



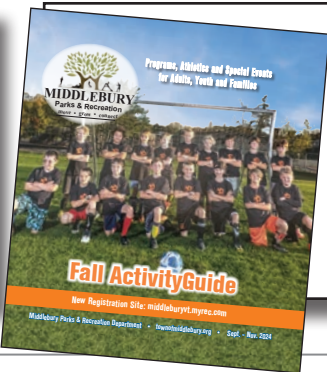
Lawyer poet

Cindy Ellen Hill uses words effectively in law and creative writing. See Arts + Leisure.



At the tape ...

A close finish highlighted the last Vermont Sun triathlon of the season. See Sports, Page 1B.



Seasonal fun

The Middlebury Rec. Department has lots to offer; check out the Fall Activity Guide inside.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Fun facials

STARKSBORO THREE-YEAR-OLD Shea Zeno holds her head very still while an artist gives her a leopard's countenance at the Pocock Rocks music and street festival in Bristol on Saturday. Her sister Nora, 5, and their friend Callie Szavejko, 5, of Monkton patiently wait. See more Pocock Rocks photos on Page 9A.

Independent photo/Steve James

High-speed internet rollout picks up steam

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — It's been a productive year for Maple Broadband, Addison County's nonprofit provider of high-speed fiber-optic internet service.

Maple Broadband has in 2024 already more than doubled its customer base, from 144 to 361. And with its partner Waitfield Champlain Valley Telecom doing the work in the field, Maple Broadband has also more than doubled the miles along which its fiber-optic cables are hung on utility poles, from 103.7 to 225.4 miles.

According to figures provided by Maple Broadband Executive Director Ellie de Villiers,

that also means the internet provider — one of 10 Vermont Communications Union Districts, or CUDs — has a potential customer base (also referred to as "passings") of 3,380, nearly triple that of the end of 2023.

"We're ahead of schedule in terms of our construction, and our revenue and installation forecasts are actually right on target," de Villiers said. "Overall, we're right where we expected to be, in a good place."

The work this year consists of what de Villiers called the completion of Phases 1 and 2. Most of Phase 1 was completed in 2023, but some of it wrapped up in February.

Phase 1 consists of portions of Shoreham, Cornwall, northern and eastern Orwell, and western Whiting, plus smaller parts of Salisbury west of Route 7 and even "tiny little corners of Middlebury and Leicester," according to de Villiers.

Phase 2 includes building a service hub in Vergennes and stringing cable to serve most of the city, de Villiers said, plus "portions of Ferrisburgh, most of Waltham, and New Haven and Monkton. Also, we've rounded out almost everything left in Orwell."

And just as this work was wrapping up, the

(See Broadband, Page 8A)



By the way

John Graham Housing & Services has established the "Nancy Slater Cobden Memorial Fund" in honor of the former JGHS board chair who died Feb. 4. Cobden was a board member for six years and a champion of the organization's mission to provide emergency shelter, affordable housing and essential services to individuals and families without a home or facing housing instability. Nancy Larrow and Sean Dye provided \$1,000 in seed funding for the fund. Donations to the fund will be dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of JGHS properties so they can continue to

(See By the way, Page 8A)

Jenny Urban takes reins at Bridport Central School

By JOHN FLOWERS

BRIDPORT — With a week to go before classes resume, newly minted Bridport Central School Principal Jenny Urban is busy arranging her office.

One of her first orders of business was assembling her favorite workplace adornment: A "why wall," which is a collage of pictures, cards and other memorabilia supplied by past students, colleagues and friends that reminds her why she became an educator.

It's a long list of reasons and it's led her to her first fulltime principalship after 12 years working in the Addison Central School District. Urban has

served the ACSD as a grades 1 and 2 classroom teacher, a paraeducator, an International Baccalaureate team leader, dean of students at



JENNY URBAN

Mary Hogan Elementary School, assistant principal of both Bridport and Shoreham elementary schools, and — most recently — as acting principal in Shoreham.

"It's an exciting time and I'm grateful to be here," Urban said during a recent interview at Bridport Central School, or BCS. "Even though

I'm a veteran in this district, I've been given the opportunity to kind of be 'new,' and receive the kind

(See Bridport, Page 11A)

Schools drive Midd tax hike

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury selectboard has set the fiscal year 2025 municipal tax rate of 88.94 cents per \$100 in property value, representing a 2.46-cent bump from the current rate of 86.48 cents.

But the municipal rate is just a fraction of the overall town property tax rate, which also reflects public

education expenses for the coming year. And, with the 2.8% increase in the municipal tax rate added to the 16.3% jump in the education tax rate, Middlebury homeowners will see a considerable jump in their tax bills.

Based on the Addison Central School District budget that Middlebury-area voters endorsed

(See Tax rate, Page 16A)

Porter eyeing a modest rate hike

Hospital sets FY25 budget priorities

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — State healthcare regulators on Aug. 28 will begin their review of Porter Medical Center's (PMC) proposed fiscal year 2025 budget, a spending plan that calls for base revenues of around \$234.5 million, which would require an increase of 4.2% in net patient revenues and a commercial rate increase of 2.99%.

It's a budget that contains no "significant changes in volumes or scope of services" compared to this year, according to Porter officials, and it reflects an effort by the county's hospital to cut

administrative costs and reduce its dependency on traveling healthcare workers who command premium salaries.

The proposed commercial rate bump of 2.99% falls within the Green Mountain Care Board's growth benchmark of 3.4% for FY25. It should be noted that PMC is able to meet that benchmark largely because as a Critical Access Hospital (CAH) it's eligible for full Medicare reimbursement (plus 1%) for the services it provides to Medicare-eligible clients. Non-CAH hospitals must contend

(See Porter budget, Page 8A)

Advisory vote set on big Panton solar array

By ANDY KIRKALDY

PANTON — When they go to the polls on Nov. 5, Panton residents will not only make their choices in political races, they'll also express their opinions on a proposal to site Vermont's largest solar array within the town's borders.

Multinational firm Freepoint Commodities LLC and its partner, SunEast Development LLC, have

proposed a 50-megawatt, 300-acre array on what is now mostly farmland west of Route 22A and along West Road. There are other companies involved in the project, which also calls for a transmission line to be built through Ferrisburgh to reach a Vergennes substation.

The ballot advisory question that the Panton selectboard approved for

(See Panton solar, Page 10A)

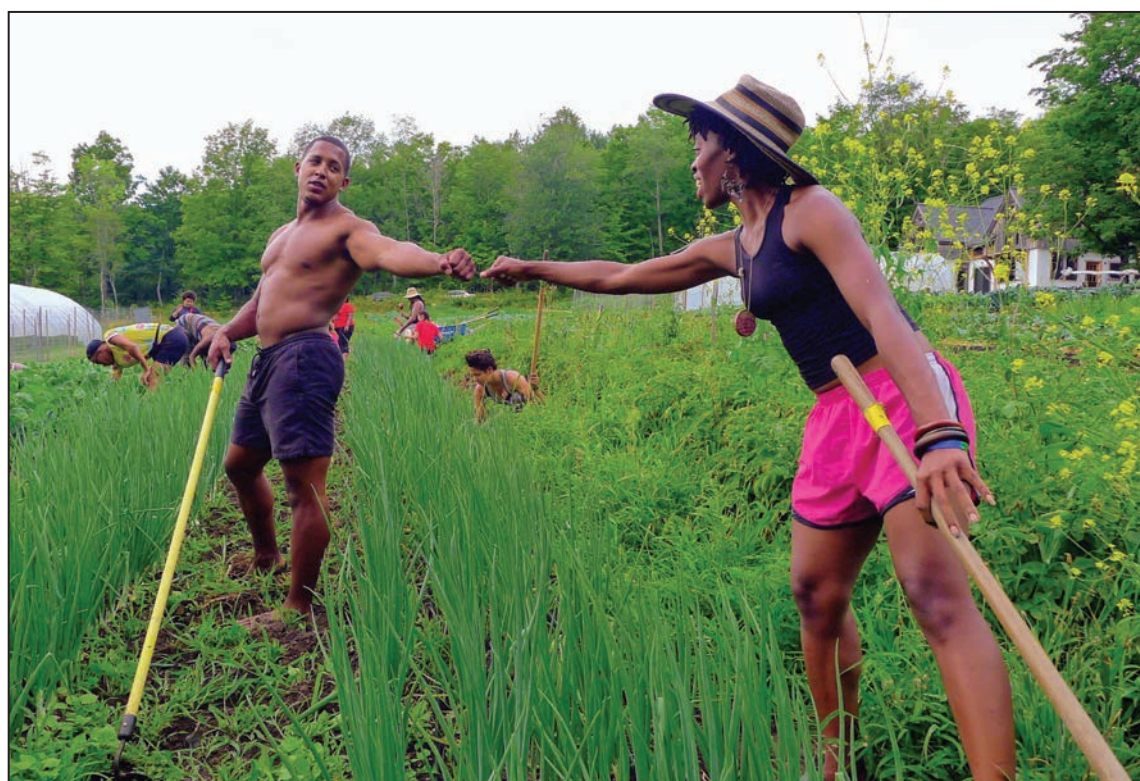
Screens come to life as 10th film festival begins

MIDDLEBURY — The 10th edition of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF), which kicked off in Middlebury on Wednesday, will feature screenings of 130 films (almost half of them feature-length). But in addition to the wide-ranging and high-quality images that will be seen on five screens around town, the festival

will host many talented filmmakers in person.

The most well-known name (perhaps after MNFF founding producer Lloyd Komesar and Artistic Director Jay Craven) will be four-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker Oliver Stone. Also look for Tony-, Pulitzer- and

(See MNFF 10, Page 10A)



BLACK PEOPLE WORKING the land at Soul Fire Farm learn about the healing power of soil and ending an unjust food system. The film "Farming While Black" will be screened in Middlebury Tuesday. Photo by Leah Penniman

BIPOC farmers facing challenges

Film shown locally paints picture of successes & obstacles

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — A century ago, Black farmers owned an estimated 14% of the country's farmland. By 2017, that number had dropped to below 2%.

The picture is similar here in the Green Mountain State, where just 17 of Vermont's 7,000 farms (or 0.33 percent) were Black- or African-American-owned in 2017.

Black farmers in Vermont and around the country have historically faced significant barriers in

owning farmland, from dispossession to systemic discrimination. In the face of those challenges, a rising generation of Black farmers is working to reclaim their agricultural heritage and ownership of the land in America.

"Farming While Black," a feature film based on the 2018 book of the same name written by Grafton, N.Y., farmer Leah Penniman, highlights the challenges faced by Black farmers in the country

(See Farmers, Page 16A)

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Addison residents vote to again Tuesday on the future repair of town hall

By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON — Due to a citizen petition, Addison residents this coming Tuesday, Aug. 27, will be asked to reconsider their November 2022 approval of a \$2,068,019 bond to fund restoration and renovation of Addison's former — and now vacant — 160-plus-year-old town hall on Route 22A into town offices and a community center.

Polls at the Addison Community Center (the former Central School) will be open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

On Nov. 8, 2022, residents voted in favor of the project, 322-262, or a 55-45% margin.

Addison has already invested heavily in an inground septic system to serve the building, the church next door, and other nearby town-owned property, as well as in creating architectural drawings and estimates for the building's

rehabilitation.

That work is set to include all new plumbing and wiring as well as structural work, interior reconfiguration, and handicap accessibility provisions.

Selectboard Chair Jeff Kauffman said the board received a resident's petition seeking the revote. The petition had more than 5% of town voters' signatures, according to town officials. The board then decided to approve a vote to rescind the bond, as well as two related articles.

"This is a citizen's petition, and the board chose to allow it to be voted on," Kauffman wrote in an email.

He said selectmen in scheduling the vote took into consideration rising property taxes, including a significant increase in the school rate, and the potentially cheaper option of converting a portion of

the former Addison Central School, now owned by the town, into municipal offices.

"Taxes are slated to go up dramatically, (and) we are now in possession of the old school," he wrote.

The warning reads:
"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?"

Kauffman said in an email the selectboard believes the vote on Article 1 will be binding because it is based on a citizen petition and thus "falls within the rights given to the citizenry to affect."

According to the Vermont Secretary of State's Office, the Tuesday balloting to rescind the original November 2022 vote will

require more than a simple majority: The number of votes in a majority to overturn the initial verdict must reach at least two-thirds of the original total in favor of the bond.

In other words, a majority result in favor of overturning the original result would require at least 215 votes to be successful.

The Secretary of State's Office was less clear on whether the vote could be binding, declining to offer legal advice.

In an email, an official from that office wrote, "We'd generally advise that a selectboard consult its own legal counsel before opting to warn a rescission article ... The

town attorney would be able to offer to the board a legal opinion about the binding nature of the proposed article and the various potential courses of action, including any consequences involving contracts or other legal obligations entered into as a result of the original vote.

In an email, Kauffman said the board "consulted with an attorney on this matter" before acting to call for the townwide vote.

The selectboard also has an open letter to residents published in this edition of the *Independent*. In it board members state, "The Selectboard did not sanction any (See Addison, Page 3A)

Student thrives with independent learning

By ALYANA SANTILLANA
MIDDLEBURY — This past Tuesday, when Vermont Adulting Learning's Middlebury center hosted a graduation ceremony for students who have earned their high school diploma, or General Equivalency Diploma (GED), among the honorees was Amarah Lathrop.

A 16-year-old Middlebury native, Lathrop spent most of her life studying in the Addison Central School District. She attended Mary Hogan Elementary School and was at Middlebury Union Middle School during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After COVID, my anxiety got worse, and it was difficult for me to be around people after we came back to in-person school," she said.

She attended Middlebury Union High School until about a year ago, when she dropped out because of

mental health reasons and concerns about falling behind. She opted to switch to homeschooling and eventually decided to prepare for the Vermont GED exam. After months of studying, she was able to pass the exam this summer.

"I've always been independent, so this way was a lot better for me. I could study whatever I needed to, so if I needed help with a subject, I could just take time to focus on that. I liked being able to go at my own pace," Lathrop said.

Lathrop thrived with Vermont Adult Learning because the program gave her the opportunity to be in total control of her education. She got one-on-one attention from tutors and the flexibility to create her own learning plans. This positive sentiment is mutual, as VAL tutors have expressed delight in working with Lathrop.

"She is really bright and

incredibly motivated," said tutor Ashlee Monk. "Her thoughtfulness is unparalleled; she is a quick learner who sets goals and does whatever she can to meet those goals."

Lathrop looks forward to attending Vermont Community College in the fall and getting a start on her future career. Her mom is the owner of Tammy Lathrop Daycare, and Amarah has grown up in the childcare environment. She currently works at Otter Creek Childcare Center. She plans to take courses in early childhood education and psychology to ready her for a professional career.

"I hope people who have the same struggles of me see this and are able to explore learning options that are right for them and know that they are not dumb or bad at school, but everyone can learn and thrive in different ways," Lathrop said.

July flooding disaster declared

See how Addison County residents could get FEMA aid

VERMONT — Residents and municipalities in Addison County and six other Vermont counties are eligible for federal funding to help recover from floods that swept through the Green Mountain State between July 9 and July 11 after President Biden on Tuesday signed a federal disaster declaration.

The disaster declaration does not apply to damage caused by other storms this summer.

"The impact of this storm on communities and individuals has been significant, and while these federal resources won't alleviate all of those burdens, this financial support is critical to our state's recovery," Gov. Phil Scott said in a press release. "I appreciate President Biden and FEMA's support, and we're ready to help Vermonters and municipalities throughout recovery."

This major disaster declaration provides funding for individuals in Addison, Orleans, Washington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Lamoille, and Essex counties to apply to FEMA for assistance. The Individual Assistance (IA) program helps people affected by the disaster seek some reimbursement for necessary expenses and serious needs that cannot be met through insurance or other forms of assistance. Eligible expenses include rental assistance, home repair, home replacement, lodging, and other expenses.

To apply for Individual Assistance funds, impacted Vermonters in the eligible counties should register at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or call 1-800-621-3362. Even if you have previously reported damage

to 2-1-1, you must register with and apply to FEMA.

The declaration also includes funding to help cities and towns in those same counties repair and restore public infrastructure damaged by the floods. The Public Assistance program allows communities to receive 75% reimbursement for emergency storm repairs to public infrastructure.

Take note that this declaration does not include damage to private and public property caused by storms on July 30. A separate FEMA major disaster declaration request will be made for that storm soon. Homeowners and renters should still report damages and losses related to the July 30 storm to 2-1-1.

For farmers, the Gov. Scott has also requested a Secretarial natural disaster designation for multiple counties which will allow the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) to extend much-needed emergency credit to agricultural producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans. Currently, FSA is requesting to run programs to repair and restore agricultural land and to provide payments for losses on crops and livestock holdings.

Individuals and municipalities that suffered damage in all recent storms should continue to clean up and make repairs. Take photos and thoroughly document expenses.

The State will continue to provide updates to help eligible individuals apply for FEMA Individual Assistance, including the availability of Disaster Recovery Centers for in-person support.

Also get flood help from United Way

This summer has seen historic levels of rainfall affect businesses, homeowners, and people living in many areas of Vermont. The United Way of Addison County has created an "Addison County Responds: Flood Relief" fund and is providing grants of up to \$1,500 to individuals in the county seeking financial assistance as a result of home and/or property damage from this summer's storms.

This fund is made possible in part thanks to a contribution from the Vermont Flood Response & Recovery Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation.

Visit tinyurl.com/3ubar8f7 to learn more or to apply for funding.



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New ANWSD teachers

WHEN STUDENTS RETURN to classes next week to start the 2024-2025 school year, the Addison Northwest School District will also welcome 14 new employees at the district's three schools: Vergennes Union Middle and High Schools (VUMS and VUHS), Ferrisburgh Central School (FCS) and Vergennes Union Elementary School (VUES)

Pictured at an orientation this week are, from left, back row: Zosha Livingstone-Peters – VUHS School Nurse; Rachel Stein – FCS Elementary Teacher; Solim Mindamou - Technology Support Specialist, district-wide; Danielle Ploof - VUHS Science teacher; Mike Sassin - Board Certified Behavior Analyst, district-wide; Beth Whalen – VUMS Humanities teacher; Josh Cummings – VUES Special Educator; Carter Visicaro – FCS Art Teacher; and, front row, Abby Dayton – FCS School Counselor; Ellie Kiel – VUES Elementary Teacher; and Hannah Nowak - FCS Elementary Teacher.

Not pictured are Garrett McMillan – VUES Special Educator; Sue Rakowski - PreK Speech Language Pathologist; and Andrew Bynum - Technology Support Specialist/ Web Manager, district-wide.

Middlebury to vote on natural gas easement

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury residents on Oct. 1 will have a chance to either affirm, or reject, their town selectboard’s prior decision to grant Vermont Gas a free land easement to funnel natural gas service to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church at 3 Main St.

The selectboard OK’d the church’s easement request this past June.

The upcoming Australian ballot challenge has been triggered by a successful citizens petition drive by resident Ross Conrad, who maintains Vermont Gas should be required to pay fair market value for the town easement. St. Stephen’s is situated on the town green; the municipal easement is needed so the gas line can cross under the green.

St. Stephen’s leaders are seeking natural gas service as a way of reducing the church’s energy costs and weening itself off of fuel oil.

“We need to address our inefficient heating, ventilating, air-exchange system,” said Linda Horn, who chairs the church’s facilities committee. “At this time, our only practical options are oil or gas. By changing to gas, we would lower our carbon imprint by approximately 33,000 pounds annually and would save \$10,000

a year. Without the easement, we will need to continue with oil at the expense of the environment.”

Church leaders have invested \$50,000 in a solar farm, installed heat pumps where practical, and are “investigating some other alternatives,” to reduce carbon emissions, Horn added.

“No one wants to use fossil fuels,” Horn said. “We would at least like to have the option to make the best decision we can. It doesn’t make sense to ignore better while waiting for perfect. We certainly hope Middlebury will vote ‘No’ on this matter Oct 1.”

Conrad, a member of Middlebury’s Energy Committee, has been outspoken on environmental issues. He has applauded St. Stephen’s green energy efforts, but said Vermont Gas should at least be made to pay for the use of a town asset.

“Given the role fossil fuels are playing in the destabilization of our climate, my conscience won’t allow me to accept being put into a position to have to help pay for, or

cover the cost of, building out more fracked methane gas infrastructure in my hometown,” he said through an email. “I know some people think that gas is a bridge fuel, and that was true back in 1988, but now it is a bridge we seem stuck on with no end in sight.”

Selectboard members said they’ve previously granted free easements for utilities infrastructure, and they’re concerned about setting a precedent. The board has asked the town’s policy committee to come up with a fair way of fielding future easement requests, rather than reviewing them piecemeal.

Conrad said he had hoped the easement referendum could be added to the Nov. 5 general election ballot. He said Town Clerk Karin Mott voiced concern about adding to an already busy ballot, leading to the Oct. 1 special vote that will be preceded by an informational meeting on Monday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m., in the municipal building.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

“I know some people think that gas is a bridge fuel, and that was true back in 1988, but now it is a bridge we seem stuck on with no end in sight.”

— Ross Conrad

ACSD publishes bus routes

ADDISON COUNTY — The Addison Central School District has released bus routes for the 2024-2025 school year.

The schedules cover rides in Cornwall, Salisbury, Bridport, Shoreham, Weybridge, Ripton and Middlebury, as well as the bus that picks up students in Hancock, Granville and Rochester.

Please find the listing on our website under the headline “ACSD sets 2024 school bus routes for students in

Middlebury-area towns” or just head online to tinyurl.com/ACSDbuses2024.

All times are approximate. Times for bus routes can vary by several minutes depending on traffic, construction, weather and ridership. Students should be at their bus stop at least five minutes earlier than the published time.

For safety reasons, drivers will not wait for students to come to the stop. If you have questions about a route, please contact your school.

Addison

(Continued from Page 2A)

recent mailings for or against the vote, or the Town Hall Project.”

It also states, “The location of the Town Clerk’s office is a board

decision per counsel, and not at the discretion of the voters, so we chose to make that an advisory vote to get a sense of the feeling of the voters.”



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Editorials

Act 76 helps solve a marketplace problem

The almost immediate impact Act 76 has had on Vermont’s childcare industry is not only hopeful but demonstrates how a targeted government program can help solve a problem in the marketplace.

Prior to Act 76’s passage in 2023, childcare centers in Addison County and throughout the state were struggling. Just three years ago, the *Independent* reported Middlebury’s Sunshine Children’s Center was forced to close, eliminating 20 childcare slots. Meanwhile, other childcare centers throughout the county pared back on hours because of a shortage of staffing — partly a function of low pay. Addison County wasn’t alone, as the availability of affordable childcare statewide was cited as one of the biggest obstacles to accommodating young families who wanted to call Vermont home.

The new money pumped into childcare services with the passage of Act 76 has reversed that decline and helped create 1,000 new childcare slots statewide in the past year. Locally, the legislation has helped spur the recent launch of the Red Clover Childcare Center in the Congregational Church in Middlebury with 20 slots, helped create 77 new childcare slots at Middlebury’s Otter Creek Child Care Center for a total of 139 (plus 28 related new jobs), and has helped expand offerings at Mary Johnson Childcare Center with a new toddler program with 10 new slots as well as creating a new classroom for infant care — the most sought-after childcare service. More progress is on the way to fill the unmet demand.

It’s all possible because of an infusion of funds. The legislation imposed a 0.44% payroll tax, largely paid for by the business community, that has pumped \$125 million into the childcare industry. That allows them to expand enrollment, upgrade facilities and increase compensation for childcare workers. The legislation also broadened the number of Vermont households eligible for assistance.

“We are turning a corner, said Aly Richards, CEO of Let’s Grow Kids, a nonprofit childcare advocacy group based in Burlington. “Public investment in childcare is working.”

Why the marketplace didn’t work is no doubt a complex matter, but suffice it to say there was not enough money among those young families having children to afford the few childcare slots available. It was a broken system. And just like subsidizing dairy farming, and much of the nation’s agricultural sector, the childcare sector needed a little help to make the math work.

In a capitalistic system, we are all reluctant to use state funds to prop up any business sector — let alone dedicate a new tax to the effort. But the lesson here is clear: When the marketplace isn’t working and the need is critical (providing childcare is critical if Vermont is going to be able to keep and attract young families), the question shouldn’t be “should we act?” but “how can we resolve the issue in a sustainable way as quickly as possible?” Solutions, including on housing, are there. The real question is whether we have the political will to act. When we do, good things happen.

Angelo Lynn

Biden’s send-off was not the bitter split pundits advertised

The story of the Democrat Party pushing President Biden out of the limelight has been overblown by a national media too accustomed to selling sensationalism, rather than pursuing logical outcomes.

Listening to the dozens of TV commentators and political pundits in newspapers and periodicals across the country tell the story, Biden’s decision was not only forced upon him by ruthless party leaders against his will, but he was ignominiously booted by an underappreciative Democratic party. And the nonsense about the party slighting Biden’s Monday night appearance by pushing it past prime time — an unintended consequence of several other factors — just feeds the hyped drama.

It is one angle of the story, but it misses the more logical assumption: that Biden was convinced by party leaders that if he wanted to preserve his outstanding legacy of service for the past 50 years, he should do that by going out on top. It would be the ultimate sacrifice for him to step aside, for the party’s sake and the country’s sake, rather than stay in the race and most likely lose the rematch to Trump.

The convincing required by party leaders was that his candidacy was not going well, for his presidential hopes or hopes to control the House and Senate, and trends were headed south. This is, of course, the proper role of a functioning political party — to continually assess and guide its leaders to the best outcome possible for the party and the country. Unlike the Republican Party, which has allowed itself to be cannibalized by a single unhinged person, the Democratic Party did what it was supposed to do.

It took several long weeks and no doubt it was difficult for the president to admit that all of his work to set the stage for a strong economy — with the pandemic behind us, inflation finally in check, provisions made for drug prices to be capped starting in January 2025, with China’s economic ascendancy faltering, NATO stronger than ever, and with billions in domestic infrastructure projects juicing the national economy for years of continued growth — didn’t happen soon enough to convince voters the economy and the nation were on the right track.

Recognizing that reality was no doubt a bitter pill for Biden to swallow, and his personal mantra to never give up made it harder, but at the end of the day it was Biden’s decision, and his decision alone. And while the decision to step aside was not done with glee, it allows him the opportunity to go out a winner with the most noble of all claims — the love of country over self.

“It’s been the honor of my lifetime to serve as your president,” he said toward the end of his 52-minute speech capping the first night of the Democratic convention. “I love the job, but I love my country more. I love my country more. And all this talk about how I’m angry at all the people who said I should step down — it’s not true.”

If Harris-Walz win, it’s President Biden who goes down in recent history as the GOAT — not only for his significant accomplishments in four short years as president, but for his leadership, grit, grace, integrity and humility during a time in which the nation’s democracy was facing its most significant threat since the Civil War.

Angelo Lynn

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In the spotlight

INDONESIAN FILMMAKERS MAULANA Aziz, left, and Rheza Arden Wiguna pause outside 51 Main St. in downtown Middlebury Wednesday morning after checking in for the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. Their award-winning documentary, “Sculpting the Giant” about the making of a 121-meter-tall statue, will screen at Town Hall Theater on Friday at 11:30 a.m.

Independent photo/Steve James

Water, from scarce to abundant

On the television is a vast landscape. The camera moves over brown spaciousness that reminds me of the Gobi Desert. I wait until the narrator identifies it as ... Mars!

My first feature film “Gobi Women’s Song” is about water. As a health educator on a United Nations Development Programme team, we ask a group of women who live in the Gobi Desert how much water they use in a day. When they say five liters (about 5 quarts), I realize that is the amount of one flush for a toilet in the U.S.

Later, while meditating at home in Vermont, I am inspired to document how the Gobi women survive using such a small amount of water. I shoot footage as they go through their daily actions.

Another year, I am staying in a ger on the steppe of Mongolia with my cameraman and translator. While this land has some trees and snow, the nomads of this countryside still do not have running water, so I learn about consumption firsthand. Our host walks to a river 10 minutes away, ladles water into a metal pail and carries it to our ger, placing it near the door. The woman then ladles some into a small basin for me. First, she tells me, use it to wash yourself, then your clothes, and finally you can pour it onto the ger’s linoleum floor and scrub. From this, I experience how scarce and precious water is.

Even in an apartment in the capital of Ulaanbaatar, water is an issue. It needs to be boiled to drink or even brush teeth. Sometimes it comes out of the faucet brown. Sometimes there is no cold water. Sometimes no hot. Sometimes none at all. While an apartment bathroom has a shower, water of a comfortable

temperature is something special.

Coming back from Mongolia, I don’t look at water in the same way. The intense Vermont green nearly hurts my eyes at first. I think about how much water it takes to grow trees, flowers, vegetables, and lawn. If there are any trees in the Gobi and steppe, they are small, but it takes four people to encircle the willow tree behind my house. One day when I have Mongolian and Gobi visitors, we hug it, giggle, and dance.

As a place of abundant water, we lately have had too much, too fast. During these extreme storms, I find myself dreading what the water will do. At the same time, I remember the words from the Gobi as the women look up at clouds and wish for a shower. They go outside when it rains and stand under the wet streams with joy. One friend says, “Don’t you just love the freshness when it rains? It leaves the air so crisp.”

Here my cellar floods and my driveway washes out. For two months, men working on a remediation project jackhammer a trough for drainage in my basement floor and excavate a wide swath of dirt in the yard. Perforated pipe and stone fill the trench to take excess water from the basement to the back of the property. It is covered with dirt and planted with grass seed. Maybe this sounds counterintuitive, but I need turn on the sprinkler to give the area more water so the green will be rooted.

Sas Carey invites you to her website *Nomadicare.org* where you can find links for *Gobi Women’s Song* and other movies and books about Mongolia.

Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey



A lot of work for a little leisure

A few weeks ago, Mark and I bought a little fishing boat. Sold as an “inflatable kayak,” it’s basically a pair of 12-foot blowup pontoons with five aluminum slats set crosswise on top. The slats are mounted with two swivel seats, four rod holders, two oarlocks with oars and space in the back (the “stern,” to us maritime types) for an optional trolling motor.

Mark recently rediscovered his love for fishing, and we thought this craft, being extra stable, would make it better suited to fishing with the grandkids. Their tendency to jump about just for the fun of it made taking them out in a wobbly canoe or standard two-person kayak more of an adrenalin rush than Mark was looking for.

We decided to make the maiden voyage sans grandchildren. That way, he could get used to maneuvering the boat without worrying about getting hooked in the ear by the wild cast of an overzealous young angler.

Saturday morning, we parked at Dead Creek in Addison and, after christening the new craft with a can of grapefruit seltzer, pushed off. Mark manned the oars in the rear seat, while I sat up front with no responsibilities. I felt like Cleopatra gliding down the Nile.



Around the bend

By Jessie Raymond

We traveled in circles for a bit as Mark worked on a rowing strategy, then headed for the cattails. Veering back to clear water, oarlocks clunking in protest, we zig-zagged toward the other shore. Mark swore and muttered as the oars repeatedly bashed his kneecaps.

Grunting, he rowed more or less up the creek for a good 45 minutes, with occasional side quests whenever one oar or the other went rogue. While I had hoped to spot birds, the thunking of the oarlocks and the cursing of the husband drove away any wildlife I might have seen.

When we decided to head back, we ran into trouble: We were fighting both the current and a headwind. Mark rowed as hard as the oars would let him, but the boat made little forward progress.

One thing I should mention here: The grandkids had helped us assemble the kayak the previous weekend, with the eight-year-old and me in charge

(See Jessie, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Addison officials clarify mailings on town hall vote

The Selectboard of the Town of Addison would like to clarify the recent mailings concerning the vote of the location of the clerk’s office and rescinding of the bond for the Town Hall renovation.

- Both of these issues were brought to the board via citizen’s petitions. This was not a selectboard action.
- The selectboard did not sanction any recent mailings for or against the vote, or the Town Hall Project. The Town Hall Open House flyer was paid by a grant.
- The articles that appeared on the warning as depicted in the mailing were taken directly from petitions, per counsel.
- The location of the town clerk’s office is a board decision per counsel, and not at the discretion of the voters, so we chose to make that an advisory vote to get a sense of the feeling of the voters.
- The vote to rescind the bond was also reviewed by counsel.
- The board has very little information regarding how the numbers were arrived at, and so this also was made an advisory vote. We know only what we were presented with from the petitioners.

Jeff Kauffman Sr.
Roger Waterman
Steve Torrey
Peter Briggs
(Rob Hunt was absent)
Addison selectboard

Middlebury is a wonderful place

On my almost daily walks around Middlebury village, I am always struck by the beauty of our town. I commend all those folks who plan, plant and maintain everything that makes our town/village so attractive and inviting. From the superb bountiful hanging flower baskets to the multiple merchant window boxes, to the obvious continuous care and maintenance of our parks, circles, small spaces and to the tasteful and unpretentious Christmas/winter decorations, we all benefit.

All this beauty in addition to the opportunities to enjoy the visual and live performing arts, recreational and athletic events should make us all proud and happy. What a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

James “Chip” Malcolm
Middlebury

Wealthiest are willing to pay

Claire Corkins “Ways of Seeing” article (p. 4A, May 16), regarding a family trip to Ireland, brought back fond memories of my own trips there. Her perspective on learning from other countries certainly echoes Ralph Nader’s similar wisdom. One of the most important lessons is how real democracy works. I heard an interview with a man reputed to be a “man of wisdom.” When asked about Robert F. Kennedy Jr., he called him a “spoiler.” There is certainly a gross lack of wisdom there and an obvious ignorance of how other countries run their elections.

European nations typically have multiple candidates. Rather than two parties of generally wealthy elites, perpetuating our rule-by-the-rich system, those nations have a genuine freedom to choose candidates who support the common people. That yields a much smaller wealth chasm between the rich and poor.

When asked why he doesn’t promote fair taxes on the rich, our illustrious governor, Phil Scott (“Mr. Veto”) stated that he could count on the fingers of one hand the number of wealthy people not paying their fair share. One of those fingers should point back at him. His lie was clearly revealed by the petition put together by brilliant Middlebury

(See Gleason Letter, Page 5A)

Quantum Engines

“I think I can safely say that nobody understands quantum mechanics.”
— **Richard Feynman** (1918 – 1988; Nobel Prize in Physics (1965) for quantum electrodynamics)

“Nature isn’t classical, dammit, and if you want to make a simulation of nature, you’d better make it quantum mechanical.”

“Everything we call real is made of things that cannot be regarded as real.”
— **Niels Bohr** (1885 – 1962; Nobel prize in Physics (1922) for atomic structure and quantum theory)

The Hong Kong publishers of my poetry collections, Gillian and Verner Bickley, came across an article in the *South China Morning Post* about a quantum engine. The headline reads, “‘Entanglement’ harnessed to fuel quantum engine. Mysterious phenomenon allows a pair of light particles to remain linked, regardless of distance.” It reminded them of my 2022 poetry collection, “Entanglements: Physics, love, and wilderness dreams.” They asked me to comment.

When I knock my knuckle on this table it feels solid. Yet, I know that it is almost completely empty spaces with tiny atoms and their electron clouds. When I see a bird in the wilderness I wonder about its empty space, its perception of me, its place in the flow of time, how it makes sense of the interactions occurring on the minutest sub-atomic level of existence. It’s too complex, so I settle for “chickadee,” or “red-headed woodpecker,” or some other convenient box to store my take on reality.

We have Newtonian brains trying to make sense of a quantum world. I suppose every technological and scientific revolution begins with the shocking realization that we don’t really understand our world. Sad and frustrating as that might be, it is a necessary shock to our systems — like waking from a dream of classical physics, with its discrete atoms, electrons, neutrons and protons, into a phantasmagorical circus of particles — quarks, photons, and more — which, from our Newtonian perspective, behave badly. For instance, two photons could be on opposite sides of the universe, yet they “communicate” instantaneously, they are “entangled,” they are “aware” of each other’s properties — they influence each other. This is as impossible as exceeding the speed of light, as life-changing as the electric light, the printing press, the telephone, computers. Yet, I’m

confident that quantum physics will become ordinary reality in the lifetime of my son.

Although entanglement is all the rage these days, the concept dates to the 1935 paper by Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen. The first successful experiments came much later, and it’s only now that entanglement is working its way into technology.

Community Forum

This week’s writer is Middlebury resident Jack Mayer, a retired pediatrician, hospice singer, writer and flutist.

Quantum theory demonstrates that we live in a world of chance and probability — the empty space between atoms. A quantum computer or a quantum machine gives us patterns, not answers. I think of quantum phenomena as all the numbers from 0 to 1 — an infinity of indefinite states. Sub-atomic particles exist and don’t exist at the same time. (See my poem, “Schrödinger’s Cat”). If you try to observe quantum phenomena, the whole experiment collapses like a house of cards. No peeking allowed! We have to abandon “answers” because we only work with possibilities. And therein lies the wonder. There is no projecting today into the future, only a complete capitulation to a new way of thinking. When the quantum dust settles, maybe we’ll be left only with poems, possibilities in their own right.

Can you feel the potential for fundamental change? It feels like I’ll need a new brain to engage these concepts. I have no idea what this quantum world will be like; I don’t even have the vocabulary to describe it. And this challenges my fundamental conception of “it.” What is the “it” we are trying to define, understand, capture, manipulate?

My very sense of self is

challenged and stimulated to think out of the binary Newtonian box. Yet, it is inescapable. Light, lasers, mirrors, energy from “entanglement.” Who could believe such a thing?

Yet, this table feels hard when I knock it. I still live in my old world, though I must make room in my consciousness for what appears to be the bizarre quantum machinery of the universe.

Turns out everything is a crap shoot! Subatomic particles, electrons, photons of light — all are clouds of possibility — probability — a flip of the coin, a roll of the bones. Unlike our rechargeable laptops, quantum computers handle information probabilistically. It turns out that God does indeed play dice with the universe. Sorry, Einstein! To further compound the mystery, when someone observes a quantum system, it loses its quantum-ness and “collapses” into a definite state.

I will never understand quantum computers. Indeed, I will never understand quantum physics, but I cannot escape this new way of thinking about how the world works.

Will our felt experiences be different? I feel a powerful emotion when I see my beloved and my son. I wonder about the quantum explanation of love at first sight. (Talk about entangled phenomena!) After a few days of wilderness hiking, Newton’s guard rail begins to thin and even vaporize.

We are building the first baby quantum engines. Newtonian physics has served us well — it got us to the moon and back in 1969 — but its days are numbered. History teaches that no theory is ultimately correct. But we keep circling the elusive “truth,” to ease the pain of our existential loneliness and the legacy of every other incorrect version of reality we have contrived.

“We dance round in a ring and suppose, but the Secret sits in the middle and knows.”

— *Robert Frost*

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A)

of attaching the accessories. We had screwed the oarlock mounts to the deck and finger tightened wingnuts to close up the oarlocks themselves. We did not, perhaps, possess the grip strength required for these tasks.

This bit of trivia gained relevance during Mark’s furious efforts to row us back to our starting point. Suddenly, we noticed that the oarlocks were loosening up and one of the mounts had begun racking ominously.

Every few minutes, Mark had to stop rowing to retighten things, and each time, the wind and water pushed us back almost as far as we had come since the last retightening.

I began to worry he’d pass out from exertion. Then I would drift helplessly, ending up in a marshy mass of cattails a long ways inland. I’d have to lug both the boat and Mark ashore, and that would mean getting my good sneakers wet.

It was in my best interest, therefore, to make sure he rowed us safely back to the truck. So I cheered him on and said things like, “We’re almost there!” even though we both knew it wasn’t true.

While we moved, inch by inch, toward the far-off boat access, I pictured Mark in the future, trying to do all this in addition to reeling in fish and keeping an exuberant child from falling overboard.

I knew once we got home, he would fasten all the loose parts for good. But the unworkable ergonomics of those oars would surely take any “leisure” out of this leisure activity.

In the end, we made it back to shore well before dark, hours earlier than I had expected. We dragged the boat onto dry ground, and Mark collapsed in the grass.

Finally, I said, “Was buying this boat a mistake?”

He sighed.
“No, the boat is good,” he said, rubbing his sore knees. “But they lied when they said the trolling motor was ‘optional.’”



Find more of Jessie's columns online!

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Gleason letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

College professor Ellen Oxfeld and signed by 50 of the wealthiest Vermonters. It stated words to the effect that they were dismayed by the wreckage of our infrastructure caused by lack of available funds, which could be ameliorated by fair taxation. Our wealthy governor must have a lot of fingers on his hand.

The editorial, on the same page, praising Howard Dean’s policy of “living within our means” ignores his wealth and that of his family, with their close ties to the Bush crime family. “Our means” are immensely greater than he will admit. I have had past associations with Dean and can attest to his dishonesty.

The “man of wisdom” mentioned at the beginning, went on with the tired old refrains of American exceptionalism, which are totally refuted by looking

abroad. A couple of weeks after arriving in England in the late sixties, I remarked to my brother that we heard, in the U.S., never ending claims of freedom. I didn’t remember one mention of English freedom but saw a much greater incidence of it there.

I came to learn during my years of bumming around Europe and living for spells in a number of places, that the countries with the greatest happiness and freedom were the most democratic socialist ones. Here we have been indoctrinated, by the wealthy class, to loathe the idea of socialism. The rich don’t want their freedom to rape the poorer people impinged upon.

I recently read an article by an African American woman who was married to a Finnish basketball player. After five years of dwelling there, she was ecstatic about living in Finland, the

“happiest country,” where she felt none of the prejudice so blatant here. People take care of each other. Parents have no qualms about putting a six-year-old on a bus to travel anywhere in the country. She went on and on.

I have an old article by the then-Danish ambassador to the U.S. Denmark was then considered to be the happiest country, but he talked about how the long tentacles of corporatism were making inroads. He was worried, for good reason. Time confirmed his worries.

When are we going to wake up to the reality that we are willingly being trod upon by the jack boots of major wealthy criminals? There are many of us and few of them. It is well past time to honor the wisdom of Ralph and Claire, regarding needed lessons, and assume our real power. Concerned citizens far outnumber the corrupt corporatists.

When Ralph Nader released his book, “Unsafe at Any Speed,” General Motors went to great lengths to smear him. Ralph, one of the world’s least corruptible men, later defeated GM in a lawsuit, prompting them to apologize before Congress. David vs. Goliath? Among the copious “freedoms” claimed here, apparently the freedom to run for office on a platform of truth, seems to have missed the boat.

Will R.F.K. Jr. forever have the “spoiler” label attached to him? It is interesting that he, too, once called Nader a spoiler — a pretty stupid statement for a man of his brilliance. Is he now suffering the karma of accepting the “lie told a thousand times?” He is a world-renowned scientist, but in my book, has too many flaws to be president

**Joe Gleason
Brisport**

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Obituaries

Kathleen (Mulvey) Reilley, 74, of Bristol

BRISTOL — Kathleen “Katie,” “Cathy” (Mulvey) Reilley, 74, passed away at her home in Bristol Aug. 10, 2024, after a heroic fight with melanoma that had moved to her brain.

Born in Jamaica, Long Island, N.Y., Kate and her family moved to upstate Taghkanic, N.Y., in the early 1950s with her parents, Agnes and Jack, and older sister Marian. She was educated in a one-room schoolhouse, where each row was a different grade. From there, she transitioned to St. Mary’s Catholic School in Hudson. Kate continued into higher education, first at SUNY Oneonta, then Dutchess County Community College, then earning her degree at Prescott College in Prescott, Ariz., while living in a trailer in Chino Valley. Ultimately, Kate received a master’s degree in environmental studies from the University of New Haven in Connecticut.

Kate had a great summer with her sister visiting relatives in Ireland, having traveled across “the pond” on the Mauretania II when she was 10. She lived for a while in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., with a unique cast of characters — you know who you are.

Kate held many positions throughout her career, starting as a draftsman/designer at Rusack Engineering in New York. From there, she worked as a site developer for PRC in Cape Canaveral, Fla. After moving back to the northeast, Kate was a developer for Greiner Engineering in Connecticut and then became a permit specialist for the state of Connecticut. Eventually she opened her own consulting firm,



KATHLEEN (MULVEY)
REILLEY

KMR Environmental Planners, after which she worked as the open space manager for the town of Fairfield Conn., prior to moving to Vermont. Kate’s last position was as assistant to the Town Clerk in New Haven, Vt., processing grants.

While working at Greiner Engineering, Kate met her future husband Gerard (Jerry). They married in 1985 and their daughter Shannon was born in 1987. They lived in Connecticut for many years and moved to Bristol, Vt., in 2001.

Kate was passionate about many things. She had two horses — first Snowed Under and then Neptune, who is now 30. She performed with Neptune in a demonstration of human dancing and equestrian performance known as Dancing with Horses. Another love was cooking — she rarely repeated a meal with the same recipe and always created fresh, wholesome food. Gardening was a great love,

particularly beans and lots of garlic. Travel was also high on her list of enjoyments. Kate was passionate about the preservation of land for future generations and was an active member of land trusts in both Connecticut and Vermont while living in each state.

Kate has been known during various times in her life as Legs Mulvey; and Katie, Katie the Hors D’oeuvre lady.

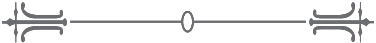
She is survived by her husband, Jerry; daughter, Shannon, sister Marian with husband John Godfrey of Oxford, N.Y.; and niece Christine of Binghamton, N.Y.: as well as a great nephew Matthew, and various cousins.

Kate was buried at the Vermont Forest Cemetery on Tuesday, Aug. 13, in a very private and beautiful ceremony where she will become part of the earth she loved so much.

On Saturday, Aug. 24, at 11 a.m., we will gather at St. Ambrose Church in Bristol, Vt., for a funeral Mass celebrating her life. The church’s address is 11 School St., Bristol, Vt. After the mass, please join us for a luncheon at Rosie’s Restaurant, 886 Route 7 South, Middlebury, Vt.

We will also be streaming the service on Zoom. RSVP link is for everyone, but please make sure to send it in if you want the zoom link to join the memorial livestream. <https://forms.gle/PhXSMWmH5eVsGGUHA>

In Lieu of flowers, please donate to the Addison County Home, Health & Hospice or the Vermont Land Trust. The Day Funeral Home in Randolph is assisting the family with arrangements. ♦



Linda Theresa Vondle, 73, of Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Linda Theresa Vondle, 73, of Shoreham, Vt., passed away peacefully holding her daughter’s hand following complications from heart failure on Sept. 5, 2023, at Helen Porter Hospice. Born on April 29, 1950, in Queens, N.Y., to Margaret (Hansen) Vondle and David Vondle, Linda dedicated her life to education and service, particularly for those with special needs.

A graduate of Castleton State College with a B.A. in Teaching and an M.A. in Special Education, Linda taught second grade at Forestdale Elementary School and later became a supervisor at the Brandon Training School, where she worked for more than 15 years. She concluded her career as a Vermont State Guardian, serving clients across the state for more than 25 years before



LINDA THERESA VONDLE

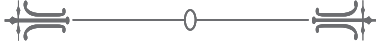
retiring in 2018. In retirement, she continued to care for others as a shared home care provider. Linda loved traveling, reading and spending time with her loyal Lhasa

Apso dog, Tess. Linda’s heart was pure gold, and she was one of the kindest souls who walked this earth. Her shining light will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her beloved daughter, Victoria Vondle and her fiancé, Clifford Torres, whom she loved like a son, both of Shoreham, Vt.; her aunt, Florence Gill of Cornwall, Vt.; cherished client Rosie Plue of Middlebury, Vt.; and numerous cousins across the country.

Per Linda’s wishes, no services will be held. A private family celebration will take place later. In lieu of flowers, please honor Linda’s memory by performing a random act of kindness or donating to a charity of your choice.

For full obituary, please see www.sandersonfuneralservice.com. ♦



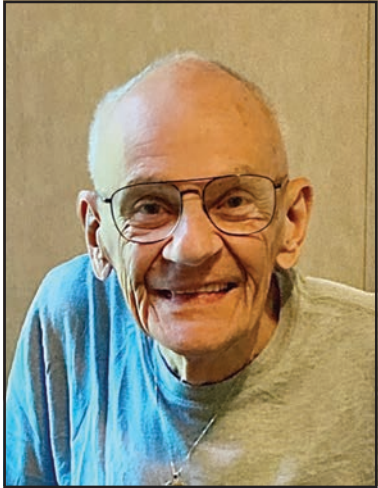
Nelson Theodore Audy, 78, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Nelson Audy passed on Aug. 14, 2024, at Porter Hospital in Middlebury after a short illness. He was born March 6, 1946, to Arthur and Charlotte (Priest) Audy of Waterbury.

As an adult, he moved to the Addison County area, where he enjoyed making connections with people, volunteering at HOPE and Middlebury Ambulance, Panthers Ice Hockey, Camp

Thorpe, competing in bowling and bocce with Special Olympics, and attending Car Shows and wintering in Florida. During his working years, he was employed by Desabrais Laundry, Mary Johnson Children’s Center, and both the Bristol and Middlebury Shaw’s supermarkets.

Nelson was predeceased by his parents and leaves his cousin, Diana Ricker of Florida, and



NELSON THEODORE AUDY

her daughter, Jenifer Ricker of Vermont. Additionally, he is mourned and fondly remembered by special caregivers Yvonne Riley, Lori Mohan, Donna Desjardin, Kim Bruce and the Community Associates program of CSAC. ♦

Mary J. McCann, 80, formerly of Middlebury

BATTLE GROUND, Wash. — Mary J. McCann passed away peacefully at Creekside Place Memory Care Community in Battle Ground, Wash., on Aug. 7, 2024. She was 80 years old.

Born Mary Jayne Wahl to William and Catherine (Gilfoy) Wahl on Sept. 24, 1943, she grew up in Wilmont, Minn. Mary cherished her childhood there and visited frequently after moving. She loved her parents dearly and remained devoted to them.

After graduating from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in 1961, Mary continued her education at Worthington Junior College. She adored the friends she grew up with in Nobles County, and the relationships she formed in her youth filled her heart with joy and nourished her soul for decades. Her college roommates became forever friends.

On Aug. 28, 1965, Mary Wahl married Eugene D. McCann of Lismore, Minn., at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Wilmont. The couple moved to Boulder, Colorado., and had their first child, a daughter, Kelly Jayne.

As the wife of a Naval officer who was often at sea, Mary became a pro at doing it all: she raised the children, saw to their education, and supervised cross-country moves with grace and aplomb. The family grew to include three sons: Matthew William, Nathan Thier, and Justin Buckley.

Mary developed a fondness

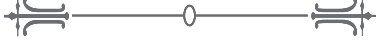


MARY J. MCCANN

for New England. Upon Gene’s retirement from the Navy in 1979, Mary settled in Middlebury, Vt., with her family.

There, she laid roots, developed close friendships, and thrived professionally. She had a passion for antiques, early American furniture, and interior design and decoration. She took great care and time in making her family’s home on Mead Lane a beautiful and loving home to live in. Mary finished her education at Trinity College in Burlington. For nearly 30 years, she co-operated The Tax Team where she worked selflessly to help her clients.

From the early 2000s onward, Mary and Gene frequently traveled across Europe and the United States, creating countless memories.



Louise (Husk) Parkinson, 83, formerly of Ferrisburgh

INVERNESS, Fla. — Louise (Husk) Parkinson, 83, died Aug. 15, 2024. She was born in Ferrisburgh, Vt., the 12th child of Ray Elson Husk and Caroline E. Black.

My dear wife, we have been blessed with time for remembrance; an opportunity to share with each other the joys, concerns, happenings and feelings we have known, and to rekindle our appreciation for those things we have experienced. We have worked hard to make several houses into homes, kneeled in the dirt together to plant food for our family, supported each other through times of sickness and financial difficulty, and celebrated victories when we fought for what was needed in our children’s lives.

We’ve spent the night at the bedside of a sick child and gave God the praise when the fever broke. We’ve built fences, moved buildings, boiled syrup, harvested crops, helped neighbors, served our local church and, most importantly, shared these experiences with our four kids as they grew in knowledge and understanding, and ultimately sent them into the world, with our

prayers and encouragement, to live their lives as the Lord leads them.

We’ve rejoiced as our children found mates of the Lord’s choosing and were blessed with children of their own. What a joy to see our love for each other multiplied, as a little bit of us continues on in each of them. On and on it goes as our grandchildren are now adding our great-grandchildren to the cause for good in this world, and they are such a blessing, every one.

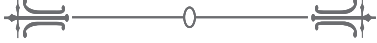
Thankfulness is the best word I can gather as I think of our life together, and I want to end with the poem I wrote for you a couple decades ago. I offer it here as it still says, what I want to say, in the best way I know how:

The blessings that the Lord provides at times are left unseen, as we go about our private lives just chasing our own dreams.

Then the Lord sends us someone who cares, He guides them from above.

For there’s a reflection of Jesus Christ there in the hearts of those we love.

Lives when lived together oft-times contain some strife,



Barbara Thorpe Ganley, 91, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Barbara Thorpe Ganley, a resident of Eastview at Middlebury, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Aug. 14, 2024, after a wonderful 91 years.

Born on May 20, 1933, Barbara was raised in Plandome, Manhasset, N.Y., where she met her beloved husband of 57 years, Albert C. Ganley, who predeceased her in 2007. In 1963 they moved to Exeter, N.H., where she became immersed in the life of Phillips Exeter Academy, graduated from the University of New Hampshire and raised her three children, David, Michael and Barbara. For many years she volunteered in reading programs, directed her church’s choir and represented the town of Exeter in the New Hampshire House of Representatives, working hard for the preservation of New Hampshire’s forests. The family happily spent their summers in their



BARBARA THORPE GANLEY

little red cottage in Sandy Point, Maine.

A lifelong and spirited appreciator of music, sailing, cooking, literature, and travel, Barbara was also an avid painter, filling her homes with her creations. An insatiable learner, she

In 2006, they moved from Middlebury to Sahuarita, Ariz. After 10 years there, they resettled in Ridgefield, Wash.

Thorough, hardworking and meticulous in all aspects of her life, Mary defended her convictions intelligently and passionately. She supported her family through her strength of will and faith in God. She instilled in her children a love of learning and a sense of personal responsibility, combined with a sense of wonder and gratitude for the world. A faithful Catholic, she was profoundly spiritual, prayed the Rosary daily, and modeled a life rooted in faith and sacrifice. She cultivated a unique personal fashion style that kept her youthful and hip.

Mary is survived by Gene, her husband of nearly 59 years; four children and their spouses, Kelly (Bill), Matt (Casey), Nathan (Amanda), and Justin; along with five grandchildren, Carisa, Corinne, Jamison, Catherine, and Declan. Mary will be remembered for her keen intelligence, delight in off-color jokes, wizard-like organizational skills, and, above all, as a devoted wife and loving mother.

Mary will be buried at Calvary Cemetery in Wilmont, Minn. A funeral Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Battle Ground, Wash. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to the Alzheimer’s Association. tinyurl.com/curealz. ♦

but it’s the trials and the testing that bring a depth of love to life.

Oh, I know that our togetherness is sanctioned from above.

For I know that Jesus made you, and that He made you just for me to love.

So, as we walk in Jesus’ love, know what our role can be.

Let us share His joy with those around that all might soon be free.

May others see His love in us, that love we’ve come to know, that the blessings, all the blessings

to other’s lives from Christ may flow.

And I thank the Lord for all the blessings, all the blessings that He’s given.

I thank the Lord for all the blessings and for the Son, the One who’s risen.

And I thank the Lord for all the blessings and for the joy of being free.

But, most of all I thank Him for the blessing, for the blessing that you are to me!”

All my love forever, Jim. ♦

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Valerie Anne Quenneville Mullin, 65, of Monkton

MONKTON — On Aug. 16, 2024, Valerie Anne Quenneville Mullin lost her courageous battle to ovarian cancer. Valerie, born Jan. 9, 1959, at Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington, Vt., entered the world quickly and with a spirited determination that would define her life.

The daughter of Nancy Sabin and adopted by Nancy's husband, Robert Quenneville, at the age of two, Valerie spent her early years in West Berlin, Germany. Valerie's father served in the Air Force and was thought to be eavesdropping on Russian communications, as his work was cloaked in secrecy. The family later moved to Key West, Florida, but Vermont would always be her true home.

Valerie returned to Burlington from Key West in the first grade. Thanks to her family and early travels, she was already speaking English, Spanish and German. Valerie attended H.O. Wheeler, Lawrence Barnes, and Champlain schools. She continued her education at Burlington High School until her senior year, forging lifelong friendships with Sherry and Bonnie LaFrance. She graduated from Mount Abraham Union High School, which her sons would later attend.

Valerie's early life was characterized by an unwavering work ethic. Even as a young girl she showed remarkable drive, whether it was selling the most Girl Scout cookies in the state of Vermont for two consecutive years, or balancing multiple jobs like babysitting and a paper route. She later worked at Vantage Press, clocking in 100-hour weeks at \$1 an hour. This early determination to succeed, coupled with a deep sense of purpose, set the foundation for her life dedicated to family, community and empowerment of others.

After graduating high school in 1978, Valerie married Chris Coombs and relocated to Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina. After four years on base, they moved back to the Sherman Family Farm in New Haven, Vt.

Valerie dedicated herself to being a stay-at-home mom while also taking on factory jobs, including working at Harbor Industries. Prior to Valerie and Chris's separation, in 1980 they were blessed with their first son, Derek, and in 1982, their second son, Ryan.

A new chapter in Valerie's life began in 1981 when she co-founded Needleworks Craft Supplies with her mother, Nancy. The business originated at a five-generation family property, the McNeil Homestead, in Charlotte, Vt. It expanded into a successful 30-year venture, with multiple additional locations throughout Vermont and New York. It was during this time that Valerie's entrepreneurial spirit



VALERIE ANNE QUENNEVILLE MULLIN

shined, alongside the strong bond she shared with her mother.

Valerie's life took another meaningful turn when she met the love of her life, Rob Mullin, in 1996 at a University of Vermont hockey game in Gutterson Fieldhouse. Their romance blossomed, and in March of 1997 during a Burlington Fire Department fundraiser at the same hockey arena where they met, Rob proposed with friends and family in the crowd. Valerie's son Ryan helped Rob pick the engagement ring, making it a true family affair. In 1999, at the impressive age of 40, Valerie had her third son, Bryce. Valerie and Rob recently celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary on July 19, 2024.

Beyond love of family, Valerie's purpose extended to empowering other women and giving back to her community. Through the mentorship of Patti Sabin, Valerie became deeply involved in Mary Kay Cosmetics, where she rose to the top 3% of Sales Directors in the country. Valerie's dedication earned her five free cars, including the iconic pink Cadillac, along with trips, prizes, and the joy of inspiring women along the way.

Valerie always loved animals, and that love grew into a passion when she founded Winnie's Legacy Canine Rescue, a non-profit named in honor of her beloved dog, Winnie. Over the years, Winnie's Legacy saved more than 3,500 dogs from southern states, finding them adopted fur-ever homes. Valerie now rests in heaven, taking care of all the puppies she could not save. Valerie's legacy continues through the stewardship of her dedicated volunteers.

Valerie's commitment to helping others was also evident with her financial acumen. Introduced to investing by her Great Uncle Wallace, Valerie took the lessons she learned and taught herself about prudent investing. This knowledge not only benefited her family but also allowed Valerie to share wisdom with others, ensuring they, too, could make informed financial decisions.

A devoted mother, Valerie instilled

strong academics in her children with all three graduating college. She also taught self-confidence, independence and resilience to her children. She always made sure they were prepared for life's challenges and was their biggest cheerleader, providing guidance and celebrating their achievements. Valerie's involvement in their lives was unwavering, whether it was driving across the northeast to support Derek's wrestling, traveling to New York City for Ryan's acting auditions, or driving cross-country multiple times for Bryce's young adult adventures. Valerie always made time for her family, no matter how busy life became.

Valerie's impact on those around her was profound, especially through her work with Mary Kay, her dog rescue and volunteer opportunities. Valerie empowered many women, giving them support to succeed and stand up for themselves. Her strong will, caring nature, and loyalty to family and friends will be treasured by all who knew her.

Valerie shared a life rich with love, purpose and a deep commitment to helping those in need. She cherished her family and is survived by her husband, Rob Mullin; her children, Derek and Chelsea Coombs and their children, Henry and Holden, Ryan Coombs, and Bryce Mullin. She is also survived by her siblings Nina, Victor and Neil. Predeceased by her parents, Nancy Sabin and Robert Quenneville, Valerie leaves behind a legacy of strength, independence, and compassion.

Valerie would like to extend her heartfelt thanks and appreciation to her husband Rob, sister Nina and dear friends, Sherry LaFrance and Theresa Carter for their dedicated love and care, particularly during her cancer battle. Valerie will be deeply missed, but her legacy of love, purpose, and empowerment of others will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her.

A wake will be held Friday Aug. 23, from 4-7 p.m., at Ready Funeral Home, 261 Shelburne Rd., Burlington, Vt. Funeral service will be held Saturday, Aug. 24, at noon, at the North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church, 227 Old Hollow Rd., North Ferrisburgh, Vt., with burial immediately following at Charlotte Congregational Church 403 Church Hill Rd., Charlotte Vt., with reception to follow at the rectory

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Winnie's Legacy Canine Rescue, 91 Dart Hill Rd., North Ferrisburgh, Vt., 05473

Arrangements are in the care of the Ready Funeral And Cremation Services. To send online condolences please visit www.readyfuneral.com.



IDA M. BALLARD

with her plants and her flower gardens. She also loved to walk every day no matter the weather. She could be found in the winter walking on Brookside Drive. She was a member of the East Middlebury Methodist Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Cassidy of Middlebury, as well as one sister and two brothers. She is predeceased by her parents, husband Donald and her only son Richard. Donations may be made to East Middlebury Methodist Church.

Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com.

Hannah Ward Magoun, 83 of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Hannah Ward Magoun of Middlebury passed away peacefully with family at her side on Aug. 14, 2024.

She was born on December 12, 1940, in Boston Mass., to Andrew Henshaw Ward and Carol Eddy Ward. She is survived by children: Mark Niles and Lori Pidick of Denver, Colo.; Lisa and Fred Bisbee of Huntington Vt., John-O Niles and Elsa Cleland of San Diego, Calif.; Lisabeth Magoun of Charlotte, N.C., and Martin Magoun of Topsham, Vt. She leaves behind seven grandchildren: Meredith Magoun and spouse Alex Grosby, Griffin and Alexandra Niles, Eloise and Quinn Bisbee, and Maxwell and Finnegan Niles. She is survived by her brother Andrew Ward of Savannah, Ga., her sister-in-law Suzanne Ward of Middlebury, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Clinton Magoun, her brother Artemas Ward, and her parents.

Hannah attended Milton Academy and Beaver Country Day before graduating in 1958. She graduated from the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in 1962. Hannah was a Registered Nurse in Massachusetts, Colorado, New Jersey and New Hampshire before settling in Vermont.

Hannah bravely moved to Middlebury, Vt., in 1970 as a single mom with three kids and all her belongings in a station wagon, to be near her brother Artemas and his family. She soon met her second husband, Clinton Magoun, when her washer broke down and he made a service call late one Sunday afternoon with jellybeans for her three young children. They were married June 15, 1974, and began their adventures, canoeing on Otter Creek, racing the Allen



HANNAH WARD MAGOUN

at the Middlebury Snowbowl, ice boat yachting, floating in the ocean, and many deck parties at their camp on Lake Dunmore's south cove. Hannah and Clint and friends modified an oak feed bucket into a wood-fired hot tub, which they towed from Waterhouses to the camp behind the family's waterski boat.

Hannah and Clint's other passion was travel. Whether it was visiting many national parks and campgrounds in their bright yellow Type-Rite van, or traveling through Europe with friends and family. Hannah instilled a deep love of travel and adventure in all her children and grandchildren. Throughout their escapades, the Magouns were joined by many dear family friends, including the McLaughlins, the Kaness, the Thurburs, Jean Andrews and many Middlebury Union High School teachers.

After a stint at Porter Hospital, in 1971 Hannah started her 32-year career as the Middlebury Union High School nurse. Hannah's optimism, sense of humor and touch of puckishness were

Wendy Ruth (Ballentine) Badman, 64, of Orwell

BRADFORD — With her loving family at her side, Wendy Ruth (Ballentine) Badman, 64, passed away peacefully Saturday, July 27, 2024, in Bradford, Vt., following a lengthy battle with early-onset Alzheimer's Disease.

The youngest of eight children, born on May 11, 1960, Wendy grew up in North Falmouth, Mass. She spent her youth at her dad's boathouse (Fiddlers Cove Marina), swimming and gathering shells at the beach, hanging out with friends, listening to David Bowie, Jackson Browne and Cat Stevens records, and caring for and riding horses.

After graduating high school and leaving Massachusetts, Wendy did some farming in Vermont and upstate New York, later becoming a certified welder at Sandy Hill Corp. in Hudson Falls, N.Y. for a few years. She then moved back to Vermont, living in Brandon and waitressing at Patricia's Restaurant before settling in Orwell, Vt., to raise her family.

She became a dedicated human service advocate, working as a CNA to support seniors and other individuals in need for many years.

Wendy's devotion to her family was undeniably the biggest love of her life. From hockey games, horse shows and dance recitals, to school concerts and baseball games, Wendy would show up for her children and grandchildren in every way imaginable to cheer them on as their biggest fan. There was no greater love than the love Wendy had for her family.

Wendy is predeceased by her parents, George and Isabel (Handy) Ballentine, as well as her brother John Ballentine and sister Mary



WENDY RUTH BADMAN

(Ballentine) Bigham.

Wendy is survived by her brother Richard Ballentine and his wife Judy of Oregon; brother Steven Ballentine and his wife Sarah of

Joanne Valley memorial service

SHOREHAM — A memorial service for Joanna Valley, who died May 11, 2024, will be held at the Shoreham Congregational Church on Saturday, Sept. 7, at 11 a.m. A reception will follow. ◇

infectious. She found the good in everyone and was an inquisitive friend, regardless of your age. As a bedrock of Addison County, she doled out medicine, advice, food and compassion counseling to thousands of teenagers across multiple generations. She earned her Nurse Practitioner degree from Northeastern University in 1981, one of the first school nurses to do so. In 2000, she was awarded the Vermont State School Nurse of the Year by the National Association of School Nurses. Hannah played an instrumental role in advocating for school nurses and successfully led efforts to have nurses petitioned to be paid the same as teachers.

In addition to raising her own family, Hannah took many young adults under her wings and into her home. These included Martha Commins, Gabriel Uribe, Kim Miller and Charles Seidel.

In retirement, Hannah volunteered for various organizations, climbing ladders to feed eaglets at Dead Creek Wildlife Preserve, delivering Meals On Wheels for almost a decade and helping senior citizens with their taxes. Her crisp gin and tonics were legendary, perhaps so visiting friends could tolerate her mediocre cooking (except for her excellent coleslaw). Hannah moved into the Residence at Otter Creek during the first year of the pandemic, where she continued to make friends and bring laughter to those around her in poker games and at meals.

Hannah's family is forever grateful for the caring staff at Porter Hospital and the Residence at Otter Creek. Donations in her name can be made to Middlebury Regional EMS or Pandrillus Foundation, P.O. Box 10082, Portland OR, 97296.

A celebration of life will be held at Thanksgiving. ◇

Massachusetts; brother James Ballentine and his wife Deborah of Virginia; sisters Barbara Ballentine of Massachusetts and Anne (Ballentine) Young of Vermont.

She is also survived by her son Terry Badman II, his wife, Bridget, and their children McKenna and Gage, of Massachusetts; daughter Erin Badman, her partner Cory and children Jacob, Nathalie, Logan, and Hunter; son James Badman of Georgia and his children Isabella, Adaline, Magnolia, and Felicity; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

Per Wendy's wishes, no service will be held. In lieu of services, her family would like to encourage donations to the Alzheimer's Association of MA/NH. ◇



JOANNE VALLEY



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By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
be high-quality, affordable homes for families and individuals in Bristol, Middlebury and Vergennes. You can donate at johngrahamshelter.org/donate2.

The Middlebury area’s unemployment rate in July was 2%, inching up from 1.9% in June, according to information provided by the Vermont Department of Labor. In total, 19,633 of the county’s civilian workforce was employed in July, while 409 local folks were looking for work. Meanwhile, the Vermont unemployment rate held steady at 2.1% in July, with the jobless rates in Vermont’s 17 labor market areas ranging from 1.7% in White River Junction to 2.8% in Bennington and Derby. The comparable United States rate in July was 4.3%, an increase of two-tenths of one percentage point from the revised June estimate. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Vermont has an estimated 17,000 open jobs, down from the historic highs in 2021 and 2022 when openings were regularly above 20,000. Today’s numbers are more in line with pre-pandemic levels, such as in 2018 and 2019, when the most pressing barrier to economic growth in Vermont was a shrinking labor force, according to state officials.

The Charter House Coalition’s (CHC) emergency homeless shelter at 27 North Pleasant St. in Middlebury is looking to build its operations staff. Shelter staff are responsible for the 24/7 operations and help support the entire Addison County community. The CHC, a local nonprofit, is looking for “energetic, smart, fun, organized and personable people who seek and thrive on meaningful work that makes a difference in our community.” Responsibilities include covering the shelter’s front desk and being available to guests as needed, while maintaining routine, harmony and an organized environment within the house. Ideal candidates will have the ability to welcome all community members without judgment, and will bring attention to detail and strong communication skills to their work. The ability to support guests within a trauma-informed and safe environment is necessary; training will be provided. The position is suited to individuals who can benefit from a flexible work schedule. Shifts available include 4-, 6- and 8-hour options during day and evening hours. Starting pay is \$20 per hour and includes full benefits. The CHC is hiring for

both full- and part-time positions. Résumés should be emailed to info@chcvt.org, attention hiring manager.

The deadline to sign up for UVM Extension’s Vermont Master Composter course has been extended to Aug. 29. The online course begins the following day and runs for eight consecutive weeks. Students will learn the basics of making and using compost as well as hear about community composting projects and regulations and policies for composting in Vermont as state law banned food scraps from trash in 2020. To register, go to go.uvm.edu/vtcompost. It costs \$50 for Vermont residents, \$150 for non-residents. Direct questions to Deb Heleba at debra.heleba@uvm.edu.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont fell 1.5 cents per gallon during the past week to \$3.38, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 626 stations. Prices are 8 cents lower than a month ago and 43.6 cents lower than a year ago. The cheapest station sold at \$2.99 earlier this week, and the most expensive at \$3.89. Meanwhile, the national average price fell 4.2 cents gallon during the past week to \$3.37.

Broadband

(Continued from Page 1A)
National Telecommunications and Information Administration announced this month the award of \$229 million for Vermont through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2023.

That funding alone is enough to hook up one-third of the remaining unserved and underserved areas in Vermont, according to a July 31 Vermont Public report broadcast.

Maple Broadband will be one of nine CUDs in Vermont applying for a share of those funds in a competitive process. De Villiers said she and the Maple Broadband’s board, consisting of representatives from each of its 20 member towns (Ferrisburgh’s Steve Huffaker is its chair), believe Addison County CUD’s application will fare well.

“Hopefully we’ll be successful, and that will be a large portion of our funding into next year,” de Villiers said. “I would say I’m very optimistic, but we still need to put in a good bid.”

Work will be done through parts of Salisbury, Leicester, the Ferrisburgh and Vergennes areas, northern Middlebury and Ripton and elsewhere where there are what de Villiers called “BEAD-eligible addresses,” which she defined as those not served already by a fiber-optic or cable provider.

“Those are the sites that are required” for Maple Broadband to serve, de Villiers said.

The exact number of those are hard to pin down, she said, but they number in the thousands. State and federal officials are sorting through data now, she added, while identifying where Maple Broadband expects Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom will be working on its behalf.

“We have a little bit more that we’re planning to build through Salisbury and Leicester,” she said, adding the provider will also be

“filling in the gaps.”

“We’re looking at this as one big construction project to do next year. Different parts of it will get funded in different ways. But the goal of it will be to make sure every address in the county ... has access to fiber by at least one provider,” de Villiers said. “That’s the goal. By the end of next year, everybody should have fiber available from someone.”

As well as seeking BEAD funding, Maple Broadband plans to use its customer cash flow to leverage a loan or a bond, de Villiers said, possibly one of up to \$3 million, to help pay for building out the rest of its network.

CUDs are legally quasi-municipal entities with bonding authority, but are prohibited by law from taxing the towns they serve. Thus the county’s CUD could choose to bond, but at this point de Villiers said Maple Broadband is keeping its options open and tracking interest rates while deciding whether to bond or obtain a loan.

De Villiers took the opportunity while discussing financing to make a plug for potential customers to sign up for Maple Broadband instead of a for-profit provider as a “public service.”

While Maple Broadband must rely on customer revenue, town bequests and state and federal grants, she noted for-profit entities have bases in the more heavily populated areas, which are more profitable. Thus they have a competitive advantage over Maple Broadband after years of failing to serve and ignoring rural customers. “Which is why it’s so important that people sign up with us and support what we’re trying to do here,” she said. “The only mechanism we have to repay any debt is through subscriptions.”

AFFORDABILITY

Meanwhile, Maple Broadband has been able to offer a significant discount to the small number of its customers who signed up under a



“Different parts of it will get funded in different ways. But the goal of it will be to make sure every address in the county ... has access to fiber by at least one provider ... by the end of next year.”

— Ellie de Villiers

recently ended federal affordability subsidy program. De Villiers said Maple Broadband added a \$20 credit to that program’s \$30 subsidy, and when that federal program ended, boosted it to a \$30 credit.

De Villiers said Congress is working on a federal-level replacement for the program, but its fate in D.C. is uncertain.

“Who knows what Congress will end up doing with that one?” she said.

The question of equal access for all and affordability was a hot topic at the July 29 statewide Vermont Community Broadband Board meeting, according to the transcript of a Vermont Public report, with no plan put forward and disagreement on priorities.

According to Vermont Public correspondent Howard Weiss-Tisman, “there was a lot of really interesting debate about this idea of affordability.” He reported the broadband board’s attorney said “the board has to be considering affordability” as a criterion in distribution of the \$229 million.

But he also played a clip from Laura Sibilia, a lawmaker from Dover who’s also a broadband board member. According to Weiss-Tisman, Sibilia said “that it is absolutely not a requirement to consider affordability” when the board is setting policy.

In the clip, Sibilia said, “I’m not opposed to us developing an affordability policy, I’m not opposed to any of that. I am really interested in us being clear about what our mandate is. And in almost every case, ‘affordability’ occurs after the phrase, ‘access to reliable.’”

So it remains unclear what strings the Vermont Community Broadband Board might attach to funding requiring a portion of it to help lower-income customers.

The end of the federal program also removed a system for evaluating customers’ eligibility for discounts, and de Villiers expects the broadband board to develop an affordability policy that MBB and other Vermont CUDs will have to follow. At the same time, she said, the state board has not tackled the issue of how CUDs should screen customers to determine eligibility.

She added the CUDs themselves are brainstorming ways to evaluate clients’ ability to pay, but so far without producing a solution.

“Within the Vermont CUD association, we have a couple of ideas of things we might want to do,” de Villiers said. “If and when that gets baked into an actual plan, I’ll definitely let you know.”

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Porter budget

(Continued from Page 1A)
with under-reimbursement from Medicare.

“... (The budget is) built on a shared commitment throughout our health system to provide timely, high-quality, compassionate health care,” Bob Ortmyer, president of both PMC and Elizabethtown Community Hospital, said in a recent message to the community.

“Our budget reflects our commitment to high quality care that’s accessible, more affordable and equitable,” he said.

You can check out PMC’s FY25 budget narrative at tinyurl.com/6ssf97nw.

PMC includes the county’s hospital, Helen Porter Rehab & Nursing, and around a dozen affiliated health care provider practices. Porter is a member of the University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN), which also includes the University of Vermont Medical Center, Alice Hyde Medical Center, Central Vermont Medical Center, and Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital, and Elizabethtown Community Hospital.

Porter, like its counterparts statewide, is confronting major financial challenges that were recently underscored by healthcare consultant Dr. Bruce Hamory during a July 30 appearance in Middlebury.

Ortmyer, during a virtual press conference hosted by UVMHN late last week, provided an overview of Porter’s spending plan and the efforts his staff have taken to rein in costs while trying to maintain services and reward employees. PMC last fall finalized a new, three-year contract with its nurses that provides raises of 10% in year one,

5.5% in year two and 4.5% in year three. The organization is currently negotiating a first-ever pact with its support staff and tech workers.

Approximately two-thirds of PMC’s 700-person workforce is now unionized.

Here are some of the main PMC FY25 budget takeaways, according to documents the organization has filed with the GMCB:

- Porter’s administrative costs have decreased by more than \$750,000 during the past year, due to shared leadership with Elizabethtown Community Hospital. The two hospitals share a president, CFO, CMO, and laboratory/compliance/quality leadership.

- The proposed spending plan contains an operating margin of 4.7%, (reflecting 93 days of cash on hand) down from the FY24 submitted margin of 7.8%. The FY25 budget also includes continued support of Helen Porter Rehab & Nursing Home, with a combined budgeted operating margin of 1.2%.

- Plans call for replacing an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Ben Rosenberg, who last summer capped a 30-year career at Porter Orthopedics. His exit last year has resulted in a reduction in the volume of orthopedic surgeries — and thus a related revenue drop — at PMC.

- Porter is anticipating \$164 million in outpatient revenues in FY25, up around \$8 million, while inpatient revenues are being forecasted at around \$23 million, a slight increase from the current year.

- Stranded costs. PMC officials estimate the hospital will be asked to absorb — as a percentage of its

gross revenues — 1.91% in bad debt and 0.58% in free care.

- Use of travelers to plug staffing holes.

“Porter Hospital’s FY25 budget continues to rely on contract labor to fill RN, radiology technologist and LNA positions across our various cost centers,” PMC officials wrote in their budget submission to the GMCB. “The total number of positions filled by contract labor has declined in our FY25 budget, but the FTEs continue to be significantly above pre-COVID levels. Porter has been working to recruit and retain staff in these areas and we believe that the culture and work environment will continue to reduce our reliance on contract labor.”

PMC began FY24 with 76 travelers, a number currently placed at 66, according to Ortmyer.

“Overall, a good year supporting our vacancies and helping to reduce our reliance on travelers,” he said through an email.

Ortmyer also noted ongoing, successful education/labor collaborations with the Patricia Hannaford Career Center and Vermont Technical College that have funneled 11 new LNAs and three new LPNs to shifts at PMC.

He also reported 10 recent RN hires, and reported three PMC employees have expressed interest in the Vermont State University RN program that will begin next year.

Ortmyer said the FY25 budget reflects a series of strategic priorities that include:

- Expanding use of telehealth, in both primary and specialty care.
- Continuing to streamline administrative processes between PMC and Elizabethtown, while

(See Telehealth, Page 11A)



Pocock Rocks!

THE WEATHER THANKFULLY cooperated for Bristol's annual community festival called Pocock Rocks, which shut down Main Street for five hours this past Saturday afternoon and evening. Scores of locals and visitors of all ages enjoyed listening to live music, dining on various treats and checking out the wares of several vendors. Pictured clockwise from top left are: Callie Szavejko, 5, of Monkton (L) and her pal Nora Zeno, 5, of Starksboro, showing off colorful mugs at the face-paint booth; Mount Abraham freshman Jaret Sturtevant enjoys an ice cream cone; Burlington's Jeremy Mendicino strums on one of the Pocock stages; the ska and reggae band Soulstice from Warren rocks out; Elle Kuzio, 5, and sister Lydia, 2, of Starksboro wait patiently for their ice cream; Scouts Draco Lewis (L) and Michael Orvis mix up a root beer float; Soulstice keeps the jam going; and a wonderfully decorated sound tech looks on while the band plays on.

Independent photos/Steve James



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MNFF 10

(Continued from Page 1A)

Academy Award-winning writer and director John Patrick Shanley; and Emmy and Tony Award-winning costume designer Paul Tazewell and tributes to two of Vermont’s finest film folks — cinematographer and director Andy Mitchell of Middlebury and documentary producer, director and Middlebury native Bess O’Brien.

Local native Eli Cohen has been working with Nite Productions on a film that will screen on Sunday.

A new face to keep an eye out for is Caitlin Boyle — a nationally known, Vermont-based consultant who was recently hired as MNFF’s first-ever executive director.

Films will be shown from Wednesday, Aug. 21, through Sunday, Aug. 25, at five venues: the Town Hall and Marquis theatres downtown, and at

Wilson Hall, Dana Auditorium and Twilight Hall on the Middlebury College campus.

What should you see? Depends on your taste. “Running for the Mountains,” for instance, is a documentary on the dirty politics surrounding West Virginia’s extractive resource industries (Saturday, 11:30 a.m. at the Marquis). Or, if narrative fiction is more to your taste, “Thelma” tells the tale of a feisty 93-year-old grandmother who hunts the phone scammer who pretended to be her grandson by taking motorized scooter with an aging friend (Saturday, 7:15 p.m., Dana Auditorium).

See the schedule, buy tickets and read all about the festival online at middlefilmfest.org, or read the official program at tinyurl.com/MNFF10progra.

Then head out and see a film or two or more this weekend!

OHANNA EVANS, HEAD of Film & Media at Dartmouth College’s Hopkins Center for the Arts, happily picks up passes for the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival at Town Hall Theater on Wednesday morning, the first day of the festival. Film screenings and in-person talks will continue through Sunday evening around Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panton solar

(Continued from Page 1A)

residents’ consideration reads:

“Shall the town of Panton support development of the 50 MW Viridis Solar Project, proposed by VT Real Estate Holdings 3 LLC d/b/a Viridis Solar, on land owned by Theodore Marszalkowski and Vorsteveld Farm LLP that is located outside the Panton Enhanced Energy Plan’s Preferred Energy Area?”

The array as proposed would cover an area roughly the size of 227 football fields and would be 10 times the size of the 5-megawatt Green Mountain Power array on Panton Road, northwest of Panton Town Hall.

It would be sited downslope from Route 22A and run roughly parallel to the road, per preliminary mapping. Existing homes, trees and other plantings appear to provide some screening from the site per an *Independent* site visit, while one West Road home would be mostly surrounded by solar panels.

Only about a third of the proposed installation would lie in the area

that Panton has designated for solar array siting in its Enhanced Energy Plan, according to Panton Planning Commission Chair Mary Rudd.

In light of opposition to the project due to its potential impact on agricultural land and the viewshed, among other concerns, the planning commission in June voted unanimously not to expand the area designated in the Enhanced Energy Plan to accommodate the array.

The Panton selectboard, however, isn’t convinced that a majority of residents are opposed to a plan that would generate not only substantial clean energy, most likely to southern New England, but also substantial tax revenue and other financial considerations to a town that just saw its annual budget jump by about 28%.

Selectboard Chair Howard Hall said the companies proposing the array have made an opening annual cash offer that SunEast/Freepoint said it would pay the town annually — on top of tax revenue generated by the array.

“I’m looking for whatever money they can give us,” Hall said. “We’re now negotiating.”

Hall said that although most people who’ve spoken about the massive array have opposed it, the selectboard also has heard from residents who support it. Thus, he said, board members want to assess public sentiment with the November vote, and they said they’ll abide by the result.

“We’ll see how it falls,” Hall said. “And we’ve explained to the people who’ve shown up and been very negative about it that if the people want it, then we’re going to

embrace it. If people don’t want it, then we’re going to say we don’t want it.”

APPROVAL PROCESS

It remains unknown how much say Panton will have in the permitting process regardless of what position town officials take. The Public Utilities Commission, or PUC, has the final say over siting energy projects.

Addison County Regional Planning Commissioner planner Andrew L’Roe helped Panton write its Enhanced Energy Plan. L’Roe has said the PUC must give a community with such a plan “substantial deference” in considering an application for a project in its borders.

The catch, according to the law, is that a land conservation measure or policy shall be applied unless other factors affecting the general good of the state outweigh them.

The effect of an Enhanced Energy Plan on the PUC is untested, L’Roe said.

Hall summed up Panton’s situation as being in the back seat to the PUC.

As far as Freepoint/SunEast plans, according to RFBinder — a New York City PR firm that answered questions on Freepoint’s behalf — they plan an applying to the PUC later this year, construction in 2026, with the array coming online in 2027.

RFBinder Senior Managing Director Kelly Logan also addressed the question of views in an email, referring to Freepoint’s proposal for a 20-megawatt proposal in Shaftsbury before the PUC:

“We believe our Panton site is well secluded and will not have an undue aesthetic impact. At Shaftsbury, the state Department of Public Service hired their own consultant to review our landscape plan, and their report was very favorable. We expect to meet those standards at all our projects.”

According to a 2023 *VT Digger* article, the Shaftsbury proposal sparked considerable opposition.

OPPONENTS SPEAK

Certainly there are concerns in Panton. Earlier this year the Planning Commission’s Rudd told the *Independent*, “I personally have not heard from anyone who favors this.”

At the planning commission’s June 13 meeting, nobody who spoke backed changing the Enhanced Energy Plan to accommodate the proposed array.

“The plan includes a lot of thought for the scenic beauty and character of the town,” said resident Kathy Kennett in one comment,

according to minutes.

Jean Jackson was recorded in the meeting minutes as saying the array would be “too large and overwhelming for Panton.”

During the April discussion on the topic, Rudd stated Panton is already “generating twice as much renewable energy by 2050 to meet the state requirements,” and in the Enhanced Energy Plan, “We also explicitly prohibit development of this scale outside of the approved area”; and that the plan was adopted after a “very exhaustive” democratic process.

During public comment in April, Cindy Cooke, whose West Road home would be most directly affected by the array, said the array would “diminish landscape, natural beauty and habitat, (affect) endangered species, (and) reduce access to roads and trails for biking and hiking, fishing, etc.”

Kennett, who lives on Route 22A, said, “This project will obstruct views, will stick out like a sore thumb, will affect tourists and nature lovers, (and) it will result in no wildlife corridor.”

J o e Marszalkowski, who farms 200 of the acres proposed for the array, opposes the contract with the companies signed by a trust run by other members of his family. He told the *Independent* in May that even though he also farms a total of another 1,200 acres, the loss of the 200 acres of land could threaten his livelihood.

He also told the planning commission in April there are other reasons to object, according to the minutes: “The view will be destroyed, the entire 22A ridge will be completely obstructed from across West Rd. to (the) Addison town line will be solar panels. There will be nothing to hide them. Artists pull over and paint that view ... If the whole town unites, there’s no way they can do this. It’s wrong and is dragging (our) name through the mud due to other family members.”

Jersey Street resident Sharon Ashcraft weighed in: “To destroy

that scenic beauty would be a huge tragedy for people who live here now and for future generations ... We are responsible for protecting the wildlife and the rural character of the area.”

John Sullivan had another concern: “There’s no way around the environmental impact of the construction phase either.”

Some also wondered what would happen to the array when the panels reach the end of their 25 to 30-year useful lifespan.

Hall told the *Independent* any contract the town signs will call for the land to be cleared at that point.

“We have an agreement on all our solar arrays in Panton, like the Green Mountain Power one, that you have to do demolition, period,” he said. “And that would include this one.”

Some also question the likelihood the energy generated by the array will be headed to southern New England. Hall responded that it’s still renewable energy, and noted that Vermont gets most of its power from Canada’s Hydro Quebec dams.

“It’s a tradeoff,” he said.

T h e selectboard plans to distribute a fact sheet about solar arrays that Hall said won’t include some of the unproven claims made by opponents.

“We’re getting information, that ‘Well, solar panels cause cancer, that there’s pollution, runoff from solar fields.’ I said, ‘If those things happen could I see some documentation?’” Hall said. “We’re just going to say these are what the facts are. This is what we have, and let you decide.”

What can residents expect to see on the fact sheet?

“We’re just basically going to talk about the size of it, where the actual location is,” Hall said.

Hall also recommends those interested review documents on the town website under www.pantonvt.us/news_detail_T6_R8.php, and/or show up at the October selectboard meeting that SunEast/Freepoint representatives also plan to attend.



“We’ve explained to the people who’ve shown up and been very negative about it that if the people want it, then we’re going to embrace it. If people don’t want it, then we’re going to say we don’t want it.”

— Selectboard Chair
Howard Hall



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Boulder breaks water main

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury’s public works crew worked hard this past weekend tending to multiple water main breaks in the town’s system, including off Exchange Street (north of Agri-Mark/Cabot), as well as in the Seymour Street, Woodbridge Lane and Pinewood areas.

The town first reported the Exchange Street break on Friday morning, and then the others followed on Saturday morning.

Bill Kernan, director of operations for the Middlebury Department of Public Works, said the Exchange Street main break on Saturday proved to be the biggest challenge.

“This has been a troublesome area for us, and this particular break was due to a large boulder in the pipe zone that had been putting pressure on the 12-inch ductile iron pipe. The repair consisted of replacing a 20-foot section of pipe. Water service was restored around 11:50 a.m.,” he wrote in a Sunday morning email.

The *Independent* reported this past February on Middlebury’s ongoing struggles with water main breaks. Town officials have been working on a 10-year plan for upgrading the community’s 54-mile municipal water system. Some of the conduits are more than 100 years old.

Bridport

(Continued from Page 1A)
of support that any new employee would get in our district. That's been really awesome."

Urban takes over for Matthew Brankman, who came to BCS in 2019 and began the 2023-24 academic year as principal of both the Bridport and Shoreham elementary schools. Urban had served a Brankman's right-hand aide before being named Shoreham's acting principal late last winter.

When the ACSO solicited applicants this past spring for its Bridport, Shoreham and Cornwall principal vacancies, Urban announced she'd be happy to serve in any of the three. District leaders found her to be a particularly good match for Bridport, where she had had previous experience as an administrator.

"It felt important for me to go through that process to ensure it was the right fit," she said. "I (told the interview team), 'If I'm the right fit for Shoreham, that's great, but if there's someone else that comes along who would be a better fit for those kids and teachers, that person should be there.'"

Ultimately, the Shoreham job went to Lashawn Whitmore-Sells, while Nadya Bech-Conger was picked for

the Cornwall job. Urban was happy with her Bridport homecoming, and her Shoreham colleagues and students are only a short drive down Route 22A

She'll miss her Shoreham colleagues and students, but knows that school will be in excellent hands.

"Shoreham deserves the best principal it can have, and the community is so excited to welcome Lashawn," Urban said. "She's incredible and has a ton of experience as a principal in Vermont."

The transition to Bridport provided Urban with yet another new experience in her budding career.

"It gave me a chance to model how to say 'goodbye' to a community in a graceful, respectful way that helps kids understand that 'I'm not leaving because you did something wrong; I'm leaving because you're getting an awesome person. I'm just going up the road and I still care about you. You're in good hands.'"

Urban leads a BCS staff of around 20 faculty and staff, a blend of new arrivals and savvy veterans. While Urban has past experience at Bridport Central, her reassimilation is being aided by several longtime BCS staffers.

Urban gave a particular shout-out to Administrative Assistant Linda



JENNY URBAN IS ready to begin the next chapter of her professional life, as the new principal of Bridport Central School.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Barrett, who's served BCS for decades.

"(Barrett) knows every answer to every question, and the history behind it — and that's really helpful," Urban said. "She's the heart and soul of Bridport School."

And while Barrett provides the figurative mortar that holds the

school together, the teachers are Bridport's finely tuned engine, with Urban at the wheel.

"Every staff and faculty member we have is so committed to our school community and to the kids and families here," Urban said. "We have phenomenal educators, and I'm so grateful to be here with them."

Bridport Central, a preK-grade 5 school, is expected to welcome around 60 students next week. They'll be divided into grade configurations of PreK, K/1, 2, 3/4 and 5. Urban anticipates around 10-15 students in each class.

"I'm looking forward to starting (at BCS) again, but through the lens of, 'I'm the only principal here now, and we're building a new community together,'" Urban said.

She wants BCS's stakeholders to ask — and answer — such foundational questions as, "Who are we as Bridport School? What do we believe in? What do we value? And, how do we support kids together?"

Her overarching hope is ensuring that "everyone in our school community believes we belong here."

A 2008 VUHS GRADUATE

There's no question in Urban's mind that she belongs in Addison County. She was born and raised in Ferrisburgh and graduated from Vergennes Union High School in 2008. She wants to leave a legacy in her backyard.

"All good things come from Addison County, I believe. The reason I've stayed in Addison County for so long is this is my community," she said. "It's really important to me that I'm part of creating the next generation of community members. I want to help grow our community to make it stronger."

Asked to describe her leadership style, Urban emphasized an in-the-trenches approach.

"I am right there next to teachers all day long," she said. "It's actually kind of weird for me to have an office; I didn't have an office at all last year. I'm in classrooms, in hallways, on the playground all day, every day, whether it's sorting out a recess squabble or modeling positive language and expectations."

Given her teaching experience, Urban knows — and can help troubleshoot — the challenges educators sometimes face.

Telehealth

(Continued from Page 8A)
leveraging UVMHN's resources.

"... surgeons from across UVM Health Network are now using Porter's operating rooms, boosting capacity for patient care while reducing overall expenses by sharing costs across partners. We're also expanding our patient financial assistance programs because we believe ability to pay should never be a barrier to receiving care," Ortmyer said.

• Enhancing staff support and security measures.

• Streamlining financial processes with better coding, billing and transparency.

• Fostering collaborations with Middlebury College and Addison County Home Health & Hospice.

• Continuing support of Helen

Porter Rehab & Nursing.

• Leveraging high-value care initiatives in the ambulatory practices.

• Ongoing investments in PMC facilities to better accommodate patients' needs. For example, PMC has been working on a major renovation of the 23 Pond Lane office complex in Middlebury to accommodate a new musculoskeletal clinic offering orthopedic, podiatry and rehab services under one roof.

"As always, Porter's goal has not changed over the past 99 years — we're here to take care of this community and provide compassionate health care to everyone in need," Ortmyer said. "Despite the many challenges health care providers are facing

here and across the country, we will continue to maintain our financial health so we can focus on overdue infrastructure investments in the coming years. This work will help ensure we're prepared to provide care to our patients for the next 100 years."

Porter's is one of three proposed FY25 budgets the GNCB will review on Aug. 28. The others belong to University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMHC) and Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC). UVMHC is proposing an 8.6% increase in net patient revenues for FY25, while CVMC is proposing an 11.9% hike.

Editor's note: John Flowers's son, Mark Flowers, is a Porter Hospital nurse.

Woofstock

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See your neighbors, eat, shop & relax at 42nd Vergennes Day

VERGENNES — As Labor Day approaches and we all begin to think about the end of summer, celebrate with a big bang at the 42nd annual Vergennes Day, which return to the city's downtown green on Saturday, Aug. 24.

Vergennes Day offers something for all ages — a pancake breakfast at the Vergennes Fire Station, the Little City Road Race, 60 crafters and vendors, live music on the bandstand, children's activities, horse and wagon rides, the Lions Club's famous chicken barbeque, events at the Bixby Library — all taking place in and around the Little City.

"People come back year after year for the fun and the tradition. We are now seeing second and third generation Addison County residents bringing their children and grandchildren to an event they attended as a child," said Phil Summers, executive director of Addison County Chamber of Commerce, which organizes Vergennes Day. "The fact that this is the 42nd Annual Vergennes Day and all of the traditional events that bring thousands into the Little City each year for the event is the real story."

Although Vergennes is small — by city standards — Vergennes Day is so big it spills over into the night before. Festivities will kick

off on Friday, Aug. 23, with a street dance on the City Green featuring the music of "The Hitmen" from 7 to 10 p.m. After Friday night's dance party, activities on Saturday take place between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For those who like to start the day early, the Vergennes Fire Department will host a pancake breakfast at its Green Street fire station from 7 to 10:30 a.m. After they dole out the flapjacks, the firefighters will fill up a big pit with soap bubbles and invite children to jump in and have fun! That will run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

To start off the day in a different way, take part in the Vergennes Day Race, with running races of 3.1 miles, 6.2 miles and 9.3 miles. All participants will receive a finisher medal.

Meet at Vergennes Union Elementary at 8 a.m. There will be a free 1-K Kids Fun Run beginning at 8:15 a.m. The starter's gun for the 15K goes off at 8:30 a.m. The 5K walk, 5K run and 10K run begin at 9 a.m. Sign up online through Thursday, Aug. 22, or register in person on race day. Online registration is at runsignup.com/Race/VT/Vergennes/VergennesDayRace2024.

After that, things start heating up for the rest of us.

Many stores throughout the city



THE VERGENNES CITY Green will be covered with booths of around 60 crafters and vendors on Saturday during the centerpiece of the 42nd annual Vergennes Day. When you are finished with the booths, check out what the local storefronts have to offer.

File photo

will hold sales that will be worth browsing.

Over at Bixby Memorial Library on Main Street, the Friends of the Library will hold their annual book sale. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some books will be displayed on the

front lawn of the library, weather permitting, where they will be priced by donation. All other books will be available in the Otter Creek Room, lower level — enter via the back parking lot of Bixby.

How are you going to get around town? The Addison County Chamber of Commerce, which sponsors Vergennes Day, has arranged for free wagon rides from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pickup and drop off is at 14 Green St.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the center of action will be the City Green, where the will be more than 60 crafters' and vendors' booths

offering fine handcrafts, locally made products, food and more.

While you're browsing, look for a Dunk Tank, which will be a fundraiser benefiting the Make a Wish Foundation, Veterans Place and the Vergennes Girls Basketball Program.

Stop by Booth 37, where the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad will be offering free helmets to kids ag 18 and younger. They will also be a CPR demonstration.

At Booth 39 you can purchase tickets for another fundraiser: The Vergennes Rotary Club's annual Ducky Race. Rather than heading

down to the creek, the club will hold the race virtually, which will enable more people to take part. Funds raced will support great programs for our youth in Addison County, scholarships, meals and literacy programs. Plus, it really is a race and the winners get prizes: \$400 for first place, \$250 for second and \$100 for third.

To sponsor a duck, head online to vergennesrotary.org, or stop at Booth 39. The winners of the virtual race will be announced at 7 p.m.

Musical groups serenading those (See Vergennes Day, Page 13A)

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MUSICAL GROUPS ON the City Bandstand will serenade those taking part in the Vergennes Day festivities. LC Jazz, shown here at a previous Vergennes Day, will perform at 12:30 p.m.

File photo

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**Film: Brooklyn 45
Vermont Premiere**
Friday the 13th of Sept 7:30pm

Dave Keller Band
Soul & Blues at its Best
Saturday, Nov 2nd 7:30pm

Broadway Direct
Friday, Dec 6th 7:30pm
Saturday, Dec 7th 3:00pm

LC Jazz Winter Thaw
Saturday, Feb 8th 7:30pm

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Home and Garden

(Continued from Page 14A)
yarn spun on a drop spindle — Chrissy Bedard.
Twist O’ Wool Award: Outstanding felted article — Jeanette Van Bueren.
Eleanor Boucher Award: Outstanding weaving — Opal Carey.
Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: Best sewn item — Allison Levasseur.
Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: Best sewing by youth — Sagan Holm.
Quilters’ Corner at Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: Most outstanding quilt — Mary Howard.
Quilters’ Corner at Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: Outstanding quilt quilted by a professional — Sally Vella.
Quilters’ Corner at Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: Best quilted item — Jeanette Van Bueren.
Quilters’ Corner at Middlebury Sew ‘n’ Vac Award: Outstanding quilt by youth — Caroline Larocque.
Rae Dwight Award: outstanding embroidery — Beverly Stearns.
Rae Dwight Award: Outstanding embroidery by youth — Savannah Levasseur.
Rose Ann Farese Award: Innovative modern stitching — Mary Howard.
Amy Oxford Award: Best entry in hooking and braiding — Gail

Duclos Lapierre.
Suzanne Douglas Award: Outstanding entry in hooking and braiding — Gail Duclos Lapierre.
Jack Brown Award: Outstanding woodworking — Edward Malzac.
Jack Brown Award: Outstanding woodworking — Joe Pouliot.
Jack Brown Award: Outstanding woodwork by youth-Caleb Moran.
Golden Years Award: Outstanding handicraft by exhibitor over 80 years of age — Alice Munson.
Jerry and Cheryl Connor Award: Best handicraft by youth — Wyatt Kennett.
Grand Prize in Handicrafts: Allison Levasseur.
ART & PHOTOGRAPHY
Best Entry in Art: Rhylee Macedo.
Best Color Rendering (Adult): Katherine Moran.
Best Color Rendering (Teen): Sagan Holm.
Best Color Rendering (Youth): Calvin Sessions.
Best Black & White Rendering (Adult): Katherine Moran.
Best Black & White Rendering (Teen): Luke Goodfellow.
Best Black & White Rendering (Youth): Normandie Cesario.
People’s Choice in Art: David Larocque.
Best Folk Art (Adult): Cyndi Watrous.

Best Folk Art (Teen/Youth): Normandie Cesario.
Best Entry in Photography: Ben Munkres.
Best Photograph (Adult): Carla Berno.
Best Photograph (Teen): Makenzie Chase
Best Photograph (Youth): Tommy Armell.
Photo Challenge (All ages): Danielle Morse.
Judge’s Choice Photography: Tommy Armell.
People’s Choice in Photography: Ben Munkres.
GARDEN DEPARTMENT
Premier Gardener: Andrew Peet.
Outstanding Youth Gardeners: Beau and Huxley Bourgeois.
Perfect scores:
• Green Cabbage — Kris Bowdish.
• Garlic — Michelle Black.
• Zucchini — Lauren Laberge.
• Acorn Squash — Johnathan Quesnel.
• Butternut Squash — Melanie Paquette.
• Watermelon — Jack Foster.
• Decorated Vegetable — Rosa Suhr.
Commercial Garden Award: Golden Russet Farm
FLOWER DEPARTMENT
Best Entry by Youth 4-8: Tommy Armell.
Most Outstanding Exhibit by Youth 18 and under: Ella Apuzzo-Kidder.

Most Outstanding Exhibitor: Lauren Laberge.
Most Unique Design by Adult: Lynne Rapaport
Most Outstanding Plant Entry: Janice Jackson
Most Outstanding Entry Adult: Mary Howard
Commercial Nursery Award: 1. Peet Farm Greenhouses; 2. Pete’s Pines and Needles; 3. Golden Russet Farm.
Commercial Flower Award: 1. Golden Russet Farm; 2. Understory Farm.
FOODS DEPARTMENT
King Arthur Baking Contest — Marble Cake: 1. Heather Morse; 2. Kelley Weening; 3. Cheryl Cesario.
Best Honey Baked Goods: 1. Hannah Sessions; 2. Melanie Paquette.
Canning Award: 1. Margaret Hough; 2. George Dunne.
Monument Farms Prize: Normandie Cesario.
Maple Meadows Best Cake: Lauren Wilkinson.
Middlebury Bagel Prize: Ava Greiner.
Middlebury Natural Foods Coop Prize: Tammy Lavalette.
Otter Creek Bakery Prize: Anna Rodriguez.
Wanda Goodyear Memorial Baked Bean Contest: 1. Gavin Greenewalt; 2. Cindy Peet; 3. January Stearns; 4. Fred Peet; 5. Heather Morse.



HORSE-LOVER TED Russell, above, operates a “chicken scratch tedder” across a Field Days demonstration field, giving visitors a taste of farm life prior to electricity. He still teaches many beginner courses through the Green Mountain Draft Horse Association at Shelburne Farm. Right, Alan Clark is a long-time volunteer at the Field Days antique equipment area.
Independent photos/ Caroline Jiao



Fair showcases oldtime tools

By CAROLINE JIAO
NEW HAVEN — For a lot of fairgoers, the Addison County Field and Fair Days is about the eating street food, enjoying the rides and watching cars crash into each other.
For some, on the other hand, the fair is about treasure-hunting the old memories on a farm through the antique equipment displays, working with all kinds of animals and tools before electricity was a thing — it’s about living that way of life.
Sudbury’s Ted Russell, 65, could be found operating various horse-pulled apparatus across a demonstration field near the horse barns. He feels proud about his work.
Being a fifth-generation farmer, Russell had been mixing draft horses with tractors to operate his farm for 45 years.
“The forever reason is I love horses,” he said. “My first-grade picture, I was wearing a sweater my mother knit for me, that I picked the pattern, and I had horses on it.”
Love is an understatement. Six years ago, driving home from the county fair, Russell saved two of his draft horses from a truck fire by almost sacrificing his life.
Now he is still actively doing farming demonstrations. He happily explained to a reporter one day last week about a peculiar hay tedder called “a chicken scratch tedder.” It’s a horse-powered cart with pitchforks attached at the back that can scrape up cut grass and rye like large, running chicken feet. He believes this specific one can be dated to the late 1800s.
He recalls the first gasoline shortage in the 1970s when prices for the fuel skyrocketed. Regardless, Russell stayed positive.
“Here’s my excuse to use horses!” he jokingly recalled.
In the following days, the field witnessed a draft horse exhibition and many classes on halting and hitching horses. Russell has made teaching these skills to the new generation his life-long work through the Green Mountain Draft Horse Association, which hosts annual beginner courses in Shelburne Farm.
“Now, it has to do with keeping these methods, these skills, alive for

the future, in case they’re needed,” he said.
Alan Clark, 76 of Bristol who helps run the nearby antique engines display, is not unfamiliar with farm life where horses used to be the main power source. When he was a boy on a farm in Addison, he remembered standing on top of a combine harvester, putting hay into bags.
Now, his hobby has become noisier farm companions — gasoline engines — many of which at the fair he owns. To put it in Clark’s own words — if it ain’t noisy, it ain’t the fair!
Clark has witnessed the Antique Area at Field Days grow exponentially since he started volunteering 30 years ago. It expanded from one barn to having also a forestry building, an iron shop, and an engine shed. There is talk about building a house years to display all the household items so the audience could have a taste of real farm life a few hundred years ago.
“Once you start (volunteering), you can’t leave,” he said. “I was brought up on a farm. It’s just in your blood.”



FIELD DAYS HOME & Garden Superintendent Lee Greenewalt presents the Frances Monroe Award for outstanding entries from youth 18 and under to winner Normandie Cesario. This is Cesario’s third time to win the award.
Photo courtesy of Megan Sutton



HANNAH SESSIONS WON the Leona Thompson Award this year at Addison County Fair and Field Days. The award, presented by Home and Garden superintendent Lee Greenewalt, is given to the best all-around adult participant in the Foods and Handicrafts Departments.
Photo courtesy of Megan Sutton

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Farmers

(Continued from Page 1A)

and Penniman’s and other Black farmers efforts’ to reconnect with their ancestral roots.

The documentary will be screened in Middlebury College’s Dana Auditorium next Tuesday, Aug. 27, at 6:30 p.m. The free event is co-hosted by the Middlebury Climate Action Program and the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN). The event will include a panel with local Black farmers discussing ways to increase land access for Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) farmers in the state.

“The film highlights the restorative work of Black farmers in the Northeast working to bring about social change through the act of farming,” said Bailey Walker, a Middlebury College student interning with ACORN. “The film reinforces the profound need to center racial and social justice in rural agricultural communities like the Champlain Valley. As of 2022 under 0.3% of farmland in Vermont was being farmed by Black farmers, much lower than national averages or historic highs. We hope the discussion following the film will help bring a local context and awareness while encouraging people here to connect with farmers of color and work to dismantle barriers to accessing land.”

The film chronicles Penniman’s work at Soul Fire Farm, which she co-founded in 2010 and of which she now serves as co-executive director and farm director. Soul Fire is an Afro-Indigenous-centered community farm and training center “dedicated to uprooting racism and seeding sovereignty in the food system.”

The documentary also features Soul Fire’s Program Director and Leah’s sister Naima Penniman, Blain Snipstal of Earth-Bound Building and Karen Washington, a community gardener and board member of the New York Botanical Gardens.

The film highlights their contributions to the food justice and regenerative agriculture movements, such as through the use of Afro-Indigenous sustainable farming practices.

“When we do these climate-mitigating practices, they not only help us do our part around soil carbon sequestration, but they make us more resilient as the climate changes,” Leah Penniman says in the film. “If there was ever a time to do these Afro-Indigenous regenerative practices, it’s now, because it’s a necessary part of the climate solution and it will also help us be more resilient as things warm up, and there’s droughts and floods and pest damage and all the rest.”

The film is, in part, intended to inspire greater support for Black and Indigenous farmers and uplift the urban community gardening movement pioneered in Washington. The documentary is also aimed at encouraging individuals to reconnect with their agricultural heritage and prompt the return of millions of acres of land to Black farmers.

ACORN Executive Director Lindsey Berk said she saw the film earlier this year during the Green Mountain Film Festival in Montpelier and had read Penniman’s book that inspired it.

“There was a panel of four Black farmers following the film who spoke passionately about increasing access to farmland for Black farmers in the state,” she recalled.



SISTERS NAIMA AND Leah Penniman take a break from hoeing the land at Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, N.Y. The farm and Leah Penniman’s book inspired the film “Farming While Black,” which will be screened in Middlebury on Aug. 27.

“It occurred to me, not for the first time, that we have many large landholders in the Champlain Valley who might be receptive to this message.

“So, we are bringing this conversation here, to some of the most fertile agricultural land not only in the state, but in the Northeast,” Berk continued. “My hope is for the film to not only educate and increase awareness, but to also spark interest amongst our neighbors to continue this conversation and start building relationships with BIPOC farmers who don’t have land, and don’t see a way of accessing land in today’s super challenging real estate market.”

Samantha Langevin of the Vermont Releaf Collective will moderate the panel discussion at Tuesday’s screening. The Vermont Releaf Collective is a member-driven nonprofit that seeks to amplify the voices of Vermonters of color in the areas of land, environment, agriculture and food, as well as increase access to resources and community. The organization has around 400 members throughout the state.

ACCESS TO LAND

Langevin pointed to a couple of ways the film and its themes are reflected in Vermont’s agriculture industry, such as when it comes to land access.

“Addison County, for example, is, from a geologic standpoint even, an incredibly agriculturally rich area, it’s a very unique agricultural ecosystem, and yet there’s an incredibly small percentage of Black farmers who can even afford to farm here, not to mention have welcoming communities to live here,” she said. “I think that where we live is highlighted by this film and some of its themes.”

Langevin said she hopes people walk away from

the film and subsequent panel discussion on with the understanding that access to land is different for everyone and a privilege as opposed to a right.

“It’s not just about if someone gives you enough money to buy land or if someone sells it to you for cheap. It’s also about ‘Is the place that you’re going to farm safe, is it welcoming?’ because safety looks different for different people; a welcoming community is not always welcoming to everyone,” she said. “It’s more than just ‘can you get your foot in the door and get on a piece of land?’ There’s all these other compounding issues that really affect the ability for somebody not only to start a farm but to have actual land tenure and long-term stewardship.”

She noted there are several steps community members can take following such conversations around land access and agriculture. Those steps include supporting local organizations increasing land access like the Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust and Vermont’s Land Access and Opportunity Board, as well as considering ways farms can pursue succession planning to include those without access to capital.

“It also is deeply tied to the type of housing that’s available in our area and who it’s available to,” Langevin said. “I think as a community we have to start thinking about not just ‘How do we make it comfortable for the people who live here,’ but really starting to question who doesn’t live here and why, and to find direct ways to affect those things beyond just having good politics.”

Those interested in attending Tuesday’s screening can RSVP at tinyurl.com/3fkzpjbt. To learn more the film and how to support Black farmers, visit www.farmingwhileblackfilm.com.

Tax rate

(Continued from Page 1A)

last March, shire town taxpayers for FY25 will see a:

- Homestead (residential) rate of \$1.9459, a boost of almost 27 cents compared to the FY24 rate of \$1.6760.
- Non-residential rate of \$1.8077, a bump of 15.12 cents compared to the FY24 rate of \$1.6565.

So the overall Middlebury residential property tax rate in FY25 will be \$2.8353 per \$100 in property value, and the total non-residential rate will be \$2.6971. That means, for a home valued at \$300,000, if the homeowner doesn’t get an income-related adjustment from the state, taxes will be around \$5,837.

It should be noted that only around one-third of Vermont households pay school taxes based solely on the value of their real estate. About two-thirds of all resident homeowners in Vermont receive an income-based property tax credit each year, and those folks won’t feel the full weight of the new tax rate. But most everyone will feel an impact.

The new municipal rate of 88.94 cents is based on the town’s FY25 general fund budget of \$13,609,827 that voters endorsed at their annual meeting on March 4. That budget required a property tax levy of \$8,753,310. The Middlebury selectboard used \$1,040,700 in local option tax surplus revenues to soften the property tax impact. The town’s local option tax of 1% on rooms, meals, sales and alcohol is primarily used to draw down building and maintenance costs for the Cross Street Bridge. That tax has been yielding far more than is required to cover Cross Street Bridge expenses, so town officials (with voter permission) have been using excess revenues to offset spending for capital improvements.

The municipal rate includes an annual levy of 2 cents to help fund major fire department purchases and a veterans’ property tax exemption of \$40,000 in assessed value.

Addison Central School District voters on March 5 approved an FY25 preK-12 budget of around \$50.6 million, which represented a 6.5% increase in total education spending. But a number of factors — including significant common level of appraisal (CLA) adjustments — have contributed to actual homestead education property tax rate increases of between 13% and 27% in the ACSD’s seven member towns: Bridport, Cornwall, Ripton, Middlebury, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

CLAs — as determined by town-by-town analyses of their real estate sales by the Vermont Department of Taxes — compare towns’ property tax assessments to fair market value. Ratios created with that study are then used to adjust school tax rates upward or downward to equalize tax collection among all Vermont municipalities.

The state wants municipalities to conduct townwide reappraisals every five years to ensure their CLAs are as close as possible to 100%. But the current CLAs in the seven ACSD towns range from 68.33% in Salisbury to 77.07% in Weybridge.



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Coffey to helm boys' soccer team

Former Eagle player looking forward to coaching role

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — The new Mount Abraham Union High School boys' soccer coach is a 1997 graduate who wore Eagle maroon while playing for storied coach Mike Corey and has extensive youth soccer coaching experience.

Chris Coffey, a Monkton resident, semi-retired triathlete, experienced youth soccer coach, and father of two Mount Abe students, takes over from his friend and fellow Mount Abe graduate Rider MacCrellich. MacCrellich stepped down after the 2023 season after three years to devote more time to his construction business.

Coffey said he was at first not sure about applying, but as the months wore on and the job remained vacant, he began to consider it seriously.

He decided to apply in the spring when he knew the school still hadn't found a replacement. He consulted with his dad, Peter Coffey, the former longtime successful Champlain Valley Union High School boys' soccer coach, about the time commitment; got the go-ahead from his wife, Kylee, also a 1997 Mount Abe graduate; and spoke to Mount Abe Athletic Director Devin Wendel about scheduling practices later in the afternoon to accommodate his work schedule and got another green light — and the job.

"So I applied for it and came down and interviewed," Coffey said. "I wanted to make sure these boys had continuity in the summer and clarity on who their coach was going to be."

Wendel said he was happy Coffey stepped forward.

"Chris brings with him an

abundance of energy and passion for the sport, in addition to his drive to provide the best experience possible for student-athletes," he said.

Coffey said after he got the position, he quickly took steps to ensure he and the team could hit the ground running when the group gathered this fall.

"C a l Hopwood, the JV coach, and I connected right away, and we've been having the boys train one night a week this summer ... and sending them out little things to work on all summer, just get touches on the ball and show up a little more prepared," he said.

Coffey works mostly out of his Monkton home for his job — he is a dealer.com tech support team leader — and said he can easily make most of the late-afternoon practices. But he has an insurance policy: His father is on board as an assistant.

"I couldn't do it without him," Coffey said. "He lives right in town here, and if I'm ever running late because of work, he definitely has to tools to run a practice."

It's not unprecedented to see Peter Coffey on the Eagle sidelines. He coached JV for a season a decade

ago, and a year ago helped out MacCrellich. Beyond the practical and tactical support, Chris Coffey said working with his father will be rewarding.

"I'm super grateful. It's going to be a gift to do this with him after all through my childhood being a ballboy at CVU, going to preseason when he was the coach there, watching them win titles," he said.

The younger Coffey's coaching experience comes from mentoring his sons and other youth players in the Monkton recreation programs, and then from 2019 until now coaching Addison United club teams. He is now the club's vice president.

As far as formations and tactics, Coffey said he and his co-coaches would evaluate the players before choosing a formation in which to best deploy them.

"I'm going to tailor it," he said. "I've got a lot of people to consult with and help me with what we can get out of this group. We've got a lot of talent on this team ... We've got to figure out the puzzle pieces."

One thing Coffey will favor is getting the Eagles fit enough to allow them to run hard and get after their opponents in the other team's defensive end of the field.

"We want to get in really good shape and put pressure on the ball and not let them get out of the backfield too easily when they're in the final third," he said.

Coffey added he doesn't want

(See Coach, Page 2B)



CHRIS COFFEY



Dodge and weave

TIGER FOOTBALL PLAYERS go through an agility drill during a recent practice at MUHS.

Independent photo/Steve James

Ralph Myhre golfers fare well at women's tourney

MIDDLEBURY — Several Ralph Myhre Golf Course members posted solid results on Aug. 13 at a VSWG State Day at the Proctor-Pittsford Country Club.

Topping the list was Nicole Laberge, who shot the best low net score in Flight 3.

Flight 4 saw two winners: Eva Mastalos was first with the best low gross score, and Jean Goodwin tied for the best low net score.

In Flight 5 Eileen Sims finished with the second-best gross score,

Giselle Lafleche tied for the third-best gross score, and Kathy Mackey tied for the third-best net score.

In regular Thursday Men's League play on Aug. 15, the foursome of Jim Stahl, Steve Maier, George Ramsayer and Marsdin Van Order prevailed.

The quartet of Dan Small, Chris Prickitt, Jeff Stetson and Neil Mackey took second, and Mike Adams. Jim Johnston, Allen Smith and John Davis were third.

Donald Dayton shot the day's best low net score, and Ken Roth and Stahl, were the closest-to-the-pin winners.

In the next day's Friday Mixer, the team of Brian Dodds, Cindy Dodds and Bryon and Julia Emilo prevailed.

Taking second were Bill Laberge, Nicole Laberge and Dave and Cindy Wemette, and finishing third were Garvi Jesso-White and Dick, Dale and Jill White.

Noel Mulkey wins final triathlon of year

Middlebury's Kyle Friis settles for second after closing gap in the 10K run

SALISBURY — In the finale of this summer's Vermont Sun Triathlon Series on Sunday, Noel Mulkey of Saint Albans held off a hard-charging Kyle Friis of Middlebury to win the Olympic distance Lake Dunmore Triathlon (1,600-yard swim, 28-mile bike, 6.2-mile run).

South Burlington's Katie Dolbec, who was less than 10 minutes behind Friis, claimed the women's title in that race by one minute over second-place finisher Julie Smith of Hanover, N.H.

More than 300 people entered the triathlons at Branbury State Park on Sunday; over the course of the summer almost 1,000 athletes took part in the Vermont Sun triathlons. Besides individual entrants on Sunday, there were 41 who were part of a team. Seven individuals competed as AquaBikers, doing the swim and bike only, no run.

The events benefit the Brandon rescue squad who provide traffic protection, The Middlebury Union Middle School cross country team, which staffed the aid stations, the Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association and Branbury State Park.

Lake Dunmore Triathlon winner Mulkey started off the race right by posting the day's fastest swim by far (19:21). Friis was third out of Lake Dunmore but had a huge deficit of 5:40 to overcome as he mounted his bike. The two had nearly identical ride times, 1:13:20 to 1:13:21. Thirty-year-old Mulkey had trouble making the transition from bike to run (1:58) the slowest of the top 50, giving up 1:27 to Friis, 38, who had the day's best transition in 31 seconds.

Friis went to work on the run. Still trailing Mulkey by 4:10, Friis ran

a 6:17 pace, 32 seconds faster per mile than Mulkey, almost closing the gap to finish in 2:18:47 to Mulkey's winning time of 2:17:48. Friis who placed 4th and 5th in the June and July Sprints Triathlons, respectively, had the day's second best 10K run in 38:57.

"He (Mulkey) had an incredible swim, I didn't make up any time on

the bike, the transition official said I was over four minutes down," Friis said after the race. "The run is my strongest event. At the turn around I saw that he was just over two minutes ahead. I was catching him. If the run had been two miles longer I would have had him."

Only four men were faster than

(See Triathlon, Page 3B)



SAINT ALBANS ATHLETE Noel Mulkey on Sunday starts off the Lake Dunmore Triathlon at Branbury State Park in Salisbury with the fastest swim of the day. He went on to win the race.

Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography



FOXY LADY, A J/105 sailed by Jeff Hill of Lake Champlain Yacht Club, was the winner in the Spinnaker A class in the Split Rock Race and runner-up in the recent Diamond Island Regatta on Lake Champlain.

Photo credit: Joe Gannon / Coyote Ridge Productions LLC

Despite Debby, Diamond Island Regatta runs

CHARLOTTE / FERRISBURGH — The remnants of Hurricane Debby rampaged through the Champlain Valley on Friday, Aug. 9, bringing heavy rain and high winds, with gusts as high as 65 knots. At Point Bay Marina in Charlotte, a sailboat was blown off its mooring into the marsh, and another was dismantled. Tens of thousands of Vermonters, and the marina, were without power that night, an outage that continued well into the weekend. Downed trees and flooding closed many roads.

But the weather had calmed down significantly, and the clean-up was well under way by Saturday morning, Aug. 10. And the 12th annual Diamond Island Regatta, sponsored by the Diamond Island Yacht Club (DIYC) and Point Bay Marina to benefit the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (LCMM), went ahead pretty much as

scheduled. Boats that would have traveled south from the northern bays of Lake Champlain on Friday evening either moved up their trips to earlier in the day or decided to make the long trip down the lake on Saturday morning before the race.

Julie Trotter, captain of Meridian, left Malletts Bay Boat Club in Colchester at 4 a.m.

"There was no way I was going to miss it," Trotter said. "It's one of my favorite events of the season. Plus, my crew and I enjoyed a beautiful sunrise from the middle of Lake Champlain, and on our return to Malletts Bay Sunday evening sailed right into a rainbow."

Event organizers and volunteers, unable to set up the venue that Friday due to the winds, arrived at 6 a.m. Saturday to discover there was no power or running water at the marina. Yet they still managed to put on a great breakfast before the race

with hot and cold items and hot coffee.

Despite the storm, and thanks to the resilience of those in the Champlain Valley of Vermont and New York, 25 boats — all but a couple of those that had registered to sail — were on the starting line on Saturday morning. The regatta, DIYC's signature sailboat race, took boats on a course of about 11 miles, from the start/finish line in Town Farm Bay, south to Diamond Island off Ferrisburgh, north to Sloop Island off Charlotte, and back to the start line. The race started in a light breeze, ironic given the record winds of the previous day. The wind picked up, then waned again making for some challenging sailing but getting all the boats around the course.

The next day, 20 boats — just one short of last year's record turnout — sailed in the fourth annual Split Rock Race, in mostly

(See Regatta, Page 2B)



ON THE WAY back to Malletts Bay on Aug. 11, after taking part in the Diamond Island Regatta and Split Rock Race, Julie Trottier on *Meridian* sailed right into the middle of a rainbow.

Photo credit: Julie Trottier

Regatta

(Continued from Page 1B)

steady winds, covering the same course. The start was in a brisk 15-knot southerly, providing a quick trip to Diamond Island, and the breeze held up until the last few boats made it to Thompson’s Point on the way to the finish line. At that point, the wind died and a few boats ended up drifting slowly toward the line. But ultimately, everyone made it to the finish, and many headed back north to their home ports.

Boats came from all over the lake for the weekend of racing, with sailors from, among other places, the DIYC in Charlotte, the Lake Champlain Yacht Club (LCYC) in Shelburne, the Malletts Bay Boat Club in Colchester, and even from as far as Mooney Bay, north of Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Both races are part of the Lake Champlain Championship Series, a season-long competition that determines annual bragging rights in five classes: three Spinnaker classes and two Jib-and-Main (JaM) classes. The races are scored using the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet system, so boats with different speed potentials can compete against each other. Each boat’s elapsed time for the course is turned into a “corrected” time to determine the winners in each class.

The first boat to finish in the Diamond Island Regatta on Saturday, in 2 hours, 32 minutes and 18 seconds, was Chris Duley’s *Polar Express*, a Henderson 30 from the Valcour Sailing Club competing in the Spinnaker A

division. Winning Spinnaker A on corrected time was *Rogue*, a J/105 from LCYC, owned by Gene Cloutier, Matt Fisher and Walt Marti. First place in the Spinnaker B class went to *Muse*, a J/37C sailed by Doug Friant, a member of both DIYC and LCYC. Spinnaker C class was won again this year by Benedek Erdos of the host club, sailing his Santana 2320R, *Lil’ Bot*.

In the jib-and-main classes, *Shockwave*, a J/29 sailed by DIYC’s Jim and Tom Moody, captured JaM A. In the JaM B class, *Mackinac*, a Pearson 32 sailed by Tim and Betsy Etchells, also of DIYC, came out on top.

In Sunday’s Split Rock Race, the win in the Spinnaker A class went to *Foxy Lady*, a J/105 sailed by Jeff Hill of LCYC. *Enki*, a C&C 99 sailed by Cindy and Marc Turcotte of LCYC, won the very competitive Spinnaker B class. *Osprey*, a C&C 33 Mark II sailed by Tom Porter of DIYC and LCYC, got the win in Spinnaker C class.

In the Jib and Main classes on Sunday, Jim Lampman of DIYC sailed *Hot Chocolate*, a J/9 , to the victory in JaM A. And *Mackinac*, the Pearson 32 sailed by DIYC’s Tim and Betsy Etchells, won JaM B, becoming the only double winner of the weekend.

And everyone had fun watching the lone multihull boat, *Shoshin*, owned by Tim McKegney, zip around the course in record time on Sunday.

Full results can be found at the DIYC website: diamondislandyc.org/dir-srr-results-for-2024.

As is the case every year, perhaps the biggest winner was the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. The money raised by the regular benefit events — the pre-race breakfast, the Lobster Fest dinner, T-shirt and hat sales, and a fundraising raffle — is still being tallied, but is on track to break records.

Coach

(Continued from Page 1B)

to burn the Eagles out in the early going before they achieve peak fitness.

“We’ve got to pace this thing right and be at our best in October,” he said.

Coffey also sees the job as entailing more than teaching soccer skills and formations.

“My goal is to have an impact on these kids when they look back on this experience,” he said. “So

my goal is to bring growth.”

For example, he said when student-athletes are older, they should look back at their soccer career as a learning experience.

“What does it mean to be on a team? That applies to work, or the success that it brings them in their career or wherever they end up,” he said.

“That, to me, is the goal at the end of the day. Soccer, I don’t want to say it’s secondary. But

in one of my first convos with the team I said family comes first, school, and then soccer. Then we outlined what each one of those things mean. And when we came to soccer, then we roll into respect, accountability, and holding each other to a standard as a team. I want them to feel a culture. I want to bring a culture to this program. Ryder definitely had a culture going, and I want to keep it going.”



It's preseason

TIGER HEAD FOOTBALL Coach Jed Malcolm, above, addresses his players during a Middlebury Union High School training session this past Friday. Tiger football opens the season by hosting Saint Albans on Friday, Aug. 30, at 7 p.m. Below, Some exercises never go out of style — Tiger football players limber up with jumping jacks during a recent practice at Middlebury Union High School. Games start at the end of next week.

Independent photos/Steve James



POLAR EXPRESS, A Henderson 30 sailed by Chris Duley from the Valcour Sailing Club, was the first boat to finish in the Diamond Island Regatta on Aug. 10.

Photo credit: Joe Gannon / Coyote Ridge Productions LLC

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Walgreen's

NEW HAVEN:
Jiffy Mart
Village Green Market

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N. Ferrisburgh Short Stop

ORWELL:
Buxton's Store

RIPTON:
Ripton Country Store

SALISBURY:
Kampersville Store (seasonal)

SHOREHAM:
Shoreham Service Center

STARKSBORO:
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MIDDLEBURY'S KYLE FRIIS made up a lot of ground in the 10K run at the end of Sunday's Lake Dunmore Triathlon, but he couldn't quite catch the winner and came in second.
Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography



MIDDLEBURY 20-YEAR-OLD Lucas Palcsik did not have a great swimming leg in Sunday's Vermont Sun Sprint Triathlon, but great bike and running legs carried him to 5th place in the day's shorter race.
Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography



SOUTH BURLINGTON'S KATIE Dolbec cruises into the finish as she wins Sunday's Olympic-distance Lake Dunmore Triathlon at Branbury State Park.
Photo by Pat Hendrick Photography

Triathlon

(Continued from Page 1B)
Dolbec, 41. She out swam Smith, 51, by a minute but Smith charged by her four miles into the bike, out riding her by over six minutes (1:13:38 to 1:19:50). Then Dolbec returned the favor by out running Smith by nearly a minute a mile (40:46 to 46:07), taking the lead with just over a mile to go on the way to winning with a final time of 2:28:16 to Smith's 2:29:28.
Separated in age by 52 years, two Middlebury residents won

their respective age groups. Fifteen-year-old Louisa Orten won the 15-19 age group in 3:18:46 while Steve Hare, 67, won the 60-69 group in 2:42:26, the 9th man overall.
SHORTER TRIATHLON
In the Vermont Sun Sprint Triathlon (600-yard swim, 14-mile bike, 3.1-mile run) Middlebury's Griffin Schneider was first to finish the swim nearly 2 minutes ahead of Julian Stedman of Glens Falls, N.Y. With the day's best bike time

(36:28) 66-year-old Mark Mulder of Burlington was first to start the run. Stedman used the day's best run (17:47) to track down David Daprato of Grand Rapids, Mich., with a half mile left, to win in 1:09:13 to 1:09:52. Carl Regenauer of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., was third (1:10:35.1), and Mulder finished fourth in 1:11:49.
68-year-old Jeff Schumann of Salisbury finished 6th overall in 1:12:23 just 3:10 behind the 19-year-old Stedman. Schumann

had the 4th-fastest swim and the 3rd-fastest bike time.
Middlebury's Lucas Palcsik was in 91st to start the bike but used the day's second-best bike and third-fastest run to climb all the way up to 5th place overall passing Schumann with a quarter of a mile to go. Middlebury's Ronen Silberman won the 15-19 age group in 1:18:12 while placing 11th overall. Owen Palcsik of Middlebury was 4th in the tough 20-24 group and 17th overall.

Two Bristol residents finished in a virtual tie. They were in different starting groups so they didn't know they both finished in 1:27:06. Courtney Cioffredi was third in the women's 35-39 group, and Owen Mayhew was third in the men's group. Vergennes's Emily Coppentrath was fourth women's 35-39 (1:27:19).
Two amazing athletes from Salisbury each won their respective 75-79 age group. The male winner was 78-year-old Carlane

Quackenbush (1:42:28) and the female winner was his young bride, 77-year-old Cindy Quackenbush (1:56:29)!
For complete results and splits go to vermontsun.com and click VT Sun Triathlon.
Competition organizers are excited for the 40th anniversary season for the Vermont Sun Triathlons in 2025. Look for them in May, June, July and August.

Info on 2024 controlled waterfowl hunts now available

VERMONT — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department now has information on its website about the 2024 controlled waterfowl hunts at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison and at Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area in Alburgh.
Controlled goose hunting at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area will be by lottery drawing with hunting zones assigned at the time of the permit drawing. Any vacancies due to "no-shows" on hunting days will be filled on the morning of the hunt with a self-check-in process. Standby permits

will be available at the Dead Creek check-in kiosk.
Friday, Nov. 1, is junior hunter day at Dead Creek. Only hunters 17 years old or younger on Nov. 1 may self-register. Junior hunters must have an adult present, and one additional guest is allowed for a total of three in the party.
A drawing to award hunting permits will be held Friday, September 6, at noon at the Fish and Wildlife Department office at 111 West Street, Essex Junction. Attendance is not required. Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

Applications for hunting at Mud Creek on Oct. 15 and 17 may be downloaded from the website. Applications must be submitted electronically to anr.fwdcontrolledhunt@vermont.gov or postmarked and returned no later than Aug. 30, to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452.
Hunting on Oct. 15 and 17 at Mud Creek will be by lottery drawing only, and blind sites will be assigned at the time of the permit lottery. Any vacancies due to "no-shows" on those days will

be filled on the morning of the hunt with a self-check-in process. All other Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, except for opening day on Saturday, Oct. 12, during the open season will be self-registration days with permits available at the Mud Creek operations building.
Be sure to read the 2024-2025 Syllabus of State and Federal Hunting Regulations for Migratory Birds available on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website.



Steve James



Andy Kirkaldy




Matthew Dickerson



Karl Lindholm


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ADDISON COUNTY
School News Briefs

Liam Seaton of Middlebury has received his diploma from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., at its recent commencement exercises. Seaton received a B.A. in Psychology and Spanish.

Congratulations to Renee O’Connell of Brandon and Jacob Paquin of Vergennes, both of whom have been named to the dean’s list at the University of Southern Maine for the spring 2024 semester.



MIDDLEBURY LIONS CLUB CASH CALENDAR WINNERS AUGUST 2024

Robin Sequin, Sarah James, Christopher Beagle, Amy Nuceder, Kim Betourney, Donner R. Carr, Shelia Conroy, Stephen Dupoise, Dan Benning, Reed Solomon, David B. Mack, Gary Starr, Tracy Combs, Bob James, Buggy Laframboise, Kati Laroque, Eric Montgomery, Donna Cunningham, Nancy Foster, Karen Schroeder, Debbie Stevens, Lowell Dendinger, Roxanne Martell, Daniel Flynn, Hatley Dishaw, Cia & Roland Ochsenbein, Wayne Sturtevant, Mary Rose Maynard, Don Burns, Henry Stowe, Aryanna Simpson

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community calendar

Aug 22 THURSDAY

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in Middlebury. Thursday, Aug. 22. Celebrating its milestone 10th year, the MNFF retains as 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 middfilmfest.org, townhalltheater.org or tinyurl.com/MNFF2024program.

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 kindergartners 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.

Aug 23 FRIDAY

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in Middlebury. Friday, Aug. 23. See Aug. 22 listing.

Surf and turf benefit dinner in Middlebury. Friday, Aug. 23, 5-7 p.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Delicious steak, shrimp, baked potato and green beans. Eat in or take out. Cost \$18 steak or shrimp dinner/\$22 Combo. Open to the public. All proceeds benefit veterans’ programs. More info at 802-388-9468.

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.

Aug 24 SATURDAY

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 24. See Aug. 22 listing.

End of Summer party and story time in Monkton. Saturday, Aug. 24, 10 a.m.-noon, Silver Street Alpaca Farm, 4745 Silver St. 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 russellmemilibrary@gmail.com to register.

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 on 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.

Rally in support of the Porter LPNs, Techs and Support Staff in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 24, 1 p.m., on the green. Gather to show support for the recently organized bargaining unit at Porter Medical Center and Helen Porter Center.

Aug 25 SUNDAY

Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in Middlebury. Sunday, Aug. 25. See Aug. 22 listing for background. The Closing Ceremony and distribution of VTeddy Awards will begin at 6 p.m. The public is invited to a free screening of the documentary “A New Kind of Wilderness” at 7:30 p.m.

Aug 26 MONDAY

City Band in Vergennes. Monday, Aug. 26, 7-8 p.m., City Green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

Aug 27 TUESDAY

“Farming While Black” on screen in Middlebury. Tuesday, Aug. 27, 6:30-9 p.m., Dana Auditorium, 356 College St. Featuring Leah Penniman, author of and co-founder of Soul Fire Farm, this documentary reflects on the plight of Black farmers in the United States. From the height of Black-owned farms at 14% in 1910 to less than 2% today, a panel discussion about land access with local Black farmers will follow. Free. Everyone is welcome. RSVP to tinyurl.com/Farming-while-Black-Acorn so organizers can get a head count.

First day of school, parent/guardian event in Starksboro. Tuesday, Aug. 27, 7:45 a.m., Starksboro Public Library. Come by the library for coffee/tea and to gather with friends for a visit.

Milk & Honey Quilters meeting in Middlebury. Tuesday, Aug. 27, 6 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m., doors will be open at 6 p.m. Time to reflect

about anything relative to the guild and bring ideas for challenges and programs for 2024-2025. Don’t forget to bring Show & Tell.

Aug 28 WEDNESDAY

Town Band on the Green in Bristol. Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit back and enjoy this 150-year tradition in the last concert of the summer.

Aug 30 FRIDAY

Carillonneur Amy Heebner in Middlebury. Friday, Aug. 30, 6 p.m., Middlebury Chapel. The Middlebury College campus and surrounding neighborhoods will ring with the sound of carillon bells at this annual free summer series. Each year, musicians from around the world come to Middlebury to perform in the bell tower, soaring high above the college campus. The series has shifted this year with Friday concerts in August and a new Fall Festival on Saturdays in September and October. Free and open to the public.

Aug 31 SATURDAY

Breakfast in Shoreham. Saturday, Aug. 31, 8:30-10 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, School Rd. Start your celebration of Labor Day Weekend with plain or blueberry pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, home fries, quiches and beverages. \$12 adults/\$6 children/\$30 families. Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the Food Shelf to help. Then check out Shoreham’s town-wide yard sale. Shoreham Fire Department will hold a barbeque beginning at 4 p.m.

American Red Cross blood donation in Middlebury. Saturday, Aug. 31, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 133 Valley View Dr. 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).

Soldiers Atop the Mount living history weekend in Orwell. Saturday, Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. Reenactors honor the 1776-1777 history of Mount Independence during this living history weekend. Saturday’s popular interactive Baldwin Trail Walkabout, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., features experts at trail stations bringing the site’s history to life. Military tacticals, annual reading of Declaration of Independence, and camp life and skill demonstrations. Snacks and lunch, while it lasts. Call 802-948-2000 for details. Admission \$9 adults/\$1 ages 6-14/ under 6 free.

Sep 1 SUNDAY

Soldiers Atop the Mount living history weekend in Orwell. Sunday, Sept. 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. See Aug. 31 listing.

Sep 5 THURSDAY

Pig Roast 2.0 benefit in New Haven. Thursday, Sept. 5, 5-8 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Help raise funds for the Addison County Parent Child Center at a fun-filled evening, where you can indulge in delicious roasted pig, sip on fine wines and enjoy live music from The Horse Traders. All proceeds will support the center. Please bring a lawn chair or a picnic blanket with you. Tickets \$50 individual/\$80 family. More info at tinyurl.com/acpcc-pig-roast.

Scott Shane lecture in Ferrisburgh. Thursday, Sept. 5, 6:30-8 p.m., Rokeby Museum 4334 Route 7. Rokeby will host an evening discussion with author and journalist Scott Shane on his 2023 book “Flee North: A Forgotten Hero and the Fight for Freedom in Slavery’s Borderland.” The book unearths the lost story of Thomas Smallwood, born into slavery in Maryland, who bought his freedom, educated himself, and began to organize mass escapes from slavery by the wagonload. Smallwood gave the “underground railroad” its name. Tickets: Member: \$6; Non-Member \$10. More info at rokeby.org/events.

Twist O’ Wool Guild meeting in Middlebury. Thursday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. This is the first meeting of the year for the fiber arts guild. Come and learn a new fiber arts skill or hang out with your own project. Everyone is welcome.

BE SURE TO
CHECK OUT OUR
CALENDAR ONLINE

For more events
and activities



Smoke and muskets

RE-ENACTORS WILL STAGE important Mount Independence battles from 1776 and 1777 at the Mount Independence State Historic Site on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. Check it for a dose of living history, great costumes, and a little bit of time travel.

Independent file photo/Steve James



Around TOWN

Mt. Abe releases spring honor roll

BRISTOL — Mount Abraham Union High School has released its honor roll for the second semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Students named to the roll include:

GRADE 9 ACADEMIC

Highest Honors: Rhiannon Andrews, Megan Bowers, Cameron Castillo, Reed Cousino, Thompson Davis, Madeline Diop, Meredith Dufault, Bennett Eberhardy, Ada Fisher, Raquel Harris, Willow Heath, Jackson Jennings, Zoey Johnston, Reese Kihm, Lucy Lawson, Baxter Montgomery, Henry Orvis, Isobela Osborne, Abraham Ready, Scarlett Tarmy, Lux Tierney and Oliver Zelonis.

High Honors: Abraham Camara, Rowan Clark, Clark Crary, Kestrel Edwards, Kassi Garrow, Sadie German, Sean Golden, Benjamin Havey, Gemma Lyles, Baxter Montgomery, Henry Orvis, Isobela Osborne, Lily Ryersbach, Truman Sawyer, Sadie Shepard, Levi Smith and Scarlett Tarmy.

Honors: Henry Allred, Mason Atkins, Kayleigh Austin, Brooke Barnard, Madison Bartlett, Oren Bentley, Alison Brown, Aubrey Coffey, Wyatt Giroux, Bowen Lutz, Miley McGregor-Sumner, Lincoln Painter, Emmali Rougier, Leah Tierney and Lincoln Ward.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Highest Honors: Rhiannon Andrews, Megan Bowers,

Cameron Castillo, Aubrey Coffey, Reed Cousino, Thompson Davis, Madeline Diop, Meredith Dufault, Bennett Eberhardy, Ada Fisher, Kassi Garrow, Raquel Harris, Willow Heath, Jackson Jennings, Zoey Johnston, Reese Kihm, Lucy Lawson, Baxter Montgomery, Henry Orvis, Isobela Osborne, Abraham Ready, Scarlett Tarmy, Lux Tierney and Oliver Zelonis.

High Honors: Kayleigh Austin, Abraham Camara, Avery Chase, Rowan Clark, Clark Crary, Sadie German, Sean Golden, Gemma Lyles, Miley McGregor-Sumner, Lily Ryersbach, Truman Sawyer and Leah Tierney.

Honors: Henry Allred, Mason Atkins, Madison Bartlett, Oren Bentley, Alison Brown, Kestrel Edwards, Wyatt Giroux, Stefan Johnson, Lincoln Painter, Emmali Rougier, Sadie Shepard, Levi Smith and Aiden Whitney-Martell.

GRADE 10 ACADEMIC

Highest Honors: Lila Brightman, Evan Corrigan, Genevieve Forand, James Graziadei, Paige Guilbeault, Louisa Guilmette, Jahlani Jackson, Maris LaPerle, Charlie Prouty, Cole Putnam, Ivy Schulte, Isla Underwood, Addison Wright, June Yates-Rusch and Julie Young.

High Honors: Wyatt

Bannister, Madelyn Brochu, Greyson Desilets, Charlie Germon, William Gustin, Morgan Larocque, Dylan Layn, Wyatt Moyer and Cole Shepard.

Honors: Riley Abbott, Jack Anderson, Georgia Cannon, Cooper Cook, Jack Frizzell, Sofia Power, Jacoby Senecal and Noah Vartuli.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Highest Honors: Riley Abbott, Lila Brightman, Evan Corrigan, Genevieve Forand, Charlie Germon, James Graziadei, Paige Guilbeault, Louisa Guilmette, Jahlani Jackson, Maris LaPerle, Wyatt Moyer, Charlie Prouty, Cole Putnam, Ivy Schulte, Isla Underwood, Addison Wright and Julie Young.

High Honors: Wyatt Bannister, Madelyn Brochu, Jamie Chasse, Morgan Larocque, Dylan Layn, Maverick Livingston, Skylar MacDonald, Molly Mangini, Sofia Power and June Yates-Rusch.

Honors: Carly Day, Greyson Desilets, William Gustin, Finn Heese-Unwin, Zealand Jackson, Jacob Mikkelsen, Connor Nason, Sierra Roberts, Jacoby Senecal, Cole Shepard, Joseph Sullivan, Sophia Thomsen and Noah Vartuli.

GRADE 11 ACADEMIC

Highest Honors: Lorenzo Atocha, Sophie Batten, Rosemary



YOU MAY KNOW Ann and Len Rowell as neighbors here in Middlebury. On Aug. 29 the couple will mark 65 years of marriage.

Middlebury couple reaches milestone

Leonard and Ann Rowell celebrate 65 years of marriage

MIDDLEBURY — Next week a Middlebury couple will observe a remarkable milestone. Leonard and Ann Rowell will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Aug. 29.

They met at Hope College in

Holland, Mich., back in the 1950s and were married in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1959. They have lived here in Middlebury for 25 years.

Rev. Leonard Rowell has served as an interim minister at numerous churches in these

years, while Mrs. Ann Rowell has served as a church musician, notably at the Shelburne United Methodist Church for 15 years. If you saw these folks outside of church or volunteering, it might have been with the Counseling Service of Addison County or Middlebury Community Television; Len has served at both for 25 years. He still hosts an MCTV program called “The Story Matters.”

A gathering featuring music and storytelling will recognize the Rowells’ anniversary this Saturday, Aug. 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Middlebury United Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to come; please RSVP at lar17g@comcast.net so organizers know how many to plan for.



LEONARD AND ANN ROWELL happily cut their wedding cake on the big day back in the summer of 1959.

Monkton

Have a news tip?
Call Liz Pecor
at 453-2180

NEWS

MONKTON — Silver Street Alpaca Farm is hosting an End of Summer party and story time on Aug. 24 from 10 a.m. until noon. Have you stopped at the farm yet? Now is your chance to meet and learn about the alpacas and listen to a story as well.

The Russell Memorial Library has joined the farm, located at 4745 Silver Street in Monkton, to help you learn about these wonderful

and interesting animals. Farmer Heather will give you information about the alpacas and you will hear a story, plus get to meet some of the alpacas.

Because of the interaction with these animals, you will be asked to register and sign a waiver. Register now at russellmemlibrary@gmail.com. Come to learn about alpacas, listen to a story and enjoy some treats as well!



Pearly web

A SPIDER WEB glistens with dew on a recent early morning in Cornwall.

Photo by Jon Isham



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2024 Garden Game

The Game is ON!



This week's Garden Game sprouted eleven terrific new entries, with an intense battle for the top tomato spot. **Roger Scarborough** initially took the tomato lead with a 14.75" C tomato and a 9" C radish. Both veggies earned him the top spot until...

Carol Krawczyk stole the show with an 18" C tomato. But the tomato tussle was far from over. **Chris** and **Scott Totten** tipped the scales with an 18.75" C tomato, now the top tomato in the game.

Lisa Valley brought in a variety of veggies, including a colossal 11.25" L x 9" C cucumber, a 10" L yellow bean, and a summer squash that squashed the competition at 13" L by 11.75" C. She claims the top spot in the summer squash contest.

Genevieve Cammack's cucumber, measuring 16" L x 17.5" C takes the lead, while her mother, **Jaime**, made cauliflower cool again with a 13" D entry, also claiming the top spot.

A radiant rhubarb grown by **Barbara Rodgers** takes the lead at 30" L.

Steve Reigle's eggplant, a whopping 21.25" L x 17.5" C earned him the star position.

Many gardeners have commented on the amount of rain we've gotten this summer that's helping those veggies grow, grow, grow. The Garden Game is going strong, but we're still rooting for more entries — so bring your bounty into our office to enter!

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 category winner* will be eligible to receive a gift certificate from our Garden Game sponsor, Middlebury Agway.

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

CATEGORIES & FRONT-RUNNERS:

Asparagus (length x circumference) - 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) - Jaime Cammack, 13"
Corn (length x circumference)
Cucumber (length x circumference) - Genevieve Cammack, 16" x 17.5"
Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Carol Krawczyk, 11" x 17"
Eggplant (circumference x circumference) - Steve Reigle, 21.25" x 17.5"
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) - Roger Scarborough, 9"
Rhubarb (length) - Barbara Rodgers, 30"
Rutabaga (circumference)
Summer Squash (length x circumference) - Lisa Valley, 13" x 11.75"
Sunflower (diameter)
Tomato (circumference) - Chris and Scott Totten, 18.75"
Turnip (circumference)
Winter Squash (length x circumference)
Zucchini (length x circumference)

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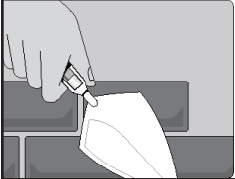
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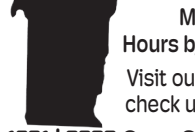
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Public Meetings

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Public Meetings

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Public Meetings

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| <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 |
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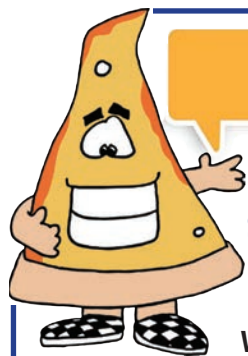
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Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted



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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.**

For Rent

For Rent

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.

GOSHEN: Housesitting opportunity, periodically shared with the home owners, in a scenic rural spot, 14 miles to Middlebury. \$650/month, plus light snow removal in winter. Large space for gardening! 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org for application. Interview, references, background checks required. EHO

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

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS is currently taking wait list applications. Occupants must be 62+ years of age. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply - Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No smoking/ no pets. Income limits apply- Rent rate based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191. www. SummitPMG.com.

For Rent

For Rent

Att. Farmers

SALISBURY: Fully furnished one bedroom basement apartment. Electricity and heat included. No pets. \$1250 a month. Call 802-238-6497. Available September 1st.

SUDBURY - Share a home with avid reader in her 60s who enjoys volunteering & classical music. \$500/month, plus sharing companionship & outdoor chores. Must be cat-friendly! Private bath. 802-863-5625 or HomeShareVermont.org

1ST CUT, DRY ROUND bales, 4x5, \$55.00 each. 2nd + 3rd cut balage, 4x4 round bales. \$75.00 Round bales for bedding \$35.00 Quantity discounts available. 802-989-0187.

WHITNEY'S CUSTOM FARM WORK Pond agitating, liquid manure hauling, drag line aerating. Call for price. 462-2755, John Whitney.

Wood Heat

for application. Interview, references, background check required. EHO

DRY OR GREEN firewood for sale. Delivery available. 802-349-4212.

FIREWOOD for sale. 802-247-9782.

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Early Childhood Educators

Red Clover is seeking Early Childhood Educators to provide high-quality care and education for our community of young learners! We are looking for a full-time **Lead Young Toddler Teacher**, a full-time **Program Educator**, and **Substitutes**.

In joining our team, you will not only be contributing to the greater Addison County community, but joining an establishment that understands Early Childhood Educators are professionals deserving of a high-quality work environment, work-life balance, opportunities for personal and professional growth, and genuine recognition for the work that they do.

Competitive compensation and benefits based on education and experience.

If you are interested in learning more, please send your resume and cover letter to tessa@redcloverchildren.org

Child Find Notice

Addison Northwest School District
(Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes and Waltham)

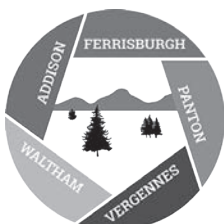
Addison Northwest School District is required by federal law to locate, identify and evaluate all children with disabilities. The process of locating, identifying and evaluating children with disabilities is known as child find.

Addison Northwest School District schools conduct PreK screening each spring, but parents may call to make an appointment to discuss their concerns at any time. As the school district of residence, ANWSD has the responsibility to identify and provide services to any child with special needs who may require special education and related services in order to access and benefit from public education.

If you have, or know of any ANWSD resident who has a child with a disability under the age of 21 or a child who attends a private school located in Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes or Waltham, Vermont, we would like to hear from you. Sometimes parents are unaware that special education services are available to their children.

Please contact the School Principal
Ferrisburgh Central School – 877-3463
Vergennes Union Elementary School – 877-3761
Vergennes Union High School – 877-2938

or the Director of Student Support Services
Laura Nugent at 877-3332 or lnugent@anwsd.org



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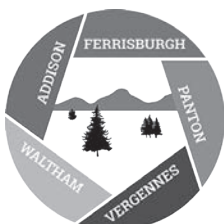
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Vergennes Union Elementary School – 877-3761
Vergennes Union High School – 877-2938

or the Director of Student Support Services
Laura Nugent at 877-3332 or lnugent@anwsd.org



TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2024

A public hearing before the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of Ferrisburgh will be held at the Town Clerk's Office on Wednesday, September 4th, 2024, to consider the following:

- PUBLIC HEARING: **Application No. 24-042** (Mr. Q. McElwain), Expanded Parking Lot; property ID#: 23/20/47.1; 2833 US- 7; Ferrisburgh Town Center (FTC-1) district; conditional use, Continued from June 5th
- PUBLIC HEARING: **Application No. 24-078** (Mr. W. Wilder); Accessory Dwelling Unit; property ID#: 05/01/37;1710 Greenbush Road; Conservation (CON-25) district; conditional use

The above files are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office. Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator.

PLEASE NOTE: Participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

Time: September 4th, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85437975279?pwd=ZFRGQlc2WkhGRVZpajRmbXZXMzhRdz09>

Meeting ID: 854 3797 5279
Passcode: 734072

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

TOWN OF MONKTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TOWN PLAN

The Monkton Planning Commission will hold a hybrid in-person and Zoom public Hearing at 8:00 pm, on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at the Monkton Town Hall (92 Monkton Ridge), to take public testimony on the proposed Town Plan for the Town of Monkton.

The Planning Commission will discuss and vote on any proposed changes directly after this Public Hearing.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of a town plan is to provide a vision for orderly development within the town. It is essentially a "picture in time" that uses existing conditions to guide zoning and development decisions for the eight-year period covered by the next Town Plan.

Our new town plan is a partial revision of the plan adopted in 2020.

The proposed Town Plan affects all the land within the Town of Monkton. It updates sections that use US Census data to current 2020 data and adds information from the natural resources inventory conducted for the town in 2022-2023.

The Planning Commission believes the following are the significant changes offered by the plan:

1. The following sections have had data updated: Population, Housing, Education and Childcare, and Economic Development.
2. The Utilities and Facilities section had information updated to be current on the New Town Hall, Library, and the Recreation and Cultural Resources sections.
3. The Natural Resource sections on Forests and Water Resources have had information added from the natural resources inventory, including new maps. The Forests section has a new sub-section on Forest Integrity that identifies core forest blocks and habitat connectors, which allows the town to meet Act 171 State Law requirements. Water Resources section had buffers better defined.
4. The Plan Implementation section was reorganized and updated.

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While the Town Plan sets forth the community goals and objectives, the policies and other means of achieving those ends are set forth in the town zoning and subdivision regulations. A town plan should not be a prescriptive document. This version of the Monkton Town Plan mostly adheres to this principle.

Copies of the Town Plan are available for review or obtained at the Town Offices, 92 Monkton Ridge during normal business hours. They may also be viewed on the town website at: <http://monktonvt.com/boards-and-committees/planning-commission/>

Written testimony will be accepted by the Commission if received by 9/30/2024 at planningcommission@monktonvt.com, or the Planning Commission's mailbox at the Town Hall (before close of business on Monday at 1 pm).

Zoom Meeting Information:

Link to join a Zoom meeting by computer video: <https://zoom.us/join>
Monkton's Zoom meeting ID: 802-453-3800
Monkton's Zoom Password: 1762
Telephone Number to attend meeting by phone: 646-558-8656

For more information please contact: Marilyn Cargill (802) 453-5192 or Wendy Sue Harper, (802) 453-2680 Co-Chairs of the Planning Commission at planningcommission@monktonvt.com, or Sharon Gomez, the Town Clerk at (802) 453-3800.

Please note: There will be an informational session from 7:00 to 7:45pm on October 1st at the Town Hall prior to the public hearing.

Mike New, Clerk
Monkton Planning Commission

It's against the law to discriminate when advertising housing

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ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT



ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

August 22, 2024

LAWYER POET

MIDDLEBURY'S CINDY HILL USES LAW & CREATIVE WRITING TO FURTHER ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Cindy Hill has dedicated her life to raising awareness and advocating for social justice issues in Vermont and around the world. In part she does that work in the courthouse, where she practices public-interest environmental law. Originally from Long Island, Hill earned her law degree from Vermont Law School in 1987 and soon after moved to Middlebury, where she's lived for more than three decades.

BY **ALYANA SANTILLANA**

The whole time, while she fought the good fight on the legal front, Hill also maintained a second career track in editing, journalism and creative writing. Some of that writing is technical, directed prose, but she also is very active as a writer of poetry. Hill has published three books of poetry in the past three years — "Wild Earth" (2022), "Elegy for the Trees" (2023) and "Mosaic: Poems from Travels in Italy," published just last month by Wild Dog Press poetry — and her poetry and short fiction have appeared in numerous literary magazines.

"A friend of mine gave me some wonderful advice; we should all do what we wanted to do most when we were 12," Hill said. "Back then I wanted to be a park ranger and just write poetry and stories in the woods."

An avid gardener and performer of Irish music, Hill also directs a lot of energy to the written word.

She turned to Vermont College of Fine Arts to hone her craft, and in July earned a Master of Fine Arts in Writing, taking up a dual track in poetry and fiction. She studied the ins and outs of poetry, contextualizing texts, and refining her skills. She learned about everything from the ancient Mesopotamian tales of Gilgamesh to every poetic period since. Hill's critical thesis

comprised a study of English translations of 6th-century Arabic poetry, and for her creative thesis she completed manuscript of a gothic horror novel in sonnet verse.

"I wanted to focus on writing for a couple of years and immerse myself in it, learning new skills along the way," she said.

She has hopes of getting the manuscript in front of a broad audience of readers, but understands the effort that will take.



When she was 12 years old, Cindy Hill wanted to be a park ranger and write poetry and stories in the woods. Decades later she still writes with an eye on the environment, but also practices law to advance her social justice goals.

"Now comes the long arduous slog of shopping my novel-in-verse to publishers," she said.

In the meantime, her full-length poetry collection "Love in a Time of Climate Change" is due to be published by Finishing Line Press in 2025.

Writing is a central part of Hill's personal and professional life. As a lawyer, she is responsible

SEE POET ON PAGE 3

Fairground follies: Bread & Puppet to perform in New Haven

The circus is coming! The circus is coming!

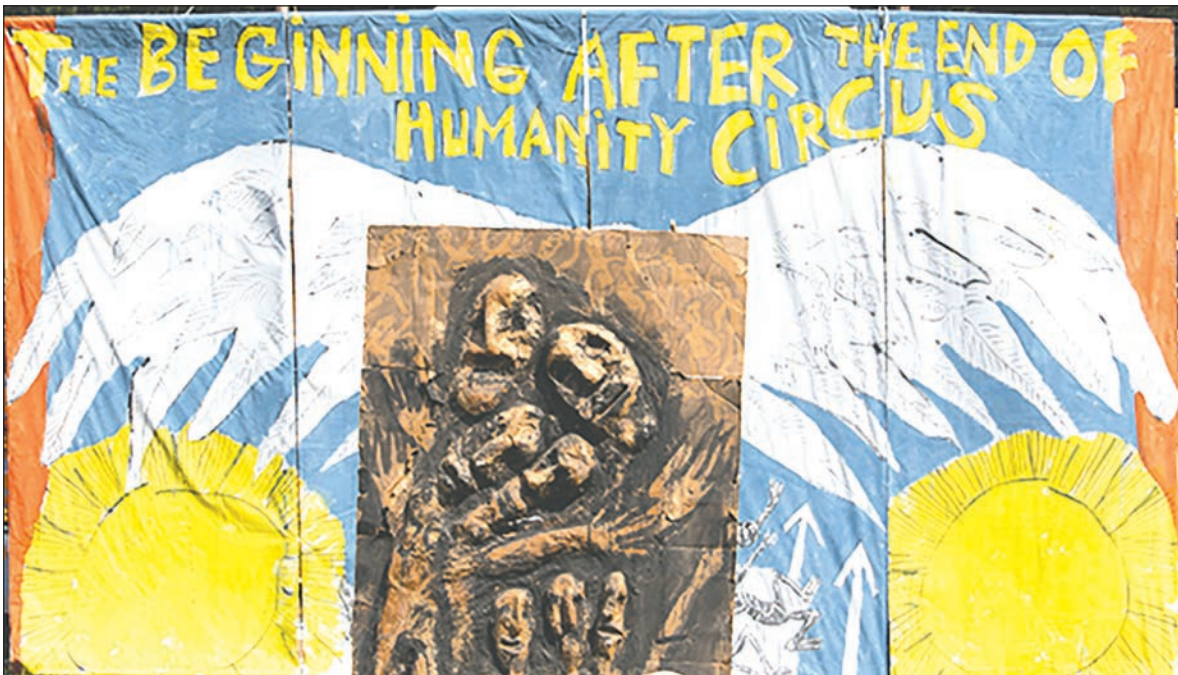
Bread & Puppet Theatre's circus, that is. On Sunday, Sept. 1, Town Hall Theater presents Bread & Puppet's Medium Big Tour at the Addison County Fairgrounds in New Haven. The performance of "The Beginning After the End of Humanity Circus" will be set against the iconic Bread & Puppet hand-painted bus — and begin with Bread & Puppet's brass band at 4:15 p.m.

This year's show will be a spectacle of protest and celebration that addresses the urgent themes of the moment using paper-maché, dance and a live brass band.

Circus is perhaps the most iconic of the many performance genres for which Bread & Puppet is known. A Bread & Puppet Circus is a large-scale political puppet show that borrows from traditional circus tropes and is performed in-the-round. Made up of a bright, raucous melee of short acts using diverse puppetry styles, it spans many moods, from slapstick to the sublime.

After the show, Bread & Puppet will serve its famous sourdough rye bread with aioli, and Bread & Puppet's "Cheap Art" — books, posters, postcards, pamphlets and banners from the Bread & Puppet Press — will be for sale.

All ticket proceeds benefit Bread & Puppet Theatre and Town Hall Theater. Tickets



are required and available for purchase at townhalltheater.org. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. If you need assistance with the price of the ticket, please contact tickets@townhalltheater.org or call 802-382-9222.

Bring chairs, picnics and a sense of humor.

Bread & Puppet will perform through a light rain, pause a performance and play band tunes to keep spirits up if heavy rain comes, and end a show prematurely if heavy rain persists. If consistent heavy rain is forecasted for the scheduled time of a performance, there may be a cancellation. In such a case, THT will notify all ticket holders by 12 noon the day of

DETAILS

BREAD AND PUPPET'S CIRCUS
TO PERFORM OUTDOORS AT
ADDISON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
SUNDAY, SEPT. 1
GATES 3:30 P.M.
SHOW 4:30-5:45 P.M.
790 FIELD DAYS ROAD, NEW HAVEN
TICKETS \$22

the show and all ticket holders will be invited to transfer their ticket to another upcoming show, availability allowing, or request a refund.

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ARTS+LEISURE

POET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

responsible for writing briefs and arguments, among other things. Some of her paid work includes editing for publications for the United Nations. On a surface level, her artistic and professional writing seem to be different from one another. However, Hill sees many stylistic and practical similarities between the two.

"Legal writing is highly technical writing, but in a lot of ways it's not," she observed. "The prose is so elegant. It's presented in such a logical and precise way, every right word and every right place. It needs to and

have precision clarity. The idea of crystalizing your thoughts and being eminently clear in what you're saying is something that's shared (between legal and creative writing). In both

"THE IDEA OF **CRYSTALIZING YOUR THOUGHTS** AND BEING EMINENTLY CLEAR IN WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS SOMETHING THAT'S SHARED (BETWEEN LEGAL AND CREATIVE WRITING). IN BOTH THESE THINGS, **EVERY SINGLE WORD NEEDS TO EARN ITS PLACE.**"

— Cindy Hill

these things, every single word needs to earn its place."

According to Hill, the greatest similarity between legal writing and her creative writing is the capacity for advocacy. Not surprisingly, the environmental lawyer has also taken a particular interest in writing poems about the environment. The sonnets in "Wild Earth" and "Elegy for the Trees" express Hill's love for nature and her feelings toward the Earth's declining health.

Social justice reasserts itself in her most recent work, "Mosaic: Poems from Travels in Italy," which tackles migration issues and deconstructs the image of Italy from the perspective of a tourist, shedding light on the reality that locals live in.

"There's a very engaging dynamic between the writer and the reader. It's not a one-way message being thrown out," Hill said. "With my poems about environment or social justice issues, I would hope that readers might feel it, perhaps

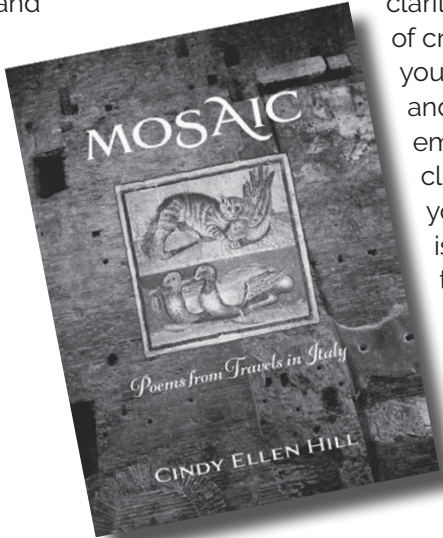


Cindy Hill wanted to immerse herself in writing for a couple years, so went back to school and last month earned an MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

at some deeper level. I hope the lyricism and elements of my poems strike the consciousness at some deeper level. My hope is that it seeps in, long after they have forgotten the lines."

In her writing, Hill hopes to engage the readers in a way that they feel their everyday actions are significant, because they are.

"Poetry and music and fiction touch people in a deeper and more emotional level," Hill said. "It's one piece of the puzzle, changing people's emotional presumption of where they fit in the world."



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ART ON EXHIBIT

The expressive power of ink goes on display Aug. 30

Sparrow Art Supply in downtown Middlebury, is gearing up to open their fall exhibition, "Inked," an exploration of the versatility, depth, and expressive power of ink as a creative medium. Featuring the work of seven artists, "Inked" showcases how ink can be manipulated to create texture, contrast, and emotion, demonstrating its adaptability across different styles and techniques. From monotypes to scratchboard to ballpoint pen and more, these artists highlight ink's contrasting qualities of

fluidity and permanence, embodying a balance of freedom and commitment in their works.

The artists featured in "Inked" are Andrew Clingenpeel, Charon Henning, Elisa Järnefelt, Anna Macijeski, James Merrill, Jeannie Podolak, and Megan Weaver.

This exhibition is on view from Aug. 30 - Nov. 2. Sparrow Art Supply is hosting a celebratory reception on Friday, Sept. 6, from 5-7 p.m., free and open to the public with complimentary refreshments, including treats by Thistle and Honey Baking and wine by Lincoln Peak Vineyard. The show will also be available to view and for purchase online at sparrowartsupply.com. We invite you to experience the incredible versatility and beauty of ink in this remarkable exhibition.



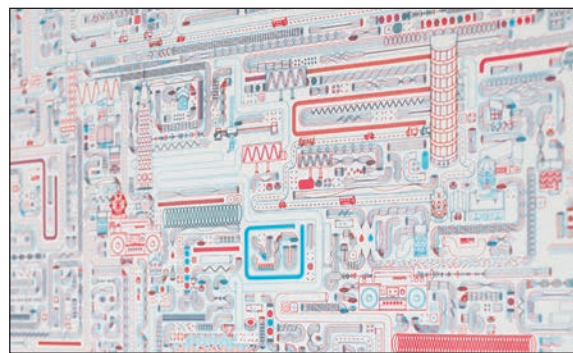
ELISA JÄRNEFELT



MEGAN WEAVER



CHARON HENNING



JAMES MERRILL



ANDREW CLINGENPEEL



JEANNIE PODOLAK

It's not your grandma's craft fair...

Picture yourself in the shadows of the beautiful Green Mountains listening to live music while you browse through a juried fair of more than 80 artists offering one-of-a-kind pieces: unique gifts, keepsakes for your home, or special touches to add to your wardrobe. Come to the 53rd Mad River Valley Craft Fair, held rain or shine on Labor Day weekend, Saturday, Aug. 31, and Sunday, Sept. 1, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Kenyon's Field of Route 100 in Waitsfield.

You'll find work by several of the artists from the Middlebury area. **Elin Lundstrom Joy** of Metal Nomad in Middlebury will bring her unique jewelry; from New Haven, **Stan Katz and Maureen Short** will offer their prints, photocards, jewelry and metal landscapes. Well-known artist **Woody Jackson** from

Cornwall will be on hand with his iconic cows printed on calendars, tote bags, cards and framed prints. From Ripton, **Barbara Nelson** of Studio Bee will have a wide selection of handmade pottery and wall art, and **Caroline Quick** of CQ Glassworks will bring petrified wood glass, hanging ornaments, and functional glassware from her studio in Bristol. Other artists come from all over Vermont and New England.

Featured at the Mad River Valley Craft Fair are four bands, a food court and winery, door prizes, and for the kids, free face-painting and the Dinoman Science Show at noon each day, which will use magic, clever explanations and incredible props to present a dynamic program of dinosaurs, science and fun for the whole family. Scientist Bob Lisaius of Warren travels the East Coast sharing his dinosaur



Woody Jackson painting.

IMAGE COURTESY OF PHOTOS BY KINTZ

wisdom at schools, libraries and special events. Adults and kids alike will enjoy this interactive, hands-on science show.

Live music has always been a big feature at the Mad River Valley Craft Fair. On Saturday morning, Green Mountain Swing, a 17-piece Big Band that recently appeared at the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival, will play Big Band classics. On Saturday afternoon, the J.J.

SEE CRAFTS ON PAGE 15

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. 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. 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 Bogonovich, Cameron Davis, Pamela Fraser and Wylie Garcia. On view Aug. 3-Sept. 28.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14



ARIES: March 21/April 20. You are the master of leaping before looking, Aries, and this week is no different. You are not satisfied with hanging back and assessing the situation before acting. You're right in the mix.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, do not pretend to be a neutral party when two people come up to you seeking advice. You are too loyal to avoid taking sides, but it could affect the relationship with the other person.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, it may be time to step in and help a loved one refocus their energies. Rather than let them dwell on a difficult situation, work to offer them a new perspective.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Use the past as motivation to make some serious changes in your life, Cancer. This is the week to begin plotting a few ideas that can have a large impact.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, there may be some room in the budget for a few splurges this week. As long as you do not go too overboard, you can snag that item that you have had your eyes on for some time.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Don't be so sure that you've examined every detail and checked them multiple times, Virgo. Your plan has to be foolproof for it to work. Run it by another set of eyes.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, if no one is asking for advice right now, it's best to leave your life coach tendencies on the side. If and when

someone needs your help, you can believe they'll come calling.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, you have big news and you're ready to tell the world. Hold it in a little longer so that your audience will be chomping at the bit to hear what you have to say.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, it can be challenging for you to avoid the soap opera that is seemingly unfolding around you right now. Do your best to stay out of the fray for the time being.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, if someone in your social circle is in need of a new perspective, you may have to speak up and help get them on a better path. Take this responsibility seriously.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. You have come a long way in a short time, Aquarius. Keep up the hard work and you will continue to see results you can be proud of.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, you

will have to try to tune out the static all around you this week and concentrate on the things you need to accomplish. There is no wiggle room for distractions right now.

Cast on for schools.

You can always make a hat during class - we won't tell your teachers!



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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUG. 23 — Kobe Bryant, basketball player (d)
 AUG. 24 — Ava Duvernay, filmmaker (52)
 AUG. 25 — Tim Burton, filmmaker (66)

AUG. 26 — Antoine Lavoisier, chemist (d)
 AUG. 27 — Alice Coltrane, musician (d)
 AUG. 28 — Ai Weiwei, artist (67)
 AUG. 29 — Joel Schumacher, director and screenwriter (d)

CALENDAR

AUG. 22-SEPT. 5
2024



THURSDAY, AUG. 22

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Aug. 22. Celebrating its milestone 10th year, the MNFF retains as 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 middfilmfest.org, townhalltheater.org or tinyurl.com/MNFF2024program.

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. 22 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.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Aug. 24. See Aug. 22 listing.

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN FAYSTON. "CANCELED" Saturday, Aug. 24, Clark Brook Trail. More at gmcBreadLoaf.org.

VERGENNES DAY IN VERGENNES. Saturday Aug. 24, 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., City Park. Vergennes's 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. After celebrating Vergennes Day, come dance the night away with The Hitmen on the green 7-10 p.m.

JIM SHAW IN BRANDON. Saturday, Aug. 24, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kennedy Park, 31 Center St. Picnic in the park to live music.

BROWN BAG LUNCH HISTORY TALK IN ORWELL. Saturday, Aug. 24, 12- 1 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. 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.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE COMMUNITY CHORUS IN BRANDON. Saturday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Returning after a three-year hiatus due to COVID, the MCCC under the direction of Ronnie Romano returns to Brandon with a concert of the group's favorite songs.

SUNDAY, AUG. 25

MIDDLEBURY NEW FILMMAKERS FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Aug. 25. See Aug. 22 listing.

SLOW BIRDING WITH BIRD DIVA BRIDGET BUTLER IN BRISTOL. Sunday, Aug. 25, 8 a.m., Bristol Trail Network. Butler will teach us how to get to know birds beyond their identification. Free. Dress for the weather and at least 30 minutes of sitting in place. Consider bringing a portable chair, journal, hot beverage or water, binoculars and whatever will make you most comfortable when sitting. Limited spots. Registration required at knight@gmavt.net.

"STRONG WOMEN OF VERMONT'S SOUTH LAKE CHAMPLAIN VALLEY DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION" IN ADDISON. Sunday, Aug. 25, 1 p.m., Chimney Point State Historic Site, Route 17 W. In this illustrated talk

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Friday, August 23 Through the Night: Public Affairs 4:30 a.m. Green Mountain Care Board 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Vote for Vermont 6:30 p.m. Energy Week 7:30 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs Saturday, August 24 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. Celebrate Life - Howard Dean 8:30 p.m. Green Mt. (GM) Care Board Sunday, August 25 Through the Night: Public Affairs 7 a.m. Vote for Vermont 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass	11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. GM Care Board Monday, August 26 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. Vote for Vermont 9 p.m. The News Project Tuesday, August 27 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Howard Dean 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Select Board 11 p.m. Energy Week Wednesday, August 28 Through the Night: Pres Conf., Pub Affairs 4 a.m. Howard Dean 5 a.m. Vote for Vermont	6:30 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 5 p.m. The News Project 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Thursday, August 29 Through the Night: Public Affairs 8 a.m. Congregational Services 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Howard Dean 8:30 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Gov. Scott Channel 1091 Friday, August 23 4 a.m. VT Summer Music Series 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Tai Chi 8:30 a.m. Our Gardens 10 a.m. 7 Storytellers - Mixed Messages 12 p.m. School Board Meetings 9 p.m. All Brains Belong Brain Club Saturday, August 24 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. All Brains Belong	7:05 a.m. Tai Chi 7:30 a.m. Our Gardens 8 a.m. School Board Meetings 3 p.m. Summer Music Series 8 p.m. Al Getler at Worthen Library Sunday, August 25 6 a.m. School Board Meetings 12 p.m. Ras Burnett Quartet 12:47 p.m. First Tuesdays - Ashley Wolff 1:34 p.m. Tai Chi 2 p.m. All Brains Belong 3:05 p.m. Word Time with Miss Markee 3:31 p.m. Our Gardens 4 p.m. Arts & Performance 9 p.m. Al Getler 10:15 p.m. Summer Music Series Monday, August 26 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 3 p.m. Parkapalooza - La Lovo 4:25 p.m. All Brains Belong 5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Tuesday, August 27 4 a.m. Summer Music Series	6 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 12:02 p.m. Brown Bag Concerts 2:30 p.m. Classicopia Fabulous Females 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Summer Music Series 9 p.m. HCC Board Meeting Wednesday, August 28 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. Author Talks 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 7 p.m. Cantabile Women's Voices 8:04 p.m. Ethan Allen Homestead Thursday, August 29 4:30 a.m. Music in the Morning 6:30 a.m. VT Master Naturalist 7:30 a.m. Tai Chi 8 a.m. Chair Yoga 9 a.m. Poets and Authors 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 6:30 p.m. Summer Music Concerts 8 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	

site administrator Elsa Gilbertson will introduce you to some of the strong, resilient women in this area, one of the dangerous pathways of the Revolutionary War in the 1770s and 1780s. Included with regular site admission: \$6 adults/ children under 15 free.

MONDAY, AUG. 26

CITY BAND IN VERGENNES. Monday, Aug. 26, 7-8 p.m., City Green. Relax on the green and listen to some great free summer music.

TUESDAY, AUG. 27

"FARMING WHILE BLACK" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Aug. 27, 6:30-9 p.m., Dana Auditorium, 356 College St. Featuring Leah Penniman, author of and co-founder of Soul Fire Farm, this documentary reflects on the plight of Black farmers in the United States. From the height of Black-owned farms at 14% in 1910 to less than 2% today, a panel discussion about land access with local Black farmers will follow. Free. Everyone is welcome. RSVP to tinyurl.com/Farming-while-Black-Acorn so organizers can get a head count.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

THE MORNING DUDES AND SUNDAY MORNING IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Aug. 28, 5-9 p.m., The Tillerman, 1868 N. 116 Rd. Hear live music in The Tillerman's barn. Music is free. The Morning Dudes 5-6:30 p.m., followed by Sunday Morning 7-9 p.m.

RED HOT JUBA IN BRANDON. Wednesday, Aug. 28, 6 p.m., behind the Brandon Inn. Blisterin' countrified jazz and Green Mountain Swing brought to you by Brandon's Music On The Riverbend series. Free.

BODACIOUS SUPREMES IN FERRISBURGH. Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7-9 p.m., Basin Harbor, 4800 Basin Harbor Rd. Join Basin Harbor for their free summer concert series.

TOWN BAND ON THE GREEN IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Aug. 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, sit back and enjoy this 150-year tradition in the last concert of the summer.

THURSDAY, AUG. 29

JUSTIN LAPOINT AND PIZZA BY THE POND IN GOSHEN. Thursday, Aug. 29, 5 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Enjoy wood-fired pizza and live music. \$43 per person (age 13 and older) for all-you-can-eat pizza and soft drinks. Kids 8-12 \$23; 7 and under free! BYOB. Reservations: blueberryhillinn.com/pizza.

FRIDAY, AUG. 30

BRETT HUGHES IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Aug. 30, 5-7 p.m., Lincoln Peak Vineyard, 142 River Rd. Free music by

the Vineyard pond. Wine available for purchase.

THE TRAVELING MIDDLEBURYS AND PIZZA BY THE POND IN GOSHEN.

Friday, Aug. 30, 5 p.m., Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center, Goshen Rd. Enjoy wood-fired pizza and live music. \$43 per person (age 13 and older) for all-you-can-eat pizza and soft drinks. Kids 8-12 \$23; 7 and under free! BYOB. Reservations: blueberryhillinn.com/pizza.

CARILLONNEUR AMY HEEBER IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 30, 6 p.m., Middlebury Chapel. The Middlebury College campus and surrounding neighborhoods will ring with the sound of carillon bells at this annual free summer series. Each year, musicians from around the world come to Middlebury to perform in the bell tower, soaring high above the college campus. The series has shifted this year with Friday concerts in August and a new Fall Festival on Saturdays in September and October. Free and open to the public.

POINT COUNTERPOINT FACULTY CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Aug. 30, 7:30 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Admission is free, and goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

SOLDIERS ATOP THE MOUNT LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND IN ORWELL. Saturday, Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. Reenactors honor the 1776-1777 history of Mount Independence during this living history weekend. Saturday's popular interactive

Baldwin Trail Walkabout, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., features experts at trail stations bringing the site's history to life. Military tacticals, annual reading of Declaration of Independence, and camp life and skill demonstrations. Snacks and lunch, while it lasts. Call 802-948-2000 for details. Admission \$9 adults/\$1 ages 6-14/under 6 free.

KING PEDE CARD PARTY IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, Aug. 31, 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.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

SOLDIERS ATOP THE MOUNT LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND IN ORWELL. Sunday, Sept. 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Mount Independence State Historic Site, Mt. Independence Rd. See Aug. 31 listing.

THE OVERLOOK QUARTET IN ROCHESTER. Sunday, Sept. 1, 4 p.m., Federated Church of Rochester, North Main St. Out of the Dark, Pauline Oliveros, 'if stars align', Leila Adu, Say, Shelley Washington, Juba, Trevor Weston, Judee Sill, Shanan Estreicher, String Quartet No. 1, 'Calvary' Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson. Admission by donation. No tickets required. More info at rcmsvt.org or 802-767-9234.

BREAD AND PUPPET'S CIRCUS IN NEW HAVEN. Sunday, Sept. 1, 4:30-5:45 p.m., Addison County Fair Grounds, 1790 Field Days Rd. Town Hall Theater presents Bread + Puppet's Medium Big Tours performance, "The Beginning After the End of Humanity Circus," a spectacle of protest and celebration that addresses the urgent themes of

the moment using paper mâché, dance, and a live brass band. Gates open at 3:30 p.m. Tickets \$22, available at townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4

ALBANY SOUND IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Sept. 4, The Tillerman, 1868 N. 116 Rd. Come hear live music in The Tillerman's barn. Music is free. Tillerman will sell food and drinks from its outdoor kitchen. A warm-up band performs from 5-6:30 p.m., followed by Albany Sound (Michael Chorney, Lowell Thompson, Pat Melvin and Jeremy Frederick) from 7-9 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 5

SCOTT SHANE LECTURE IN FERRISBURGH. Thursday, Sept. 5, 6:30-8 p.m., Rokeby Museum 4334 Route 7. Rokeby will host an evening discussion with author and journalist Scott Shane on his 2023 book "Flee North: A Forgotten Hero and the Fight for Freedom in Slavery's Borderland." The book unearths the lost story of Thomas Smallwood, born into slavery in Maryland, who bought his freedom, educated himself, and began to organize mass escapes from slavery by the wagonload. Smallwood gave the "underground railroad" its name. Tickets: Member: \$6; Non-Member \$10. More info at rokeby.org/events.

TWIST O'WOOL GUILD MEETING IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Sept. 5, 7 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. This is the first meeting of the year for the fiber arts guild. Come and learn a new fiber arts skill or hang out with your own project. Everyone is welcome to attend.

TOP PICK



CHECK OUT **JUSTIN LAPOINT** ON AUG. 29 AND **THE TRAVELING MIDDLEBURYS** ON AUG. 30, DURING THE PIZZA BY THE POND MUSIC SERIES AT BLUEBERRY HILL OUTDOOR CENTER IN GOSHEN. ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PIZZA AND SOFT DRINKS. FEES, REGISTRATION AND MORE INFO AT: [BLUEBERRYHILLINN.COM/PIZZA](https://blueberryhillinn.com/pizza).



Final performance of the Season!

Saturday, August 31

CVUUS, 2 Duane Court, Middlebury

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Each faculty concert differs in repertoire, instrumentation, and performers.

All concerts start at 7:30 p.m. • Admission is FREE. All are welcome!

Goodwill donations are gratefully accepted.

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Camping along the Forgotten Coast of Florida's Panhandle over the past few years has provided us with many unexpected rewards. The nearly pristine rivers have proven to be a source of true delight. The fish and wildlife they support, their unique geography, the history they have witnessed, even the color of their waters have been new to our experience. As additions to the names of famous waterways we all learned in school, the Suwannee and the Apalachicola have rooted themselves deeply into my memory and appreciation.

BY JUDITH & STEVE HARRIS

Our interest in Fort Gadsden was encouraged by two well-informed residents of the Town of Apalachicola — one, a local paddler/guide and the second, a volunteer in the local chapter of a national organization of Riverkeepers (apalachicolariverkeeper.org). Based on overnight camping experience at the Fort, they both spoke enthusiastically of a site worth exploring. Our advisors had arrived by kayak, but we chose to drive. It turned out to be officially "closed" yet simple to enjoy. What we experienced in

February of 2024 was a site totally empty of other humans, overlaid with an evocative explanation of its history, exuding a mysterious present and forecasting a very uncertain future.

Twenty miles upstream from its discharge into the Gulf of Mexico, the Apalachicola River makes a sharp bend to the West at the foot of a rise, the first high ground along its banks. Known originally as Prospect Bluff, it is only 10 feet above the high-water line, but is unique in this otherwise low, damp and seemingly endless "pine flatwoods forest." The current is a steady 3-5 mph, and during the period of colonial competition, only upstream sailing, rowing and/or paddling could make use of this 200-mile "gateway to the interior" of America's southeast.

THE GADSDEN FAMILY LEGACY

The Gadsden name goes generations back into colonial English wealth and influence. Christopher Gadsden was a brigadier general in the Continental Army and a representative of South Carolina to the Continental Congress, who designed the coiled serpent "Don't Tread on Me" Gadsden Flag during the American revolution. Ol' Chris was also the builder of the wharf in Charleston across which passed 40% of

all African slaves imported into America. The fact that the flag of his design is now flown regularly by today's superpatriots repeats the irony of our founders' blind spots concerning rights of the privileged individual to make acceptable the human pursuits of enslavement and subjugation of the natural world.

In 1816, soon after Florida was ceded to the United States at the conclusion of the War of 1812, General Andrew Jackson organized and authorized a downstream expedition to destroy what had become known as "the black fort." After that siege successfully blew the original British fortifications to bits, Jackson directed Christopher's grandson and Yale graduate, Lieutenant James Gadsden to reconstruct a smaller version of the fort. Its purpose was to protect the southern U.S. border from raiders — Native Americans and maroons who were viewed as remnants of Spanish Florida.

James Gadsden was the same man who, after leaving the military, became the ambassador to Mexico. He negotiated the Gadsden Purchase (1854) — 3,000 square miles of Mexico added to Arizona and New Mexico. The transaction allowed the railroads (including his) to expand to

the west coast across the least challenging terrain in America's southwest.

THE BRITISH DEPARTURE

The British were the first Europeans to fortify this strategic pinch-point in the river (1814) and to encourage escaped slaves and defeated indigenous warriors from surrounding tribal conflicts to join them. These volunteer soldiers were trained and outfitted as "Maroons" by an ardent abolitionist British soldier, Lt. Colonel Edward Nicholls. In return for their loyalty, these soldiers were granted citizenship in the British Empire in return for their military service to His Majesty George III.

The 1815, Treaty of Ghent that concluded the War of 1812 required the British to abandon all claim to Florida, and their Maroon settlers were offered transport elsewhere in the Empire as Colonel Nicholls lowered the Union Jack. Hundreds were resettled in Jamaica, Nova Scotia, Bermuda and the Bahamas, where their descendants still live as free citizens. Those who chose to remain were awarded the weapons and gun powder that the British had stockpiled in the fort's citadel, extended a hearty handshake and wished good luck.

For the next year, the free colony continued to thrive and grow as escaped Africans from the north and tribal folk from Spanish peninsular Florida continued to find their way on foot to this remote community free of enslavement. "Seminole," the tribe most frequently recognized as indigenous to Florida, is a Spanish rebranding of the native word for "escapee" or "runaway." These displaced native menfolk brought women and children with them to the fort, and soon there was a thriving, self-sustaining settlement of "free people" in and around the well-armed fort.

Because Fort Gadsden's beacon of freedom interfered with the primary financial model of plantation agriculture (cotton raised by slaves) across the border to the north, the newly emboldened United States decided to put an end to such foolishness. In 1816, Andrew Jackson ordered the invasion of Spanish Florida and the reduction of the "Negro Fort" at mile 20 of the Apalachicola River. Three hundred American

soldiers and their allied natives floated down the river from the north and laid siege. After a few days of skirmishing, the American forces began a bombardment of the fort from the river. Their fifth shot was a heated ball that found the powder magazine under the citadel. The resulting blast killed 270 of the defenders with that single secondary explosion. It was a dramatic eruption, but not much of a fight.

The few surviving residents lit out for the trackless marsh and joined the remaining scraps of native tribes, but any armed resistance to American rule ceased when Florida was awarded statehood in 1821. The site last functioned as a military installation when Confederate troops occupied it briefly during the Civil War, but since 1816, the site has not seen another shot fired in anger. All that remains of its martial aspect are berms, an excellent view up and down the river, and peace.

The preserved three acres of Fort Gadsden is over 10 miles from the nearest paved road and out of cellular range. It is remote by any contemporary standard but has not been ignored. Attached to its main gate is a large sign that reads "AREA CLOSED." If you choose to enter, you must leave your vehicle by the side of the dirt roadway outside the locked gate and step around the gate's ends on narrow paths. Similar signs face the river, but there is nobody on site to prevent a visitor from entering by boat or on foot.

We were greeted by informative placards (placed by the National Register of Historic Places) a functioning, unlocked two-room pit toilet building with paper available (tended by ghosts?), a picnic shelter with tables but no potable water, and an enclosed, locked diorama building with a 3-D scale model of the original fort, barely visible through dusty viewing windows into a darkened room.

The terrain and a flagpole cradled by live oaks outline the shape of the fort's palisades. A series of short wooden posts indicate the original location of the citadel on the land side of the defensive perimeter. Improved walkways go in all directions with bridges over moats and creeks, and signs everywhere encouraging a self-guided tour. The only hint of curatorial abandonment otherwise is

that trails are still passable but have clearly not been traveled or mowed regularly. Little red plastic pennants on wires are concentrated in groups everywhere, suggesting an archeological survey, with no signs of digging. The internet has cryptic notifications of its closure under the powers of the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, which provides severe penalties for use of metal detectors or collection of artifacts from Public Lands.

Having this beautiful and informative place to ourselves was a "Twilight Zone" experience, and strangely moving. An area a few hundred feet away from the outside perimeter of the original fort is an opening in the surrounding woods labeled "The Graveyard."

Standing in the profound silence and ragged beauty of this spot on the map, we felt the remains of the 270 briefly-free "runaways" of all kinds calling across the centuries. Closer examination of America's history of colonial background and national assembly reveals a "smash and grab" mentality of forced subjugation, enslavement, relocation and disrespect of residents and ecosystems. Despite the current governor's one-man campaign to expunge "WOKE" realities from Florida schoolchildren's knowledge base, seven separate nations of native peoples have long memories, and will continue to consider this site sacred.

It is not obvious where our democracy is headed next, but its origins were clearly not solely about lofty ideals and human kindness. Since its earliest years, this endeavor has bounced along a rough footpath. We are on the cusp of electing our 47th President in an atmosphere of overheated rhetoric and violent treatment of innocent people by our fellow humans around the world. The United States of America remains a fragile, conflicted and sometimes chaotic form of governance. Perhaps we can agree it should be based upon the shared human desire to survive, or even better to thrive, and to do so freely. The history of Fort Gadsden suggests that "twas ever thus".

— sbh



Diagram of Fort Gadsden.



Picnic shelter at the unoccupied Ft. Gadsden Historic Site

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

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ACROSS

1. Microgram

4. After B

7. Everything

8. An unfortunate development

10. Coat with sticky substance

12. Cylinder of tobacco for smoking

13. Minimum interval take off

14. Yuck!

16. NBA sensation Jeremy

17. Where some rockers work

19. Midway between northeast and east

20. Snake-like
- fishes

21. Groups of homes

25. Swiss river

26. Useful towel

27. "The Wire" character "Moreland"

29. Oafish creature

30. A major division of geological time

31. Bird-like Chinese dinosaur

32. Sporting events

39. Body part

41. Clerical vestment

42. Shows data

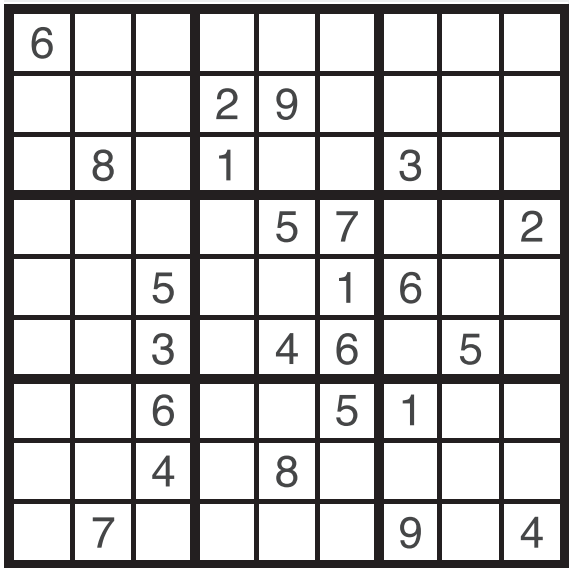
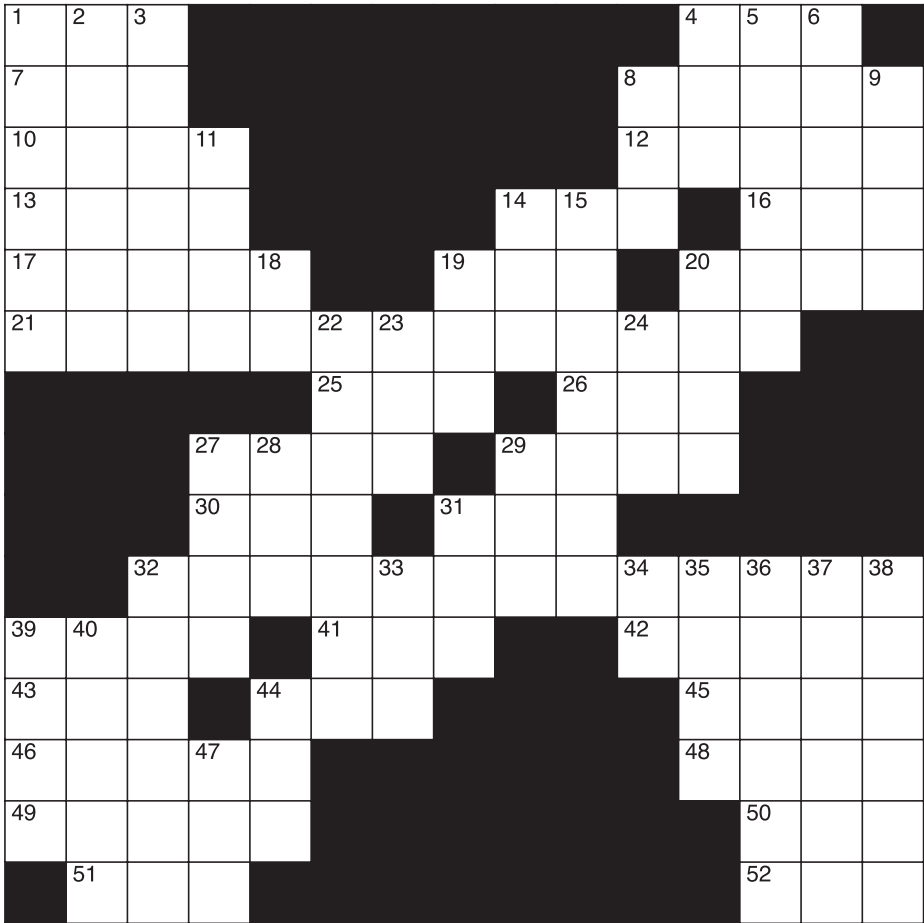
43. Some are "special"

44. Expression of

- disappointment
45. Students' rights document (abbr.)
46. Vacation locale Costa __
48. Pop singer
49. Distract outside a city
50. Mark Wahlberg comedy
51. Coniferous tree
52. Midway between south and southeast

DOWN

1. Lunatic
2. Actress Danes
3. Buttock muscles
4. The 22nd letter of the Greek



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

- alphabet
5. Popular 70s rockers
6. Electronic communication
8. Trigraph
9. Sea eagles
11. Low-pitched, resonant sound
14. Northeastern US university (abbr.)
15. Home of the Bulldogs
18. Exclamation of surprise
19. Make a mistake
20. Advantage
22. Monkeys love them
23. Wood
24. Paddle
27. Past participle of be
28. Tall, rounded vase
29. Device manufacturers
31. Financial institution (abbr.)
32. Paper product
33. A type
34. Atomic #43
35. Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer
36. Behaviors
37. Decays
38. Walked confidently
39. Voice (Italian)
40. Class of adhesives
44. Bar bill
47. One-time aerospace firm

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

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Pictured artwork by Anna Maciejewski

FAQs about pets and microchips

Pet owners generally want to do all they can to safeguard the well-being of their companion animals. This includes taking steps to ensure that pets can be returned safely should they get lost while outdoors.

Utilizing collars with identification information on them is one option, but that does not offer peace of mind if the collar comes loose and falls off. However, microchipping is a permanent solution that is ideal for pets.

WHAT IS A MICROCHIP?

A microchip is a small device that is injected under the pet's skin. It is about the size of a grain of rice. Unlike collars or tags that can fall off or become illegible, a microchip always contains the data that has your identification. Here are some common questions about microchips:

DOES THE MICROCHIP HAVE A BATTERY OR CHARGE?

No, a microchip is simply an electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder. It is activated when a scanner sending out radio waves is passed over the chip, which then transmits the ID number to the scanner. The microchip is known as a transponder. You do not have to worry about replacing batteries or recharging the chip. Typically microchips last for 24 years, well past the average life span of many pets.

IS INSERTION OF THE MICROCHIP PAINFUL?

Veterinarians assert that injecting the microchip is no more painful than a typical vaccination. However, the needle to place the microchip is slightly larger. The procedure can be done during a routine office visit and does not require anesthesia. Some vets will implant the chip during a procedure for spaying or neutering so that the animal will be calm and still under anesthesia.

WHO CAN READ THE CHIP?

Virtually all shelters and veterinarians have scanners that can read microchips. Beginning in 2004, the 134 kHz microchip was introduced

with specifications developed by the International Standards Organization (ISO). This frequency is usually considered the global standard for pet microchips and the one that most scanners will read.

WHERE IS THE MICROCHIP PLACED?

Most dogs and cats are microchipped along the dorsal midline, which is just between the shoulder blades. Horses are injected along the left side of the neck, about an inch below the mane. Birds receive the implant in their breast muscles because they have less mass than other animals. These locations make it easier for scanners to find the chips.

CAN A MICROCHIP MIGRATE IN THE BODY?

Usually your pet's subcutaneous tissue will bond to the chip within 24 hours, preventing it from moving. There are rare instances when a chip migrates elsewhere in the body.

HOW CAN I REGISTER MY PET?

The microchip is only effective if it is programmed with the pet's contact information. Microchip registries coordinate with the chip used. You'll simply make an account and link the chip to your name, phone number and other identifying information. It is important to update this data as needed when you move or get a new phone number.

Microchips, when used in conjunction with collars and ID tags, offer the best protection for pets.

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Iris

I'm **Iris** and I have a goofy and loving personality. You will find me outside in any weather, as I enjoy sitting and observing wildlife in the backyard. I may be stubborn when it comes to walks, but I will chase after tennis balls all day. Don't be fooled by my lazy approach, I am still young and have a lot of energy. One of my favorite activities is to explore all the interesting smells in the big field nearby, which gives me good mental stimulation. I can live with dogs that are a good match, but I find cats way too interesting to have as housemates. I can live with older teenagers but prefer no young children.



Lisa

My name is **Lisa** and I am a petite 1-year-old girl. I am still full of kitten energy and will need a home with lots of playtime. I am also very affectionate and love cuddles. My favorite activities include basking on the screened-in porch and chasing toys. I get along with most cats but have no experience with dogs.



Mr. Clean

My name is **Mr. Clean** and I am a super relaxed, affectionate, young boy. I was found with 3 kittens, who may be my children! I enjoy their company and we nap and cuddle together. I even let them try to nurse on me! If you are looking for a gentle and affectionate guy, please adopt me. I am great with other cats but have no experience with dogs.



Abel and Cain



Abel and **Cain** are about 5 months old and were found as strays. They are a bonded pair and must be adopted together. **Abel** is a solid grey, male. **Cain** is grey with a white locket, 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.



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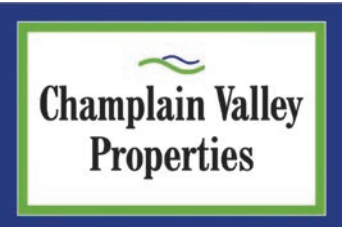


THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Bridport cape offers park-like setting

This three bedroom cape style home is conveniently located 8 miles from Middlebury and close to Bridport village. The house offers a large living room for gatherings in front of the wood burning fireplace. The glassed in three season room is a relaxing way to spend a pleasant afternoon. The yard is park-like and planted with quite an array of perennials, water gardens and ornamental trees and bushes. The garden room off the kitchen is a sunny place to start plants and to have herbs readily available for your favorite recipe. The den is a pleasant place to curl up with your favorite book. The basement is very functional with storage space, laundry and easy access to the back yard. There is additional storage space both above the two car garage and also in the detached garden shed. All this in a beautiful park-like setting.



*This week's property is managed by Champlain Valley Properties.
More info at champlainvalleyproperty.net.*



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5	7	8	6	1	2	9	3	4



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Perched on a ridge with sweeping views of Middlebury, Middlebury College and the Green Mountains, Moxie Hill Farm epitomizes Vermont luxury. Designed by Truex Cullins Architects and built by Round Tree Construction, this property merges classic Vermont farmhouse charm with modern sophistication. The traditional facade of the main home blends seamlessly with a stunning post-and-beam barn. With 5 beds, 7 baths, and a top-tier gym above the 3-car garage, this residence provides ample space for everyone! They'll enjoy living spaces flooded with natural light, cathedral ceilings, amazing woodwork, multiple fireplaces, walls of built-ins, elegance, grandeur, and warmth no matter what corner they turn. Outside, their attention will turn to an exquisite in-ground pool, hot tub, two fireplaces and a handsome display of meticulously landscaped stone patios, fruit trees, and perennials. The pinnacle of Vermont living, Moxie Hill is sold fully-furnished and ready to inspire.

BENSON NEW LISTING!
721 HERRICK ROAD
MLS #5010313 | \$495,000
3 BD | 3 BA | 2380 SF | 18 ACRES

Immaculate log home set among 18 peaceful acres of woodlands, meadow, and plenty of gardening space. A 36 X 48 oversized garage building and neighboring shelter can house your boat, cars or recreational vehicles, as well as your tractor! The sweet sugar shack out back is ready with a stash of wood and sugaring equipment. Enjoy the pond, large garden space, and a large wrap around porch from which to oversee it all. Open concept floor plan, a first floor primary bedroom suite, slate and pine floors with radiant heat are among the many highlights of a warm wood interior!

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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

"Inked" an exploration of the versatility, depth, and expressive power of ink as a creative medium. Featuring the work of seven artists: Andrew Clingenpeel, Charon Henning, Elisa Järnefelt, Anna Macijeski, James Merrill, Jeannie Podolak, and Megan Weaver. A reception will be held on Friday, Sept. 6, from 5-7 p.m., free and open to the public with complimentary refreshments, including treats by Thistle and Honey Baking and wine by Lincoln Peak Vineyard. On view from Aug. 30 - Nov. 2.

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Opera Company of Middlebury taps new managing director

Opera Company of Middlebury (OCM), Vermont's leading opera company, has appointed Robin Allen LaPlante to the role of managing director, effective immediately. Following the search process for an administrative leader, OCM's board of directors found LaPlante's background in arts administration throughout New England, coupled with her extensive experience in external relations, to be an excellent match for the organization's needs.

"Robin brings a tremendous wealth of experience and expertise to OCM," said Chip Malcolm, president of the OCM Board of Directors. "We are fortunate to have someone with her ability to strategically plan for the growth and development of arts organizations. Her skills are exactly what OCM needs to propel us into the next 20 years."

"I'm thrilled to join the esteemed Opera Company of Middlebury as managing director,"



ROBIN ALLEN LAPLANTE

said LaPlante. "I believe in the strength of music to share stories, lift our spirits, and ultimately bring us closer together. I'm excited to collaborate with the OCM Board

of Directors, the artistic team and staff, and the Middlebury community to support the tradition of unforgettable musical experiences at Town Hall Theater."

LaPlante brings considerable experience in nonprofit arts management. Throughout a career spanning nearly 20 years, she has worked with organizations as diverse as NPR's "From the Top," Boston Center for the Arts, Highland Center for the Arts, Circus Smirkus and Vermont Youth Orchestra. In these roles she has led external relations of all kinds, developed strategic institutional communications and branding plans, and managed the development operations for over \$1 million in gifts and grants. Most recently she has been a sought-after nonprofit consultant helping arts and education nonprofits develop and professionalize their fundraising and marketing operations.

To learn more about OCM visit ocmvermont.org.

CRAFTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

the J.J. Booth Duo from Warren will perform Indie Rock/Pop and Alt. Country tunes. On Sunday morning, Madigan Linnane

will return to play in her modern folk/pop/indie musical style with songs that appeal to a broad audience. And on Sunday afternoon, the Medicine Tribe, featuring Colleen Mari Mays of Warren, will play Americana-style covers and original songs.

The Food Court at the Craft Fair features a variety of festive fare from authentic Somali cuisine to classic hamburgers and hot dogs. Jilib Jiblets from Burlington will bring sambusas, fried chicken, and various rice stews, both meat and veggie; Dougy Fresh Catering of Barre will be making gyros on site featuring lamb, beef, chicken and veggie gyros; Rick's Chuckwagon returns once again to the Fair offering classic summer American fare; and Silver Spring Scoops Ice Cream and Lemonade from Bolton will serve up homemade ice cream, Sundays, shakes, and hand squeezed lemonade with a maple lemonade option. For adults ages 21+, North Branch Vineyards from Montpelier will sell their wine by the glass or bottle and have canned beer or cocktails for onsite consumption.

The Valley Players community theater group purchased the highly successful Craft Fair



in 1989, after 19 years of private ownership. Staffed by numerous volunteers and the Players' board of directors, the fair provides support to maintain the Valley Players Theater on Main Street in Waitsfield with a small entry fee; kids 12 and under enter for free.

"The Craft Fair is our major source of funding for the year and is vital for the upkeep of our building" said board member Ruth Ann Pattee. "We hope our family of vendors and visitors alike will stop by our Information Tent as you enter the fair to learn more about the Valley Players and our upcoming productions."

The Valley Players would like to remind everyone to please leave

pets at home. For the full list of door prizes, artists, directions, and more information go to madrivercraftfair.com.



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