Hills are alive

Music is returning next month to Lincoln, thanks to Burnham Presents. See Arts + Leisure.

New coach

MUHS looked just up Route 7 to find its next boys' soccer program leader. See Sports, Page 1B.

Innkeepers

New owners of E. Middlebury's Waybury Inn have faces familiar to area residents. See Page 2A.

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Vol. 78 No. 35 | Middlebury, Vermont ◆ Thursday, August 29, 2024 ◆ 44 Pages | $1.50

Stone takes a bow in Middlebury

'Platoon' director discusses his life, movie making

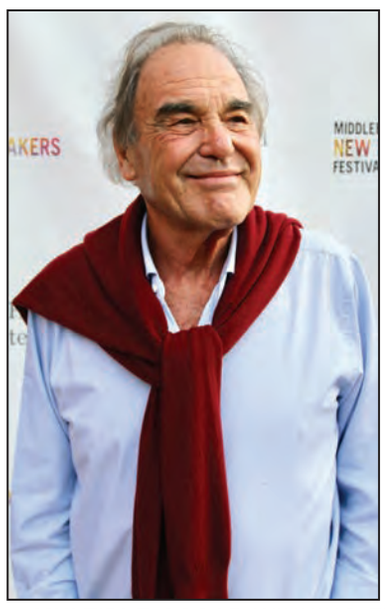
By JOHN FLOWERS

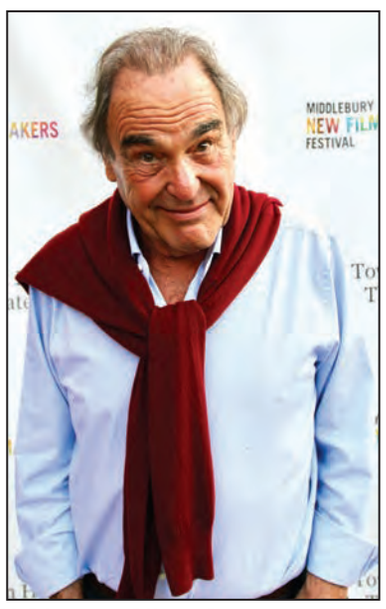
MIDDLEBURY — Celebrated film Director Oliver Stone already has four Academy Awards on his mantel.

Now he'll make some room for his first VTeddy Award, which he accepted this past weekend as one of the several honorees at this year's Middlebury New Film Festival. The director of "Platoon," "Born on the Fourth of July," "Wall Street" and a host of other pictures helped MNFF mark its 10th birthday.

Stone, 77, received an MNFF VTeddy for "Impact, Imagination and Excellence," and was saluted during screenings of "Platoon" and "Wall Street," as well as his more recent offering: "The Untold History

(See Oliver Stone, Page 13A)





MULTIPLE OSCAR-WINNING FILM Director Oliver Stone was celebrated by the Middlebury New Film Festival on Saturday. He accepted a lifetime achievement award and provided insights into some of his most enduring films, including "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July."

Independent photos/Steve James

Inside the mind of a maker

EMMY AND TONY Award-winning costume designer Paul Tazewell discusses his craft with Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Artistic Director Jay Craven Friday on stage at Middlebury College's Dana Auditorium. Tazewell worked on "Harriet" and "Hamilton" on Broadway and the films "Wicked" and Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story," which screened on Friday. See more MNFF photos on Pages 4A, 10A and 13A.

Independent photo/Steve James

Addison reverses on town hall rehab

Binding balloting hits 66 percent against

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON — Addison residents on Tuesday reversed by a wide margin 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.

The vote to rescind their approval ran 283-164, or about 66.3-33.7%. The Addison selectboard consulted an attorney before approving the citizen petition that called for the vote, and board members believe the result is binding.

On Nov. 8, 2022, residents' vote ran in favor of the project, 322-262, or 55-45%.

Members of the Town Hall Committee have worked hard for around a decade on the project, including winning voter approval to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to install an inground septic system to serve the building, the church next door, and other nearby town-owned property, as well as to create architectural drawings and estimates for the former town hall's

(See Addison, Page 16A)

MAUSD starts mulling FY'26 spending early

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Following a challenging budget season this past fiscal year, the Mount Abraham Unified School District board is getting a head start on thinking about district spending for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The school board on Tuesday got a first look at what a fiscal year 2026 budget could look like and some of the factors expected to impact this fall's budget building process.

Initial figures presented at the meeting reflect an estimated $37,445,587 in total district spending for FY'26, up $2,064,391, or 5.83%, from the current year. District officials noted that there are still a lot of unknowns at this point in the year and much could change in the coming months.

"There are a lot of moving pieces in December when we present a budget to you; the number of moving pieces in August is exponentially greater than what you would see later on. So, take

(See MAUSD budget, Page 14A)

Homeward Bound's annual Walk for the Animals, called Woofstock, is set for Saturday, Sept. 7. It's a 1-mile walk around Middlebury followed by music, prizes, food and a pool party just for dogs in the Middlebury Town Pool. Sign up and raise funds in advance for a chance at great prizes. Every dollar raised goes directly to care for

(See By the way, Page 16A)

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Shoreham welcomes new leader

Principal excited for chance to educate in a rural school

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Lashawn Whitmore-Sells likes just about everything about her new gig as Shoreham Elementary School principal — even her hour-long commute.

Rather than being condemned to a white-knuckle drive at a snail's pace through some smog-filled urban center strewn with countless traffic signals or exit ramps, Whitmore-Sells sails through the Route 22A corridor, appreciating views that a lot of people would be happy to pay for.

"I've enjoyed the drive, just to see the lay of the land and how beautiful it is," she said, noting the panoramic vistas of lush, flat agricultural terrain contrasted with imposing Adirondack peaks in the background.

LASHAWN WHITMORE-SELLS is starting her new role as principal of Shoreham Elementary School, where she already feels at home.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Whitmore-Sells will get a chance to memorize the stunning landscape and its subtle, seasonal changes as she becomes

(See Whitmore-Sells, Page 18A)

Willowell is bringing back Walden program

Gears up for other outdoor offerings

By MARIN HOWELL

MONKTON — As another school year gets underway, the Willowell Foundation is celebrating the start of several new and familiar outdoor education offerings in store for local youth — including a revived version of the well-loved Walden Project.

The outdoor public education program was formerly run through Vergennes Union High School and for 24 years served local 10-12th-graders in the woods of Monkton in partnership with Willowell. Walden Project founder and longtime director Matt Schlein stepped down from leading the program this past spring, and the Walden Project was among several items cut from the Addison Northwest School District's fiscal year 2025 budget, leaving the future of the program uncertain.

> *"Part of the power of Walden has been its accessibility for working families. This is something we are committed to."*
>
> *— Matt Schlein*

Members of the Walden community had sought to find a way to continue the program in another form, and earlier this summer, Willowell announced "The Walden Year," an offering that builds on the design of the former Walden program.

The Walden Year is a tuition-free program open to students ages 16-19. The program will be helmed by Willowell and run in connection with area school districts and the Community College of Vermont (CCV).

"Much like our forerunner, The Walden Year inspires students to cultivate their relationship to self, society and the natural world," said Peter Houskeeper, a Walden alum and director of the Walden Year. "We've added an option for post-grad students to engage in an enriching curriculum so now it's open to ages 16-19. Students will receive credit by using their free vouchers to enroll in two

(See Willowell, Page 14A)

New owners, familiar faces, take the reins at Waybury Inn

By JOHN FLOWERS

EAST MIDDLEBURY — Chas Lyons was a longtime customer of East Middlebury's historic Waybury Inn.

His wife, Halina, used to work there.

Now they own it — together with business partner and Waybury Inn chef Tony Petri.

"It's nice to continue the legacy that is the Waybury Inn, what it's offered during the past 200 years and hopefully will carry forward to the next phase," Chas Lyons said of the recent acquisition of the business from the Sutton family, whose steady stewardship included numerous updates that have enhanced the 457 East Main St. property while preserving the 1810 building that includes a 144-seat restaurant and a dozen guest rooms.

Last summer Lyons heard the Suttons had put the inn on the market. He became intrigued and knew Halina would be, too.

"My wife has always aspired to own an inn," he noted.

But it was a dream the couple couldn't make happen on their own.

Enter Petri, who two years ago became the Waybury Inn's head chef and was interested in pooling his resources with the Lyons clan to secure an ownership stake.

The trio talked it over during conversations that became more serious as weeks and months went by. It helped that Chas and Tony had known each other for years; Lyons (class of 1996) used to coach Petri (class of 2009) on the Middlebury Union High School cross country running team.

HALINA AND CHAS Lyons recently joined forces with chef Tony Petri, right, to acquire the Waybury Inn from the Sutton family. The trio closed on the purchase on May 9 and are planning new promotions and offerings to enhance customers' appreciation of the inn, which was built in 1810.

Independent photo/Steve James

The group put together a financing plan and closed on the property purchase on May 9.

Chas Lyons was born and raised in Middlebury. Longstanding residents in our area will remember Chas's dad, the late Greg Lyons, who ran the "Lyons' Place" store at 54 College St. in Middlebury.

In addition to working at that family business, Lyons has worked in construction, was co-owner/operator of Frog Hollow Bikes in Middlebury, was a house painter, a fix-it guy, and toiled at a couple of local restaurants (including Fire & Ice),

In addition, he worked for 30 years at Ripton's Rikert Outdoor Center, primarily as a trail groomer, instructor and events planner.

Lyons believes his varied work experiences translate well to the inn business, in terms of planning special events and being part of the hospitality industry.

"I feel equipped to do the job. Being (at the inn) feels 'normal' to me. I learned a set of skills to be able to do a wide variety of things that need attention," he said.

Halina Lyons is Polish by birth and was adopted at a young age by a family in the Lake Placid, N.Y., area. She worked in the hospitality industry in Lake Placid before moving to East Middlebury around 20 years ago. The Courtyard by Marriott Hotel and the Middlebury Inn were among her first Addison County employers, followed by a support role at the Vergennes office of former optometrist Dr. Melvin Simmons, and then Middlebury's Optics Ltd.

She met her future husband around 18 years ago. The couple has two young daughters — Aurelia,10, and Beatrix, 6 — who they hope will someday play a role in running the inn.

While the first three months on the job have required negotiating a learning curve, running an inn has been as satisfying as Halina imagined it would be when she first harbored that dream as a child.

"We're a big team and we support each other," she said of the 20 full- and part-time employees. "There's something about bringing people together and having a 'home away from home' feeling."

Petri praised the former Waybury owners for being devoted to the inn's restaurant and building its catering business, which Petri now knows inside and out. And being part of the ownership team gives him a chance to put his own imprimatur on the food operation.

> *"There's something about bringing people together and having a 'home away from home' feeling."*
> — *Halina Lyons*

"We all looked at it and knew with some modern touches, we could ramp things up here," Petri said.

Sure enough, the inn's food sales numbers are up roughly 20% since the acquisition, while there's been a noticeable bump in the lodging segment, according to the new owners.

As far as the restaurant goes, Petri will continue to add new items to the menu while maintaining customer favorites, such as fish & chips, seafood crepes and mushroom Wellington. Petri's own creations have included a mediterranean cauliflower dish, chicken harissa and a smoked eggplant parmesan

"We're kind of melding old and new into one," he said. "I'm slowly putting my tastes and experiences into the menu and balancing that with what they've been doing here."

Petri also wants to increase gluten-free and vegetarian offerings to reflect the dietary needs of a growing segment of the clientele.

Assisting Petri in the kitchen is a seasoned staff.

"We have an experienced team that's been here for years," Petri said, citing among others pastry Chef Donna Siebert and sous chef/sauté cook Christian Grollier.

Chefs routinely use a pinch of this or that while cooking.

Right now, Petri is pinching himself.

"It feels great. I never thought my journey would be so circular, buying — with my cross-country coach — a restaurant that I grew up next door to," Petri said. "This is the realization of a dream I've had since I was 18."

THE TO-DO LIST

The Lyons-Petri team has some ideas in mind for the inn. They include:

- Offering breakfast service to non-guests.
- Capitalizing on the inn's

(See Waybury Page 7A)

Middlebury parking fines go up to $25

MIDDLEBURY — Running afoul of Middlebury's parking rules will now cost you $25 per infraction, up from the longstanding $5 fine that had been in place for most violations.

The Middlebury selectboard recently approved that fine increase as part of a menu of changes to the community's parking ordinance.

In addition to increasing the parking fine, the changes:

- Establish additional short-term parking spots along Main Street, near the post office. Specifically, it creates four "quick turnover" parking spots (15 minutes) on the western side of Main Street near the intersection of Main/Seymour streets, primarily serving U.S. Post Office and National Bank of Middlebury visitors.
- Designate 13 of the current 52 unrestricted parking spots in the lower parking lot off Bakery Lane as 3-hour time-limited during the workday.

Prior to this change, nine of the 62 spots in the lower parking lot were designated for all-day/overnight parking, with one reserved as a disability/handicap spot. The remaining 52 were deemed unrestricted and available for all-day parking.

The aforementioned time-limit changes ensure that "public parking spots closest to downtown businesses are consistently turning over and more readily available to customers and visitors, thereby supporting downtown businesses," Middlebury Assistant Town Manager David Sophrin explained.

Town officials also hope the new time limits on select Main Street and Bakery Lane parking spots will result in more people frequenting the under-used municipal lot down the hill off Mill Street.

Prior to the ordinance changes, Middlebury had the lowest median parking fine amounts among the 20 largest municipalities in the state. The fine was $25 for blocking a fire hydrant, fire zone or handicap-access space, and $5 for all other violations. Police officials said they were concerned some folks considered the $5 fine a "good deal" for occupying a prime space.

Sophrin told the selectboard the new, increased fine of $25 for all parking violations should ensure greater compliance, and thus greater parking turnover during the workday.

Salisbury man sentenced to 78 months in jail

RUTLAND — A Salisbury man has been sentenced to spend six-and-a-half years in jail after pleading guilty to possessing a stolen gun.

Scott Clark, 41, was sentenced on Aug. 21 by U.S. District Judge Mae D'Agostino to 78 months' imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Clark previously pleaded guilty to the charge on July 13, 2023.

According to court records, on Sept. 23, 2022, Clark unlawfully entered a camper parked at a campground in Salisbury. While inside of the camper, Clark found and took possession of a Glock model G23 .40 caliber pistol that belonged to the camper's owner.

A Vermont State Police trooper responding to complaints of a suspicious person attempting to break into campers at the campground confronted Clark. While Clark was being questioned he clandestinely removed the Glock from his person and slipped it to his girlfriend, who was standing nearby and then placed the Glock in her purse, law enforcement officials said. The trooper observed the Glock in the girlfriend's purse and seized the pistol.

U.S. Attorney Nikolas P. Kerest commended the collaborative investigatory efforts of the state police, Middlebury police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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As organization evolves, Vermont Folklife to sell Warren House

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Vermont Folklife officials have confirmed a buyer for the nonprofit's headquarters — the historic John Warren House at 88 Main St. in Middlebury — and hope to close on a deal with the yet-to-be-revealed purchaser this fall.

John Barstow, director of development at Vermont Folklife, said last week he could only share that the prospective buyer is a local entity that plans to use the 220-year-old brick, Federal-style house for its offices.

The organization was founded in 1984 as the Vermont Folklife Center by Addison County's Jane Beck. Vermont Folklife, as it is now known, is a nationally known education and cultural research nonprofit that uses ethnography — the study of cultural experience through interviewing, participation and observation — "to strengthen the understanding of the cultural and social fabric of Vermont's diverse communities," according to its website.

The organization acquired the John Warren House in 2006 for around $600,000 to serve as its home base, according to Barstow. The building's historic aura and its 7,366 square feet provided ample accommodations for VF's staff of nine full- and parttime employees and for the organization's archives that include photographs, manuscripts and many audio recordings that are being digitized.

Successful nonprofits often find themselves outgrowing their space. But the opposite is true for the thriving VF, whose staff, activities and archives have only required a fraction of the John Warren House's available space.

"When I started working there, I had an office that was one-quarter of the second floor," Barstow recalled. "It was ridiculous. We knew we could all work in much less space."

With that in mind, VF several years ago began renting out its second floor as office space that's currently being used by a diverse collection of therapists and entrepreneurs. A portion of the main floor is also being leased. The rentals have provided a welcome boost to VF's revenue stream.

At the same, the organization has gradually transitioned from a Middlebury destination to a nimble operation whose primary mission is collecting and preserving Vermont's unique heritage throughout the state. In line with that shift, the organization has grown its direct engagement with Vermont communities, and recently dropped the word "center" from the end of its moniker.

Vermont Folklife's transition from a fixed location intensified during the pandemic, according to VF Associate Director and Archivist Andy Kolovos.

"We closed our onsite gallery in the spring of 2020," he said through a press release, "and rather than reopen it, we decided to bring our exhibits to partner organizations around the state — sites like the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, and the Manchester Community Library. It has been immensely rewarding to build new connections in these communities."

Kate Haughey, VF's executive director, pointed to the advantages of the new, more personal touch.

"As a community-focused nonprofit, we find it so important to bring our programs and mission to people — where they are — rather than asking people to come to us," she said. "And that enables us to foster the face-to-face connections that are at the heart of what we do."

VF's first home was in rented space in Middlebury's Gamaliel Painter House at 2 Court St. The nonprofit in 2000 partnered with the Vermont Community Foundation to purchase, renovate and occupy the former Masonic Hall at 3 Court St. Then came the acquisition and move to the Warren House 18 years ago, just one year prior to Beck's retirement in 2007 as VF's first-ever executive director.

The Warren House is recognized as an historic place at both the state and federal levels. In his "Walking History of Middlebury," Glenn M. Andres notes 88 Main Street was built in 1804 by John Warren, a clothier and the developer of the Frog Hollow cotton mill.

"This was one of the most pretentious and urbane early houses in Middlebury," Andres writes. "It was of brick (its end walls, of a particularly elaborate Flemish bond, suggest an itinerant mason from New York's Hudson Valley) atop a dressed stone basement and detailed with marble from Eben Judd's mill (e.g., the shaped plaques and the turned columns of the Palladian window) and fine woodwork."

Historic structures require special upkeep, and VF has done its best to keep the Warren House in good condition. But the nonprofit doesn't have the deep pockets needed for long-term stewardship of the venerable edifice.

VERMONT FOLKLIFE HAS a prospective buyer for its historic John Warren House at 88 Main St. in Middlebury. After having been based in the Warren House since 2006, the organization, founded in 1984 by Jane Beck, is opting for a nimbler, hybrid operation.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

"88 Main St. is a unique, landmark structure," Haughey said, "and we asked ourselves — is this part of our mission? Should we be the stewards of this historic property? Or is it more important that we direct our resources into fulfilling our mission, getting out there and meeting people on their own terms?"

After more than a year of debate and conversation with staff, the VF board recently voted to sell the Warren House. And the property will be conveyed with an important caveat: That its new owner allow the VF archives to remain in their climate-controlled area in the lower level of the building, until the nonprofit has pinned down replacement storage space.

"We like to say that the Archive is the heart of the organization," Kolovos said.

The *Independent* reached out to Beck to get her thoughts on the VF's departure from the Warren House. She said, "I have been retired since 2007 and change

(See Folklife, Page 7A)

Quest for a contract

MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS of a newly formed union representing Porter Medical Center techs and support staff hold a rally this past Saturday afternoon on the Middlebury town green. The union is currently negotiating its first contract with Porter management, and boosters used the rally to show solidarity and request community support.

Independent photo/Steve James

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ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Editorials

Komesar's second chapter brings culture, joy to us all

Lloyd Komesar received well-earned recognition at what was a fabulous 10th Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival. At both the opening night ceremony last Wednesday and the VTeddy Awards on Sunday night, the one-man, high-energy force behind the concept and launch of the festival received multiple standing ovations from a grateful and admiring audience.

The admiration came from more than the hundreds of festival patrons who attended this year's five-day event that screened 130 films. It also came from the greater-Middlebury community as speakers and film honorees credited Komesar with adding greatly to the town's "social capital," even more than the economic benefit it also brings.

It's no small feat that the greater Middlebury area now has the opportunity each year to see experimental films and discuss them at length with friends, new acquaintances and film directors. As a community we now understand more about the craft of filmmaking, about their production, and the trials and tribulations directors, actors and producers face. The conversations shared, the meanings pondered, the enlightenment gained from new insights are revelatory and, as in theater, tragic as well as uplifting. To be an integral part of such a festival is to come away transformed, renewed, energized and awed.

To recall the early years of MNFF and this year's event is also to understand how much Komesar and MNFF's Artistic Director Jay Craven have accomplished. They took a new concept with a few dozen films to watch over three days and grew it into a five-day event with 133 films — chosen from 584 films submitted from 44 countries. They've made it an internationally known festival, ranked in FilmFreeway's top 100 out of more than 10,000 film festivals worldwide.

The festival also awarded $13,500 in prizes to 10 filmmakers, with special awards going to six others, plus $8,000 to five honorees.

But what transcends this festival is community. Thanks to Lloyd's irrepressible energy, enthusiasm, tenacity and sheer joy in what he does, the community caught his bug for film and responded in kind. Donors have stepped up with prize money, local residents share their homes with filmmakers, restaurants and inns and businesses share their goods and services to make everyone feel part of the MNFF family.

After 25-plus years in the film industry and working with the Disney corporation, Komesar allowed a bit of self-congratulations, saying Sunday night that launching MNFF has been a "worthy second chapter of my career." And to paraphrase his comments when given his own VTeddy for the newly created Komesar Prize to Commitment to Culture and Community he said of that journey: "We had fun, worked hard, had some crazy times, and I think we wrote a little history here in Middlebury."

While the festival is all about the new films and filmmakers, this year was also Lloyd's time in the limelight as he has opted to step aside and hand off the role of executive director to Caitlin Boyle, a well-known filmmaker, activist and leader of the independent film sector. That the year-around position can now be fully funded is a testament to the festival's financial success and community support of an event that has become a community and regional institution.

Lloyd claims the festival will benefit from new leadership, new ideas and energy and only grudgingly admits he'll enjoy having a "supporting" role on the sidelines while letting others tackle the months of planning it takes in preparation. And if history is prologue to what comes next, we're certain Lloyd's supporting role will also earn top honors.

So, kudos Lloyd. The accolades pale to what you, Jay, and your team have achieved, but also to how you did it — by keeping the work fun and exciting all the while bringing mountains of joy to us all.

Angelo Lynn

Meta's Zuckerberg caves again

If you're a reader of headlines and don't often read the full story, you might delve deeper into the yarn where Meta czar Mark Zuckerberg regrets caving to "censorship" imposed by the Biden administration over Facebook's posting of misinformation related to public health and the pandemic.

Pressured by GOP House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordon, R-Ohio, Zuckerberg caved to Jordon's pressure to now say he regrets removing such posts (on his own volition, he admits). In short, the Meta chief is taking the position their multiple platforms — Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Threads — will no longer "demote" potentially false stories or posts while its fact-checking partners determine if the posts are factual or blatant lies.

Opposite of the Hippocratic Oath doctors embrace to "first, do no harm," Zuckerberg's approach is to allow whatever harm may occur until someone tells him differently and then he'll take down the post.

Imagine if any newspaper did the same. Suppose we printed letters to the editor sliming a candidate or anyone in public office or private business with the attitude we'll run with what we have until factfinders prove differently? As a newspaper, of course, we can't publish letters or stories we suspect might be injurious to others without being subject to libel suits. And because of that threat to our bottom line and our integrity, we work hard to avoid publishing what we might know to be untrue. It's what makes newspapers a trusted source of information.

In a major mistake in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress gave Internet platforms an exemption to the libel laws that govern all other publishing concerns by saying the content posted on their platforms is not their responsibility. Almost 30 years later, it's time to admit the exemption was ill-advised and make the platforms live by the same laws radio, television and print journalism live by.

In theory, the original intent was reasonable. Back when the Internet was a concept and only good things were imagined by the free flow of information with a diversity of opinion, there was promise.

In reality, the lack of responsibility has created a cesspool of misinformation on social media platforms that are now dominated by forces seeking to undermine accurate information that informs public opinion. Just like in the novel "Animal Farm," without reasonable rules anarchy prevails and debauchery (if not political dictatorship and suppression of free will) is its outcome.

Several European nations have responded by implementing measures to hold platforms accountable for egregious misinformation. Congress should do the same, which is the opposite of what the House GOP is pursuing under Jordon's committee.

Angelo Lynn

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Boldness triumphs

ANDY MITCHELL ACCEPTS a special tribute from the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival for his sustained body of excellent documentary films. On stage at Town Hall Theater Sunday, the Middlebury resident accepted the award for the skill, sensitivity and boldness he has demonstrated while shooting diverse subjects which are often in dangerous environments.

Independent photo/Steve James

Harris should apply Leahy Law

Ways of Seeing
By Joanna Colwell

It's a rainy Monday afternoon in Ripton, and outside I hear crickets chirping. Tonight is the beginning of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, and my heart is with the protesters calling for Kamala Harris to end all arms sales to Israel.

I want to be excited for the first woman president. I want to vote for the first Black woman president; the first president of South Asian descent. I like Tim Walz's Dad Energy. I love the videos of Tim Walz with his daughter at the Minnesota State Fair, and Kamala Harris cooking Indian food with actress Mindy Kaling.

It goes without saying that I hope bigots who make fun of people with disabilities, who brag about committing sexual assault, and whose brains are decomposing in real time due to untreated syphilis are kept as far as possible away from the seats of power.

But also? There's a genocide happening throughout Palestine, and we need to stop providing the bombs that are destroying entire extended families. It's not just Gaza, although families in Gaza are undergoing the most extreme violence. In the West Bank, Israeli settlers are violating the human rights of Palestinians every day. Settlers are restricting access to water, cutting down ancient olive groves, and making daily life unlivable for thousands of people.

The latest polls show that young, progressive Americans are deeply disturbed by the estimated 40,000 deaths in Gaza, since the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7. Harris and Walz need these young voters on their side.

Kamala Harris has a very important tool available to her, should she choose to stop supporting this genocide. This tool is a law, named for our very own recently retired Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy. The Leahy Law, passed in 1997, prohibits the United States from providing aid to any foreign security force that has committed a gross violation of human rights.

Although the Leahy Law has been applied hundreds of times, it has never been applied to Israel, the country that has received more U.S. military aid, by far, than any other. There is no question that the Israeli military routinely commits human rights abuses throughout Palestine. Israeli soldiers often post videos of themselves on TikTok, boasting of their actions, and further degrading people they have harmed. Everyone with access to the internet can see these horrors with our own eyes.

I am a Jewish Vermonter, and I know in my bones that every day that the Israeli military rains down bombs on Gaza, Jews all over the world are less safe. My community of Jews who know that Palestinian lives matter, along with Arab people all over the United States, along with human rights activists everywhere, need Kamala Harris to hear our message: Safety will not be achieved with militarized borders, ammunition, and razor wire. Safety will come when we recognize that everyone's life is precious. Every single human life.

Joanna Colwell is the director of Otter Creek Yoga, and runs the Yoga Equity Project in Middlebury. She is a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice and Jewish Voice for Peace.

PMC makes budget commitment

Community Forum

This week's writer is Bob Ortmyer, president of Porter Medical Center.

On Aug. 30, Porter Medical Center, along with our two University of Vermont Health Network partner hospitals in Vermont, will present its 2025 budget to Vermont's health care regulator, the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) for approval.

The proposal builds on our current fiscal budget in that it's designed to ensure high-quality, compassionate health care remains within reach for everyone in Addison County. Our commitment to this community now and in the future is to both improve patient outcomes and increase access to affordable and equitable health services.

Despite the pressures of inflation, recent work to reduce administrative costs at Porter has allowed us to keep our commercial growth rate increase at 2.9% for 2025, which falls under the GMCB benchmark of 3.4%. As our health system, UVM Health Network, matures, we're finding new ways to reduce operational costs and share expenses across all partners. This work is ultimately going to help reduce the financial burdens facing many of our patients.

Our budget proposal supports improved physical and financial access to our services, especially in the primary care setting. For example, increased telehealth support and recent changes to how we schedule at our primary care offices, is freeing up appointment slots to give our community more access to care. We're also in the process of boosting overall capacity by onboarding a new orthopedic surgeon, cardiologist and primary care physician this fall.

An important commitment in this budget is to the 700 people who work at Porter, so they can continue to provide our community with the care we all count on. The budget provides for staff recruitment and retention programs, like improved pay and benefits, as well as career development opportunities. We must remain competitive in the labor market to be able to care for all of you and your family members when you need us.

Porter also must plan for and make overdue infrastructure investments in the future, much like this year's renovation project at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing, home to some of our community's most vulnerable people. Our budget prepares us to meet the evolving needs of our region, as outlined in the recent Act 167 presentation at the Ilsley Library, and the Community Health Needs Assessment

(See Forum, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

'Supreme' is a misnomer

About the Supreme Court — In 1787 the U.S. Constitution came to life. The authors chose the word "Supreme" to describe the third branch. Over 200 years later, as language tends to do, the connotation has evolved. Supreme, when applied to governance, commonly describes a despot, as in "Supreme Leader," often associated with oppressive regimes. Armed with supernatural foresight, the founders could have chosen a different label. Maybe, The Final Decider Court. "Supreme" might be too infallible for the current Court.

Alec Lyall
Middlebury

'Vote Forward' prior to Nov. 5

As our historic election approaches many of us want to do something to advance voter participation, especially in critical states and districts. I want to suggest a powerful strategy you can do from your home, on your own time. It's called Vote Forward — a nonprofit personal letter writing campaign urging voters in critical states and districts to vote on Nov. 5th. Non-partisan letters are hand-written and sent to voters who lean democratic or are potential voters from marginalized communities, women and young people. Here is what my letter says:

"Voting is the voice of the people — all of us together — improving our precious democracy. Every vote counts. Your vote makes a difference."

Google Vote Forward to join this effort.

It's easy, it's powerful, and it works.

Jack Mayer
Middlebury

Looking ahead to solar vote

Much appreciation to Andy Kirkaldy for his ongoing excellent coverage of the Panton solar issue.

It should be noted that the non-binding advisory vote scheduled for November 5th is a voter-petitioned vote. Five percent of registered Panton voters signed a petition that was submitted to the selectboard requesting the vote be held. The issue has been so hotly contested we the voters felt this was the fairest way to proceed.

We are hopeful our iconic natural beauty will be saved from egregious industrial development and preserved for future generations of both humans and wildlife. Paving rural Vermont with massive slabs of solar panels would be an abomination.

Some things are priceless and irreplaceable. The idea of taking away what makes Vermont, Vermont is unfathomable.

Sharon Ashcraft
Panton

Join forces for the greater good

My favorite weekly news magazine is the *Christian Science Monitor*, thanks to its remarkably unbiased and intelligent international reporting and its devoted leaning toward highlighting individuals and groups in various highly challenging, often devastating, situations who work and strive and aid themselves and others with deep integrity and decency. Folks of all "political" persuasions.

This past week's cover article (Back To School — in a phone free classroom?) included an interview with a woman in Utah, Corinne Johnson (a senior policy advisor for a Salt Lake City council member, and a mom),who created Utah Parents United — a conservative advocacy group for parental rights that has struggled to hold accountable the "Big Tech and billion dollar companies who view our children as products," and who are fighting tooth and nail against anyone having the ability to restrict full access to

(See Lust letter, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Noise is related to critical storm-related repairs

To my neighbors in "The Woodlands" Middlebury,

While shredding branches left in the wake of the last storm, I was approached by one of my neighbors stating that he was getting noise complaints from some of the neighbors.

He would not disclose the persons complaining, why they were complaining to him, nor give me advice on what we should do to alleviate the issue.

There are three trees that need to be cleaned up and a shed that needs a new roof caused by a tree falling on it. There is also one of my neighbor's large trees, half down, leaning over my property which will need to be cleaned up once it comes down.

I am working within the town noise ordinance and will continue to do so. There is a small amount of shredding left, the shed repair and the log splitting to do to complete the cleanup. Once done I should be back to an occasional yard cleanup.

I apologize for the inconvenience this work may have caused.

Jim and Robin Farnum
Middlebury

Drivers should take note of returning students

ACSD schools started on Monday. Please slow down for walkers, riders, and rollers during school drop-off and pick-up times. Take some time to practice walking/biking commutes and discuss traffic safety with the young people in your household. Thank you to the summer road striping teams for making crosswalks visible.

Isabel Gogarty
Middlebury

Pickleball enthusiasts grateful to Middlebury officials

Scott Bourne and his team at the Middlebury Recreation Department just completed an amazing refurbishing of the outdoor tennis – pickleball – basketball court complex at the Middlebury Recreation Park.

A vibrant pickleball community has developed over the past couple years, and now we can play on courts that are infinitely safer and more beautiful. Scott and his team managed to get the upgrade accomplished with a proven quality contractor. It was a challenging job done very well.

We are so grateful.

Cristine Kossow
Middlebury

Lust letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

social media to kids and teens.

As someone against government being involved in this and many other endeavors, believing that all parents and parents alone should determine what is and isn't healthy for their kids, Mrs. Johnson discovered that she needed to involve government in this particular heroic battle because of the amount of sheer power and pennies wielded by those same tech companies (whose higher ups — it's been documented — apparently frequently go out of their way to protect *their own* children from the ravages of social media addiction!).

I'm aware that many folks organizing for "parental rights" also want to limit access to certain books, certain kinds of medical information and care as well — not something I myself agree with. Nor am I averse to government being involved in struggles against big tech on behalf of children. But neither can I imagine that there aren't millions upon millions upon millions of caring parents and teachers and grandparents in this country, no matter their political persuasion, who aren't pretty desperate by now to minimize kids' addiction to social media.

Seems like something an enormous amount of us can agree on enthusiastically. And work together on — in many different ways.

As we all know, "crossing the aisle" used to be something Democrats and Republicans and Independents used to do, not infrequently, thinking and fighting together on issues that concerned them both.

Surely there are many such issues that decent adult human beings can come together on — nationally and locally.

There's a now fairly elderly British film called "Pride," which is the fictionalized very true story (yes, you can check this out on the internet) of a small group of gay young people in the early eighties in London who actually banded together to start raising money to support the striking Welsh miners, who were at that point being almost literally starved into submission by Margaret Thatcher. Those young people did this because they realized that the miners were being treated as shamefully and as cruelly by people in power and on the street as they themselves were being treated at that time.

Surely you can imagine that the small, conservative, traditionalist Welsh mining town they chose to raise funds for and help in any way they could was not thrilled about meeting those young people, or even being helped by them. At first.

The film is not only heartening and true, it's funny. Decency. Kindness. Hope. Listening to one another's stories. Humor. What a combo!

Marianne Lust
Lincoln

Forum

(Continued from Page 4A)

for Addison County. It also lays the groundwork for building a Musculoskeletal Center on Pond Lane and a new Emergency Department on our campus.

As always, Porter's mission has not changed over the past 99 years — we're here to take care of this community. Despite the many challenges facing health care, both here and across the country, I want to assure you that Porter will continue to vigorously maintain its financial health in service of our community, well into the future. To learn more about the impact of our work at Porter and across UVM Health Network, visit UVMHealthImpact.org.

Letters to the editor

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

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

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

What the election means to me:

One candidate would trim citizens' choices

By ALAENA HUNT

The most impactful class I ever took was "The Construct of Race in the United States." It was taught by two history teachers at the public high school in Stowe that I attended from 2018 to 2022.

Course work consisted of watching movies such as "13th" directed by Ava DuVernay, which explores the inequalities that lie within the 13th amendment and its impact on the prison system. We also read books such as "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi, which follows two sisters in 18th century Ghana. One of them is sold into slavery, and one stays behind. It tells the multi-generational story of their descendants and the contrasts between their lives.

This class was the first time I realized the world is a highly messy, inconsistent, uncategorizable and confusing place. The more I learned, the more confused I got. But there is nothing more human than seeing the world as the confusing thing that it is. When we shut ourselves off from this confusion — and adopt biases we hold as immutable truths — we cause immense pain and suffering for us and those around us.

Alaena Hunt is a part-time summer intern, a graduate of Stowe High School and a student at Georgetown University.

This class, as is true for many similar classes around the country, was contested by parents. Complaints were filed, arguments were waged against the subject and teacher, and because one of the teachers who taught this class left the school, the class no longer exists.

In Vermont, which is more than 90% white, we live in a bubble. In my high school class most of the students were white. But it is precisely because of this bubble that these courses are essential and why this local example is a cautionary tale on the national stage.

This upcoming election will either broaden my and others' chances to learn in the future or narrow it.

At the White House Press Conference on American History on Sept. 17, 2020, former president Donald Trump claimed that "Critical race theory, the 1619 Project, and the crusade against American history is toxic propaganda, ideological poison that, if not removed, will dissolve the civic bonds that tie us together. It will destroy our country."

The crusade against American

(See Hunt, Page 7A)

Harris would enhance women's rights

By LUCIA LOVELL

My passion for politics started early. I was seven when my family attended a fundraising event for the Obama Victory Fund at the Sheraton Hotel in Burlington. At first, the setting was loud and overwhelming, but silence fell over the crowd as soon as the President and First Lady set foot on the stage.

For me the effect was transformative. Suddenly everyone was eager to hear what they had to say, and they listened with respect. At the end of Michelle Obama's speech, she made her way into the crowd, shaking hands, hugging and smiling at people. I was convinced she would never notice me. Suddenly, I saw the First Lady of the United States reaching her hands out toward me. She cupped my face in her hands and gave me a warm smile. I will never forget that moment. It helped shaped my interests in politics today.

Lucia Lovell is a part-time summer intern from Boston University. She grew up in Stowe.

I am now a student of political science and journalism at Boston University. This summer I've had the opportunity to intern for U.S. Sen. Peter Welch as well as Addison Press.

On July 9, a few weeks into my internship with Sen. Welch, we were knee deep helping Vermonters navigate immediate responses to the significant flooding, and for a brief stint, I felt that same burning desire that I had first felt as a young girl — to be in a position to make positive decisions and change.

Around that same time, I returned home and switched on the TV to watch the Biden-Trump 2024 presidential debate. Watching the two men debate, my political desire was overshadowed by a surge of gloom and hopelessness. It was almost impossible to stay excited about pursuing a political career when President Biden

(See Lovell, Page 7A)

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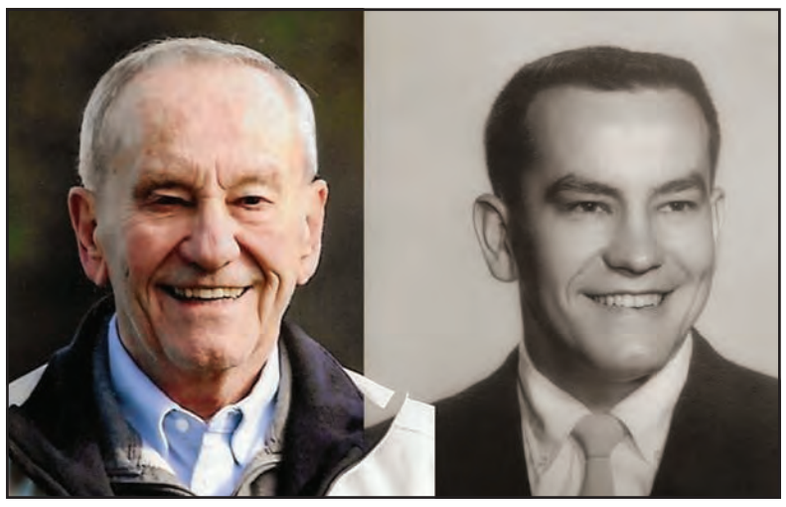
ADDISON COUNTY

Obituaries

George Thomas "Tom" Lawson, 87, of Middlebury



GEORGE THOMAS "TOM" LAWSON

MIDDLEBURY — George Thomas "Tom" Lawson, 87, of Middlebury, Vt., died peacefully on Aug. 20, 2024, with his family by his side.

Born in St. Johnsbury, Vt., on May 17, 1937, Tom was the only child of George Robert and Stella (Racicot) Lawson. He attended St. Johnsbury Academy, where he met the love of his life, Phyllis McKee. They graduated in 1955 and married in 1958. Tom graduated from Springfield College in 1961 and took his wife and baby daughter to begin his career at Craftsbury Academy in Craftsbury, Vt. From there, Tom was hired by Proctor High School in Proctor, Vt., where over the next six years he led the Phantoms' soccer and basketball teams to numerous titles and championships.

In 1969, Tom moved to Middlebury, Vt., with Phyllis and four young children, to be the men's soccer and basketball coach at Middlebury College. His teams were very successful under his guidance, highlighted by an undefeated men's soccer season in 1972. Tom spent the final 20 years of his career as Athletic Director at Middlebury College. Tom's career as Athletic Director at Middlebury College was nothing short of transformational. He ushered Middlebury Athletics into a modern era of gender equity, facility expansion, and exceptional results.

However, his most enduring contribution was establishing a culture of excellence and integrity on and off the field that is his lasting legacy. Tom retired in 1997, and he and Phyllis moved to Chatham, Mass., to enjoy the beach and sunshine before eventually returning to Middlebury to be closer to family and friends.

As dedicated as Tom was to his career, he was even more devoted to his family. He was a stellar example to his family, supportive and always wanting the best for them in life. Tom used to say that his children turned out well "in spite of him," but it was truly because of him. Tom is survived by his loving children: daughters Karen Ryden (Thomas) of Pepperell, Mass., and Pamela Quinn (Erin) of Middlebury, Vt., and son Michael Lawson of Rutland, Vt. He is also survived by the grandchildren he adored: Erik, Anders, and Elisabeth Ryden; Samantha, Matthew, and Jason Re; and Hannah and Connor Quinn. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 64 years, Phyllis Lawson, and cherished daughter, Dawn Re (John).

A celebration of Tom's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Sept. 13, at the Congregational Church in Middlebury, Vt. Donations in Tom's memory may be made to Addison County Home Health and Hospice.

Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

Online condolences at: www.sandersonfuneralservice.com. ◊

Rodney Lionel Gibeault, 82, of Cornwall

RODNEY LIONEL GIBEAULT

CORNWALL — Rodney L. Gibeault of Cornwall passed away peacefully on Aug. 13, 2024.

Rod is survived by his brother Raymond Gibeault of Whiting; former sister-in-law, Denise Gibeault of Shoreham; niece, Cora (David) Waag of Shoreham; and nephew, Bernard Gibeault of Rutland. He was very proud of his great-niece, Kali Waag (David Andrews) of Shoreham; and great-nephew, Justin Waag (Vanessa Belknap) of Denver, Colo.; great-great-niece, Zoey Andrews, and great-great-nephews, Justin Andrews and Henry Waag.

Rod was pre-deceased in death by his middle brother, Reginald Gibeault; mother, Mabel Marcelle Gibeault Doane; and father, Lionel Gibeault. He leaves behind many cousins.

Rod was born at home in Whiting and raised on the family farm on Gibeault Road in Whiting. Rod was the youngest of three boys born in four years. They were known to the locals as Huey, Dewey and Louie.

Rod graduated valedictorian of Brandon High School, Class of 1960. He graduated from University of Vermont. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1966 to 1973 in the Intelligence Department. After the service, Rod taught school at Mount Holly. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service to make his home in Cornwall.

Rod loved the Green Mountains of Vermont, feeding the birds, and watching the deer and turkey feed in the fields behind his home in Cornwall. He was an avid fan of Middlebury College Panther Ice Hockey, both men's and women's division, and golf on television.

A celebration of life will be held Monday, Oct. 21, at Rod's home in Cornwall, with a scattering of his ashes at that time. Donations can be made to Addison County Home Health or Homeward Bound, Middlebury, Vt.

Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com. ◊

Phyllis Loisel Armstrong, 91, of Middlebury

SOUTH BURLINGTON — Phyllis Loisel Armstrong, lifelong resident of Middlebury, Vt., passed away in South Burlington, Vt., on Aug. 12, 2024, at the age of 91.

Phyllis was raised on a small family farm in Middlebury, where she loved tending to her garden. After graduating from Middlebury High School and Middlebury College, she got her law degree from Boston University. She was a member of B.U. Law's first graduating class to include women. Phyllis opened her own private practice in Middlebury, practicing real estate and family law.

Phyllis is preceded in death by her father, Marshall J. Armstrong; mother, Julia Christobel Wisell; and brother, Marshall J. Armstrong Jr.

Phyllis is survived by her niece, Susan (Mueller) Armstrong and nephews Steven Armstrong and David Armstrong.

PHYLLIS LOISEL ARMSTRONG

Phyllis is buried at St. Genevieve Cemetery in Shoreham, Vt. A small private service will be held at a future date. ◊

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Jean Seeler-Gifford, 85, of Middlebury

JEAN SEELER-GIFFORD

MIDDLEBURY — Jean Seeler-Gifford passed away peacefully at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing of Porter Medical Center in Middlebury, Vt., on Aug. 9, 2024, at the age of 85.

Born Sept. 29, 1938, in New York City, she was the daughter of Thomas D. and Olivia G. Seeler. Growing up in Ardsley, N.Y., she attended the public schools there before graduating from Cathedral School of St. Mary in Garden City, N.Y. She matriculated at Middlebury College in 1956, where she majored in Political Science, played basketball and field hockey, and was a member of the Dance Club and Drama Club.

After college she began working at IBM and as she said, "What started out as just a job evolved into a career." She became an associate programmer, worked in marketing support to the airlines industry, became a staff systems analyst, then a senior systems analyst, and was paid to "play with personal computers," she said. An enthusiastic traveler, she was happy when IBM sent her to Paris and Milan in 1985 to present her programs to IBM groups.

At age 55, Jean retired from IBM as part of senior market support, sold her house in Armonk, N.Y., and moved to Florida, where she bought a house in Oldsmar, joined a tennis club, and became involved in various organizations. After running a personal ad in the St. Petersburg Times, she met Dave Gifford in the late 1990s. Together they traveled all over the world and took numerous bike trips and cruises. They were married on St. Patrick's Day in 2005. Sadly, she lost Dave to cancer in May of 2012.

From the day she graduated, Jean was a loyal Middlebury alumna, who volunteered her time over and over again for Middlebury activities and also gave generously to the College coffers, including a gift to the arts which resulted in the renaming of the Black Box Theatre at the Mahaney Arts Center to Seeler Studio Theatre. She often took on roles at Reunion time, serving as a social chair or yearbook editor or as a gift committee member.

At her 30th Reunion, classmate Vcevy Strekalovsky, recognizing her dedication, took her for a canoe paddle on the Otter Creek and persuaded her to become the class secretary for 1960, collecting news for the class notes. (He always claimed that rumors saying he threatened to make her swim back to shore if she said no were greatly exaggerated.) She took on the job with her usual organization and thoughtfulness and served for 30 years, not only keeping her classmates connected to their alma mater but also sharing her wisdom on how best to do that at numerous Alumni Leadership Conference class secretary workshops.

She also established the Outstanding Class Secretary (later Class Correspondent) Award to be given each year to a correspondent or two who excelled in the role. For all her contributions to the college and efforts on behalf of the institution, Middlebury awarded her with the 2010 Alumni Plaque. Her love for her alma mater extended to her creative endeavors, as well, and she knitted several sweaters with iconic Middlebury images, like Old Chapel, on the front.

Jean returned to live in Middlebury after Dave's death in 2012 and very soon became involved in the community. She exhibited her love of music and the arts by enjoying concerts, plays, comedy shows, and musicals at Town Hall Theater and was excited about the current theater expansion project. She attended Opera Company of Middlebury's productions from October 2012 through June 2024, usually "adopting" singers (sometimes the whole cast!), watching rehearsals, and going to performances whenever possible. She was in "her seat" for every Barn Opera event in nearby Brandon from its inception in 2017, even casting a vote as a member of the board of directors to approve the 2025 season a week before her passing. She had been instrumental in the purchase and renovation of the Barn Opera House.

Over the last decade, Jean generously supported these arts organizations that she treasured. She continued to love travel (including countless Road Scholar trips and cruises as well as annual Town Hall Theater tours to London, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna), biking, her cat Lucy, and a good glass of Chardonnay.

Almost immediately after moving to Middlebury, Jean also became a fixture of the Middlebury field hockey team and could be spotted on the sideline at every home game. As a Middlebury field hockey alumna, Jean was heavily involved in team events and affairs for over a decade, impacting every player and member of the coaching staff immeasurably. Jean's love of travel kept her on the move with the team, traveling to Holland and Ireland for training trips in 2016 and 2019. On those excursions, Jean served as the team travel guide and chief historian from city to city. As Coach Katharine DeLorenzo states, "Middlebury field hockey is indebted to Jean for her presence in our community and her unwavering support of the coaching staff and players year after year. We miss her and know she will always be a part of our big Middlebury Blue thing."

Phyllis Zizzo, 102, of Middlebury

PHYLLIS ZIZZO

MIDDLEBURY — Phyllis Zizzo, 102, passed away Thursday afternoon Aug. 22, 2024, at Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury.

She was born July 27, 1922, in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of Pasquale Montalbano and Josephine (Ardizzone) Montalbano.

Phyllis graduated from high school in New York City. She worked for many years as a seamstress in New York City's Garment District.

Phyllis enjoyed music, dancing, reading and helping others; she loved people, especially children, and was devoted to St. Jude.

Survivors are her son, Thomas J. Sinacore and his companion Marie Garbacz, both of Middlebury, and by her nephew, Peter Milazzo and his family.

Visiting hours were held on Tuesday Aug. 27, 2024 from 4-5 p.m. at the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home, located at 117 S. Main Street Middlebury.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Middlebury, with the Rev. Brandon Schneider as the Celebrant.

She was predeceased by her parents and by both her husbands, Salvatore Sinacore and Peter Zizzo.

Interment will be held on Thursday Aug. 29, at 1 p.m., in St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children Hospital.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home.

Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com. ◊

Judy K. Langeway, 75, of Ferrisburgh

FERRISBURGH — Judy K. Langeway, 75, of Ferrisburgh, peacefully passed on Monday, Aug.26, 2024.

She was born on May 15, 1949, in Middlebury, the daughter of Albert and Doris (Palmer) DeVine.

Judy enjoyed photography, making jewelry and painting. She spent many hours taking photos and making cards to send to family and friends.

Judy was predeceased by her parents Albert and Doris DeVine and her husband, Alan Langeway of Ferrisburgh.

Judy is survived by her daughters Beth McAllister and her husband Pete McAllister of Ferrisburgh, and Kate Collins and her husband Matthew Collins of Lincoln. She also is survived by her four grandchildren, Clarinda and Faith McAllister and Hunter and Owen Collins; her brother, Jack DeVine of Ferrisburgh; and her two nieces, Lori DeVine of Vergennes and Lisa Spear of Essex.

Visiting hours will be held on Saturday, Aug. 31, from 9-10:45 a.m. at Brown-McClay Funeral Home in Vergennes, followed by a graveside service at 11 a.m. in Gage Cemetery in Ferrisburgh.

JUDY K. LANGEWAY

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6 Park Street, Vergennes, VT 05491. ◊

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David Tabor Grassley, 66, formerly of Bristol

BRISTOL — On Thursday June 27, 2024, my dad, Dave, Papa, Unc, took his last breath at the McClure Miller Respite House in Colchester surrounded by people he loved so dearly after a long battle with congestive heart disease.

He leaves behind a daughter, Whitney Paul; son-in-law, Matthew and their kids Quintin, Kenzie and Charlee, who only knew him as their Papa, one of the greatest people in the world; a son, Chris, and daughter-in-law, Gail (Burkholder) Grassley and their son, Ramsay, who Papa called "Little Bear;" and his nephew, Rob Grassley of the Northeast Kingdom and his family. He also had a tremendous amount of love for his lifelong friend and mother of his children, Maureen Grassley, dear friends and car-riding buddies George and Jennifer Brownell, and his best pal from New York, Vinny Pagano.

DAVID TABOR GRASSLEY

Dave lived in many towns throughout Vermont and raised his children with Maureen in Colchester. He loved covered bridges, everything fall, pumpkins and Halloween, James Taylor music, decorating, car rides, and tasty (diner or home cooked) style food. He thoroughly enjoyed talking to people in his community and learning more about them.

My dad was a simple man and cared so deeply about the ones that he loved. He lived for the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren and was truly our biggest cheerleader. He treated each day as a gift and treasured his time every single day being a Papa.

There are many "Papa-isms," "Dave-isms" and words of wisdom that will be remembered as we go forward without him by our sides.

He will be missed more than words can describe, but we will continue going on every day feeling the love that we received in making him proud.

Thank you to all who visited, showed love, sent messages, flowers, or brought food by during my dad's time in hospice. He was surrounded by love in his final moments, and we are surrounded by so much support and for that I am so grateful. ◊

Penny Marie Eastman, 67, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Penny Marie Eastman, 67, passed away peacefully on Aug. 26, 2024, at the Jack Bryne Hospice Center in Hanover, N.H.

She was born in Sharon, Conn., on Nov. 13, 1956, the daughter of Paul and Patricia (Murphy) Phillips. She moved to Sudbury, Vt., in 1972. She graduated from Otter Valley Union High School. On July 20, 1974, she was married to Steven Allen Eastman at the Brandon Congregational Church.

Penny worked at the First Brandon National Bank for 23 years. She afterwards worked at Royal Lock & Glass in Rutland for 12 years before recently retiring. Family was everything for Penny, she loved to cook, bake, and host family gatherings. She also volunteered for American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

PENNY MARIE EASTMAN

Penny is survived by her loving husband, Steven; two sons, David and Steven; one brother, Paul Phillips; four sisters, Peggy LaRock, Kandie Stocker, Sandie Stacey and Dawn Phillips; four grandchildren, Ryan, Amber, Julia and Isaac; and two great-grandchildren, Evelyn and Landyn. She was predeceased by two brothers, Patrick and Peter Phillips.

Respective of her wishes a private celebration of her life will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Bryne Hospice Center or the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

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

Hunt

(Continued from Page 7A)

history Trump is vilifying is an effort to tell a history of our country that has gone untold for too long. There is nothing untrue about this history, it just shows a darker side to what we are often taught. It questions the systems of power we have, and therefore it is perceived as a great threat to some, mostly Republicans, who benefit from those systems.

While shutting down a class is one form of censorship, another form is banning books. "The Hate U Give," by Angie Thomas, is a book that I read in high school, and was one of my first exposures to police brutality in the United States. It is banned in some schools in Texas, Illinois and Pennsylvania. I loved this book, documented its stories and can tell you first-hand it is not based on untrue events or exaggerations as those who have censored it suggest. Rather, it is a fair representation of what many people in our country go through on a daily basis. Banning this book and others like it effectively silences the voices of some of our most vulnerable communities.

Other book bans have revolved around the LGBTQ+ community. When I was growing up, my mother read me the book "And Tango Makes Three" by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell. This true story is about two male penguins at the Central Park Zoo who raised a chick named Tango. My uncles are a part of the LGBTQ+ community, and my mother used this book as a tool to show how families come in all different shapes and sizes. This book has been banned in many schools in Florida.

In the second half of 2023, The Free Expression Group reported that 4,349 books were banned across 23 states.

When it comes to voting in this upcoming election, my vote will go to those who are protecting the freedom to learn, to read, and to write. In most instances, the party that upholds these values is the Democratic Party.

When Vice President Kamala Harris picked Gov. Tim Walz, a former teacher, to be her running mate, many involved in the system of education rejoiced.

In a statement put out on Aug. 6, the president of the National Education Association, one of the largest labor unions in the United States, said: "Gov. Walz is known as the 'Education Governor' because he has been an unwavering champion for public school students and educators, and an ally for working families and unions. As a high school teacher and NEA member, Walz is committed to uplifting our public schools."

Back in Vermont, Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman, a man whom I looked up to when I was a page in the Vermont Statehouse, did a "Banned Books Worth Reading" Tour last year. In an opinion piece written for VTDigger, he explained that when it comes to Vermont, "we are not immune from these national trends that are developing due to misinformation that is repeated on some news sources."

At my college, Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., I study Justice and Peace Studies. When asked what this major is, I am often unsure what to tell people. But recently, I have found that a good way to encapsulate it is to say that "you learn a story about the world that often goes untold."

In this I mean that we spend our time learning about the invisible systems that govern our world. We learn about violence and harm, but also peace and reconciliation. It is through these classes that I have realized the importance this type of knowledge plays in moving our world forward.

The ability to have access to this type of knowledge is essential to a healthy political climate and democracy. But I fear in this upcoming election we have to choose between a side that would allow for classes like my high school humanities class to continue, and a side that would shut them down as soon as possible.

It is clear the Republican Party is not fighting these book bans, and in many ways upholding them. In April of 2024, PEN America reported that 72% of book bans occurred in the state of Florida, where Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a law in 2022 that allowed anyone to challenge books in schools, even if they lived in another district and didn't have any children in the Florida school systems.

Former president Donald Trump is committed to censorship as well. Back in 2022, in an interview with *The Washington Post*, Trump said that DeSantis's "Don't Say Gay" bill was a "good move." I could come up with countless more examples where Trump and extremists in the Republican Party censored the freedom of speech.

When I decide whom to vote for, I try to look at all issues. But the one issue that concerns me the most is censorship. With the oppression of personal freedoms, democracy starts to crumble. I want to be able to continue my studies and become a journalist who speaks out against hidden systems of power, but I fear with a Trump-Vance White House that could be a dangerous thing.

We have not seen this type of blatant censorship in our country in a long time, so no matter what your beliefs are on the economy or politics, please consider voting for the party that will uphold your freedom to read, to learn, to write and to express yourself publicly without fear of retribution.

Waybury

(Continued from Page 2A)

reputation and surroundings to attract more weddings and special events.

• Making the inn, its pub and restaurant as more of a destination for skiers using Rikert and the Middlebury Snowbowl.

"Middlebury College's has made investments in the Snowbowl … that are going to draw not only more locals past our door, but more visitors," Chas said, citing ski-and-stay packages and apres-ski opportunities.

• Adding more live entertainment, beyond the current Friday night piano offerings.

• Capitalizing on the inn's connection with the "Newhart" TV show that used the Waybury as its Vermont backdrop for the fictional Stratford Inn, around which the sitcom was based. The Newhart show (1982-1990) starred the recently deceased comedian Bob Newhart, supported by castmates Mary Frann, Tom Poston and Julia Duffy. The Waybury owners want to build some special events — like trivia contests and offerings reruns of the show — to attract Newhart devotees.

The Waybury Inn is one of two iconic East Middlebury business to change hands this year. The *Independent* last week interviewed the new owners of Goodro Lumber.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Folklife

(Continued from Page 3A)

comes with time. Of course I am sad to see the organization move out of Middlebury by selling the John Warren House, but for a small nonprofit, economics are a driving force. I respect the decision of those in charge."

Once 88 Main St. is sold, VF staff will continue the hybrid work schedules they began during the pandemic, while also gathering periodically in a small office the organization rents at 74 Main St. in Burlington.

The Warren House is listed for $1 million, according to Barstow, who added the building's current tenants have been advised about the potential change in ownership.

Use of the eventual Warren House sales proceeds has yet to be determined by VF, Barstow said.

VF's departure from Middlebury after so many years is bittersweet, according to Haughey.

"I think about it this way: we may be leaving this particular building, but we're also not going anywhere," she said. "We will be out there in Vermont interviewing people, creating and sharing exhibits, supporting culturally based arts, connecting young people to traditional music. When we say we cover the whole state, that includes Middlebury — so keep an eye out for events and exhibits. We will always return to where it all began."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Lovell

(Continued from Page 7A)

and ex-President Trump were arguing, and poorly at that, about their golf swings.

It was a concern that mirrored the feelings of many friends. For instance, at Boston University, where I am a rising junior, I spoke to the president of the BU Democrats Club, Emily Rotondi. At the time, she said there were currently only eight members of the club. It was a sign of the lack of enthusiasm students had for President Biden's candidacy.

For days after the debate, I felt discouraged not only about the upcoming election, but my future.

That changed when President Joe Biden nobly stepped aside and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris as his successor. As we've seen over the past few weeks, the move reshaped the Democratic campaign and the presidential race.

With Harris earning the party's nomination, if she were to break the highest glass ceiling in American politics, this would prove to young women across the U.S. that gender barriers can be overcome and their dreams can be achieved despite a long history of suppression. Having Harris in the Oval Office would help normalize female leadership and would continue a global shift where women are perceived in positions of power. In 27 countries, including Ethiopia, Peru and India, women serve as heads of state or their government.

It's still an uphill battle for Harris. For a nation that claims it is the most advanced country in the world, this glass ceiling has yet to be broken.

But it's not just breaking the glass ceiling that's important.

Harris's ability to manage the economy, immigration, climate change and project a U.S. foreign policy that deters territorial aggression by rogue nations are also of great importance, and on each of those issues and others her policies are superior to Trump's.

However, it's equally important Americans realize the further harm Trump, with a conservative GOP Congress and an increasingly conservative court, could do to women's rights.

While Harris is working hard to enforce reproductive rights, Trump has been working hard to undo them. Trump, who as president appointed three of the Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn Roe v. Wade in 2022, has also campaigned vigorously to keep abortion under the control of individual states and many of those states are making it more and more difficult for women to have control of their own bodies. That Republican states are dictating to women what they can and can't do with something as personal as reproductive rights is absurd and demeaning to women everywhere.

It's also known that many fervid evangelical Christians, who make up much of the MAGA faithful Trump caters to, want to abolish abortion in every state, want to strictly reduce access to birth control, and openly advocate that a woman's place is in the home.

Moreover, if Trump wins another term he would add to the 200-plus conservative judges he appointed in his first term and potentially appoint more far-right conservatives to the Supreme Court.

Harris, on the other hand, is an outspoken supporter of reproductive rights, and against state laws that impose their will over a woman's right to choose. And if Harris wins the presidency and carries Democrats to majorities in the House and Senate, she's said she will sign legislation that would reinstate the national right to abortion that had been law since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973.

The choice between Harris and Trump will largely dictate how far back the clock will turn for women's rights, or how far forward those rights will leap if Harris is elected.

Thinking about young girls growing up in a world where their president is a woman fills me with joy and hope. With Harris in the highest office, I see an inclusive future for everyone.

And "inclusive," "joy" and "hope" are distinctive and definitive characteristics of the Harris-Walz ticket. Rather than Trump's focus on pitting Americans against each other — using racist and sexist language to incite anger and divisiveness, and to paint a dark vision of our country — Harris and Walz see a bright future for America that values every citizen and provides equal opportunity to all.

That's an American dream we can all aspire to.

Obituary Guidelines

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

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

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New faces in ACSD schools

WHEN STUDENTS RETURNED to class this week to start the 2024-2025 school year, the Addison Central School District also welcomed 21 new teachers and three new principals at the district's nine schools: Middlebury Union Middle Schools (MUMS), Middlebury Union High School (MUHS), Shoreham Elementary, Bridport Central, Middlebury's Mary Hogan Elementary, Weybridge Elementary, Cornwall's Bingham Memorial, Salisbury Community School and Ripton Elementary.

Pictured at an orientation last week are, from left, back row: Addie Brooks - Shoreham, Grade 3 teacher; Dani Girard - Bridport, Shoreham, Weybridge Nurse; Jackson Goscha - Bridport, Shoreham, Weybridge Counselor; Tina Bly - Mary Hogan Counselor; Caroline Wood - MUMS Science teacher; Caroline Choudhury - MHS, MUMS, MUHS School Nurse; Laura Emilo - MUMS Counselor; Jen Billings - MUHS Math long-term substitute teacher; Sally Nadeau - Bridport, Grades 3/4 teacher; and Victoria "Tori" Flynn - Bridport, SPED; and

Pictured in the front row, from left, are: Will Chapman-Hale - ACSD Multi-Lingual Language teacher; Micheala Bicknell - MUHS Social Worker; Linda Sommers - MUMS Spanish teacher; Hilary Collier - Shoreham, Interventionist/SPED; Erin Robinson - MUHS Health teacher; Josie Sinopoli - Mary Hogan, Grade 3 teacher; Jason Huntoon - MUMS Math teacher; Kristopher Perkins - MUMS Special Education; and Craig Delery - MUMS Individuals and Society teacher.

Missing from the photo are Karissa Peltier - MUMS Special Education; Sam Lewis - MUHS School Counselor, Lashawn Whitmore-Sells - Shoreham Principal; Jennifer Urban - Bridport Principal; and Nadya Bech-Conger - Cornwall Principal.

Bristol skatepark eyed for makeover

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Community members in Bristol are moving forward with efforts to revamp the town's skatepark and make the recreation area more accessible and inclusive for all users.

The project aims to transform the skatepark, located next to the Bristol Hub Teen Center on Airport Drive, to create a long-lasting park with offerings for visitors of all abilities and skill levels.

Plans are to construct a new concrete skatepark to replace the current asphalt park, Bristol Hub Teen Center Director Taylor Welch told the Bristol Selectboard on Aug. 12. The concrete should provide a more permanent structure and require less maintenance.

Moving forward with the construction of a concrete skatepark was a decision unanimously backed at a community meeting for the project, Welch said.

"(Concrete) increases the price substantially, but it means that it will be here for a really long time, and it shows that Bristol prioritizes this as a community space and it's something that we do value," Welch said.

Plans to renovate the skatepark were prompted by a need to replace the park's asphalt surface, Welch told the board last summer. The skatepark is a well-loved recreation spot in town. At around 25-years-old, it is showing signs of wear in the asphalt and park features.

The selectboard last June agreed to allocate up to $140,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds toward the effort. Work on the skatepark, such as developing a new section for younger users, was one of the projects recommended for funding by Bristol's ARPA Advisory Committee.

Since then, the team has worked with the Bristol Recreation Club, which owns the property the skatepark is located on, to work out approval for land use. Welch is now working to prepare a request for proposals for the design of a new skatepark.

She expects the project to cost around $660,000. Welch noted that the team has been approved for up to 12,000 square feet of skatable surface by the Rec Club.

"We want there to be sidewalks from the sidewalk (along the street) to the skatepark and extend the Hub sidewalk to the skatepark because the goal is accessibility, so people in the community can use it," she said. "There are so many grandparents that are bringing their kids there and so we want it to be easy to get there."

The team is looking to raise funds to support the project and has been exploring grants and other funding sources, Welch said.

"We're excited to move forward and I'm optimistic that through community support and grants, we'll be able to, but it's definitely going to be a lot of work," she said.

Those interested in learning more about the project and supporting the effort can visit tinyurl.com/bdepxyfp.

KIDS USE ALL sorts of wheeled conveyances to play on the Bristol Skate Park, which is showing its age. Plans are afoot to update the 25-year-old park with a more durable concrete surface.

Independent photos/Steve James

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Welcome!

STUDENTS RETURNING THIS week for the new school year in Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union schools were greeted by 33 new employees, including Interim Superintendent Rene Sanchez. Most of the new staff appear here at an orientation last week.

The new faces include: at Neshobe Elementary in Brandon: teachers Laurel Blanchard, Grace Cahill, Jamie Crane and Emily van der Heijden; Counselor Darcey Wijsenbeek; and paraeducators Rhoan Bunker, Kayli Manning and Jessica Fjeld.

At Otter Creek Academy in Leicester, Whiting and Sudbury: Principal Christina Roach, Nurse Calley Hewes, Intervention Specialists Jasmine Lowry and Jayden Ilhinger, and teacher Tammy Thomas.

At Otter Valley Union Middle and High School: Associate Principal Abby Brodowski; Supervisor of Secondary Special Education Matthew Hildebrand; School Counseling Secretary/Registrar Chelsea Robbins; Librarian Stephanie Hull; teachers Allison Kennedy (HS Math), Thomas Kinglsey (PE), Zachary Poynter (Social Studies) and Jacob Weber (ELA); Counselors Kendra Ross and Chip Stevens; Custodians Jacob Mitchell and Michael Mitchell; and Bus driver Dan Johnson.

At Barstow Memorial in Chittenden: Paraeducators McKay Westling and Camille Santor; and Spanish teacher Ashleigh Sanborn (also at OVUHS).

At Lothrop Elementary in Pittsford: Spanish teacher Ryan Fay (also at Otter Creek Academy and Neshobe), Intervention Specialist Jennifer Popp, and paraeducator Hannah Anderson.

Mosquito control district board finds new leaders

By MARIN HOWELL

BRANDON — The Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District Board of Trustees has filled three leadership roles vacated after a wave of resignations last month.

The board governs the insect control district that serves Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen, Pittsford and Proctor.

Following the board's July 10 meeting, former board chair Jeff Schumann, former vice chair Doug Perkins and former treasurer Lynne Peck all stepped down from their respective leadership offices, though not from their seats on the board. Schumann represents Salisbury and Perkins and Peck are both Leicester representatives.

In a previous comment to the *Independent* regarding his resignation, Schumann cited some trustees' criticism of the former board leadership and that he felt "it was time to give them the opportunity to step up and take the lead."

A July 23 special meeting to find replacements for the three officers drew no takers, leaving board secretary Stephen Belcher to take on the role of de facto interim board chair.

At the board's Aug. 14 meeting, trustees decided Belcher would continue serving as chair in addition to his post as secretary.

The board also filled the other vacant leadership roles. Trustees Sharon Stearns and Olya Hopkins were both nominated for vice chair, and Stearns won election to that position by a paper ballot vote. Perkins and fellow trustee Wayne Rausenberger were nominated for the role of treasurer, and the board ultimately elected Perkins for the job, again by paper ballot.

Board members also spent time discussing the question of a new bookkeeper for the insect control district. Peck had previously served as bookkeeper and continued to do so after stepping down from her post as board treasurer.

But, according to the unapproved minutes for the Aug. 14 meeting, Peck resigned from the position prior to the August meeting. After discussion, Peck agreed to continue serving as bookkeeper, "having developed a good working relationship with Doug," and was reinstated to the position, according to meeting minutes.

Following the Aug. 14 meeting, Belcher said he's glad the board was able to fill the open officer roles.

"We're coming to the end of the mosquito season, but we need to address issues such as the state of the equipment, and we have begun doing that, so I'm looking forward to seeing how it develops," Belcher told the *Independent*. "I'm very happy we have some officers, and the board seems to be rallying around, so that's also good."

Rabbi Reichert talk set for Sept. 8

RIPTON — The annual Rabbi Victor E. Reichert Bible Talk will take place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 8, at the Ripton Community Church. The talk will be delivered this year by the Reverend Doctor Neal F. Fisher of Middlebury. The title of his talk will be "The Human Prospect and God's Design."

Fisher is a senior scholar and President Emeritus of Garrett-Evangelical School of Theology at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. He was Associate Dean at Boston University School of Theology and served for many years as a United Methodist minister. He has his undergraduate degree from DePauw University, and Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Boston University. In retirement, Fisher, and his wife LilaLee, make their home in Middlebury.

All are warmly invited to attend this unique interfaith event. It is free and donations are welcome.

The annual Rabbi Victor E. Reichert Bible Talk is a long-standing tradition lovingly maintained by the Ripton Community Church since 1943, during World War II.

It began when poet Robert Frost invited Rabbi Reichert to visit him at the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference. Frost had met the Rabbi in 1939 while giving a reading at the Ohio Valley Poetry Society in Cincinnati. Their friendship deepened and eventually the Reichert family bought a summer home near the Bread Loaf campus. Victor and his wife, Louise, regularly attended the Methodist Church in Ripton and each summer the Rabbi was invited by the pastor to deliver a "Bible Talk." He was eventually named "Rabbi-in-Residence" by the congregation. Since Victor Reichert's passing in 1990 at 93, Havurah — The Jewish Community of Addison County, and the United Methodist churches of Middlebury, East Middlebury, and Ripton have collaborated to sustain this ecumenical tradition.

Gray squirrel hunting season to start Sept. 1

MONTPELIER — The Vermont hunting season for gray squirrels begins Sept. 1 and continues through Dec. 31, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

"Vermont has a healthy population of gray squirrels, concentrated in southern Vermont and the Champlain Valley," said Hunter Education Coordinator Nicole Meier. "They're a fantastic small game species for new hunters to learn the basics of reading the landscape, making a safe and ethical shot and cooking wild game."

In Vermont, gray squirrels are often hunted with a .22 rifle, a shotgun or archery equipment. The department recommends that squirrel hunters wear a blaze orange vest or hat anytime they are afield.

The best habitat for squirrel hunting is stands of nut-bearing trees like oak, hickory and beech. The daily bag limit is four gray squirrels, and the possession limit is eight.

"Gray squirrels are incredibly tasty — many would say better than rabbit," Meier said. "You can find great gray squirrel recipes in classic cookbooks, trendy culinary magazines, and of course anywhere that publishes wild food recipes.

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Landel Cochran

I was raised on a family farm in Bristol and have been here all my life. I am a business owner and I served in the VT Air National Guard for 30 years. Seeing what has happened with the laws coming out of Montpelier this year I knew I had to do something. I am running for Senate to stand up for everyday Vermonters and protect our way of life. It is not okay for lifelong Vermonters to be forced out of their homes because they cannot afford their property taxes or heating fuel. As a Senator representing the Addison District, I will stand up for the interest of every Vermonter and support solutions that respect our values and our budgets.

HeffVT.com

I am 36, a proud dad, and I have been serving on the Huntington Selectboard since 2018. Vermont's substantial affordability and housing crises compelled me to run for the Senate. Our current senators are passing laws that work against these problems. We need lawmakers who do not attempt to solve equity problems by creating equity problems. As a Senator representing the Addison District, I promise to be approachable, communicative, compassionate, and committed. I am running as a New England Republican like our Governor, but I will never let any person or party tell me how to vote. Please consider giving me the chance to represent you.

LandelVT.com

Your Future, Your Choice. Vote for Balance in Montpelier.

Paid for by Landel Cochran for Senate PO Box 212 Huntington, VT 05462 and Steven Heffernan for Senate 500 Hazel Dr Bristol, VT 05443

What a week!

VISITORS AND LOCALS alike seemed to really enjoy the 10th annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, a five-day extravaganza that wrapped up on Sunday evening after screening 130 films at five venues around town. Clockwise from below, Middlebury residents Kathy Ambrette, left, Jane Reilly and Linda Mason confer outside the Marquis Theater on Wednesday as they decide which movie to see next; film enthusiasts gather outside Town Hall Theater Sunday morning after the screening of Bess O'Brien's "Just Getting By"; a group of young filmmakers at Shiretown Marketplace on Friday for a directors reception; Karen Akins, of Stowe, winner of the Gaia Prize for Environmental Filmmaking for her documentary "The Quietest Year," speaks on stage Sunday; Nesa Azimi and Nicolas Borel, makers of "Driver," hang out; "My Life as a Robot" director Mark Bonn is excited to check in with his wife, Christine, and their dog, Dude, who came with them from Los Angeles; and "Holding Back the Tide" director Emily Packer is happy to meet the Teddy outside THT.

Bottom left, Festival founder and Producer Lloyd Komesar is moved after the festival gave him a special VTeddy Award as he prepares to step aside from his leading role; directors have named a new award category the "Komesar Prize For Commitment To Culture And Community."

Independent photos/Steve James

Mirror mirror

POISED IN THE waters of Otter Creek, this egret has just caught itself a bit of a meal.
Photo by Dottie Nelson

Woman arrested after violating orders

Bristol
Police Log

BRISTOL — Bristol police on Aug. 8 arrested Gabriella Mowry, 27, of Bristol after investigating report of a violation of an abuse prevention order.

Police had on July 25 cited Mowry for domestic assault following a citizen dispute on Mountain Street.

Between July 21 and Aug. 10 Bristol police completed eight foot patrols, conducted 21 traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union High School 20 times, at Bristol Elementary School 20 times and at local businesses 19 times.

Police also processed 22 fingerprint requests, responded to one 911 hang-up call, conducted four sex offender registry checks, responded to one alarm activated by an employee error and verified one vehicle identification number.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

• On July 22 received a complaint about an alleged theft in the West Street area. Investigation is ongoing.

• On July 23 received a report of child neglect on Main Street. Investigation is ongoing.

• On July 23 responded to a domestic dispute on Basin Street and found no action rose to the level of an offense.

• On July 24 received a lost dog and returned the animal to its owner.

• On July 24 responded to a report of someone sleeping under a park bench on West Street, which resulted in police arresting Samuel Carpenter, 30, of Arlington for violation of conditions of release and resisting arrest.

• On July 24 helped the Bristol Department of Public Works with a tree blocking both travel lanes on Lower Notch Road.

• On July 25 responded to a 911 hang-up call on Pumphouse Road. While investigating, police cited Travis Huestis, 44, of Bristol for violating conditions of release.

• On July 26 looked into a citizen complaint on Lawson Lane. Investigation is ongoing.

• On July 26 responded to a parking lot crash on Mountain Street.

• On July 27 began investigating a theft from a vehicle on Munsill Avenue.

• On July 29 provided an individual seeking assistance with social service contacts.

• On July 30 received a report of unauthorized credit card use in Bristol. Investigation is ongoing.

• On July 30 arrested Alishajane Martin, 31, of Bristol, on a warrant issued by Chittenden Criminal Court for failure to appear.

• On July 30 responded to a motor vehicle complaint on West Street. Police didn't observe any violations.

• On July 30 received a report of a custody dispute on Rockydale Road. Police determined no action rose to the level of an offense at the time and referred the matter to family court.

• On July 30 responded to a citizen dispute on Mountain Street. Police determined the matter was a civil issue and offered suggestions for reaching a resolution.

• On July 30 responded to a noise disturbance on Spring Street. Police reported the involved people were enjoying a small gathering and would make less noise.

• On Aug. 1 responded to a two-car crash on Main Street.

• On Aug. 2 helped someone in need of transportation on North Street.

• On Aug. 2 responded to Prince Lane for an elderly resident in need of assistance and provided transportation.

• On Aug. 3 helped someone on Mountain Street with a property dispute. Police determined no action rose to the level of an offense and provided options for resolving the matter.

• On Aug. 4 helped someone find a resource to resolve a dispute.

• On Aug. 5 responded to a motor vehicle complaint on Mountain Street. The vehicle was gone when police arrived.

• On Aug. 6 responded to an animal complaint on Vincent Drive. A neglect case is ongoing.

• On Aug. 7 investigated a possible court order violation on Mountain Street and determined no action rose to the level of an offense.

• On Aug. 8 received a report of a dog running in the roadway near Memorial Park. The dog was gone when police arrived.

• On Aug. 9 responded to an argument on Firehouse Drive. Police found no evidence of an offense.

• On Aug. 10 assisted someone receiving unwanted messages and determined no action rose to the level of an offense.

Man cited for aggravated assault

Middlebury
Police Log

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police on Aug. 23 cited Timothy E. Edwards Jr. for aggravated assault and domestic assault, following an investigation near the intersection of Bakery Lane and Cross Street.

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

• Helped an Evergreen Lane resident evict a bat from her home on Aug. 19.

• Responded to a reported retail theft from the Jolley convenience store at 220 Court St. on Aug. 19.

• Responded to a reported dispute between two people under the Cross Street Bridge on Aug. 19.

• Served a no-trespass order on a woman who had allegedly shoplifted from a Court Street store on Aug. 19.

• Cited Henry S. Romp, 33, for driving with a criminally suspended license on Valley View Road on Aug. 19.

• Responded to the Bakery Lane area on Aug. 20 on a report that a man was allegedly threatening to kill others and himself.

• Received a report on Aug. 21 of an elderly East Middlebury resident who had allegedly been scammed. That matter is under investigation, along with a similar report involving a Lower Plains Road resident.

• Helped state police on a traffic stop on Route 30 in Whiting on Aug. 22.

• Checked on the welfare of an elderly person in the Fields Road area who had been experiencing a mental health crisis on Aug. 22.

• Checked on the welfare of an elderly person seen walking downtown on Aug. 22.

• Gave a courtesy ride on Aug. 23 to a Porter Hospital patient who had been discharged following treatment of injuries sustained in a car crash.

• Assisted state police with a dispute at Kampersville in Salisbury on Aug. 23.

• Investigated a report of someone allegedly threatening Walgreens Pharmacy staff on Aug. 23.

• Cited Patrick Carlisle, 21, of St. Albans for allegedly violating a temporary restraining order in the South Village Green area on Aug. 23.

• Spoke with a local resident regarding a bank fraud allegation on Aug. 23.

• Assisted an Exchange Street filling station in tracking down a customer who had not paid for their gas on Aug. 23.

• Removed a sick raccoon from South Main Street on Aug. 24. Police report that the animal had to be euthanized.

• Cited David Lewis, 48, of Jeffersonville for driving under the influence, after investigating a report of a person allegedly refusing to leave a Court Street business at around 11 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25. Police said Lewis declined to submit to a breath test and was subsequently taken to the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rutland to receive detox services.

• Investigated an alleged domestic disturbance at a Case Street residence on Aug. 25.

• Helped a woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis on Aug. 25.

• On Aug. 25, checked on the welfare of a person who has been living inside their vehicle parked off Washington Street.

• Investigated a report on Aug. 25 of a person who's had been making repeated calls to emergency services providers.

• Responded on Aug. 25 to a report of an "upset person" who was refusing to leave a Court Street business.

• Assisted Vermont State Police with a domestic dispute at a Cornwall home off Route 30 on Aug. 25.

• Checked on the welfare of a woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the Washington Street area at around 1:30 a.m. on Aug. 26.

• Gave a ride to a discharged patient at Porter Hospital at around 3:30 a.m. on Aug. 26.

Waterfowl hunters reminded of rules

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department reminds hunters that waterfowl hunting blinds may not be placed on or in the waters of the state earlier than the first Saturday in September.

Anyone who places a blind must have their name and address permanently and legibly shown on the blind by waterproof paint or rustproof tag.

Waterfowl blinds located on any waters of the state except Lake Champlain must be removed on or before May 15 of the following year. A blind located on Lake Champlain must be removed by February 15 of the following year.

Placement of signs for the purposes of claiming waterfowl blind locations has no basis in law and is unenforceable.

"Finding a good place for a waterfowl hunting blind can be challenging," said Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Christopher Herrick, "but we urge hunters to show respect for each other so they can all have an enjoyable, safe hunting experience."

FOR A DOSE of living history, visit Mt. Independence State Historic site Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 for Soldiers Atop the Mount, full of reenactments, food, and informative talks.

Independent file photo/Steve James

See history on display in Orwell this weekend

ORWELL — The Revolutionary War experience is brought to life at the annual "Soldiers Atop the Mount" living history weekend on Saturday, Aug. 31 and Sunday, Sept. 1, at the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Orwell. Meet reenactors and site interpreters who interact with visitors to honor the soldiers who built and garrisoned Mount Independence in 1776 and 1777 and helped lay the foundation of the new United States of America.

The site is open both days from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Arrive in plenty of time to visit all the stations. Most activities are outside. Visitors should dress for the weather, wear walking shoes, and be prepared to walk, including around the Baldwin Trail area, which is handicapped accessible with a compacted stone surface and gentle grades. Below are details about some of the weekend's highlights:

SATURDAY

Baldwin Trail Walkabout. 10:30a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday's highlight is the popular Baldwin Trail Walkabout featuring experts at stations throughout the trail and the reenactor camp talking to visitors about Revolutionary War subjects specific to those locations. Topics include Revolutionary medicine, artillery, how the soldiers lived, caring for their clothes, gunsmithing, and food. Before and after the walkabout, reenactors will demonstrate period life, skills, and military activities and present an afternoon woods skirmish, leading visitors to follow the action.

SUNDAY

Declaration of Independence reading. 11 a.m. Visit the camps and experience the annual reading of the Declaration of Independence, for which Mount Independence is named. After the Declaration of Independence was signed, a copy was sent north. In late July 1777 soldiers heard it for the first time. Reenactors will march down the hill and the Declaration of Independence will be read to them and visitors, alike.

Learn more about Benedict Arnold. 2 p.m. Site interpreter Paul Andriscin will give a talk on Benedict Arnold, who was the first commander of the First Brigade on Mount Independence.

Reenactors will be encamped on-site all-day Saturday and will begin packing up early Sunday afternoon. Guests are welcome to call (802) 948-2000 for full schedule details.

Admission to "Soldiers Atop the Mount" includes visiting the museum and is $9 for adults, $1 for ages 6-14, and free for children under 6. The museum shop features an excellent selection of books and other items. Lunch, light snacks, and beverages will also be available for purchase.

Otter Creek Falls hydro effort scuttled

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The latest effort to reestablish hydropower at Middlebury's Otter Creek Falls has been scuttled.

Representatives of Beverly, Mass.-based New England Hydropower Company (NEHC) recently announced they've stopped sizing up two small, town-owned parcels on the Marble Works side of the falls to potentially host "a low-impact hydroelectric power facility."

Glendon Barnes, NEHC's senior regulatory specialist, notified the town and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Aug. 5 of the company's decision to drop the project.

> *"It's not that we're not interested; it was not commercially viable the way it was. After all the research we did, the cost to move the water from the Otter Creek to the other side of the river — and some other issues — made it not a viable solution."*
>
> — *Chris Conover*

Chris Conover, NEHC's chief marketing officer, elaborated on the decision during a Tuesday phone interview.

"It's not that we're not interested; it was not commercially viable the way it was," he said. "After all the research we did, the cost to move the water from the Otter Creek to the other side of the river — and some other issues — made it not a viable solution."

Back on Oct. 11, 2023, NEHC filed an application for a preliminary permit to study the feasibility of its "Middlebury Falls Hydroelectric Project No. 15327." The application specifically spoke of project consisting of:

- A new 12-foot-wide, 6-foot-deep, 60-foot-long intake channel equipped with a 20-foot-wide, 20-foot-long trashrack and a 12-foot-wide, 6-foot-high sluice gate.
- A 30-foot-wide, 40-foot-long, 50-foot-tall powerhouse that would include a 500-kilowatt Kaplan turbine-generator unit.
- A new powerhouse access way.
- A new transformer and 150-foot-long underground transmission line that would connect the project to the electric distribution grid.

"The project would use the natural flow of Otter Creek and would not include a dam or impoundment. The estimated annual generation of the project would be 3,100 megawatt-hours," the application reads.

The Middlebury selectboard last fall signed a letter of intent with NEHC to advance its study of the falls and a hydro facility capable of powering around 350 homes. This latest hydro exploration was separate and distinct from past efforts by the Holm family to re-establish a hydro operation on their property on the opposite, southwest side of the Otter Creek Falls.

This NEHC inquiry came five years after Natel Energy and New England Hydro had both expressed interest in studying hydropower potential at the long-defunct powerhouse property, which was once home to the David Page Cotton Mill. NEHC officials said they were aware of the historical significance of the powerhouse and that the company wouldn't remove it if it were to move forward with a project.

NEHC's decision to end its hydro research at the falls ironically comes on the heels of FERC's approval of the company's preliminary permit application, issued on July 25. The permit would have granted NEHC up to 48 months to further develop its hydroelectric project.

While NEHC is done exploring hydro potential at the Otter Creek Falls, Conover knows that other entities might be interested.

"We've withdrawn our preliminary permit in the event someone else might want to give it a try," he said. "It was not for us, unfortunately. We looked at all the factors, and it was not a viable project."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Middlebury to boost security cameras

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury municipal building will soon be outfitted with seven new security cameras to increase the safety of town employees and get a better picture of what Police Chief Jason Covey said is a surging level of unruly activity in the rear parking lot that also serves the Ilsley Public Library.

The selectboard on Aug. 13 unanimously agreed to pay Cameras Networking and Security of Barre $14,438 to install the new cameras and related infrastructure in the municipal building. The seven new cameras would supplement the five currently in the structure. Covey said the new devices would provide better monitoring of common areas within the building, including the main lobby, entrances and the second-floor main hallway. The new exterior-mounted cameras would capture enhanced views of each entrance, while also offering peripheral views of the facility — including the entire rear upper municipal parking lot and the Main Street entrance to the adjacent library.

The cameras will use software that's compatible with that used by the police department, which would have ready access to the footage.

Covey noted the municipal building was originally outfitted with the five security cameras when it was erected in 2016.

While helpful, five isn't enough right now, he stressed.

"There are some security lapses in this building," he told the selectboard. "There are areas inside and outside of this building that are inadequately covered. I'm not comfortable with the situation."

While acknowledging the town offices need to be made available to the public, he said they "are not immune to threat."

"Each office within the facility has the potential to be visited by someone disgruntled for any given reason," he said. "At least one violent incident has occurred within the building in the past, and the town manager's office has reported at least two recent unexpected visits by a person experiencing significant mental health challenges and a reported history of violent behavior."

The municipal parking lot behind the town offices and library has become a popular gathering spot for members of downtown Middlebury's houseless community. Covey said his officers are "routinely responding to reports of fights and other incidents that occur back there."

"We are stonewalled when we arrive," he added of the reluctance of those involved to provide information for police investigations.

Having more security cameras should help police better investigate such complaints, according to Covey.

Middlebury Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay said the new cameras could also deter potential crime. She said she noticed a drop in incidents after the town installed "24-hour surveillance" placards in the municipal building.

Selectboard members heartily supported Covey's request with little discussion. Covey said he considering additional ideas (beyond cameras) to bolster town office security.

"It will immeasurably help us secure this area, in terms of allowing people to know what's going on inside and outside the building, and for the police department to investigate anything that happens," Covey said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Field Days sling shot results

NEW HAVEN — Below are the results from the sling shot competition at this year's Addison County Fair and Field Days.

6 and Under: 1. Waylen Kennett, Addison; 2. Carson Parker, Hampton, N.Y,

Ages 7-11: 1. Camden Benedetto, Rollinsford, N.H.; Calvin Sessions, Wakefield, Mass.; 3. Harmonee Kennett, Addison.

Ages 12-16: 1. Isaac Haskell, Marston Mills; 2. Deborah Leak, Andover, N.H.; 3. Matthew Haskell, Marstons Mills.

17 and Over: 1. Hannah Sessions, Leicester; 2. Charlie Berman, Leicester; 3. Peter Guendel.

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Walk for the Animals!

Saturday, September 7, 2024

You don't want to miss our post-walk doggie dip in the town pool!

Homeward Bound
Addison County's Humane Society

Memorial Sports Center, Middlebury

10:00 am: Registration
11:00 am: Walk
11:30 pm: Doggie Pool Party!

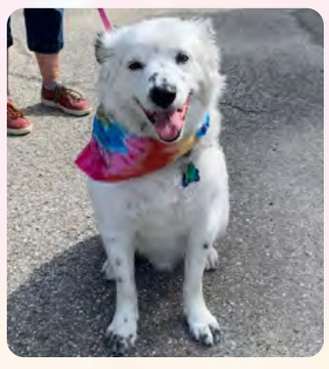
Registration details:

Dogs welcome!
Adults: $20
Youth: $10
Children 5 and under are free.

For details and to register visit:
www.homewardboundanimals.org

Great prizes for top youth, adult, and team fundraisers!

Everyone who raises more than $50 receives a Woofstock 2024 T-Shirt and all participating dogs will receive a special bandana!



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Oliver Stone

(Continued from Page 1A)

of the United States, Chapter 2: Roosevelt, Truman and Wallace."

Stone, who's also a Vietnam veteran, offered insights on his craft and his life during a public Q&A moderated by MNFF Artistic Director Jay Craven, a renowned film director in his own right.

This wasn't Stone's first visit to the Green Mountain State.

"I've been to Vermont several times, yeah. In fact, I was here originally during the Revolution, and I worked with Ethan Allen," he smiled, using the quip to promote Craven's new film, "Lost Nation," whose co-protagonist is the leader of the Green Mountain Boys.

During a free-flowing conversation, Stone was asked about his military service, his movie making aspirations, his inspiration for "Platoon," being drawn to controversy, and much more on Saturday during an hourlong conversation outside the Middlebury Inn.

Which movies inspired him as a young filmmaker?

Stone immediately cited the film "Z," a 1969 political thriller directed by Costa-Gravas, which offers an account of the 1963 assassination of Greek politician Grigoris Lambrakis. Stone recalled Costa-Gravas and the film's star, Yves Montand, speaking about the film at NYU while Stone was a student there in 1970.

"As film students, we just responded to the film; it was almost over-enthusiastic," he said. "We were all ready for making those kinds of movies."

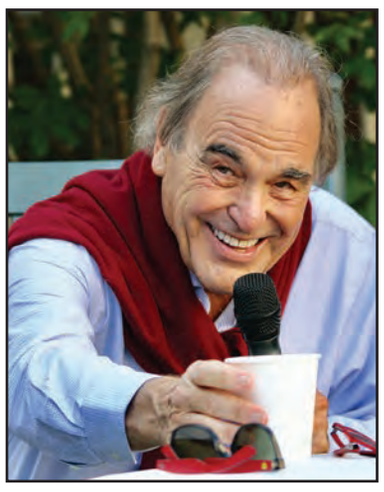
He yearned to make films with a political edge, ones that didn't shy away from controversy or even embrace a conspiracy theory or two. But Stone noted the U.S. film industry wasn't ready to make those kinds of films when he exited NYU in the early '70s.

"Once we got into the Cold War, you could not possibly represent the other side as sympathetic, in any way," Stone said.

Still, he more than held his own, putting his imprimatur on films such as 1978's "Midnight Express," "The Hand" (1981), "Conan the Barbarian" (1982) and "Scarface" (1983).

It was in 1986 that Stone made his breakthrough with films that have become known for "their visceral power and muscular engagement with history, politics and the leading issues of our times," according to an MNFF bio of Stone.

That year saw the release of "Salvador," a war drama that among other things questioned U.S. support of military dictatorships.



DURING AN MNFF talk to more than 100 people on Saturday at the Middlebury Inn, Oliver Stone gave aspiring filmmakers and screenwriters insight on the movie-making craft.

Independent photo/Steve James

That same year saw the release of "Platoon," a movie that was in part drawn from Stone's Vietnam War experiences. The much-celebrated film follows Army volunteer (Charlie Sheen) as he adjusts to his role in a squad led by his platoon sergeant (Tom Berenger) and squad leader (Willem Dafoe), who have divergent perspectives on the war.

"The moral was the Iliad. Hector and Achilles gave me the idea," he said, adding, "the Trojan War fits the Vietnam War."

But the major studios had turned down Platoon for 10 straight years before it was finally financed by what he called "a British company (Hemdale Pictures) with a lot of balls."

"It was a script I got very well known for in Hollywood circles," he said. "They admired my talent, but no one wanted to make this movie. It was rather frustrating. The only reason I got any success was I was eventually hired to do 'Midnight Express,' which also did very well. That launched my career, and then I was able to come back eventually, after 'Scarface,' to make (my own projects)."

It was ironically the "Rambo (Sylvester Stallone)" and "Missing in Action (Chuck Norris)" action movies — which delved into the cause of bringing back POWs — that helped create a more receptive climate for Vietnam War-themed films, according to Stone. Those movies essentially co-opted the POW message "in order for Sylvester to go back to Vietnam and wipe out more Vietnamese."

"There was so much illiterate stuff out there, including Rambo, about combat and the way things are done," Stone lamented. "Even 'Apocalypse Now,' it's very romantic, glamorous and big, as is 'Deer Hunter' — which is fabulous, it's suspenseful, but it's a distortion; nothing like that even happened."

Instead, Stone saw "Platoon" as a vehicle to bring more realism to the Vietnam War experience and the politics of that era.

"I wanted to do a regular thing that happened to people like me, who went to regular combat units and were not special forces; we were draftees, most of us," said Stone, who from Sept. 27, 1967, to Feb. 23, 1968, served in Vietnam with 2nd Platoon, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was wounded twice in action.

Craven applauded "Platoon" for its unvarnished depiction of a controversial and unpopular 10-year war:

> *"(The film 'JFK') was a case where I was riding high. I had just done 'Born on the Fourth of July.' I was in a position, frankly, where I was one of the hottest — if not hottest — director on the street. I was given carte blanche."*
>
> *— Oliver Stone*

"I think 'Platoon' was a film that did challenge Cold War sensibilities — which had not been done directly in an American film about the war in Vietnam. It had a visceral impact; it was action driven. It made the audience feel uncomfortable."

That discomfort in part stems from (spoiler alert) the fact that Sheen's character kills his sergeant (Berenger) at the end of the film. Stone said he believes such scenes played out with tragic regularity during the war.

"That happened — in terms of our own men being killed by our own ammunition and our own men. It was common. It was more common that the Pentagon wants to admit, and they covered that up completely. They identified it only as '(killed in action).' But if you traced it… you'd find, I'd say in 15-20% of those cases, they died from our own artillery, our own combat fire — asymmetrical situations where you don't know where you're shooting or aren't paying attention, you throw things out there are don't even know.

"It was very dangerous in those war zones."

While Platoon was a hit, Stone found studios had "returned to their old ways" when he made "Born on the Fourth of July" three years later. The anti-war film stars Tom Cruise as Ron Kovic, a real-life soldier who fought in Vietnam, was paralyzed from the chest down due to injuries sustained in action and becomes an activist against the war upon his return.

FILM DIRECTOR OLIVER Stone talked about his military service and his filmmaking inspiration during a public Q&A session with fellow filmmaker Jay Craven on Saturday.

Independent photo/Steve James

Stone originally sought Al Pacino for the Kovic role, but he said Cruise ended up being a sound choice — in spite of his perception as a Hollywood heartthrob.

"He was a hot young actor. Considering he was castrated halfway through the movie, it was a turnoff to the studios, because his big audience was young people, especially women. Girls were not going to see a movie like that.

"But we did well on 'Born,' in spite of that."

Stone also talked about his 1991 film "JFK," a political thriller that explores the assassination of President John F. Kennedy through the eyes of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who firmly believed that Lee Harvey Oswald was a scapegoat and that the president's killing was part of a greater conspiracy.

Again, Stone believes "JFK" would probably never have been made if it hadn't been for his prior successes.

"That was a case where I was riding high. I had just done 'Born on the Fourth of July.' I was in a position, frankly, where I was one of the hottest — if not hottest — director on the street. I was given carte blanche."

Stone said he sold "JFK" to Warner Bros Studios as a thrilling murder-mystery.

"Here's a guy who gets killed, we find out that everything is wrong about what's reported at the time, and that there's something going on that's much bigger," he said.

Stone believes Warner executives didn't know what they were getting into when they green-lighted the project.

"They said, 'Go for it,' and didn't see the implications of what would happen. The more research we did… it became more and more incisive and accusatory. And frankly, when you know the facts of the case — and very few people do — and you really follow this, it was such a blatant misdirection given by the Warren Commission. It's worthy of the movie, which grew in size like a mushroom. That was something the Warner executives probably didn't plan on."

He said Congress passed the JFK Records Act soon after the release of "JFK," which resulted in more details of the assassination being released.

"They wanted to prove our film was full of BS," he said.

The contrary happened, according to Stone, who said researchers used the additional info to further indict the premise of Oswald as the lone assassin.

Saturday's talk was attended by more than 100 people, some of them aspiring filmmakers and screenwriters. Stone gave them insight into how he got started as a writer as a child: His dad would pay him 25 cents a week to write a story of his choice. He acknowledged borrowing from TV shows of the day, but got into the habit of writing because he wanted the 25 cents so he could go out and buy comic books of the 1950s, which he said "had all the great stories."

"That's where all the movies are; imagination. Getting away from school, all the stuff you go through and hanging out in your own imagination is a wonderful act of rebellion," he said.

Lincoln, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

Phase I - 2014

For a long time I had been thinking of going solar, but had not pursued it until I talked with a neighbor who just had hers installed. I contracted with her installer and soon had panels on the roof that supplied all of my household electricity, with some extra capacity to supply an on-demand electric water heater I soon put in. I loved not hearing the propane boiler firing up in the summer to keep domestic water hot for the shower I'd be taking 16 hours later. Thrilled with the installation and not having an electric bill. I even splurged and bought my first ever noisy window A/C.

Phase II - 2016

While my primary heat source has been a woodstove and later a pellet stove, the propane boiler served as my backup. On a December road trip to PEI, I discovered the 25+ year old propane boiler died on me. I'm lucky to have had a monitoring system to notice this and awesome neighbors to feed pellets until I got back. Rather than buy another fossil fuel burning device, I decided to have heat pumps installed. At the time Bristol Electronics didn't install those, but they were very competitive as I shopped around for additional solar capacity. So in February 2016 they were on the roof installing panels that would provide enough electricity year round to supply my heating needs. And, since the heat pump also cools the house quietly on the hottest days, I sold the window unit. Maybe I'm just getting older, but there seems to be more and more of those hot days.

Phase III - 2019

Since I commute from So. Lincoln to Burlington, I've always felt guilty about all of the CO2 I've been emitting to get to work. I still have 7-10 years before I can even think about retiring, so I decided to make the investment and buy an electric car. And part of that investment was to buy the additional solar capacity to power it. I didn't think twice about having Bristol Electronics do it. My roof was running out of space, and since it has a low pitch, snow coverage was a issue for the last two years. This time I worked with Chris, Stephen, Dave and Trevor to have a ground mount installed that will be easy to clear the snow off of. They did amazing work, despite weather issues, and were actually able to make some long overdue landscaping improvements during the process. I couldn't be happier with my experience with this team!

~ Paul Webb, Lincoln, VT

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FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

Willowell

(Continued from Page 1A)

asynchronous CCV courses."

The program will be run out of Willowell's Monkton property, where students will meet Monday through Friday during school hours.

"Willowell has licensed teachers in all the core subjects to support students in their courses, and Willowell has built this daily support into the curriculum," Houskeeper said. "We'll have more flexibility to embed our curriculum in Vermont's natural and human communities."

While distinct from its predecessor, the Walden Year shares some key similarities with the former program.

"We'll continue to embark on interdisciplinary explorations in science, society, mathematics, culture, art, literacy, technology and health through the lens of the Vermont landscape," Houskeeper said. "We'll continue the tradition of student apprenticeships and hosting a range of community voices."

Willowell has received funding to offer the program tuition-free and is currently seeking funds through donations and grants to support the program during this transition year. More information about how to support the Walden Year can be found on Willowell's website or at tinyurl.com/WaldenYear.

The team is also talking with area superintendents, principals and curriculum coordinators about how to make the program a Flexible Pathway for students moving forward. Flexible Pathways, a state program, enables Vermont students to learn through various opportunities outside of the traditional classroom setting, such as virtual or community-based learning.

"We're hopeful that we'll have the mechanisms in place to make this work before the beginning of the 2025-26 school year," Houskeeper said of the effort.

In the meantime, public school students are able to enroll in the Walden Year as the team irons out what the program's connection with area schools will look like in coming years, said Schlein, who, though not a day-to-day educator is still executive director of Willowell and helping shepherd the start of the Walden Year.

MATT SCHLEIN

"We are working with the local public schools, as well as having conversations with the State Department of Education. Part of the power of Walden has been its accessibility for working families. This is something we are committed to," Schlein said. "Because this is new terrain we are figuring out what the relationship with schools looks like. In short, public school students are able to get credits. It is looking different with each school, but we are trying to create the systems and structures to facilitate this for the long term."

> *"We are working with the local public schools, as well as having conversations with the State Department of Education. Part of the power of Walden has been its accessibility for working families. This is something we are committed to."*
>
> *— Matt Schlein*

The Walden Year is currently still accepting students. Houskeeper noted there will be opportunities for interested students to join the program for the spring semester.

"Traditionally, the sweet spot for community building has been around 15-20 students, but we are open to new formations as we move forward," he said.

As the Walden Year takes off, there's several activities the team is looking forward to, including annual backpacking and canoe trips, visiting artists and other community-based learning opportunities taking shape. Those include working with artist Rosalie Gagne, who will install a new piece inspired by Foucault's pendulum in Willowell's Gordon Sculpture Park on the Monkton property.

"Students will work with her in the siting and construction, as well as exploring the philosophical underpinnings of her work," Houskeeper said. "This residency is in conjunction with a Neuberger Museum show this fall and part of an ongoing partnership between Willowell and (the Purchase, N.Y.-based) Neuberger."

MORE AT WILLOWELL

The Willowell team is gearing up for the return of other programs at the foundation's sites in Monkton and Bristol. The nonprofit runs a variety of projects and outdoor education programs for preK-12 students, including the Pond Brook School.

Pond Brook is entering its second year as a state approved middle school. The program is open to students ages 12-15 and offers a nature-based learning experience, engaging pupils in interdisciplinary courses through hands-on activities and outdoor classes.

"With Eric Warren at the helm and a team of incredibly gifted educators, we launched our year this week with 11 students," said Tasha Ball, Willowell's administrative director. "Keep an eye out around the surrounding area for the Pond Brook bus! The program is based out of Bristol and the Willowell land in Monkton, but is a nomadic program in that they are always out exploring riverbeds, visiting museums, engaging in community service, or learning from the Vermont landscape."

> *"We'll continue to embark on interdisciplinary explorations in science, society, mathematics, culture, art, literacy, technology and health through the lens of the Vermont landscape."*
>
> *— Peter Houskeeper*

Ball noted the program still has some space available for interested students, and that the Willowell team hopes to grow the model to expand to other grades.

"To us, bridging this public/private hybrid is one of the many keys to solving some of our systemic struggles in education," Ball said. "We don't want outdoor and experiential education to be just for those who can afford it, or those whose parents are able to transport them. We want to open the door to all our programs to anyone who wishes to attend."

Other programs kicking off another year at Willowell include the Wren's Nest Preschool, which will begin its first year at a new permanent home on Bristol's Harvey Road, and the New Roots Project, a multi-aged, interdisciplinary program offered entirely outdoors that will return with a revised curriculum this year.

"New Roots has been a program centered on community building and collaborative learning, and while we've always had an innovative curriculum in place, we decided to hone our workshop offerings this year to create more opportunity for student agency and engagement," explained Leanne Ruell. "New Roots now runs in class blocks and offers a wide range of classes, covering the gamut of learning interests; and best of all, these classes are wildly fun."

As of Aug. 21, enrollment was still open for the program. Ball noted that New Roots is an educational enrichment opportunity for local youth, and that this year students will be able to choose from a variety of class offerings.

"We are open to students ages 7-12 who need one day a week outdoors or those who are homeschooling," Ball said. "Our teachers are excited to offer classes this year in ecology, cooking, clay sculpting, the history of Vermont, and so much more."

The upcoming school year comes on the heels of a busy summer for the Willowell Foundation, which offered 19 week-long day camps for local youth at its Monkton property.

"While we've run a lot of camps in past summers, this was the first year we brought all those camps onto the same site in Monkton," Willowell administrative assistant Rowan Kamman said. "This allowed us to run up to three separate camps in a week, covering ages from 4 up to 15. Many parents took advantage of this opportunity to drop off multiple children in the same location each day, with siblings participating in their age-specific camps."

Willowell's camps are among several summer programming options for county youth, all of which are in high demand, Ball noted.

"When we opened camp registration in February many of the 19 camps we ran were waitlisted within an hour," Ball said. "We are lucky at Willowell to have incredibly skilled and fun staff who pull together wild and imaginative themes for the children who attend."

This summer's day camps served around 200 kids through a variety of offerings, including two new "Pirates of Cedar Island" and "Numbers in Nature" camps.

"The pirates practiced their skills with a friendly raid on the neighboring math camp, who returned the favor later in the week. Our amazing staff of camp teachers created opportunities for play, adventure and learning in all the camps and we want to thank them for an amazing summer," Kamman said.

MAUSD budget

(Continued from Page 1A)

everything with a big grain of salt," Superintendent Patrick Reen told the board. "But this at least starts the conversation and kind of gets us eyes wide open going into FY'26 to do our darndest to avoid a repeat of FY'25."

This spring, MAUSD was among a handful of Vermont school districts in which voters twice shot down spending proposals before ultimately approving a budget for the current fiscal year. Ahead of those failed budget votes, school district officials in MAUSD and around the state wrestled with a slew of pressures on school budgets — rising healthcare costs, the sunsetting of federal pandemic relief funds — and changes to how the state funds education.

Reen on Tuesday highlighted a handful of new factors expected to influence this budget season for MAUSD and other Vermont schools. Those factors include changes to the formula used to calculate the tax impact for those that pay based on their income, changes to the ballot language for school budget votes, and an excess spending penalty.

"The excess spending penalty is not really new, we've had it before, so it's kind of coming back, but it looks a little different this time around than what we had a few years ago," Reen said.

Reen also shared anticipated changes in how the tax rate is calculated.

Previously, the tax rate for district towns was calculated by dividing the district's spending per pupil by the yield (a measure of how much in education taxes the state will collect to distribute to towns) and then dividing that figure by the town's Common Level of Appraisal, or CLA.

Reen said that using the new process, tax rates will be calculated by dividing the district's cost per pupil by a figure that is the yield divided by the statewide average CLA. That figure would then be divided by the product of the town's CLA divided by the statewide average CLA.

"The idea here is by bringing in the statewide average CLA, the volatility you get from town to town is diminished," Reen said. "Your pre-CLA tax rate is a whole lot closer to your post-CLA tax rate when they bring in the statewide average to kind of level that equation out a bit."

For example, using figures from the current fiscal year, the tax rate in Bristol would be $2.007 using the prior formula and $2.006 using the new one.

"For us, it's not at this point in time showing a huge impact to the post-CLA tax rate," Reen said. "There are likely to be, as there's been with all these other changes, there are going to be some folks who are way on the left side of the continuum and others way on the right side of the continuum in terms of how this change will impact them. We seem to be pretty neutral."

EARLY BUDGET FIGURES

Reen then presented the board with initial figures for district spending in FY'26. Those figures were based on several assumptions, including an estimated 17% increase in healthcare premiums, 4% inflation, and lower revenue anticipated from special education and receiving fewer tuitioned students from Lincoln.

Initial figures shared on Tuesday are based on an estimated $37.4 million in total expenses and an anticipated $6,676,133 coming into the district from outside revenue.

Spending per pupil is expected to increase by 9.27%, or $1,328.32, to $15,654.77. That figure is based on an estimated 1,965.5 in long-term weighted average daily membership.

"We made some estimates with the long-term weighted average daily membership looking at our current enrollment and applying formulas as best we can," Reen said.

Following the presentation, board member Kathi Apgar asked if there's anything the school board can do now "to be proactive, so that we don't hand a 9.8% (per pupil spending) increase to anybody in our district?"

Engaging with the community was a potential next step multiple board members suggested for the subsequent discussion.

"I see no reason why not to get this out on the website very prominently and also do a little bit of marketing of it and say, 'It's there to look at now and now's the time to provide input,'" Board member Brad Johnson said.

It was reiterated throughout the meeting that much is subject to change throughout the budget building process, especially as the newly established Commission on the Future of Public Education explores and develops recommendations for the state's public education system.

Some noted that community outreach efforts could help encourage engagement in larger discussions of education funding in Vermont.

"We're in a position, I feel, that we have to be reactionary to what the state decides, so I think this would give the community time to write to their legislator before and help get some power from the community out to what's happening at the state," Board member Barbara Crandall said. "Maybe our role is to educate the community and say, 'Here's your opportunity, help us.'"

Further into the meeting, board members voted to task the Community Engagement Committee with drafting a budget engagement process. MAUSD Board Chair Erin Jipner said the hope would be for the committee to develop a process for engaging the community around the budget, potentially with a draft version of the plan ready sometime next month.

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City theater access project nets block grant

Opera house nears funding finish line

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Opera House's planned All Access Project got a boost last week when the Department of Housing & Community Development awarded the city theater a $150,000 Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) toward completion of that planned effort.

The grant was part of $2,155,468 of federal funding awards announced jointly on Aug. 21 by the Vermont Community Development Program, the governor and Vermont's congressional delegation.

Other grantees included renovations to rental units in Rutland, redevelopment of vacant and underused housing in Rutland and Castleton, and construction of water and wastewater infrastructure to support building eight Habitat for Humanity homes in Underhill.

Friends of the Vergennes Opera House President Gerianne Smart said this is the second CDBG award the theater's All Access Project has earned. The first, a planning grant of $30,000 two years ago, "helped kick-start the project in earnest," Smart said in an email to the *Independent*.

Smart wrote the second grant will "go toward the construction of the elevator tower and other improvements to allow for full access to the second-floor theater space, as well as access to the stage and dressing room. We still have some funds left to raise, but we are confident we will be successful and will break ground on the All Access Project in February, 2025."

Smart quantified what is necessary. As recently as April, the estimated cost of the project —which will also provide ground-level access to city offices — stood at around $1.6 million. Now, she said, it's about $300,000 more.

"We are anxious to get going because the cost of materials is going up every day. Our initial quote of $1,634,787 from two and a half years ago is now estimated to be approximately $1.9 million, so we do have quite a way to go," she said.

Smart remains confident the gap can be bridged by nonprofit grant sources and individual donors, including those willing to purchase naming rights for bricks that will pave the alley leading to what will be a new elevator tower on the northwest corner of city hall.

Opera house boosters have thus far received donations and pledges amounting to around $332,000.

"We have several more grant applications out, and we remain hopeful that more private citizens will pledge or donate over the next several months," Smart said.

"We are anxious to get going because the cost of materials is going up every day. Our initial quote of $1,634,787 from two and a half years ago is now estimated to be approximately $1.9 million, so we do have quite a way to go."

— Friends of the Vergennes Opera House President Gerianne Smart

Smart listed other previous funding sources: $500,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending; $300,000 from the Northern Borders Regional Commission; a $223,282 Vermont Community Recovery and Revitalization grant; a $30,000 Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities grant; a $15,000 Preservation Trust of Vermont award; $5,000 each from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Neat Repeats and the Walter Cerf Foundation via the Vermont Community Foundation; and $1,000 from St. Stephen's Peasant Market.

Smart credited Friends of the Vergennes Opera House treasurer Susan Schaefer's grant-writing ability for helping the theater obtain many of those awards.

And she outlined the organization's new target for the project.

"Our goal is to have the project completed in time for the theater's 2025-2026 season, which will begin in October of 2025. Meanwhile, our current season begins on Friday, Sept. 13, with the screening of a horror film, starring Vergennes' resident Jeremy Holm. The film is called 'Brooklyn 45.' Mor information available at VergennesOperaHouse.org," she wrote, adding, "100% of all VOH show proceeds will be dedicated to the critical matching private funds the FVOH needs for many of the other grants we have received."

PROJECT DETAILS

Plans call for attendees with physical challenges to reach the elevator tower via an alleyway that will be upgraded with the paving bricks. The upgraded alley is also intended to help the neighboring St. Paul's Episcopal Church improve its handicap access, and the improved access to city hall will also be provided from the entry to the tower.

Access to the tower and thus the theater will be vastly improved. Citizens with access challenges must now be dropped off at the end of a private driveway to the opposite side of city hall. From the driveway, they can either make their own way, or manage with help, along a pathway and then a ramp that runs behind city hall.

The pathway and ramp lead to a theater-level ADA platform/opera house entrance that stands at the end of the alley. Whoever has dropped them off, however, must return to their vehicles and leave and find parking elsewhere; there is no parking behind or to the right of city hall.

The ground-level entry to city hall offices on the left side of the building will replace the existing handicap access, which is through a door to a level requires those with access challenges to use a lift down a small flight of stairs to reach the city clerk's and treasurer's desks.

Also, a second lift inside the theater will link the green room below the theater's stage with both the stage and the audience level. The green room, where performers prepare before going on stage, will also be renovated with accessible restrooms.

Panton tax bills delayed after question

By ANDY KIRKALDY

PANTON — Due to a resident's Aug. 12 questioning of the financial figures on the Panton town warning, Panton's tax bills — typically sent out sometime in August — have been delayed until mid-September.

The selectboard had intended to set the tax rate at its Aug. 12 meeting until those numbers were questioned. That timing would have allowed Town Clerk and Treasurer Maggie McCormick to send out bills during the next few days after that meeting.

Instead, according to Selectboard Chair Howard Hall, the board will wait until its Sept. 9 meeting to set the rate. That's because McCormick was out of town this past Monday, and Hall said board members wanted to wait until she could attend a meeting before they finalized the tax rates.

The issue arose when, according to Aug. 12 board meeting minutes, resident M'lissa Dayton questioned the financial numbers presented to, and then approved by, residents on Town Meeting Day in March.

The issue arose when, according to Aug. 12 board meeting minutes, resident M'lissa Dayton questioned the financial numbers presented to, and then approved by, residents on Town Meeting Day in March.

In light of the questions Dayton raised, according to the minutes, McCormick recommended to the board members that they hold off setting the tax rate until she reviewed her calculations.

Last week, McCormick told the *Independent* she had double-checked the figures carefully and is confident in the finances as listed on the Town Meeting Day warning.

Regardless of when property bills arrive, residents and owners of commercial property are certain to see tax increases, although because Panton recently completed a town-wide reassessment, the tax increases on some classes of property might be less than on others.

Residents in March approved by a more than a two-to-one margin an overall 25% increase in town spending to around $1.3 million.

Major drivers of that increased spending included $150,000 for two new trucks, $48,000 for higher wages and benefits for Panton's highway crew and town office workers, and a combined increase of $22,000 for fire and ambulance service protection.

School tax rates in Panton were projected to increase by roughly 17%, but that was before the reappraisal. Still, officials project higher school taxes as inevitable.

Spotlight on Vergennes

City police come to the aid of trapped dog

VERGENNES — Vergennes police went a little bit out of their way on Aug. 23 to help a dog trapped in a crawl space under a Greenbush Road home in Ferrisburgh.

Police said the dog had fallen into the crawl space, and its owners could not retrieve it. Officers were able to detach an access panel and lift out the animal, according to their report.

In other incidents between Aug. 19 and 25, Vergennes police conducted three patrols, two in cruisers and one on foot, and 14 traffic stops; processed eight pre-employment fingerprint requests; dealt with two false alarms; and also:

On Aug. 21 following a neighbor's complaint asked West Main Street residents to turn down loud music.

On Aug. 22:

• Checked the welfare of a Macdonough Drive resident, who was OK.

• Informed South Water Street neighbors involved in a dispute about their property lines that they were dealing with a civil issue.

• Calmed an argument between a Maple Manor resident and a Waltham man who had parked his car in the neighborhood in order to walk his dog in a safer area than the side of the road in his town. Police did suggest the Waltham resident find an area with better parking.

• Served a relief-from-abuse order to a Macdonough Drive resident.

Vergennes Police Log

• Following a complaint about a youth driving too fast along Bowman Road, spoke to his parents about the issue.

• Responded to a report of a disabled vehicle holding up Main Street traffic; it was gone when police arrived.

On Aug. 23:

• Contacted the owner of a vehicle parked on Park Street that was interfering with preparation for Vergennes Day; the owner moved it.

• Took a report that a woman believed she had left her wallet at Shaw's Supermarket, and when she returned shortly after leaving to pick it up the wallet was gone.

On Aug. 24:

• Directed traffic around the Vergennes Day road race.

• Responded to a report of a simple assault on First Street, a case that remains under investigation.

On Aug. 25:

• On behalf of Vermont State Police attempted to contact the owner of a vehicle with a Vergennes registration that had been disabled and/or abandoned — possibly after an accident — at the bottom of a Bristol driveway.

• Checked out a report of someone walking around a home that was temporarily unoccupied.

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By the way

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the homeless animals of our region and those being served through Homeward Bound's community programs. To learn more and to register, visit www.homewardboundanimals.org.

Here's a sweet philanthropic event to put on your calendar: The grand opening for Adagio Chocolates will be held at Middlebury's Town Hall Theater on Friday, Sept. 20, beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be music, magic and chocolate tastings — with all proceeds going to Vermont flood relief efforts. The event will begin with professional magician Christopher McBride, followed by dancing with the jazz/rock/hip hop sounds of the Burlington band Japhy Ryder. Meanwhile, THT's Jackson Gallery will host chocolate tastings, and raffles will be ongoing along with a cash bar, light fare, and information about donations and further involvement with flood relief presented by the Vermont Community Foundation. Adagio Chocolates is a socially conscious chocolate shop located at 52 Main St. in Middlebury that offers single origin, single estate, sustainably sourced plantation chocolates from 32 countries. Tickets for this event (from $15 to $55) can be purchased at Townhalltheater.com, or in person at the THT Box Office, open Monday through Friday, noon-5 p.m. All ticket proceeds will be donated to flood relief.

Friends and family of Ashley Clodgo Goodrich on Friday will hold a vigil for the former Addison County resident who went missing on Oct. 17, 2021. Clodgo, who went to Ferrisburgh Central and Vergennes Union High schools, was residing in Fair Haven when she was last seen almost three years ago. She was reported missing to Fair Haven police, who as recently as June sent out a request for more information on Ashley. Despite the passage of time, the urgency to find Ashley and bring her home remains strong among her loved ones. To keep the search for Ashley active and in the public eye, they ask people come to the vigil honoring Ashley's birthday on Aug. 30, 5:30 p.m., at the Vergennes City Green. Speakers will include staff from Atria Collective (formerly WomenSafe), friends of Ashley and law enforcement.

Reminder: Middlebury will hold a farewell party for longtime Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 5, at the Town Hall Theater. There will be light refreshments and a cash bar. Ramsay is stepping down after a combined two decades of service to the community, in order to take a position with the Vermont League of Cities & Towns' newly created Finance, Operations and Management Assistance Program.

"Circle of Life" is a new program at Helen Porter Rehabilitation & Nursing to bring babies, toddlers and preschoolers together with seniors for stories, songs and socialization. This once-a-month program, sponsored by the Middlebury Lions Club, allows volunteer moms and caregivers to share the special joy little children can give to assisted living residents. On the second Thursday of the month, starting Sept. 12, the Circle of Life players will gather at 10:30 a.m. for 45 minutes of nursery rhymes and songs older folks sang with their own children. The program promises to bring real smiles to the seniors and develop friendships among the parents. If you'd like to be part of this program, contact Lion Ginny Curtis at ginnylcurtis612@gmail.com, or call 802-453-2712.

When natural disasters occur, it's common for some people to try and exploit the situation by pretending to be official disaster aid workers. The Federal Emergency Management Agency encourages survivors to be aware of fraud and scams. FEMA also encourages survivors to report any suspicious activity or potential fraud from scam artists, identity thieves and other criminals. Survivors should also be aware that this kind of situation doesn't happen only at the beginning of the response to the disaster when people might be more vulnerable.

It can happen any time. It's important to know that FEMA does not endorse any specific commercial businesses, products or services. Also, be cautious if somebody asks for your nine-digit registration number. A FEMA inspector will never ask for this information, as they already have it in their records. If you suspect fraud, call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721.

A different shade of camouflage

A GOLDFINCH PERCHES on the bloom of a sunflower in a Weybridge garden.

Photo by Susan Humphrey

Addison

(Continued from Page 1A)

rehabilitation.

Addison's Town Hall Committee had also said it expected grant funding to help pay for that project, which was to include all new plumbing and wiring as well as structural work, interior reconfiguration, and handicap accessibility provisions.

Selectboard Chair Jeff Kauffman said Tuesday's vote came about after board received a resident's petition, one with more than 5% of town voters' signatures, seeking the balloting. The board then decided to approve a vote to rescind the bond, as well as two related articles.

The related articles were non-binding.

Article 2 asked voters to support a bond of up to $400,000 "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."

It passed, 284-156, or 63-37%.

Article 3 asked residents to 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."

It failed, 251-194, or 56.4-43.6%

Tuesday's voting was held against a backdrop of higher town taxes: Addison town spending approved in March increased by more than $100,000, and Addison Northwest School District homestead tax rates were initially projected to rise by around 30 cents for those paying based on the assessed value of their homes.

In advancing the petition for a vote, Kauffman said the board took into consideration both higher property taxes and the potentially cheaper option of converting a portion of the former Addison Central School, now owned by the town, into municipal offices.

On Wednesday morning Kauffman said the selectboard did not discuss potential next steps before Tuesday's balloting, but would start doing so at its meeting next Tuesday, Sept. 3. He expects no immediate action as the board awaits a potential petition, which could challenge the result and seek another vote within the following 30 days.

"We'll talk about it then. Of course there's this 30-day period if it's petitioned for a revote. We probably won't do a lot until we know what happens there," he said.

Kauffman said he was a bit surprised residents did not support Article 3, but noted the selectboard was not bound by that result.

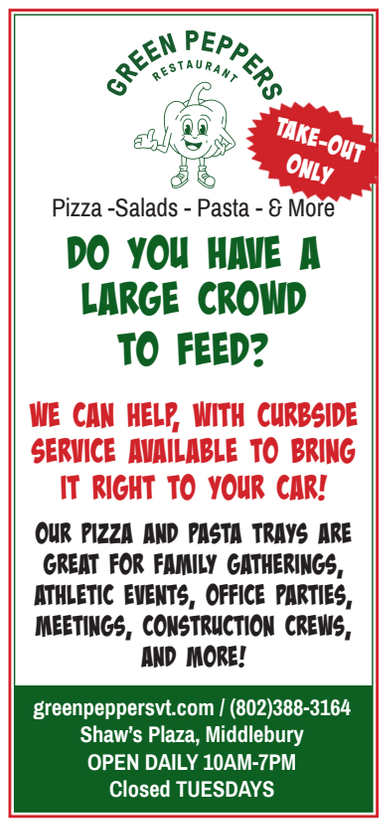
"That was advisory, that vote. There is money already set aside for the town hall, the vote notwithstanding," he said. "So I don't know what the board will do with it. We'll let that come out at the meeting."

He does expect the board to act to protect the building, and even make it usable.

"There have been some options I probably shouldn't go into yet, or some suggestions of how we maybe can proceed with that building," he said. "So I don't think it's off the table trying to at least restore it somewhat."

Kauffman said he understood members of the Town Hall Committee would be disappointed by the result, and said their efforts, or that of a similar committee, were probably still necessary.

"We appreciate their work," he said. "And I'm sure we'll still have to have some sort of committee to figure out what happens to that building and how it's going to be used. We certainly don't want to leave it sitting there looking like it is."



BY **JUDITH & STEVE** HARRIS

Before we leave the Gulf of Mexico and turn inland to Vermont, let's talk about why we REALLY come here, year after year. The undeniable draw is the magnificent, uninterrupted, ever-changing, living, interactive display combining nature's finest primal ingredients into one masterpiece – free to even the common-most of mankind. Water. Sky. Beach. Using an emotional term of personification, moody. Especially in winter, when human habitation is light, these ingredients playing with each other can draw a person's soul away from the mundane into the eternal in a matter of seconds, with no desire to leave it behind. Each is home to a never-ending array of magical mystery creatures, living their lives out of sight of all but the most curious, the most patient. The experience is irreplaceable.

Let's explore a very few of these ingredients, in the form of photos and brief descriptions of what those photos cannot capture, but you can imagine: movement, sounds, smells, wind, and the taste of salt air on your lips.

BEACH GEOGRAPHY

Think of beaches as layers of scrim, each with its own purpose, and each taking on the peculiarities of its context. Just as one can begin to sense without a map which state one is driving through from a series of minute clues, beaches provide similar distinct hints at their geographic location. Water clarity, color and temperature, texture and color of sand and shell hash, living creatures, plants, and birds, the myriad of things that wash up and are dropped or stolen back to the sea with the action of wind and waves, the patterns of sunrise and sunsets, tidal extremes and sequences, sea foam events – all are hints that together make each beach truly unique.

DUNES

A cross-section through a beach unmolested by mankind starts here. Think of them as another form of barrier, similar to their island cousins, that offer protection to the land behind them from the vagaries of a hyper-active sea/land interaction zone. Dunes are mostly dry, with only occasional wave washings. They are not however, static. They form when winds blow beach sand into wind shadows behind wrack lines (piles of floating marine stuff). They are loosely held together by pioneer plants tolerant of salt. The further away from the water line that a dune forms, the more likely it is to support more woody vegetation, forever pruned by salt spray. Dunes are also nesting grounds for many sea-loving creatures from birds to turtles to crabs, who call beaches their home. Dunes deserve our respect, and are frequently protected by signage, boardwalks, walking mats, and rope barriers to remind us of their vulnerability.

As the sound and smell of water lures us from tender dunes (where conditions allow for their presence), we move through successive scrims of backshore (the home of wrack lines), foreshore where the waves continuously "swash" in and out, the nearshore where waves break, and offshore sandbars. These profiles constantly shift and change depending on climate, weather, seasons, and tides. The fact that an observant beach visitor can witness these changes as they occur - like acts in a play - is part of the reason beaches are mesmerizing.

SHELLS

Shells of course are one of the first objects that come to mind when a person hears the word beach. They are sought after and fought over by avid collectors, artisans, curious children, and souvenir seekers as well as non-original sea creatures who borrow them for their own tenancy. (Crabs prefer whelk shells as apartments, or protection when searching for food on the go.) Where to look for these gems of the sea is the trick, and to be truly successful one must study for years to even begin to understand the wide variety on display and their origins. We, as neophytes, tend to concentrate on two zones – the swash zone just after high tide, and the wrack. Others fine-tune their searches with more fervor, but for us, just being there is gratification enough. Becoming obsessive can block one's appreciation of the big picture. We are not in favor of shopping bag shellers. If we pick up an exceptional but familiar example, sometimes it is just carried along for a while, turned gently in our fingers, admired for its beauty, and then replaced in the sand. Sometimes we carry a specimen to our campsite, confirm its ID, include it as part of a season-long collection, and then ceremoniously deliver most of them to their familiar sea-side home, bidding them adieu as we pull stakes.

Shells are simply all that's left of a sea creature's home when it is no longer alive. Sharks' teeth are another human obsession that can capture one's imagination and focus. I admit to having a small jar of them, shiny and black, ancient – symbols of the extra level of patience and perseverance required to find them. Having a park service guide escort you on a walking tour can save you a lot of time and frustration toward understanding the complexity of it all, and then you may choose your own interests to pursue with some knowledge as to where to begin.

The many moods of St George Island.

SHARKS' TEETH

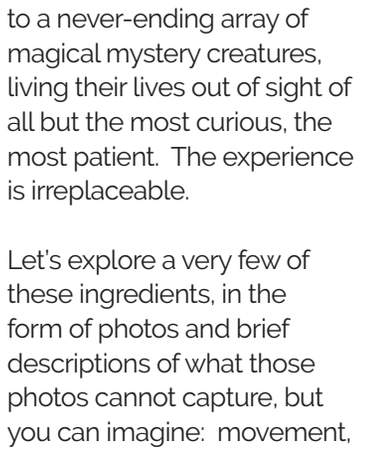
Sharks' Teeth carry with them a mystique unrivaled in the world of beach treasures. Experienced beachcombers understand that the objects they encounter may vary in age from a fishing line discarded yesterday to a fossil from the highest ridge of Florida that managed to remain above water. The State of Florida is too young for dinosaur fossils, but a 25-million-year-old great white shark tooth as big as your hand from a bus-sized shark seems sufficient to capture one's interest. In our brief exploration of this group of fossils (black, not ivory or white in color), they seem to be concentrated on particular beaches, mostly outside the major sun-bather/swimmer category. Our biggest success story (7 small finds in one location – lemon sharks and sand sharks) was on a narrow, remote beach near the confluence of Georgia's Cumberland and St. Mary's Rivers.* The nearest neighbor is a submarine base, with stealth vessels coming and going mostly below the water's surface at all times of day and night through a narrow, dredged channel - the perfect Twilight Zone experience to discover sharks' teeth amongst the shore debris stirred up by naval traffic. Be on the lookout for very black shiny objects, appearing nearly triangular (remember, the sand may be covering much of your prize), with an indentation on the back. Pick it up, and try to break it with your fingers. If it won't budge, it is a potential candidate.

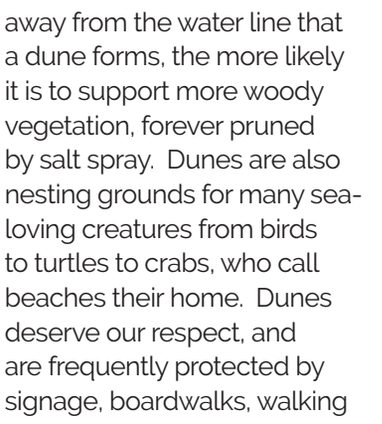
A modest sampling of sharks' teeth. The white one is a non-fossilized version.

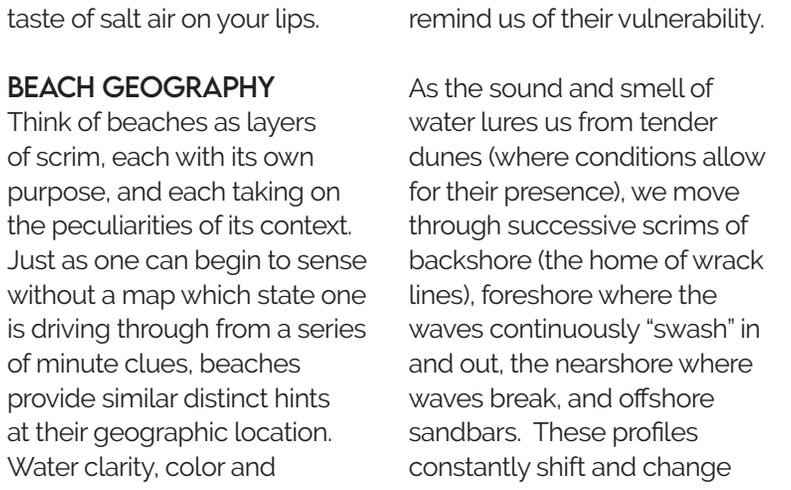
*NOTE: While you are in the neighborhood, both Cumberland (only accessible by boat) and Amelia Island are excellent environments to explore, not only for beaches, but for history and sightseeing.

Join us for more sea creatures in Part Two of this photo essay, in the Arts+Leisure section of this week's paper.

-Judith-


Mirror of sky and sea. Gulf of Mexico in winter.


A churning winter Atlantic at Myrtle Beach.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Whitmore-Sells

(Continued from Page 1A)

more seasoned as Shoreham Elementary's top administrator. She succeeds acting Shoreham Principal Jennifer Urban, who's now running the show at Bridport Central School, just 6.8 miles north on 22A.

Urban and Whitmore-Sells are among three new elementary school principals in the Addison Central School District. The third is Nadya Bech-Conger, leader of Cornwall's Bingham Memorial Elementary School.

Shoreham Elementary this week opened its doors an incoming class of around 65 students in grades K-5. Whitmore-Sells was feeling at home in her new surroundings even before the first bell of the new academic year.

"I've seen some of our students playing in the summer programming next door. I've had a few individuals stop by the door just to say 'hello' — which was really wonderful," she said during an interview late last week.

She felt a prophetic, special vibe during her initial interview at the school this past spring. Whitmore-Sells believed early on that she and Shoreham School's stakeholders were on the same page.

"The parents and community members were very passionate about wanting to ensure their students were receiving the best education possible," she recalled. "To me, that was very powerful, and I wanted to part of making that happen."

Whitmore-Sells comes to Shoreham with more than two decades as an educator in Vermont and in Virginia.

Her varied assignments have included stints as director of diversity & equity for the Burlington School District (2002-2008); director of diversity and multiculturalism for the Burgundy Farm Country Day School in Alexandria, Va. (2009-2011); first-grade teacher at Prince William County Public Schools (Virginia) from 2011-2012; assistant principal Lyman C. Hunt Middle School in Burlington (2012-2014); assistant principal of Camels Hump Middle School in Richmond, Vt. (2014-2015); Principal of Burlington's Sustainability Academy (2015-2019); principal of the John J. Flynn Elementary School in Burlington (2019-2022); and, most recently, DEI coach for the Champlain Valley School District in Shelburne (2022-2024)

"I've mostly worked in Chittenden County and have had the pleasure of wearing many hats," she said of her varied experience as a school educator and administrator.

So what was it about Shoreham Elementary that attracted her?

"One of the things I think is important to have as an educator is having many diverse experiences," Whitmore-Sells said. "For me, this was a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to work not only in a rural school — but a small, intimate and loving school."

She brings not only a wealth of experience, but also new perspectives. She is one of the few persons of color to have led a school in Addison County. Whitmore-Sells is well aware of Vermont's racial homogeneity. According to the 2020 federal census, approximately 1.4% of the state's 643,077 residents are Black.

But she believes Vermont is increasingly becoming home to people of color, and she believes that's a good thing for everyone.

"One of the things I've noticed is that as Vermont has been diversifying," she said. "It's great to see folks of color being able to branch out throughout this state. I think it's very important for our students to be able to see other folks who might not look like them or sound like them, because they, too, might leave the state and may want to see something different and experience different things. That's how we help them prepare to live and work in a global society."

LASHAWN WHITMORE-SELLS

Promoting and nurturing diversity is something Whitmore-Sells said she views as "an opportunity, and I embrace that opportunity."

She's looking forward to seeing the Addison Central School District's International Baccalaureate (IB) program in action at Shoreham Elementary. The ACSD is the only public school system in Vermont to have an IB curriculum.

"I am learning more about IB and it sounds wonderful. I think it benefits our students, so I'm looking forward to learning more and seeing how we can incorporate more of IB with intentionality in our school community," she said.

> *"For me, this was a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to work not only in a rural school — but a small, intimate and loving school."*
> — *Lashawn Whitmore-Sells*

Whitmore-Sells grew up in Pennsylvania. She holds a BS in Elementary Education from the American International College and a M.Ed. from the University of Richmond.

She developed an interest in farming through her dad, a former employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And that should make her a good match for her new stomping ground.

"Being here has been great, because there are definitely connections (to agriculture)," she noted of Shoreham's status as one of the state's top farming and apple producing communities.

Asked to describe her leadership style, Whitmore-Sells said, "I really like to make connections with staff, students and families. I feel we're a village and that we all need to work collaboratively for the benefit of our young folks to ensure their success."

While she's spent a lot of her life teaching, Whitmore-Sells is an avid learner. And her favorite way of doing that is through travel.

"I think it's a great opportunity to learn about other cultures and see things through different lenses. I can have a better understanding of other folks and other communities," she said.

But right now, she's happy to have found a new professional home at Shoreham Elementary.

Can she see herself sticking around for a while?

"Absolutely," Whitmore-Sells replied, without hesitation.

Lashawn Whitmore-Sells is one of six new employees at Shoreham Elementary. The others include Adelaide Brooks, grade 3 teacher; Hilary Collier, interventionist; Danielle Girard, school nurse; Jackson Goscha, school counselor; and Lisa St. Germain, special educator.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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B Section

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024

SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs

NEW MUHS BOYS' soccer coach Max Ratti-Bicknell, a former Vergennes standout, participates in a drill with his team at a practice earlier this week.

Independent photo/Steve James

Ratti-Bicknell to lead Tiger boys' soccer

Former VUHS standout looks forward to helping MUHS players grow

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The new boys' soccer coach at Middlebury Union High School knows away around the Lake Division, the league in which the Tigers compete during the regular season.

That's because new program head Max Ratti-Bicknell played for Vergennes Union High School in that league, and not all that long ago — he graduated from VUHS in 2017 after three years on the Commodore varsity boys' soccer team, the final two seasons as one of its captains.

Ratti-Bicknell went onto four years at the University of Vermont, during which he played club soccer before COVID got in the way. He graduated in 2021 with a joint degree in community entrepreneurship and German. He then lived and worked in Burlington for a year, during which he realized something was missing — soccer, which before then Ratti-Bicknell had played for about a dozen years.

That insight put him on the path that led him to coaching at MUHS, as he tells it.

"There was one year out of college when I wasn't around soccer, and it was the first time I hadn't been involved in it, and I could just feel this gaping hole in my life," Ratti-Bicknell said. "I wasn't around a team. It wasn't every day being around the same group and playing soccer. It's one of my favorite things to do."

He began looking for a way to become involved in the game again. Eventually his UVM club coach, knowing about an opening, connected him with the Mount Mansfield Union High School staff. Ratti-Bicknell got the JV-B job, and helped lead the team to a one-loss season. He also coached many of his players on offseason youth teams.

He was promoted to be the JV-A team coach in 2023, and the team went undefeated.

"There's great talent when you get up into the big D-I schools," Ratti-Bicknell said. "It was really cool to be part of it."

"Max has already fostered a deep connection with our players. His leadership qualities and temperament are ideally suited to guide our successful program through the 2024 season and into the future."

— Sean Farrell

At some point this past spring his former coach at VUHS, Kevin Hayes (still the coach there), tipped Ratti-Bicknell off to the opening at MUHS. By then Ratti-Bicknell had also moved to Vergennes to become the master brewer at the city's Hired Hand Brewery (he is currently working on an Octoberfest beer for a mid-September street party).

(See Ratti-Bicknell, Page 2B)

Binder makes Olympic soccer development regional team

MIDDLEBURY — Solstice Binder, who will be a junior at Middlebury Union High School, made the Olympic Development Program East regional team and will compete against the other regions at a national tournament in Florida Jan. 16-20.

Cram picks up Devil's Bowl win

WEST HAVEN — New York driver Brian Calabrese won Saturday's 54-lap, $2,000-to-win Charlie LaDuc Memorial for the Sportsman Modifieds at the Devil's Bowl Speedway. Leicester's Matt Cram was the only local driver to pick up a victory on the evening, but many area racers posted strong finishes.

Calabrese led the final 20 laps and, with the triumph, earned a starting spot in this Sunday's Vermont 200. He was joined in victory lane by fellow New Yorker Nick Brundige (limited sportsman), Cram (novice sportsman), Hinesburg's Eric Messier (mini stock) and Eric Leno (Enduro, hometown not reported).

Brandon's Joey Scarborough was second in the Charlie LaDuc Memorial race, and Bradford's Kevin Chaffee took third. They were followed across the finish line by a parade of Addison County drivers: Bridport's Troy Audet in fourth; Orwell drivers Tim LaDuc and James Hanson in fifth and sixth, respectively; and Bristol's Josh Masterson in seventh.

Brundige led the entire 25-lap Limited Sportsman feature except for the first few laps, but had to hold off a late charge from Starksboro's Adam Lafountain. Lafountain settled for second. Salisbury's Gary English was third, and New Haven's Alex Layn finished seventh.

Leicester's Cram earned his second career win by claiming the 20-lap Novice Sportsman feature. Cram was fast early from his third starting position and took the lead on the second circuit. Series points leader Logan Denis of Whiting settled for third, Salisbury driver Aiden Benoure took fourth, and Orwell's Randy Edson finished eighth.

Twenty-one cars lined up for the 15-lap Mini Stock A-feature. Hinesburg's Messier started 20th and worked his way through the field for the victory. East Middlebury's Chris Sumner was third, series points leader Brian Blake of Cornwall finished fifth, and Orwell racers Ronnie Alger and Jakobee Alger finished sixth and eighth, respectively.

The seven-car, six-lap Mini Stock B-feature was won by Rutland's Cody Dion. Whiting's Quinton Bishop was fourth.

Enduro regular Eric Leno nabbed another win in the 50-lap event that capped the evening. Brent Wilbur was second, and Cody Vermilyea took third.

Devil's Bowl Speedway is offering a two-night program this Saturday and Sunday, including the Vermont 200 at 6 p.m. on Sunday, while Saturday features a full card of racing. There is special pricing for a two-night admission, and a chicken barbecue is also offered.

Score BOARD

SCHEDULE
HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Football

8/30 St. Albans at MUHS	7 PM
8/31 OV at Fairfax	1 PM
8/31 MAV at Mill River	1 PM
9/5 MAV at Spaulding	6 PM
9/6 Mt Anthony at MUHS	7 PM
9/7 Rice at OV	1 PM or 7 PM (TBA)

Field Hockey

8/31 Mt Abe at MUHS	10 AM
8/31 OV at Springfield	11 AM
9/4 Fair Haven at OV	4 PM
9/4 Burlington at MUHS	4:30 PM
9/4 U-32 at Mt Abe	4 PM
9/7 Mt Abe at CVU	10 AM
9/7 OV at MUHS	10 AM

Girls' Soccer

8/30 VUHS at Peoples	4:30 PM
8/30 Mt Abe at Harwood	4:30 PM
9/3 Peoples at Mt Abe	4:30 PM
9/3 Montpelier at MUHS	4:30 PM
9/3 Enosburg at VUHS	4:30 PM
9/4 Hartford at OV	4 :30 PM
9/6 Mt Abe at Spaulding	4:30 PM
9/6 Hazen at VUHS	4:30 PM
9/7 MUHS at U-32	10 AM

Boys' Soccer

8/30 GMVS at VUHS	4:30 PM
8/31 OV vs MSJ (at Proctor)	1 PM
9/4 OV at Hartford	4:30 PM
9/4 Spaulding at MUHS	4:30 PM
9/7 MUHS at Harwood	10 AM
9/7 Mt Abe at U-32	Noon

Volleyball

8/29 Missisquoi at MUHS	6 PM
9/3 Vt Commons at MUHS	6 PM
9/5 MUHS at Rice	6 PM

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Soccer

9/3 Norwich at Mid	4 PM
9/4 Keene at Midd	4 PM
9/7 Hamilton at Midd	Noon

Field Hockey

9/3 Midd at Castleton	7 PM
9/7 Hamilton at Midd	11 AM

Women's Soccer

9/4 Midd at Clark	4 PM
9/7 Hamilton at Midd	11 AM

Football

9/16 Wesleyan at Midd	1 PM

Yes, coach

EAGLE GIRLS' SOCCER Coach Dustin Corrigan makes a point during a recent practice. Mt. Abe girls open their season away against Harwood on Friday, Aug. 30.

Independent photo/Steve James

Drill, drill, drill

MOUNT ABE FIELD hockey players, above, hone their skills in a cone drill in a recent practice. Mount Abe field hockey goalie Rory Hendee, right, works on her kicking ability, an important skill for her position, at a recent practice. The Eagles will meet MUHS on Saturday, Aug. 31, in Middlebury for the season opener for both teams

Independent photos/Steve James

Politano takes top spot at men's golf tourney

MIDDLEBURY — Youth was served at the 2024 Ralph Myhre Club Championship, as Otter Valley Union High School senior Lucas Politano emerged as the winner of the men's Championship Flight in a tournament contested on Aug. 24 and 25.

Taking second in the Men's Championship Flight was Paul Fine-Lease, while Kris Wehner took third place.

Sue Rand claimed first place in the Women's Championship Flight, with Nicole Laberge finishing second and Eva Mastalos took third.

Dale White won the Men's Senior Flight, ahead of Paul Lengyel in second and Steve Maier in third.

In the Men's Super Senior Flight, Jim Johnston took first place, followed by Robert Cameron in second and Chris Prickitt in third.

In the Men's First Flight, Steve Ogden prevailed, followed by Daniel Zinn and Evan Lombardo in second and third, respectively.

In regular weekly play, in Aug. 22 Thursday Men's League action, the foursome of Steve Maier, Joe Thilbourg, Chris Prickitt and Uwe Luksch prevailed. The quartet of Robert Cameron, Douglas Biklen, Vince Paradis and Marsdin Van Order was second, and the team of Tim Etchells, Donald Dayton, Neil Mackey and Matthew Biette was third.

Prickitt was the low net scorer, and Thilbourg and Van Order won Closest-to-the-Pin contests.

In Friday Night Mixer play the next day, the team of Charlene and Jim Bryant and Craig and Susan Miner prevailed, besting the second-place foursome of Ken Hypes, Sue Perine and Lauren and Patty Ross.

Barnes Boffey was a real person

My second night at Middlebury in the fall of 1963, with my little beanie on my head, I was roused from my bed after midnight and dispatched with the other freshman men to serenade the senior women from the lawn in front of Forest Hall.

Freshman hazing required that we learn the college songs. I still know them.

That night, I stood behind the biggest person I had ever met, my classmate Barnes Boffey, all 6'8", 250+ pounds of him. I looked right into the small of his back.

Possessed of a booming voice and an exuberant nature, Barnes was a powerful presence in our student days. He came to Middlebury from Williston-Northampton Academy. They had no football, so he played soccer there (I would love to have seen him on the pitch).

Barnes presided in the Crest Room, the College snack bar in Proctor Hall. When he was glad to see me, sometimes he just picked me up, "How ya doin'?" he growled and gave me a hug (and I weighed 185 pounds).

Sports (Mostly)
KARL LINDHOLM

He majored in theater!

During his junior year, he decided to go out for football. We all thought it was a lark and figured he wouldn't last a week.

I was the Sports Editor of the school newspaper, *The Campus,* and met every Monday morning with the football coach and athletic director, the legendary Duke Nelson. He told me about the confusion Barnes's presence on the football roster caused when he sent it to Wesleyan, the team's first opponent.

The Wesleyan coach saw there a junior with an improbable name, "Barnes Boffey," who was listed at 6'8" and 285 pounds. He sensed a practical joke — and was not amused. He called Duke.

"He was really upset" Duke reported to me. "I said to him, 'But, coach, the boy's really out for the team. He's a real person."

Turns out, with his size, Barnes was good at football: courageous, immoveable. He played the next year too.

During the spring of '67, senior year, Barnes was signed by the Pittsburgh Steelers and given a $1,000 bonus, most of which he spent buying beers for everyone at the Alibi.

He was cut after only a few days, but still . . . the Steelers!

Barnes had ambivalence about his identity at Middlebury. However, I had none. I remembered him in essence as a generous and delightful person.

At our 25th reunion I got to tell him that. Barnes had chosen not to return to Middlebury since graduation, though he lived in Vermont. He did not want to reminisce about the good old days in college. They were not "good old days" for him.

He earned a Master's and a Ph.D. in Education and worked for a time as an adjunct professor and counselor at Dartmouth. While there, he helped make a video, "Fighting Drunk," that we used at Middlebury for years in our training of ResLife staff.

In it, Barnes made the point that students need to intervene when they see their classmates drinking excessively and dangerously. "What if you had a roommate," he asked on camera in the video, "who was so fond of popcorn that every Friday and Saturday night he ate so much popcorn that he got sick, threw up?

"How long do you think it would be before you concluded he had a 'popcorn problem'?"

This analogy is characteristic: Barnes had a powerful command of the language in both speech and in writing — and he possessed wisdom.

His youthful football dalliance hardly defined him. He had a genius for connecting with people, kids especially, early on. Beginning in 1953, when he was eight, Camp Lanakila in Fairlee, Vt., became his "home away from home." He worked at Lanakila for many years and for 24 years was its director.

Professionally, Barnes was a gifted counselor, focusing consultant (advising on "non-coercive discipline in schools"); and a teacher. In retirement, he taught a variety of courses in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Dartmouth.

He was an active member of the recovery community, sober himself for 49 years.

Last April, Barnes was diagnosed with malignant pancreatic cancer. Soon it became "dramatically clear that the medical/surgical option was not viable."

In May, he registered for Hospice care. He also chose to access MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying), made possible by the passage of Act 39 in Vermont.

Barnes thought deeply and wrote extensively about death — and living life in the face of its inevitability. For his 50th Middlebury College Reunion in 2017, he wrote an essay about death and his "partnership" with it: "The more you think about dying, the more you think about living. Death is what gives life its significance. . . . Live well; It Matters."

In May, Barnes opened a dialogue with those who chose to contribute. His page has had 8,000 visits. His powerful commentary runs to 6,200 words. He called this final part of his life "Moving into the Light":

"Simply making the effort to live in the light of the universe and its goodness and strength and love and courage is what is asked of us."

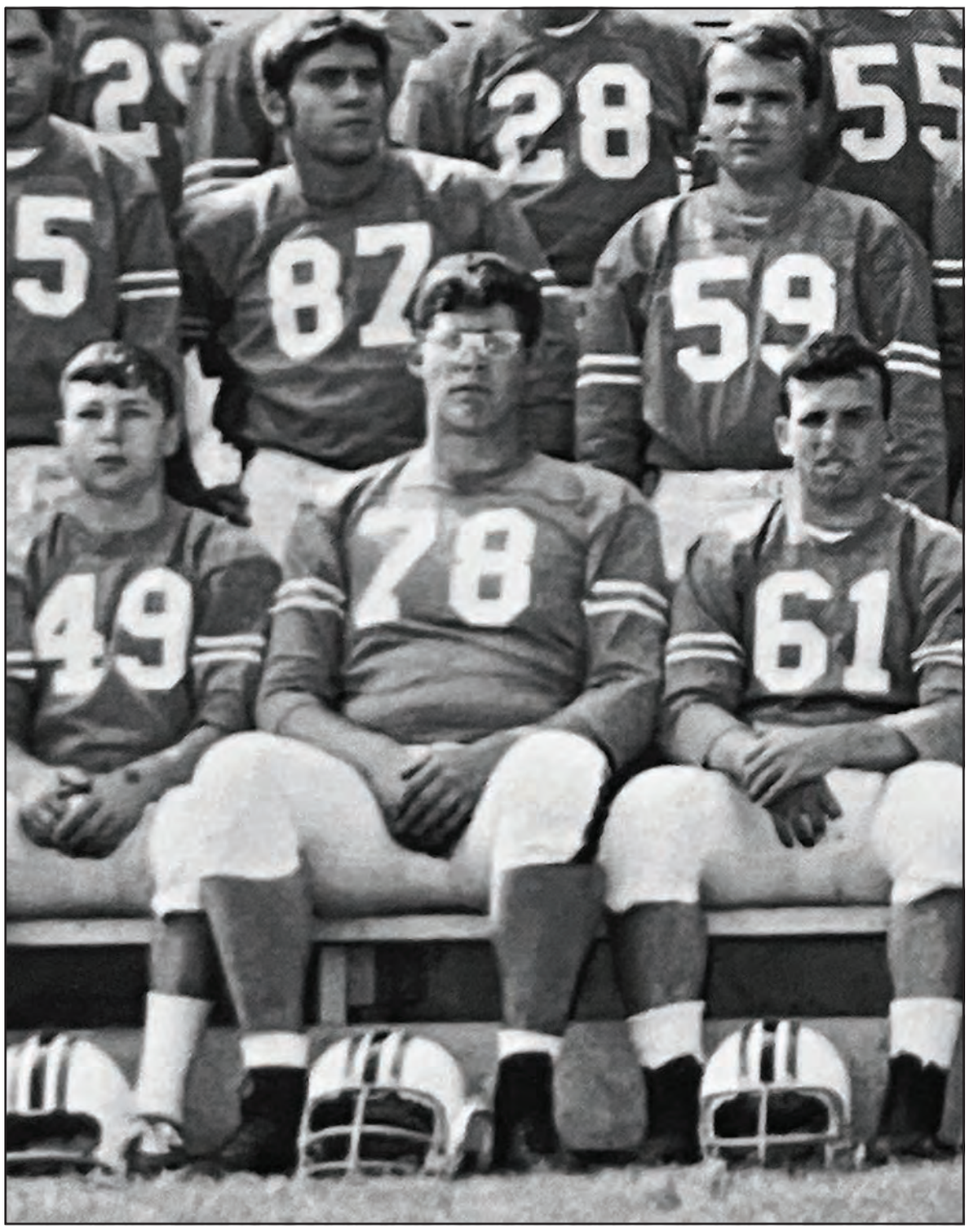
Barnes died 10 days ago, Monday, August 19.

For the past few years in the fall, Barnes had come to Middlebury for Panther football games, joining his Midd classmates Gary, Rick, and me, along with his long-time camp friend Don MacIntosh of Middlebury.

We sat together in the old-man chairs at the top of the stadium and celebrated friendship and sports, loving one another and life.

Karl Lindholm Ph.D., Middlebury '67, is the Emeritus Dean of Advising and retired Assistant Professor of American Studies. Contact him at lindholm@middlebury.edu.

IN THE SPRING of 1967, the cartoonist (KL) for *The Campus* college newspaper celebrated Barnes Boffey's signing by the Pittsburgh Steelers. Barnes wrote the intramurals column, "Bush League," for *The Campus*.



BARNES BOFFEY, NO. 78, played football for his junior and senior seasons at Middlebury College, where he graduated in 1967. That spring, the 6-foot-8, 285-pounder was signed by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

BARNES BOFFEY LEADS a cheer at Camp Lanakila in Fairlee, where he was director for 24 years.

Ratti-Bicknell

(Continued from Page 1B)

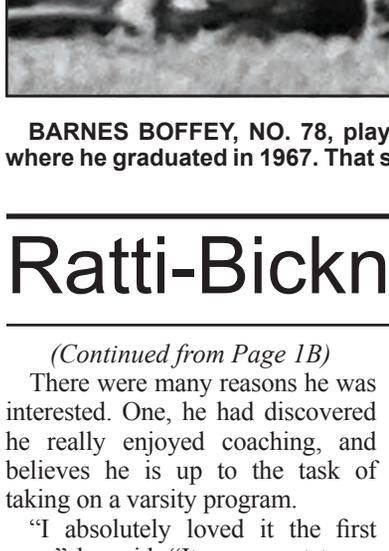
There were many reasons he was interested. One, he had discovered he really enjoyed coaching, and believes he is up to the task of taking on a varsity program.

"I absolutely loved it the first year," he said. "It was great to go back to the start of high school after just finishing college, being back where people were just starting their careers. I just fell in love with being the one they were asking questions."

Ratti-Bicknell acknowledged a learning curve — he didn't have all those answers right away.

"Not at first. They asked good questions. It was, 'What did my coaches tell me when they asked these questions?' And over time you learn, do some more research, read up on some more stuff," he said. "Now I'm feeling very confident I can help these guys grow into better, more mature players."

Also, as much as he enjoyed his time at Mount Mansfield, with a successful veteran varsity staff in place there was little chance for advancement. On top of a more reasonable commute given his move to Vergennes, Ratti-Bicknell described what was probably the most important reason for wanting to take on the MUHS job.



MAX RATTI-BICKNELL

"It's a bigger challenge," he said. "Every coach wants to move up and take on bigger responsibility and have tougher competition, and Middlebury was able to offer all of that."

> *"I'm feeling very confident I can help these guys grow into better, more mature players."*
> *— Max Ratti-Bicknell*

MUHS Athletic Director Sean Farrell in an email to the *Independent* said why Ratti-Bicknell was a strong candidate.

"Although young, Max brings valuable coaching experience from Mt. Mansfield Union High School and is a product of the Vergennes High School soccer program, both of which we hold in high regard," Farrell said. "His appointment comes with strong recommendations from representatives of these esteemed schools."

Early returns have been positive, Farrell said, even though Ratti-Bicknell missed a few days last week with an illness.

"Max has already fostered a deep connection with our players. His leadership qualities and temperament are ideally suited to guide our successful program through the 2024 season and into the future," Farrell said.

Farrell added Ratti-Bicknell will receive support from new assistant varsity coach Andrew McWilliams and returning JV boys' soccer coach August Morrison.

As far as Ratti-Bicknell's goals, he hopes the Tigers can play a fast-paced possession game under his watch.

"There's a style I like to play, and that's quick, high-tempo soccer where we make smart decisions," Ratti-Bicknell said. "There's a time and a place to play that hopeful long ball, but I favor a more patient and possession-oriented style that can quickly explode when it needs to. As I'm seeing the players, I think that's really going to work."

To play that style will require a strong level of fitness, and Ratti-Bicknell has an ace up his sleeve — a friend who works for top German league side Borussia Dortmund.

"I have a really good resource in Germany," Ratti-Bicknell said. "He's been sending me some of their fitness stuff."

He is optimistic as he joins a program that has enjoyed success in recent seasons.

"I'm really excited," Ratti-Bicknell said. "I think with what we have and what I know about the teams in the league, I think we'll be really competitive, especially in the Lake Division. We have some great senior leadership."

Eagle eye

COACH JEN MYERS keeps an eye on a Mount Abe player participating in a cone drill in a recent practice. Mount Abe visits MUHS this Saturday morning for the season opener.

Independent photo/Steve James

Field Days Dairy Conformation results

NEW HAVEN — Below are the results from the Dairy Conformation competition at the 2024 Addison County Fair and Field Days:

SPRING CALF

Ayrshire: 1. IBG Genetics Ringer Oasis, Normandie Cesario; 2. Dandelion, Boston Wilbur.

Brown Swiss: 1. Perry Brook Crazy Maisie 14463, Huxton Joyal; 2. Cher-Mi Rastarokt Jenis ET, Amelia Tudhope; 3. IBG Genetics T Shake-n-Bake, Isabella Wilbur; 4. Perry Brook My Perfection, Mia Mitchell.

Holstein: 1. Robeth Alpha Sapphire-Red, Jailee Allen; 2. Rail View Captive Oreo, Lucas Gorton; 3. Iroquois SK Gypsy, Ella Pope; 4. Woodlawn Lambda Daffodil, Isabelle Fay, 5. Four-Hills Pax Oh Baby, Kylee Shepard; 6. Woodlawn Doc Dolly, Elizabeth Fay; 7. Robeth Doc Pavlova, Payton Lucas; 8. Nea-Tocht Clyde, Greyson VanderWey; 9. Champlainside Addy, Hannah Stoker; 10. Wynsum Doc Figi, Logan Kirkpatrick; 11. Plouffe Zappa Zoey, Leone Plouffe; 12. Compagna Hasitall Lilac, Caroline Compagna.

Jersey: 1. Four-Hills Boomerang Paradise-ET, Sophee Shepard; 2. Four-Hills Knox Blake, Blake Moulton.

Munger Award — Best Spring Calf of Show: Four-Hills Boomerang Paradise-ET, Sophee Shepard.

WINTER CALF

Ayrshire: 1. Four-Hills Dynamic Dezi 71507, Bella Roell.

Brown Swiss: 1. Shleburne T Splendarific, Noa Sauve; 2. Cher-Mi Collapse Topaz, Olivia Tudhope; 3. Daona Tank Donut, Clayton Connor; 4. Plouffe Famous Musical, Desiree Plouffe.

Guernsey: 1. Digligle Queenie's Drone QPC-ETV, Thomas Allen.

Holstein: 1. Compagna Parfest Talia, Caroline Compagna; 2. Iroquois Alpha Reign-Red, Rowdy Pope; 3. Robeth Unstop Sunfire-Red, Patty Bruce; 4. Woodlawn Doc Maddie, Elizabeth Fay; 5. Campagna Handshake Arctic, Caroline Compagna; 6. Jullian Dropbox Keira, Normandie Cesario; 7. Plouffe Playoff Pink Whitnet-P, Nora Plouffe; 8. Champlainside Ison Alivia 9770 P, Sophie Stocker.

Jersey: Kellogg Bay Truly Askn-ET, Elianna Venables-Vogel; 2. Muddy Branch Boomerang Suddenly, Torrey Hanna; 3. Plouffe Hill Venetian Vanessa, Camille Plouffe; 4. Monarch Stardust Delilah, Hailey Chase.

All Other Breeds: 1. IBG Genetics Aztec Krackel-Red, Isabella Wilbur.

Plouffe Family Award — Best Winter Calf: IBG Genetics Aztec Krackel, Isabella Wilbur.

FALL Calf

Ayrshire: Blue Spruce Raddison 20395, Emma Deering; 2. Button-Bay D Strawberry Sundae, Caroline Allen; 3. Blue Spruce Autograph-Saige 20391, Paige Chamberlin; 4. Four-Hills Reynolds Swag 71210, Bella Roell.

Brown Swiss: 1. Perry Brook J. Fergilicious, Taryn Burns; 2. Allandra Tank Stellaluna, Mackenzie Chase; 3. Shleburne Timeout Emeline 361, John Belter; 4. Iroquois Acres C Weston, Alyssa Warren.

Holstein: 1. La-Ca-De-Le Tg Demi-Red-ET, Brailey Livingston; 2. Robeth Jordy Sasha-Red, Colin Chamberlin; 3. MS Dback Ray-Red, Ava Wood; 4. RVDL Analyst Dynasty-Red, Dayton Needham; 5. Plouffe Alphabet Sage, Renee Plouffe; 6. Cupcake, Payton Lucas; 7. Everywind King Doc Donagal, Mackenzie Chase.

Jersey: 1. Apple Valley Boomerang Lunatic, Ruby Hubbell; 2. Avonlea Askn For Karma-ET, Lola Rollins; 3. Rock-n-Roll Kidrock Vidalia-ET, Sutton Chittenden; 4. Four-Hills Gigawatt Babe-ET, Kylee Shepard; 5. Plouffe Hill Klearly Khole, Camille Plouffe; 6. Kay-Kowz Overall Shakira, Gracelynn Barber; 7. Rosie 2177, Ava Smith; 8. Muddy Branch Lemon Sorbet, Torrey Hanna; 9. MC Golddust Poppy, Mackenzie Chase.

Milking Shorthorn: Hafta Have TB Allure-P ET, Brailey Livingston.

All Other Breeds: 1. IBG Genetics Fireball Shotz, Isabella Wilbur.

Steve Pope Award — Best Fall Calf: La-Ca-De-Le Tg Demi, Brailey Livingston.

SUMMER YEARLING

Ayrshire: Blue Spruce Autograph Sky 20105, Colin Chamberlin.

Brown Swiss: 1. Shelburne Derringer Bonnie, Joran Hutchins; 2. Ruthless Skyhigh Wishes, Jayden Ploof; 3. Perry Brook Rastar Ludicris, Tenley Chittenden.

Guernsey: Gateway JD Penney Harlee, Sophia Roleau.

Holstein: Four-Hills On The Money, Hailey Bartlett; 2. Robeth War Potion Pie-Red ET, Isabelle Fay.

Jersey: 1. JX Cedar mtn Farm CC Bridgewater, Isabella Wilbur; 2. Rich Gen DB Millie, Lola Rollins.

Perry Brook Farm Family Award — Best Summer Yearling of Show: Gateway JD Penney Harlee, Sophia Roleau.

SPRING YEARLING

Brown Swiss: 1. Perry Brook Farm R Kunamatota-ETV, Taryn Burns; 2. Bash Bish D Pink Whitney, Tenley Chittenden; 3. Ruthless Skyhigh Ruthy, Jayden Ploof.

Holsteins: 1. Shine Diamond, Peyton Ball; 2. Robeth Loyall Petticoat, Hailee Allen; 3. Wynsum Doc Razzle, Hailey Chase; 4. Four-Hills DL Onward, Ruby Hubbell; 5. Woodlawn Tatoo Whitney, Isabelle Fay.

Jersey: 1. Pleasant Valley Exclaim Fayetta, Caroline Allen.

Brisson's Daona Farm Award ± Best Spring Yearling of Show: Perry Brook R Kunamatota, Taryn Burns.

WINTER YEARLING

Ayrshire: Four-Hills Player Delight, Bella Roell.

Brown Swiss: 1. Shelburne Timeout Peony, Noa Sauve; 2. Shelburne Tank Jane 306 Twtin, Jordan Hutchins; 3. Plouffe Rampage Malibu, Renee Plouffe; 4. Shelburne Derring Eleanor, John Belter; 5. Perry Brook Elisium Idyllic, Samuel Luis.

Holstein: 1. Robeth Doc Tiffany, Patty Bruce; 2. Blue Spruce Believe 19766, Emma Deering; 3. Robeth Warrior Shawnee-Red, Ruby Hubbell; 4., Lylehaven Perm Lashes, Greyson VanderWey.

Jersey: 1. Plouffe Hill Oliver-PT Winkie, Camille Plouffe.

All Other Breeds: 1. IBG Genetics Fireball Bette Davis IW, Brailey Livingston.

Champlainside Farms Award — Best Winter Yearling: IBG Genetics Fireball Bette Davis IW, Brailey Livingston.

FALL YEARLING

Brown Swiss: 1. Random Luck Prem Pippa ETV, Samuel Luis.

Holstein: 1. Carpsdle-J Milk Truck, Ava Wood.

Jersey: 1. Muddy Branch Dashiell Sprinter, Torrey Hanna.

Audet's Blue Spruce Farm Award — Best Fall Yearling of Show: Carpsdale-J Milk Truck, Ava Wood.

2-Year old Cow

Ayrshire: 1. Good Oak Margot Player Pineapple, Isabella Wilbur.

Holstein: 1. La-Ca-De-LeDevine-Red-ET, Brailey Livingston.

Arbutusland Farm Award — Best 2-Year Old of Show: La-Ca-De-LeDevine-Red-ET, Brailey Livingston.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

Ayrshire: Champion, Emma Deering, Fall Calf, Blue Spruce Raddison 20395; Reserve, Bella Roell, Winter Calf, Four-Hills Dynamic Dezi; Honorable Mention, Caroline Allen, Fall Calf, Button Bay D Strawberry Sundae.

Brown Swiss: Champion, Noa Sauve, Winter Calf, Shelburne T Splendarific; Reserve, Taryn Burns, Fall Calf, Perry Brook J Fergilicious; Honorable Mention, Taryn Burns, Spring Yearling, Perry Brook R Kunamatota.

Guernsey: Champion, Thomas Allen, Winter Calf, Digligle Queenie's Drone; Reserve, Sophia Roleau, Summer Yearling, Gateway JD Penney.

Holstein: Champion, Brailey Livingston, Fall Calf, Le-Ca-De-Le Tg Demi; Reserve, Colin Chamberlin, Fall Calf, Robeth Jordy Sasha; Honorable Mention, Ava Wood, Fall Yearling, Carpsdale-J Milk Truck.

Jersey: Champion, Ruby Hubbell, Fall Calf, Apple Valley Boomerang Lunatic; Reserve, Lola Rollins, Fall Calf, Avonlea Askn for Karma; Honorable Mention, Sophee Shepard, Spring Calf, Four-Hills Boomerang Paradise.

Milking Shorthorn: Champion, Brailey Livingston, Fall Calf, Hafta-Have TB Allure.

SENIOR CHAMPIONS — Cargill Award

Ayrshire: Good-Oak Margot Player Pineapple, Isabella Wilbur

Holstein: La-Ca-De-LeDevine-Red-ET, Brailey Livingston.

Grand championS — Poulin Feed Award

Ayrshire: Champion, Good-Oak Margot Player Pineapple, Isabella Wilbur; Reserve, Blue Spruce Raddison, Emma Deering; Honorable Mention, Four-Hills Dynamic Dezi, Bella Roell.

Brown Swiss: Champion, Shelburne T Splendarific, Noa Sauve; Reserve, Perry Brook J Fergil;icious, Taryn Burns; Honorable Mention, Perry Boork R Kunamatota, Taryn Burns.

Guernsey: Champion, Digligle Queenie's Drone QPC, Thomas Allen; Reserve, Gateway JDPenney Harlee, Sophia Roleau.

Holstein: Champion, La-Ca-De-Le Devine, Brailey Livingston; Reserve, La-Ca-De-Le Tg Demi, Brailey Livingston; Honorable Mention, Robeth Jordy Sasha, Colin Chamberlin.

Jersey: Champion, Apple Valley Boomerang Lunatic, Ruby Hubbell; Reserve, Avonlea Askn For Karma, Lola Rollins; Honorable Mention, Four-Hills Boomerang Paradise, Sophee Shepard.

Milking Shorthorn: Champion, Hafta Have TB Allure, Brailey Livingston.

SUPREME CHAMPION Heifer — VICTOR QUESNAL FAMILY AWARD

Hafta Have TB Allure, Brailey Livingston.

SUPREME CHAMPION — All BREEDS

(In Memory of Joyce and Frances Haggarty): La-Ca-De-Le Devine, Brailey Livingston.

Best Bred and Owned By Exhibitor

Reginald Morse Award — Best Animal Bred & Owned by 4-H Exhibitor: Caroline Allen, Button Bay Strawberry Sundae.

Kathy Peck Traverse Award — Best Ayrshire Bred & Owned: Caroline Allen, Button Bay Strawberry Sundae.

Produce of Dam

1. Brailey Livingston; 2. Isabella Wilbur & Boston Wilbur; 3. Hailey Bartlett & Kylee Shepard; 4. Torrey Hanna.

Member's Herd

1. Brailey Livingston; 2. Bella Roell; 3. Caroline Compagna; 4. Camille Plouffe; 5. Mackenzie Chase; 6. Torrey Hanna.

Club Herd

1. New Haven Diary; 2. Mt. Independence; 3. Kellogg Bay; 4. Bridport Clovers; 5. Shelburne Explorers; 6. Mountain View.

ROWDY POPE OF Bridport stands ready to show his calf at the Dairy competition at Addison Ccounty Fair and Field Days earlier in August.

Photo by Caroline Jaio

Everything but the hands

MOUNT ABE GIRLS' soccer players work on their individual ball control skills at a recent training session. Their season opens with an away game against Harwood of Friday, Aug. 31.

IIndependent photos/Steve James

Ernie Couch & Revival

Live in concert

Sept 4, 7pm, Grace Baptist Church, 52 Merchants Row, Middlebury

Free

Love offerings appreciated

Come enjoy 20th Century Gospel and Christian classics by Ernie Couch & Revival, touring from Nashville, TN.

Three generations will be bringing their live music, good humor, and genuine spirit. Many describe the group as refreshingly different, and a lot of fun.

Learn more at www.erniecouchandrevival.com or on their Facebook page at Ernie Couch & Revival.

Visit gracebaptistmiddlebury.com for more information, or call 802-236-0093.

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Kathleen Ramsay

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Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Middlebury writes:

"Great informative newspaper."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

aug 30 FRIDAY

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.

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.

sept 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.

sept 3 TUESDAY

Learn to play bridge in Middlebury. Begins Tuesday, Sept. 3, 3-5 p.m., St. Stephen's Church, 3 Main St. Have you wanted to learn bridge? Or did you play in the past and want to refresh your skills and memory? This class is for you, and the cost is free. The class last five weeks from Sept. 3-Oct. 1. To be followed by an intermediate class beginning in October. To sign up contact Barbara Pelton at peltonb@me.com or 802-349-7712.

sept 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.

sept 7 SATURDAY

Harvest fair in Rochester. Saturday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., on the park, Route 100. 35th Annual Harvest Fair. Sponsored by the White River Valley Players, live music all day, food, crafts, flower show, kids activities, and more.

Used book sale in Middlebury. Saturday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Town Hall Plaza, 77 Main St. Fully stocked with fiction and non-fiction books for all ages. Rain location Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St.

Carillonneur George Matthew Jr. in Middlebury. Saturday, Sept. 7, 5 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. This year there is a new Fall Festival on Saturdays in September and October. Free and open to the public.

sept 8 SUNDAY

Food and Farm Fest in Orwell. Sunday, Sept. 8, noon-4 p.m., on the green. A farmers market designed to boost food system resiliency and celebrate Addison and Rutland county growers, producers and makers. More info at orwellfreelibrary.org/foodandfarmfest.

Rabbi Victor E. Reichert Bible Talk in Ripton. Sunday, Sept. 8, 3 p.m., Ripton Community Church, 1329 Route 125. The Rev. Doctor Neal F. Fisher of Middlebury will talk on "The Human Prospect and God's Design." Fisher is a senior scholar and president emeritus of Garrett-Evangelical School of Theology at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. He was associate dean at Boston University School of Theology and served for many years as a United Methodist minister. All are warmly invited to this unique interfaith event. Free, with donations gratefully accepted. More info at 802-388-0338.

Green Mountain Club annual corn potluck in Middlebury. Sunday, Sept. 8, 5-8 p.m., 446 Cobble Rd. Hosted by Morris Earle. Feel free to bring a guest. Contact Morris at morrisearle@gmail.com to let him know what dish you'll bring to share.

Cards and strategy

LEARN TO PLAY bridge, what some believe to be the best card game in the world. A five-week beginners series at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Middlebury starts on Tuesday, Sept. 3, from 3-5 p.m.

sept 9 MONDAY

Fiber Arts Circle in Starksboro. Begins Monday, Sept. 9, 1 p.m., Starksboro Library, Route 116. Explore the world of fiber arts. Join us for a weekly gathering dedicated to the fiber arts. All fiber artists welcome. You do not need to be an expert to come knit, crochet, weave, embroider, sew or quilt with us. All levels welcome. Bring a friend or two and come learn a new stitch or technique and share your current projects! No registration required. Continues 1-3 p.m. every Monday.

sept 13 FRIDAY

Jim Casey (R) candidate for Addison-Rutland legislative seat in Whiting. Friday, Sept. 13, 5:30 p.m., Whiting Town Hall. Jim Casey of Hubbardton is the only candidate from either party running for this seat. The Whiting Democratic Town Committee invites voters to this informal and friendly sharing of thoughts and ideas about local (not national) issues the five-town legislative district of Whiting, Hubbardton, Sudbury, Orwell and Shoreham. All are welcome. Snacks provided.

Cub Scout Pack 539 sign-up night in Vergennes. Friday, Sept. 13, 6 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Come out and join Cub Scout Pack 539 for an evening of fun as we build and race LEGO Derby Cars during fall recruitment. Come out and see how Cub Scouting can benefit your kids. Bring your own LEGO pieces or use what we have to build, race and modify your car. Scouting leaders will be on-hand to discuss our program, events and to answer questions.

sept 14 SATURDAY

Brown's Raid reenactment in Ticonderoga, N.Y. Saturday, Sept. 14, Fort Ticonderoga. Relive the two-day battle from 1777. Now, more than 247 years later, guests will witness this real-life dramatic story unfold, as patriot Col. John Brown leads a surprise attack against British troops garrisoning Fort Ticonderoga. Continues Sunday, Sept. 15. More info at fortticonderoga.org.

Takeout roast pork supper in Vergennes. Saturday, Sept. 14, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main St., across from the Opera House. Menu includes roast pork, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetable, applesauce, roll and dessert for $12. Take out only. Preorder only at 802-877-3150 before 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12.

sept 15 SUNDAY

TAM Trek in Middlebury. Sunday, Sept. 15, 7:30 a.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Get some exercise and raise funds for the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM). Nothing beats early fall's trail racing weather! For registration and more information, visit runsignup.com/Race/VT/Middlebury/TAMTrek.

Tour de Farms in Shoreham. Sunday, Sept. 15, check in at 8:30 a.m., town green. Come ride and enjoy the best that Vermont has to offer — from glorious scenery to delicious samples of foods that are grown or produced here in Addison County. Choose a 30-mile ride or a 10-mile ride each with farm stops along the way. Enjoy the Shoreham Apple Fest Post Ride. More info and registration at acornvt.org/tourdefarms.

Ferrisburgh Day in Ferrisburgh. Sunday, Sept. 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., locations around town. Celebrates Ferrisburgh's community with food, music, games, vendors and more. More info contact Ashley LaFlam at unionmeetinghall@gmail.org.

Apple Fest in Shoreham. Sunday, Sept. 15, noon-4 p.m., gazebo and town green. Join us for delicious food, live music from Snake Mountain Bluegrass, an apple pie contest, and a farmers' and makers' market. Pulled pork lunch available for purchase while food lasts (cash only), as well as mac-n-cheese, slaw, apple desserts, cider, and more. Browse the farmers' market for fresh fruit and veggies, flowers, handmade gifts, local wine, and more. 50/50 raffle, sno-cones, kids activities and live music. Free admission. All sales proceeds benefit the Friends of the Platt Memorial Library.

Lake Champlain Bridge guided walk in Addison. Sunday, Sept. 15, 1-3 p.m., Chimney Point State Park, Route 17W. Learn the history of what surrounds you as you walk across the Lake Champlain Bridge. Chimney Point site administrator Elsa Gilbertson and Crown Point, N.Y., site manager Sam Huntington lead this guided round trip walk. Meet at Chimney Point. Rain or shine, dress for the weather. Bring a picnic to enjoy before. $9 Fee includes admission to both museums. Light refreshments afterwards.

sept 20 FRIDAY

Atlatl workshop in Addison. Friday, Sept. 20. Noon-5 p.m., Chimney Point State Historic Site, Route 17W. Atlatl experts Bob and Cheryll Berg of Thunderbird Atlatl teach traditional and modern techniques of atlatl and dart construction, flint knapping, hafting stone points and cordage making. Enjoy atlatl lore and coaching on the use of your new atlatl. Cost $70. Pre-registration required. Fee includes instruction and materials. More info call 802-759-2412.

"Music, Magic and Chocolates" fundraiser in Middlebury. Friday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Come celebrate the grand opening of Adagio Chocolates and enjoy a night of music, magic and chocolate tastings at Town Hall Theater, Professional sleight of hand artist Christopher McBride followed by dancing with the jazz/rock/hip hop sounds of Japhy Ryder. Chocolate tastings in the Jackson Gallery with variety of bean-to-bar samples and raffles, cash bar, light fare, and information about donations and further involvement with flood relief from the Vermont Community Foundation. Tickets $15 to $55, available at townhalltheater.org. All proceeds will go to flood relief.

sept 21 SATURDAY

Ilsley Library 100th Birthday Bash in Middlebury. Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. A full day of activities at the library and around town, culminating with a birthday party in the library lobby at 3 p.m. The winners of the Cake Bakeoff will be announced, we'll sing happy birthday to our beloved library, and everyone will enjoy cake and ice-cream. For a full schedule, and bake-off details visit ilsleypubliclibrary.org.

Addison County Energy Fair in Vergennes. Saturday Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., City Park, 179 Main St. Attend live workshops and demos. Speak to more than 30 vendors on energy strategies and solutions within transportation, weatherization, solar and more. Learn from representatives of businesses, non-profit and public organizations. Food, music, raffle, downtown parking and Tri-Valley Transit bus stops nearby.

Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship in Addison. Saturday, Sept. 21, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Chimney Point State Historic Site, Route 17W. Participate in or watch this annual atlatl championship testing skills in accuracy and distance. The sport of using the atlatl to throw darts is based on the ancient hunting technique. Newcomers to experts welcome. Flint-knapping demonstrations and lessons throughout the day. Pre-registration $12 for competitors. Visitors $6 adult/free under 15. More info at tinyurl.com/atlatl-2024.

Mingle at the Museum in Middlebury. Saturday, Sept. 21, 5-7 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The Henry Sheldon Museum kicks off the foliage season with an early evening fall fundraiser to support the Museum's exhibitions and programs. Enjoy tasty finger foods, beverages, and live music. $40 per person standard, $75 per person generous. For more information visit www.henrysheldonmuseum.org or call 802-388-2117.

CALENDARONLINE

addisonindependent.com

Couple seeks to meet housing needs

They have opened their home to others

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON — Addison residents Jan Louise and John Ball have often opened their door to those in need of a place to stay.

They've welcomed several individuals into their home on Mountain Road over the years, whether it be someone from out of state seeking housing in Vermont or a friend needing to get out of their current living situation.

"My mom was like that, folks would come by on Sunday morning, and she would lovingly start cooking more food. She was also the village 'animal rescuer,'" Jan Louise said during a recent interview. "I believe when you grow up with those values it's just something that you always live."

Now, the pair is looking to share their home with fellow community members on a larger scale. They're currently gauging interest in creating a co-op housing or homesharing arrangement, starting with their home in Addison and a bungalow in Bristol the couple has been renting out for several years.

They see the homesharing model as an opportunity to build community and help meet local housing needs.

"At this moment, with the housing situation as it is, there are so many people that cannot find a nest that they can afford," Jan Louise said. "The home share, co-op, idea has really snowballed for me in my heart because something has to be done for the homeless and the hungry."

Homes are getting more expensive: the median sales price of primary homes was up 5% in 2023 to $325,000, and the price of new homes jumped by 11% to $616,500, according to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency. Costs to rent have also been going up.

A dearth of affordable housing has prompted more and more people around the country to embrace the homesharing model in recent years. In many cases, older Americans are renting out vacant rooms in their homes to younger housemates.

Through homesharing, two or more housemates share a common space, and often, responsibilities around the house. Services like HomeShare Vermont have become a popular means for matching prospective tenants with hosts.

Co-op housing centers around a similar idea, in which individuals collectively own and help run the property.

Jan Louise Ball said the pair lived in a similar type of community in southwestern New Mexico around 36 years ago. Members of the community lived in their own spaces with shared common areas like a dining hall.

"It was pretty magical," she said.

ADDISON RESIDENT JAN Louise Ball and her husband, John, are hoping to help meet local housing needs and boost community by developing a home-sharing arrangement with their properties in Addison and Bristol. They're currently looking to gauge local interest in the idea.
Independent photo/Marin Howell

"In community living, working with food, playing music together, and sharing childcare. We had a Montessori school for our children. It was a very rich experience, that most folks are missing out on"

Jan Louise has long dreamed of creating a home sharing arrangement in the Green Mountain State.

She and John have lived at their home in Addison for more than three decades. Nestled at the base of Snake Mountain, the four-acre property includes a flourishing garden and a yurt that former housemates have stayed in.

Around seven years ago, Jan Louise stumbled upon a bungalow coming on the market in Bristol, a town the couple had looked to move to prior to finding their home in Addison. They lived in the Bristol house for a few years during the pandemic and have rented it out to several tenants.

Jan Louise said when the latest tenant vacated the space it prompted the pair to see if they could make a go of home sharing.

The hope is to use the couple's houses in Bristol and Addison as the base homes of the homesharing arrangement. Jan Louise said that those interested in being a part of the idea would help shape it, with the possibility for each home to be a space for individuals with similar interests.

Inhabitants would all buy into the co-op with everyone paying the same monthly rent.

"It would be a placement kind of thing also in the respect that if someone lived in Burlington for years and all of a sudden their son graduated, they could find a place in Middlebury that would fit them," Jan Louise said.

She noted her longtime dream for the Addison property has been to co-create a "seven sisters healing sanctuary" with other local women. That dream is continuing to evolve, with more information to come for those interested in being a part of the community.

Jan Louise noted that nothing is set in stone and that ultimately prospective housemates would work together to orchestrate the arrangement.

"I just keep thinking and feeling, if we can just get these two homes going (in Bristol and Addison), then the seed will be planted, and others will be inspired to grow into it," she said.

If put in motion, Jan Louise sees the homesharing model as an opportunity to help meet local housing needs and make use of space available in area homes.

"It could serve so many people," she said. "I have friends of all ages who are struggling to just have a home."

She feels the arrangement could also help boost community at a time when loneliness is on the rise throughout the country.

> *"I just keep thinking and feeling, if we can just get these two homes going (in Bristol and Addison), then the seed will be planted, and others will be inspired to grow into it."*
>
> — *Jan Louise Ball*

"Not just having your own space (in a house) but working together and making sure that everybody is getting what they need, rather than 'Oh you live in that room, and I live in this room,' it becomes a community," Jan Louise said. "We are designed for tribal living, but we put ourselves in separate dwellings and give up that experience on a day to day basis."

Currently, the couple is looking to share the idea with others in the community and connect with anyone interested in pursuing it. Jan Louise said community members of all ages and interests are welcome to be a part of the effort.

"Mostly that's what we need at this point, is people who would get excited about it and step forward and go 'Wow, I really want to be a part of helping you do that,'" she said.

The Balls can be reached at johnhball@aol.com or 802-759-2058.

Getting out the vote

ABOUT A DOZEN activists rallied for their preferred presidential candidate on Court Square in Middlebury on the afternoon of this past Friday, Aug. 23, as part of a statewide series of rallies to get out the vote. Jim Rowe, front left, is a Huntington resident who was formerly a dairy farmer in Orwell.
Independent photo/Steve James

Lincoln

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — It's back to school time. Welcome back to all returning students, teachers and staff and welcome to all those beginning their first year. Just a gentle reminder to pay a little extra attention to students walking and riding their bikes to and from school. Please also be mindful when encountering a school bus. Please stop if the lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended. Wishing all the students, teachers and staff a safe and fun school year!

Sign-ups are now available for youth soccer at Lincoln Community School. All students are welcome at every grade level. Teams are co-ed and consist of grades PreK & K (must be age 4 and up), 1/2, 3/4 and grades 5/6. There will be both home and away games for all teams except PreK & K.

Coaches of each LCS team will be in contact with parents of players via email throughout the season communicating when/where times and weather cancellations. Shin guards are required and cleats are helpful starting at grades 1/2. LCS has a box of cleats to borrow, trade or keep.

If your student is interested in playing soccer, please register at www.lincolnsports.org/soccer. If you are interested in coaching, please email Sean Grzyb at sgrzyb@middlebury.edu.

A brand-new season of music is back at Burnham Hall on Saturday nights. Burnham Presents welcomes Pine Tree Flyers on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Four of the finest voices in New England's traditional music scene shine a renewed light on the tunes of the Northeast with excitement and respect. All residents of Portland, Maine, Katie McNally (fiddle), Emily Troll (accordion), Owen Marshall (guitar), and Neil Pearlman (piano) cut their teeth playing for contra dances and learning from the greats. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20 general admission and $25 generous admission. Homemade refreshments will be available.

The library has received a number of requests for help with aspects of phone and tablet use so they would like to offer a help session once a week. They are looking for a few more people who would be willing to help field questions from folks in our community. Are you a teen with community service hour needs? Are you a person who likes to help people figure out tricks to using their phones? If so, the library is looking for you. Email Wendy at lincolnlibraryvt@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer or if you would be interested in receiving this help.

FROM THE TOWN

The ballot mailing list for the Nov. 5 General Election is being updated now and will be final by Sept. 2. If you do nothing, your ballot will be sent to the mailing address on file. If you will be out of the country, in the military, away at school or wish to receive your ballot somewhere other than home, please let the town clerk's office know as soon as possible.

Please log in to mvp.vermont.gov to be sure your voter record and mailing address are correct. On the My Voter Page, verify and edit your basic information, then request your ballot with any address change for this election. If you have recently moved into or out of Lincoln, you will need to register in your new location in order to receive your ballot.

Voting in person will still be available, but please bring your ballot with you to the polling place, otherwise you will be required to complete an affidavit before you can get another one issued to you. Ballots will not be forwarded to you, so if you do not receive your ballot by Oct. 7, contact your town clerk and we will help you. Ballots received after 7 p.m. on Nov. 5 will not be counted.

Until next time … Begin And End Your Day With Gratitude And Joy. Today Is The Day To Let Go Of Things That No Longer Serve You.

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The 2024 Addy Indy Garden Game

We had just two entries in this week's Garden Game, but they were both stunning!

First up, **Gary Miller** wowed us with a vibrant green pepper measuring an impressive 15" C x 13" C. Gary shared that his garden is thriving this year, and his beautiful pepper certainly proves it, taking the top spot this week!

Our final entry was a breathtaking sunflower grown by **Ed Blechner**, with a diameter of 11.25", it'll be a tough one to beat. Despite Ed saying that this has been his worst gardening year ever, his sunflowers have flourished.

There's still plenty of time left in this year's growing season, so don't forget to bring in your entries for the Garden Game. We can't wait to see what other incredible plants our community is growing!

Play the Garden Game!

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

**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) - Gary Miller, 15" x 13"
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) - Ed Blechner, 11.25"
Tomato (circumference) - Chris and Scott Totten, 18.75"
Turnip (circumference)
Winter Squash (length x circumference)
Zucchini (length x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 21.5" x 16.5"

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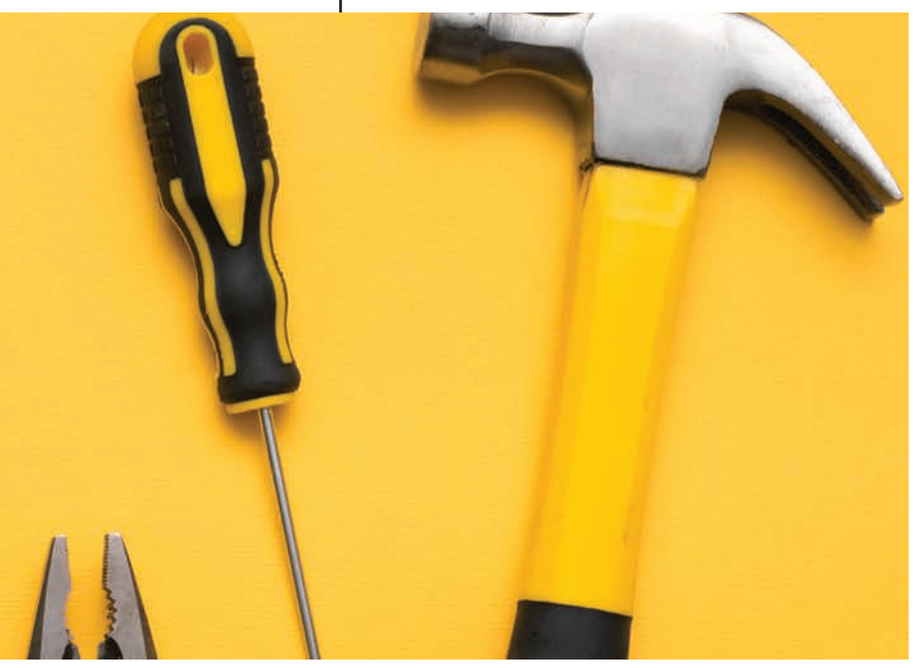

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AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that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

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

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

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

Public Meetings

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

Public Meetings

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PUPPIES NEED HOME 2 Akc Reg male & female Yorkie puppies free to a good home if interested contact: danamorgan189@gmail.com

Help Wanted

TOWN OF SHOREHAM Vermont
ESTABLISHED OCTOBER 8, 1761

Highway Maintenance Assistant

The Town of Shoreham is accepting applications for a full-time Highway Maintenance Assistant. Applicants should have: a CDL or the ability to obtain one; experience running equipment; mechanical ability. This job offers competitive wages and benefits, including health insurance, retirement plan, and paid time off.

Pick up an application
- at the Shoreham Town Office
- on the town's website www.shorehamvt.us/employment
- by emailing shorehamtown@shorehamvt.us

Completed applications can be dropped off at or mailed to:
Town of Shoreham
297 Main Street
Shoreham, VT 05770

Help Wanted

TOWN OF GOSHEN · VERMONT · 1792

TOWN OF GOSHEN TOWN TREASURER

The Town of Goshen is seeking an organized and motivated candidate for its **Town Treasurer.**

The 10-15 hour per week position offers the flexibility to set their regular office hours and work in a community of approximately 160 people located in Addison County, Vermont.

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

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

The position is advertised until filled.

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

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

Help Wanted

Starksboro VERMONT

Town Administrator

The Town of Starksboro seeks an experienced and motivated administrative professional to help manage the administrative responsibilities of the town. This is a part-time position starting at 18-24 hours/week.

The Selectboard is searching for a candidate with strong business and managerial skills, grant administration experience, and knowledge of community planning issues. Municipal knowledge and grant administration experience are required. A college degree or equivalent professional experience is required. A detailed job description is available at www.starksborovt.org

The TA reports to the Selectboard and is responsible for planning, organizing, and coordinating the affairs of the town. This position plays an essential role in town operations and will work cooperatively with the Town Clerk to serve the Starksboro community.

To apply, please send a confidential cover letter, resume, and professional references to:

Starksboro Selectboard, PO Box 91, Starksboro, VT 05487 or email to dschmidt@starksborovt.org

Salary to be determined based on experience. Prorated health insurance and other benefits to be determined. Applications accepted until position is filled, preferred by Sept. 18.

EOE.

Help Wanted

Experienced Carpenters Wanted!

Are you an experienced carpenter in the Addison County area and looking for a new opportunity to showcase your skills?

Join Our Team!

Our leading construction company is seeking talented carpenters to join our dynamic team. With a reputation for excellence and a commitment to quality, we offer a rewarding work environment where your expertise will be valued.

We offer competitive pay and a comprehensive benefits package.

Please send resume and brief cover letter outlining your experience to admin@smithmcclain.com.

Come build with us!

Smith & McClain — A BUILDING COMPANY

Help Wanted

MAPLEFIELDS

STORE MANAGERS

Two Openings - Middlebury and Vergennes

Store Managers at Maplefields are expected to lead their team to success by training their staff members effectively every day and by giving them opportunity to grow, learn and develop their skills. Your primary goal will be to set a positive tone and encourage the best customer service.

Benefits include: Paid vacation time • Paid personal/sick time/holidays • Health, dental, vision and supplemental insurance plans are available • 401k plan also available • Substantial bonus potential • Opportunity for advancement.

If you have at least one year in a supervisory/management role in retail and/or food service, dependable transportation, a valid driver's license and auto insurance, we want to meet you!

Come to our in-house Job Fair at Middlebury Maplefields on Thursday , Sept. 5 from 10AM to 6PM, 60 North Pleasant Street. We will be conducting on-the-spot interviews, and you can meet and speak with our other store managers!

Opportunities

Seeking a driver for Thursday paper delivery.

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

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

Competitive wages/a great way to make extra money!

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Contact us at: (802)388-4944 or frontdesk@addisonindependent.com

Opportunities

RSVP is Seeking Handmade Hats, Mittens, & Blankets

We are looking for volunteers to make hats (all sizes), mittens (all sizes), and blankets. We can help provide some materials.

If you would like to volunteer, please call us at 802-468-7056.

AmeriCorps Seniors

Addison Independent

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

ADDISON INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-4944
addisonindependent.com • email: classifieds@addisonindependent.com

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

RATES

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

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

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

☐ Notices	☐ Work Wanted	☐ Att. Farmers
☐ Card of Thanks	☐ Help Wanted	☐ Motorcycles
☐ Personals	☐ For Sale	☐ Cars
☐ Services	☐ Public Meetings**	☐ Trucks
☐ Free**	☐ For Rent	☐ SUVs
☐ Lost 'N Found**	☐ Want to Rent	☐ Snowmobiles
☐ Garage Sales	☐ Wood Heat	☐ Boats
☐ Lawn & Garden	☐ Real Estate	☐ Wanted
☐ Opportunities	☐ Animals	☐ Real Estate Wanted
☐ Adoption		☐ Vacation Rentals

** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ $2

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Garage Sales

ITEMS FOR SALE Starting 8/31 to 9/2 at 96 Gove Hill Rd in Lincoln. Items include a new Brush Guard for a Nissan Titan, tires and rims for a Jeep, TV and outdoor antenna, chairs and a cot, pre-lit Christmas tree w/bag, Country singer records, movies, winter clothes, and more. Rain or shine from 9 to 3. Call 802-453-5053 for information.

Garage Sales

MEGA MULTI-FAMILY SALE Sale includes dark pine hutch and dry sink, curio, metal privacy screen, Labatt mountain bike, race car bed, mechanics seat, floor jack, western saddle, collectibles: precious moments, snow babies, Breyer, decoys, airplanes, pedal cars, Budweiser steins, glasses and advertising tins. 8am-4pm; 5543 VT RT 125, Bridport, VT. 8/30-9/2.

Garage Sales

ONE DAY SALE Fine antiques and art: 19th c Americana, as-found corner and step back cupboard, painted chairs; Chinese and Tibetan furniture, ceramics, ancestor and landscape paintings, Buddha statues and erotica; antique African masks and statutes; 6 Russian icons; carved bridal loom and weaving equipment, Victorian silver plate tea set, European folk art painted furniture, lots of small antique decorative items. Cash or Vermont checks, for additional information or detailed listing: (802) 623-8075

TWO-FAMILY YARD SALE, Saturday, August 31, 9am-3 pm and Sunday, September 1, 9am-1 pm. Household, furniture, tools, books, antique and other toys, old school desks, women's clothing and shoes, old apple barrels, garden items, huge variety miscellaneous. 3640 and 3641 Route 22A, Addison, 1.5 miles north of Route 17 and approx. 5 miles south of Vergennes. Sale on both sides of 22A. Use caution when parking and crossing the highway. No early birds.

WOODWORKER GARAGE SALE Saturday, August 31, 8:30am-2pm. 15 Daigneault Hill Road, Orwell. Pocket Cutter, Table Saw, 16 inch belt sander, shaper, Drill press, wood planner, complete dust collector system, hand tools, storage, nuts and bolts. Cash only.

Help Wanted

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-2025 VACANCY

Slate Valley Unified Union School District is looking for a Social Emotional Coach who works with students in grades 7-12 to assist students in problem-solving skills, goal setting, and restitution when struggling with self-regulation and following school expectations.

The student support coach will work collaboratively with social-emotional interventionist, 504 & EST Coordinators to develop and implement proactive support plans for students needing instruction and reinforcement with self-regulation skills.

For additional information contact Ben Worthing, FHUMHS Co-Principal, at bworthing@svuvt.org

Apply at: https://slatevalley.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx

Position will remain open until filled.

EOE

Help Wanted

✓

AMERICAN FLATBREAD MIDDLEBURY Hearth is seeking a part time Bartender to work both independently and alongside our talented Head Bartender. We are looking for a mature, energetic individual who enjoys the excitement of a busy restaurant, loves wholesome food & creative beverages, a warm fire and interesting conversation. Must be available nights and weekends, have a positive attitude, and enthusiasm for learning new things. Prior bartending experience is preferred. We are an inclusive environment and encourage applicants from all legally working age groups, races, and gender identities. Stop in for an application or send resume to joe@american-flatbread.com.

WAITSTAFF NEEDED FOR busy family Restaurant. Nights and weekends a must. Apply in person Rosie's Restaurant, Rt 7 South, Middlebury.

Help Wanted

COLLATERAL RECOVERY AGENCY looking for Full Time, Part Time and Weekend help. We repossess defaulted collateral for banks and financial institutions. Must have good Driving record, Criminal record cannot have any felonies. We are willing to train the right person. This work allows you to meet a variety of people, see many different places and learn a new skill. If you are not sure if you meet hiring criteria give us a call. Nervous about being able to be a Repossession Agent, we have positions available for transporting units, and rider positions. We have flexible scheduling options, give us a call and discuss what you may be interested in. We offer in-house training and support. To apply, send a resume to East Coast Recovery, P.O. Box 1328, Middlebury, VT 05753, call 802-382-1659 or email our hiring manager at tammy.delphia@yahoo.com.

For Sale

2007 HONDA REBEL motorcycle, 250cc, red. 3448 miles, $2,750. 2024 Sunlight 19' camper, used very little, $12,500. 802-759-2461.

3 ITEMS FOR SALE Aluminum extension ladder, 14-28 feet. Stove, cast iron, good shape. Craftsman snowblower. Lawn mower, battery powered, Ryobi. Extension ladder, multi position. $75 for each item. Call Paul: 388-2812.

ITEMS FOR SALE Ekornes Stressless Magic Office Chair in Paloma Chocolate for $1250. In great shape, reclines and swivels. Plus four new Yokohama Geolander G91 All-season tires, size 225/60 r1799h. $160 each. Call 802-453-5067 for information.

ITEMS FOR SALE Kenmore Freezer model number 18313401300. 33 and a half in tall and 2 ft by 2 in wide. Runs great, $100. Plus Toro TimeCutter Z4200 Zero-Turn Mower. Excellent condition with low hours, $1200. 802-458-1688.

LOOKING TO SELL 3 Operation Care and Repair of Farm Machinery Manuals for John Deere, circa 1950's, $300 or best offer. Plus two Black Forest Cuckoo Clocks from Germany. Call for information (802)-877-2255.

Vacation Rentals

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

For Rent

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

✓

ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

BRANDON - quiet tenants wanted. 1 bedroom apartment. Heat/hot water included. Washer/dryer hookup. No pets. References. Lease. First, last and security deposit. $975/month. 802-247-3708.

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

For Rent

THE MEADOWS
Middlebury, VT

We are currently accepting applications for our waiting list.

Eligible applicants pay 30% of their adjusted income for rent.

For more information, please write or call the rental management agent.

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

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

For Rent

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

MIDDLEBURY SUGARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply- Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

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

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

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

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

Wood Heat

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

Att. Farmers

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.

Cars

2007 CHEVY COBALT coupe. Daily driver. Needs work for inspection. $1,000. OBO. 802-377-5427.

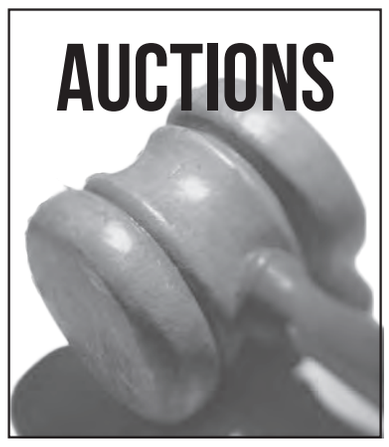
Real Estate

Real Estate

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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.



MARKET REPORT
ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 8/22/24 & 8/26/24

BEEF	LBS.	COST /LB	$
Gosliga	1940	1.60	$3104.00
Westminster	1660	1.60	$2656.00
Correia Ltd.	1565	1.60	$2504.00
A. Brisson	1835	1.48	$2715.80
Vorsteveld	1605	1.48	$2375.40
Monument	1835	1.45	$2660.75
Clifford Farms	1580	1.40	$2212.00

CALVES	LBS.	COST /LB	$
Westminster	76	10.00	$760.00
Nolan Farm	88	9.00	$792.00
Vorsteveld	91	8.25	$750.75
Wilcon Farm	98	8.00	$784.00
H. Degraaf	84	8.00	$672.00
Barnes Bros.	90	7.60	$684.00

Total Beef - 168 Total Calves - 210
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this *ADDISON INDEPENDENT* on **Pages 9B and 10B.**

Act 250 (1)
Addison Central School District (1)
Addison County Courthouse (1)
Addison (2)
Bridport (1)
Bristol (1)
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (1)
Ferrisburgh (2)
Goshen (2)
Middlebury (2)
Orwell (1)
Salisbury (1)
Vergennes (2)

TOWN OF ADDISON
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, September 16, 2024 at the Addison Community Center at 6:30 PM.

1. Open the meeting.
2. Roll call given.
3. Katie Raycroft-Meyer for presentation on Chapters 3 & 4 revisions for Town Plan, 6:30 – 7:30 PM, before we continue with our business meeting.
4. Approve meeting minutes for August 19, 2024 & continue the business meeting.
5. Public Comment time allowed (beginning & end if deemed necessary).
6. Discuss definitions & work revisions for School, Daycare & Preschool. ** DISCUSS THE TOWN SURVEY
7. Discussion on public hearing results—decision to pass the Revised Zoning Regulations to the Selectboard for their input or approve them. Continue to work on updating & reviewing the Zoning & Subdivision Regulations & public hearing outcome.
8. If time, we may decide to work on the comments from the public hearing or Town Survey.
9. Adjourn.

If needed allow public comment time at the end.
**Deliberative Session if needed - after the meeting.

Jeff Kauffman Jr., Chair
Starr Phillips, Secretary
Addison Planning Commission

TOWN OF SALISBURY
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold a Public Hearing in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, to consider the following:

Application 2024-07: An application from Property Owner Brett J. Dunham (parcel ID #0608014), 310 Middle Road, in connection with a proposed two-lot subdivision, total 3 lots, (Minor subdivision), Lot 1 -2.38acres, Lot 2 -3.34acres, and Lot 3 - 2.07acres, from a 7.83-acre lot. This property affects and is located at 310 Middle Road and is zoned in the Low-Density Residential District, (LDR).

This application is pursuant to §2.4.3E, §6.0.1(3), §6.0.5, & 6.5.1 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

Participation (either oral or written) is a prerequisite to an interested person's right to take any subsequent appeal from the DRB's decision. See 24 V.S.A. §4465(b) and §4471.

These hearings will be conducted with in-person and remote access. Those wishing to participate remotely must obtain the necessary remote access codes. Access codes (for online or phone) are available by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk during regular business hours prior to 3:00 PM on September 17, 2024. The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours.

Anna Scheck
DRB Clerk

ACT 250 NOTICE
MINOR APPLICATION #9A0331-3
10 V.S.A. §§ 6001 - 6111

Willowell Foundation, Inc., has filed application #9A0331-3 for a project generally described as construction of a ±1,440 square-foot preschool ("Wren's Nest Forest Preschool") upon a ±2.69-acre parcel within a previously approved 16-lot residential subdivision. The project is located upon Lot 3 of the Harvey Road/Aaron Thomas Subdivision in Bristol, Vermont. The application may be viewed on the Natural Resources Board's Act 250 Database (https://anrweb.vt.gov/ANR/Act250/default.aspx) by entering project number "9A0331-3."

No hearing will be held, and a permit will be issued unless, on or before Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 4:30 PM, a party notifies the District 9 Commission in writing of an issue requiring a hearing, or the Commission sets the matter for a hearing on its own motion. Any person as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1) may request a hearing. Any hearing request must be in writing, must state the criteria or sub-criteria at issue, why a hearing is required, and what additional evidence will be presented at the hearing. Any hearing request by an adjoining property owner or other person eligible for party status under 10 V.S.A. § 6085(c)(1)(E) must include a petition for party status under the Act 250 Rules. To request party status and a hearing, fill out the Party Status Petition Form on the Board's website: https://nrb.vermont.gov/documents/party-status-petition-form, and email it to the District 9 Office at: NRB.Act250Barre@vermont.gov. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law may not be prepared unless the Commission holds a public hearing.

For more information contact the District 9 Coordinator listed below.

Josh Donabedian
Joshua.Donabedian@vermont.gov
Mail: 10 Baldwin Street, Montpelier VT 05633-3201
Physical: 111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
NOTICE OF HEARING THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold the following public hearing to be held September 4th, 2024, at the Town Hall.

Application Number 24-080: Waiver; Accessory Use Structure; Applicant(s) Melinda Hinsdale; Property ID #08/20/13; 19 O'Bryan Lane; Shoreland (SD-2) District; conditional use

The above files are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

VERMONT SOAP
SOAP FOR THE PEOPLE

Production Team Members

Vermont Soap is looking for attentive, reliable and responsible people to work in our production department.

This position requires basic computer skills, attention to detail, the ability to sit or stand for long periods of time and the ability to lift up to 50lbs. Must be a team player and also able to work independently.

This is a full time position (Mon-Fri 7-3:30) with paid vacation time, paid holidays, 401k with employer match, and more!

Please send cover letter and resume to nichole@vermontsoap.com.

Hope
Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects

We're looking for a few new team members!

Front Office Receptionist
to answer phones, greet visitors, assist with various other tasks.
Part- time, afternoons

Marion's Place Warehouse Assistant
to assist customers and shoppers, prep items for the sales floor, maintain orderliness of warehouse sales floor, more.
Full time, Tues – Sat

Marion's Place Retail Associate
to provide customer service, operate cash register, maintain cleanliness and order of sales floor, assist with prepping donated clothing, and more. Part-time

Qualifications: Excellent communication skills, ability to lift 25 pounds, be a team player, and should have relevant work experience.

To apply, send resume and brief letter of interest to receptionist@hope-vt.org, mail to 282 Boardman Street in Middlebury or drop off on a weekday.

Public Notices can be found in this *ADDISON INDEPENDENT* on **Pages 9B and 10B.**

CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2024, 7pm as the second order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review for Application #2024-26 by Carol Fenimore to create a two-lot Subdivision at the property located at 28 South Maple St. Reviews will consider Article IX and Section 1603.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by ZOOM, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.

Join by computer: https://us02web.zoom.us/J/85906470948, meeting password: 689859.

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; Meeting ID: 842-5290-1890; Meeting Passcode: 689859.

For participants joining by phone: To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9. To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6 If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

You must participate in the public hearing either in person or in writing, in order to take any subsequent appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" appeal municipality with regard to appeals to Environmental Court from Development Review Board decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider testimony or information provided during public hearings on the application. Interested parties should therefore assure that their participation in the public hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their desired considerations.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.

August 26, 2024
David Austin,
Zoning Administrator

HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF ORWELL
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The Orwell Development Review Board will meet in person on Wednesday, September 18th, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

By Zoom **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88129886127**
or phone 1-646-558-8656
use meeting ID: #881 2988 6127 to conduct the following business:

1. Permit #5-18-24: Michael E Downey, Marion M Downey Michael C Downey 2 Lot Subdivision Final Plat Review located between 6 & 84 Knox Hill Road.

2. Permit #7-20-24: Horace (Bud) Carpenter/BCI Construction for a 2 Lot Subdivision Sketch Plan located at 283 North Orwell Road, Orwell, VT.

Information pertaining to this matter may be viewed M, T, Th 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00, W 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:30 & Fri 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-6:00 at the Orwell Town Clerk's Office located at 436 Main Street, Orwell, VT.

Joseph Andriano, Chair
Orwell Development Review Board

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REMOVE SHADE TREES
At Middlebury Town Offices, 77 Main Street
TREE WARDEN
TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT
24 V.S.A. § 2509

Unless appealed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2509(c), 15 days after posting this public notice of intent to cut and remove shade trees as needed for the upcoming renovation/expansion of the Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main Street.

If the cutting and removal is appealed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2509(c), the legislative body of the municipality will hold a public hearing.

Date of Posting: Thursday, August 29, 2024

15-Day Notice Period Ends: Friday, September 13, 2024

Please contact Middlebury Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay, 802-458-8000, kramsay@townofmiddlebury.org, or Tree Warden Chris Zeoli, zeolitrees@gmail.com, for additional information about this notice and procedure.

Signed,
Chris Zeoli
Tree Warden

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
NOTICE OF TERMS OF PROPOSED REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE PURSUANT TO 24 V.S.A. §1061(a)(1)

The Town of Ferrisburgh hereby provides notice of the terms of a proposed conveyance of real estate owned by the Town of Ferrisburgh pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1061(a)(1).

The Selectboard of the Town of Ferrisburgh (the "Seller") intends to sell the Former Methodist Brown Church, located at 3323 U.S. Route 7 in Ferrisburgh, Vermont, together with the lot upon which the church stands, to Blue Moon Property Group, LLC (the "Purchaser") for the purchase price of One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000). The description of the property to be conveyed is all and the same lands and premises conveyed in a Quit Claim Deed from Ferrisburg Center Methodist Church (f/k/a The Methodist Episcopal Church of Ferrisburgh and a/k/a Ferrisburgh Center United Methodist Church) to the Town of Ferrisburgh dated December 30, 2022, and recorded in the Ferrisburgh Land Records in Book 178 at Pages 525-526 (the "Property").

The conveyance shall occur via quitclaim deed, and, as a condition of sale, the quitclaim deed from the Town to the Purchaser conveying the Property shall include covenants, easements, exceptions and/or reservations, as appropriate, all in favor of the Town and running with the land (a) setting aside a minimum square footage of interior wall space in the church building for a display describing the property's history; (b) allowing municipal use of the property for occasional overflow parking for town events; (c) documenting mutually acceptable changes to be made to the exterior of the church building by the Purchaser during initial reconstruction; (d) requiring that all prospective future changes to the exterior of the building be reviewed and approved by the Selectboard prior to implementation.

The Town shall retain the building's chandelier and will remove the chandelier prior to closing.

Questions regarding the proposed conveyance may be directed to the Ferrisburgh Town Clerk, Pam Cousino, at (802) 877-3429.

Notice is hereby provided, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1061(a)(2) that:

If a petition signed by five percent of the legal voters of the municipality objecting to the proposed conveyance is presented to the municipal clerk within 30 days of the date of posting and publication of the notice required by subdivision (1) of this subsection, the legislative body shall cause the question of whether the municipality shall convey the real estate to be considered at a special or annual meeting called for that purpose. After the meeting, the real estate may be conveyed unless a majority of the voters of the municipality present and voting vote to disapprove of the conveyance.

Notice is also hereby provided that unless a petition is filed in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §1061(a)(2) as stated above, the Ferrisburgh Selectboard will be authorized to proceed with the conveyance on the terms set forth in this Notice.

Respectfully submitted.
FERRISBURGH SELECTBOARD
Clark Hinsdale, III, Chair
James Benoit
Stephen Fleming
Walter Reed
Chris Campbell

TOWN OF BRIDPORT
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Bridport Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, in the Town Office at 82 Crown Point Road, on each and to consider each of the following application:

At 6:30 PM on Application (#24-23) by Philo Surveying LLC c/o Jason Burt, 1408 Ferry Rd Charlotte, VT 05446 for a 3-lot subdivision of parcel ID# 08-017 owned by Andre Mercier and Barbara Mercier located at 1705 Market Rd. Bridport, Vermont 05734.

Plans and additional information regarding any such application may be viewed at said Town Office or by calling (802) 758-2483, Ext. 2. Participation in the Planning Commission's proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal on any decision of it on an application.

Adam Broughton, Planning Commission Chair
Renée Brodeur, Planning Commission Secretary
Michael Wojciechowski, Zoning Administrator

CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2024, 7pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Review for Application #2024-25 by Leigh Cunningham and Ragan Cunningham to construct an Accessory Structure with an associated personal health and well-being business use at the property located at 20 New Haven Rd. Reviews will consider Article VII, Article VIII, and Section 1604.

Please note that the hearing will be held as a "hybrid meeting", with participation either in person, by ZOOM, or by phone. The in-person meeting will be held in the conference room at City Hall.

Join by computer: https://us02web.zoom.us/J/85906470948, meeting password: 689859.

Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; Meeting ID: 842-5290-1890; Meeting Passcode: 689859.

For participants joining by phone: To raise your hand during the meeting, press *9. To mute/unmute during the meeting, press *6 If you experience any difficulty in accessing this meeting, contact the City of Vergennes Zoning Administrator at 802-989-6315.

You must participate in the public hearing either in person or in writing, in order to take any subsequent appeal. The City of Vergennes is an "on the record" appeal municipality with regard to appeals to Environmental Court from Development Review Board decisions. This means that the Environmental Court shall only consider testimony or information provided during public hearings on the application. Interested parties should therefore assure that their participation in the public hearing proceedings is complete and represents the totality of their desired considerations.

A copy of the application is available for public review at City Hall or by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org.

August 26, 2024
David Austin,
Zoning Administrator

FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

The Addison County Clerk located in the **Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury** is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS
Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm
Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday - **Closed**
Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm
Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED
For appointment, go to
www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com
or call 802-388-1966.

NOTICE
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE
LINCOLN ROAD IN BRISTOL
Beginning September 3, 2024

Lincoln Road in Bristol will be closed to all traffic from Briggs Hill Road near Bartlett Falls to Eagle Park beginning Tuesday, September 3 for a major riverbank restoration/repair project in two locations. The project may take up to a month to complete depending on the weather. Briggs Hill Road (Bristol)/ Atkins Road (Lincoln) may be used as a detour. Additional detour routes include Quaker Street to Route 17 (Starksboro) or York Hill and West Hill Roads (Lincoln) to Upper Notch Road (Bristol).

Please note that portions of Briggs Hill Road and Atkins Road will be limited to one lane at each end with mobile traffic signals. Allow for delays.

Access to the swimming holes along the closed section of Lincoln Road will be prohibited during this time. Violators will be ticketed and/or towed. Questions or concerns? Contact the Bristol Public Works Department at (802) 453-4707 or the Town Office at (802) 453-2410.

ACSD
Addison Central School District

In our capacity as public schools, the districts of the Addison Central Supervisory Union are required to locate, identify, and evaluate any child or student from birth and up who may require special education and related services in order to access and benefit from public education.

The Federal special education regulations define a child with a disability as a child having a learning impairment, a hearing impairment including deafness, a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment including blindness, a specific learning disability, deaf-blindness or multiple disabilities and who require specialized instruction and related services.

If you know of a child who lives in the towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, or Weybridge and who might have a disability as described, please contact the principal of your local school district or contact the Director of Student Services at 802-382-1287.

Evaluations will be conducted in accordance with the procedures described in 300.530.300.535 of the Federal Regulations for Special Education outlining the procedures for special education evaluations.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT
WARNING
Special Town Meeting
September 30 & October 1, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Middlebury, in the County of Addison, the State of Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Large Conference Room, Middlebury Town Offices, 77 Main Street in Middlebury, with access via videoconference also available (see below), on Monday, September 30, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. for an informational meeting on Article 1; and on Tuesday, October 1 from 7:00 A.M. through 7:00 P.M. at the Town Offices, 77 Main Street in Middlebury, to vote by Australian ballot on Article 1 as provided by 24 V.S.A § 1061(2) and the Middlebury Town Charter.

Article 1: Shall the legal voters of the Town of Middlebury approve the current Deed of Easement agreement as approved by the Middlebury Selectboard at their meeting on June 25, 2024 and convey to Vermont Gas Systems a land easement to install gas service to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church?

Dated at Middlebury, Vermont this 13th day of August, 2024.

Brian Carpenter, Chair
Andy Hooper, Vice Chair
Heather Seeley
Farhad Khan
Dan Brown
Isabel Gogarty
Fred Dunnington

MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD

To view and participate in the informational meeting on Article 1 on Monday, September 30, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Videoconferencing:

Zoom URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87901603644

By phone: 1 646 558 8656
Webinar ID: 879 0160 3644

For view-only access: For those wishing to watch but not participate, the hearing will be livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTVVermont
and also broadcast live on **Comcast Channel 1071.**

Police investigate multi-car crashes

Vt. State Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police locally sorted out two multi-car crashes in which people were injured.

The first accident, this past Saturday, Aug. 24, at around 1:30 p.m., took place in Shoreham on Route 22A near the Orwell-Shoreham town line. In a three-vehicle crash, two drivers were seriously injured, including the driver of a motorcycle.

Police report that Yildiz Ferhat, 47, of Bomoseen was driving a 2024 Subaru Legacy southbound on Route 22A when, for unknown reasons, his car entered the oncoming lane and struck the rear driver side door of a 2017 VW Golf driven by 19-year-old Alexander Pulver of Rhinebeck, N.Y. The VW crashed into a ditch off the northbound lane.

The Subaru continued southbound in the northbound lane, police said, and struck a 2020 Yamaha Tracer 900 motorcycle driven by Timothy Duggan, 55, of Granville, N.Y., who was traveling behind the VW. Dugan and his motorcycle crashed onto the shoulder of the northbound lane. Ferhat's Subaru ended up crashed on a lawn off the northbound lane.

Ferhat was taken by life flight helicopter to UVM Medical Center for suspected serious injuries. An ambulance took Duggan to UVM Medical Center for suspected serious injuries.

In the VW, Pulver and a passenger were not injured.

The weather was described as clear and the road as dry. This section of Route 22A was closed for around two and a half hours.

State police was assisted on scene by the Addison County Sheriff's Department, Middlebury Regional EMS, Shoreham First Response, the Shoreham Fire Department, and Life Net of New York.

The police investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding the crash is asked to contact Trooper Gurwicz at the Vermont State Police barracks in New Haven at 802-388-4919.

The second bad accident happened on Sunday, Aug. 25, just before 10 a.m. State police were called to a two-car collision with injuries on Route 7 just north of Route 22A in Ferrisburgh. Police report that 78-year-old Diane J. Barrows of Vergennes in a 2016 Chevy TRX was attempting to make a left turn into a driveway at the same time a 2017 VW GTI driven by 30-year-old Genavieve L. Twomey of Burlington was traveling southbound on Route 7. The two cars collided on the shoulder of the southbound lane; both vehicles sustained substantial front-end damage.

Vergennes Area Rescue Squad took both drivers to Porter Hospital to receive treatment for their injuries, which troopers characterized as minor.

Meanwhile, state police and the Vergennes Fire Department responded to a report of a one-car crash on Basin Harbor Road near Kellogg Bay Road in Panton on Aug. 21 at around 3:30 a.m. Driver Vincent Delacruz Rodriguez, 27, or Northfield was not injured when his vehicle left the road on a straightaway between Button Bay and Kellogg Bay roads. Police cited Rodriguez for driving under the influence.

TOWN OF GOSHEN
SELECTBOARD CLERK

The Town of Goshen is seeking a Selectboard Clerk. An average 3+ hours a week. Required to attend all Selectboard meetings which occur the second and fourth Monday of the month. Other responsibilities required can be done remotely within scheduled deadlines. Pay rate is $15.00 hourly. For full job description visit goshenvt.org or contact selectboard@goshenvt.org.

TOWN OF GOSHEN
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: TREE REMOVAL

A large maple tree overlooking the Goshen town office building at 50 Carlisle Hill Road needs to be removed. The scope of work is to safely take the tree down, without damage to the town office building, temporarily remove the fence, reinstall the fence after the project is complete, remove the trunk, limbs, leaves and branches, grind/ remove the stump, and do necessary earth moving to provide a natural terrain aspect.

The tree is suitable for firewood and the value of the firewood may be considered as part of a bid.

Experience in tree work is essential. Insurance is also necessary, and a liability waiver is required. The site can be inspected in daylight. Bids are due no later than September 5, 2024 and may be placed in the town drop box at the town office. Inquiries can be made to D. O'Classen at 247-4205.

TOWN OF ADDISON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Addison is considering making application to the State of Vermont for an Accessibility Modification Grant under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held at the former school building on September 10th at 7PM to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of community development activities that may be undertaken under this program, the impact to any historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine the proposed statement of projected use of these funds. The proposal is to apply for $150,000 in VCDP Funds which will be used to accomplish accessibility modifications to the historic Town Hall.

Copies of the proposed application are available at the Addison Town Clerk office and may be viewed during regular business hours on Sept. 9th. Should you require any special accommodations, please contact Bob Schatz at 802-771-5356 to ensure appropriate accommodations are made. For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) # 1-800-253-0191.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

New England Hydropower Company, LLC — Project No. 15327-001

NOTICE OF SURRENDER OF PRELIMINARY PERMIT

(August 9, 2024)

Take notice that New England Hydropower Company, LLC, permittee for the proposed Middlebury Falls Project No. 15327, has requested that its preliminary permit be terminated. The permit was issued on July 25, 2024, and would have expired on June 30, 2028. The project would have been located on Otter Creek in Addison County, Vermont.

The preliminary permit for Project No. 15327 will remain in effect until the close of business, thirty days from the date of this notice. But, if the Commission is closed on this day, then the permit remains in effect until the close of business on the next day in which the Commission is open. New applications for this site may not be submitted until after the permit surrender is effective.

Debbie-Anne A. Reese,
Acting Secretary

ARTS+LEISURE

The Addison Independent August 29, 2024

Emily Troll, left, Neil Pearlman, Katie McNally and Owen Marshall cut their teeth playing for contra dances and learning from the greats. As the band Pine Tree Flyers they come to Lincoln on Sept. 7 to kick off the 2nd season of Burnham Presents with Celtic, Quebecois and American music. COURTESY PHOTO

Burnham Presents music series reprised in Lincoln

BY **ELSIE** LYNN PARINI

Back at it for a second season, Beth Duquette and Mark Mulqueen (along with a crew of volunteers) are prepping the Burnham Hall stage in Lincoln for the 2024-2025 Burnham Presents music series. Live concerts are scheduled for the first Saturday of the month (mostly) over the next nine months with the same format as last year: two 45-50 minute sets with a short intermission where people can visit and enjoy homemade desserts and refreshments.

"Our first season was so wonderfully received that we really plan to keep rolling with it and not change too much," Duquette explained. "We have another lineup of great musicians that we're excited to share with everyone."

The first concert kicks off the series on Saturday, Sept. 7, with Pine Tree Flyers. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the music starts at 7:30 p.m. This concert is seated (175 seat capacity) but dancing in the isles is allowed.

Owen Marshall, Neil Pearlman, Emily Troll and Katie McNally come together to spotlight the rich tradition of Irish, Scottish, French-Canadian and American traditional music. From festival stages and concert halls to raucous August nights at fiddle camp, they've toured internationally and domestically. Each member of the band brings years of experience and dedication to their craft with instrumentation of fiddle, piano, accordion, guitar and bouzouki.

"We're always interested in the projects that multi-instrumentalist Owen Marshall is involved with," Duquette said. "A Vermont native now living in Maine, he was part of the Vermont Young Traditions, The Seamus Egan Project as well as collaborating with many other notable artists. We reached out and he shared his latest project, Pine Tree Flyers, and we thought they would be perfect for our first anniversary show."

Marshall and McNally were both part of The Northeast Heritage Music Camp in Starksboro this past summer, too, Duquette added.

SEE PRESENTS ON PAGE 3

Place your bids on these 'sweet' chairs

Sweet Charity in Vergennes has a unique auction going on now until Aug. 30… Inspired by their own name perhaps, or the abundance of chairs in their store, they are auctioning custom chairs refurbished by their own volunteers — a "Sweet Chair-ity" event.

Manager Lauren Taddeo takes an inventory of the silent auction bids. COURTESY PHOTOS

"A few months ago Liz Markowski said we should hold a Sweet "Chair-ity" event and I thought: we have an abundance of chairs — like 45 or more — and I thought if every volunteer and board member snatched one from our collection and redid them somehow, we could auction them off," said Lauren Taddeo, manager of the resale store. "I sent ideas from Pinterest and we went to town."

Former school librarian and Sweet Charity volunteer Lenore Morse loved the idea, and stepped up to help.

"We hosted a friend/customer Nichole VanBuren who has a shop in Port Henry, N.Y., called Vintage Reimagined," Taddeo added. "She came to the store after hours and taught us how to do transfers on furniture — think birds and flowers… The results were enchanting."

The Main Street shop now has 19 chairs, spiffed up and ready for your bids (which can be placed in person or by phone at 802-877-6200). Pictures also are posted on social media, but it's best to stop by in person to get the full effect… and maybe pick up a tchotchke or two.

Eighty-eight-year-old Lenore Morse sits with the refurbished chairs she worked on. Morse is one of the volunteers at Sweet Charity.

PRESENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marshall chimed in with excitement to be back in Vermont: "I've lived in Maine for 15 years now, but I am a VT boy at heart," he said, clarifying that his parents moved him here when he was just six months old. "I've had the pleasure of playing at the Ripton Coffee House on a couple of occasions… It's always a highlight to come back to the old stomping grounds (and hopefully get one more maple creemee in before the season ends!)."

This will be Marshall's first time performing at Burnham Hall, but he's not worried.

"Beth and Mark do a fantastic job as hosts for their series," he said, "and their audience always brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm."

The expertise that Duquette and Mulqueen bring is from their many years presenting and performing music in Addison County, the Champlain Valley and beyond.

A brief description of their chops: Duquette was the Ripton Community Coffee House co-director for over 20 years, and also spent more than two decades as a volunteer and program chair for Middlebury's Festival on the Green. Mulqueen has been a long time sound engineer for many artists, venues and festivals over the years including the Ripton Community Coffee House, After Dark Music Series, Middlebury Festival on the Green, Champlain Valley Folk Festival, Valley Stage Festival and many others.

Cred? Yeah, they've got it.

"Our experience with the Ripton Community Coffee House showed us how to curate a music series, try and cover all the bases and have fun doing it," Duquette said. "We also have the good fortune of a talented and dedicated group of volunteers. It's a good team and we all work well together."

The Burnham Presents music series will continue October through May featuring nationally touring and regional performers including The Clements Brothers; Maya de Vitry; Seamus Egan, Moira Smiley & Yann Falquet; Mike & Ruthy (The Mammals); Eli West; Eureka Shoes; Keith Murphy and The Band of Amber; and Bruce Molsky & Ale Möller.

"I've admired and followed the careers of many of these musicians for years," Duquette added. "It's fun to see the new collaborations they are creating and finding a place for them in our season."

Duquette concluded with gratitude.

"We're grateful that people chose to come to the shows in our first season," she said. "There are a lot of choices out there and it's not lost on us that staying home is one of those choices. The last season was such a fun social time. We plan to continue with the same and hope to keep creating a welcoming place combined with great music."

Tickets are on sale now at burnhampresents.org for all shows. Admission for all shows is on a sliding scale of $20-$25 with donations to the non-profit gratefully accepted.

UPCOMING SHOWS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7
PINE TREE FLYERS

SATURDAY, OCT. 5
THE CLEMENTS BROTHERS

SATURDAY, NOV. 2
MAYA DE VITRY

SATURDAY, DEC. 7
SEAMUS EGAN, MOIRA SMILEY & YANN FALQUET

SATURDAY, JAN. 4
MIKE & RUTHY (THE MAMMALS)

SATURDAY, FEB. 8
ELI WEST

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
EUREKA SHOES

SATURDAY, APRIL 5
KEITH MURPHY & THE BAND OF AMBER

SATURDAY, MAY 10
BRUCE MOLSKY & ALE MÖLLER

For more information, tickets and performer videos visit burnhampresents.org.

> "I'VE ADMIRED AND FOLLOWED THE CAREERS OF MANY OF THESE MUSICIANS FOR YEARS… IT'S **FUN TO SEE THE NEW COLLABORATIONS THEY ARE CREATING.**"
>
> *— Beth Duquette*

Hooked on Rugs
Silent Auction
Now through - Saturday, August 31st, 2024

We have a unique opportunity to sell 30 hooked rugs that were handmade by longtime Sheldon Museum staff and community member, Suzanne Douglas. After her sudden passing in January 2024, her friends and family have generously donated her rugs to the Sheldon Museum as a fundraiser.

All bidding to take place in-person at the Museum or by calling 802-388-2117.

Bidding is open through August 31st at 12pm.

Shipping is available.

Please see gallery for size, starting bid and rug condition.

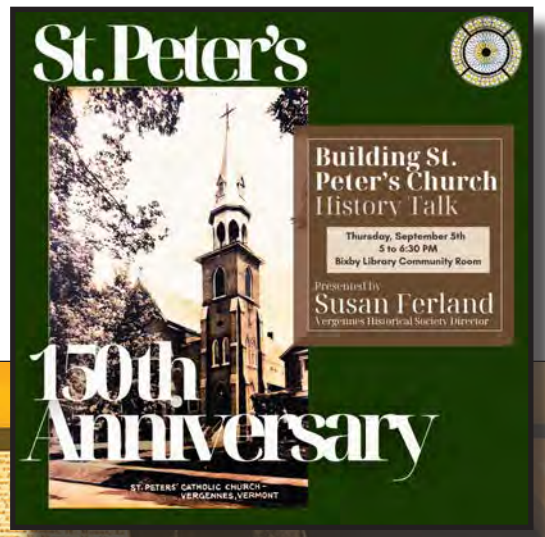
Bidding welcome in $50 increments.

No admission required to see the Hooked Rugs on exhibit.

Henry Sheldon Museum
One Park Street ~ Middlebury ~ 802-388-2117
www.HenrySheldonMuseum.org

ART ON EXHIBIT

Building St. Peter's: exhibit and history talk at the Bixby *Library*



It's a sesquicentennial celebration! The Bixby Library will host an exhibit and talk to honor the building of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Vergennes. Vergennes Historical Society Director, Susan Ferland will present a history talk on Thursday, Sept. 5, from 5-6:30 p.m., when she will explore the changing landscape of the Little City and the congregation over the last 150 years.

Accompanying the talk is an exhibit hanging in the Half-Round Room on the second floor of the library. The exhibit is on view during the library's open hours, Tuesday-Saturday.

For more info visit bixbylibrary.org.

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ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ALL-STARS

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. 31.

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 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 16

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. You may have a renewed sense of energy and motivation right now, Aries. Capitalize on that to tackle a laundry list of projects that have been sitting on the back burner.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, your sense of humor and quirky personality could get you a few extra chuckles from friends this week, but try not to take it too far. Factor in time for serious pursuits.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, when focusing on your health this week, remember that stress reduction is an important component of getting healthy. Aim for activities that focus on relaxation.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Everyone's heads are seemingly in the clouds right now, Cancer. It may feel like you are the only person with your feet on the ground ready to get down to business.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23 Leo, people have been gravitating in your direction for some time seeking advice. You can open up conversations to other topics that are important to you with such a captive audience.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Strong emotions could be drummed up this week and may cause you to be distracted more so than usual. Try to get a break so you can make some time to sort things out.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Libra, being honest with yourself is important as you confront a notable challenge. Accept a self-assessment and devise a plan to make the most of this opportunity.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. You have to develop a strategy before making your next move, Scorpio. Whether it is a business proposal or something with a friend or family member, don't be too hasty.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, you may notice that people are very sensitive to what you are saying, so you may have to change your approach if you want your message to be well-received.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Something could be brewing but you can't identify what it is just yet, Capricorn. This could lead you to feeling restless and out of sorts. Give it some time and it will work out.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Others' words are meaningful to you right now, Aquarius. Consider these opinions and spend time figuring out how to incorporate this advice.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, often it can be challenging to take the high road But that's just what you have to do right now. Others will recognize your willingness to set a good example.

Cast on for schools.
You can always make a hat during class - we won't tell your teachers!
Wed-Thurs 11am-5pm
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Sun 12-4pm
Closed Mon-Tues
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260 Court Street, Middlebury, Vt. 05753
802-388-3559 www.middlebury sewnvac.com
OPEN: M-F 10-5 and Saturday 9:30-4

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUG. 30 — Capability Brown, horticulturist, landscape architect (d)
AUG. 31 — Itzhak Perlman, violinist (79)
SEPT. 1 — Lily Tomlin, comedian (85)
SEPT. 2 — Keanu Reeves, actor (60)
SEPT. 3 — Shaun White, Olympic snowboarder (38)
SEPT. 4 — Beyoncé, singer (43)

CALENDAR

AUG. 29-SEPT. 15
2024

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 twonhalltheater.org. tickets@townhalltheater.org or 802-382-9222.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 3

AUTHOR JONATHAN MINGLE IN MIDDLEBURY. Tuesday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m., Isley Public Library, 75 Main St. In the first talk of Ilsley Public Library and Vermont Book Shop's First Tuesdays series, Lincoln resident Jonathan Mingle will speak about his recent book "Gaslight: The Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Fight for America's Energy Future." Vivid and suspenseful, gut-wrenching and insightful, "Gaslight" is more than the chronicle of a turning point in American history. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the dark, overlooked story of America's "favorite fossil fuel," and the immense future stakes of the energy choices we face today.

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.

"JULIA ALVAREZ: A LIFE REIMAGINED" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join Vermont Public for a free preview screening of a new film from American Masters. The film opens a window into Alvarez's extraordinary journey from an idyllic, privileged childhood in the Dominican Republic to a life of exile in New York City to a brilliant literary career that shows no sign of slowing down. Following the screening, Alvarez will be interviewed on stage by Mikaela Lefrak, "Vermont Edition" host and senior producer. Free. Registration required. More info at townhalltheater.org.

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

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.middlebury communitytv.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 30
Through the Night: Public Affairs
4:30 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour
7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service
10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs
4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service
5:23 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour
6:30 p.m. Energy Week
7:30 p.m. Racial Disparities Advisory Board
9:31 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs

Saturday, August 31
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. Montpelier Happy Hour
8:36 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs

Sunday, September 1
Through the Night: Public Affairs
5 a.m. Buddhist Peace Action Vermont
6:50 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour
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
8:30 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour

Monday, September 2
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. Racial Disparities Adv. Board
10:01 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs

Tuesday, September 3
Through the Night: Public Affairs
5:30 a.m. Dr. John Campbell
9:30 a.m. Eckankar
10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs
4 p.m. Congregational Services
7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs
11 p.m. Energy Week

Wednesday, September 4
Through the Night: Public Affairs
4 a.m. Dr. John Campbell
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. Montpelier Happy Hour
7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs

Thursday, September 5
Through the Night: Public Affairs
8 a.m. Congregational Services
12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs
4 p.m. Racial Disparities Adv. Board
8:30 p.m. Energy Week
9:30 p.m. Eckankar
10 p.m. Gov. Scott

Channel 1091

Friday, August 30
4 a.m. Summer Music Series
7 a.m. Chair Yoga
8 a.m. Tai Chi
8:30 a.m. Our Gardens
12 p.m. School Board Meetings
8 p.m. All Things LGBTQ
9 p.m. All Brains Belong Brain Club

Saturday, August 31
5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ
6 a.m. All Brains Belong
7 a.m. Tai Chi
7:30 a.m. Our Gardens
8 a.m. School Board Meeting/s
3 p.m. From the Archives
8 p.m. Summer Music Series

Sunday, September 1
4 a.m. Summer Music Series
6:30 a.m. Tai Chi
7 a.m. Chair Yoga
8 a.m. School Board Meeting/s
12 p.m. From the Archives
2:30 p.m. All Brains Belong
3:30 p.m. Tai Chi
4 p.m. Word Time with Miss Markee
5 p.m. Ten Fest
3 p.m. Summer Music Series

Monday, September 2
5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ
6 a.m. Chair Yoga
7 a.m. Tai Chi
7:25 a.m. Word Time with Miss Markee
8 a.m. School Board Meetings
2:30 p.m. Ten Fest
4:30 a.m. Word Time with Miss Markee
5 a.m. Tai Chi
5:30 p.m. School Board Meeting/s

Tuesday, September 3
5 a.m. Classicopia Fabulous Females
6 a.m. School Board Meeting/s
12 p.m. Summer Music Series
5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ
6 p.m. Summer Music Series

Wednesday, September 4
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
6:30 p.m. VT Master Naturalist

Thursday, September 5
4:30 a.m. Nature & Gardening programs
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

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.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6,

BRETT HUGHES IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Sept. 6, 5-7 p.m. Lincoln Peak Vineyard. Enjoy free live music with food by Dino Bones BBQ and wine available for purchase.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

"THE BEST WE COULD" BY EMILY FELDMAN IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Sept. 7. 4 p.m., Byers Studio, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. In this funny, wise and heartbreaking debut from Emily Feldman, a daughter's road trip with her father becomes a theatrical journey across more than just state lines. Part of MACo's Cutting Edge staged play reading series. Tickets $15, available at townhalltheater.org.

CARILLONNEUR GEORGE MATTHEW JR. IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Sept. 7, 5 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. This year there is a new Fall Festival on Saturdays in September and October. Free and open to the public.

PINE TREE FLYERS IN LINCOLN. Saturday, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. The Burnham Presents 2024-25 season opens with four of the finest voices in the traditional music scene spotlighting the rich tradition of Irish, Scottish, French-Canadian and American traditional music. Doors open at 7 p.m. Homemade refreshments available. Tickets $20-$25 sliding scale. More info at burnhampresents.org.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 8

GREEN MOUNTAIN BICYCLE CLUB ADDISON AMBLER RIDE. Sunday, Sept. 8, 9:15 a.m. meet at Vergennes Union High School, Monkton Rd. Travel south from Vergennes to Weybridge via Route 125 and then west to Bridport and West Addison and back to Vergennes on quiet roads. 45-mile (M) short ride and the long is 60-mile (S) long ride with roughly two miles of dirt roads as an alternative to riding on Route 22A from Bridport to Shoreham. More info contact leaders Brian Howard at 802-304-0610 / bjhowd@gmail.com or William Regan at 571-730-8160 william.regan.802@gmail.com.

"UNDERDOGS" BIPOC STORY CIRCLE IN BRISTOL. Sunday, Sept. 8, 3-5 p.m., Tandem, 26 Main St. Join an evening of true stories on the theme of "Underdogs." Similar to a Moth StorySLAM, we invite any BIPOC folks to share a personal story related to the theme. Seating is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. More info at addisonctypoc@gmail.com.

"THE BEST WE COULD" BY EMILY FELDMAN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Sept. 8. 4 p.m., Byers Studio, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Sept. 7 listing. Feldman will attend the Sunday show.

MONDAY, SEPT. 9

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN HANCOCK. Monday, Sept. 9, Middlebury College Snowbowl. Hike the lost trails of the Snowbowl. Great views. Moderate pace and difficulty. About 2 miles round trip up mountain with a few hundred feet of elevation change. Dog friendly. Contact Morris Earle at morrisearle@gmail.com or 802-734-0984 for information or to register.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11

SWING NOIRE GYPSY JAZZ IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Sept. 11, 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 Swing Noire from 7-9 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13

JUSTIN LAPOINTE IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Sept. 13, 5-7 p.m. Lincoln Peak Vineyard. Enjoy free live music with food by Dino Bones BBQ and wine available for purchase.

"BROOKLYN 45" ON SCREEN IN VERGENNES. Friday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. An American real-time supernatural thriller, written and directed by Ted Geoghegan about a group of military veterans holding an impromptu séance in the parlor of a Brooklyn brownstone at the close of World War II. Geoghegan penned the screenplay with assistance from his late father, a disabled Air Force veteran-turned-history teacher. Meet Actor Jeremy Holm and Director Ted Geoghegan after the show.

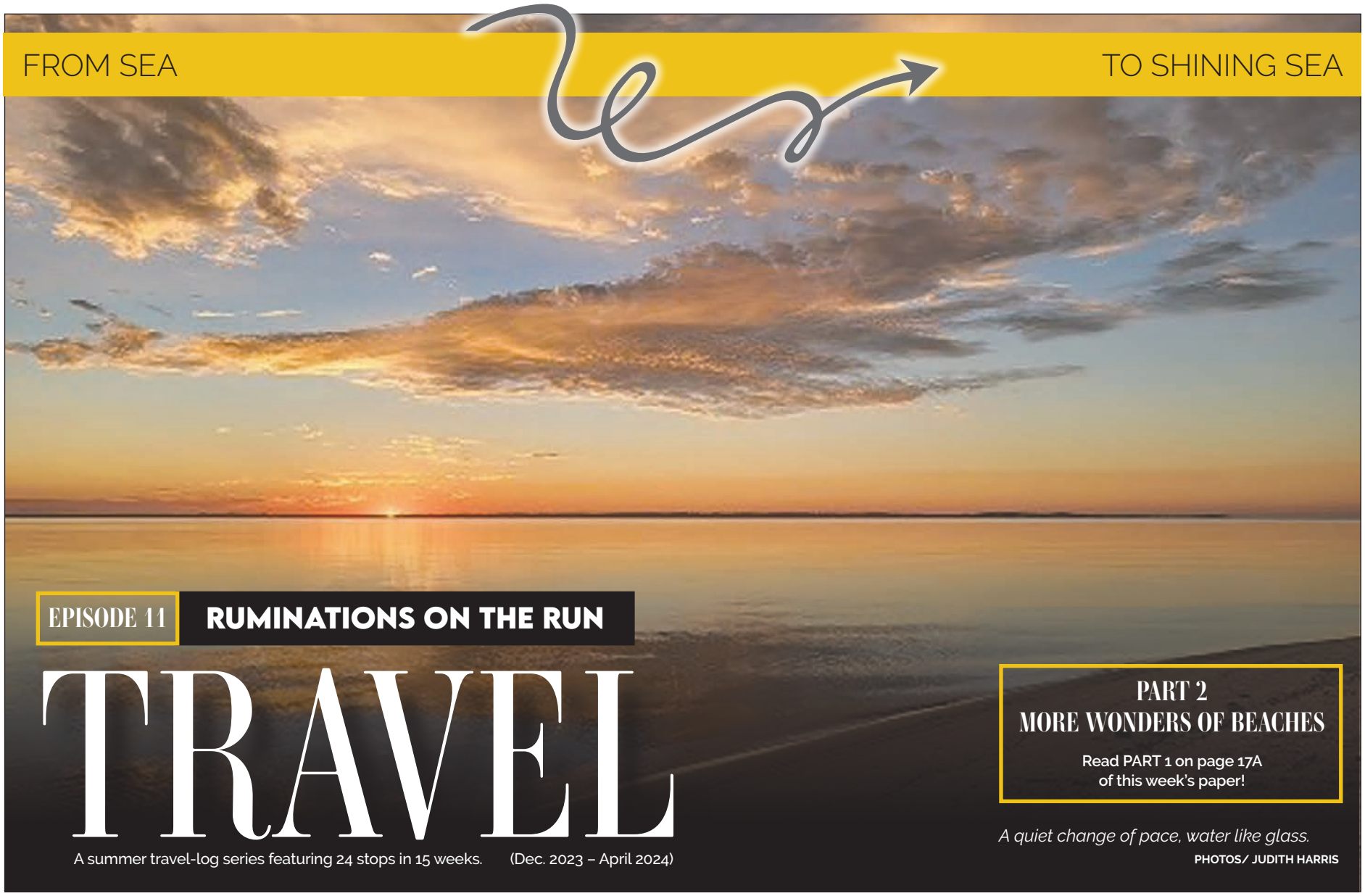
"COMEDY AT THE CORE: JASON LORBER" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Lorber — comedian and former State Representative — headlines a night of standup comedy. You may remember him from his one-man performance of David Seadris's "SantaLand Diaries" in 2019, his many performances with Middlebury Actors Workshop, or his opening for Joan Rivers. Table seating $40, Standard Seating $25, available at townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Sept. 14, 7 a.m., Otter View Park, intersection of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Join Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust and help us survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. More info contact 802-388-6019.

MELISSA MOOREHOUSE IN BRANDON. Saturday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kennedy Park, 31 Center St. Picnic in the park to live music.

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 15



EPISODE 11 **RUMINATIONS ON THE RUN**

TRAVEL

A summer travel-log series featuring 24 stops in 15 weeks. (Dec. 2023 – April 2024)

PART 2
MORE WONDERS OF BEACHES

Read PART 1 on page 17A of this week's paper!

A quiet change of pace, water like glass.

PHOTOS/ JUDITH HARRIS

BY **JUDITH & STEVE** HARRIS

Keep in mind that animals of the sea and sand comprise an amazingly diverse array of living creatures, from fishes to sponges, hydroids to jellies, gastropods to bivalves, worms, crustaceans, crabs, tunicates, insects, and of course the more familiar birds, reptiles, sea and land mammals.

Portuguese Man o' War (Physalia Physalis) is a startlingly beautiful creature to admire (but never touch). Living at the surface of the ocean, they sometimes wash ashore during stormy conditions. As do jellies, they seem other-worldly when you first encounter them. An eerie turquoise blue, loosely formed translucent orb full of gas (carbon monoxide and air), sometimes referred to as a "blue bottle", they are punctuated with a pink-tinged spine used to "sail" on their sea home, and a curtain of venomous tentacles that commonly grow to 30' long to locate food below the surface. In case of attack, they can deflate themselves to temporarily submerge. It is a siphonophore – a "colonial" organism made up of many smaller, genetically identical units developed from the same egg – like organs in a body. Technically, they are called Zooids – tiny units living in a polymorphic bubble. Their jobs vary. Some hunt, some digest and reproduce, some are responsible for flotation or jet propulsion. Similar to a beehive, they operate cooperatively as a single individual.

Jellies, like Man o' War, qualify as "no touch" candidates. Similarly, they seem to make their appearance in smacks, or groups brought to the beach against their will by weather. The jelly pictured below is a moon jelly – likely a female, as the four lobe-shaped gonads are yellow – tan rather than pink. Also common are Cannonball jellies, a favorite food in Asia. They are shaped like a mushroom, with thick dome-shaped bell, cloudy yellow with a tan margin. When Cannonball smacks appear, one can see crowds of Asian immigrants enthusiastically gathering them up for supper salads. Tentacles are found on a jelly's margins, and do have a sting that is detectable, causing a mild burning, compared to the painful sting of a Man o' War.

Horseshoe crabs have traversed beaches longer than humans, or for that matter, dinosaurs. They are arthropods, more closely related to spiders than crabs. Despite their sort of creepy tank-like appearance, they are gentle and safe to handle. Horseshoes are slow to mature, resulting in a life-span of 20-40 years. They live those years in coastal lagoons and bays, favoring low-energy beaches in areas like the Big Bend of Florida. They are rapidly diminishing in numbers, due to use for pharmaceutical research and bait.

Pelicans and Herons will represent my mind's file drawer for the vast array of shore birds and gulls that intrigue mankind. For bird lovers, I recognize this slights multitudes of the magnificent flying class of Aves. However, these creatures are regal, beautiful, and have established for themselves a symbiotic relationship with mankind that retains the dignity of both. Pelicans are Florida's largest bird, bulky and utilizing every inch of a 7-foot wingspan to effortlessly skim along, just above the water's surface. Their bills can hold about 3 gallons of fish and water. (Yes, "twice what their belly can") They drain the liquid from the corners of their mouth, and then carry their fish catch in their gullet. At rest, they tend to hang out on the tops of pilings close to shore, with little concern for human traffic.

Herons come in several colors. In Vermont, we are most familiar with the blue and green colorations. Florida has these fresh-water versions, but also Great Whites, with their preference for salt-water. All are elegant stalkers of the marshes and swash zone,

eyeing each ripple and wave as it retreats, for a sumptuous snack. Fish are of course favored, but they will also eat rodents and snakes. They are familiar companions to lone surf fishermen, establishing a shadow territory just behind their selected human counterpart, and treating their choice as a territorial right. Each catch is celebrated by man and bird alike.

WATER DANCES

Runnels are active ever-changing mid-beach troughs that fill with water at high tide, and linger as lagoons at low tide, providing trapped invertebrates and small fish as food for shorebirds. Although appearing shallow, they can fool you in two ways: they may be up to 6 feet deep, and as wide as the ridges or berms that contain them. They form and disperse over a matter of hours, sometimes catching a casual beach stroller unaware of potential entrapment. Their outlets are an impetus for rip currents, which as they develop can, as the song says "make the earth move under your feet", threatening your balance.

Riptides are the grand-daddy of all beach-goers' calamity-makers. They are strong off-shore currents caused by receding tidal flow (ebbtides) through narrowly confined areas such as inlets, harbors and estuaries. They can be severe and sweep people away hundreds of meters from the shore. Riptides also carry grains of sand out to sea, forming off-shore bars. Rip currents are not tidal flows, but the result of the interaction of wave motion with the changing shape of the sea bed. They are unpredictable and also can be dangerous, especially for small children swimming alone near shore.

We wish to extend Thank-you Credits to two youthful Park Rangers at Edisto State Park in South Carolina for a free-of-charge, two-on-two, down-jacket beach familiarization tour on a frigid day in January of 2016 that expanded our interest in all things marine. Also, our gratitude goes to Blair and Dawn Witherington (photographer and writer) for their remarkably usable and fascinating series of "Guides for Curious Beachcombers".

DAY IS DONE...

As evening approaches, so the mood of the day changes as well. Workers head home, fishermen pack up their gear and catch, Park Rangers begin to sweep the beaches for stragglers, and boaters return to port. Birds begin to gather in favored trees, and discuss their day as well, fluffing, chattering, repositioning for the perfect roost. A quiet reverence comes over the land, and folks gathers in small clusters to pause, to reflect, to say to themselves in their own way, "what a planet"! Cameras of every size and sophistication abound, and swing into position in yet another attempt to capture each second of the brief show, to preserve, to possess this last ephemeral and beautiful moment of seemingly endless sea and sky. We know full well (as do the Amish) that photographic images can feel stolen from God, and always pale in comparison to reality. Yet still we try, so that we can share and remember this sacred ritual of mankind, this toast to the day, this place, this privilege to witness what we can barely comprehend.

A BEACH FAREWELL

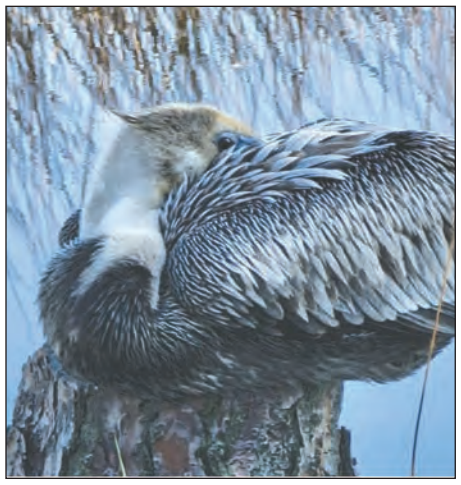
We say goodbye for this year, more than a little wistful. And although many more adventures lie ahead on the inland trek home, this place, this beach with its ability to stimulate every sense all at once, can not be equaled in the power it possesses over one's heart and mind. That's just the way it is.

A quote from the animated movie "Ants" says it all.

Ant One, our hero named Z says, "but doc, I feel so insignificant..." (the voice of Woody Allen)

Ant Two, his psychologist replies "That's because you ARE insignificant". (the voice of Paul Mazursky)

-Judith-



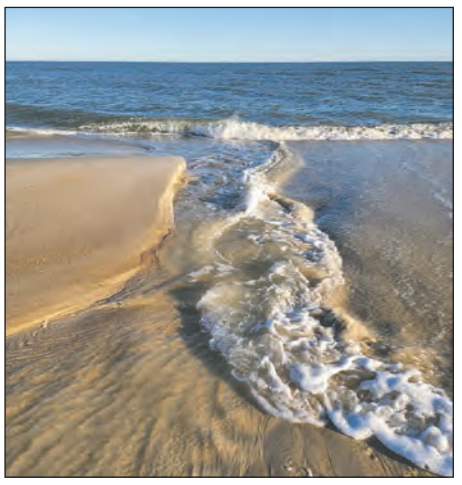
Pelicans are Florida's largest bird.

Horseback riders on Jekyll Island in December 2023, with a yacht in the harbor.

Hey mom, what's this? It's a moon jelly!

Horseshoe crab.

A Sunday storm brings to shore a smack of Portuguese Man o' War.



Rip current and scarped beach cusp.

A heron stalks its supper.

A sunset runnel.

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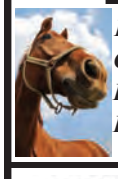

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Pet of the week
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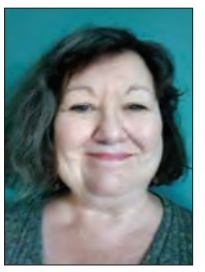
ASK A MASTER GARDENER

TOMATO TRIVIA!

BY **DEBORAH J.** BENOIT



Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.

We purchase them at the market. We dine on them in salads and sauces. Some of us indulge in the joy of growing our own at home, but how much do you really know about tomatoes?

To begin, the botanical name for the tomato is *Solanum lycopersicum*. Throughout the centuries, tomatoes have been called by many names: "xitomatl" (by the Aztecs), "tomatl" (by the Mayans), "pomme d'amour," meaning "love apple" (by the French) and "poison apple" by many Europeans.

Tomatoes originated in Central and South America. They were domesticated by Indigenous peoples and "discovered" in Mexico by Spanish explorers in the early 1500s.

When introduced to Europeans, the fruit was thought to be poisonous. The tomato was considered simply an ornamental plant. It took another 200 years for it to be accepted as a delicious addition to people's diets.

Tomatoes are related to potatoes (*S. tuberosum*), eggplants (*S. melongena*), and peppers (*capsicum*). All belong to the Solanaceae family of plants, which are commonly referred to as nightshades. Non-food nightshades include tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*), petunias (*Petunia*) and the beautiful but deadly angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia*).

Have you ever wondered why we eat the fruit but not the foliage of a tomato plant?

Nightshade plants contain an alkaloid called solanine. It acts as a natural defense to discourage nibbling animals through its bitter taste and intestinal side effects when consumed in large quantities, making all parts of the tomato plant — except the fruit — toxic.

The highest amounts of solanine are

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The green, not-yet-ripe fruit of the tomato contains a small amount of solanine, an alkaloid found in the leaves, stems and unripe fruit that has a bitter taste that discourages nibbling animals.

PHOTO / DEBORAH J. BENOIT

Tomatoes, which get their red color from lycopene, an antioxidant, are a good source of vitamin C, potassium, folate, beta-carotene and vitamin K.

PHOTO / ALEX MELLIN/PIXABAY

found in the leaves and stem. The green, not-yet-ripe fruit contains a small amount, which decreases as the tomato ripens.

Nutritionally speaking, tomatoes contain vitamin C, potassium, folate, beta-carotene and vitamin K. While they're mostly comprised of water, they're a good source of fiber. Did you know tomatoes also contain lycopene?

Lycopene, an antioxidant, gives tomatoes their red color. In fact, food products made from tomatoes and the fruit itself are the principal source of lycopene in our diets, providing numerous health benefits.

Today, there are over 10,000 varieties of tomatoes. There are heirlooms dating back over 100 years and new hybrids being introduced. They range in size from beefsteak tomatoes to dime-sized cherry tomatoes and can be round, oblong or pear-shaped. Colors include pink, yellow, orange, purple, white, striped and even green in addition to the traditional red varieties.

Did you know some tomatoes are annuals (determinate) and some are perennials (indeterminate)?

Determinate varieties set fruit for harvest all at the same time. They tend to be more compact in size. On the other hand, indeterminate tomatoes produce fruit throughout the growing season. They're larger, vining plants, requiring solid stakes or cages and continue to grow until killed by frost.

Even though we think of them as a vegetable due to their use in savory rather than sweet dishes, you've likely heard that tomatoes are a fruit, botanically speaking. What may surprise you is that the tomato is actually a berry.

On the other hand, legally speaking, a tomato is a vegetable for taxation purposes, according to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling back in 1893 in the case of Nix v. Hedden, declaring tomatoes to be vegetables under the Tariff Act of March 3, 1883.

And finally, here are a few more fun facts for your consideration: April 6 is World Tomato Day. The tomato is the official state vegetable of New Jersey, and tomato juice is the official state beverage in Ohio.

As you head out to your garden or the local farmers market, don't underestimate those very familiar tomatoes.

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Pets In Need

HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society

Charmeuse

Hello there! I'm baby **Charmeuse**, and if you're looking for a gentle princess with a heart made of fuzz, I just might be the one for you. I'm all about the quiet life- lounging peacefully and spending time in my cozy tunnel jungle gym. What's extra special about adopting a baby bunny like me from a shelter, is that you get to watch me grow and flourish in your care. You'll be shaping me into the happiest, most charming part of your family- someone who knows she's loved and who gives that love right back.

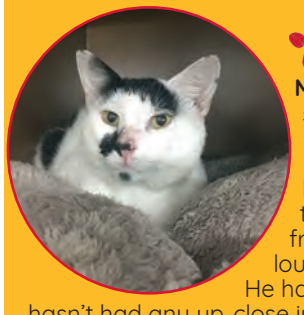
Alexandra

Alexandra is a very young female. She is equally sweet and spicy. Alexandra is used to being an indoor/outdoor cat and has lived with other cats before. She would be a great cat for rodent control. Alexandra is available through our Working Cat Program. We see each cat for who they are and look to help them find their perfect spot within our community, whether it be in an office, a warehouse, a feed mill, a store, a brewery, or a horse stable. The potential alternative homes are boundless!

Major Tom

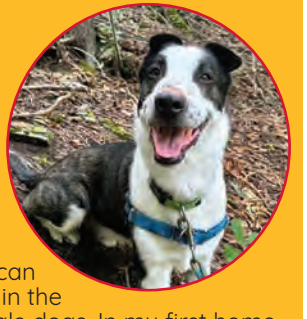
Major Tom is a big, chunky, tom cat! He likes to sing the song of his people when he is hungry, which is often. Tom may have a gruff expression but he is nothing but pure love. He is used to being an indoor/outdoor cat and given how many scratches he has, it's safe to say he doesn't get along with other cats. We are unsure if he gets along with dogs.

Mister Moo



Mister Moo is a super happy, somewhat shy, big tom cat. He was brought as a stray so his history is unknown. Moo has been enjoying his soft bed and loves to take naps throughout the day. He is super friendly with people but is scared of loud noises and would like a quiet home. He has not liked the other cats but he hasn't had any up-close interactions with them.

Duke



Hi! My name is **Duke**! I'm a 6-year-old black and white shepherd/terrier mix. I'm a friendly and affectionate family dog looking for an active home with a yard I can hang out in. I walk well on a leash and know a few basic commands. I'd prefer to live with a female dog, as I can get quite anxious being the only dog in the home. I tend to not get along with male dogs. In my first home, I lived with children. It takes me some time to warm up to new people, especially men. I absolutely love to run and to play in water. I should live in a cat-free home.

Want to learn more?

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you!
802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT

PUZZLES

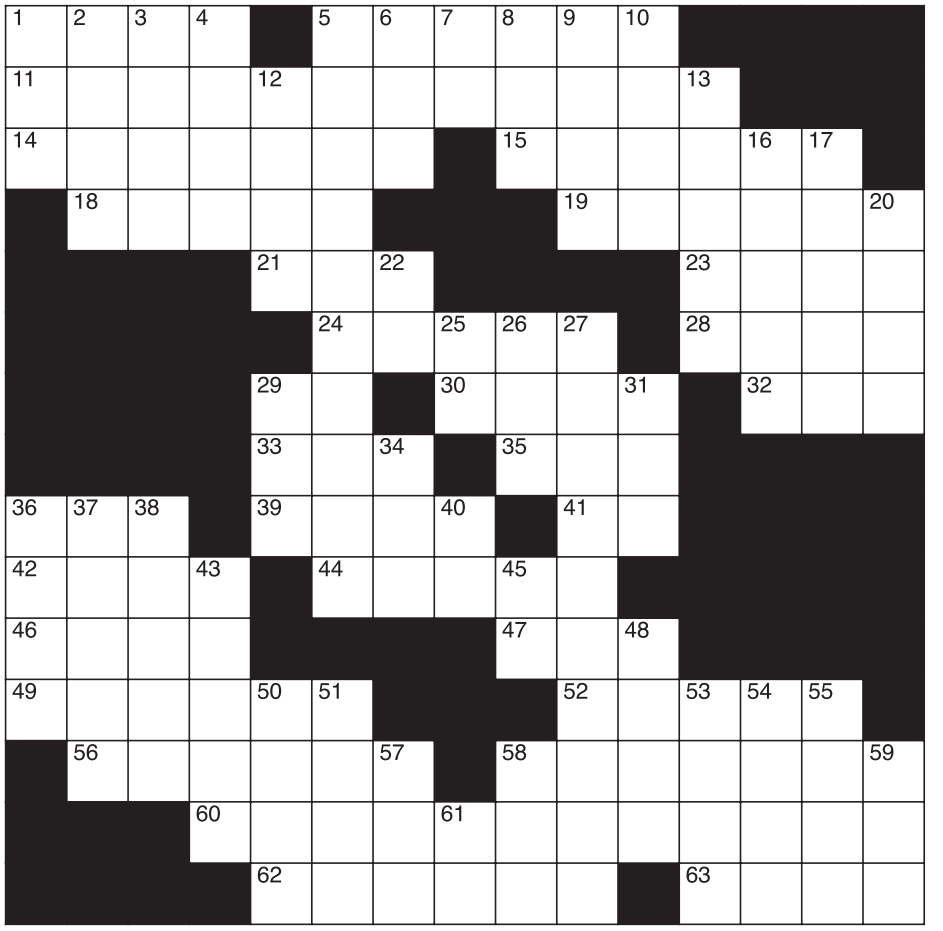
sponsored by SPARROW ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

1. Nasal mucus
5. Hairs on the back of a dog
11. Ones who build anew
14. Consume too much food
15. Praised
18. Provides weapons
19. Become less lively
21. Engine additive
23. Thought or suggestion
24. South Korean city
28. Midday rests
29. Expression of acidity or alkalinity
30. Group of rockers
32. Very fast airplane
33. One who is paid to do something
35. Buzzing insect
36. Monotheistic religion founder
39. Strong dark beer
41. Blood type
42. Square measures
44. Honorific titles in NW Semitic languages
46. Present
47. Afflict in mind or body
49. Duty
52. Municipality in Stockholm
56. In a normal way
58. Rode a bicycle
60. Charitable
62. Verandas
63. Uncredited

DOWN

1. No seats available
2. Russian river
3. A European river
4. Phrase
5. Idol
6. Keyboard key
7. Prefix indicating mutual
8. Kilometers per hour
9. Set an example
10. It's among the "Great" ones
12. VVV
13. Murdered
16. Icelandic poems
17. Seas
20. Famed cartoonist
22. Partner to "Ma"
25. Equal to one quintillion bytes
26. Speak incessantly
27. Disquiet
29. Parts per billion (abbr.)
31. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
34. S. American plant
36. Monetary unit of Thailand
37. Regions
38. Baseball legend Yogi
40. Ancient Egyptian notion of spiritual part of humans
43. Fishing net
45. Tinseltown
48. MacBeth's wife was one
50. Took a spill
51. Adversary to pets
53. Town in Galilee
54. Secret racist society (slang)
55. About aviation
57. Longing or yearning
58. Hawaiian dish
59. Field force unit
61. Partner to "Pa"



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	9							

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 14.

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Pictured artwork by Andrew Clingenpeel

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$545,000

THE HOME

A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

One-of-a-kind downtown Bristol estate

This second empire style home with its signature mansard roof is one of the many stately properties that line the main streets in Bristol. As you approach, you will be captivated by the curved covered porch and antique solid wood door, which enters into the large parlor with hardwood flooring and brick hearth. The exposed brick chimney is also a feature of the dining room along with a cathedral ceiling and skylight, and it abuts the vintage kitchen that sits at the rear of the home, both easily accessible from the back entry off of the driveway. On the western side of the first level, you will find a den and bedroom, both with pine floors, along with a three-quarter bathroom. Upstairs, a decorative ornamental antique wood stove sits on the landing and three pine-floored bedrooms, one with an ensuite bath with a clawfoot tub, and a guest bathroom grace this level. Outside, a split rail fence defines this 0.43 acre corner lot boasting mountain views, mature trees, established landscaping, and a slate walkway and patio in the back yard. The detached carriage house includes a one-car garage with lots of storage or workshop space. This property has been in the same family for decades, and it's ready for new owners to become stewards of this special property.

This week's property is managed by The Real Estate Company of Vermont. More info at therealestatecompanyvt.com.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777.

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AUG. 29, 2024

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9	5	2	4	6	1	3	7	8
3	8	1	7	2	9	5	6	4
5	7	6	1	4	8	9	3	2
2	9	4	6	3	5	8	1	7

CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

CARILLONNEUR GEORGE MATTHEW JR. IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Sept. 14, 5 p.m., Middlebury Chapel. The Middlebury College campus and surrounding neighborhoods will ring with the sound of carillon bells at the new fall festival. Free and open to the public.

CONTRA DANCE IN CORNWALL. Saturday, Sept. 14, 7-9:30 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, Route 30. Adina Gordon will be calling with live music by Red Dog Riley. Beginners welcome. All dances will be taught. Come alone or bring a friend. $5 to $10 or pay what you can.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 15

TAM TREK IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Sept. 15, 7:30 a.m., Wright Park, Seymour St. Ext. Get some exercise and raise funds for the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM). Nothing beats early fall's trail racing weather! For registration and more information, visit runsignup.com/Race/VT/Middlebury/TAMTrek2023.

TOUR DE FARMS IN SHOREHAM. Sunday, Sept. 15, check in at 8:30 a.m., town green. Come ride and enjoy the best that Vermont has to offer — from glorious scenery to delicious samples of foods that are grown or produced here in Addison County. Choose a 30-mile ride or a 10-mile ride each with farm stops along the way. Enjoy the Shoreham Apple Fest Post Ride. More info and registration at acornvt.org/tourdefarms.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE GUIDED WALK IN ADDISON. Sunday, Sept. 15, 1-3 p.m., Chimney Point State Park, Route 17W. Learn the history of what surrounds you as you walk across the Lake Champlain Bridge. Chimney Point site administrator Elsa Gilbertson and Crown Point, N.Y., site manager Sam Huntington lead this guided round trip walk. Meet at Chimney Point. Rain or shine, dress for the weather. Bring a picnic to enjoy before. $9 Fee includes admission to both museums. Light refreshments afterwards.

ZIG ZAG LIT MAG RELEASE PARTY IN BRISTOL. Sunday, Sept. 15, 2-4 p.m., Tillerman, 1868 N 116 Rd. Come celebrate the release of Issue.17 & Chapbook.7 in the red barn, with a mingling bit of picnicking and issue selling before the formal reading at 2:30 p.m. The restaurant & bar will be closed, but there will be snacks (feel free to bring some potluck style!) and a chance to meet fellow artists, makers, doers, movers and shakers.

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Happy Labor Day from all of us at Champlain Valley Properties!

Front row L-R: John Synder-White, January Stearns, Nancy Foster, Diana Berthiaume, Mandy Hodson. **Back row L-R:** Brenda Jaring, Amy Young, Kellie Peters, Heather Foster-Provencher, Lisa Sargent, Liz Marino

Champlain Valley Properties

70 Court Street, Middlebury, VT
802-989-7522 | ChamplainValleyProperty.net

IPJ Real Estate

SALISBURY ***NEW LISTING!***
2086 & 2080 LAKE DUNMORE RD.

MLS #5010935 | $720,000
3 BD | 3 BA | 1876 SF | 1.00 ACRE

Year-round house with an open floor plan, deck, patio, plenty of dock space and boat house (with a 4-season guest suite above)! This is an ideal setup for someone that wants to have guests or a caretaker while maintaining their own privacy. Property offers plenty of parking (including a garage) and frontage on Lake Dunmore. Additional land across the road on North Pond for parking or recreation. Bonus features include a whole house generator, motorized awning over the deck, slate patio, deck, docks, garden beds, nice yard, and tons of storage in the boat house. You can fish, swim, boat or paddle from your own back door!

VERGENNES ***NEW LISTING!***
3 THORNWOOD LANE

MLS #5011065 | $645,000
4 BD | 2 BA | 2144 SF | 1.90 ACRES

Easy access to both local amenities & recreation while being convenient to picturesque downtown. Hardwood floors, stainless appliances, quartz countertops, extra space for guests—a must-see home.

CORNWALL ***NEW LISTING!***
286 ROUTE 30

MLS #5011249 | $399,000
2 BD | 1 BA | 1274 SF | 2.05 AC

Easy to maintain and ready for immediate occupancy! Hardwood floors and detailing. Full basement, an attached garage, and an enclosed porch. New septic in 2014 and a new roof in 2018!

ORWELL ***NEW LISTING!***
98 STEVENS ORCHARD RD

MLS #5011255 | $389,000
3 BD | 3 BA | 1872 SF | 5.25 ACRES

A private location with a large garden area and outbuildings ready to house animals or equipment. Finished space above the two-car garage. Many recent updates including to the kitchen.

ipjrealestate.com
34 Main Street, downtown Middlebury
info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242

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. Available to view online.

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.