ahead of time to reserve your spot. Included in regular museum admission: Cost included with admission: Adults \$12/children 6-14 \$4/children under 6 free/family pass \$30.

Open pollinator garden in Middlebury. Sunday, Aug. 18, 3-5 p.m., Middlebury Area Community Garden, north side of Porter Hospital, 55 Collins Dr. Come wander through this carefully curated pollinator garden called "Megan's Meadow" specializing in native pollinator plants. Created by members of the Middlebury Area Community Garden. Representatives from Pollinator Pathway and the Community Garden will be available to answer questions and to help guide you toward creating habitats for pollinators, birds and other wildlife in your own landscape. Free.

MONDAY

aug 19 **"Reflections: The First Decade of MNFF" with Jay Craven and Lloyd Komesar in Middlebury.** Monday, Aug. 19, 5-6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join MNFF Artistic Director Craven and MNFF Producer Komesar as they walk through the memorable moments of the first decade of the Middlebury New Filmmakers



Pollinator Haven

WANDER THROUGH THE carefully curated pollinator garden called "Megan's Meadow" at the Middlebury Area Community Garden at an open house this Sunday, Aug. 18, from 3-5 p.m. You may see swallowtail butterflies like these, recently spotted sipping from orange butterfly weed in a Weybridge garden, and you can talk with folks from the Pollinator Pathway about creating your own pollinator habitat.

Photo by Susan Humphrey

Festival, using Festival trailers and vintage photos as their guide. Recollections and reminiscences from the audience are most welcome along the way. And enjoy the open bar. Free.

Pie and ice cream social in Vergennes. Monday, Aug. 19, 6-8 p.m., City Park. Delicious homemade pies topped with vanilla ice cream will be served with a beverage. The Vergennes City Band will provide entertainment. Call Marion at 802-417-4300 for more information.

Presentation about the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department in Monkton. Monday, Aug. 19, 7 p.m., Community Room, Monkton Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge. Candace Layn Polzella and Robin Hopps will discuss the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department. Through the lens of history, they will share some information from the Monkton's past firefighting stories, leading to a modern-day appreciation for what the MVFD does for the town today. All are welcome.

City Band in Vergennes. Monday, Aug. 19, 7-8 p.m., City Green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

TUESDAY

aug 20 **American Red Cross blood donation in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Aug. 20, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Vermont Hard Cider, 1321 Exchange St. The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces dangerous levels of heat and people head out for final summer travel plans. A \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card will be given to anyone coming to give in August. To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

WEDNESDAY

aug 21 **Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Aug. 21. Celebrating its milestone 10th year, the MNFF retains its sole focus — to showcase the feature films and short films of outstanding first- and second-time filmmakers from around the world. More than 120 films on 6 screens, a diverse array of features and shorts across all genres, as selected by MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven. Plus panels and parties. Screenings at Town Hall Theater, Marquis Theatre, and Middlebury College's Wilson Hall, Dana Auditorium and Twilight Hall. Festival Pass \$120. More info at midffilmfest.org or townhalltheater.org.

Ladies Union salad supper in New Haven. Wednesday, Aug. 21, 5:30-7 p.m., New Haven Congregational Church, Town Hill Rd. Come enjoy a variety of homemade salad, roll, beverages and dessert. Cost \$10. More info at 802-453-5059.

Town Band on the Green in Bristol. Wednesday, Aug. 21, 7-8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit back and enjoy this 150-year tradition.

THURSDAY

aug 22 **Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in Middlebury.** Thursday, Aug. 22. See Aug. 21 listing.

Mt. Philo guided hike in Charlotte. Thursday, Aug. 22, 9:30 a.m., Mt. Philo. Ferrisburgh resident and author Judy Chaves will lead one of her popular history-focused guided hikes of Mt. Philo as part of the 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. Free. Tickets required at tinyurl.com/Mt-Philo-history-hike.

First-time kindergarteners meet and greet in Starksboro. Thursday, Aug. 22, 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. 15. Make both dates or just one.

Book sale donation day in Vergennes. Thursday, Aug. 22, 3-6 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Read a good book lately? Consider donating it to the book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Bixby. Donations will be received in the library's back parking lot. Make sure your donations are published after 2013 and are in good condition. Proceeds from the sale go to library projects such as the recently purchased air conditioners and electronic resources.

FRIDAY

aug 23 **Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in Middlebury.** Friday, Aug. 23. See Aug. 21 listing.

Carillonneur George Matthew Jr. in Middlebury. Friday, Aug. 23, 6-7 p.m., Middlebury Chapel lawn. Matthew performs as part of Middlebury College's Summer Carillon Series. Free and open to the public.

Street Dance in downtown Vergennes. Friday, Aug. 23, 7-10 p.m. On the eve of the Vergennes Day celebration, come dance the night away with The Hitmen playing tunes on the city green.

SATURDAY

aug 24 **Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in Middlebury.** Saturday, Aug. 24. See Aug. 21 listing.

End of Summer party in Monkton. Saturday, Aug. 24, Silver Street Alpaca Farm. Register and 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.

American Red Cross blood donation in Vergennes. Saturday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Victory Baptist Church, 862 Route 7. The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces dangerous levels of heat and people head out for final summer travel plans. A \$20 Amazon.com gift card will be given to anyone donating in August. To make an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Used book sale in Vergennes. Saturday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Browse through the selection of used books for sale in the Otter Creek Room downstairs at library. Enter from the back parking lot. Choose from a large variety of fiction, non-fiction and children's books, and browse through the recent donations.

Choir camp for children and youth in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. Girls age 8-16 and boys with unchanged voices are invited to attend this camp led by Robert Ludwig. Register in advance by contacting Ludwig at rludwig@ststephensmidd.org or call the church office at 802-388-7200.

Milk & Honey Quilters' Guild stash sale in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Members have been sorting through their piles of fabrics and notions. It's a great opportunity for anyone who loves fabric to find bargains on some great treasures. More than 25 tables of colorful delights.

Vergennes Day in Vergennes. Saturday Aug. 24, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., City Park. Vergennes' annual celebration includes over 60 vendors in the City Park, live music on the bandstand, a pancake breakfast, Lions Club Chicken BBQ and the Little City Road Race. For the kids there is a bubble pit at the fire station and horse and wagon rides. Merchant sales and more throughout the Little City. More info at VergennesDay.com.

Brown bag lunch history talk in Orwell. Saturday, Aug. 24, 12 noon-1 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Me. Independence Rd. Discussions about the Revolutionary War and Mount Independence. Different topics each month, call 802-948-2000 for details. Bring your picnic lunch and perhaps a lawn chair to Mount Independence on these Saturdays, hear from knowledgeable Coalition members and invited experts, and join in on the discussion. Outside if the weather permits. Cost included with admission: Adults \$12/children 6-14 \$4/children under 6 free/ family pass \$30.

SUNDAY

aug 25 **Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in Middlebury.** Sunday, Aug. 25. See Aug. 21 listing.

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In Bristol

Parks accessibility project progresses

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Town officials and community members in Bristol are continuing to explore options for making three of the town's parks easier for all to access and enjoy.

The project, which took off last year, is aimed at identifying ways to make Memorial, Sycamore and Eagle parks more accessible. A steering committee made up of several community members has in recent months worked with engineering firm DuBois & King to assess existing conditions at the three parks.

The group has also begun gathering feedback from the community and plans to continue soliciting residents' input for the project as it unfolds.

"One of the things that I think is really important in the (request for proposals) was that the town wanted to make sure the contractor was engaging with the community at every step," said Porter Knight, a Bristol resident involved in the project. "We wanted to make sure there was public input at every step because this is a community envisioning project."

According to the request for proposals put out by the town, objectives of the project are to:

- assess existing park conditions and terrain to determine feasibility for accessible recreation,
- develop conceptual plans for each park illustrating potential recreation options and
- create detailed site design drawings and construction documents with construction cost estimates.

The Bristol selectboard earlier this year selected Dubois & King as the contractor to help tackle the project and agreed to allocate a portion of the town's American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the initiative.

"It's a fascinating project, and when we saw it coming across our desk as a request for proposals, we jumped right on it because it's at the interface of recreation, accessibility, community vitality as well as ecology," said Dan Mallach of DuBois & King.

Initial phases of the project have so far included examining existing conditions at each of the parks — Memorial Park is off Route 17 toward South Starksboro, Sycamore Park is off Route 116 on the New Haven River, and Eagle Park is on Lincoln Road on the New Haven River above Bartlett Falls. DuBois & King visited each

park with the steering committee this past spring. Mallach said in addition to looking at things like parking, pathways and way finder signage, the team is also trying to think more creatively and openly.

"The project is both very specific in terms of accessibility, and that is ADA accessibility potentially for wheelchair users or people using strollers or walkers or canes, but we're also taking a broad view of accessibility in terms of the diverse ways in which people perceive and enjoy places," Mallach explained.

He noted accessibility starts at home and that part of the team's work includes looking at examples of other parks where information about the space and its amenities is available online.

"We've recognized that many families or individuals who are caregivers of folks with mobility challenges really do want to know what the parking and access experience and facilities and amenities will be like at a place before they leave home,"

Mallach said.

He underscored that the project is an opportunity to more broadly consider how all visitors access and experience the three Bristol parks.

"While accessibility often is primarily discussed in terms of mobility challenges, and that is really at the foundation of the impetus for this project, the definition of accessibility is evolving to understand that people interact with the world in numerous, diverse ways," he said.

"That is built into this project; that as we support those with mobility challenges, we're also trying to support those with other ways of interacting with the world and make them feel comfortable that if they were to visit one of these three parks, they'd have an experience that's enjoyable in the manner that they find most useful and fun for themselves or those accompanying them."

Mallach added that there is a "do no harm" aspect to the project in terms of the ecology of the parks, which are located along rivers and a part of river ecosystems.

GETTING FEEDBACK

The team's work so far has also included efforts to engage with the community around the project. A survey was put together and distributed earlier this year, and Mallach pointed to recent conversations with individuals

at the Bristol Farmers Market about their use of the parks and amenities they'd appreciate.

"We heard everything from 'river water sometimes goes very quickly, and I would prefer calmer water,' 'I would prefer a place that's easier to push a stroller around' was another comment we heard from an individual who recently visited Eagle Park with his family but would like to be able to access more of that park by stroller," Mallach said. "That's exactly the kind of feedback and information we'd like to hear."

The team is currently working to develop specific design concepts for the project.

"In this design concepts phase we're thinking about circulation that is logical and legible, that promotes a sense of aesthetic appeal while also recognizing that some people with mobility challenges or various environmental sensitivities don't like to feel isolated," Mallach said. "Right now, we're thinking about the nuts and bolts of routes and amenities, and at the same time, still trying to think big."

The team is also looking to continue gathering feedback from the community. Knight said the group plans to relaunch its survey through Front Porch Forum and posters around town. Community members can also learn more about the project and provide feedback during the Pocock Rocks Music Festival and Street Fair in Bristol on Aug. 17, where the Bristol Accessible Park Initiative will have a booth.

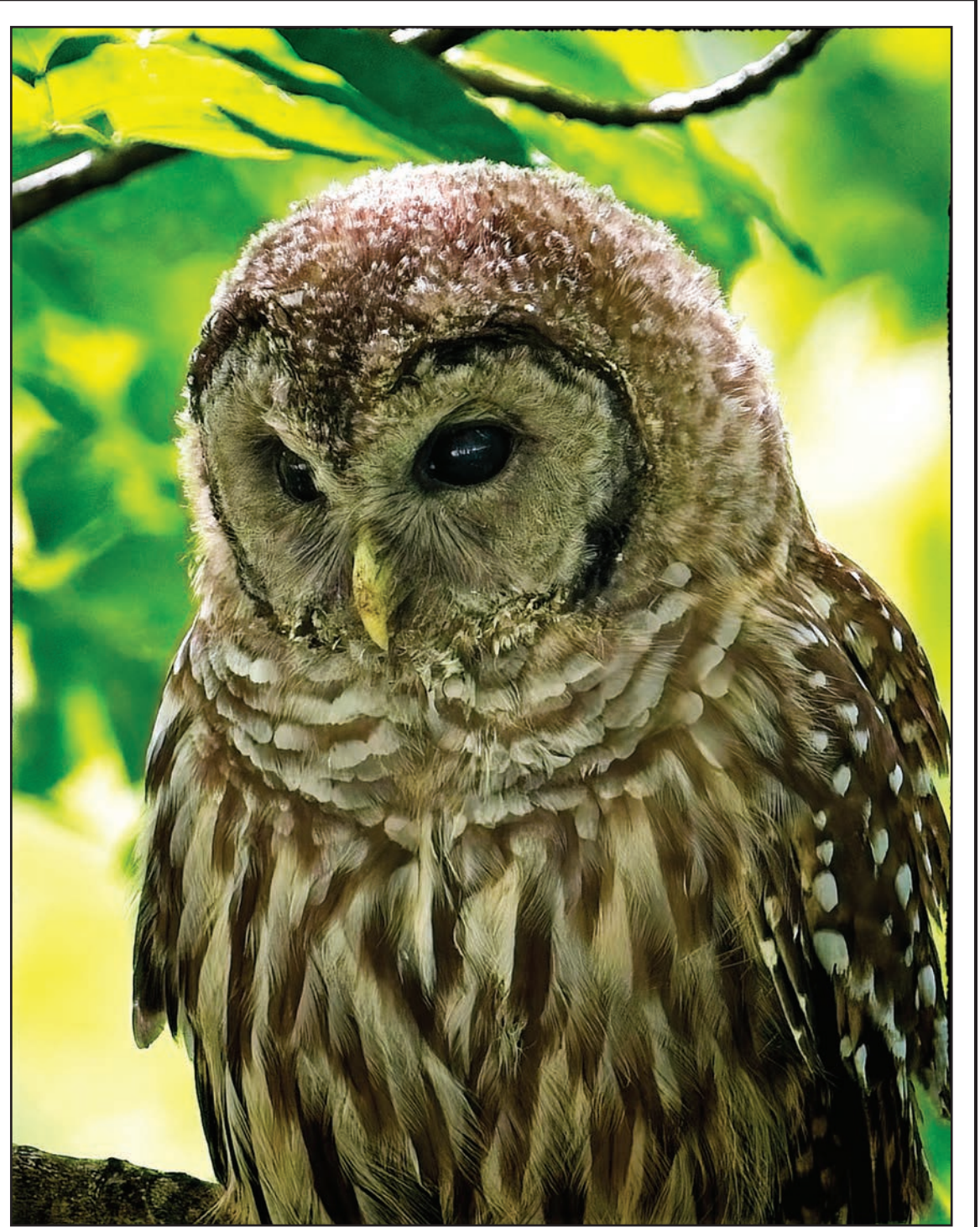
Mallach said that throughout the design concepts phase the team is working consider the cost of maintenance as well as installation and make sure steering committee members have an opportunity to offer feedback.

After refining and completing design concepts, DuBois & King will then transition into preparing construction documents.

"We want to make sure we get enough public feedback, we want to make sure that we do our due diligence even on the conceptual level, we want to continue to dream big and think of any possibilities at all and put them down on paper," Mallach said.

DuBois & King hopes to present construction documents and cost estimates to the town this fall.

"Anything that is ultimately recommended through this project will be considered by the selectboard and the people of the town of Bristol when it comes to moving forward, but everything's on the table right now, and that's part of what's exciting about the project," Mallach said.



Symbol of wisdom

OWL SIGHTINGS HAVE had many different meanings to many different cultures, from signs of victory in Ancient Greece to a harbinger of death by some Native American peoples. Today most consider owls an embodiment of wisdom, and the gaze of this barred owl seen in Lincoln suggests just that.

Photo by Dale Cockrell

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — A Welcome Back Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, Aug. 22 from 5 to 6 p.m. at Lincoln Community School. All new and returning students and families are invited. Community members are also welcome to join LCS for a short ribbon cutting ceremony to show off the new multipurpose room floor.

FROM THE TOWN

The selectboard will hold a special meeting on Monday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m., at Burnham Hall. This meeting will give residents an opportunity to hear from state elected officials about the decision-making in Montpelier around education spending and to voice concerns about the rising cost of our property taxes.

Speakers will include Rep. Mari Cordes (D-Addison 4) and Rep. Caleb Elder (D-Addison 4). Sen. Christopher Bray (D-Addison) and Sen. Ruth Hardy (D-Addison) have been invited, but are not currently confirmed. If you have questions about this public meeting, email sbassistant@lincolnvermont.org. Thank you for your thoughtful participation!

Join in the fun on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for a pickup game of volleyball at the Lincoln Sports field behind the firehouse.

Talk it up among your friends, family, and co-workers. Let's see if we can get this fun sport going.

The library is looking for your feedback for their fall programming. Are you interested in a language group? Maybe teatime at the library in French or another language? Would you like another toddler/baby storytime on Monday or Tuesday at 11 a.m. followed by snack/lunch? How about more sewing afternoons for adults or children that will feature small projects you can take home? Another idea could be an open community art project featuring people's expressions. Contact Wendy at lincolnlibraryvt@gmail.com or 802-453-2665 with your ideas.

FROM THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Announcing the reprise of a historic fundraising effort of 1907 in which the funds were raised and the original fence built. A group of hale and hearty Lincolmites have joined together with a determination to raise money to replace the beautiful but decrepit fence in front of the Maple Cemetery, the gateway to our beloved town. You'll be hearing more details as we embark on this campaign.

SAVE THE DATE

Lincoln Sports will be hosting a Hill Country Hustle 4K Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. The course will start and end at the Lincoln Sports field and does a loop through Willard's Woods. Surfaces are a mix of grass, road, and trail. This is a zero waste and very relaxed event that will not include bibs or official timing but will include lots of fun with neighbors.

There will be prizes for winners and best dressed. Dust off that silly outfit of yours and you just might win a gift certificate. All kids under 16 who complete the race get a free Lincoln General Store creemee! There will also be healthy snacks at the finish line as well as a cooler to fill up water bottles.

This event will raise funds for needed repairs to the baseball field at Lincoln Sports. This field is used by Little League and open to the public. There is no registration fee but please donate what you can, we appreciate your help. To register, please sign up at lincolnsports.org/funrun.

Until next time ... Always Believe Something Wonderful Is About To Happen. You Have The Power To Create Change. You Never Fail Until You Stop Trying.

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — Monkton Museum and Historical Society's monthly presentation will be held on Monday, Aug. 19, at 7 p.m., both in person and on Zoom. This month, Candace Layn Polzella and Robin Hopps will discuss the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department. Through the lens of history, they will share some information from the Monkton's past firefighting stories, leading to a modern-day appreciation

for what the MVFD does for the town today. All are welcome to join them in the (new) Monkton Town Hall's Community Room. A Zoom link will be made available on the Monkton Community Facebook Page and on Front Porch Forum. Email monktonmhs@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Do you have extra garden produce? Are you looking for some fresh vegetables from a local

garden? Beginning Aug. 10, a table will be set up next to the Little Free Pantry in the parking lot of the Monkton Friends Methodist Church (78 Monkton Ridge). Drop off or pick up whenever items are available. The Garden Share is for everyone! You may visit the Little Free Pantry for additional needs or to leave donations while you are there. Call 802-453-4918 if you have any questions.



2024 Garden Game

The Game is ON!



This week brought two impressive additions to the Garden Game.

First up, **Russell Breck** submitted a giant cucumber with a combined length and circumference of 186.75", catapulting him to the top of the leaderboard.

But the excitement didn't stop there! **Carol Krawczyk** entered a colossal zucchini measuring 21.5" L and 16.5" C. Carol affectionately calls it her "baby," and with good reason—this enormous zuke is smashing records. Carol is a top contender in multiple categories, including zucchini.

The competition is getting fierce! Who will take the lead next week? Stay tuned!

Play the Garden Game!

Do you have veggies to share in our pages? We welcome entries from any of the below 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

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

CATEGORIES & FRONT-RUNNERS:

- Asparagus (length x circumference) - Laura Asermily, 37" x 1"
- Beet (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 19.5"
- Broccoli (diameter)
- Cabbage (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 28"
- Cantaloupe (circumference) - Ted Foster, 20"
- Carrot (length x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 10" x 7"
- Cauliflower (diameter)
- Corn (length x circumference)
- Cucumber (length x circumference) - Russell Breck, 186.75" combined
- Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Carol Krawczyk, 11" x 17"
- Eggplant (circumference x circumference) - Laura Asermily, 29.5" x 6.5"
- Fennel (length x circumference)
- Green Bean (length) - Gary Miller, 41.25"
- Kohlrabi (circumference)
- Leek (length x circumference)
- Melon (circumference) - Ted Foster, 24.25"
- Onion (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 17.25"
- 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) - Carol Krawczyk, 21.5" x 16.5"

ADDISON COUNTY Agriculture News

Farming women of Vt. captured in photos

MONTEPELIER — The Vermont State Curator's Office presents Vermont Female Farmers — Photographs by JuanCarlos González on exhibit at the Vermont Statehouse Card Room and Cafeteria Gallery from Aug. 19 to Oct. 30.

Originally from Maunabo, Puerto Rico, and currently residing in Plymouth, Vt., JuanCarlos González is a photojournalist and landscape photographer who moved to Vermont with his partner in 2019. As new residents, they immersed themselves in their local community, and have been inspired by the culture and the richness of the working landscape of independently owned and operated farms, especially those of female farmers across the state.

Observing the diverse working culture of women from all backgrounds, Gonzalez decided to document the impact that female farmers are making to Vermont's culture, identity and economy. Unfortunately, many of these women, especially those of color, may be overlooked in favor of their male counterparts.

When creating this exhibition and book—VermontFemaleFarmers—González visited and documented



WOMEN FARMERS in the Green Mountain State are portrayed in an exhibit going up next week at the Statehouse, "Vermont Female Farmers — Photographs by JuanCarlos González." Photos by JuanCarlos González



PHOTOGRAPHER JUANCARLOS GONZÁLEZ captured the diverse working culture of Vermont agriculture in a new exhibit called Vermont Female Farmers. Here Tami Carboni-Blanchaud farms in Tinmouth.

45 farmers. Photographing them at work during their daily life on the farm, González explores their

livelihood, labor and passion. Each story is unique, as each person (See *Women farmers*, Page 7B)

Field Days ox, pony, horse pulling results

NEW HAVEN — The following are the results from the Ox, Pony and Horse pull competitions at Addison County Fair and Field Days, held Aug. 7-9.

OX PULLS RESULTS:

2,000 Class: 1. Scott Spencer, Benson, with Ace and Joker, X'd 3,500 lbs.; 2. Scott Spencer, Benson, with Rip and Rowdie; 3. Kim Patton, Springfield, N.H., with Bob and Squid

2,400 Class: 1. Brian Patton, Springfield, N.H., with Hercules and Rebel, X'd 4,500 lbs.; 2. Steve Chamberlain, S. Pomfret, with Ted and Chappy; 3. Gary Gaylord, Rensselaer Falls, N.Y., with Pete and Bill; 4. Sullivan Mullen, Tunbridge, with Homer and Boomer; 5. Mark Whitney, Chelsea, with Skip and Buck; 6. Kim Patton, Springfield, N.H., with Bob and Squid

2,800 Class: 1. Scott Spencer,

Benson, with Maverick and Goose, X'd 4,500 lbs.; 2. Brian Patten, Springfield, N.H., with Crew and Gus; 3. Steve Chamberlain, South Pomfret, with Sulley and Sonny; 4. Brian Patten, Springfield, N.H., with Hercules and Rebel; 5. Steve Chamberlain, South Pomfret, with Ted and Chappy; 6. Gary Gaylord, Rensselaer Falls, N.Y., with Pete and Bill.

(See *Ox pull*, Page 7B)



SCOTCH BURN FARM, RYEGATE, VERMONT

Nelson family named top farm

RYEGATE — Scotch Burn Farm, an eighth-generation dairy operation in Ryegate, Vt., has been named the 2024 Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year.

Ethan and Erin Nelson were recognized for their high-producing herd, milk quality, excellent crops and topnotch management. The judges also were impressed by their many recent farm improvements including installation of a 4-million-gallon concrete manure pit, remodeling the milk storage capacity and changes to the calf and heifer barn to improve efficiency and comfort. The Nelsons currently milk 270 cows on a twice-daily milking schedule in a double-12

They grow 240 acres of corn with their best fields averaging 22 to 23 tons of silage per acre, 15 to 17 tons for the less productive fields. In the fall, they plant winter rye as a cover crop.

herringbone parlor. Their rolling herd average is between 24,000 and 25,000 pounds. Butterfat is 4.5-4.6% with protein averaging 3.25-3.27%, envious numbers for a primarily Holstein herd. They ship their milk to Agri-Mark/Cabot Creamery, consistently earning quality awards for their milk.

To help maximize milk production, the higher-producing group is fed highly digestible BMR (brown midrib) corn silage and grass, usually at a 2 to 1 ratio, and higher concentrates once they slow down. The low group, who produce less milk and generally are in late lactation, get conventional corn and grass.

The farmers raise all their

own replacements with heifers bred to have their first calf at 24 months. They use SCR ear tags to monitor rumination, feed intake and activity, which tells them if a cow is in heat or ill. Use of the tags, they say, has doubled their pregnancy rate.

They strive for a 1.5 conception rate with a 70-day voluntary waiting period between calving and next breeding, although if a high producer comes into heat earlier, they will service her then. The farm has an added advantage when it comes to monitoring herd health and pregnancies as Erin and her sister, Anna Morrison, are licensed large animal veterinarians.

The Nelsons purchase grain but grow all their forages, doing all their own crop work but hiring out for custom manure spreading. They hay and chop 300 acres of grass, aiming for several cuts a season, and 40 to 50 acres of alfalfa.

(See *Farm of the year*, Page 7B)



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RITA CAMPION AT Stitchdown Farm in Bethel is one of the many women who produce food from the land in Vermont. This image of her will be on display at the Vermont Statehouse beginning Aug. 19. Photo by JuanCarlos González

Women farmers

(Continued from Page 6B)
has their own focus working with saffron, goats, flowers, produce for fermenting, cows and many more types of agriculture. It took over two-in-a-half years to complete this project. More than 30 photos from the project will be on view at the Statehouse and will be traveling to various sites in Vermont over the next two years.

“The Statehouse is the perfect

venue for artistic photographs that explore and reveal the stories of Vermonters at work,” said Vermont State Curator David Schutz. “The golden dome is crowned by a female figure of Agriculture — sometimes known as Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture and fertility. JuanCarlos is taking this state’s much-loved farming culture, and deftly showing us the little known, but growing number

of women engaged in this work. These are powerful and engaging images, and we are honored to exhibit them.”

An Artist Reception and Montpelier Art Walk will take place Oct. 4, from 4 to 7 p.m.

To explore the photography of JuanCarlos González visit Instagram: @JuanKasFoto or head online to JuanKasFoto.com or the VermontFemaleFarmers.com.

Farm of the year

(Continued from Page 6B)
They grow 240 acres of corn with their best fields averaging 22 to 23 tons of silage per acre, 15 to 17 tons for the less productive fields. In the fall, they plant winter rye as a cover crop. Any fields with a slight slope are put in rotation of two years in corn, then eight years in grass and alfalfa.

The success of the farm can also be attributed to good employees. The Nelsons employ three full-time and 10 part-time workers, including several high school students. Their children Susanna, 17, Bryn, 14, and Ewan, 11, also help out on the farm along with several family members.

The award is presented annually

to an outstanding Vermont dairy farm by University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Dairy Industry Association, in cooperation with the New England Green Pastures Program. Other finalists for 2024 were Harkdale Farm, Newbury; Woodlawn Holsteins, Pawlet; and Rock Bottom Farm, Strafford.

Ox pulls

(Continued from Page 6B)

3,200 Class: 1. Brian Patten, Springfield, N.H. with Jack and Boomer, X'd 5,000 lbs.; 2. Steve Chamberlain, South Pomfret, with Shorty and Swiss; 3. Tom Mullen, Tunbridge, with Mike and Tyson; 4. Scott Spencer, Benson, with Maverick and Goose; 5. Brian Patten, Springfield, N.H., with Crew and Gus; 6. Steve Chamberlain, South Pomfret, with Sulley and Sonny.

Free-For-All Class: 1. Brian Patton, Springfield, N.H., with Doc and Clyde, X'd 5,500 lbs.; 2. Andy George, Fairlee, with Casey and Willy; 3. Brian George, Fairlee, with Wally and Charlie; 4. Mark Whitney, Chelsea, with Skip and Buck; 5. Brian Patten, Springfield, N.H., with Jack and Boomer; 6. Brian Patten, Springfield, N.H., with Crew and Gus.

PONY PULLS RESULTS:

1,800 Class: 1. Karen Chamberlain, Woodstock, with Archie and Hank, 7' 8" 5,000 lbs.; 2. Tracy, Spaulding and Johnson,



DRIVER SULLIVAN MULLEN of Vershire keeps his team of oxen, Homer and Boomer, working together in a Field Days pulling competition last week.

Bethel, with Major and Dan (Luke Russ, driving). 3. Elvin Switzer, Sutton, with Tonka and Sam.

2,200 Class: 1. Straight Line Farm, Glover, with Smash and Hector, X'd 5,000 lbs. (Jake Randall, driving); 2.

Tracy and Spaulding, Bethel, with Colonel and Rex, (Rob Tracy driving); 3. Tracy, Spaulding and Johnson, Bethel, with Doc and Jack, (Josh Tracy, driving); 4. Elvin Switzer, Sutton, with Pete and Smokey; 5. Roaring Brook Farm, Barton, with Judy and Bonnie, (Josh

Noyes, driving).

Free-For-All Class: 1. Lazy Acres Farm, Glover, with Amos and Frank, X'd 5,000 lbs., (Jake Randall, driving); 2. Roaring Brook Farm, Barton, with Roxy and Rock, (Josh Noyes, driving); 3. Tracy, Spaulding and Johnson, Bethel, with Colonel and Jack, (Josh Tracy, driving); 4. Elvin Switzer, Sutton, with Pete and Tonka.

HORSE PULLS RESULTS:

3,200 Class: Canceled
3,400 Class: Canceled
Free-For-All Class: Canceled

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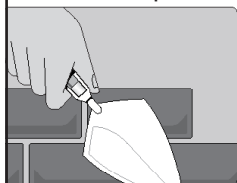
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THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

Public Meetings

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

Help Wanted

Public Meetings

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

Services

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

Help Wanted

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.

WE BUY OLD STUFF Estates, collections, antiques etc. Also hunting and fishing items. Call Erik 802-345-0653.

Help Wanted

Free

DIGITAL ACCESS View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at addisonindependent.com. Don't miss out on events, garage sales, or opportunities- check out our free digital listings. Looking to read more? Become a subscriber!

Help Wanted

Garage Sales

BARN SALE, RAIN or shine. Saturday, August 17, 8am. Hitachi saw, tools, work bench, classical guitar, horse stuff, kitchen, antiques, golf. 1177 Swinton Road, Bridport. Part of Bridport's Town-wide Sales.

Help Wanted

Garage Sales

BRIDPORT TOWN-WIDE Yard Sales. August 17th and 18th, 9:00 - 4:00. Maps available at sales and Pratt's Store.

Help Wanted

Garage Sales

YARD SALE, Friday-Sunday, August 16, 17, 18, 9am-2pm. 767 Field Days Road, New Haven. Antique furniture, 4-poster bed and more furniture. Apple barrels, electronic organ, tile laying tools, electric snow blower, skill saw, table saw, snow sled. Old magazine bundles. Lots more.

Help Wanted

Garage Sales

rels, electronic organ, tile laying tools, electric snow blower, skill saw, table saw, snow sled. Old magazine bundles. Lots more.

Help Wanted

FALL IS COMING & WE'RE HIRING UP FOR OUR BUSY SEASON



Are you in between things? Saving up for a car, an apartment, a vacation? Starting over? Looking for your first job?

At Nino's Pizza, you can generate income that fits your schedule and boosts your cash flow.

We offer flexible scheduling, weekly paychecks, short shifts, and daily tips.

Your shift will fly by and you'll have some cash at the end of the day and a weekly paycheck. Plus, there's opportunity for advancement and progressive pay increases based on performance.

We ask you to commit to the schedule you created, show up on time and be prepared for work. We have part time shifts and one full time position (32-40hrs).

Nino's is a positive, encouraging work environment. It's a learning environment, where we work the problem, not the person. We appreciate what it means to be new and growing.

The pizza is awesome, and the secret ingredient is the people. We care about the food and each other.

Let us help you level up, save up and build a bright new beginning. Call or text us 802-391-0555 to line up an appointment.



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@smithmccain.com.

Come build with us!



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

THE RESIDENCE at Otter Creek

Med Techs and RCAs 12-hour shift opportunities!

Ask about our:

- PT and FT travel allowance
- Free meals
- Competitive Benefits

Calling all compassionate caregivers! Are you or someone you know ready to make a meaningful impact in healthcare?

We have an exciting opportunity that will ignite your passion. Now offering 12-hour shift opportunities!

FT, PT and Per diem positions also available

Are you looking for work life balance? Need to be home during week and only available on the weekends?

We have fun! Feel appreciated and valued! Visit our website to apply.

The Residence at Otter Creek
350 Lodge Road, Middlebury, VT 05753
www.residenceatottercreek.com



WE WANT TO HIRE YOU!

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:

If you are interested in this position, 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

Seeking a driver for Thursday paper delivery.

Must be available from 5:30am to 3:00pm on Thursdays.

Potential for additional hours as needed and on a flexible basis.

Competitive wages/a great way to make extra money!



ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Contact Harris Gerner
(802)388-4944 ext. 104 or frontdesk@addisonindependent.com

Opportunities


Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities


Opportunities



Blood Drive Volunteer

RSVP of Addison County, along with the American Red Cross, is in search of a volunteer to help with the blood drive at Victory Baptist Church in Vergennes on Saturday, August 24 from 9am - 1:30pm.

Contact Johanna
802.379.9512
johannarsvpfgp@gmail.com



AmeriCorps Seniors

Addison Independent CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

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
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free** | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals |
- ** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$2

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

Number of words: _____
Cost: _____
of runs: _____
Spotlight Charge: _____
Internet Listing: \$2.00
TOTAL: _____

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

LOOKING FOR a part time caring/responsible caregiver for an elderly lady with dementia. Must be able to pass a background check. Please call (802) 598-3808 for additional information and to set up an appointment to meet.

Help Wanted

AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY Hearth is seeking a part time Bartender to work both independently and alongside our talented Head Bartender. We are looking for a mature, energetic individual who enjoys the excitement of a busy restaurant, loves wholesome food & creative beverages, a warm fire and interesting conversation. Must be available nights and weekends, have a positive attitude, and en-

Help Wanted

thusiasm 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@americanflatbread.com.

For Sale

MASON AND BALE type canning jars for sale. Both pint and quart size. Prices negotiable. Call 802-453-3183.

Vacation Rentals

ADDISON: LAKE CHAMPLAIN waterfront camp. Beautiful views, gorgeous sunsets, private beach, dock, rowboat and canoe included. \$999. weekly, or call for weekends. 802-349-4212, no texts.

For Rent

2 BEDROOM HOUSE SHOREHAM Elegant home just renovated. Furnished and available Sept. 1st. \$2200 month plus some utilities. Non-smoking and no pets please. Call for info. and photos. 802-897-2448.

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

For Rent

THE MEADOWS
Middlebury, VT

We are currently accepting applications for our waiting list. Eligible applicants pay 30% of their adjusted income for rent. For more information, please write or call the rental management agent.

Real-Net Management, Inc.
26 Court Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4994



Help Wanted

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.

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE - 3000 sq ft - Middlebury. Loading dock. Tall ceilings. \$2,500.00 p/month. 802-558-6092.

For Rent

LIGHT INDUSTRIAL/RETAIL. 1,250 sq.ft. Exchange Street, Middlebury. 802-388-4831.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

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

SALISBURY: Fully furnished one bedroom basement apartment. Electricity and heat included. No pets. \$1250 a month. Call 802-238-6497. Available September 1st.

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.

AUCTIONS



MARKET REPORT

ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 8/8/24 & 8/12/24

COST			
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Nop Bros	1580	1.65	\$2607.00
R. Brands	1500	1.65	\$2475.00
M+L Quesnel	1560	1.55	\$2418.00
J. Allen	1025	1.46	\$1496.50
Gosliga	1755	1.40	\$2457.00
A. Brisson	1515	1.40	\$2121.00
J. Fifield	1690	1.35	\$2281.50
COST			
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Danyon Farm	107	9.00	\$963.00
Westminster	81	9.00	\$729.00
Sunderland	103	8.50	\$875.50
A. Brisson	91	8.50	\$773.50
Nolan Farm	88	8.00	\$704.00

Total Beef - 174 Total Calves - 326
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on **Pages 11B and 12B.**

- Addison (1)
- Addison Central School District (1)
- Addison County Courthouse (1)
- Addison Northwest School District (2)
- Act 250 (1)
- Cornwall (1)
- Leicester (1)
- Lincoln (1)
- Middlebury (1)
- Monkton (1)
- Mt. Abraham Unified School District (1)
- State of Vermont (1)

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.

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members. To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible. To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231)

Prior Authorization.
Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P030

AGENCY: Agency of Human Services

CONCISE SUMMARY: This rule sets forth the criteria for Vermont Medicaid's prior authorization process. It amends current prior authorization Rule 7102 titled "Prior Authorization." Revisions include: (1) align the rule with 42 CFR 438.210(d)(2) that requires that expedited prior authorizations be decided within 72 hours of request, (2) provide that standard prior authorizations must be decided within seven days of request, (3) add clarity regarding the prior authorization process for pharmacy requests, and (4) add prior authorization requirements for the routine patient costs of a beneficiary when they are related to a clinical trial.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Ashley Berliner, Agency of Human Services, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-1000 Tel: 802-578-9305 Fax: 802-241-0450 E-Mail: AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov URL: <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hcar>.

FOR COPIES: Linda Narrow McLemore, Agency of Human Services, 280 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-1000 Tel: 802-779-3258 Fax: 802-241-0450 E-Mail: Linda.McLemore@Vermont.gov.



BRISTOL • MONKTON • NEW HAVEN • STARKSBORO

Mount Abraham Unified School District
72 Munsill Avenue, Building 6, Suite 601, Bristol, VT 05443
Phone: (802) 453-3657 * www.mausd.org * Fax: (802) 453-2029
Shaping Our Future Together

CHILD FIND NOTICE

Mount Abraham Unified School District Annual Notification of Rights of Parents and Eligible Students

Mount Abraham Unified School District (MAUSD), serving the towns of Bristol, Monkton, New Haven, and Starksboro are required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to locate, evaluate, and identify persons with disabilities from birth through age 21, who may be in need of special education, related services, or accommodations in order to access a free appropriate public education; and to provide such needed services for children ages 3 through 21 including:

- children who are not enrolled in school
- children attending independent schools or home study programs within the five towns
- children who are suspected of having a disability even though they are advancing through grade to grade
- children who are mobile or lack stable housing (e.g. migrant families, in transitional housing)
- and children who are in state custody or who are vulnerable adults.

If you know a child residing in the towns within MAUSD who you believe may have such needs but is not currently receiving services, please contact Beth McGeorge, Director of Student Support Services, at 72 Munsill Avenue, Suite 601, Bristol, VT 05443; email beth.mcgeorge@mausd.org or call 802-453-3657

Children ages birth to 3: Services to intervene early and for eligible children ages birth to 3 years are provided through the Children's Integrated Services-Early Intervention program through the Addison County Parent Child Center in Middlebury, Vermont, or call (802) 388-3137. Children ages 3-5 years old: Services to intervene early and for eligible children ages 3 to 5 are provided by MAUSD. For screening, evaluations, or additional information contact the MAUSD Early Education Program located in Bristol, Vermont or call (802) 453-3674.

School-aged Children enrolled in Kindergarten through Age 21: Services to intervene early and for eligible children from kindergarten up to their 22nd birthday are available through the MAUSD multi-tiered system of support. If you suspect a child may need early intervention or support, please contact the building principal in the school in which the child attends. If the child is suspected of having a disability (i.e., autism, deaf-blindness, emotional disturbance, hearing loss, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, intellectual disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, speech-language impairment, or specific learning disability), contact Beth McGeorge, Director of Student Support Services at beth.mcgeorge@mausd.org or call 802-453-3657.

Information obtained during Child Find remains confidential as required by Vermont Special Education Regulations and the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act. In accordance with MAUSD's policies and with 34 CFR Part 99 (the Family Education Rights Privacy Act of 1974), this public notice informs all parents within their jurisdictions about how information is maintained when it is collected during identification, location, and evaluation of all people with disabilities.



Production Team Members

Vermont Soap is looking for attentive, reliable and responsible people to work in our production department.

This position requires basic computer skills, attention to detail, the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time and the ability to lift up to 50lbs. Must be a team player and also able to work independently.

This is a full time position (Mon-Fri 7-3:30) with paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k with employer match, and more!

Please send cover letter and resume to nichole@vermontsoap.com.

In print or online,
find your dream job
with help from
the *Addy Indy*.



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Public Notices

can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 11B and 12B.

ANWSD BOARD MEETING NOTICES FOR AUGUST 2024

Monday, August 12	4:50 PM	Facilities Committee Mtg. ANWSD Conference Room
Monday, August 19	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Wednesday, August 21	5:30 PM	Community Engagement Committee Mtg. Virtual
Wednesday, August 28	5:30 PM	ANWSD Board Retreat VUMHS Library

TOWN OF ADDISON, VERMONT WARNING

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?

Jeff Kauffman Sr., Selectboard Chair
Roger Waterman, Selectboard Vice-Chair
Steve Torrey, Selectboard Member
Rob Hunt, Selectboard Member
Peter Briggs, Selectboard Member

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

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

TOWN OF LEICESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Final Plan Application Appeal of Zoning Permit #11-24-ZA

The Leicester Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at the Leicester Town Office at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following applications:

- (03-24 DRB), Jane L. Dessureault Family Trust, Section 6.1.1 Final Plan Application for a nine lot sub-division of a 123.7-acre parcel of land at the intersection of Shackett and Fern Lake Roads in Leicester, VT in accordance with the Leicester Unified Regulations. Parcel ID #030032.01, Rural Agricultural (RA) District, submitted by Barnard & Gervais, LLC, dated February 28, 2024
- (11-24-ZA) Appeal of Zoning Permit #11-24-ZA, Claire McDonnell and Jim Myrick, P.O. Box 709, Killington, VT for a fence at 57 Johnson Drive, Leicester, VT 05733.

Applications are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office, 44 Schoolhouse Rd., Leicester, VT during regularly scheduled hours.

Participation in this proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Jeff McDonough
DRB Chairman
07/30/2024

STATE OF VERMONT

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL DIVISION ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO: 89-5-20 Ancv

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC
PLAINTIFF

VS.

ANDREW H. MONTROLL, ESQ., AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES THOMAS; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND OCCUPANTS RESIDING AT 17 SINGING CEDARS ROAD, ORWELL, VT 05760

DEFENDANT(S)

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lorraine E Thomas and James D Thomas, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for American Advisors Group, dated August 22, 2014, and recorded in Book 96, at Page 90, of the Town of Orwell Land Records, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by Assignment of Mortgage recorded in Book 106, Page 357, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at September 11, 2024 at 02:00 PM at 17 Singing Cedars Road, Orwell, VT 05760 all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To Wit:

Being all and the same lands and premises conveyed to James D. Thomas and Lorraine E. Thomas by warranty deed of Lawrence K. Peterson and Erna M. Peterson dated February 22, 1985 and recorded March 7, 1985 in Book 37, at Page 491 of the Town of Orwell 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

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Sheldon M. Katz, Esq.
BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
VT_Noticesofhearing@brockandscott.com

Brandon man cited, under investigation

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Austin Wedge, 24, of Brandon for driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license, cruelty to a child, and two counts of reckless endangerment, following their investigation of an alleged domestic dispute at a Court Street residence on Aug. 11.

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

- Responded, with Vermont State Police, to a report of a drunken man lying in the roadway near

Middlebury Police Log

the intersection of Weybridge and Sheep Farm roads in Weybridge on Aug. 5.

- Responded to a reported domestic dispute in the Case Street area on Aug. 5.

- Responded on Aug. 5 to a report of an unruly, recently discharged patient on Porter Hospital grounds.
- Helped Brandon police on Aug. 6 with an evaluation of a possibly impaired driver, at Middlebury PD headquarters.

- Warned a person who was violating the town's open-container law in the Bakery Lane area on Aug. 6.

- Responded to a report of a dog disturbing customers at Mister Ups Restaurant on Aug. 6.

- Cautioned a truck driver who had been driving erratically on South Main Street on Aug. 6.

- Assisted Pittsford police, Brandon police and Rutland City police in executing a search warrant at a Pittsford residence on Hendee Lane on Aug. 6.

- Cited 33-year-old Geoffrey Scott Merwin for suspicion of driving under the influence, following a traffic stop on Court Street on Aug. 7.

- Took a call on Aug. 7 from a person in the Gambrel Court area who claimed to have shot a family member and was now preparing to shoot themselves. Police said the dispatcher heard what sounded like a gunshot over the phone during the call. When officers arrived at the scene, they said they found no shooting had occurred and that the call had been a hoax. An investigation into the call continues.

- Responded, with Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services (MREMS) to the South Village Green neighborhood on a report of a drunken person who was threatening self-harm on Aug. 8. Police said the person was taken to Porter Hospital.

- Were informed on Aug. 8 that a vehicle stolen from the Rogers Road area had been found in Burlington.

- Assisted Middlebury firefighters at the scene of a transformer fire off Route 7 South on Aug. 9.

- Spoke with a local resident on Aug. 9 who feared they were being stalked.

- Responded to a report of an unruly patient at Porter Hospital on Aug. 9. Police said the patient had left upon their arrival.

- Continued their investigation on Aug. 9 into the recent theft of items from a vehicle parked off Court Street. Police said the stolen items included a credit card that

had been used fraudulently.

- Investigated a hit-and-run incident involving two vehicles on Court Street Extension on Aug. 9.

- Were informed of a possible vandalism incident at Friend Construction off Case Street on Aug. 9.

- Received a report of loose horses on Route 7 North on Aug. 9.

- Responded to a reported of an unwanted, drunken guest at a Jayne Court apartment on Aug. 10.

- Responded to a report of a drunken man at a Court Street business on Aug. 10.

- Responded, along with MREMS, to a report of a man in the Bakery Lane area who needed medical attention on Aug. 10.

- Checked on the welfare of a man in the Route 7 South area who had been having mental health problems on Aug. 10.

- Investigated a hit-and-run incident involving two vehicles on Bakery Lane on Aug. 10.

- Investigated a reported domestic dispute at a Seymour Street residence on Aug. 11. Police determined no crime had occurred.

- Cited Brian M. Sheldon for driving under the influence of drugs and driving with a suspended license, following a stop on Washington Street on Aug. 11.

- Assisted a local resident who was dealing with a mental health crisis on Aug. 11.

Quilters guild fabric, notions sale set

MIDDLEBURY — The Milk & Honey Quilters Guild members have been sorting through their piles of fabrics and notions as they prepare for another great stash buster sale.

This sale will be Saturday, Aug. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Church's Community

Room, located at 2 Duane Court in Middlebury, (behind the Mary Johnson Day Care Center and close to Middlebury Union High School).

Rain or shine, it promises to be a great opportunity for quilters, aspiring quilters, seamstresses, theater groups, crafters — really anyone who loves fabric — to find bargains on some great treasures on the more than 25 tables of colorful delights. Several of those tables will be filled with fabulous fabrics from a community member who recently passed. She was an avid and talented quilter with a keen eye for beautiful fabrics.

The Milk and Honey Quilters Guild began more than thirty years ago in Middlebury as a small, informal, and supportive group for quilters and anyone interested in quilting. Over the years, it has grown to over 70 members, and they always welcome newcomers. Monthly guild meetings consist of a business meeting, Show & Tell and a Q&A time which often results in sharing tips and tricks. The group often hosts a locally or nationally recognized guest speaker and/or trunk show. They dedicate at least two sit and sew sessions per year to community service sewing projects.



Addison Central School District

In our capacity as public schools, the districts of the Addison Central Supervisory Union are required to locate, identify, and evaluate any child or student from birth and up who may require special education and related services in order to access and benefit from public education.

The Federal special education regulations define a child with a disability as a child having a learning impairment, a hearing impairment including deafness, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment including blindness, a specific learning disability, deaf-blindness or multiple disabilities and who require specialized instruction and related services.

If you know of a child who lives in the towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, or Weybridge and who might have a disability as described, please contact the principal of your local school district or contact the Director of Student Services at 802-382-1287.

Evaluations will be conducted in accordance with the procedures described in 300.530.300.535 of the Federal Regulations for Special Education outlining the procedures for special education evaluations.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CORNWALL DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Cornwall Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 7 pm.

The hearing will be held in person at the Town Hall and by Zoom. An online meeting link and a dial in number will be published on the agenda for the meeting, so that Board members, the applicant, and interested members of the public may participate electronically or by telephone. The agenda will be posted at least 48 hours before the hearing at the Town Hall and the Town Garage, and on the Town's website.

Purpose of the hearing:
To hear an application by Jonathan and Kim Hescocock for approval of a minor subdivision of the property located at 2217 Route 74, Cornwall, Vermont into two lots measuring 1.7 acres and 1 acre, respectively.

Electronic copies of this application are available to the public on the Town's website, www.cornwallvt.com. The application is also available to the public at the Cornwall Town Clerk's office, 2629 Route 30, Cornwall, Vermont. You are free to review the file for any additional information concerning this particular matter.

Persons wishing to be heard at this public hearing, or their representatives (a licensed Vermont Attorney or an authorized agent), may participate in the hearing by using the online meeting link or the dial in number, or in person. Please note that in accordance with Chapter 117, Section 4464, of the Vermont statutes, participation in this public hearing is a prerequisite to the right to make subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ORDINANCE

Large Conference Room, Town Offices
77 Main Street, Middlebury
August 27, 2024 – 7:30 p.m.

The Middlebury Selectboard will hold a Public Hearing at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 in the Large Conference Room of the Town Offices, 77 Main Street to take public testimony on the proposed renewal of the Downtown Improvement District Ordinance and extension of the seven-year levy period to June 30, 2031.

This Ordinance establishes a special assessment district for the downtown improvements and provides additional taxing authority to the Selectboard. Revenues of the district will be designated funds utilized to finance, and/or leverage financing from other sources for, public improvements in the District.

Copies of the Proposed Downtown Improvement District Ordinance may be obtained at the Town Offices, 77 Main Street during regular business hours, and on the Town's website, www.townofmiddlebury.org.

If you need special accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact the Town Manager's Office at 458-8000 as early as possible.

To attend the Selectboard meeting remotely, please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82964338312>
Or Telephone: 1 646 558 8656, Webinar ID: 829 6433 8312

TOWN OF LINCOLN PUBLIC NOTICE

Wednesday, September 4, 2024, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Town Office
(62 Quaker Street, Lincoln, VT) and virtually using Zoom

The Lincoln Development Review Board will hold a public hearing for:

1. Conditional Use Permit Application #24-056 as requested by Ken and Maria Stockman.

Project Location: 593 County Road, Lincoln, VT, Parcel ID # 41-20-02-19.500
Description: Construction of a new residence where total building square footage on lot is greater than 3,500 square feet.

Participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeals. Please contact the Zoning Administrator at (802) 453-2980 to arrange a time to view the complete applications.

The Zoom link will be included in the agenda which can be found on the Town's website the week prior to the hearing: <https://lincolnvermont.org/agendas-minutes>

Nicole Lee, Lincoln DRB Chair

TOWN OF MONKTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Monkton Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on Monday, August 26, 2024, beginning at 7:30 P.M. The hearings will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 92 Monkton Ridge. The hearings will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

1. Final Plan Application #24-901 of Steven Pomarico for a 1-lot 7-Unit Planned Unit Development (PUD) located at approximately 325 Pond Rd (Parcel ID 05.215.021.000) in the RA-5 Zoning District.

An electronic copy of the applications can be obtained by emailing zoning@monktonvt.com. A hard copy of the application is available at Town Hall by appointment. Please call 802-453-3800 to make an appointment.

Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8024533800> * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762

Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 * Meeting ID: 802 453 3800 * Passcode: 1762

ACT 250 NOTICE – MINOR APPLICATION #9A0342-5 PREHEARING CONFERENCE & SITE VISIT 10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 - 6111

The President & Fellows of Middlebury College have filed application #9A0342-5 for a project generally described as removal of the 86-year-old Bread Loaf Dam on Brandy Brook located on the Middlebury College Bread Loaf campus. The project includes: (1) relocation of an existing water intake used for snowmaking at Rikert Nordic Center further downstream; (2) removal of ±4,200 cubic yards of sediment impounded behind the dam; (3) complete demolition and removal of the dam and associated structures; and (4) potential restoration of adjacent wetlands and/or bank stabilization. The project is located off Steam Mill Road ±1.15 miles from its intersection with Vermont Route 125 in Ripton, Vermont.

Pursuant to Act 250 Rule 16, the District 9 Commission will convene a Prehearing Conference and site visit on Friday, September 6th, 2024, at 9:00AM at the Project location. This application can be viewed online by visiting the Act 250 Database here: <https://annweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/Details.aspx?Num=9A0342-5>.

To request party status, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: <https://nrh.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form>, and email it to the District 9 Office at: NRB.Act250Barre@vermont.gov.

If you have a disability for which you need accommodation in order to participate in this process (including participating in the prehearing conference), please notify us as soon as possible, in order to allow us as much time as possible to accommodate your needs. For more information, contact the District 9 Coordinator listed below prior to the date of the Prehearing Conference and site visit.

Josh Donabedian
Joshua.Donabedian@vermont.gov

Mail: 10 Baldwin Street, Montpelier VT 05633-3201

Physical: 111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

August 15, 2024



A LIFE'S WORK

FINDING HOMES FOR NORTON'S WONDERFUL WOODCARVINGS

Norton and Marlene Latourelle stand in front of the Shoreham barn where he has created and shown the eclectic collection of animals (particularly dogs), insects, vegetables and cupcakes he has carved out of wood for more than half a century. They are looking for new homes for the carvings he hasn't sold as they move into retirement.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTHONY THORNTON PHOTOGRAPHY

Perhaps with no surprise, the son of a woodworker took to carving. Every day Norton carved; every day Norton created. Birds, cats, dogs, fish, kitchen art, small animals, orbs... wonderful, whimsical wooden sculptures carved by bandsaws, chainsaws and simple tools. This has been Norton

BY **ELSIE**
LYNN PARINI

Latourelle's life-work for the past 50 years. In the early '90s, Norton and his wife, Marlene, moved to their "dream come true" 40-acre — technically lakefront — property in Shoreham, where they've run Norton's Gallery of Woodcarvings together for the past 33 years.

"It was always my intention to do this, and only

"IT IS MY LIFE. IT'S THE MOTIVATION IN THE MORNING... THE THING THAT CHARGES ME UP."

— Norton Latourelle

this," Norton said in an interview last week as he looked around the barn-gallery filled with his contemporary American folk art carvings. "It is my life. It's the motivation in the morning... the thing that charges me up."

"You rode a wave," Marlene chimed in.

"There was definitely a wave," Norton agreed.

The wave was a good one — a story of a successful artist making it doing what he loved among a beloved community in rural Vermont. But like all waves, there's a curl, a fall and a rejoining of the crested water into the sea.

Now in their mid-70s, Norton and Marlene are done "riding the wave," and will be closing their woodcarving business for good in mid-October.

"We're retiring from age and health issues," Norton said.

SEE NORTON ON PAGE 3

BRISTOL CORE BRINGS YOU

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17 AUGUST
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NORTON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



cupcakes," Norton said matter of factly. "They're my favorite."

Finally, there are the "Rescue Dogs" who need to be "adopted."

"They are living here in our 'Shelter,' anxiously awaiting their forever home," reads the gallery's website promoting the uniqueness of each canine.

"A piece isn't really finished until it's home with someone," said Norton in a video made a couple years ago by his nephew Anthony Thornton, who runs his own photography business in California. "I would like to concentrate on finding homes for those [pieces]... Also to have a say where these things end up... finding the people that those pieces make happy and putting it in their hands."

Norton continues talking in the video about how he hopes his life journey may "inspire younger artists to realize they can achieve what they dream about, to be themselves, to do just what they want to do and they will find people that admire that and who will support them. I think that is what I'm most grateful for, overall, is the support of those people over 50 years."

Go show your support for Norton and Marlene's work on Aug. 24-25, Sept. 14-15, Oct. 5-6, and Oct. 12-13, when the gallery will be open. Or visit their website for more details at nortonsgallery.com. Who knows, you might just come home with a "rescue!"



"It's been delightful," added Marlene, who handled most of the business-side of things, photography and communication. "A very rewarding career."

Before the gallery closes, however, the couple hopes to find homes for as many of Norton's carvings as possible; because, as the decades piled on, so did the number of unsold pieces.

"I was prolific," Norton said simply. "I improved my skills by saying yes to everything... And I do what I wanna do — I don't have any rules. Freeform — don't try to be more than that and your pieces will take on a look."

That signature style of Norton's work — rough and refined, with a clear understanding of balance, form and the natural world — all made out of local pine, sourced from Book Brothers, a farm in West Haven.

The tricky part is knowing when to stop.

"Marlene is my best determiner," Norton said. "She has good taste. She can be my second eye."

As a marketing major from Boston College with a firm appreciation of diversification, Norton's work goes far beyond the thousands of custom dogs he's so well known for. An avid bird watcher, Norton has an incredible flock of avian species perched in his gallery. Then there's the African animals — giraffes, elephants, turtles — the oversized insects, vegetables, flowers. And don't forget the cupcakes — yes, cupcakes — complete with sprinkles.

"They're peanut butter



NORTON'S GALLERY OF WOODCARVINGS

OPEN STUDIO SALE

AUG. 24-25

SEPT. 14-15

OCT. 5-6

OCT 12-13

MORE DETAILS AT
NORTONSGALLERY.COM



JESSICA'S

AT

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FANCY FRIDAYS

DJ Serena spins hip-hop, house, and R&B in the elegant Blue Bar, as Mixologist Laura Fenn serves up creative, hand-crafted cocktails for an upscale crowd, dressed to impress. Free to enter. WEEKLY: 7 to 10 p.m. Highly recommended: Cocktail Attire!

SUNDAY SUPPERS

Every Sunday, Chef Rob prepares a three-course prix fixe meal at a very special price using locally sourced ingredients. The idea is to make the Jessica's experience more affordable on Sundays. Includes appetizer, main course, and dessert. The sommelier will suggest a wine pairing, but it's not included in the price. Regular menu also available.

25 STEWART LANE, MIDDLEBURY

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ART ON EXHIBIT

Edgewater galleries feature abstract work and beauty in the everyday

In Jane Davies' latest collection of work, now on view at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, she continues creating abstract mixed media paintings that grow from a vocabulary of elements of abstract painting; color, line, shape, texture, and pattern and the excitement of finding a common thread in a disparate group of gathered materials.

Beyond the passion and satisfaction Davies finds in the art making process in "Re-Assembly" she considers ideas of recycling, specifically her art discards left from previous projects but more broadly the theme of holding ourselves accountable for the condition of the planet and the importance of doing all we can to preserve it, balancing our place in it. Davies wrestles with the challenge of finding a way to "piece together something workable" from the ongoing social, cultural, and political upheaval of the time. "Re-Assembly" reflects the complexity of making art in these times but also the joy in extracting beauty and order in today's world.

An opening reception and artist talk will be held next Thursday, Aug. 22, from 5-6:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to preview Davies' collection, hear her comments on the work and enjoy light

refreshment. The event is free and open to all.

Edgewater Gallery on the Green will continue to feature Tim Horn's paintings through Sept. 10, in the exhibit "Purple Haze." Horn finds beauty in the everyday, seeking out old buildings, cars, trucks, and landscapes that speak strongly of places to which he is connected; Northern California, Vermont, and coastal Maine. His work develops from direct observation and plein air painting allowing him to convey his immediate response to his subject. His mastery of portraying the play of light and shadow, the distinct look of daylight hours and those of the night add familiarity, nostalgia and a sense of narrative to his paintings. He seems to live in his compositions and be part of the story.

"Purple Haze" features scenes of the Bay area of northern California, Maine, near Monhegan and rural Vermont, a place where family connected him to the landscape. The collection reminds the viewer of the beauty that can be found in "the ordinary."

For more information on either exhibit, or for more information visit edgewatergallery.com or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.



"Existential Crisis No. 67.9" by Jane Davies, 19 x 24-inches, acrylic collage on paper.



"With Chickens and Chair" by Tim Horn, 20 x 20-inches, oil on canvas.



"Between the Barns" by Tim Horn, 12 x 24-inches, oil on canvas.



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basinharbor.com/accommodations/




ART ON EXHIBIT

ART ON MAIN

25 Main Street, Bristol

For more info visit artonmainvt.com or call 802-453-4032.

"Home is Where the Art is," featuring resident artists Judith Bryant and Denise Letendre. An opening reception will be held Friday, Aug. 9, from 5-6:30 p.m. On view through Aug. 28.

BIXBY MEMORIAL FREE LIBRARY

258 Main Street, Vergennes

For more info visit bixbylibrary.org or call 802-877-2211.

"A Panoply of Landscapes," a solo exhibit by Ken Corey, on display for the Bixby's Celestial Soirée, the library's annual fundraiser on Friday, May 31. From pastels, paintings, and prints, much of Corey's work is done en plein air. The exhibit features a painting of a planetary nebula inspired by Corey's love of Astronomy. On view through August.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call

802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Re-Assembly," a solo exhibition of new work by Jane Davies, featuring abstract mixed media paintings that grow from a vocabulary of elements of abstract painting; color, line, shape, texture, and pattern and the excitement of finding a common thread in a disparate group of gathered materials. On view Aug. 16-Sept. 29. Opening reception Thursday, Aug. 22, 5-6:30 p.m.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call

802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Purple Haze," a solo exhibition of paintings by Tim Horn, featuring scenes of the Bay area of northern California, Maine, near Monhegan and rural Vermont, a place where family connected him to the landscape. The collection reminds the viewer of the beauty that can be found in "the ordinary." On view through Sept. 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](https://www.instagram.com/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

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, you hold the key to success right now, so everyone wants to be in your corner. Take things in stride and maintain your focus while accepting all the support.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, it is important that you streamline your workflow this week; otherwise, you may not meet the deadlines imposed upon you. Start implementing a new strategy.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. This is the week to take the road less traveled, Gemini. Blaze your own trail, get out into the wilderness and possibly expand your horizons. A spontaneous idea like this can pay dividends.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, someone in your social circle could be shielding the truth and it may frustrate you. But you can't come out and accuse this person without proof. Step back for the time being.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23 An important relationship could be coming to an end for you, Leo. You could try to salvage things, but you have to look at the bigger picture and determine if it is good to move on.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, you have been coasting along without a firm direction for too long at this point. While it may have been working for you, you will soon fare better with a more concrete plan.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Be mindful of other people's situations before you engage with them, Libra. What may be a good time for you will not necessarily be ideal for those around you.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, someone in your life has proven worthy of more attention. Give this person a little extra love in the days to come, and direct your focus to having a good time.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Social activities seemingly bloom around you this week, Sagittarius. There could be so much going on that you don't know where to get started. Perhaps let friends lead the festivities.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Remember, Capricorn, others are not just listening to what you say, they are reading into your actions. Make sure you are genuine in both your words and gestures this week.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/ Feb. 18. This week you may have to take the first step in rekindling an important relationship, Aquarius. Are you ready to be the catalyst?

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. There is not much you can do about financial issues, Pisces. Make an effort to start spending less, which may be the catalyst for a real examination of your budget.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUG. 16 — Taika Waititi, actor, director (49)

AUG. 17 — V. S. Naipaul, writer (d)

AUG. 18 — Roberto Clemente, baseball player (d)

AUG. 19 — Ogden Nash, poet (d)

AUG. 20 — Jonathan Ke Quan, actor (53)

AUG. 21 — Usain Bolt, runner (38)

AUG. 22 — John Lee Hooker, blues musician (d)

CALENDAR

AUG. 15-23
2024



THURSDAY, AUG. 15

BREAD LOAF WRITER'S CONFERENCE IN RIPTON. Thursday, Aug. 15, Little Theater, Bread Loaf Campus, Route 125. Free public lectures and readings, including: "The Train Stops Here: Revision," a lecture by Margot Livesey at 9 a.m.; readings by Matthew Gellman, Diana Khoi Nguyen and Joseph Earl Thomas at 4:15 p.m., and readings by Carmen Giménez and Dinaw Mengestu at 8:15 p.m.

SEEKING FREEDOM GALLERY TALK - "ADDRESSING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS" IN FERRISBURGH.

Thursday, Aug. 15, 12:30-1 p.m., Rokeby Museum, 4334 Route 7. Join Rokeby 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.

"ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Aug. 15, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join THT's Young Company Classical when they perform in a Tony Award-winning absurdist comedy featuring a fabulously inventive tale of Hamlet's hapless childhood friends. It includes a Shakespearean adventure but the dialogue is contemporary. More info at townhalltheater.org.

"STEEL MAGNOLIAS" ON STAGE IN VERGENNES. Thursday, Aug. 15, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Middlebury Community Players

presents Robert Harling's affectionate look at six formidable women who meet at Truvy Jones's beauty salon, the social center of Chinquapin, Louisiana, and face whatever destiny brings them together, united with humor and courage. More info and tickets at middleburycommunityplayers.org/shows.

FRIDAY, AUG. 16

BREAD LOAF WRITER'S CONFERENCE IN RIPTON. Friday, Aug. 16, Little Theater, Bread Loaf Campus, Route 125. Free public lectures and readings, including: Mat Johnson, "See, What Had Happened Was: Life's Story" at 9 a.m.; readings by Jessamine Chan, Garrard Conley and Crystal Hana Kim at 4:15 p.m.; and readings by Lauren Francis-Sharma and Sally Keith at 8:15 p.m.

THE ART OF THE PIG SILENT AUCTION IN BRANDON. Friday, Aug. 16-Sunday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. View and bid on 85 uniquely decorated pig shaped boards as part of Brandon Artists Guild's fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds will go to local schools for art supplies. More info at brandonartistsguild.org/events/art-of-the-pig-silent-auction.

CARILLONNEUR GEORGE MATTHEW JR. IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 16, 3 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. This year's series features Friday concerts in August, and a new Fall Festival on Saturdays in September and October. Free and open to the public.

JAVA SPARROW IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 16, 5-7 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Free music by the Vineyard pond. Wine available for purchase.

"ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Aug. 15 listing.

"STEEL MAGNOLIAS" ON STAGE IN VERGENNES. Friday, Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See Aug. 15 listing.

SATURDAY, AUG. 17

BREAD LOAF WRITER'S CONFERENCE IN RIPTON. Saturday, Aug. 17, Little Theater, Bread Loaf Campus, Route 125. Free public lectures and readings: "Lavish Syntax," a lecture by Rick Barot at 9 a.m.; readings by Jenny Johnson, Laura Marris and Joe Milan Jr. at 4:30 p.m.; and readings by Paul Lisicky and Adrian Matejka at 8:15 p.m.

THE ART OF THE PIG SILENT AUCTION IN BRANDON. Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. See Aug. 17 listing.

MACO NEW PLAY FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 17, 1 p.m., ART Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. "Hands of the Mother" by Karina Jutzi. A modern-

day retelling of the Demeter and Persephone myth that asks if (and how) we ever leave our mothers. More info at townhalltheater.org/event/maco-new-play-festival.

MOUNT INDEPENDENCE-HUBBARDTON MILITARY ROAD CAR TOUR. Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., begins at Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. Jim Rowe, historian of the Crown Point Road Association, is your leader to look at the 1776 Mount Independence-Hubbardton Military Road. The tour will travel to the Hubbardton Battlefield.

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 from 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 Pockock Rocks Music Festival & Street Fair supports the community-building efforts of Bristol CORE.

KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, Aug. 17, 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.

"STEEL MAGNOLIAS" ON STAGE IN

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.

<p>MCTV Channel 1071 Friday, August 16 Through the Night: 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. Press Conf., Public Affairs Saturday, August 17 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Energy Week 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. Green Mountain (GM) Care Board 9:30 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs Sunday, August 18 Through the Night: Public Affairs 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs</p>	<p>4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 8:30 p.m. GM Care Board Monday, August 19 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8 p.m. GM Care Board Tuesday, August 20 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Green Mountain Care Board 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 7 p.m. Selectboard 11 p.m. Energy Week Wednesday, August 21 Through the Night: Press Conf., Public Affairs 4 a.m. Green Mountain Care Board 6:30 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Thursday, August 22 Through the Night: Public Affairs 8 a.m. Congregational Services 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8:30 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Gov. Scott Channel 1091 Friday, August 16 4 a.m. Selections from Vermont's Summer Music Series 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Tai Chi 10 a.m. Seven Storytellers on the theme of Mixed Messages 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 9 p.m. All Brains Belong Saturday, August 17 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. All Brains Belong 7:01 a.m. AVANT Vermont Dance - Thumbelina</p>	<p>7:41 a.m. Live Painting with Kim and the Owl Stars 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 6 p.m. The Parish Players of Thetford 7:42 p.m. Summer Music Series Sunday, August 18 6 a.m. School Board Meetings 12 p.m. Woodstock Poetry Festival 1 p.m. All Brains Belong 5 p.m. First Tuesdays - Ashley Wolff 5:47 p.m. Word Time with Miss Markee 6 p.m. Arts and Performance Monday, August 19 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7 a.m. Tai Chi 7:25 a.m. Word Time with Miss Markee 8 a.m. School Board Meetings 2 p.m. First Tuesdays - Ashley Wolff 3 p.m. Parkapalooza 4:30 p.m. All Brains Belong 5:31 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Tuesday, August 20 4 a.m. Summer Music Series 6 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 12:02 p.m. Montpelier Brown Bag Concerts</p>	<p>2:30 p.m. Classicopia Fabulous Females 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Summer Music Series 9 p.m. Hannaford Career Center Board Meeting Wednesday, August 21 4:30 a.m. Summer Music Series 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Tai Chi 8:25 a.m. Word Time with Miss Markee 9 a.m. First Tuesdays - Ashley Wolff 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 7 p.m. Cantabile Women's Voices 8:04 p.m. Ethan Allen Homestead Thursday, August 22 4:30 a.m. Summer Music Series 7:30 a.m. Tai Chi 8 a.m. Chair Yoga 9 a.m. First Tuesdays - Ashley Wolff 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5:30 p.m. VT Master Naturalist-Rocky Rambles in Boyer StatenForest 6:30 p.m. Summer Music Series 8 p.m. School Board Meeting/s</p>
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VERGENNES. Saturday, Aug. 17, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See Aug. 15 listing.

SUNDAY, AUG. 18

BREAD LOAF WRITER'S CONFERENCE IN RIPTON. Sunday, Aug. 18, Little Theater, Bread Loaf Campus, Route 125. Free public lectures and readings: "An Atlas of Everything: Maps, Unseen Worlds and Writing," a lecture by Samantha Hunt, at 9 a.m. and readings by Lydi Conklin, Jesse Nathan and Jennifer Grotz at 4:15 p.m.; and readings by Catherine Barnett and Ladee Hubbard at 8:15 p.m.

THE ART OF THE PIG SILENT AUCTION IN BRANDON. Sunday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. See Aug. 17 listing. "Bites & Bidding" from 2-4 p.m.; refreshments, an opportunity to meet the artists and a final chance to post that winning bid.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FIDDLERS IN BRANDON. Sunday, Aug. 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., American Legion, Franklin St. \$3 cover, 50/50 raffle, door prize, refreshments available.

MUSHROOM EXPLORATION WALK WITH MEG MADDEN IN ORWELL. Sunday, Aug. 18, 1-3 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. Mushroom expert Meg Madden leads a walk to look for and learn about mushrooms on Mount Independence. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Limited spaces; call 802-948-2000 well ahead of time to reserve your spot. Included in regular museum admission: Cost included with admission: Adults \$12/children 6-14 \$4/children under 6

free/family pass \$30.

MACO NEW PLAY FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Aug. 18, 1 p.m., ART Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. "Watershed" by Susan Palmer. While sheltering in a church during Vermont's 2023 flood, 16-year-old Charlotte grows increasingly anxious about the safety of a friend whose home is flooding. Determined to take action, she enlists the help of a troubled stranger at the shelter and together they drive out into the flood. Her disappearance sparks panic in her mother and sets off a chain of events more frightening than the flood itself. Watershed explores themes of loss, climate anxiety and what it means to grow up in the world that we currently inhabit.

"STEEL MAGNOLIAS" ON STAGE IN VERGENNES. Sunday, Aug. 18, 2 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See Aug. 15 listing.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU'S POETRY IN RIPTON. Sunday, Aug. 18, 3 p.m., Ripton Community Church, 1329 Route 125, village center. Jim Stapleton and Diana Bigelow will present a one-hour performance piece with commentary featuring the poetry of Henry David Thoreau. Q & A session to follow. Free.

OPEN POLLINATOR GARDEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Aug. 18, 3-5 p.m., Middlebury Area Community Garden,

north side of Porter Hospital, 55 Collins Dr. Come wander through this carefully curated pollinator garden called "Megan's Meadow" specializing in native pollinator plants. Created by members of the Middlebury Area Community Garden. Representatives from Pollinator Pathway and the Community Garden will be available to answer questions and to help guide you toward creating habitats for pollinators, birds and other wildlife in your own landscape. Free.

MACO NEW PLAY FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Aug. 18, 4 p.m., ART Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. "Aristotle's King" by Dana Yeaton and Colston Merrell. On a hissing summer day in ancient Athens, Aristotle leads his students deep into the forest with an urgent secret: Alexander the Great has died. Now the philosopher must flee for his life — the victim of shifting political tides. In the fever dream of his escape, Aristotle relives the three tumultuous years he served as tutor to the boy who would conquer the world. As that world reckons with Alexander's legacy,

Aristotle and his students are left to reckon with his own.

MONDAY, AUG. 19

BREAD LOAF WRITER'S CONFERENCE IN RIPTON. Monday, Aug. 19, Little Theater, Bread Loaf Campus, Route 125. Free public lectures and readings: A lecture by Marie-Helene Bertino, "Revision as an Act of Autonomy," at 10 a.m.; and readings by Rick Barot and Rebecca Makkai at 8:15 p.m.

"REFLECTIONS: THE FIRST DECADE OF MNFF" WITH JAY CRAVEN AND LLOYD KOMESAR IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, Aug. 19, 5-6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join MNFF Artistic Director Craven and MNFF Producer Komesar as they walk through the memorable moments of the first decade of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, using Festival trailers and vintage photos as their guide. Recollections and reminiscences from the audience are most welcome along the way. And enjoy the open bar. Free.

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 12



Point CounterPoint

Final two performances of the Season!

Thursday, August 22
Salisbury Meeting House
853 Maple St. Salisbury

Saturday, August 31
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 <p>THE HANDS OF THE MOTHER BY KARINA JUTZI SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1PM</p>	 <p>WATERSHED BY SUSAN PALMER SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 1PM</p>	 <p>ARISTOTLE'S KING BY DANA YEATON & COLE MERRELL SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 4PM</p>
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TRAVEL

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Gliding upstream in the Apalachicola River delta.

PHOTOS/ JUDITH HARRIS

Oh! You're going on vacation again!" We hear this frequently while preparing to depart...

BY **JUDITH & STEVE HARRIS**

Brace yourself. Embarking on a multi-month road trip, pulling your miniature home along, involves preparation and "chores" as well as expectations of new experiences and indelible memories. A

great deal of the mundane requires attention, what a Zen Buddhist would call "chopping wood and carrying water." The memories that endure consist of great vistas; carefully composed images of sky, sand, water, mountains and famous landmarks. The effort to collect these is littered with the grittier obstacles of traffic, reservations, grocery shopping, doing laundry in someone else's machines, making, then breaking camp and repairing the things that wear out. The proportion feels like prospecting for gold; a great deal of repetitive labor invested in the obsessive pursuit of a mother lode of the delightful. We have evolved into habits of deliberate meandering and work to better

enjoy the far-more-ordinary tasks that are easier to endure than to savor. It takes patience to appreciate the journey as much as the destination.

Our version of RV life is based on a few simple objectives. Our primary goal is to stay active and remain outdoors as much as possible during the winter. Cabin fever is a real thing in Vermont. The antidote we seek is more daylight and the adventure of new environments and people we have not yet met.

A second urge is to counter the shrinking uniqueness of all American places. We understand our contribution to each destination's fate of diminished character by driving restlessly to find it and taking up the few remaining spaces available to pause and enjoy it. As Pogo once opined, "We have met the enemy, and he is us." Shallow footprints on the landscapes we are drawn to enjoy are the only evidence we hope to leave behind.

The most satisfying feature of our sojourns is to experience new places through the eyes of the people that live there. We both have great respect for our hosts. Seeing how ordinary

folks from extraordinary places manage their affairs and engaging with them personally, are the greatest rewards of moving around in unfamiliar places. The stunning sights that create unforgettable impressions are rare and fugitive. Far more accessible are the smaller, deeply stirring, quieter moments — like a campfire by a river, a sunset on a quiet beach walk with your partner and your dog, or a good conversation with folks you just met. We appreciate the small things and let the big moments come when they choose to find us.

At the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (Eastpoint, Fla.), a well-manicured boardwalk trail around the outreach center includes a telescope mounted on a handrail of the bay overlook. The Reserve exists to introduce the curious to the natural systems and creatures that make this Nature Coast region unique. Like the entire facility, the telescope is free for anybody to use, even when the main building is closed. My corgi Stella and I visit almost every morning as part of an hour's constitutional walk that follows our breakfasts. As luck would have it, one of the volunteers at the ANERR enthusiastically mentioned that a female great horned owl had

moved into an unoccupied osprey nest of which the telescope has a clear view. There she is! Sitting on her eggs, upright and quietly alert day after day. Patience with feathers, her dedication and attention to her task is an inspiration.

"One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, 'What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?'" — Rachel Carson

A LIFE WELL-LIVED

Ron Bloodworth is an example of a graceful native living an admirable life. We tracked him down through a small sign on his boat docked at the public marina in Apalachicola. Known professionally as "Papa Ron," a water guide for hire (the latest in a long series of "careers"), he agreed to show us the lower 12 miles of the Apalachicola River delta with his patented half-day tour.

His restored and rare camper-boat, "Memory" cuts a unique profile. She was originally designed and built in Florida in the 1960s to be trailered to a campground, slept in, then launched into the water when the spirit so-moved the campers. Picture a 22-foot long, enclosed V hull drawing only 22 inches of water with a 70-horsepower outboard and a retrofitted marine toilet on board. It looked perfectly suited to our sense of quiet and private adventure.

Once we connected by phone, we agreed on the best-looking weather forecast for the coming week and got it. It turned out to be a picture-perfect Valentine's Day; cloudless, temperature in the mid-60s with a light breeze. We met Ron at his boat at 11 a.m. After getting our picnic lunch and corgi aboard, we pushed off into the channel. Ron navigated through tight quarters with an occasional elbow-nudge of the controls while simultaneously outlining his intended route on a tired 8 1/2 x 11 black and white xerox of the delta. Detailed river maps or nautical charts are quite rarely in use on the river. It was clear to us he had no chance of getting lost, so we put the

map aside for the day.

For the next four hours, Ron proved to be a talker... never intrusively-so but nearly continuously offering up his personal history, local fables, wildlife tales and river moods of all kinds. His employment history includes, in approximate order, all the following pursuits: fishing, leaving high school and home to pitch in the minor leagues for eight years, fishing, marriage and fatherhood, fishing, dredging for river-bottom masonry sand, fishing, placing and finishing concrete, fishing, home construction and development, fishing, paint factory management, fishing, real estate brokering and, you guessed it, fishing. He still captains two boats, one for tours and a second for yup, fishing.

Our second river exploration of this the season, this one justified a guide to safely execute a journey from a bay on the salt-water Gulf to the mouth of a complex river delta. Ron took us inland nearly 12 miles and did so while joining and departing three tributaries with names, and multiple streams and lagoons without. Each body of flowing water had its own speed, color and depth (from three to over 40 feet). Points of interest were recalled by the captain for a fish taken, an alligator seen, or a wild boar heard in the reeds.

Ron began fishing for speckled trout with a handline from a rowboat and selling the catch on his way to grammar school in the fourth grade. He earned enough to purchase his first outboard. At 87 years young, he still guides and puts the clueless angler onto fish. He has taught himself the impact of river flow, water temperature, salinity, tidal reach, depth and bottom materials on the mating and migration habits of a very large variety of salt and fresh-water native fish. As he has taught through long experience, you need to fish where and when the fish thrive, not where or when it strikes your fancy.

In his life, Ron has seen the Town of Apalachicola with seven feet of storm surge in its streets,



Great Horned Owl sits in an osprey's nest.

and watched the whole region shrivel and nearly dissolve after the Second World War. He was here when oystering flourished and then watched it collapse. The harvesting of coastal pine and paper mill

construction boomed for 20 years and then was abandoned. The most recent boom in second-home development and tourism currently dominates the local economy, and Ron is still contributing as a real estate broker with a genuine depth of knowledge, having built some of the properties himself. Through it all, he has reacted with the utility of a Swiss Army Knife, managing all these changes with creative energy and the visual twinkle of good company.

The Apalachicola River was running high after a wet winter, so our three-hour, circuitous push against the flow was followed by a downstream return of only an hour. We never saw the same riverbanks twice, and during the entire afternoon, we had Ron to ourselves as there was not another human to be seen.

Exploring exotic shorelines is dramatic and thrilling. Having them interpreted by a loquacious, capable and kindly native is magic. We compared notes with Chester, an old friend of Ron's (and owner of our RV park) the following day. He asked if we believed everything Ron had told us. I said that it didn't occur to me to worry about that, because the way the stories were related was so entertaining. Chester said that Ron was incapable of fibbing, even when surrounded by a long line of interested women in his youth. The whole experience felt like a personalized invitation to invest more time in the area and return for another dose of Forgotten Coast education next year.

— sbh



Papa Ron at the helm of his restored camperboat with Stella in his lap.



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.

PUZZLES

sponsored by **SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

ACROSS

- 1. Mongolian city __ Bator
- 5. Coconut palms
- 10. Rounded knob
- 14. Japanese city
- 15. Type of sandwiches
- 16. A type of shape
- 17. Son of Shem
- 18. French modernist painter
- 19. Grandmother
- 20. Mammary gland of female cattle
- 22. Hill or rocky peak
- 23. Secret political clique
- 24. Songs to one's beloved
- 27. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 30. Father
- 31. Chinese

- philosophical principle
- 32. Restrict the number or amount of
- 35. Combined into a single entity
- 37. Brother or sister
- 38. Evil spirit
- 39. Materials in the earth's crust
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Of the sun
- 42. Baseball great Ty
- 43. After B
- 44. Place to relax on the beach
- 45. Folk singer DiFranco
- 46. Partly digested food
- 47. Small dog breed
- 48. Japanese honorific
- 49. Salts
- 52. Beard moss genus
- 55. Mountain pass
- 56. Type of sword

- 60. Albanian language
- 61. Metric weight unit
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Longtime late night host
- 65. Extremely angry
- 66. Wading bird
- 67. Days in mid-month
- 68. Omitted from printed matter
- 69. Upper body part

DOWN

- 1. Two-toed sloth
- 2. Cooking ingredient
- 3. Iranian city
- 4. Accuses
- 5. Corrie
- 6. Delivered a speech
- 7. Collection of sacred books
- 8. Theatrical
- 9. Very fast airplane

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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64						65					66			
67						68					69			

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						1		
			5					7
	9			7	4			8
		2				9	1	
				8			5	
	8	6	7					

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

- 10. Arm bones
- 11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 12. __ fide: legit
- 13. Gemstone
- 21. Counsels
- 23. Corporate bigwig
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Touch lightly
- 27. Small Milky Way constellation
- 28. Satirical website
- 29. Border lines
- 32. Soft drinks
- 33. Capital of Guam
- 34. Six-membered ring (chemistry)
- 36. Bar bill
- 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. Notable Bill Murray character
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Gurus
- 43. A passage with access only at one end
- 44. Reduce
- 46. Spy organization
- 47. The upper surface of
- the mouth
- 49. Plants of the lily family
- 50. Type of reef
- 51. Oral polio vaccine developer
- 52. Mottled citrus fruit
- 53. Lose
- 54. Former Brazilian NBAer
- 57. Baseball great Ruth
- 58. __ Clapton, musician
- 59. Chance
- 61. Spanish soldier
- 62. CNN's founder

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.



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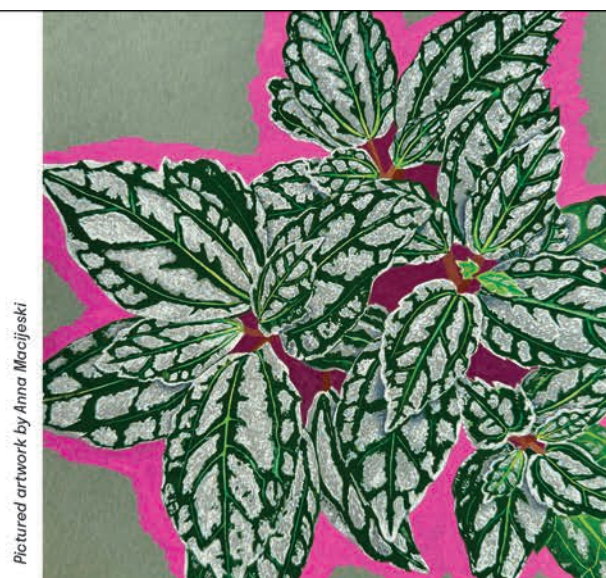
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99th season of Breadloaf begins

Middlebury Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the oldest writers' conference in the country, opened its 99th session on Wednesday, Aug. 14; it will run through Saturday, Aug.

24. Held every summer since 1926 on Middlebury's Bread Loaf campus in Ripton, the conference remains one of America's most respected literary institutions.

Ten days of workshops, lectures, classes and readings provide writers with rigorous practical and theoretical approaches to their craft. The mountain campus has attracted many renowned authors and poets such as Robert Frost, Carson McCullers, John Irving, Terry Tempest Williams, Ted Conover and Julia Alvarez.

"What makes Bread Loaf exciting is its ability to serve as a source of encouragement to writers in their more formative years," said Jennifer Grotz, director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conferences, including the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in August and also the Environmental Writers' Conference and the Translators' Conference that take place concurrently in June. "The talent of the experienced writers on our faculty, the stunning setting, and the conference's history combine to inspire budding poets and authors as they find their voices and work on their craft of poetry, fiction or nonfiction."

This year, more than 260 writers, students, faculty, literary agents, and editors are gathering to participate in the conference. The general public is invited to attend a daily schedule of free readings and lectures that take place in the Little Theater, located on the Bread Loaf campus on Route 125.

The 2024 series of public events began on

Wednesday, Aug. 14, with a welcome by Middlebury President Laurie L. Patton and Grotz, who is the author of four books of poetry, most recently "Still Falling," as well as "Window Left Open," "The Needle" and "Cusp." Also a translator, she's published two books of translations from French.

Special guest Xochitl Gonzalez was due to read from her work. Gonzalez is the *New York Times* bestselling author of "Olga Dies Dreaming." Named a Best of 2022 by the *New York Times*, *TIME*, *Kirkus*, *Washington Post*, and NPR, Gonzalez's book "Olga Dies Dreaming" was the winner of the Brooklyn Public Library Book Prize in Fiction and

SEE BREADLOAF ON PAGE 15

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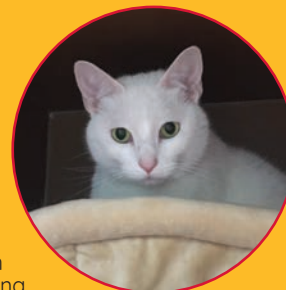
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Pets In Need HOMeward BOUND Addison County's Humane Society

Fancy

My name is **Fancy** and I am an independent and gorgeous girl. I can be affectionate at times, but I mostly prefer to be admired at a distance. Temptations are my favorite snack and I also enjoy wet food. I have a bit of a cranky side and Homeward Bound is working on mellowing me out. I am an indoor-only cat and have not gotten along with cats or dogs but I can live with children who respect my boundaries.



Guppy

My name is **Guppy** and I am an energetic and shy girl. I arrived with 7 other cats, some of whom are my sisters! We get along really well and could be adopted in pairs. I enjoy cuddling and playing with them. My tongue is almost always out and I take really good photos! I am a little shy of people and am getting used to being pet. I am comfortable being around people, but am nervous of being approached. The nice staff at Homeward Bound is hard at work to get me comfortable being around people, and I have already made great progress.



James Bond

James Bond is one of our available kittens! He is about 4 months old and was surrendered as a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). James Bond is a solid black, male. Please note that kittens are in high demand and we suggest submitting an application if you are interested in a specific gender, color, or coat length. We cannot place kittens on hold.



Princess

My name is **Princess** and I am a beautiful and sweet 8-year-old girl. I am really relaxed and affectionate! If you are looking for a low-maintenance, cuddly cat please adopt me. I was friendly with other cats in my previous home but I have no experience with dogs.



Smurf

My name is **Smurf** and I am a nervous 1-year-old boy. I was previously an indoor/outdoor cat and have unfortunately been adopted and returned. I have been shy since returning, but I have been very affectionate with certain staff/volunteers. The cats in my room make me more comfortable and I would like to be adopted into a home with another cat. I have no experience with dogs.



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

CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

CITY BAND IN VERGENNES. Monday, Aug. 19, 7-8 p.m., City Green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

TUESDAY, AUG. 20

BREAD LOAF WRITER'S CONFERENCE IN RIPTON. Tuesday, Aug. 20, Little Theater, Bread Loaf Campus, Route 125. Free public lectures and readings: "Between the Lines: On the Function Word," a lecture by Carmen Giménez at 9 a.m.; readings by James Allen Hall, Robert Wood Lynn, Mai Nardone and Cleyvis Natera at 4:15 p.m.; and readings by Marie-Helene Bertino and Mark Wunderlich at 8:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Aug. 21. Celebrating its milestone 10th year, the MNFF retains its sole focus — to showcase the feature films and short films of outstanding first- and second-time filmmakers from around the world. More than 120 films on 6 screens, a diverse array of features and

shorts across all genres, as selected by MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven. Plus panels and parties. Screenings at Town Hall Theater, Marquis Theatre, and Middlebury College's Wilson Hall, Dana Auditorium and Twilight Hall. Festival Pass \$120. Continues through Sunday. More info at midffilmfest.org or townhalltheater.org.

BREAD LOAF WRITER'S CONFERENCE IN RIPTON. Wednesday, Aug. 21, Little Theater, Bread Loaf Campus, Route 125. Free public lectures and readings: "Saying Yes to Life: On James Baldwin's Giovanni's Room," a lecture by Garth Greenwell at 9 a.m.; and readings by Jenny Bouly and Mat Johnson at 4:15 p.m.

EXTRA STOUT IN BRANDON. Wednesday, Aug. 21, 6 p.m., behind the Brandon Inn. Vermont's premier Irish band, brought to you by Brandon's Music On The Riverbend series. Free.

SANCTUARY IN FERRISBURGH. Wednesday, Aug. 21, 7-9 p.m., Basin Harbor, 4800 Basin Harbor Rd. Join Basin Harbor for their free summer concert series. Open to the public.

NORTHERN SPY AND ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Aug. 21, 5-9 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 N. 116 Rd. Hear live music in The Tillerman's barn. Music is free. Northern Spy 5-6:30 p.m., followed by Albany Sound (Michael Chorney, Lowell Thompson, Pat Melvin and Jeremy Frederick) 7-9 p.m.

BLUES NIGHT IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Aug. 21, 6 p.m., Ralph Myhre Golf Course, 317 Golf Course Rd. Free music with drinks and nosh available for purchase. Open to the public.

TOWN BAND ON THE GREEN IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Aug. 21, 7-8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit back and enjoy this 150-year tradition.

THURSDAY, AUG. 22

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Aug. 22. See Aug. 21 listing.

BREAD LOAF WRITER'S CONFERENCE IN RIPTON. Thursday, Aug. 22, Little Theater, Bread Loaf Campus, Route 125. Free public lectures and readings: A lecture by Mark Wunderlich, "The Posthumous Self: The Poet as Clairvoyant," at 9 a.m.; readings by Pemi Aguda, Erin Marie Lynch and Samantha Hunt at 4:15 p.m.; and readings by Jamel Brinkley and Margot Livesey.

MT. PHILO GUIDED HIKE IN CHARLOTTE. Thursday, Aug. 22, 9:30 a.m., Mt. Philo. Ferrisburgh resident and author Judy Chaves will lead one of her popular history-focused guided hikes of Mt. Philo as part of the 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. Free. Tickets required at tinyurl.

com/Mt-Philo-history-hike.

POINT COUNTERPOINT FACULTY CONCERT IN SALISBURY. Thursday, Aug. 22, 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Congregational Church, 853 Maple St. Admission is free, and goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

FRIDAY, AUG. 23

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 23. See Aug. 21 listing.

BREAD LOAF WRITER'S CONFERENCE IN RIPTON. Friday, Aug. 23, Little Theater, Bread Loaf Campus, Route 125. Free public lectures and readings: "Can't Go Over It, Can't Go Under It," a lecture by Rebecca Makkai, at 9 a.m.; readings by Amber Caron, Ricardo Nuila and Paul Tran at 4:15 p.m.; and readings by Garth Greenwell and Helen Schulman at 8:15 p.m.

HOGBACK HOLLOW IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 23, 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 So Full Sisters.

CARILLONNEUR GEORGE MATTHEW JR. IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 23, 6-7 p.m., Middlebury Chapel lawn. Matthew performs as part of Middlebury College's Summer Carillon Series. Free and open to the public.

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME!



Barnes Road, Whiting, VT 05778
MLS # 5002820 \$229,000

Imagine building your dream home on a sprawling 56 acre property on a tranquil country road. This expansive piece of land is a picturesque blend of diverse landscapes. Gently rolling pastures and stretches of woodland, a haven for wildlife, perfect for quiet nature walks. The mix of woods and open pastures creates a versatile environment, promising both beauty and utility. The site has been permitted with the state for construction of a three bedroom septic system. 20 minutes to Middlebury.



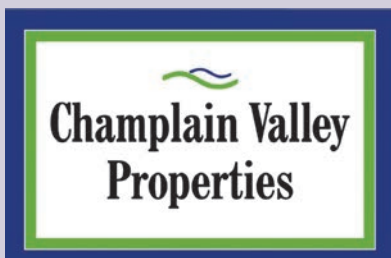
144 Cedar Drive, Addison, VT 05491
MLS #5006918 \$75,000

Mostly wooded 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.



South Street, New Haven VT 05472
MLS #5008036 \$295,000

This lovely parcel of land has just been subdivided from a larger parcel. There is a very nice open area closer to the road and a large, wooded area behind. There are lovely Adirondack views. The land is in current use, but owner is redoing the current use plan and will leave a 2-acre building site out of current use. Easy access to Chittenden County and to the Middlebury area.



70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT
802-989-7522 | ChamplainValleyProperty.net



REAL ESTATE

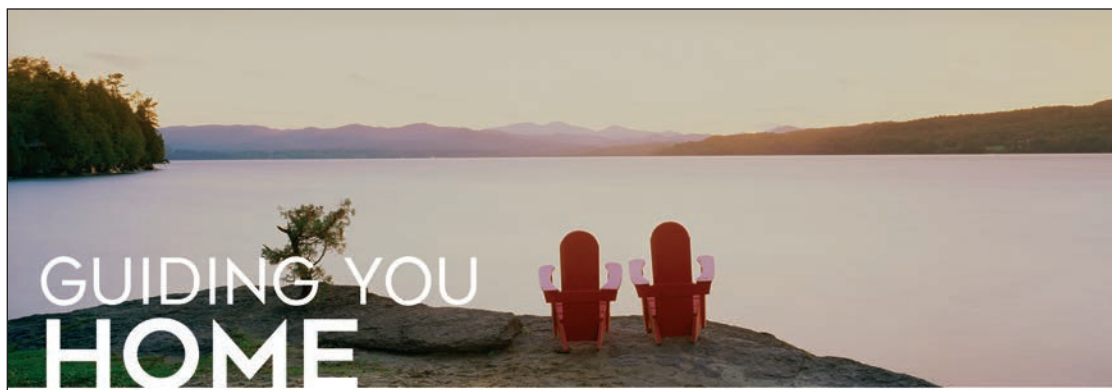
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777.

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AUG. 15, 2024

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**MIDDLEBURY NEW LISTING!
70 MAPLE STREET, UNIT 301**

MLS #5009299 | \$479,000
1 BD | 1.5 BA | 1024 SF

Live in town and enjoy the view of the falls from this beautiful condo at the Marbleworks! You'll love the spacious, open floor plan. The gourmet kitchen features painted hardwood cabinets, quartz countertops and gleaming white appliances. Dining/living area faces east and is flooded with natural light. You'll enjoy the balcony to take in the rooftops view into town while listening to the soothing sound of the falls! The large bedroom has a walk-in closet and its own bath with double sinks. Custom designed powder room off the entry built by Millbridge Construction. This unit comes with one underground, heated parking space and lockable storage. A stone's throw away from the summer farmers market, restaurants, shopping, and Middlebury College. Find walking trails and easy access to the Otter Creek for paddling or a picnic. A lovely spot to enjoy all that Middlebury has to offer!



**CORNWALL
NORTH BINGHAM STREET**

MLS #5005260 | \$325,000
19.46 ACRES

Buy it now, plan over the winter! Nestle your dream home in an apple orchard! Septic permit will allow for a four-bedroom single-family home. Possibilities for subdivision.



**SALISBURY
396 WEST SHORE ROAD**

MLS #4993857 | \$189,500
2 BD | 1 BA | 444 SF

There is still time to enjoy the season! Seasonal camp is furnished and ready to enjoy. Screened porch, sandy beach, and lakeside concrete deck. Dues cover a portion of maintenance!

ipjrealestate.com

34 Main Street, downtown Middlebury
info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Bogonovich, Cameron Davis, Pamela Fraser and Wylie Garcia. On view Aug. 3-Sept. 28.

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.

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. 17.



WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT DOOR

Local musician hosts benefit concert for Turning Point Center

Brandon-based musician Breanna Elaine has taken matters into her own hands after her close friend died of a drug overdose. She will soon be releasing her new single "Where the snakes live" — a tribute to her late friend — at an event that will raise money for Turning Point Center Rutland, a non profit substance recovery center.

The all-ages benefit concert will take place on Aug. 17, at Merchants Hall in Rutland. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show starting at 7:30 p.m. The entry fee is a suggested donation of \$15.

Half of ticket sales from this event will be donated directly to Turning Point Center Rutland. Also to be donated is all of the profit from a raffle that gives event goers the chance to win a variety of prizes ranging from goods to gift cards donated by businesses in Rutland.

The entertainment for this event includes Breanna's band "Breanna & The Boys" playing

a set of unique original folk rock music with special guest Emma Jeanne Hoops, a flow arts performer from Brandon. Plus, sweets-lovers can indulge in a piece of "snake cake" made by Middlebury's Thistle and Honey Bakery.

Can't make the performance on Aug. 17? Consider supporting Breanna Elaine's goal "to raise awareness of the drug epidemic and resources for those in our community" by supporting her indiegogo campaign at indiegogo.com/projects/where-the-snakes-live-project. For more info about Breanna Elaine and her music visit breannaelaine.com.

"THIS PROJECT IS IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF OUR LATE FRIEND JEREMY THEIRAULT AND IS DESIGNED TO BRING AWARENESS TO THE DRUG AND OPIOID EPIDEMIC THAT HAS BEEN PLAGUING OUR COUNTRY AND STEALING OUR LOVED ONES FROM US."



Brandon musician Breanna Elaine will release her new single "Where the snakes live" during a benefit concert on Saturday, Aug. 17, at Merchant's Hall in Rutland. Half of ticket sales from this event will be donated to Turning Point Center Rutland.

COURTESY PHOTO

BREADLOAF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

The New York City Book Awards. Her new novel is "Anita de Monte Laughs Last." As a staff writer for *The Atlantic*, she was recognized as a 2023 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Commentary. A

native Brooklynite and proud public school graduate, Gonzalez holds a B.A. from Brown University and an M.F.A. from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Later in the conference, on Sunday, Aug. 18, at 4:15 p.m., Grotz will offer a reading with Lydi Conklin and Jesse Nathan.

Other and authors participating in the conference include Garth Greenwell, Rebecca Makkai and Adrian Matejka.

For a complete schedule of lectures and readings, see the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Web page at middlebury.edu/writers-conferences/public-events or look in our calendar of events. Events are subject to change. Call to confirm dates and times at 802-443-2700.

ENJOY LAND WITH WATER FRONTAGE IN ADDISON COUNTY



644 Panton Road, Panton

This 6 acre building lot has 600± feet of frontage on Otter Creek that is just waiting for you to put your dock in. Jump in your boat and you can be on Lake Champlain in less than a half hour. Enjoy fishing, kayaking or canoeing right from your backyard, accessed from an existing mowed path. This level

lot will be easy to develop and is perfect for animals or gardens. The building area is encompassed on 3 sides by trees so you can be nestled back from the road for privacy and set safely above the Creek. When you want to venture out, you are minutes from the vibrant little city of Vergennes with their award winning restaurants and shops. In the summer you can enjoy band concerts in the park, the farmers market, the local swimming pool and the famous Memorial Day parade that goes right down Main Street. In the winter you can attend events at the Opera House or cozy up at the historic Bixby Library. The state and local permits are in hand for the 3 bedroom home of your dreams.

\$349,000

MLS #5001910



3139 Lake Street, Bridport

Here is an opportunity to combine 2 dreams into one property! Living on Lake Champlain and cultivating the land for agricultural business. This 343+-acre parcel includes 503' of Lake Champlain Frontage. Access to the lake is on the southern end of the property and is on a gentle slope for easy access. The land comes with a 4 bedroom historic brick home, farm buildings and a 3 BR farm labor home that needs rehab work or rebuilding. The parcel is in the Vermont Land Trust with 2 homestead parcels as well as an unbuild farm labor house site. The land is presently in current use and offers a combination highly productive farmland, barns and good forest production. The beauty of this parcel can't be described in words, green pastures, blue skies, the lake, distant mountains — come live your dream!

\$995,000

MLS #4956123



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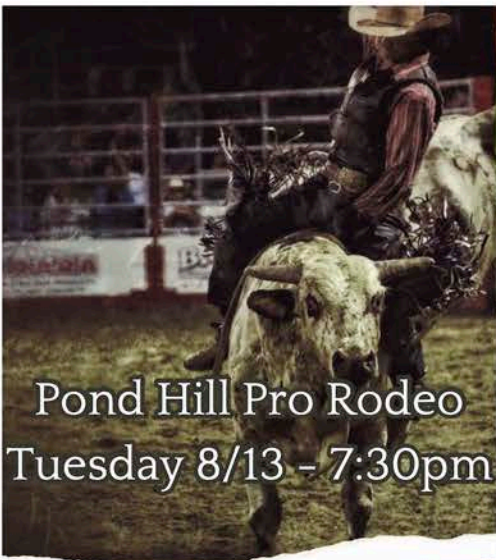
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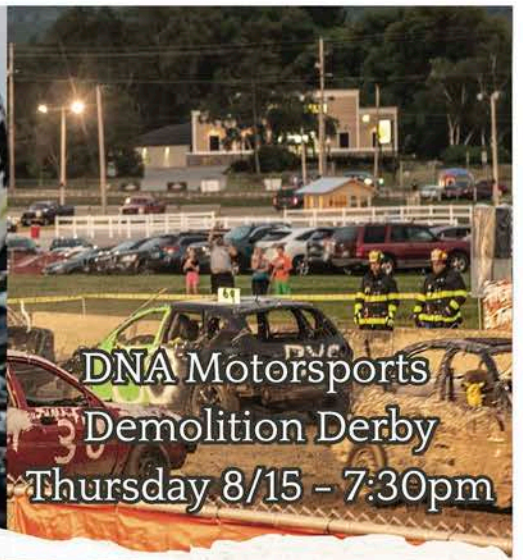




Pond Hill Pro Rodeo
Tuesday 8/13 - 7:30pm



RPM Promotions
Flat Track Motorcycle Racing
Friday 8/16 - 6:30pm



DNA Motorsports
Demolition Derby
Thursday 8/15 - 7:30pm

THE 178TH
Vermont State Fair
Diamonds and More
Grandstand

— *August 13 17 2024* —
RUTLAND, VT

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AUGUST 17
DIAMONDS AND MORE GRANDSTAND
AT THE VERMONT STATE FAIR



Saturday
8:15pm

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