



Famous name

Elisabeth von Trapp will sing a solo benefit concert in Bristol on Sunday. See Arts + Leisure.



Rivals clash

Two field hockey teams needing a win met in Bristol on Monday. See what happened on Page 1B.



Home fix-it

Read about professional home maintenance tips, tiny houses and more in our special section.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Local horse dies of EEE; risk higher in Salisbury

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont Health officials are urging residents to take steps to prevent mosquito bites after an Addison County horse tested positive for Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) last week. The horse, which was tested on Sept. 23, was unvaccinated and

is now deceased. EEE, which spreads through the bite of an infected mosquito, is rare but can cause serious and life-threatening illness in people and some animals. Although the risk is lower as temperatures cool and mosquitoes are less (See Local horse, Page 13A)

Area schools manage students' phone use

Administrators update rules, seek input on device policies

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — A new school year is well underway and learning communities across the nation and in Vermont are cracking down on students' use of cellphones during school hours.

A handful of school districts in the Green Mountain State have adopted new policies for regulating students' phone use, such as outright

banning cellphones in schools and purchasing lockable pouches for students in which to store their phones during the school day.

Such measures are aimed at limiting distractions and addressing concerns over the effects of social media use on youth mental health.

In Addison County, practices and policies regarding students' phone use vary amongst school districts, though most require phones to be put away for the duration of the school day. A few local schools have updated their

phone policies for the 2024-2025 school year, and one is seeking feedback on the future of its cellphone practices.

MIDDLEBURY

In the Addison Central School District, Middlebury Union High School kicked off this school year with updated guidelines regarding phones in class.

Those guidelines state that all phones and personal electronic devices (including headphones) must be kept out of sight during (See Cellphones, Page 10A)

Bristol to vote on \$4M for water lines

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — When Bristol residents head to the polls to vote in the General Election this November they'll also be asked whether to bond for up to \$3.95 million to help finance the next leg of a multi-phase water line replacement effort in town.

If approved, the bond would support a project aimed at replacing nearly 120-year-old water lines located west of North Street. If all goes to plan, the town could break ground on that "Bristol West" project in 2026.

The project marks the second phase in a larger effort to replace around half of the water lines in the town's aging water distribution system, many of which were installed around 1905 and are contributing to large water losses each year.

As of 2023, the town's water system served around 1,170 residents in the village, in addition to 187 commercial connections. The system was evaluated in 2021 by the now-closed Green Mountain Engineering, which recommended replacing around 33,000 linear (See Bristol, Page 13A)



Golden hour

A MOTORIST ON Notch Road in Lincoln has the chance to revel in the fall foliage lit by the late afternoon sun this past Saturday. Addison County is entering the peak of the most colorful season of the year.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Midd voters back free easement for Vt. Gas

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury residents on Tuesday voted 601-416 to affirm a June 25 selectboard decision to give Vermont Gas Systems (VGS) a free easement to funnel natural gas to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at 3 Main St.

Tuesday's vote was triggered by a citizens' petition drive by resident Ross Conrad, who has maintained that while St. Stephen's is entitled to its choice of fuel, VGS should be required to pay fair market value for the town easement through which it was seeking to provide

(See Middlebury, Page 14A)

Keep the ballot you get in mail, take it to polls

When you get a Vermont General Election ballot in the mail, don't throw it away, even if you plan on voting in person on Nov. 5.

While visiting the Middlebury town office this week, we heard that Vermont towns have a limited number of paper ballots for this year's general election, so town clerks are asking people who choose to vote in person on Nov. 5 to please bring the ballot they got in the mail with them to cast at the polling place. It is the same ballot you would be given in person.

Because the state mailed ballots to every voter, the Secretary of (See Ballots, Page 13A)

United Way ups its 2024 fundraising goal

\$600K grant helps prevention effort

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Encouraged by stellar support during last year's philanthropic fund drive, the United Way of Addison County (UWAC) is now aiming higher.

UWAC late last month launched a 2024 campaign to raise \$750,000 for charitable causes in our area. That's \$50,000 more than last

year's fund drive, which ended up netting an impressive \$859,941. So officials are pleased to be able to boost this year's goal, which had plateaued at \$700,000 in recent years.

"(2023) was our best year, ever, at UWAC," noted Erin Reed, the nonprofit's development & marketing director.

But she hastened to add that more than half of the \$159,941 in above-goal support last year was related to "Addison County Responds: Flood Relief," a special UWAC effort to raise money for folks who took a particularly painful hit from two major rainstorms in summer 2023. UWAC is again raising funds for flood relief this year to help those affected by yet another round of powerful storms

that inundated parts of the county this past summer.

"We have a great base of donors in Addison County who really care about our mission and are committed to supporting that mission," Reed said. "We are seeing some donors increase their gifts because they see some of the issues that are happening in our county and want to help."

(See United Way, Page 14A)

Addison farm corrals cows with virtual fence technology

App helps move, monitor animals

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON — These days it can feel like there's an app for everything — listening to music, ordering food to your doorstep, and even managing herds of cattle.

Nofence, a Norwegian company, has developed virtual fencing technology that allows farmers to create pasture boundaries from an app on their phone. Farmers can use the app to establish grazing areas, as well as move and monitor their animals. The technology apparently is widely used in Europe and has more recently gained traction in the United States.

This summer, local dairy farmers Melanie and Patrick Harrison were among a handful of Vermont farms to take part in a pilot program testing out the technology.

The pair runs Harrison's Homegrown, an organic dairy farm in Addison.

"Over the past couple of years, I (See Virtual fencing, Page 18A)



HARRISON'S HOMEGROWN FARM in Addison was among those that took part in a pilot program testing out virtual fencing technology this summer. Here, cows at the dairy farm wear electric collars, which communicate with an app that allows farms to create pasture boundaries and move and monitor animals with their phones.

Photo courtesy of Melanie Harrison



By the way

The time for the dedication of Megan's Meadow this Sunday, Oct. 6, has been changed from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., as the Middlebury Maple Run start and finish is located in the same area that morning. Megan's Meadow is a Middlebury garden space with lots of native plants, which are vital to wildlife and help preserve biological diversity that is vital and irreplaceable. Friends & family of Megan Battey as well as the public are invited to attend. Megan's Meadow is in the Middlebury Area Community Garden on the north side of Porter Hospital, across the north hospital parking (See By the way, Page 13A)

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Turning Point nears deal on new home

Recovery center eyes Court Street

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Turning Point Center of Addison County (TPCAC) is closing in on a deal to buy a two-story building at 79 Court St. to serve as the nonprofit's new hub for substance-use disorder programming.

TPCAC is one of 12 peer recovery centers in Vermont that offer support for individuals and their families seeking recovery from various addictions. Turning Point's recovery programming includes one-on-one coaching and multi-person sessions, hosting Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Overeaters Anonymous, among other support groups.

The organization is currently based at 54A Creek Rd., just outside of Middlebury village. It's a 3,175-square-foot space that needs updating and isn't well configured to best serve the growing number of people seeking its services, according to Executive Director Danielle Wallace.

"When we walked in the building, it was like, 'This is it; this is what we're looking for.'"

— Danielle Wallace

PREVIOUS FAILED OPTIONS

In 2022, Turning Point officials — who include 10 full- and part-time workers and several volunteers — thought they'd found an ideal landing spot for the organization: The former St. Mary's School off Shannon Street. The 11,000-square-foot structure would have accommodated TPCAC functions, with room to spare for other, like-minded nonprofits. The plan gained momentum when U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy secured a \$959,610 federal earmark to help Turning Point fix and occupy the former school building. But TPCAC and St. Mary's officials had to scuttle the plan after receiving a legal opinion that the property would be taxable based on its new use.

"Plan B" was to renovate and expand 54A Creek Rd. The feds determined Turning Point could use the \$959,610 Leahy grant to fix that property.

That plan was taken off the table

earlier year, however, when the owners of the building opted out, because the use of federal money for renovations could encumber future tenancies when/if TPCAC decided to leave, according to Wallace.

So once again, Turning Point was back to square one in finding a new home.

"I met with the board (this summer) to talk about where we go from here, and my message was, (54 Creek Rd.) can't be it," Wallace said, alluding to the fallback option of a lease renewal. "This building doesn't suit our needs."

Thus began a new search for a Turning Point HQ, one in which officials explored both lease and purchase scenarios. Wallace and her colleagues wanted

TPCAC to remain in Middlebury, convenient to public transportation and nonprofits with a similar mission.

Pricing and location limited TPCAC's possible landing spots. But Wallace became intrigued by a

property in the village that had lingered on the market for several months: 79 Court St., which has hosted several therapy and business offices through the years. Tenants have included Michael Castelli Counseling & Music Therapy, Eml Massage, and One Day In July Financial Advisors.

"My initial impression was, it might not be big enough," she said of 79 Court St.'s approximately 2,000 square feet. "But we decided to check it out."

They're glad they did. "When we walked in the building, it was like, 'This is it; this is what we're looking for,'" she recalled.

Wallace explained the building's main floor is equipped with six rooms perfectly sized for Turning Point coaching sessions. Coaching right now at 54A Creek Rd. largely takes place in a big conference room.

"For someone new in recovery, that can be tough," Wallace



TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is looking to purchase this building on Court Street in Middlebury to house its recovery programs.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

said of trying to have impactful conversations in wide open spaces. "It can be intimidating."

Plans call for TPCAC to put administrative offices on the second floor of the building and transform the basement into a large gathering spot for group activities.

Once again, the organization has been given permission to use the Leahy grant money that was appropriated for the St. Mary's project. But the funds can only be used for renovations to 79 Court St., not for its purchase. Turning Point will need to borrow \$440,000 to buy the building, in hopes of paying off that debt through a fund drive, according to Wallace.

"I don't know that our center has ever done a campaign like this. It's kind of exciting to venture into this unknown territory," she said.

Plans call for the needed interior renovations to begin this month, with the goal of TPCAC moving into its new home this December. Turning Point recently received the requisite change-of-use permit (from residential to a nonprofit operation) from the town of Middlebury.

COMMUNITY PUSH BACK

Turning Point's plan generated some opposition. The Middlebury selectboard received three letters from area residents opposing TPCAC's relocation to 79 Court St.

"This location on Court Street and Thomas Street is not only close to Middlebury Union High School and the Mary Hogan School, but also on a direct walking and bike

riding route to those schools used by so many of small children and teenagers. The placement of a recovery center with its clientele in such proximity to children makes no sense and is quite frankly a recipe for unwanted contacts," reads a letter from residents Tom and Dorothea Beyer.

"While drug recovery is important, there are always people who relapse. Are we inviting current drug users and the problems that brings (drugs, alcohol, fighting, yelling, loitering) into our neighborhoods and very close to schools?" reads a letter from Cera Hurley.

She also raised concerns about the recent relocation of Bread Loaf Mountain Zen Community's "Gather" service, from Merchants Row to 76 Court St. Gather is a spot where people can congregate, eat food, use shower and laundry facilities, and partake in entertainment and therapeutic programming for free.

Zen Community and Turning Point officials have discussed working together to help people in need.

"Another issue is that I have heard that Gather, which is sold as a community hangout, but more of a homeless hangout, is going in directly across the street and even closer to the high school and residential neighborhoods. I cannot stress enough how bad of an idea this is for our community members, and most importantly, our children," Hurley states in her

letter.

The selectboard received a third letter, signed "Concerned Citizens of Middlebury."

"Although Turning Point is a good service and needed for our community, it could not take place at 79 Court St., which is in a residential neighborhood and school near our children," reads the letter. "Parents and children should not have to worry and witness the goings on and dealing with being on guard all the time wondering if drugs, needles, alcohol or violence is close by our neighborhood," the letter adds.

The same Concerned Citizens of Middlebury sent a similar letter in June of 2023 to neighbors of St. Mary's School, urging opposition to TPCAC's plan for that property.

Wallace said she's aware of — and somewhat saddened by — the complaint letters.

She said Middlebury police have visited Turning Point once during the past four years, for an issue related to a former employee.

Wallace said Turning Point will hold some community forums to listen to any neighbors' concerns, while explaining the organization's mission and hours of operation.

"Education is key. We are happy to chat with anyone who has concerns," Wallace said. "We try to keep an open-door policy, and we want to be good neighbors."

She stressed those seeking help at Turning Point are also part of the community.

"These people are our neighbors, too. They're the people who build our houses, nurses, doctors and attorneys," Wallace said, adding, "we are changing the trajectory on opioid deaths. The services we're providing are making a difference."

Two local libraries earn big Vt. grants

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Bristol and Salisbury are among 14 Vermont communities whose public libraries will share \$15.9 million in federal funding for much-needed capital projects.

But conspicuously absent from the 2024 Vermont Department of Libraries (VDL) list of American Rescue Plan Act beneficiaries is Middlebury's Ilsley Public Library, whose boosters had hoped to secure \$1.5 million through the VDL to help bankroll its upcoming \$17 million expansion/renovation project.

The absence of that grant means the fundraising arm of the Ilsley will be working overtime to fill the gap in bankrolling what is by far the biggest library makeover project in the county's history.

"We are happy that the department of libraries is providing funding for much-needed updates to nearby libraries in Bristol, Salisbury and Brandon," Ilsley Library Director Dana Hart stated through an email exchange.

"At the same time, we are obviously disappointed that our own grant application was not approved. We thought it was an exceptionally strong application for a significant and feasible project that clearly furthers the goals of the Capital Project Funds program.

"It was our hope to fund the library project with \$2 million in grant funds, and we had been optimistic about obtaining \$1.5 million of that from the Department of Libraries," she continued. "We will put our heads together to find a way to bridge the funding gap. The support of the local community has been truly encouraging and we believe that our patrons, neighbors, and friends in Middlebury and Addison County will help us reach our goal."

While Ilsley officials have cause for disappointment, their counterparts at Bristol's (See Libraries, Page 3A)

ATRIA COLLECTIVE SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS

If you have some time and talent to spare, please consider applying to join the vibrant board of Atria Collective (formerly WomenSafe) an organization that works to eliminate domestic and sexual violence in our community. Your skills would be a great addition to our engaged team of visionaries. We typically meet one evening per month, in Middlebury. Our board utilizes a policy governance and shared leadership model. Participation and childcare stipends available for interested candidates. Atria Collective prioritizes recruitment of members of diverse backgrounds and qualifications to help us address challenges of power, culture and privilege. We are also in special need of people with skills in finance, non-profit HR, and/or stewardship.

If you're interested, please submit a letter of interest to Margaret Miles (Board Member) at margaret.miles@vermontstate.edu If you have a resume, you are welcome to submit it with your letter. We will begin reviewing applications October 17.



24 Hour Hotline: 802-388-4205 • info@atriavt.org

Retired police chief now interim town manager

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The town of Middlebury has recruited a familiar face to temporarily serve as its top administrator.

Tom Hanley — who retired last fall as the shire town's police chief after more than 30 years of service — has agreed to serve as Middlebury's interim town manager while the selectboard considers a permanent replacement for former Manager Kathleen Ramsay.

Ramsay stepped down from

her post in early September after 20 years working for the town. She recently began her new job as municipal operations specialist for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' newly created Finance, Operations and Management Assistance Program.

The selectboard in July launched a search for Ramsay's replacement. That search has produced three finalists. The board as of Wednesday hadn't announced a contract with a preferred candidate. The remaining two finalists are

currently employed at other jobs, so Middlebury will likely need to wait several weeks before Ramsay's successor can start, town officials acknowledged.

Hanley officially stepped in as interim town manager on Sept. 23, after having assisted with interviews of the three finalists.

"Afterward, the board members asked if I'd consider filling in temporarily when Kathleen left. I told the board I'd consider it," Hanley wrote in an email exchange with the *Independent*.

Hanley learned on Sept. 14 that the selectboard had endorsed his interim appointment. Fortunately, the former chief didn't have to negotiate a long learning curve.

"Kathleen was in the process of departing, so the training wheels went on and I spent the week reacquainting with department heads and getting up to speed on issues," he said. "On Sept. 23, the training wheels came off and I was appointed as interim Town Manager as Kathleen started her new job at VLCT."

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Champlain Basin grants now available

GRAND ISLE — The Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) seeks pre-proposals for projects and programs to protect, restore, interpret, and showcase the historical resources and cultural heritage of the Champlain Valley and the Lake Champlain Basin.

The projects supported through this process will advance the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership's Making of Nations interpretive theme in 2026, emphasizing the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

"The 250th anniversary of the American Revolution is a significant opportunity to reflect on the fight for independence from European rule," said John Krueger, chair of the LCBP Heritage Area Program Advisory Committee. "An integral corridor connecting the St. Lawrence River and the Hudson River, the Champlain Valley was critical to gaining and maintaining independence from Great Britain during the military campaigns that took place in 1775, 1776, and 1777. Fort Saint-Jean, the Hubbardton Battlefield, and Fort Ticonderoga — among other sites — are places rich in historical significance that help us tell those stories. The upcoming CVNHP grants will support the sharing of many more of these important stories."

The CVNHP will offer grants in two categories:

• CVNHP Core Grant Program: These large grants of \$10,000-\$40,000 will serve the Making of Nations Interpretive Theme to encourage multi-jurisdictional or regional projects that interpret, highlight, and support marking the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in 2025. Projects that focus on other concepts, innovations, or

movements that have had lasting regional, national and global effects are also encouraged.

• CVNHP Special Grant Program: Smaller grants up to \$10,000 will also support the interpretive theme; or provide internships, museum collection improvements, and focus on local history in 2025.

Applicants are invited to submit multiple pre-proposals for each category.

After reviewing the submitted pre-proposals, a subset of applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal in Fall 2024 for funding consideration for projects to begin after Oct. 1, 2025. The grant awards will be announced in June 2025.

"The many grants awarded by the CVNHP to date have bolstered our region's cultural resources, including history education programs, new interpretive displays, internships, and the inventorying, preserving, and interpreting of museum collections," said Eric Howe, Director of the CVNHP and LCBP. "Our partners have done an amazing job in researching, conserving, and celebrating the rich and diverse cultural and natural heritage of the Champlain Valley."

The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is Oct. 21.

Pre-proposal guidelines, list of eligible entities, submission requirements, and an electronic submission application link are available on the CVNHP website at champlainvalleyhnp.org/resources/grants/.

Projects that emphasize inclusion of underserved or minority communities in accordance with LCBP's mission for diversity, equity, and inclusion (see the LCBP Mission webpage) will receive special consideration.

State's archery deer season gets underway

VERMONT — Hunters have taken to the woods for Vermont's Oct. 1-Nov. 15 and Dec. 2-15 archery deer hunting season.

A hunter may take up to four deer in Vermont's two-part archery season if they do not shoot any deer in the other deer seasons. The purchase of an archery deer license and tag is required for each deer. No more than one of the deer taken during archery season may be a legal buck if no buck is taken in the other deer seasons. Antlerless deer hunting is allowed during archery season statewide this year.

In WMUs C, D1, D2, E1, E2, G, I, L, M, P, and Q a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler three inches or more in length. In WMUs A, B, F1, F2, H, J1, J2, K, N, and O a legal buck is any deer with at least one antler with two or more antler points one inch in length or longer.

Hunters must have a standard hunting license in order to purchase an add-on archery deer hunting license, except that nonresidents may purchase an "archery only deer license" costing \$75. Licenses may be quickly and easily purchased on Fish and Wildlife's website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

Hunters planning a Vermont archery deer hunting trip will find



VERMONT'S ARCHERY DEER season started Tuesday, Oct. 1.
VTF&W photo by Maria Gigliello

it helpful to download a copy of the 2023 Deer Harvest Report from Fish and Wildlife's website with this link: tinyurl.com/2vmdt9jt It has the number of deer taken in each town in last year's deer hunting seasons.

For more information and a summary of regulations, download the 2024 Deer Seasons Guide from Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website, or pick up a free copy of the 2024 Hunting & Trapping Guide from any license agent or highway rest area.



Gov.²

CURRENT VERMONT GOV. Phil Scott and former Gov. James Douglas of Middlebury both attended a Republican rally held at the Middlebury American Legion Post 27 on Sept. 26. Scott, who hadn't been in town for a while, came to help the Addison County GOP rally its base for the upcoming Nov. 5 General Election. For the first time in decades — perhaps ever — there are currently no Republicans among Addison County's Vermont General Assembly delegation.
Independent photo/John Flowers

Middlebury nets \$1M sidewalk grant

To back connection of new subdivision

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The town of Middlebury has won a \$1,092,000 grant for a "Greater Buttolph Neighborhood Connectivity Project," which will create new sidewalk from Seminary Street Extension (future site of the planned 218-unit Stonecrop Meadows subdivision) to Route 7, at the Rogers Road intersection.

The total \$1,365,000 project will specifically bring improvements to Rogers Road, Monroe Street and Valley View Drive.

"Ideally, all locations would have a raised sidewalk with a grass strip buffer to the road," said Emmalee Cherington, director of planning for the Middlebury Department of Public Works.

She cautioned that potential right-of-way issues and the presence of utilities might not allow for the improvements along the entire project area, but Cherington promised the town "will be creative with alternatives throughout the engineering process to best accommodate our users."

This connectivity project is one of several identified in Middlebury's "2023 Bike/Ped Connectivity Plan." It's a document that identifies possible biking and pedestrian amenities for locals and visitors and serves as a blueprint for prioritizing future connections between the many sidewalks, trails and pathways that have become one of the shire town's major calling cards.

Assembling a bike-ped plan was one in a series of recommendations

in the transportation section of Middlebury's first-ever downtown master plan, a 138-page document completed in 2020 that suggests areas where housing, artistic endeavors, recreational facilities and a thriving retail/restaurant scene could flourish with the right investment and foresight.

Middlebury Director of Planning & Zoning Jen Murray was a major catalyst for the plan, which was assembled with the help of consultants.

"This project is the first one to be advanced from the list in the bike ped plan," said Murray. "Its proximity to the proposed (Stonecrop) project helped advance it and get it funded."

She and Cherington noted the town already has a plan for its required 20% match for the \$1,365,000 project. Around \$64,000 will come from Summit Properties (the developers of Stonecrop). And more favorable interest rates for the town's current bonded indebtedness (for public works projects) has yielded \$200,000 that the town can apply to its match, according to Cherington.

Officials cautioned that it could be two to three years before the new sidewalks are installed. That's because the Vermont Agency of Transportation, or AOT, has a design, permit review, and right-of-way negotiations/acquisition process for these kinds of sidewalk projects that can take around 18 months, Cherington noted. Dozens of property owners will be asked to cooperate, and holdouts could extend the timeline.

"You can't go faster than the AOT will allow you to go," said

Selectman Fred Dunnington, Middlebury's former town planner and current member of the community's infrastructure committee.

The connectivity grant Middlebury received is part of \$7.19 million in federal money the AOT awarded statewide this year for various bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects. It was a competitive process with the AOT judging applications on a variety of criteria, including the extent to which the proposals could reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Middlebury's application obviously checked a lot of boxes, as it was the largest pedestrian/bike grant the town has ever received from AOT.

Cherington said she spent around six weeks making sure the town's application was as complete as possible.

Her efforts were recognized last week by the Middlebury Infrastructure Committee.

"Tremendous kudos to Emmalee for bringing this money to our community," said committee member and Selectperson Heather Seely.

Libraries

(Continued from Page 2A)

Lawrence Memorial Library and the Salisbury Free Public Library have cause for elation.

The Salisbury library at 918 Maple St. has won a \$978,807 ARPA grant that will help fund the repair or replacement the building's HVAC system, a new plumbing system, water systems upgrades, as well as interior and exterior renovations for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

Lawrence Memorial Library at 40 North St. will receive \$483,000 in ARPA funds through the VDL. That money will help pay for a new HVAC system, building envelope repairs for structural integrity, as well as electrical and mechanical system updates.

Further south, just outside of Addison County, the Brandon Free Public Library has nabbed a \$1.4 million ARPA grant that will help subsidize installation of a four-story elevator with related renovations and improvements for ADA compliance, and repair or replacement of windows for energy efficiency.

The *Independent* will soon feature more detailed stories about the renovation efforts at the Salisbury and Bristol libraries, and how the infusion of federal funds will help expedite their capital projects.

According to a VDL press release, the one-time grants are to "address critical building improvements that ensure Vermonters in these communities have continued access to high-speed internet for the purposes of work, education and health monitoring at their local public libraries."

State Librarian and Commissioner of Libraries Catherine Delneo offered the following statement:

"The department of libraries is excited about this opportunity to support communities around the state by administering the first federal capital funding for Vermont public libraries in 20 years. A needs assessment conducted by the department in 2023 reflected a high need for maintenance, repairs and modernization in public library buildings, many of which are more than 100 years old. Libraries serve as community hubs and this money supports these crucial facilities and the Vermonters that will depend on them well into the future."

The VDL's largest ARPA award was \$1.5 million, made to each of the public libraries in Bennington, Grand Isle and Lamoille.

The complete list of U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund for Libraries grant recipients can be found at tinyurl.com/mrwtvsms.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Cole's Flowers

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Editorials

In state campaigns

Calling out empty promises

Vermont Republicans running for election to the House or Senate have two ready-made campaign issues — inflation and high property taxes — and many are using it to their full advantage.

Flyers have appeared in mailboxes with suggestive headlines such as: “What did you think of your PROPERTY TAX INCREASE this year? I was shocked, weren’t you?”

Then they go on to suggest housing costs are higher, food is higher, heating bills are higher. Everything is higher, higher, higher. Vote for me, the postcards suggest, and they’ll fight to lower those costs.

Sounds good, right? And everyone agrees it’s better to have lower prices. But let’s think it through for a moment.

First, take inflation. In an average year, inflation on many items goes up 3-4%, even as the federal bank strives to keep national inflation close to 2%. So, just for starters, inflationary costs rise about 12-15% every four years. And that’s not a bad thing. Wages go up as well (the minimum wage in Vermont is now \$13.67, having gone up 49 cents from the previous year.) That’s just how the economy percolates, or crumbles, whatever your perspective might be.

The pandemic, of course, has been the main cause of the high inflation of the past four years. The sudden closing of many businesses at the height of the pandemic that first year, sent the economy into sudden withdrawal, which necessitated high government spending. That funding, from both Trump and later Biden, prevented an almost certain recession, but predictably spurred inflation. The pandemic was the worst the world has seen in a long time, which necessitated longer than usual economic stimulus.

This happened throughout the country and the world. Vermont state representatives or senators, be they Democrats or Republicans, had no say in the matter.

So area candidates blaming any other candidate, or their parties, for high prices on food and most other consumables are casting blame needlessly — and should be called to task.

High property taxes are another matter.

In Vermont, high property taxes are directly related to education expenses, which have soared in Vermont for several reasons: declining students in most schools, high health care costs, high labor costs because of a shortage of teachers and school staff, a higher incidence of mental health issues in school (blame the pandemic, smart-phones, fentanyl, Facebook, Instagram and Tik-Tok). Also, voters should remember the Legislature’s role is to provide the money needed to pay for budgets local voters approve. (See Rep. Peter Conlon’s letter on this page.) So, if voters want to reduce school spending, they should start with their own school budgets — then again, most voters want their schools to provide the education their children and grandchildren deserve.

Darn. That complicates things, doesn’t it?

The problem with being against high spending is figuring out what to cut. To that end, when candidates say they’ll reduce spending, voters should ask them to be specific in terms of what they’ll cut and how.

Can they affect the high price of food, or gasoline, or building materials? No. Can they demand lower housing costs? No. The legislature can reduce regulatory measures that add to building costs, as can town government, and that’s being done (or attempted), but it’s also stymied by others who don’t want what they might consider over-building in their backyard. And housing is created by private firms, most of whom in Vermont are beyond busy doing as many projects as they have workers to complete.

Democrats in the legislature did recently tackle the high cost of childcare, passing a small payroll tax to help resolve a chronic shortage of childcare providers, and that’s shown immediate success and could, over time, reduce costs as more childcare providers equalize demand. More could be done to relax industry regulations, even if it might reduce the quality of care, and those are reasonable tradeoffs to debate.

One issue area Republicans are pushing is that home heating oil might skyrocket if legislation seeking to transition Vermont homeowners off fossil fuels fulfills their worst-case scenarios. They often fail to mention the legislation calls for adjustments to any anticipated increase if the downsides outweigh the benefits. The first step, the legislation mandates, is to study how the proposed solution might work, then move forward if warranted.

Such explanations, of course, are not nearly as exciting as simply calling — in a postcard mailed to voters — for lower prices and, in so many words, more money in voters’ pockets. It’s part of the game for candidates on both sides to suggest they can do better. It’s up to voters to demand specifics and call-out or see through empty promises.

Angelo Lynn

Don’t toss that ballot!

If you were surprised to discover your General Election ballot was tucked in your mailbox recently, know this: It’s not junk mail!

Rather, the ballot is coded to the person and his or her address, complete with local elections pertaining to the voter. Nor is this the first time we’ve all received General Election ballots by mail. It started during the Covid pandemic. The Legislature gave authority to the Secretary of State’s office to make this change on a temporary basis for the 2020 election. Seeing its success, the Legislature codified those changes in the following session for the 2022 election and thereafter.

If this change in the way we now vote is a blur to you, chalk it up to Covid fog. Or perhaps when it happened before we all thought it was a temporary pandemic measure, like wearing a mask. Or maybe some of us simply yearn for the social interaction of voting in our community polling places — a ritual not to be lightly dismissed — and hoped such a sterile, antiseptic way of voting was all a bad dream.

Well, it’s no dream. Universal vote by mail is here to stay. The one criticism we have is that it was not well promoted. For such an important election, one might have thought a more visible campaign was warranted. The good news is the change should encourage more residents to vote.

That won’t replace the opportunity to chat with your town clerk and local poll workers during this upcoming election on Nov. 5, but hey, that’s still an option. Just remember to bring your ballot if you do.

Angelo Lynn

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Glory

WE KNOW THE U.S. Postal Services prides itself on not being deterred by snow, rain nor dark of night, but how about a mass of morning glories smothering this mailbox in Middlebury?

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Enjoying small-world connections

It’s such a strange experience to be far from home or traveling in an unfamiliar place, and suddenly come across someone familiar. Or to meet someone, start talking, and it turns out they are also from Vermont, or went to the same college as your sister, or are related to you on your mom’s side. This sudden jolt of the familiar always feels both jarring and reassuring at the same time, and it surprises me how often it happens.

My favorite example of this occurred on a trip to Japan. My daughter, dad, older sister and I traveled together to Japan. My younger sister and her husband, who live in China, flew to Japan a day earlier.

We planned to meet them at the AirBnB we had booked in advance. We arrived at the airport and navigated our way to the subway into Tokyo, one of the largest and most complex subway systems in the world. We were sitting on the subway and stopped at a station. Suddenly getting into our car were my sister and her husband. Of all the trains to be taking, and all the cars on the train, they got onto the very same car we were on. They had been out exploring and were on their way to meet us at the AirBnB. We probably made a bit of a scene in our excitement, especially on the politely silent trains in Japan, but it was just such an amazing coincidence.

The other scenario that constantly happens involves my dad’s large collection of baseball caps, which come from everywhere. When we travel, people often notice

and comment on his hat. For instance, someone will notice the one from his alma mater, Beloit College, and they’ll say, “Hey, I went to Beloit!” This will cue a conversation with another traveler in France or Bolivia or Taiwan who has a connection to my dad through Beloit.

Most recently we were traveling in Alaska and visiting the town of Talkeetna, famous for electing a cat as their mayor. (He was, unfortunately, busy with official town business when we tried to meet him at the General Store where he spends most of his days.) Talkeetna is a small town full of historic frontier buildings now housing cute restaurants and gift shops for tourists.

It was raining on and off when we were there, so we decided to make our first stop at the museum. It was tucked behind the main road in a small white clapboard building. Inside, a friendly woman at the front desk sold us tickets. While chatting mentioned being from Vermont. Turns out she has family in Vermont who are connected to this very newspaper. In fact, the *Addison Independent* is delivered to her way up in Talkeetna, Alaska. She even reads the Ways of Seeing column. It’s likely she will read this very column, and I hope she also loves the strange but wonderful phenomenon of making surprising connections on the road. It was a highlight of our time in Talkeetna.

It seems impossible that these situations occur

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

Ways of Seeing

By Claire Corkins



we, of course, mentioned being from Vermont. Turns out she has family in Vermont who are connected to this very newspaper. In fact, the *Addison Independent* is delivered to her way up in Talkeetna, Alaska. She even reads the Ways of Seeing column. It’s likely she will read this very column, and I hope she also loves the strange but wonderful phenomenon of making surprising connections on the road. It was a highlight of our time in Talkeetna.

It seems impossible that these situations occur

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

The dense bean salad does it all

Off the top of my head, I can think of only a few things that have affected me as deeply as this discovery. It’s not as profound as the secret of the universe or the meaning of life. But it’s close.

It’s the dense bean salad.

While this simple dish gained fame on TikTok, which I use mostly for the gardening tips and clumsy cat videos, I learned about it from legacy media. They got it from TikTok. (They pretend to do hard-hitting reporting, but in truth they waste hours watching drag makeup tutorials and deep-cleaning videos like the rest of us.)

The mystery of “dense beans” is what got my attention. But I soon learned it’s the salads, not the beans, that are dense, presumably because they don’t contain lettuce. They serve as a hearty meal in themselves.

To make a dense bean salad, you start with two cans of your bean of choice, add a selection of vegetables and optional protein, and toss it all in a dressing, usually a vinaigrette. A big batch lasts all week.

It’s hardly a new concept. Since the advent of pea porridge cold, people have been mixing their legumes with whatever they had on hand and eating the resulting dish for — if the nursery rhyme is accurate — up to nine days.

But a content creator (and genius) named Violet Witchel has managed to frame the dense bean salad as

a novel life hack. And her 2.6 million followers (even those of us who wouldn’t touch pea porridge at any temperature) can’t get enough.

The dense bean salad is nutritious and cheap and loaded with fiber, color and flavor. In the office, your coworkers eye you with admiration tinged with contempt, thinking, “Look at her all healthy and making yummy noises like she’s so special.”

At first, I doubted the wisdom of making up a large bowl in advance. I worried that the dressing would turn the ingredients to mush in a few hours. But Witchel calls this “marinating” and says the salad gets better with each passing day.

Works for me. Maybe I love the dense bean salad because it has come into my life at just the right time, when I’ve returned to the office on a hybrid schedule. I forgot what a production packing a lunch used to be.

Making a salad, for instance, involved washing, peeling and cutting four — sometimes five! — different vegetables. It’s just too much on a Tuesday morning.

And bringing leftovers means pulling together all kinds of elements for a halfway balanced meal. Plus the office microwave is several miles from my desk; I have to pack a snack to make sure I can get there and back without fainting from exhaustion.

Friends say I should I just buy lunch in town.

(See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

Letters
to the EditorTrash Olympics
gets gold medal

On Tuesday, September 24, three admirable individuals picked up and carried away 44 bags of trash (almost entirely household garbage!) from the truck turn-around near the top of the Bristol Notch Road. My hat is off to them for that unpleasant but noble good work. Chris Matrick at the National Forest Rochester Ranger Station tells me that their efforts are part of an annual program called the Trash Olympics.

Thank you!

Susan Wilmer
Lincoln

‘Know-Nothings’
make a return

Let’s take a look at history.

In the 1840s there was a political party called “The Know-Nothing Party.” It slowly faded away, or did it?

While watching the debate on September 10th and listening to Donald Trump perform, I realized that “The Know-Nothing Party” is, indeed, back.

Look beyond the candidates and check out with whom they surround themselves. Trump and his cronies are totally out-of-touch with reality.

This country can’t afford any more of Trump’s warped and frightening visions.

Bob Nixon
Middlebury

Conlon explains
school tax hikes

When the tax bills for Leicester and Middlebury went out this fall, they included a letter encouraging those with questions about the education property tax rates to contact Addison County State Sens. Chris Bray and Ruth Hardy, and me, Rep. Peter Colon.

I thought I might try to answer the questions I have received about the increase in property taxes and, more importantly, the steps the Legislature took to address it.

Vermont’s education funding system is unique. School boards propose budgets to voters, and once those budgets are approved by voters, the Legislature is obligated to raise the right amount of taxes to fund those budgets by setting tax rates. Those funds come mainly from three sources: consumption taxes such as sales tax and a portion of the rooms and meals tax, non-homestead property taxes, and homestead property taxes.

In developing their budgets for this current school year, school boards faced a perfect storm of costly challenges: the end of Covid-era federal dollars with no decrease in student need, 16.8% increase in health care costs, historically high contract settlements with their employees and basic inflation. They proposed responsible budgets, but the budgets reflected those pressures. The result was an increase of about \$250 million in education spending from FY24 to FY25 statewide, and a projected property tax increase of more than 20% on average.

Knowing that increase was unacceptable, but limited in what levers we could pull, here is what the Legislature put in place to bring that down to 13.5%: We eliminated the exemption from sales tax on cloud-based software, which adds \$27 million ongoing to bring down property taxes; we added \$69 million in one-time, in-hand surplus revenue to the Education Fund; and we increased the room tax on short-term rentals. In all, we added nearly \$100 million to help reduce property taxes. We also re-instituted the excess spending threshold, which has proven an effective cost-containment measure.

This brought down the projected statewide education homestead property tax rate by a third. Had we not overridden the governor’s veto of a must-pass bill, that \$100 million of tax-rate help would have vanished, and this situation turned even more dire.

(See *Conlon letter*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Will lawmakers finally ban hounding in 2025?

Hounding needs to end. It is not a Vermont tradition. It is not a Native American tradition. It is not hunting. No one is trying to feed themselves or survive by intentionally releasing packs of dogs into the woods to chase and attack wild animals. Hounding is a recreational activity and "spectator sport." It is a legalized form of dog fighting and animal fighting, no different than watching roosters fight to the death or pit bulls tear each other apart. Bear cubs, raccoon kits and families, coyotes and foxes should not be chased and mauled by hounds. No animal should be shot from a tree only to fall to the ground to be savagely ripped apart by hounds due to someone's perverse idea of pleasure.

Why do property owners, those who care about wildlife, and victims of hound attacks have to suffer and continually pay the price for this iniquitous, amoral activity motivated by the "thrill of the chase." Yet another pet dog has been attacked this year adjacent to private property while taking a walk with her owner. Multiple people and their dogs, as well as companion and farmed animals, have been chased and attacked by uncontrolled hounds, and nothing is done.

When will legislators put the rights of landowners and homeowners, the safety of Vermont residents — and their animals — as priorities, instead of kowtowing to a small subset of hounders?

Year after year, Vermont residents get into conflicts with hounders. Ugly conflict. Psychologically damaging and painful conflict. Yet, the legislature and VT Fish and Wildlife continue to cater to and appease hounders.

And what about the mistreatment and neglect to the hounds, themselves, and awful, often violent, methods to "train" them?

Since when is animal fighting and dog fighting a Vermont tradition? Dog owners are expected to control their dogs and pet dogs can be shot for accidentally chasing deer. However, hounders get a free pass. Their hounds regularly chase and attack non-target animals. Because these are "hunting hounds," the VT Fish and Wildlife Department consider it acceptable. Collateral damage, perhaps? The hounding lingo for non-target animals chased and attacked by hounds, including deer and fawns, is "trash." I think the word speaks for itself.

How long will this double standard continue to be tolerated? It is an insult to responsible dog owners. Legislators catering to hounders is an insult to property owners and to the victims who have been tormented by hounders and chased by hounds.

There are no repercussions for hounders when they harass homeowners or scare and awaken residents in the middle of the night while running across yards and onto private property in pursuit of hounds. Vermont children have witnessed wild animals in their own yards chased and viciously torn apart by hounds.

People have moved out of Vermont due to hounder harassment. Multiple people and domestic animals have been chased and attacked by hounds. When is enough is enough? How many attacks are justified to allow this to continue? How many property owners have to be awakened in the middle of the night by hounders and how many

reported violations of trespassing are needed before something is done about this inane, what very few consider, "sport."

As an animal behaviorist, I am floored that this is allowed and not illegal. It is not right that the only justice for victims of hounders is moving out of state or to another neighborhood or private litigation. The complete lack of control of hounds is a public safety issue. Hounds are not sporting dogs or bird dogs who stay close to handlers. Shock collars are not "control" mechanisms. Whether a hound is scent or sight-oriented is irrelevant to predatory aggression. Tracking is not the same as hounding. And even Bloodhounds and German Shepherds who search for lost children and serial killers remain, at all times, with their handlers.

The hounding of bears, coyotes, raccoons, foxes, and bobcats, which all use the same breeds of hounds, same operating procedures, and cause the same conflicts and injuries, needs to be banned outright in 2025.

If you've had bad experiences with hounders trespassing on your property; witnessed hounds chasing, scaring, and/or attacking companion or farmed animals; have found hapless hounds lost on your property or aimlessly meandering the roadside; or were inhibited from walking in the woods or on trails due the behavior of hounders; please reach out and contact your legislators. The Fish and Wildlife Department will simply bury the information and look the other way.

Alana Stevenson
Charlotte

'Trumplicans' seem intent on totalitarian regime

In the last few decades, significant legislation from the GOP has been about power. The GOP abolished the Fairness Doctrine under Reagan and established a falsely titled Citizen's United doctrine with a backslashing GOP Congress during Obama's second term. Those two legislations alone have enabled corporate takeover of government and the growth of networks like FOX that do not have to be held accountable for false reporting. GOP leadership has jockeyed around rules and regulations looking for ways to establish certain victory, no matter what the actual results of what they claim to be doing actually are.

Now the core leaders around this party are all Trumplicans, not Republicans. They have gathered and planned around the

Heritage Foundation, another patriotic sounding, falsely named organization, to create project 2025, which none of the more than 100 Trumplicans involved claim to know what is in it. Just read it. It is a roadmap for totalitarian government, by and for the GOP. It is a roadmap quite similar to Putin's actions.

It is not whether I like or don't like the values or desires of our GOP local hopefuls that turns me away from considering a vote for any of them. It is the obvious direction of the party leadership. Today, what "trickles down" is not a better way of doing business, but corruption, falsehoods, mockery and pretense. Unless and until the party can remove Trump and his gun-toting MAGAs from the divisive march to totalitarian ethics,

I will not vote for any Republican. I will, however, welcome and include those Republicans who have found the courage denounce Trump and project 2025 for what they are.

The DNC nomination offered such a different message and vision. It made me so proud to see that the USA was *finally* coming to grips with its prejudices and mistakes of the past. It was obvious that the party recognizes and works to fix what is wrong, and offers constructive solutions, and more than just loud, nasty rhetoric. What Biden has done for the economy and the backbone workers of this country is working, and what Harris/Walz has to offer is by far a better world.

Rob Demic
Bristol

Conlon letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

The governor talks a lot about his last-minute ideas — not detailed plans, but concepts of plans — to borrow an additional \$120 million from future, hoped-for surplus dollars, and figure out how to dramatically scale back education spending to pay that back later. In essence, the concept boiled down to putting state costs on a credit card and kicking the can down the road on a solution. This was not a responsible or researched proposal, and it was late. The governor had known the challenges since November 2023 and had the expertise of all of state government at his disposal — the Tax Department, the Agency of Education, the Division of Property Valuation.

It is not surprising. Addressing the high cost of our education system has no simple fix and

is filled with political risk. Vermonters highly value what we have and how it is set up. Yet we cannot ignore a dramatic decrease in enrollment, a shortage of licensed teachers, aging buildings and the high mental health needs of our kids, the burden of which falls more and more on schools.

The Legislature has created the Commission of the Future of Public Education to create a vision and pathway for a public education system that delivers quality at a cost Vermonters can afford, as well as shorter-term cost-containment strategies. We hope that pathway is something Vermonters will embrace together, because that is the only way we will succeed.

I live in Cornwall. I just received my property tax bill. Our town's education tax rate is up

over 20%. This is not an abstract problem for any of us. We are committed to finding solutions and making hard decisions because we want a Vermont that works for all of us, not just those who can afford it.

Peter Conlon
Cornwall

Editor's note: Peter Conlon is the House representative for Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton and Salisbury.

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A)

Two times a week? What am I, a Kardashian?

The dense bean salad is convenience in a single bowl. No reheating is necessary. And every version I've tried so far has been tastier than the last.

The first time, I mixed cannellini beans with cherry tomatoes, red bell peppers, artichoke hearts and parsley. I threw in some leftover salmon and sauteed kale that would otherwise have decomposed in the back of the fridge. Delicious.

For the next, I tried different vegetables with mozzarella cheese and basil pesto. Other than giving me paint-peeling garlic breath, it was a winner.

The third was caramelized roasted vegetables and white northern beans. This one was especially exciting because the dressing, in addition to calling for

minced shallot (so fancy), required za'atar.

I'm of Welsh and Italian descent; I had never heard of za'atar. It sounded like a weight-loss drug or the home planet of a Marvel superhero, neither of which made sense in the context of a vinaigrette.

I now know that za'atar is a spice blend from the Middle East. So not only is the dense bean salad saving me time and feeding me well, but it's educating me. Is there anything it can't do?

If you've somehow missed this craze and are curious about it, google "dense bean salad recipes." You could look for them on TikTok too, but I don't advise it. Before you know it, you'll be watching your 15th clumsy cat video and running 20 minutes late for work.

At least, I've heard that can happen.

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

randomly. There are so many people, so many places. How do we ever find overlap? Perhaps the world is smaller than we think. If you make the effort to strike up a conversation with a stranger, you might just find a connection.

Claire Corkins grew up and lives in Bristol and studied Human

Ecology at College of the Atlantic in Maine. After college she worked abroad teaching English as a second language. She currently works with her father in such various endeavors as painting houses, tiling bathrooms, building porches, and fixing old windows. She hikes, reads, plays ice hockey, travels, and wishes she could wear flip flops all year round.

Elderly Services, Inc.

Fall 2024 Community Education Series


October 24:
The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's
This education program will help you recognize common signs of the disease in yourself and others and next steps to take, including how to talk to your doctor. We also will review local resources that are available to Addison County residents and answer questions you may have.

Presented by Megan Polyte, Policy Director, Alzheimer's Association of Vermont
Thursday, October 24, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

November 12:
You are Not Alone - Navigating Care for your Aging Loved One
Your loved one is getting older, and their abilities and needs are changing. Join us for an educational discussion program presented by Elderly Services staff members Eileen and Joanne and learn what you can do to support your elder loved ones.

Presented by Eileen Lawson and Joanne Corbett, geriatric social workers, Elderly Services, Inc.
Tuesday, November 12, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

All three sessions are free and open to the public and will be held at the Middlebury Congregational Church.



Elderly Services
Supporting Elders and Families since 1981
112 Exchange St., Middlebury, Vermont
802-388-3983
www.elderlyservices.org

**To RSVP or learn more, call Eileen Lawson at Elderly Services:
802-388-3983
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Angelo S. Lynn, Publisher

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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Alfred Natalino Cassarino, 93, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Alfred Natalino Cassarino passed away Sept. 14, 2024, in the town of Middlebury. He was born Dec. 24, 1930, in Middlebury to John and Carolina (Armenia).

Alfred grew up in Middlebury and graduated from Middlebury High School in 1948. Shortly after graduation he and a few of his friends enlisted into the U.S. Air Force. Because he was still 17, his father had to sign paperwork for his enlistment to move forward. He spent three years stationed in Germany, where he and his friends took advantage of weekend, touring around Europe making great memories to share with his loved ones.

After returning to the states he worked for his father at the Rutland Railroad until it closed in 1961. He enjoyed being a member of the Rutland Railroad Historical Society. During this

ALFRED NATALINO
CASSARINO

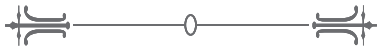
time, Alfred met and married his wife, Audrey (Charron) on Feb. 6, 1955. They welcomed their only child, Nikki Dorothy on Sept. 11, 1957. They settled in Weybridge, where Alfred lived for over 60 years. Alfred worked

for the U.S. Postal Service until his retirement. He enjoyed his time with several trips to Europe, and volunteering at the Porter Hospital mailroom.

Alfred is survived by his daughter, Nikki and son-in-law Kenneth Zammuto. He also leaves his brother, Joseph and his wife Janet. There is a large family of nieces and nephews and his wife's family who will miss him. Alfred was predeceased by his loving wife, Audrey on Aug. 23, 1986. He also lost his older brother, Paul and his younger sisters Janet and Agatha.

A graveside service will be on Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 1 p.m., at St. Mary's Cemetery in Middlebury, Vt.

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



Keith Brian Williams, 54, formerly of Addison County

MASON, N.H. — Keith Brian Williams, 54, passed away on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024, unexpectedly at his homestead.

Keith was born in Atlanta, Ga. on Nov. 18, 1969, the son of Donald Sorrows and Mary Ann (Neill) Williams.

Keith was raised in Addison County, Vt., since the age of eleven months by his mother Mary Ann Williams and adoptive father, David Williams of Bristol. He graduated from Mount Abraham Union High School in 1988. Keith furthered his education with two college degrees; a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Johnson State College, Johnson, Vt., and obtained his master's in business administration from Rivier College in Nashua, N.H.

Keith had an enthusiastic zest for life exploring and sharing his passions with others. Keith was an avid reader and enjoyed teaching English at Nashua High School South in New Hampshire. Keith was an educator for thirty years. As an educator, he made significant contributions with his students and the educational community; he was an honorary member of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council and obtained meritorious service as a representative of the Nashua Teachers' Union, including the negotiating team for reaching a successor agreement for the Nashua Teachers' Union.

Keith's highest value of all was creating a beautiful family and raising his two children on his homestead in Mason, N.H. with his wife Rebecca (Corcoran) Williams.



KEITH BRIAN WILLIAMS

Keith was an amazing family man, father, uncle, brother and beloved neighbor and community member of his local church, the Mason Congregational Church. Keith always had a sense of humor and playfulness, including an imagination for creating adventurous stories for his children and nieces and nephews. On the morning of April 24, 2003, Keith with his family on the way to breakfast in Wilton, N.H., joined a rescue effort with two other passersby of two women whose car veered off icy road conditions into a pond off Route 101. This joint civilian rescue mission was a success.

Keith enjoyed the outdoors — hiking, kayaking, running, biking, carpentry, cooking for friends and family, painting and camping in the winter seasons on top of mountains in the below zero depths. Keith was his own entrepreneur, establishing a painting crew — under his self-employed summer business called

“OMW” — for two decades. Since childhood and as a young adult, Keith's number one athletic sport love and passion was Tae-Kwon-Do. He obtained his fourth-degree black belt. Keith founded his own Tae-Kwon-Do School, “Williams Black Belt Academy,” where he made a positive impact on many lives. One parent said, “Mr. Williams, Every so often, my children are fortunate enough to encounter in their lives a person of true quality, such as you. When that happens, it's best to expose them, step back, an allow them to absorb the goodness, much like shooting them outside on a cloudless day, to drink in the rays of the sun.”

Keith was predeceased by his birth parents, Donald Sorrows and Mary Ann (Neill) Williams. Keith is survived by his wife, Rebecca (Corcoran) Williams of New Hampshire; a son, Jake Williams of Massachusetts; a daughter, Ella Williams of Massachusetts; siblings Kathy (Katherine) Boise of Vermont and Roberta (Williams) Melszer of N.Y.; brothers David Sorrows, Paul Sorrows and Justin Sorrows; sisters Joella Sorrows, Jessica Sorrows; his brothers-in-law Eric Boise of Vermont and Daniel Melszer of New York; nephew Caleb Boise and niece Keleigh Boise; and father David Williams, all of Vermont.

A private family service will be held at a later date. Contributions can be made to local area Tae-Kwon-Do schools and/or Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) groups.

To share a memory or offer a condolence please visit www.smith-heald.com for more information.

Arrangements are in the care of the Smith & Heald Funeral Home, 63 Elm Street, Milford, NH 03055.

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.

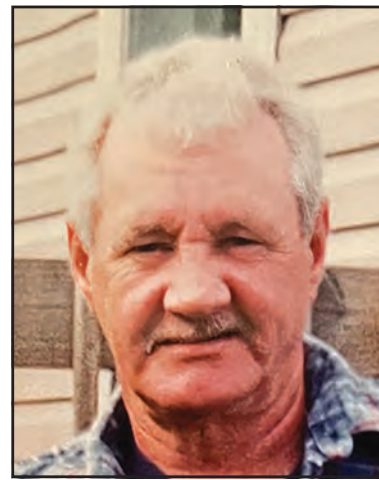
Submissions must be received by 11 a.m. on Wednesday for publication in the Thursday paper. Email obits@addisonindependent.com or call 802-388-4944 for more information.

Paul Leonel Paquin, 77, of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Paul Leonel Paquin, 77, of Vergennes, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Monday, Sept. 23, 2024. Paul was born on April 30, 1947, in Sheffield, Vt., to Christian and Priscilla Paquin. The Paquin family eventually settled on a farm in New Haven, Vt., then moved to Panton, Vt., where he helped on the family farm. He attended schools in Sheffield, Beeman Academy in New Haven, and Vergennes Union High School. He left school at the age of seventeen to join the United States Marine Corps in 1965.

Paul was a proud veteran, serving in the United States Marine Corps from 1965-1967 as a member of the “M” Company, Ninth Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division in the Da Nang section of Vietnam and was a purple heart recipient.

After being discharged from the military, Paul started his career in the building trades and was well known for his meticulous finished carpentry work. Paul was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles/Addison County Aeries 3801 for 42 years, serving



PAUL LEONEL PAQUIN

as President from 1985-1986. Paul was also a member of the American Legion Post 14 for 41 years, serving as Commander from 2014-2016.

Paul leaves behind his children, Michael and Susan Paquin, Betsy and Ken Sullivan, Alison and Anthony Barrett, Erin Paquin and Shelley LaBerge, Lucas Paquin and Emily Friend, and Nicholas Paquin; siblings Lillian (Clifford) Norris, Loretta (Paul) Lawrence, Christien (Brenda) Paquin, Leo

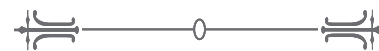
Paquin, Linda (Pete) Dries; grandchildren Codey (Mindy), Chloe, Brodie (Chad), Cray, Eagan and Kenny; great-grandchildren Braydon, Eleanor and Sadie; several nieces and nephews; and Janet Paquin.

Paul was predeceased by his parents, Christian Joseph Paquin and Priscilla Eliza Persons Gray Paquin; his siblings Jackson Gray, Merrick Gray, Andrew Paquin and Lorraine Lawrence; his nephew Matthew Norris and nieces Lisa Gray and Jackie Henry.

A special thank you to the staff at Addison Home Health & Hospice and to the staff at Helen Porter Nursing Home for their loving care.

A military graveside service will be held at Prospect Cemetery in Vergennes on Oct. 5, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a celebration of life at the American Legion Post 14 in Vergennes from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to American Legion Post 14, 100 Armory Lane, Vergennes, Vermont 05491 or Addison Home Health & Hospice, PO Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753.



Francis J. Stevens, 85, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Francis J. Stevens peacefully passed away surrounded by his family on Sept. 24, 2024, at Shard Villa Residential Care in Salisbury, Vt. Francis was 85 years old.

He was born in Fall River, Mass., to Delia (Mendes) Stevens Norman and Francis J. Stevens Sr. Francis married Elizabeth “Dianne” Foley in 1960. Together they raised three daughters, LeeAnn, Judy and Debbie. Francis was a hard worker, sometimes working two to three jobs. In his earlier years, Francis worked for Happy Home, delivering baked goods to homes.

Then he went on to work a variety of other jobs, including carpentry.

In 1976, Francis and Dianne move their family to Salisbury, Vt., to assist Dianne's aunt and uncle, Jean and Joseph Hatch, who were the directors at Shard Villa Residential Care Home. Francis did the building and grounds work at Shard Villa.

In 1980, Francis and Dianne moved to Middlebury, Vt. Both worked at the Middlebury Inn. In 1983, they opened The Middlebury Antique Center in Middlebury.

Francis leaves behind his family, Lee Ann (Ernie) Goodrich,

Judith (Tad) Fyles and Deborah (Maurice) Quenneville, as well as nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Francis was predeceased by his wife, Dianne and parents, Delia Norman and Francis J. Stevens Sr.

Francis did not want any services. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Shard Villa Residential Care Home in memory of Francis: 1177 Shard Villa Rd., Salisbury, Vt. 05769.

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



Cleon Arthur Bigelow, 88, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — As the sun rose on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, Cleon Arthur Bigelow, passed away surrounded by family at his home; he was 88 years old.

Cleon was the oldest son of Harold and Gladys (Maheu) Bigelow. Harold was the milkman for Monument Farms dairy, where Cleon started working after school at age 8 as a bottle washer. Cleon was the oldest of five children and he had an older half-brother, Gene. The family was raised in Weybridge. In 1954 he started working part-time as a hired hand at the Jackson Farm, where he met his future wife, Helen. Cleon attended Middlebury High School; he had fond memories of his Tiger football days and learning woodworking skills in shop class. Upon graduation, Cleon joined the Vermont National Guard and trained monthly as a tanker until 1964.

Cleon married Helen Jackson in November of 1957. Together they raised their family and became valued members of the Middlebury community. After leaving the Jackson farm in 1961 Cleon held several jobs, most notably working at the Palmers Plastics plant from 1964 until 1969, then developing his carpentry skills working for Dutton Smith Construction. In 1970 Cleon focused his attention and determination on starting his own business and Bigelow Building & Remodeling was created. With his tireless work ethic, he built a successful carpentry business; he remained in business until he retired from building in 1997. Part of his legacy are the many homes



CLEON ARTHUR BIGELOW

he built and remodeled throughout Addison County.

Cleon served as a member of Middlebury's zoning board in 1977 and 1978. He joined the Middlebury Lions Club in 1972, serving as their president in 1975, and multiple years as board member and treasurer. With the Lions, he put his construction talents to work building many handicap ramps for area residents. He also chaired the Lions eyeglass-recycling program and played a leadership role with the Lions in establishing the Eye Bank, Hearing Aid Bank, and Text Telephone program for deaf Vermonters. He spearheaded the club's construction of the Lion's food booth at the Addison County fairgrounds and managed its maintenance until just a few years ago. He was also a member of the American Legion since 1978.

Cleon joined the board of directors of the Addison County Field Days in 1992. He became the grounds manager at the field

days site in 1997, and served as president of the Field Days board for the 2000 thru 2003 seasons. He retired from the board and as the groundskeeper in 2013.

He is survived by his three children, Cherie DeVarney (Bob) of Milton, Cindy Atkins (Jerry) of Weybridge and CDR Randall Bigelow, USN (RET) of Addison. He is also survived by his dear grandchildren, Megan (Mathew) Curran of Middlebury, Jacqueline Atkins (Nolan) of South Burlington, and Spencer McHenry (Kari Jo) of Milton. Cleon also leaves behind five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers and their spouses, Bernard (Ginny) and Stanton (Jan), along with his sister Sandra Mitchell, along with many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Helen (Jackson) Bigelow and brothers John Bigelow, and Gene Maheu.

Cleon will be remembered as a person who was always serving others; he will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life was held for both Cleon and Helen Bigelow at the Middlebury Legion on Sept. 29.

Donations in the couple's name can be made to the Middlebury Lions Club (PO Box 5, Middlebury, VT 05753), or Neat Repeats resale shop (1426 Rt. 7S, Middlebury, VT 05753), or Addison County Home Health & Hospice (PO Box 754, Middlebury, VT 05753). The family wishes to thank the wonderful staff at the Addison County Home Health and Hospice for all of their assistance, support, and great care.

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James Earl McGrath, 82, of Inglis, Fla.

INGLIS, Fla. — James Earl McGrath, 82, of Inglis, Fla., entered eternal rest on Sept. 13, 2024, at Vitus Hospice Care Home in Lecanto, Fla. Jim was born April 28, 1942, to Earl and Hilda (Rutz) McGrath at De Goesbriand Hospital in Burlington, Vt.

Jim is survived by his older sister, Beverly Chausse of Milton, Vt.; his children, Colleen (John) Leary of Winooski, Vt., Michael (Sarah) McGrath of Addison, Vt., and Katrina (Steve); also five grandchildren, Nevin Leary, Moriah Leary, Brittany (Jacob) Ouellette, Shane McGrath, and Heather (David) Davio; and five great-grandchildren, Dustin Davio, Andre Davio, Annabella Mayo-McGrath, Madeline Ouellette and Conor Ouellette. Jim was predeceased by his father, Earl in 1967, mother, Hilda in 1995, his younger brother, Patrick in 2013, and his grandson, Dawson in 2021. Jim served in the Navy from



JAMES EARL MCGRATH

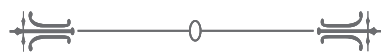
June 1959 — June 1961. He ran and owned many service stations in Burlington, during the 1960s and 70s. He became self-employed at a young age, owning Jim's Esso across from Battery Park in the '70s, Jim's Cornerstore, Pearl Street Mobil, then a Snap On

tool truck in the 80s, followed by Rutland Sunoco in the 90s. Then Jim built, owned, and operated The Upper Room Design Center in New Haven, Vt., until 2006, when he then retired and moved to Florida. He later met Ninon Roy and they resided together in Inglis, Fla.

Jim will be deeply missed by friends, family, and all who knew him.

Funeral services will be held Oct. 9, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Middlebury, Vt. A graveside service and burial will follow the funeral mass at St. Mary's Cemetery. Following the burial, the family will receive friends back in the church hall for a luncheon and a time of remembrance.

Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home, Middlebury, Vt. Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com.



Jonathan 'Bud' Snow, 74, of Brandon

BRANDON — Jonathan "Bud" Snow, age 74, passed away Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, at his home in Brandon.

Bud was born in Rutland on Sept. 8, 1950. He was the son of Fred and Annabelle (Hayes) Snow. He grew up in Brandon, where he received his early education and graduated from Otter Valley Union High School, class of 1968. He afterwards joined the United States Navy and served in Vietnam. Following his Honorable Discharge, he returned home and began a working career at Simmonds Precision Products in Vergennes. He retired as an Electronic Engineer Technician in 2014, following more than 40 years of service. He was instrumental in the formation and development of the Hawk Hill Forest Management Committee. He was a member of Brandon American Legion Post 55. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and photography. He loved the great outdoors and spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren.

He is survived by two sons,



JONATHAN "BUD" SNOW

David Snow and his wife, Jody and Daniel Snow and his fiancée, Jerilyn Langston, all of Brandon; a brother, David R. Snow of Forest Dale; two sisters, Margaret Theriault of Leicester and Nancy Snow of Arizona; and his brother-in-law, Clayton Niles of Holderness, NH. Six grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins also survive him.

He was predeceased by his

parents; a daughter, Sarah Jane Snow; two brothers, Fred W. Snow and Michael Snow; two sisters, Faie Shepard and Barbara Williams; and his father-in-law and life-long hunting partner; Howard Niles from Holderness, N.H.

The funeral service will be held on Friday, Oct. 4, at 11 a.m., at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon. The graveside committal service and burial, with military honors, will follow in the family plot at Pine Hill Cemetery. After the ceremony the family will receive friends at Brandon American Legion, for a time of remembrance.

Friends may call, at the funeral home on Thursday, Oct. 3, from 6-8 p.m.

Memorial gifts in lieu of flowers may be made, in his memory to; Brandon Area Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 232, Brandon, VT or to Brandon Volunteer Fire Department, 61 Franklin Street, Brandon, VT 05733.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon.

Charles E. Sabourin Jr., 98, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Our beloved dad, grandpa and great-grandfather, Charles E. Sabourin Jr., age 98, passed away Sept. 17, 2024, at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Middlebury, Vt. He was born to the parents of Charles and Doris (Walker) Sabourin of Rutland on Feb. 5, 1926. At the age of 18 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in January of 1944, where he served in the South Pacific during World War II. After his service with the Marine Corps, he served with the Vermont National Guard until April 1948.

He next entered The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and became a registered pharmacist. Most of his professional career was spent working for E.R. Squibb and Sons as a sales manager and later a regional manager. After his retirement at age 62, he enjoyed traveling, playing tennis, golf, wood working, playing cards and spending time with his grandchildren and later on with his great-grandchildren.

On June 20, 1953, he married the love of his life, Patricia Ann Hughes in Rutland. Charles and Patricia were married over 65 years



CHARLES E. SABOURIN JR.

and spent 50 years of it living in Hollis, N.H. Charles was a member of The Parish of the Resurrection in Nashua, N.H. Patricia passed away on March 8, 2019.

In August of 2020, Charles moved to The Residence at Otter Creek in Middlebury to be closer to family. In May of 2022 he became a resident of Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

He is survived by his loving family: his sister, Jane Kendall of Rutland; his children, Mary Fister of North Hampton, Mass., Gerard and Judy Sabourin of Shoreham

and Michelle and John Rogers of Nashua, N.H.; five grandchildren, Rebecca and Bill VanDeWeert, Jennifer Sabourin, Elizabeth and Brian Ryks, Michael and Ellie Sabourin and Brigid Fister; and his great-grandchildren, Daniella, Jacob, Juliette and Lyndsey VanDeWeert, Finley LaFerriere, Lucas and Aubrey Ryks, and Daniel and Josiah Sabourin. He was predeceased by a son-in-law, Charles Fister in 2009.

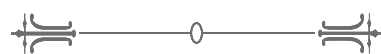
The Sabourin family would like to greatly thank the staff of HPRNC for their amazing care and love for our dad. It was especially evident in dad's final days of their concern and love that was shown by both the staff and the residents. Dad will be greatly missed by all of us.

Burial and celebration of dad's life will be at a later date at the convenience of the family.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

—Psalm 46:1

Arrangements under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home, Middlebury, Vt. Online condolences at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com.



Lawrence 'Larry' Forest Berno, 74, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Lawrence (Larry) Forest Berno, 74, of Salisbury, Vt., passed peacefully on Sept. 10, 2024, at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, Mass.

Born in Northfield, Vt., on June 15, 1950, to Wendell and Irene (Roux) Berno, Larry was the eldest of seven siblings. Larry grew up on the family farm in Waterbury, Vt., until the family moved to Cornwall, Vt., in 1964.

Larry graduated from Middlebury Union High School and went on to have many jobs, including, working at Aubuchon Hardware, driving commercial trucks, mining in Arizona, and landscaping at Middlebury College Snow Bowl. During his time as a truck driver, Larry traveled all over the United States and always had a funny story to tell about something he had seen on the road.



LAWRENCE 'LARRY' FOREST BERNO

Larry was an avid fisherman and would often show-up, out of the blue, at the family home in Cornwall with a slew of perch, resulting in an impromptu fish fry.

Larry loved watching NASCAR and enjoyed taking drives in the country; he especially liked to drive to Waterbury, point out the sights and talk about his time there as a boy.

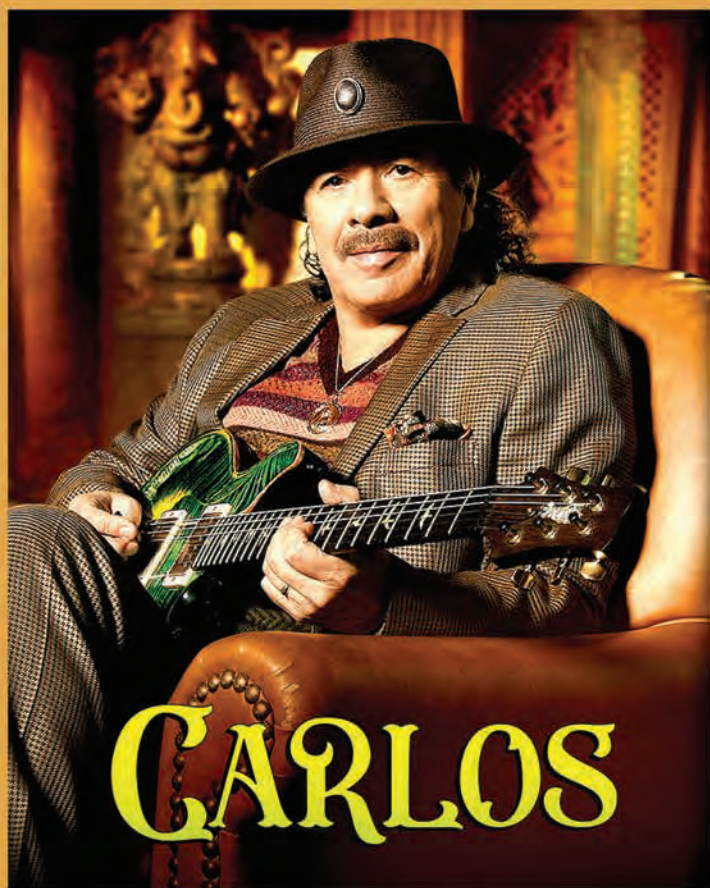
Larry was preceded in death by both of his parents, his sister Sandi Berno and his brother Paul Berno. He leaves behind his devoted partner of over 20 years Keeley, and her children Lindsey and Ethan; his siblings, Vaughn (Marie) Berno, Laura Berno, David (Dawn) Berno, Kevin (Carla) Berno and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews and their families.

Larry will be remembered fondly as a kind and generous guy. As such, in lieu of flowers, the family requests friends and family "pay-it-forward," with a random act of kindness; we think Larry would approve! ☺



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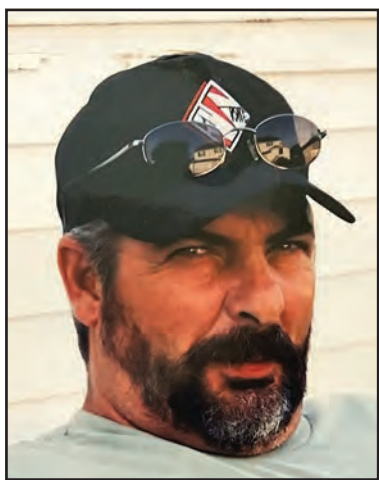
Obituaries

Wayne A. Rainey Sr., 67, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Wayne A. Rainey Sr., 67, passed away at home surrounded by family after a long illness.

He was born Dec. 18, 1956, to Walter and Helen (Hill) Rainey. On June 19, 1991, he married the love of his life, Emily Munson. Wayne worked at Polymers Plastic shop for 23 years. He did homecare, providing for a mentally disabled man. He also worked for Taylor Rental in Middlebury until his health finally forced him to retire.

Wayne loved to hunt and fish. He was an avid deer hunter. He enjoyed teaching his grandson Morgan and granddaughter Alexis to hunt and was very proud when each of them harvested their first deer.



WAYNE A. RAINEY SR.

He is survived by his wife, Emily, of 33 years; his daughter,

Crystina Hulst; his son, Wayne Jr.; stepdaughter Melissa Henderson and her partner Gary Grimes; nine grandchildren; three great-grandsons and one great granddaughter; his brothers Leslie Rainey, Walter Rainey, Richard (Judy) Despina and Joe Despina; his sisters Eva Kincaid, Janet (Keith) Wiese and Beatrice Labounty; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, daughter Crysta Lee Steady, his stepson Nathan Lessor, and his brother Herbert Rainey.

There will be a service Sunday, Oct. 20, at 11 a.m., at Prospect Cemetery in East Middlebury, with a reception and luncheon to follow at the VFW in Middlebury. ♦

Nathan Lessor, 44, of Salisbury

SALISBURY — Nathan Lessor passed away on May 25, 2024, at home surrounded by family after a long illness.

He was born Sept. 28, 1978, in Middlebury. Nathan worked many jobs before his accident and suffered a traumatic brain injury at the age of 24. He loved hunting and fishing with his stepfather, Wayne.

He is survived by his mother, Emily Rainey; his father, Leo Lessor and his partner Sherry Jackman; his sister, Melissa

Henderson and her partner Gary Grimes; his stepister Crystina Hulst; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his stepister Crysta Lee Steady. His stepfather, Wayne Rainey, just passed away in September of 2024.

We will be combining his service with his stepfather, Wayne's, Sunday, Oct. 20 and 11 a.m., at Prospect Cemetery in East Middlebury, followed by a reception and luncheon at the VFW in Middlebury. ♦



NATHAN LESSOR

Heidi Lynn Anderson, 41, of Cornwall

CORNWALL — Heidi Lynn Anderson, a loving mother, daughter, sister, aunt and devoted member of her community, passed away on Sept. 26, 2024. Her bright smile, infectious laughter, and compassionate heart will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Born on Feb. 18, 1983, Heidi grew up in Weybridge, Vt., surrounded by her loving family. She was the cherished daughter of Susan and Timothy Anderson, and devoted fiancée to Jeremy Markwell.

Heidi's greatest joy was her children and new granddaughter, Madelyn Markwell-Cobb; Hunter Given of Whiting, Vt.; Chloe Markwell of Vergennes, Vt.; Chase Given of Cornwall, Vt.; Thomas Given of Whiting, Vt.; and McKenna Candido of Cornwall/Orwell, Vt. Her love and devotion to her family were unwavering.



HEIDI LYNN ANDERSON

She is also survived by her siblings Tony Candido, Justin and Samantha Anderson, and Daryl and Kate Anderson, and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Heidi dedicated her life to serving others. As a proud member

of the Weybridge Volunteer Firefighter team, she selflessly helped her community. Her passion for childcare led her to a fulfilling career at The Addison County Parent Child Center as well as Kristina Cram's home child care in Whiting, touching the lives of countless children and families. In her recent years, her work family at 7 South Sandwich Shop in Middlebury cherished Heidi's warm spirit and tireless work ethic. Her presence will be deeply felt in the hearts of those she worked alongside.

A celebration of Heidi's life is pending date, time and location. We will update soon with this information.

Heidi's love, kindness and generosity will never be forgotten. Her legacy lives on through the countless lives she touched. Rest in peace, Heidi. Your love and light will shine forever. ♦



3rd Annual MiddPride Parade & Festival

Saturday, October 12 • 1-4 pm

* Parade lineup at 12:30 at the Twilight end of College Park, Middlebury

* Parade starts at 1:00 and travels down Main Street to meet the festival at Middlebury Town Green/Triangle Park

* Festival will include live music: Almendros (almendrosband.com) and Tinkerbull (tinkerbull.com)



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- * kids' story time
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MIDDLEBURY, VT

Warren Nelson Severance, 92, of Shelburne

SHELburne — Warren Nelson Severance died Sept. 17, 2024. Born in Manchester, Vt., on June 30, 1932, the only child of Cutler F. Severance and Ebba E. Severance (nee Nilsson), Warren attended schools in Manchester and graduated high school at Burr and Burton Seminary in 1950. He served in the U.S. Army for two years at the end of the Korean War, stationed in Utah. He completed technical training at RCA Institute in New York City, then worked in radio communications for the Vermont Department of Public Safety for 25 years.

He married Nancy Skea Severance in 1960, and the couple raised four children in Barre Town, Vt. Warren retired from VT DPS in 1987, began part-time work, and moved with Nancy to East Charlotte, Vt., in 1989.

Warren was a legend in the amateur radio community, designing, building, and maintaining equipment installations at his home and atop hills and mountains throughout Vermont. He could fix anything, and found great joy in sharing his time and skills with family, friends, and neighbors who needed a hand. Warren was loved by many and he will be dearly missed.

Warren is survived by his wife of 64 years, Nancy Skea Severance; his four children and their spouses, Eric C. Severance (and



WARREN NELSON SEVERANCE

Jane (Ackerman) Severance of Manchester, Vt.; Lars S. Severance of Shaftsbury, Vt.; Gretchen A. Beloin (and Peter Beloin) of New Haven, Vt.; and Carl W. Severance (and Liz Dallas) of Winooski, Vt. Warren leaves eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, as well as his beloved sister-in-law, Joanna Skea, and nieces and nephews from Nancy's side of the family. He is also survived by many cousins in Sweden and his dear friend Ted Hopkins of Manchester.

A celebration of life is planned on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 2 p.m., at The Old Lantern, 3260 Greenbush Road, Charlotte, Vt. Read an extended obituary at: <https://bit.ly/3zAAY5o> ♦



DEREK PALMER BARTLETT

Derek Palmer Bartlett of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — There will be a celebration of the life of Derek Bartlett, who passed away suddenly on Sept. 28, 2024. The celebration will be held on Oct. 5, 2024, at the Memorial Sports Center in Middlebury beginning at 3 p.m. The family asks that those attending please wear something to honor Derek.

A full obituary will appear in next week's *Addison Independent*, as well as the *Burlington Free Press* and *Rutland Herald*. ♦

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Michael Pixley, 65, of Leicester

LEICESTER — It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Michael Pixley at the age of 65. Born on Aug. 1, 1959, Michael was known for his big joyful personality, infectious laugh and his commitment to service in his community.

Born in Beacon, N.Y., he spent the majority of his life in Addison County and grew up in Bristol/Lincoln with his four brothers and one sister. An army veteran, he met the love of his life, Ingrid, while stationed in Germany in 1980. Together they raised three wonderful daughters: Stephanie, Jennifer and Tanja after settling in East Middlebury in 1986.

After living in Germany for six years, Mike spent the remainder of his career working at Middlebury College, where he was a reliable presence as locksmith and member of the facilities team for 38 graduating classes.

Mike loved the outdoors, whether it was paddling on Lake Dunmore, near-endless tinkering in the yard,



MICHAEL PIXLEY

or shooting 18 on the golf course. Mike also loved sports: He was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and — grudgingly — a strident supporter of the Dallas Cowboys. He also loved giving back to his community: He volunteered with Special Olympics, Lions Club and many others. As an umpire and high school and youth basketball coach for many years, he was able

to combine his love of sport and community involvement.

He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He cared deeply and sincerely for his friends and family. His big personality had its own gravitational pull at times. His dad jokes — even the repeats — often delivered because of it. He will be missed tremendously by everyone who knew him.

Michael is survived by his wife, Ingrid; his parents, Margaret Demers and Arthur Pixley (Linda Pixley); his brothers, Victor, Mark, Richard, Matthew and his sister, Linda, and their families; his three daughters, Stephanie, Jennifer and Tanja; their spouses John Campopiano and Nick Noel; as well as his granddaughter Isabella Campopiano. He was predeceased by his son, Christopher.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to Special Olympics VT. A celebration of life will be held at Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College on Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. ◊

Project 2025 is detailed plan to undo democracy

Are you curious about Project 2025? We looked into it and found out why so many people of different political parties are upset about this plan to transform our government and our lives. Here is our explanation, with references that anyone can check in the document to verify.

Project 2025 is a specific and detailed plan to undo democracy in the United States in the first 180 days of a Trump presidency. The majority of authors on specific topics were members of the Trump administration, and who are advocating for policies proposed under Trump. It is scheduled to be published as a book after the election, with a foreword by J.D. Vance. It is 922 pages long.

Project 2025 would give the executive branch of government — the Presidency — power that overwhelms the other two branches of government. Government jobs (bureaucratic civil service positions, including the IRS, the FBI and the Veterans Administration) would become political appointments.

By forbidding programs or even discussions about climate change (p. 419; p. 674-676) or racial discrimination (p. 4-5), it would be difficult to sustain government action on these issues.

Major cuts to programs and staffing would impact Vermont's ability to get federal funding for flood prevention and mitigation. Vermont's housing situation would be affected by deep cuts in federal support for housing programs. Powers of the states on issues like environmental protection or the death penalty

would be over-ruled. The President could order federal troops into American cities, against state or local opposition.

By withholding funding and adding additional bureaucratic reporting requirements, the new administration would cut back eligibility for a broad range of public services as Social Security, Medicare, disability benefits, and veterans' health care. Programs such as food stamps, school lunches and Medicaid would be limited to the "very poor" with additional layers of documentation required to access benefits. Workers' health, safety, and wage protections such as overtime pay for over 40 hours of work a week, would also be reduced, and enforcement relaxed (p. 587).

While drastically cutting money to public services and administration, Project 2025 would lower taxes on wealthy individuals and corporate profits (p. 660). Overall, it would widen the wealth gap between the rich and the poor, and by privatizing many services and programs that are now free to the public, make it harder for people without connections to wealthy families to get ahead.

Government subsidies would expand the fossil fuel industry, while cutting off funding for alternative sources such as solar and wind power. Many wilderness areas, national parks and monuments would lose their protected status and be opened to large industries such as mining (p. 523-524). Environmental protections for areas such as wetlands, watersheds and

endangered species would be cut or eliminated altogether.

Areas of life that we have grown used to thinking of as private personal decisions, protected from religious interference by the constitutional separation of church and state, would be subject to federal government oversight and in some cases criminalization, based on a strict fundamentalist Christian definition of "life", "marriage" and "family" being applied to all. Women's options to maintain reproductive health would be limited, including banning abortion in the entire country. States like Vermont that have "Death with Dignity" legal choices would have these overturned by the increased power of the President and federal government (p. 450). Laws prohibiting discrimination against gay, lesbian and trans people would be repealed (p. 584).

Federal government censorship of books available in school and public libraries would be heightened, with criminal penalties for librarians who make "pornography" available. "Pornography" is not defined, but it seems to include books featuring gay characters, and topics such as sexual abuse and women's reproductive choices. Cutbacks in funding for museums and libraries, support for four-year liberal arts colleges, and public television and radio (NPR) would restrict opportunities for learning and critical thinking for the public.

The above is our summary of just some of the areas in which (See Project 2025, Page 10A)

Letters to the Editor

Hope and creativity needed to address housing crisis

"Hope is like a road in the country; there never was a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence..."

—Lin Yutang

We are social service providers. Until things go wrong for you or someone you love, you might not know we exist. We are the people who make up the safety net in Addison County—we provide services that help people get food, clothes, shelter, and mental and physical health care when things get too hard to hold and start to fall apart. And right now, we helpers are asking for help for a community-wide problem that needs a community response.

We meet people in crisis and we walk the road with them, creating hope as we go.

But right now, we don't know what to do.

We continue to offer outreach, services, and support to the growing community of homeless neighbors, but some of us are starting to wonder: what is the point of this when there is literally no room at the inn?

The housing crisis has now grown so big that we do not have any real options to offer people. For the last five years, during the pandemic and after, we had a band-aid solution of offering people shelter in hotels. These were expensive stays that were paid for by the state.

That was a short-term solution to a long-term problem of a housing shortage. For the last five years, while pouring money into this band-aid solution, no meaningful long-term solution has been pursued by the state. Now that the state government has decided to terminate the funding for hotel stays for most people, and has put clear caps on the availability of this funding even for those who are elderly, even for those with medical needs, even for families with children—and so, people are moving into cars, tents, and storage units.

What else can they do? There are no affordable houses or apartments or rooms or cot spaces to offer people.

We in the social services have been murmuring about this woefully among ourselves. It is clear that, on our own, we don't have the resources or time to provide a solution. Providers are serving people every day. HOPE and CVOEO are working on case management and housing support. The shelters are providing safe places to rest and food for the hungry. But the shelters are full and their waitlists are growing.

What do people on a waitlist for shelter do? People who are living 'on a waitlist' have to be in 'fight or flight' mode. They can't really get healthy and well and stable when every day is a question mark, when each night is a struggle to find warmth, food, and a safe place to rest.

So, now, we need more feet, more people to walk this road together, to build hope.

We need more help. The housing problem has outstripped the capacity of current service providers. This tragedy is happening now.

Unhoused people living in tents or in their cars need places to lock up their belongings safely while they move through their day and

go to appointments and work. They need to make phone calls and get mail. They need laundry, places to go to the bathroom, places to shower, places to cook. They need to know where they can sleep, and have a place to throw trash. They often need a place to stay dry, and a place to get warm. They need to know they are our neighbors.

Our town has some enormously generous people and places where some of these needs are met. We are daily gratified and awed at the outpouring of love and gifts that people share when asked. But we need to ask for more, at every level of power, and to amplify that call to the top levels of our government.

Whoever you are, if you haven't done something, I think you can do something.

- If you have resources, you can donate money to Charter House, to John Graham Housing & Services, to HOPE, and to Gather.

- If you have space to spare, you can rent a room or an in-law apartment at a reasonable rate.

- If you belong to a group, you can get together with your service organization, church, or business colleagues to highlight these crisis needs at Select board meetings or offer your power, resources, and energy to the members of the local Homelessness Taskforce.

- One thing we all have is a voice and a vote. Pressure our administration. Call on the state to step up and walk the road of hope. Ask the Governor and legislators to use the resources and power they have at their disposal to create a backbone of support and help for those who are subject to homelessness. Tell them to make it their priority to take care of and

strengthen people by building homes people can afford to live in.

Ultimately, help in this crisis means creating more shelter. People are sleeping outside. It is getting colder every night. Ideally, new long-term affordable housing will be built—nothing solves homelessness like more homes! But it won't happen if we don't prioritize it, visualize it, and show it is important to us! Nothing will change if we don't spark it! So in addition to joining the helping hands locally in any way you can, let's pressure the state government for long-term solutions—with letters, calls, and votes.

The catalyst for this letter is distress and concern, but also is an invitation to be part of building hope. We show up, day after day, even when being close to the tragedy breaks our hearts, because at the same time it breaks our hearts, being here for each other is our best hope and deepest joy.

If you come near and add your voice and hands, you will find this work is meaningful encouraging work! It is worthy and heartening. Please be with us, walk with us, as we create together the invisible road of hope.

Jennifer Stefani on behalf of Counseling Service of Addison County.

John Graham Housing Services Charter House Coalition Turning Point Center of Addison County Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity

Note: a full list of signatories can be found with the online version at addisonindependent.com.



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October 7	Ilsley Library Community Room, 75 Main Street	12 – 1:00 PM
October 14	Residence at Otter Creek, 350 Lodge Road	1:00 – 2:00 PM
October 15	Eastview at Middlebury, 100 Eastview Terrace	2:00 – 3:00 PM
October 22	Zoom	7:00 – 8:00 PM

Note: Link for Zoom meeting will be posted on Front Porch Forum a few days in advance. Or you can email Robin or Amy for the link.

Robin Scheu
scheuformiddlebury@gmail.com
 802-388-1460

AMY SHELDON
RepSheldon@comcast.net
 802-388-9278

Paid for by Scheu for VT House, 1459 Munger St, Middlebury VT 05753. Jackie Davies, Treasurer and Friends of Amy Sheldon, PO Box 311, East Middlebury, VT 05740. J.A. Nelson, Treasurer

Fall reflection

FOLIAGE AT HIGHER elevations has begun to glow with vibrant reds and oranges, as these trees on Downingsville Road in Lincoln demonstrate.

Photo by Dale Cockrell



Letters to the Editor

Harboring transients not healthy for Middlebury

A few years ago, I was speaking by video conference with an international faculty member. That summer, she would be employed by the Language Schools to teach in the Korean School. She lives in a big city in Korea and was concerned about her safety here. I assured her that women could walk alone in the middle of the night on campus and in town, as I used to do myself. Were I to have that conversation with her today, I would no longer tell her that because it is no longer so idyllic.

It is not compassionate to have people exposed to the elements. It is not freedom to be allowed to take drugs; drug addicts are slaves to their addiction. The State Hospital closed down after Tropical Storm Irene, and mentally ill patients became much more visible and are literally outside. As we consider the homeless encampments, we must also consider taxpaying residents and workers in the village. It is not tolerable that our young waitresses are fearful leaving Mister Ups or Two Brothers after their shift at night. Our merchants should not endure vandalism that in many cases goes unpunished. Our priority must be with our residents, businesses, and their employees because it is they who

make our town thrive. Tents in the village as opposed to nearer the elementary school do not make our town's children appreciably safer. Children should be able to walk into town after school for a cookie or coffee and be safe. They should not be vulnerable to drug paraphernalia or unhygienic hazards that are present without sanitation.

I read in a recent article that Police Chief Jason Covey and Heidi Lacey from the Charter House do not want to criminalize homelessness. Camping on public land is not a right. The recent Grants Pass, Ore., Supreme Court decision allows us to have laws against encampments. I want our local children, residents of all ages, and tourists to be safe and indeed, to feel safe. I want to see our town thriving with businesses and bustling where neighbors linger to chat. That should be our top priority, and their safety spurs stronger businesses and encourages residents to engage more with the community instead of avoiding it. I have recently thought, "I will just go shop in Williston rather than downtown Burlington because I will feel safer and can avoid the vagrants." Allowing our community to be overrun by unproductive transients

is the death knell that kills flourishing towns. I saw Portland, Ore., in the 1990s and lament the loss of that once beautiful, exciting and safe city.

We must not allow this to happen to Middlebury. Vagrancy and loitering have not been tolerated for more than a century within the bounds of civilization. Citizens have always known that people loitering without meaningful purpose is destructive to the community at large and can't be tolerated. The town must not allow encampments in town, near schools, nor in more remote parks like Wright. Ten years ago, Middlebury did not have encampments. What makes them come here in numbers now? Services are provided that draw the homeless to our little town. We need to eliminate the incentives. Residents are not obligated to support people who are not working.

The charm of our quaint village on the falls offering a variety of businesses is attractive and inviting. If our residents, business employees, and tourists know they are safe, that will draw more people to the center of Middlebury.

Holly Stark
Middlebury

Project 2025

(Continued from Page 9A)
Project 2025 seeks to withdraw government support from those most in need, while expanding opportunities for those in power to accumulate more wealth at the expense of workers, vulnerable people of all kinds, and the environment. Many specific groups, such as veterans, people with disabilities, women, rural advocates, teachers, and health care workers, have drilled down into Project 2025 to detail the impact it would have on them, and are making this information widely available.

Carolyn's comment: Researching the Project 2025 document has been very stressful for me, as it is a direct attack on many of the fundamental values that I was

taught that our country stood for, including limiting government power, respecting each person's individual rights, and the responsibility of government to act for the public good, not private gain. I encourage everyone, regardless of political party, to learn more about, and to reject, a future based on Project 2025.

The extremists who advocate for these ideas have placed themselves outside the American democratic framework and are working to destroy it.

Gwyn's comment: Because Project 2025 seeks to take away the voices of voters by making voting more difficult and undermining fair elections, it seeks to entrench the beliefs and goals of the authors, not of U.S. voters. The plans

highlighted above and others laid out in the full document threaten every aspect of our democracy from the local and state level up the federal branches of justice. Once in place, it would paralyze opposition in all branches of government and weaken our voices as voters. This is our democracy and Lady Liberty needs our help to keep it.

Carolyn Schmidt and Gwyn Cattell

Editor's note: Carolyn Schmidt and Gwyn Cattell are members of the Whiting Town Democratic Committee.

The Project 2025 document, titled Presidential Transition Project: "Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise" is available online: https://static.project2025.org/2025_

Cellphones

(Continued from Page 1A)
class. Teachers will confiscate students' devices if they're being used when they shouldn't be, according to an Aug. 23 ACSD newsletter to families.

"Teachers will return these devices at the end of class. If a student is uncomfortable with a teacher taking a phone/personal electronic device, they may go to the main office and leave it there for the rest of the day," administrators wrote. "If device use continues over multiple class periods, the student will be asked to leave their device in the office during the school day."

Families are encouraged not to contact their students during class, but rather call the main office if they need to get a message to a student quickly. Administrators acknowledged that in rare cases, students may need to use their phone or devices as outlined in an individual written/health education plan.

In the Aug. 23 newsletter, MUHS administrators highlighted the school's efforts to explore the future of its cellphone policy.

"There's much buzz in the media and across Vermont schools about the impact of cellphones on student learning, mental health, and school culture," MUHS Principal Caitlin Steele wrote. "Last spring, our staff

was passing around books and articles and talking about the issue. In June we surveyed our staff and 83% indicated that they think it is time for our school to change our policy around cellphones."

The school's efforts to identify a path forward have included a letter writing campaign that wrapped up on Oct. 4. Students, staff and family members were encouraged to send in letters responding to three questions:

- How do you feel about cellphones in schools?
- Do you think it is time for our school to change our cellphone policy?
- If we were to change our policy, which possible solutions do you think we should consider?

Responses garnered through the campaign will be reviewed by a committee "to help us understand what our community is thinking about this important topic now," administrators wrote. Other initiatives include a series of conversations with students on the topic. The ACSD's Middlebury Union Middle School is cellphone-free. Students are allowed to bring devices to school but must keep them in their locker for the entire school day.

"As a community, we know that smart devices interrupt connection and engagement. Removing these devices helps students become more active, productive, and able



BRISTOL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AARON BOYNTON

to foster relationships with peers and teachers. MUMS has worked to become a cell-phone free school for the past two years," school administrators wrote in an Aug. 30 newsletter to families.

Administrators outlined a couple of ways they're working to enhance the school's cellphone free expectation, including by incorporating smart watches and AirPods/headphones into the guidelines.

"This means if brought to school, smart watches and airpods/headphones must remain in lockers for the school day," administrators wrote. "In the past we only

confiscated cellphones, but smart watches and airpods/headphones have proved to be a similar distraction."

Students with a cellphone, smart watch or headphones out during school hours will have their device confiscated by an adult, according to administrators. The device will remain in the front office for the remainder of the school day.

Administrators noted there are some cases that may warrant a student to have a device with them during the school day and that those caveats are developed and outlined in a plan (IEP, 504, medical) and agreed upon with the appropriate team.

VERGENNES
The Vergennes-area Addison Northwest School District doesn't have a board-level policy regarding cellphone use but has administration-level rules and practices in place.

The district's high school has developed updated cellphone guidelines for the 2024-2025 academic year, which state cellphones are permitted at Vergennes Union High School but that students must put them away during the school day.

Cellphones in the school building must be turned off or silenced and kept in backpacks or a locker during school hours. Students who violate these rules will be expected to leave their phone with school officials for the rest of the day or a period determined by administrators.

ANWSD elementary schools have similar rules regarding cellphones. Students who bring phones, other electronics or toys from homes are required to keep those items inside their backpacks during the school day.

The policy notes that in certain cases, students may use devices with permission from their classroom teacher for educational

purposes only, which don't include texting home to change after-school plans.

BRISTOL AREA
Similar to the ANWSD, the Bristol-area Mount Abraham Unified School District doesn't have a district-wide policy on cellphone use in place and practices vary among the district's schools.

Cellphone expectations are outlined in the Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School handbook, which states high school students are expected to keep their personal devices (including cellphones) in their backpacks or out of sight during class unless they have permission from the classroom teacher.

Those expectations have been updated this year to state that students must leave their personal devices behind when leaving to use the restroom during class.

The school's handbook notes middle school students are expected to have their personal devices turned off and in their lockers during school hours, except at lunch and body breaks. Both high school and middle school students are expected to use their personal devices responsibly and in accordance with school-wide expectations for student behavior.

Mount Abraham Principal Shannon Warden also referenced language used in responding to parents' inquiries about the school's cellphone practices and potential changes, which states administrators are discussing options for addressing concerns around phone use, both in terms of distraction and the potential impact on students' mental health.

At Bristol Elementary School, one of four elementary schools in MAUSD, students are only permitted to use their cellphones and other devices under teacher direction.

"Students should not have their cellphones out during the day. We don't permit that," Bristol Elementary School Principal Aaron Boynton said. "If they have one at school it stays in their backpack. We

also have follow-up discipline procedures if they have a cellphone on them or in use."

Cellphone guidelines are similar at the nearby Lincoln Community School, operated by the Lincoln School District. According to the school's family handbook, students are expected to keep cellphones and other personal electronic devices silenced or powered down and placed in their backpack during the day.

Students at LCS aren't permitted to send or receive messages on personal devices during school hours, and such items are not to be taken out at any time during the school day or after school programming.

OTTER VALLEY
Otter Valley Union Middle and High School is part of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union and educates students in the Addison County towns of Leicester, Whiting and Goshen.

Middle school students aren't allowed to use cellphones during the school day, according to the school's handbook. High school students aren't permitted to use phones during academic times, "which includes everything except for passing time, breakfast break and lunch."

The school handbook states phones must be silenced and put away during all instructional periods and can be stored in a locker, backpack or pencil bag during classes.

Editor's note: Reporters John Flowers and Andy Kirkaldy contributed to this story.

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The future of EV charging arrives in Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College, the Marble Works Business District and the Addison Independent recently took a step into a more sustainable future with the installation of the region's first off-grid solar electric vehicle charging stations. Solaflect Energy, based in Norwich, is the creator of the groundbreaking EV charging system, which avoids tying into the electric grid.

Each of the two Solar EV Chargers capture enough annual sunshine in Vermont to provide 40,000 miles of EV charging per year.

"This far exceeds the average employee annual commute of 3,500 miles," said Solaflect's COO Rob Adams, adding that "the fuel powering these EVs is 100% renewable, harnessed directly from the sun."

Solaflect Energy counts almost 1,300 residential, school and light commercial solar installations with over 45 million hours of operating experience across Vermont, New Hampshire and western Massachusetts.

The nearest Solaflect installation is at Middlebury's Vermont Sun Fitness Center, which was installed more than a decade ago.

The new solar EV chargers are energized by a similarly reliable, dual-axis, 6.5-kilowatt tracking solar array, distributing clean energy through four Level 2 charging ports strategically placed for workplace parking locations. Because they are placed at the intersection of existing lot lines, or along the edges of parking lots, Solar EV Chargers have no impact on parking spaces or traffic flow.

LOCAL SOLUTIONS

With passenger vehicles among the largest contributors to emissions linked to global warming, the need for a robust charging infrastructure is imminent, Adams says, noting that 10 states, including Vermont



INSTALLERS SET UP a Solaflect Energy solar electric vehicle charger next to the Marble Works parking lot in Middlebury last month. In Middlebury, the Norwich company set up two stand-alone EV chargers powered only by renewable solar energy.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

and Massachusetts, are set to ban the sale of new gasoline-powered cars by 2035. To meet the demand, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that almost one additional EV charging port will be required for each new EV on the road.

Despite the urgency, the buildout of public EV charging stations that are connected to the grid is facing challenges in meeting the demand. Installation for the Solar EV Charger, on the other hand, takes just a day as it avoids the need for construction, electrical interconnections or utility involvement.

Solaflect also offers a unique solution for employers.

"We're looking at this as a way to provide an employee benefit, while also encouraging our employees to transition to electric vehicles as soon as possible," said Addison Independent publisher Angelo Lynn. "Buying a full EV or hybrid, is not just the right thing to do for the environment, but also the smart thing to do from a dollars-and-cents perspective. They are less expensive to maintain, very little cost for 'fuel' and employees who own them will

appreciate businesses who have a place to power-up throughout the workday. And the Solar EV Charger is portable. If it doesn't work in one location, just move it."

In addition to the chargers at the Addison Press/Marble Works in Middlebury and the charger on the Middlebury College campus, Solaflect counts Dartmouth College, Hypertherm Inc. in Hanover, N.H., and Dartmouth Health/Cheshire Medical Center in Keene, N.H., and Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., among early adopters.

Adams said the company has seen broad interest throughout the region.

"We have ramped up Solar EV Charger production to address significant employer interest in the education, healthcare and general business sectors. It's exciting to see that powering 'clean electric vehicles with clean energy' has struck a chord."

The company offers a leasing program with no upfront installation cost, or the solar EV chargers can be purchased and benefit from the 30% federal solar tax credit. For more information, visit www.solaflect.com.

MIT named organization of the year

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison Community Athletics Foundation and Middlebury Indoor Tennis have been named 2024 Organization of the Year by the U.S. Tennis Association of New England. The award recognizes the quality and diversity of youth programs at the nonprofit facility and its commitment to making programs accessible and affordable to the local community.

David and Eleanor Ignat of Ripton opened Middlebury Indoor Tennis in 2001. It's now owned and operated by the Addison Community Athletics Foundation, which they established at the Vermont Community Foundation. Its mission complements the Vermont Community Foundation's commitment to build philanthropic resources that sustain healthy and vital Vermont communities now and into the future.

The Ignats, the Addison Community Athletics Foundation Board, Middlebury Indoor Tennis pros Franz Collas and Heather Potter, and General Manager Brian McDonough say it's the support of the whole community and the collective effort of many people, including the staff and membership of the facility, that have helped make Middlebury Indoor Tennis a valuable resource, they said.

"Our slogan 'Game for Life' says a lot," David Ignat said, adding that he and Eleanor envisioned a tennis facility that would offer affordable programs and bring people of all ages, young and old, to the game year-round.

The programming being recognized would not be possible without the Ignats' generosity, added Potter, who in addition to teaching tennis is director of communications at Middlebury Indoor Tennis. "They've made an incredible investment in our community. The number of lives they have impacted in a positive way has been truly remarkable."

Children who first chase the ball in "Tiger Tennis" at Middlebury Indoor Tennis sometimes go on to teach drills there as teens. Or they play on the local high school tennis team, which practices at the facility.

Whether or not the game leads to a high school athletics career, youths in the tennis programs make friends, learn about sportsmanship, and have fun racing around the court. Scholarships and low-cost programs serve hundreds of children and families who play on the three indoor courts at the facility or other locations through partnerships with local schools and parks departments.

Middlebury Indoor Tennis courts

are busy seven days a week. The players include adults who enjoy the camaraderie of playing team tennis through USTA leagues. "Everybody plays for a different reason," said Collas, director of tennis at the facility. "Some people play because they like to hit the ball back and forth, some people because they like the exercise, and some people like the competition."

In an era when there is growing recognition that recreation can build health, wellness and meaningful social connections, Middlebury Indoor Tennis is an example of a place that helps create those benefits for the community. It's particularly rewarding to see youngsters who started playing at the facility when they were 5 or 6 now helping to teach tennis in the youth programs that Middlebury Indoor Tennis offers, Collas said. "These are kids that learn from us and are able to pass that on to other kids."

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Turkey nap

A MAMA TURKEY stands guard over her poults in a Weybridge yard recently. The youngsters plopped down for a rest in a sunny spot promptly at 2 p.m. Nap time isn't just for humans, apparently.

Photo by Susan Humphrey

VT Coverts awards two at annual meeting

VERGENNES — Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife gave the David Clarkson and James Engle awards to Tracy Winn of Granville and Andrea Shortsleeve, Habitat Biologist with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, at its 2024 annual meeting on Sept. 14.

The David Clarkson award is given to an outstanding Vermont Coverts Cooperator. Winn attended the Vermont Coverts Cooperator Training in 2019. Since that time, she has hosted workshops on apple pruning, horse logging and management for bats. She organized and hosted a bioblitz on her property, conserved her land with the Vermont Land Trust, and shares with her neighbors about forest management and wildlife stewardship.

"She has been active in reaching out to neighbors and others to encourage them to manage with wildlife in mind and educate family members on the value of keeping forests in a sustainably managed environment," says neighbor and fellow Coverts Cooperator Peter Parker. Winn keeps learning, exploring, talking and sharing, all with an open mind



VERMONT COVERTS HONORED Andrea Shortsleeve, Habitat Biologist with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, left, and Tracy Winn of Granville, with the James Engle and David Clarkson Awards, respectively, at their recent annual meeting. The two received the awards for their outstanding work in promoting responsible land management.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Sausville/Vermont Coverts

— all Coverts qualities. Her goal is to build a healthy forest that is good for wildlife.

The James Engle award is given to an individual for promoting the Vermont Coverts mission in the public arena. This year's award was presented to Andrea Shortsleeve for her efforts in forest stewardship, wildlife management and outreach to landowners. Andrea went through the Coverts Cooperator Training in the spring of 2017. She is a regular Training presenter, introducing new Cooperators to the effects of land use history on Vermont's wildlife populations, their current habitat needs, and the effects of climate

change on wildlife populations.

Shortsleeve has conducted countless workshops for a wide range of organizations, and her one-on-one visits help landowners understand what they can do to positively influence wildlife habitat.

"We had to learn about local plants and animals, as our goal was to manage and protect forestland in the NEK," says Cooperator Bill Pendergraft. "We needed guidance, and one of the first experts we reached out to was Andrea Shortsleeve. She visited us, walked the land many times and collaborated with our forester and others as we developed sustainable forestry plans that focused on old-growth forest and encouraged wildlife and habitat protection. She has been an indispensable resource to us, and no doubt, to others as well."

Vermont Coverts is a statewide organization that provides education to landowners and others about sound forest management and wildlife stewardship through a peer-to-peer network. Those who take our flagship 3-day Training are known as Cooperators. We also offer many other programs for landowners and those who care about Vermont's woodlands and wildlife. For more information about Vermont Coverts and to see a listing of programs, visit www.vtcoverts.org.

Boatbuilder Douglas Brooks to speak Oct. 8

NEW HAVEN — Douglas Brooks, a boatbuilder, writer, and researcher from Vergennes, will be the featured speaker at the New Haven Community Library on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m., with his talk, "Traditional Boatbuilder from Japan to Hollywood." Brooks has lectured widely about his more than thirty years researching the craft, but in this talk he will share his most recent experiences. First, serving as boat consultant in 2021 for the recent Disney/FX series "Shogun," and in 2022/2023 a large project building an entire fleet of river tourist boats for a company in Kumamoto, Japan.

When people think about Japan, they usually have in their minds images of manga and anime, busy urban centers, and an economy based on innovations in electronics. Most people do not know that there is also a second Japan, wherein lies a rich history of traditional arts and crafts, many of which are fast disappearing. Douglas Brooks has apprenticed with nine boatbuilders from throughout Japan since 1996, building over a dozen types of traditional boats.

In this slide talk he will share his experiences with traditional crafts drawn from twenty-six trips to Japan since 1990, visiting all 47 prefectures. Brooks' research in Japan focuses on the techniques and design secrets of the craft. These techniques have been passed from master to apprentice with almost no written record. His book, "Japanese Wooden Boatbuilding" (Floating World Editions, 2015) is the first comprehensive survey of the craft, spanning his first five apprenticeships and including a chapter on Japan's last traditional shipwright.

Here in the U.S., Brooks has taught courses based on his research at Middlebury College, Bates College, the University of Illinois, and Harvard University, as well as one-week Japanese boatbuilding workshops at the Apprenticeship in Rockland, Maine, the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend, Wash., in Australia, and France.

2024 SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN COLORING & DECORATING CONTEST

Get into the Halloween spirit by coloring and decorating this spooky picture however your heart desires! Use the one here, make photocopies, or grab a printable version online

Deadline for Entries:
Monday, October 28th

Two lucky winners from each age group will win a wickedly cool prize from our fang-tastic contest sponsors. Winners will be announced in the Halloween edition of the Addison Independent. Swing by our office between 9 AM and 4 PM to collect your artwork and prizes by Wednesday, November 27th.

Once your eerie masterpiece is complete, submit it:

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addisonindependent.com/contests

By Email
contests@addisonindependent.com

By Mail
Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753



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By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
lot near the Middlebury EMS Building on Collins Drive.

Interim Secretary of Administration Sarah Clark has released Vermont's revenue results for August 2024, and they show the state's general fund, transportation fund, and education fund receipts were a combined \$242.6 million, exceeding the \$238.2 million consensus target by \$4.4 million, or 1.8%. Total General Fund revenues were \$160.8 million, although after taking out \$7 million that is attributed to the new childcare payroll tax, revenues in this category for August totaled \$153.8 million — 3.3% above the target. Transportation fund revenues missed their \$28.1 million August consensus target by \$700,000, or —2.5%, yielding \$27.4 million. Monthly education fund revenues of \$61.5 million for August were 0.2% above their target. According to Clark: "In aggregate, the August revenue results remain positive, but it is still premature to draw any conclusions about the annual consensus forecast. The status of receipts will be clearer once the first quarter's results are complete."

The Friends of the Ilsley Library group will be moving into the lower level of the Middlebury United Methodist Church this week, but will operate its book sale from Ilsley one last time this Saturday, Oct. 5. Following that book sale, the group will move remaining books, tables and book carts to the church and prepare to begin accepting donations there on Wednesday, Oct. 9. Visit friendsofilsley.com for more details.

Mark your calendars; the 5 Town Partnership will this month again sponsor Share the Warmth: A Winter Outerwear Giveaway. On Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Bristol Town Green, everyone is invited to come take whatever donated clothing they need for the upcoming winter season. There will be winter coats, snow pants, winter boots, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks. And it's all free. Those looking to donate items for this event should stay tuned for more details about when and where donations will be accepted. Bear in mind that organizers will accept any size of the aforementioned winter items in good, clean condition — along with new socks. Children's sizes are always in high demand and always appreciated. The 5 Town Partnership is a collaboration

of churches, nonprofits and charitable-minded people serving residents of Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven and Starksboro. You can learn more by visiting tinyurl.com/5vf6base. Any questions? Please email ebent@gmavt.net.

Join friends and neighbors for a day-long celebration of Lewis Creek on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Cota Ball Field locate off States Prison Hollow Road in Starksboro. In the morning (9-11 a.m.), Vermont master naturalists will lead several field trips to explore the watershed. Registration is required, so sign up at lewiscreek.org. The afternoon will begin at Cota Field with lunch and remarks from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch and refreshments will be provided, or bring a picnic of your own). From 1-4 p.m., there will be fun activities for children and outings with local experts on history, wildlife, geology and other natural history topics, including identification of aquatic wildlife in Lewis Creek with Declan McCabe, and a visit to a gravel pit discussing the geological history of the area with Craig Heindel. No registration required for these afternoon outings. For more details, see lewiscreek.org.

Attention, all crafty folks: Bridport Central School will host a craft fair on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Organizers are promising a fun-filled day of amazing vendors showing their small business and hand-crafted items. There will be a bake sale and concession stand during the event, with proceeds going to the Friends of Bridport School to help fund educational experiences outside of the classroom.

The organization 100+ Women Addison County will host its final quarterly meeting of 2024 on Tuesday, Oct. 15. The group has given close to \$200,000 to Addison County charities in the last two years. At the quarterly meeting, they will discuss three randomly chosen non-profits: Vergennes Area Rescue Squad, Peace Garden in Bristol, and Bristol CORE. Organizers said they are looking forward to seeing members again for a fun meeting and donation-dispersing voting. The 100+ women (which has grown way beyond the 100 mark) always welcomes new members. For more information head online to 100WACVT.org.

Ballots

(Continued from Page 1A)
State's Office did not send as many paper ballots to towns — presumably to cut down on waste. If you already threw away your mailed ballot, towns do have some on hand.

What happens if you don't have your ballot with you on Election Day?

Middlebury Town Clerk Karin Mott told us that you'll need to sign

an Affidavit of No Ballot Cast, and then you'll receive a new ballot.

"It's true that town clerks have received limited numbers of 'extra' ballots from the state, so it's great to use the one you've been sent," she said in an email. "But, if you happen to misplace yours, or have not received a ballot through the mail before Election Day, do not fear. We WILL have a ballot for you!"

Bristol

(Continued from Page 1A)
feet of water main in the existing water distribution system.

Many of the water lines identified for replacement are cast iron pipes with lead joints that were installed in 1905 and are well beyond their useful life expectancy of 50-80 years.

Town officials have settled on a phased-approach to replacing the aging lines, dividing the town into four geographic areas representing four replacement projects: Pine Street, Bristol West, Bristol East and Rockydale.

Crews wrapped up the Pine Street project this past fall. The months-long project replaced around 2,570 feet of unlined, cast iron pipe that was installed in 1905.

Now town officials are getting ready to tackle Bristol West, which is in the final design and review stages. Once the design has been completed and approved, town officials will work with the Environmental Protection Agency and the state to fund the project.

Town officials hope to secure

50% of the money needed to complete the project through programs administered by the state and federal government, according to Town Administrator Valerie Capels's report for the selectboard's Sept. 23 meeting.

At that meeting, selectboard members heard from Steve Palmer of VTM Engineering, who serves as Bristol's Town Engineer, for a review of the project design plans at the 90% review mark.

Palmer explained that Bristol West consists of nine streets, including some or all of Munsill, Maple, Pleasant, Church, Elm, Taylor, West, Park and Rockydale. The project would take place over two consecutive construction seasons.

Palmer presented an overview of plans for the project, highlighting where town officials could reduce the impact on residents when possible.

"Number one consideration is how do we construct this the least expensive way possible. Number two is what are we going to impact

if we do that — how do we avoid to the extent possible overhead utility lines, having to hold poles, limit the asphalt disturbance, limit how many trees we have to remove or we're going to probably kill by going through here," he explained. "So, those are all things we're thinking about."

Selectboard members on Sept. 23 adopted the 90% design plans for the project and settled on \$3.95 million as the amount to field to voters in the upcoming bond vote.

Capels noted in her report that the Bristol West project will have additional cost items not seen in the Pine Street project, such as sidewalks, curbs and trees. Additionally, some areas of the project will require larger and more expensive 12-inch water line compared to the 8-inch line used for Pine Street.

"The costs also factor in two to three years of additional inflation on materials and salaries," Capels wrote.

While asking to bond for the total

anticipated cost of the project, town officials plan to apply for funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to support the project and reduce the total cost to taxpayers in the water district.

"This is a really big investment, but it is needed. The water lines in some cases are over 100 years old and many are so corroded that residents have horrible water pressure," selectboard member Jessica Teets wrote in a recent Front Porch Forum Post summarizing the Sept. 23 meeting. "Additionally, the lines are leaking, which wastes our water and makes our system more expensive than needed. Once the waterlines project is completed, all of the old and failing lines will be replaced."

The town will hold two informational meetings ahead of the Nov. 5 bond vote. Those are scheduled for Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. and will take place during the selectboard's regular meetings at Holley Hall.

"This is a really big investment, but it is needed. The water lines in some cases are over 100 years old and many are so corroded that residents have horrible water pressure."

— Selectboard member Jessica Teets

Local horse

(Continued from Page 1A)
active, prevention is still important.

The town of Salisbury has been added to the list of high-risk towns where health officials strongly recommend limiting evening outdoor activities until the first hard frost in their area. High-risk towns now include Alburgh, Burlington, Colchester, Salisbury, Sudbury, Swanton and Whiting.

One person tested positive for EEE in Chittenden County last month — the first human case in Vermont since 2012. Risk levels in towns are determined by a case in a human or mammal, or by the results of mosquito testing. From July to mid-October, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture collects mosquitoes at various locations around the state, which are tested weekly at the Department of Health Laboratory.

Most people infected with EEE

do not develop symptoms, but those who do may experience a flu-like illness with fever, chills, body aches and joint pain. About 5% of people who are infected develop severe EEE disease with encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. Severe EEE disease is fatal in about one-third of people.

The Health Department is also reporting the first case of West Nile virus in a person this year. The patient, a Chittenden County resident in their 80s, was hospitalized in August and discharged. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed test results Sept. 25.

West Nile virus causes less severe illness than EEE, and most people do not develop symptoms. Those who do may have a fever, headache, body aches, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. Anyone with symptoms of either disease should

reach out to their health care provider. There are no vaccines or treatments for West Nile or EEE.

Everyone in Vermont should take steps to prevent mosquito bites and protect themselves from mosquito-borne illness:

- Limit the amount of time you spend outdoors at dawn and dusk.

- Use EPA-registered insect repellent labeled as effective against mosquitoes. Apply repellent when you are going to be outdoors, especially at dawn or dusk.

- Wear loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors.

- Fix any holes in your screens and remove standing water around your home.

Officials continue to evaluate options for aerial or ground spraying of pesticides in areas where infected mosquitoes have been identified, should that be

deemed the best course of action to protect public health. The public will be notified in advance if spraying occurs.

Horse owners should consult with their veterinarians and make sure their animals are properly vaccinated for EEE, West Nile and other viruses spread by infected insects or ticks. Horses cannot spread EEE or West Nile viruses to humans or other horses.

So far this season, 3,863 groups of mosquitoes have been tested. There have been 82 groups that tested positive for the EEE virus and 63 that tested positive for the West Nile virus.

Learn more about mosquito surveillance: Healthvermont.gov/disease-control/mosquito-borne-diseases/mosquitoes-vermont.

For more info on preventing mosquito bites visit: HealthVermont.gov/mosquito.



Fall Safety Tips

Finishing up digging projects before the snow flies?

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Sight: You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying.

Sound: You may hear an unusual noise like a roaring, hissing, or whistling.

If you suspect a leak:

Move immediately to a safe location. Call VGS at 800-639-8081 or call 911 with the exact location. Do not smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might result in a dangerous condition.

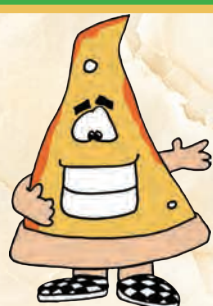
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Middlebury

(Continued from Page 1A)
 natural gas service. St. Stephen's is on the village green — which is owned by the town — so a municipal easement is needed so the gas line can cross under the green.

Conrad on Wednesday was disappointed about the vote's outcome but was heartened by the fact that 40% of those casting ballots felt as he does — that VGS, a large vendor of fossil fuels, should at least pay for an easement that will boost its bottom line.

He added he'd hoped the selectboard would've reconsidered, by its own initiative, its original June 25 decision to give VGS the easement for free.

"While I was hoping the Middlebury selectboard would've had another chance to give St. Stephen's the option of gas service without having to force Middlebury taxpayers to help subsidize the costs, eventually, associated with installation, I have been encouraged by the fact this whole process has slowed down the decision-making process for St. Stephen's and caused a lot of people to rethink their assumption on our continued reliance on fracked methane as a legitimate fuel source for the future."

Meanwhile, St. Stephen's officials were pleased with the outcome of the easement referendum.

"Even though we've made no final decisions about our future energy use, we're very happy this allows us to keep the natural gas option," said Linda Horn, who chairs the St. Stephen's facilities committee. "We're gratified that the town was able to support the selectboard's previous decision."

She added the church's energy committee continues to study options for heating and powering St. Stephen's. Church leaders have long embraced the notion of green energy while seeking the option of natural gas as a "bridge" fuel that would, in the short-term, allow St.

Stephen's to phase out fuel oil and save around \$10,000 in heating costs per year.

Three years ago, St. Stephen's invested \$50,000 in the Addison County Relocalization Network's solar farm in Bristol, to offset a large chunk of the church's electricity bill during a large portion of the year.

The church's 1997 addition is now equipped with heat pumps, though that technology won't work within the building's main worship space (nave), due to its size.

St. Stephen's energy committee members are now taking a holistic view of the church's energy needs, according to Horn.

"We want to be mindful of our responsibility to care for our planet, as well as to judiciously use our financial resources."

— Linda Horn of St. Stephen's

"Our HVAC system right now is pretty jerry-rigged with a combination of things that are all aging out," she said. "So this is the perfect opportunity to look at it as a whole. We want to be mindful of our responsibility to care for our planet, as well as to judiciously use our financial resources."

This was the third time since 2017 that

Conrad had brought a petitioned vote selectboard decisions to give free service-line easements to VGS. In all cases, voters have affirmed the board's decisions, though Conrad believes there will be a tipping point. The only question is whether that tipping point comes before climate change has become irreversible, he noted.

"Whether (the easement votes) are going to mobilize people or not will probably depend on how bad things get with the environment and how that will directly impact people," he said. "Unfortunately, until things actually affect people personally, they usually don't take a lot of action or pay a lot of attention."

Conrad lost Tuesday's battle at the ballot box, but he could see a victory at the Tuesday, Oct. 8, selectboard meeting. That's when Middlebury's Policy Committee is slated to recommend a town easement policy.



THE UNITED WAY of Addison County kicked off its 2024 fund drive last month with a series of "Days of Caring" that saw many folks volunteer their time performing tasks, ranging from landscaping to painting, at nonprofits throughout the county. The Middlebury College squash teams helped glean — you guessed it, squash (as well as potatoes) — for a local food shelf.

Photo courtesy of Pete Antos-Ketcham

United Way

(Continued from Page 14A)

UWAC each year raises money to help fuel 41 nonprofit partners in the county — such as Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects, the Addison County Parent-Child Center and the Open Door Clinic. The organization also earmarks special "community impact funding" to its partners in three areas: health, education and financial stability.

Helena Van Voorst, executive director of UWAC, said local nonprofits are noting a large increase in demand for services. And demand is only going to increase this fall, she added, referring to recent changes in the state's General Assistance Housing Program. As on Sept. 15, the state capped the number of subsidized hotel/motel rooms for houseless people at 1,100 statewide, down from approximately 1,400. This doesn't affect stayovers driven by harsh winter weather.

Here in Addison County, shelters have been consistently full through the summer.

"We're expecting to see 1,000 people across the state be unsheltered who were staying in hotels and motels, and hundreds of children are included in that number," Van Voorst said. "In Addison County, we don't have a

lot of people staying in hotels and motels, but we're already seeing an increase in (service requests) at our local shelters."

She noted local human services providers are reporting many clients dealing with substance use disorder, which can present another obstacle for people trying to get back on their feet and into the workforce.

"We're anticipating that our partners will see increase demand for their services," Van Voorst said. "There will be a greater strain on their staff and budgets. We're hearing from them that their funding support through United Way is especially useful because it's flexible; they can use it... to respond to whatever needs they are facing."

Not all the news has been discouraging, however.

BIG FEDERAL GRANT

Van Voorst said UWAC has won another five-year, \$625,000 federal grant through the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, money that will allow United Way to continue its support the Addison County Substance Use and Prevention Coalition. That coalition collaborates with schools to offer programming and assistance aimed at helping youth steer clear of cannabis and alcohol, while promoting healthy behavior.

"We are proud to share this mission and effort to prevent youth substance use and protect the well-being of our community," said Celia Heath, UWAC's Public Health Grants Manager. "Furthermore, this grant will allow us to better collaborate with our partners, including Addison County's public schools and members of the coalition. By focusing our collective expertise and resources on this critical issue, we will ensure a positive impact on our youth and community."

Among other things, the grant money has allowed UWAC to hire two staffers to engineer:

- Community-wide parent nights, at which participants brainstorm substance use and prevention strategies.

- The "Getting to Y" program, through which teens are brought together to discuss and analyze results of Vermont's Youth Risk Behavior Survey. That survey is administered biannually to middle and high school students statewide.

The federal funding also helps UWAC to design and administer substance use surveys of its own, to youths at Mount Abraham, Vergennes and Middlebury union high schools. The survey is a condition of the grant award and has been garnering a 70% response

rate, according to Heath.

- A social marketing campaign called "Talk, It's Important," which encourages parents to discuss with their children the dangers of alcohol and cannabis use.

- Production of a monthly newsletter aimed at schools, parents and youths that offers information on promoting conversation between adults and teens on substance issues, as well as on how to get help.

- Advocacy for improved alcohol and cannabis policies that align with the coalition's prevention goals.

This is the second, five-year substance use prevention grant UWAC has landed. And it's clear Heath's and her colleagues' efforts in this field have been paying off.

In 2023, 29.2% of area high schoolers acknowledged having consumed alcohol at some point during the prior month. This past spring, that stat had dropped to 19.5%, according to Heath.

Learn more about UWAC's substance use prevention work at tinyurl.com/4wprf5rz.

For more information about UWAC and how to contribute to the 2024 campaign, go to unitedwayaddisoncounty.org/give.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Fall radiance

AFTER WE PASSED the autumnal equinox last week the colors started to really assert themselves in our corner of Vermont. From the mountain towns of Lincoln and Ripton (below left) to the valley towns of Bristol (top right) and Middlebury (right and top left) we see many beautiful signs of fall.

Independent photos/Steve James and John S. McCright



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LCBP grant preproposals deadline Nov. 8

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY — The Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program, in partnership with NEIWPCC, is requesting pre-proposals for research projects that will improve understanding of water and ecosystem resources in the Lake Champlain Basin and guide effective management. The total request for each project may range from \$25,000 to \$400,000. Pre-proposals are due on Nov. 8. A subset of applicants will be asked to submit a more detailed proposal for further consideration and final award decisions in spring 2025.

Projects will begin in early 2026. All awards are subject to available funding. Research pre-proposals should support the Clean Water or Healthy Ecosystems goals outlined in Opportunities for Action, the Lake Champlain Basin Program's management plan. For this request, the LCBP is particularly interested in funding projects that address any of the following research tracks:

Track 1: General Opportunities for Action.

- Research projects that address any research-oriented

strategies and tasks outlined in Opportunities for Action and do not fall within the aims of other tracks listed below.

Track 2: Water quality improvement projects.

- Research to evaluate and recommend updates to design and siting standards to maximize the flood resilience and longevity of clean water project benefits.
- Research to better understand characteristics of gullies and prioritize sites for water quality improvement projects.
- Research to quantify and maximize the flood resilience

co-benefits of clean water projects in the developed lands and agriculture sector.

Track 3: Monitoring upstream of permitted discharges in New York.

- Research to understand the variability of water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen concentration, and water hardness upstream of permitted discharges in the New York portion of the Lake Champlain Basin.

Track 4: Aquatic invasive species management

- Research to assess and document the recovery of native plant and animal communities associated with invasive water chestnut removal.

Track 5: Native species and habitats

- Research to assess the impacts of cyanobacteria blooms on all biota.
- Research to assess native mussel populations in rivers of the New York portion of the Lake Champlain Basin.
- Research on the interactions between native and non-native aquatic species, trophic level dynamics and forage fish abundance, and the impacts of environmental factors linked to climate change.

Track 6: Dam removal

- Research to assess impacts and develop a tool to inform management and policy on water quality and sediment release; flooding and resilience; wetlands; mussels; and additional related topics.

Judi and Fred Danforth honored by the chamber

FERRISBURGH — The Addison County Chamber of Commerce has announced that Angelo Lynn, publisher of the *Addison Independent* will keynote the Chamber's Annual Award and Hall of Fame Induction Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 24, at the Vergennes Opera House.



JUDI AND FRED DANFORTH

This annual event will see business and nonprofit leaders gather to honor the best and brightest in Addison County and those who have given so much to their community. Annual Award honorees include:


- The Addison County Relocalization Network (ACORN): Nonprofit of the Year
- Bristol Works & Stoney Hill Properties: Business of the Year
- Nathaniel Klein, Charter House Coalition: Young Professional of the Year
- Brian Carpenter, Champlain Valley Equipment: Buster Brush Citizen of the Year

Hall of Fame honorees honored at the meeting will be:

- Judi and Fred Danforth, founders of Danforth Pewterer
- Jim Douglas, former governor of Vermont

The event is open to members and non-members, and tickets may be purchased


online at addisoncounty.com/annual-meeting or by calling the Chamber office at 802-388-7951. The Addison County Chamber of Commerce is an association of individuals representing business interests, working together to promote commercial business, nonprofit organizations, and tourism in Addison County. The Chamber manages the Addison County Visitor Center located in the renovated Ferrisburgh/Vergennes Train Depot. More info at www.addisoncounty.com.



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Jim Douglas

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The Addison Independent

For Tickets visit:
www.addisoncounty.com/annual-meeting
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Projects will be supported with Federal Fiscal Year 2025 funds awarded to NEIWPCC by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 120 base funding and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission in support of the Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program. More information, including deadlines, grant guidelines, and applications, are available on the Lake Champlain Basin Program's website at lcbp.org/grants.

Follow these guidelines to stay safe in a tree stand

VERMONT — Tree stands get hunters out of sight and smell of wary deer, but they can also get hunters into trouble. Here are some tips from Vermont Fish and Wildlife to help stay safe and get the most out of your tree stand hunting experience:

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- Always wear a full-body safety harness, even for climbing. Most falls occur going up and down the tree and getting in and out of the stand. Make sure your safety harness is in good condition. Especially, check the straps.
- Don't go too high. The higher you go, the smaller the vital zone on a deer becomes, while the likelihood of a serious injury increases. Climb within your personal limit.
- Never carry firearms or bows up and down trees. Always use a haul line to raise and lower all gear. Make sure your firearm is unloaded.
- Familiarize yourself with your gear before you go. The morning of opening day is a poor time to put your safety belt on for the first time.
- Be careful with long-term placement. Exposure can damage straps, ropes and attachment cords. Also, the stand's stability can be compromised over time, as the tree grows.

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Lincoln School District settling in

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — It's a typical Friday morning at Lincoln Community School.

As the school day unfolds, the halls are filled with the sounds of students heading out to recess, gathering to hear a story in the elementary school's library and stopping by the kitchen for a snack.

A month into the school year, students at Lincoln Community School, or LCS, are beginning to settle into familiar routines.

So too is the larger Lincoln School District, now in its second year of operation.

The learning community formed in July 2023 after Lincoln separated from the Mount Abraham Unified School District and now educates pre-K-12 students in the mountain town, including at LCS.

"I think what you will see when you're here and what you see in the community is that the Lincoln School District is not only surviving, but it's thriving," Superintendent Amy Cole said during a recent interview at the elementary school, which also houses the district's central office.

Cole attributes the district's success to three main pillars: a supportive community, a hardworking school board and a dedicated professional staff.

"They are the heart of the school, and they really go above and beyond," Cole said of the staff.

As a small district, staff at LCS and in the central office wear many hats. The district office is run by three individuals who each fill several roles and are supported by part-time consultants: Cole, Business and HR Manager Deirdre Zele and Director of Student Support Services Elizabeth Maher. The team also helps out outside

of the central office when needed. For example, Cole was set to fill in as a substitute teacher on a recent Friday.

"If there's a need in the school, it doesn't stop at the door of the superintendent," School board member Mary Gemignani said. "People are so willing to wear many hats here and that is what has helped our central office be so efficient."

"We've moved from being a baby to being a toddler, so we're still discovering things. It is truly a start-up, and yet it's in a well-established school in a well-established community."

— Superintendent Amy Cole

Cole acknowledged such a model isn't for everyone, but it's a good fit for Lincoln.

"It's reflective of the community. I think community members behave in the same way," she said.

NEW STAFF

The learning community welcomed five new staff members at the start of the school year, including a first-grade teaching position that district officials created current and expected student enrollment at the elementary school.

The school district currently serves around 171 pre-K-12 students, 81 of which attend LCS. Middle and high school students in the district are offered full school choice, with the vast majority attending Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School.

Cole said the district is anticipating a slight increase in K-6 enrollment during the next couple of years.

"We're going to be up to about 94 in two years," she said.

The school district this year also hired a new teaching principal to lead the Lincoln Community School. Brooke King has stepped into that role, succeeding longtime principal Tory Riley.

"The first year for me is really just becoming a part of this community and getting to form the

relationships and build on the solid foundation that already exists," King said.

King has begun leading an evaluation of the elementary school's curriculum and lesson plan.

"(We're) really just evaluating, now that we're in year two and able to take a breath, how our report cards, curriculum and assessments align with state standards, as well as bringing in the values of the school and the community," King explained. "This year, we're doing a focus on Positive Behavior Supports and adding in elements of restorative practices and restorative circles. That's something that's been an interest of the teachers here."

Regular activities at LCS include common morning meeting, during which students meet weekly in multi-age groups with different adults in the building, and school-wide assemblies that bring students, families and community members together each Thursday.

Mentors, family members and the surrounding community are also invited to join in on well-loved traditions hosted by the school each year like an upcoming Hike Day, during which the entire school heads out to different locations for a day of hiking.

King said the school is planning to engage more with the community through upcoming events.

"We're looking to bring in community members to do storytelling, music events," she said. "There are all different types of activities, but also continuing to bridge what our community offers and bringing that in to share with our kids; the reciprocity of 'we learn from them, and they learn from us.'"

WHAT'S AHEAD

The district has also begun tackling other initiatives, such as in the area of food services. The Lincoln School District launched its food service program in the summer of 2023, contracting with MAUSD to offer pre-packaged breakfast and lunch.



THE LINCOLN SCHOOL District has entered its second year of operation, and district officials are feeling confident in the new learning community's future. Shown here are Business and HR Manager Deirdre Zele, left, school board member Mary Gemignani, Lincoln Community School Principal Brooke King, and Superintendent Amy Cole.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

Partway through the 2023-2024 academic year, MAUSD shifted to providing bulk meals that the Lincoln School District could serve on its own. This school year, the school district began purchasing and making its own breakfast.

The Lincoln School District is still buying bulk lunches from MAUSD, which it will likely do for another year, Cole said.

"But that's the pathway we've built toward being able to make our own breakfast and lunch," she said.

Cole added that thanks to the efforts of Food Service Manager Saige Nimblett and consulting Food Service Director Brooke Small, the school district has been designated as a Community Eligibility Provision school. The CEP program allows school districts that meet certain criteria to provide free breakfast and lunch

to all students without requiring household applications.

"That means if universal meals go away, we are covered for the next four years to provide universal meals and it changes the way that we have to report our data, so that's good news," Cole said.

Another major focus for district officials has been working to build up and maintain the structure of the new school district.

Cole said that since taking the reins of the school district in January, she's been trying to build off the work of former acting superintendent Madelyn Crudo Burke. That work included looking for vulnerabilities in the district and uncovering all of the roles statutorily and otherwise required for the district to have in place.

"I think we've moved from being a baby to being a toddler,

so we're still discovering things," Cole said. "It is truly a start-up, and yet it's in a well-established school in a well-established community."

With the district's second year of operation in full swing, school and district officials are feeling confident in the learning community's future, particularly due to the support of the staff and surrounding community.

"Just because it's 81 kids doesn't mean that it's easier than a school of 500. It's the same hard work, but the energy that people bring here every day feels so different," King said. "It's this renewed sense of 'we're here with a purpose,' and everybody's ready to give 110% of themselves, even the kids."

Cole is also feeling optimistic about what's ahead.

"I'm very hopeful about it," she said.

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Virtual fencing

(Continued from Page 1A) had seen some videos about how the technology was being used (in New Zealand) in dairy cattle and was very interested to learn more," Melanie Harrison told the *Independent*. "Unfortunately, at the time, it was not available commercially in this country, so it wasn't something we could explore more immediately."

The farmers later got an opportunity to try out the technology when they were approached about participating in a pilot program run by the Agritech Institute for Small Farms. The institute promotes broader adoption of technology to strengthen small farms and enable them to confront the climate crisis, according to its website.

Agritech Institute Co-Founder Dan Smith noted that the pilot program consisted of two parts: testing the technology on cattle farms like Harrison's Homegrown, and conducting a series of pilots with grazing goats and sheep for vegetation management on a variety of applications. The pilot program is the first of its kind in the state.

To use the Nofence technology farmers download an app on their phone and place solar-powered GPS collars on the animals in their herd. The collars communicate with the app using mobile networks and play an audio warning when an animal approaches fence lines created in the app.

The audio warning consists of a series of tones, rising gradually as the animal gets closer to crossing the boundary. After the warning plays out, collars deliver a "mild, but effective electric pulse," according to the Nofence website. Animals become familiar with the audio warning and learn to avoid the electric pulse by turning around.

Farmers can alter and move virtual fence lines through the

app, giving animals access to new pastures and closing off areas they want to keep animals off of.

The Harrisons joined the pilot in May, enrolling 20 yearling heifers kept on rented pasture located several miles away from the home farm.

"It's a place where they would be kind of segregated from the rest of the herd, and it's a little bit more difficult for us to access easily to those animals and move their fences every day, but with this technology we could monitor them remotely and move their fences multiple times a day if we wanted to," Melanie explained.

Melanie noted that she typically used the technology to move the animals once a day. Previously, the Harrisons would have to drive over to the rented pasture whenever they wanted to move fences.

"We were previously just moving the fence every two days or so, and with this technology we were able to move it at least daily," she said.

The technology also helped the Harrisons keep an eye on animals on the rented pasture. Melanie noted the app would alert the farmers if an animal didn't move for a certain number of hours or if it crossed fence lines.

"Even though we do have good perimeter fences around that area, if there were any (animals) that were to get out, you would be able to see that from your phone and then we would know we need to get over there and check on things rather than waiting two days until the next time you go over, so that was helpful," she said.

Melanie noted she would visit the site every two days to check on the cows, grass levels and water troughs.

PILOT FINDINGS
The Harrisons noticed a few benefits the virtual fencing technology, such as the peace of mind of being able to monitor

animals remotely. Melanie explained that the GPS collars will track an animal's movement through the field and report back to the satellite every 15 minutes.

"So, you can kind of know what they're up to and where they've been in the field," she said.

In one instance, Melanie gave the cows access to a section of woods for shade during a stretch of hot weather.

"There was a permanent fence through part of that, and I could tell that they had not figured out how to come around the end of the permanent fence for 12 hours or so to get back to their water trough on the other side," she recalled. "I was able to go over and call them and lead them around so they could figure out how to get back to their water and not be stuck over there trying to access the water trough from the wrong side of the fence, so that was a good benefit."

The virtual fencing technology also saved on labor.

"If I were to move the fence every day that would be an extra hour of my time to be able to go over and move the temporary fence," Melanie said.

She pointed to other possible benefits of using the technology, such as giving animals access to wooded areas during the hot summer months that would otherwise be difficult to run physical fencing through.

"It also offers the ability to exclude areas within the field that you give them, so if there's a pond or a wetland area that you want to exclude you can do that pretty easily without having to run a bunch of extra fencing," Melanie said.

She noted that the technology might also prove to be helpful during the winter when temporary fence posts are difficult to get into the frozen ground.

The farmers also ran into some challenges when testing out the technology, such as the collars' battery life. The collars are advertised as lasting six months

with a single battery and have solar panels to help recharge the battery during the season, Melanie said.

"Because we're doing very frequent moves and small paddock sizes, and also probably because our cellphone service is pretty spotty, it drains the battery life pretty quickly," she said. "We only got about three months or so on the batteries before they were starting to need to be swapped out, which can be difficult if you're on a pasture where it's not easy to catch all the animals and restrain them to be able to remove the batteries and swap them out."

Melanie said she also noticed some pinching marks on the cows' necks caused by the collars' chains.

"Because we have jersey heifers, they're a little thinner skinned and don't have a lot of hair like the beef cows," she explained. "It may be different on other breeds of cattle or ones that may have thicker hair coats in the winter, but I thought maybe if they can come up with a twisted link of chain that we could swap out for the standard links that may resolve that issue."

The Harrisons' takeaways were similar to those of other farmers who took part in the pilot. Smith noted that the common experience for participating farms was that compared to traditional fencing, virtual fencing allowed for more effective grazing by enabling farmers to move animals more often and graze areas that they might not otherwise be able to graze.

Smith said other takeaways from farmers included the technology allowing for the creation of more exclusion zones along rivers and wet pasture areas, and labor savings.

Other farmers also found issues with the technology, such as limited cellphone coverage reducing the effectiveness of the equipment, Smith said.

NEXT STEPS
The institute hopes to use the pilots to show that virtual fencing technology can help enhance



ANIMALS WEARING NOFENCE collars, such as the cow shown here, will hear an audio warning as they approach fence lines created by farmers using an app. Once the warning has played out the collars deliver an electric shock, which animals learn to avoid.

Photo courtesy of Dan Smith

farmers' financial viability and enable smaller farms to combat climate change.

"The initial indication from (the pilots) is that the technology can improve both of those objectives, including farm viability in the shorter term (labor savings) and more efficient farm operation and combating climate change in the longer term," he said.

He noted that one area of the pilot tested out the technology on goats grazing in the Magic Mountain Ski Area in Londonderry, reducing the need for weed wackers.

The technology also helps dairy farmers keep cows out of streams and wetlands, which Smith noted is a big issue for farmers. One of the foundations supporting the pilot program is the Lintilhac Foundation, which in part supports organizations striving to improve water quality.

"The results from three farms are very encouraging on that front that this technology can really improve farmers' ability to manage their sensitive wet areas," he said.

Smith is putting together final reports for the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center on the pilot program. He's also working to develop financial assistance to help make the collars more accessible to farmers.

Collars for dairy cattle cost around \$300-\$350 per animal, which includes the collar, charger, batteries and software subscription.

The Harrisons are still weighing whether or not to purchase the collars now that they've wrapped up the pilot program.

"For us, I figure it would be about four or five years before we would break even on the cost of the system, and whether it's worth investing the money in that sort of technology that may be obsolete in two years as things continue to progress," she said. "That's a difficult calculation to make and every farm is going to be different. It just depends on the layout of your fields and what your labor costs are and what you feel the benefits are in your situation."

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In field hockey rivalry showdown, Eagles start fast and outlast Tigers



EAGLE NORA HURLBURT heads down the field with the ball with Tiger midfielder Maya Breckenridge in pursuit during Monday's field hockey game at Mount Abraham.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRISTOL — In a Monday matchup at Mount Abraham Union High School between two Division II field hockey teams that have played hard this fall, but could use more positive results, the host Eagles used a fast start and held off a second-half Middlebury push to claim a 3-1 victory.

The Eagles improved to 2-9, with both wins coming over MUHS by the same score. They used goals early in both the first and second quarters to take a 2-0 lead, and added a third goal midway in the second quarter. In the first half, Mount Abe put 11 shots on goal to just three for the 1-8-1 Tigers, whose second-half surge paid off with a fourth-quarter goal.

Eagle Coach Jen Myers was pleased her team came out strong, which she attributed in part to the Eagles maintaining an upbeat approach this season despite the losses that have mounted, as they also have for Tigers. The two schools field the only D-II teams in the powerful D-I Metro Conference.

"They did a great job coming out. We've been working really hard on being positive and encouraging each other," Myers said. "They've done a great job lifting each other up and maintaining that positivity. And today it was capitalizing at the

net, and it was fun to watch that." MUHS Coach Makayla Broughton credited the Eagles for their solid effort.

"They came out strong," she said. To be fair, her Tigers were dealing not only with lingering injuries, but also the grief her team felt after the stunning death over the weekend of well-liked and highly respected MUHS math teacher and hockey coach Derek Bartlett. A couple team members chose not to play, and a couple others sat out with ailments, and the Tigers had only one player on the bench on Monday. Broughton was pleased her team dug in to play better as the game progressed.

"Yes, we wanted to win, but our goal was to support each other and to show up," she said. "And the fact that happened over the weekend, and the girls showed up today, with one sub, is a testament to our resilience. And then to get a goal on the board is phenomenal. And they're just sticking together, which is really great."

In Monday's game there was no denying Mount Abe in the first half. At the opening whistle, the Eagles moved quickly down the right side, and freshman middle Eleanor Hurlburt sent the ball into the box. The ball bounced to the far side to open senior Lily Case. She wristed



MUHS JUNIOR TRI-CAPTAIN Kenyon Connors makes a move on an Eagle defender during Monday's field hockey game at Mount Abraham. Connors scored the Tiger goal in the 3-1 Eagle win.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

Boys' soccer: Commodores take two; Eagles split; Tigers topped

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — In recent local high school boys' soccer action, Vergennes broke through for a pair of victories, Mount Abraham split a pair of contests, and Middlebury dropped a tough road game.

The Eagles were also set to visit the Commodores on Wednesday after the deadline for this issue.

COMMODORES

On Sept. 27, VUHS broke loose on offense in a 10-1 victory over visiting Missisquoi. The Commodores' attacking parade included **Ryker Mosehauer** and **Tiegen Buskey** (two goals and an assist apiece); **Spencer Gebo**, **Axel de Boer** and **Garrett Wood** (goal and an assist each); **Ethan Croke**, **Aiden Fuller** and **Reese Paquette** (goal

apiece); and **Owen Collette** (two assists). Goalie **Colton Reed** made two saves.

On Monday, the Commodores improved to 3-4-1 by edging host Green Mountain Valley, 1-0. Mosehauer scored the game's only goal late in the first half by heading in a Croke corner kick, and Reed worked a seven-save shutout as the Commodores improved to 3-4-1.

EAGLES

On Sept. 26 the Eagles broke away from a scoreless halftime tie to defeat visiting Milton, 3-1. **James Graziadei**, **Aricin Griffin** and **Johnny Stanley** scored for Mount Abe, and **Evan Corrigan** and **Liam Lazare** set up goals. Keeper **Evan Audy** backstopped the win with three saves.

(See Boys' soccer, Page 5B)

Mount Abe girls' soccer overcomes Commodores

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Division II Mount Abraham girls' soccer team achieved its main objectives on Tuesday at Vergennes, playing crisply, passing the ball and defending well, and coming away with a 3-1 victory.

Arguably, the D-III Commodores met most of their goals as well, keeping the score close against a tough opponent, holding their own in the second half, combining for the game's prettiest goal, and getting outstanding goalkeeping.

Of course, Coach Dustin Corrigan and his Eagles, who improved to 5-4, came away happy with the win over their local rivals, even if with a 31-7 advantage in shots he thought his attack should have been more productive.

"I felt like we left some goals on the table, but overall I think we played pretty well," Corrigan said. "I felt like we controlled the run of play for the most part.

We were pretty connected. We moved the ball well, had the bulk of the possession, the bulk of the chances."

He credited Commodore freshman goalie Addie Smith's performance with limiting the Eagles. Smith made 17 saves and came off her line to break up several potential threats.

"She played great," Corrigan said. "But we've got to make those shots a little more threatening, penetrate into the box a little more to create some better chances. We did that, too, and either squandered it or passed it to her."

Commodore Coach Morgan Kathan saw her team dip to 4-6, with five straight losses to strong D-II Lake Division opponents. On Tuesday, she hung her team's hat on its better second half, including a nifty goal scored by freshman Sophia James set up by an outstanding effort from junior Ava Francis.

"I felt like that second half really helped ignite our team to know that we can compete with these teams," Kathan said. "That helps us move forward in a really positive way to know that we are capable, that we can do it. We've just got to do it a little earlier and a little more often."

The game started with the Commodores earning a quick direct kick in Mount Abe territory, but the Eagles quickly took charge with effective ball movement; they were particularly threatening attacking down both flanks.

Eight minutes in, Smith came quickly out to punch away a dangerous Eagle corner kick, and in the next dozen minutes she did well to twice deny Eagle senior forward Molly Burgess.

But the VUHS goalie had no chance at saving senior left back Abba Parker's blast at 23:31. A hard serve from outside the right side of the box bounced off a knot

of players to Parker moving in unmarked from the left, and she ripped home a low shot.

Shortly afterward, VUHS center mid Ashtin Stearns had a chance with a free kick from 24 yards, but the Eagle defensive wall blocked it.

Despite the Eagles' 13 first-half shots on target, that one goal was all they mustered, as Smith made good stops on seniors Lauren Cousino, by coming out to block her point-blank bid, and Safi Camara, by being in the right place to deny a one-timer. The Commodore center backs, sophomore Adrienne Smits and freshman Lauren Husk, also did good work.

Early in the second half, the Eagles pressed, and Smith stopped Camara and Cousino again, but couldn't stop senior Louisa Painter from five yards out. Cousino broke free down the right side and sent a

(See Eagles, Page 4B)

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Football	
9/27 MUHS vs Brattleboro	52-0
9/28 MAV vs Missisquoi	51-16
9/28 OV vs Milton	47-12
Field Hockey	
9/26 CVU vs Mt Abe	7-0
9/26 South Burlington vs MUHS	8-0
9/28 CVU vs MUHS	10-1
9/28 Brattleboro at OV	2-2
9/30 Mt Abe vs MUHS	3-1
10/1 Mt Abe vs VUHS	3-1
10/1 MUHS vs Rutland	1-0
10/2 OV at West Rutland	Late
Girls' Soccer	
9/25 Mt Abe vs MUHS	3-2 (2OT)
9/25 Milton vs VUHS	8-0
9/28 MSJ vs OV	4-3
9/28 MUHS at Rice	1-3
9/28 Milton vs Mt Abe	1-0 (OT)
10/1 Mt Abe vs VUHS	3-1
10/1 MUHS vs Rutland	1-0
10/2 OV at West Rutland	Late
Boys' Soccer	
9/26 Mt Abe vs Milton	3-1
9/27 VUHS vs Missisquoi	10-1
9/27 Rice vs MUHS	4-0
9/28 Mt Abe at GMVS	1-2
9/30 VUHS vs GMVS	1-0
10/2 Mt Abe at VUHS	Late
10/2 Missisquoi at MUHS	Late
Volleyball	
9/28 MUHS at Harwood	1-3
10/1 MUHS vs Lyndon	3-1
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Soccer	
9/28 Midd vs Conn	0-0
Field Hockey	
9/28 Midd vs Conn	10-2
Women's Soccer	
9/28 Midd vs Conn	2-0
Football	
9/28 Midd vs Colby	24-16

Region's three football teams earn blowout victories

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — All three local high school football teams rolled to one-sided home victories this past weekend,

and two of them improved their positions in the standings in their divisions.

TIGERS

On Friday night Middlebury

blitzed visiting Brattleboro, 52-0, scoring four touchdowns in as many possessions in the opening quarter. The 4-1 Tigers moved into sole possession of third

place in the Division I standings, as their win was coupled with Essex's loss to Colchester.

The Tigers did most of their damage on the ground by rushing

for five touchdowns. **Avery Carl** rushed for 67 yards, including scoring runs of 46 and five yards. **Alex Sperry** broke loose for a 41-yard TD run, **Ben DeBisschop** bolted into the end zone from 17 yards out, and **Tassilo Luksch** punched a score in from the Brattleboro three.

The other MUHS points came from a 19-yard touchdown pass from quarterback **Luke Nueder** to tight end **Cooke Riney**, an 85-yard **Brady Lloyd** kickoff return, and **Tucker Morter's** 34-yard field goal and his points-after kicks.

Bear quarterback Sean Cozza completed 13 of 29 passes for 102 yards, but was also picked off by Lloyd and DeBisschop. Brattleboro remained winless at the bottom of the D-I standings.

With Friday's shutout, the Tiger defense has allowed just seven points in its past 10 quarters of action.

The Tigers are facing a big game on this coming Saturday: They visit undefeated first-place Champlain Valley.

EAGLES

On this past Saturday afternoon the host Division II Mount Abraham/Vergennes cooperative team romped to 51-16 victory over winless D-III Missisquoi.

Quarterback **Tyler White** completed 10 of 17 passes for 169 yards and four touchdowns, two to **Clark Cray** and two to **Ryan Wright**. White also

(See Football, Page 4B)



TWO MUHS TACKLERS bring down a Brattleboro rusher on Friday night in the Tigers' big win. With the shutout the Tiger defense has allowed just seven points in the past 10 quarters.

Independent photo/Steve James



MUHS JUNIOR KADEN Hammond (268) runs inches ahead of a Burr & Burton competitor at the U-32 Invitational this past Saturday with senior teammate Baker Nelson (270) just steps behind.

Photo by Joe McVeigh

Runners vie at U-32 invitational

Tiger girls take fourth, Lincoln's Estella Laird gets top finish

MONTPELIER — Cross-Country runners from Middlebury and Mount Abraham union high schools on Saturday competed in the major U-32 Invitational, with the Middlebury girls posting the best results, taking fourth place

in the multi-divisional event. Junior Mary Harrington paced the Tiger girls by finishing fourth in a race won as a team by Burr & Burton. Individually, Lincoln resident Estella Laird, who now attends Green Mountain

Valley School, ran to first place by a margin of 52 seconds over second place.

The Tiger boys were sixth in their race, with junior Kaden Hammond taking 25th, and the

(See Cross country, Page 5B)

OV golf moves on to state final

By ANDY KIRKALDY

BRANDON — The Otter Valley boys' golf team on its home course on Tuesday qualified to defend its Division II golf title next week.

Playing at the Neshobe Country Club, the Otters collectively shot a 28-over-par 316, 23 strokes better than second-place Harwood.

The Otters advanced to the Oct. 10 championship tournament at Burlington Country Club along with Harwood, Stowe (54 over

par), Hartford (55 over), Lyndon (73 over) and Stratton Mountain (75 over).

Lyndon and Stratton edged Woodstock (77 over) and Middlebury (79 over) for the final two of the six qualifying spots.

Unsurprisingly, two-time defending D-II medalist and this year's Vermont Amateur champion Lucas Politano of OV was the qualifier medalist, earning the honor by shooting a 2-under-par

70. Also scoring for the Otters were Jackson Howe (79), Jacob Tripp (83) and Connor Denis (84), as the team shot consistently across the board.

No MUHS or Mount Abraham golfers qualified as individuals. Their individual scores were not available before Wednesday's deadline and will be included online if possible. Vergennes did not compete on Tuesday.

Of fall foliage and alpine ponds

Sugar Hill Reservoir in Goshen — more commonly referred to by the name of the structure that created it, Goshen Dam —

has always been one of my favorite Vermont waters to paddle a canoe and cast a fly, especially in autumn. Yet somehow I hadn't been there for several years. I'm not wholly to blame for that. For two years, the pond was almost entirely drained for a major repair and renovation project of the 100-year-old dam involving the building of a new intake structure. To say the pond was un conducive to paddling and fishing during that period would be an understatement. Then in 2023, with all the destructive flooding in Addison County (and beyond), it seemed that so many of the gravel roads in and around the national forest had been so badly washed out that I didn't even bother trying. So on a beautiful late-September afternoon of 70-degree air, a pleasant breeze, and mixed clouds and sun, when my wife suggested we take our canoe for a paddle, I thought of Sugar Hill Reservoir.

The mountain reservoir sits in the northeast corner of Goshen off the Goshen-Ripton Road. The gravel access road is just a mile plus a few long strides south of the Moosalamoo Campground entrance (National Forest Road 24) on the opposite side of the Goshen-Ripton Road, and is just a few long strides less than a mile in length up that road to a small dirt parking space by the reservoir. Though it is a private, gated access road for Green Mountain Power, it is left open during summer months for public day use including hiking, fishing, boating, swimming, picnicking and biking. It has a small wooden sign more readily visible for cars traveling north.

The 60-foot-high Goshen Dam — and the 74-acre reservoir it created — were originally built in 1922-1923 as part of the hydroelectric Silver Lake Project. Although no electricity is generated at Goshen Dam itself, it acts as an important seasonal water impoundment, storing water during periods of high rain and snowmelt and controlling the flow of Sucker Brook. Water released through the dam flows down Sucker Brook, where at the much smaller structure known as Sucker Brook Dam about 2.5 miles downstream of the reservoir some of it is then later diverted at another small structure over to Silver Lake through an underground pipe while the rest continues down over the Falls of Lana.

After a hiatus in stocking, Vermont Fish & Wildlife began stocking Sugar Hill Reservoir again in 2023, putting in 1,300 brook trout in the one-year-old age class (averaging

just under 10 inches each) along with another 414 brookies in the two-year-old age class (averaging closer to 15 inches).

Although I brought a fly rod with me on our recent visit, it was not primarily for the fishing that I suggested Goshen Pond, but for the foliage. And indeed, I never bothered to set up my rod and cast — though if I had seen any rising fish I certainly would have. The foliage, however, did not disappoint. The pond is surrounded by hills and more distant mountains and the shoreline is thickly wooded with a wonderful mix of hardwoods and evergreens. I saw maple, birch and oak as well as pine, cedar and spruce, and farther off what appeared to be hemlock and fir. As my wife noted within moments of putting our canoe on the water, we were surrounded by foliage of pretty much every color we could imagine: not just the myriad iconic shades of orange and crimson red we associate with maples, but also hues of yellow, gold and russet as well as purple, lilac, plum and ruby, and even countless variations of green. It was hard to take our eyes off the shore.

In the past, I have seen loons, eagles, ducks and osprey at the lake, as well as an occasional beaver and muskrat. On this day, the wildlife was scarce at first — just two or three kingfishers working the shoreline canopy. But then we paddled along

the edge of the marsh grasses in the bay on the southeast side and spooked a great blue heron, which startled us as much we startled it when the prehistoric body lifted off on its huge wings and disappeared up the inlet stream. We also caught fleeting glimpses of mysterious LBBs (little brown birds) moving among the grasses.

We were not the only ones enjoying the lake. A half dozen other cars were spread around the dirt parking lot when we arrived. One group with kids was playing along the shoreline, with their joyful noises carrying across the water. Judging from their excited voices, one of the youths managed to catch a fish of some sort, which was almost enough to prompt me to rig up my own rod. We also saw a standup paddle-boarder and two kayakers, one of whom had a big, happy dog in a life jacket calmly riding the bow. And yet the pond still felt secluded and quiet. Once we were on the south bay, we were out of sight and sound of any other humans.

Despite the concerns for road conditions that kept me away from the reservoir in 2023, the access road was in better shape than I've seen it in years with no major ruts or washouts — presumably out of necessity for the construction work. As beautiful as the foliage was, it still had not reached peak so I hope to be back again sometime after this article is published. Except next time, I'll have my fly rod out and rigged.



MATTHEW DICKERSON



A RED MAPLE leaf floats on the surface of Sugar Hill Reservoir, just one of a multitude of colorful foliage that surrounds the quiet body of water behind Goshen Dam.

Photo by Matthew Dickerson

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Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Football	
10/5 MUHS at CVU.....	10:30 AM
10/5 OV at MVU.....	1 PM
10/5 Fairfax at MAV.....	1 PM
10/11 Essex at MUHS.....	7 PM
10/12 Milton at MAV.....	1 PM
Field Hockey	
10/3 Springfield at OV.....	4 PM
10/5 Colchester at MUHS.....	10 AM
10/5 Mt Abe at Essex.....	10 AM
10/7 OV at Windsor.....	4 PM
10/8 Mt Mansfield at MUHS.....	4 PM
10/10 MUHS at Burlington.....	4 PM
10/10 S Burlington at Mt Abe.....	4 PM
10/12 OV at Woodstock.....	11 AM
Girls' Soccer	
10/4 Fair Haven at Mt Abe.....	4 PM
10/5 VUHS at GMVS.....	11 AM
10/5 OV at Stratton.....	4 PM
10/7 Milton at VUHS.....	4 PM
10/7 MUHS at Mt Abe.....	4 PM
10/9 MUHS at VUHS.....	4 PM
10/9 Fair Haven at OV.....	4 PM
10/9 Mt Abe at Rice.....	4 PM
Boys' Soccer	
10/5 Rice at VUHS.....	11 AM
10/5 MUHS at Milton.....	10 AM
10/5 Missisquoi at Mt Abe.....	10 AM
10/8 Mt Abe at Rice.....	4 PM
10/8 MUHS at VUHS.....	4 PM
10/11 MUHS at Mt Abe.....	4 PM
10/12 Milton at VUHS.....	Noon
Volleyball	
10/8 MUHS at Hartford.....	6 PM
10/10 Colchester at MUHS.....	6 PM
Bass Fishing	
10/8 Tourney at Grand Isle.....	7 AM
Golf	
10/8.....	Girls Tourney at Burlington CC
10/10.....	Boys D-II Tourn at Burl. CC
Cross Country	
10/5.....	Woods Trail Run at Thetford
10/10.....	NVAC Meet at Missisquoi
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Soccer	
9/28 Conn at Midd.....	Noon
10/5 Midd at Bowdoin.....	Noon
Field Hockey	
9/28 Conn at Midd.....	11 AM
10/5 Midd at Bowdoin.....	11 AM
Women's Soccer	
9/28 Conn at Midd.....	11 AM
10/5 Midd at Bowdoin.....	Noon
Football	
9/28 Colby at Midd.....	1 PM
10/5 Midd at Bowdoin.....	Noon

Eagles and Tigers

(Continued from Page 1B)
it low inside the left post, and the Eagles led with just 26 seconds gone.

The Tigers tried to counter quickly, with junior Kenyon Connors setting up freshman forward Elle MacIntyre at the right post in the second minute, but Eagle senior goalie Isabelle Allenson, filling in for the absent Rory Hendee, was there to block MacIntyre's bid. Connors and classmate Quinn Doria made threatening runs in the period, but the Eagle defense of senior Bella Hartwell, sophomore Lux Tierney and senior Addy Nezin held up.

The Eagles launched eight more shots in the opening quarter, five on target, but MUHS sophomore goalie Heaven Ross blocked them all. On the first of five Mount Abe penalty corners in the period, Ross kicked away a bid by Eagle senior forward Paden Lathrop at the right post, and shortly afterward Ross kicked away a serve into the box before Eagle senior Lexy Perlee could reach it. Later in the period, Ross denied back-to-back bids by Lathrop and junior June Yates-Rusch on the rebound.

The Eagles made it 3-0 on two second-quarter penalty corners, both on plays following Ross saves on Lathrop shots. The first came in

the second minute. Lathrop fired from about 10 or 12 feet out, and Ross made the pad save. The ball bounced back to Lathrop, who spotted Hurlburt open at the right post and rolled a backhand pass to her for the tap-in.

At 6:49 came the goal that made it 3-0; Lathrop took the corner insert and ripped a long shot on goal. Ross made the stop, but the ball rebounded to Yates-Rusch, who tucked it home.

In between, Doria challenged Allenson. Doria beat three Eagles toward the left post and fired a waist-high reverse-stick bid on goal, but the Eagle goalie was well positioned to stop what was the only Tiger shot on goal in the quarter.

Play evened in the second half, with both goalies making three more saves and the Tigers earning a 3-2 edge in penalty corners to cut Mount Abe's final advantage in that department to 10-3.

Broughton shifted tactics in the second half, in part because she had no substitutes at midfield, and in part she wanted to load up the offense, not only to score, but also to more effectively bottle up the Eagles in their own end. She rotated midfielders Lilah Cook Yoder and Maya Breckenridge through the front line along with Doria and

Connors to do so.

The changes put the Tigers on their front foot more often, and they started to get to the ball first and win more 50-50 battles.

"We had to be flexible because we could only sub one person on and off," Broughton said. "And it was pretty cool, too, sealing up that press ... It was really cool to see."

The additional threats also seemed to give Doria more room to operate, and she began to make more inroads into the Eagle circle. Early in the third period, Doria forced Allenson to make back-to-back stops, one on her own rebound. Midway through the period, Cook-Yoder drilled a ball into the box from the right side, and it ricocheted to Doria, but Allenson again denied the Tiger.

The Eagles' most dangerous sequence in the second half came in the final minute of the third period after Hurlburt sent a ball to the goalmouth. A scramble followed, and the Tigers made two point-blank saves, one by a defender on the left side and one by Ross on the right side, before the Tigers cleared the ball away. Credit goes to the Tiger backline of senior Meredith Cameron, junior Hex Bingham and freshman Sophie Simpson for hanging in on that play and the rest of the game.



TIGER FRESHMAN LENA Giuliani lines up a pass as Eagle junior June Yates-Rusch moves in to defend during Monday's field hockey game at Mount Abraham.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

The Tigers finally broke through at 8:08 of the fourth quarter. Doria picked up a loose ball in the box that had been sent in from the right and slid it to her left to Connors, who rolled it inside the left post to make it 3-1. But the Eagles tightened up after that, and soon they were celebrating.

Ross finished with 11 saves, and Allenson with six. Both also kicked balls out of harm's way several times.

Broughton was happy with the effort.

"We played with what we had. We had fun. We learned a lot, and we supported each other," Broughton said.

Both teams will be moving to the Capital Division next season and will play more competitive games like Monday's. Broughton said overall the Tigers have kept their morale and managed their emotions despite the multi-goal losses this fall.

"We've definitely seen a lot of great competition ... against teams that have been in a completely different ballpark," she said. "It's been a great job of keeping

composure ... even when faced with adversity."

Myers said, like the Tigers, the focus has been on improvement rather than wins this fall. She added the Eagles have enjoyed the season and each other.

"They're a great group of kids to be around, and every time I get here I'm smiling and laughing," Myers said. "And they very much enjoy being around each other. It helps when we can have that positive morale off the field and on the field."

And Myers said the Eagles' focus on improvement has paid off, and it showed in their performance on Monday when they faced a Division II team.

"It does translate, and today it translated for us really well," she said. "It's fun to watch them do some of the same things we do against other opponents and be successful."

As for next year?
"I think it will be good for us just to see some different teams," Myers said. "We'll match up with some new opponents, and hopefully match up really nicely so we have some nice competitive games."



THE TIGER FIELD hockey team celebrates Kenyon Connors' (No. 9) fourth-quarter goal during Monday's field hockey game at Mount Abraham.

Independent photo/John S. McCright

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Eagles, Tigers win in girls' soccer



By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON COUNTY — Highlighting recent local high school girls' soccer play was Mount Abraham's double-overtime victory at Middlebury on Sept. 25.

The Eagles also visited Vergennes on Tuesday; see separate story on Page 1B.

In other action, Mount Abraham and Otter Valley both lost in overtime, MUHS split two games, and the Commodores continued to find the going tough against the top Lake teams.

EAGLES IN TWO OTS

Safoura Camara's strike in the second extra session gave the win to the visiting Eagles in the Sept. 25 rivalry game vs. MUHS.

Mount Abe took the lead on a **Mackenzie Griner** goal in the ninth minute and **Louisa Painter's** goal four minutes later.

Solstice Binder drew the Tigers within one goal midway through the first half, and with 10 minutes left in regulation, **Meredith Horne** set up Binder's tying strike to force overtime.

The Eagles held the advantage in shots on target, as Mount Abe keeper **Rosemary Behounek** made two saves, and **Marley Lambert** made seven for the Tigers.

TIGERS

On Saturday, host Rice outlasted the Tigers, 3-1. MUHS took an early lead on a **Jazmyn Hurley** strike, but the Green Knights struck twice before halftime to take control

and added another goal in the second half. Peyton Borick made two saves for Rice, and Lambert stopped seven shots for MUHS.

On Tuesday, the Tigers won at Rutland, 1-0. Binder scored the game's only goal midway through the first half, and Lambert and the Tiger defense made it stand up as MUHS improved to 5-4-1.

EAGLES

On Saturday, visiting Milton needed overtime to edge the Eagles, 1-0. Holly MacLellan's extra-time strike moved the Yellowjackets to 9-1, while the Eagles dropped to 4-4 heading into Tuesday's game at VUHS. Milton goalie Lily Daunais made nine saves, and Behounek made seven for the Eagles.

OTTERS

On Saturday, visiting Division IV Mount St. Joseph outscored the Otters, 4-3, when Riley Collins knocked in the game-winner (See *Girls' soccer*, Page 5B)

Eagles

(Continued from Page 1B)

hard, low ball to Painter near the right post. Painter took one touch and ripped a shot high into the net that Smith somehow got her fingertips on, but couldn't keep out.

Five minutes later, Stearns tested Eagle senior goalie Rosemary Behounek with a 28-yard free kick, but Behounek ranged to her right to snare it for her second and final save.

A minute after that, Smith came out to meet a charging Eagle forward, and they collided as both seemed to reach the ball at the same time. Smith was called for a foul that might or might not have survived a VAR review, and at 30:50, Eagle junior Isla Underwood buried the resulting penalty kick to make it 3-0.

Smith preserved that score by racing out to deny Eagle senior striker Hazel Guilmette shortly afterward, and at 16:35 the Commodores broke through. Francis won a battle for the ball at midfield and beat two Eagles down the right side on a roughly 30-yard run.

Meanwhile, James worked free in the middle, and Francis found her just inside at the top of the box with a crisp pass. James sealed off the final defender from the ball, which she touched toward goal. As Behounek came out to meet her near the penalty stripe, James tapped the ball around her to the goalie's left, took one more touch and then calmly side-footed the ball home.

The Commodores had one more look at goal, but senior back Mackenzie Griner capped a strong all-around game by blocking a Francis shot with five minutes to go.

"Our defense can hang with anybody there. I'm very confident in that," Corrigan said.

Corrigan noted the Eagles' setbacks have all been by one goal to top D-II teams. He believes they can be a factor in the division.

"We can certainly hang with anybody," Corrigan said. "There are a lot of good teams out there in D-II, but we're one of them. We can play with any of those teams. If we can keep the defense tight and improve the finishing in the

final third, anything can happen."

For the Commodores, who will move to the Mountain Division next year and play against teams in their own division, Kathan said it's important for them to continue to maintain their morale and confidence, which so far she believes they have.

"They're doing a great job," Kathan said. "It's been a couple weeks since we've had a solid win, but they're showing up to practice, they're working hard. They're showing up to games, and they're still giving their best effort."

She noted the Commodores earlier this season faced D-III's first-place team, Fairfax, and lost by just one goal.

"These games are helping us for the playoffs, and playoffs are important to us, because that's when we're actually playing people in our league, actual D-III teams that we should be competing with," she said. "We're really excited to come into playoffs and show people we've been working hard all season, and it's going to translate."

Field hockey: OV only winner

By ANDY KIRKALDY
ADDISON COUNTY — In local high school field hockey play in the past week, Mount Abraham and Middlebury continued to find tough sledding against top Metro teams, while Otter Valley tied one game and broke a winless stretch with a victory in another.

The Tigers also visited the Eagles on Monday; see story on Page 1B.

OTTERS

On Saturday, the Otters and Brattleboro battled to a 2-2 tie. Details were not reported.

On Tuesday the Otters snapped what had been a five-game winless streak (0-3-2) with a 1-0 victory at Fair Haven. OV scored on a penalty corner with time expired in the first half: **Sophia Parker** put away a feed from **Hannah Desabrais**. Otter goalie **Lexi Beaulieu** made two saves as OV improved to 5-3-2. **Tori**

Kelly made eight saves in goal for the Slaters.

EAGLES

On Sept. 26 visiting Champlain Valley (See *Field hockey*, Page 5B)

FIELD HOCKEY Wrap-Up



MUHS FULLBACK AVERY Carl leaves the Brattleboro defense in his wake as he scores the third Tiger touchdown in the team's one-sided, 52-0, win on Friday night.

Independent photo/Steve James

Football

(Continued from Page 1B)

returned a punt for a touchdown, picked off a pass, and ran six times for 33 yards.

Eagle running back **Cole Gagnon** logged 13 carries for 84 yards and two touchdowns.

Crary led the MAV receivers with three catches for 78 yards, Wright caught three balls for 62 yards, and **Mason Atkins** chipped in with two catches for 34 yards.

The Eagles improved to 4-1,

but remained in sixth place in the crowded D-II standings. They are expecting a challenge this weekend from D-III's first-place team, undefeated Fairfax.

OTTERS

On Saturday the Otters rolled to a 28-0 halftime lead in their 47-12 homecoming victory over D-II Milton.

In the first half **Isaac Whitney** ran for two touchdowns, **Noel Pearsons** ran for one, and **Zach**

Dragon threw a TD pass to **Chase Razanouski**.

In the second half Dragon added a second TD pass to Razanouski plus one to **Addison Boynton**, and Pearsons capped the scoring with another rushing touchdown.

The Otters improved to 2-3 and are in third place in D-III because of the strength of their schedule. They will look to reach .500 at Missisquoi on Saturday afternoon.



TIGER JUNIOR DEFENSIVE back Logan McNulty zeroes in on a Brattleboro running back during the MUHS football team's big home win on Friday night.

Independent photo/Steve James

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TIGER MARY HARRINGTON (253) leads a pack through a portion of the 3.05-mile Montpelier course in Saturday's U-32 Invitational with teammates Beth McIntosh (254) and Louisa Orten (256) close behind. Harrington finished fourth and the Tiger girls' team finished fourth, as well.

Photo by Joe McVeigh



GREEN MOUNTAIN VALLEY senior Estella Laird, who is a Lincoln resident, builds her lead in the U-32 Invitational, and won by nearly a minute.

Photo by Joe McVeigh

Cross country

(Continued from Page 2B)
Eagle boys were 14th, led by Oliver Zelonis in 87th in the big field. St. Johnsbury won as a team.

The top girls' team results in a scoring field of 11 schools were: 1. Burr & Burton, 32; 2. St. J., 91; 3. South Burlington, 95; 4. MUHS, 115; 5. U-32; 6. Harwood, 165.

Laird won the race in 19:06.3. The Tiger scorers in the girls'

race and their overall finishes and times were: 4. Harrington, 20:33.7; 22. Beth McIntosh, 21:53.50; 26. Louisa Orten, 22:02.3; 38. Annika Bruning, 23:23.7; 66. Meredith Carr-Perlow, 25:44.6.

The only Eagle female competitor and her placing and time was: 63. Cameron Vose, 25:33.7.

The local boys' team results and the top teams were: 1. St. J.,

19; 2. St. Albans, 68; 3. U-32, 100; 4. Burr & Burton, 117; 5. Harwood, 168; 6. MUHS, 174; 14. Mount Abe, 373.

The winner of the boys' race was St. J.'s Andrew Thornton-Sherman in 16:08.6.

The Tiger scorers and their overall finishes and times were: 25. Hammond, 18:25.4; 30. Baker Nelson, 18:35.5; 43. Ethan Spritzer, 19:17; 51. Matthew Berg, 19:40.1.

The Eagle scorers and their overall finishes and times were: 87. Zelonis, 22:29.4; 88. Elliot Senecal, 22:33.4; 9. Karson Norris, 22:45.7; 91; Bennett Eberhardy, 22:48.; 105. James Mount, 24:36.3.

Many local cross country athletes will compete at the Woods Trail Run in Thetford this Saturday.

Volleyball splits two

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Union High School girls' volleyball team split two recent matches, dropping one on the road and winning at home.

On Sept. 27 MUHS lost at Harwood, three sets to one, and

on Tuesday, the Tigers defeated visiting Lyndon, 3-1.

The Tigers will carry a 7-3 record into two matches next week. On Tuesday they will visit Hartford, and on Thursday they will entertain Colchester.

Boys' soccer

(Continued from Page 1B)

Andrew Preuss scored for Milton and two goalies combined for nine saves.

On Saturday, host Green Mountain Valley bested the Eagles in overtime, 2-1. Stanley netted the 4-3 Eagles' goal.

TIGERS

On Sept. 27, host Rice blanked the Tigers, 4-0. Finn Kelleher scored twice for Rice, and goalie Brian DeGraff-Murphy made two saves. The 2-6 Tigers had a Wednesday game vs. Missisquoi.

Field hockey

(Continued from Page 4B)

blanked the Eagles, 7-0. Penny Webster, Alex Wemple and Emery Thompson each scored twice for the Redhawks, and goalie Amber Rousseau made three saves. Mount Abe goalie **Rory Hendee** made 15 saves as the Eagles dropped to 1-9.

TIGERS

On Sept. 26 host South Burlington shut out MUHS, 8-0. Seven Wolves scored, led by Oli

Roy's two goals.

Kayla Charbonneau made 14 saves for the Tigers.

On Saturday host CVU topped the Tigers, 10-1. Thompson and Webster led the D-I contenders with two goals apiece, and goalie Sophie Comeau made one save.

Kenyon Connors scored for the Tigers, who carried a 1-7-1 record into Monday's showdown with Mount Abe.

Girls' soccer

(Continued from Page 4B)

favorite Milton coasted at home past the Mounties in double OT. **Mallee Richardson** scored two goals and **Tegan Boynton** added one for the Otters in a game that left both teams with 5-3 records.

The Otters were set to visit top D-IV team West Rutland on Wednesday.

COMMODORES

On Sept. 25, Division II title

Clanna Tomasi's four goals led the Yellowjackets as they won for the eighth time, and Daunais made three saves.

Addie Smith was credited with 18 saves for VUHS, which carried a 4-5 record into Wednesday's showdown with the Eagles.

www.addisonindependent.com — CHECK IT OUT.

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Vermont's "Sweetest" Half Marathon!



THE MOUNT ABRAHAM volleyball team is in the midst of its second season. While competing this year at the junior varsity level, Eagle volleyball hopes to compete as a varsity team next year. Pictured, from left, are Mariyah White, Sloane Gryzb, Charlotte Desilets, Cora Conrad, Amelia Desilets, Paige Guilbeault, Samantha Guilbeault, Tinsae Deas, Kolbey Jimmo (m), Gemma Lyles, Charlie Prouty (m), Ali Brown, Scarlett Tarmy, Callie Beck, Juliana Murphy, Bayley Burhnam and Meg Park.

Mount Abe volleyball program off and running

BRISTOL — The second year of volleyball is off to a strong start at Mount Abraham Union High School, with last year's club team now playing as a Junior Varsity squad, who took on the Middlebury Union High School Tigers as their first opponents and now are into league play. Under high school rules, the Eagle team will play this season at the JV level and then become a varsity squad next year.

Coach Megan LaRose, with help from Elizabeth Guilbeault, has been training newcomers and helping improve the skills of returning players. Betsy Brown has come on board as scorekeeper and statistician.

Volleyball is said to be the world's third-most popular sport, offering play for both boys and girls, and Olympics viewers this summer thrilled to see championship play from teams from around the world.

The Mount Abe team was having to practice at the elementary school gym but is now glad the Mount Abe gym is back in operation for home games, which are being enjoyed with upgraded equipment, score board and additional seating for fans.

Eagle volleyball supporters have appreciated MUHS efforts to pioneer high school volleyball games in Addison County as many other high schools around

the state have longstanding programs and built up their talent and skills through the years. Although the Middlebury Tigers are a relatively new team, they're showing they're a force to be reckoned with.

Mount Abe's volleyball participants are looking to play catch up, but now have the momentum and strong program needed to field a JV team this year and stepping up to varsity next season.

A recent game vs. Vermont Common's this past Monday, Sept. 30, saw the Eagles win 2-1.

Catch the next home games on Oct. 14 and 16 at the Mount Abe gym, both at 4:30 p.m. These

would be great times to show support for both the team and the game. An enthusiastic crowd can raise the energy of the home team to give them that little extra edge.

Perhaps you've played volleyball in the past at school, college or recreational, or if you have students looking for a sport to play, this would be a good time to revisit the sport or introduce your daughter or son to a great sport they can play for a lifetime. And kids, if you think parents need to get a bit of exercise, send them along to a Bristol recreational game on Wednesday evenings at the Bristol Elementary School.

This story was provided by Ivor Hughes.

Local men behave badly

VERGENNES — Several calls related to arguing couples and alleged related poor behavior from men kept Vergennes police busy this past week.

On Sept. 24, city police responded to a call from a Hillside Drive resident about a verbal dispute with her partner. Police said the man involved had left when they arrived; officers told the woman to call for help again if necessary.

On Sept. 25, police heard from a Second Street resident who alleged his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend had been leaving "unwanted messages" on his phone. Police said the complainant just wanted to document the problem.

On Sept. 28, police began investigating a complaint from a city resident about an out-of-town resident and his teenage son allegedly stalking her and her family.

Also on Sept. 28, Vergennes police began looking into an allegation of a repeat violation of a temporary restraining order a city woman had taken out against a man. Police said the man had been previously cited for violating the order on Sept. 14.

On Sept. 29, police began investigating an allegation that the male partner in a Sunset Drive couple had threatened his partner.

Between Sept. 23 and 29, Vergennes police also conducted 12 patrols, 10 by cruiser and two on foot, and three traffic stops; processed 11 pre-employment fingerprint requests, and:

On Sept. 24:

- Took a call from a woman experiencing a mental health issue and counseled her on where to find services.

- Stopped a box truck that had reportedly been driven erratically. Police said the driver admitted to eating while driving, but they found no serious problem, and the truck passed a commercial inspection.

Vergennes Police Log

On Sept. 26, took reports for insurance purposes about two minor accidents. One was a fender-bender at the intersection of Main Street and Monkton Road. In the other, a truck hauling a trailer struck the Community Bank building on Monkton Road, causing minor damage.

On Sept. 27:

- Agreed to issue a no-trespass order to a local resident on behalf of Shaw's Supermarket after an alleged theft attempt.

- Began investigating an attempt to pass a counterfeit \$100 bill at the Champlain Farms convenience store.

- Told someone they couldn't sleep after dark in Falls Park.

- Backed up Vermont State Police at a Route 7 traffic stop.

On Sept. 28:

- Spoke to the owners of a dog left in a car on a warm day. Police said the dog appeared hot, but not in distress, and advised its owners to be careful.

- Began looking into a theft from The Hare and The Dog Vermont Liquor store.

On Sept. 29:

- Took a report of panhandlers at Shaw's Supermarket. State police checked it out and found no issues.

- Went to the American Legion clubhouse on Armory Lane after getting a complaint of a disorderly patron. He was gone when police arrived.

- Looked into a report from a security company indicating a handful of people had been caught on camera jumping the fence at the downtown Vergennes Grand construction site. Police said ownership determined the site was clear and undamaged.



Native nourisher

NEW ENGLAND ASTERS and goldenrods attract loads of late season pollinating insects. In the wintertime, they provide food and habitat for many birds and small animals that feast on the seeds and find shelter in the dried stalks.

Photo by Susan Humphrey

Late blooming flowers are important to feed native bees

By EMILY HAYNES

As the height-of-summer floral abundance fades, goldenrods and asters fill the landscape with hits of yellow, purple, pink, and white. Beyond the beauty they provide, these late bloomers are a critical food source for several native species of wild bees.

During late summer and fall, many specialist wild bees are active, said Spencer Hardy, a

biologist at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and project coordinator for its Vermont Wild Bee Atlas. There are more than 350 species of wild bees identified so far in Vermont, according to the atlas. Their emergence is staggered throughout the year so that roughly a third of those species are active at a time, from spring through autumn. Unlike the domestic western honeybee, wild bees can't rely on devoted beekeepers to stay healthy. Instead, they depend on a thriving habitat.

Wild bees are highly efficient pollinators, and they're essential to agricultural production and ecosystem health, Hardy said. Bees gather pollen to feed their young, carrying it on their bodies and dusting it across other flowers as they forage. While some

pollinators — such as flies, wasps, and butterflies — visit flowers to feed themselves on nectar and, in some cases, pollen, bees' habit of collecting pollen often drives them to visit more plants.

One of the best ways to promote resilient wild bee populations is to plant native flora and allow meadows to stand through early fall.

"If you have a small field...if you wait until October to brush hog it, all the goldenrods and asters will bloom — as opposed to brush hogging it in July or August, when it's going to stay as a stand of non-native grasses," Hardy said. "Waiting (to mow) until after the blooms increases the diversity in the flowering resources in the meadow."

Because different wild bee species feature minute distinguishing characteristics, they can be difficult to identify with the naked eye. A good way to start recognizing wild bees in the landscape is to learn about their behavior, including when they're active and how they relate to certain plant species.

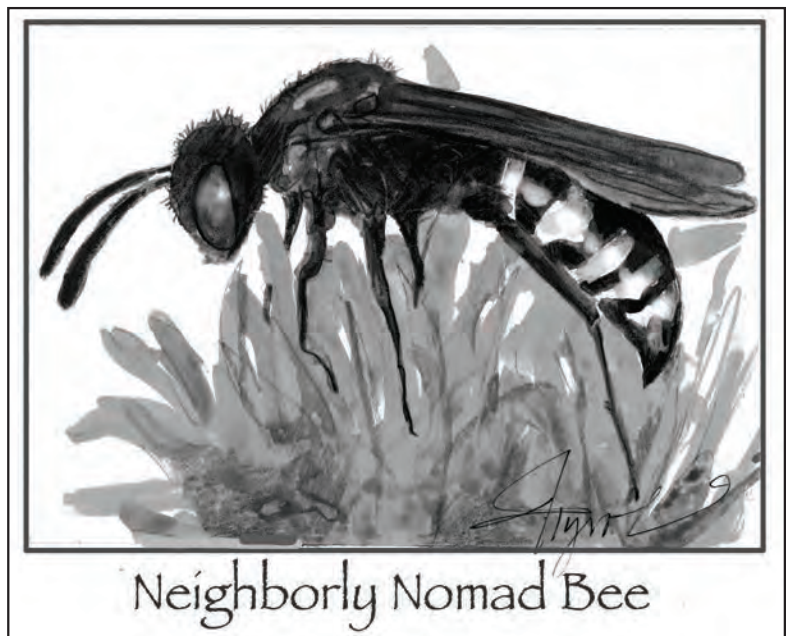
As you admire goldenrods and asters, you're likely to see wild bees foraging for pollen on their blooms. Some species of wild bees have evolved as specialists in those flowers, meaning they've

developed unique relationships with the plants, as well as behaviors and traits that make the bees especially good at collecting pollen from these flowers.

Aster cellophane bee (*Colletes compactus*) is one such specialist. As one of the latest wild bee species to emerge in Vermont each year, it depends on asters for food, although it will also visit goldenrod. These honeybee-sized bees start flying in August and can keep at it into October. They get their name not only from their special relationship with asters, but also from the cellophane-like material they use to waterproof their underground nests. The bees generate this material in a special gland and use their forked tongues to apply it to the walls of their nests.

The autumnal cellophane-cuckoo (*Epeolus autumnalis*) is a large, late-to-emerge, parasitic wild bee that lays its eggs in the nests of aster cellophane bees. When the autumnal cellophane-cuckoo larvae emerge, they kill the host larvae and eat the pollen the parent aster cellophane bees provided for their own offspring. Known as brood parasitism in birds, this tactic is common among birds in the cuckoo family.

Similarly, the neighborly nomad bee (*Nomada vicina*), another parasitic species in the cuckoo



Neighborly Nomad Bee

family, preys on the hairy-banded mining bee (*Andrena hirticincta*), which is a goldenrod specialist that also visits flowers in the mint family and is common in fall. Neighborly nomads are common in Vermont in the fall. Their bodies are black with yellow and red markings.

"When I find a bunch of nomads, it's generally an indication of an abundant, diverse, stable host population," Hardy said. "The hosts have to be there and have established nests. The parasites come in and maybe will keep the host populations a little bit subdued, or more stable."

Even as the days get colder, bee activity continues, thanks in large part to the region's many goldenrod and aster plants. And as long as those flowers are in bloom, the bees that rely on them will be buzzing around.

Emily Haynes is a writer currently living in Washington, D.C. An avid birder and hiker, she loves exploring the forests of the Northeast. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

The 2024 Addy Indy Garden Game

This week's Garden Game brought in four impressive entries, plus a delightful honorable mention.

Gary Miller claimed the top spot with a record-breaking root veggie, a gorgeous carrot measuring 40" L x 7.25" C and standing an astonishing 6'4" tall with the greens included. AMAZING! He hinted there are even more carrots to come...

Sue Galipo wowed us with a trio of produce, including a 21" L x 12" W edible leafy green, 26" C rutabaga, and a sweet potato measuring 15" L x 14" C, sweeping the lead in all three categories.

Finally, **Craig Bingham** impressed with a stunning Wolf River apple, boasting a 15.5" C and weighing 1 lb 6.2 oz. Although technically not one of this year's categories, we're always excited to see large produce of all kinds so please keep them coming!

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) - Gary Miller, 40" x 7.25"
- Cauliflower (diameter) - Carol Krawczyk, 30"
- Corn (length x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 8.5" x 8"
- Cucumber (length x circumference) - Genevieve Cammack, 16" x 17.5"
- Edible Leafy Greens (length x width - leaf only) - Sue Galipo, 21" x 12"
- Eggplant (circumference x circumference) - Barbara Pelton, 17.5" x 23"
- Fennel (length x circumference)
- Green Bean (length) - Gary Miller, 41.25"
- Kohlrabi (circumference) - Joel & Sawyer Schwartz, 10"
- Leek (length x circumference)
- Melon (circumference) - Donna Bezanson, 34.5"
- Onion (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 17.25"
- Parsnip (circumference)
- Pepper (circumference x circumference) - Bob Poirier, 15.25" x 15"
- Potato (length x circumference) - Sue Galipo, 15" x 14"
- Pumpkin (circumference x circumference)
- Radish (circumference) - Roger Scarborough, 9"
- Rhubarb (length) - Barbara Rodgers, 30"
- Rutabaga (circumference) - Sue Galipo, 26"
- Summer Squash (length x circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 16.5" x 12.25"
- Sunflower (diameter) - Ed Blechner, 11.25"
- Tomato (circumference) - David Quenneville, 19"
- Turnip (circumference) - Joel & Sawyer Schwartz, 17.5"
- Winter Squash (length x circumference) - Peter & Kathy Hubbard, 26" x 36.5"
- Zucchini (length x circumference) - Julie Lonergan, 27" x 17"

The Garden Game will run until the first hard frost in our region, so there's still time to join in the fun. Let's play!

Play the Garden Game!

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

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

community calendar

oct 3 THURSDAY

Podcast Club of Addison County inaugural meeting in Middlebury. Thursday, Oct. 3, 11 a.m., MCTV, 75 Main St., top floor. You want to start a podcast. Come to the first meeting of this new club for everyone from beginner on up. We will get some basic technical help, and then support each other as we conceive, develop and publish our own podcasts. For more information/offer ideas/RSVP seen an email to ListenVermont@gmail.com.

The Ladies Aid Industria rummage sale in Lincoln. Thursday, Oct. 3, 1-7 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd. Drop off for donations will be on Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 1-7 p.m. Please no helmets, baby equipment, or electronics. Clothing should be seasonal and in good condition. Continues Oct. 4 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., and Oct. 5 from 8-10:30 a.m.

Age Well information session in Shoreham. Thursday, Oct. 3, 2 p.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd. Come learn how Age Well VT can help you with meals, home care, community programs, and volunteer opportunities. Age Well will make a presentation describing its services and options for volunteering. Free and open to the public.

True crime podcast discussion group in Middlebury. Thursday, Oct. 3, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join fellow amateur sleuths for a discussion of three different true crime podcasts on three different crimes. The first meeting will focus on True Crime Garage, The Dartmouth Murders (2 episodes). Listen on your own before the discussion. Renee will facilitate the discussions with prompts and visuals. For participants 18 and over.

Ivor Hughes in Monkton. Thursday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. As part of the Russell Memorial Library author talk series, Hughes will give a talk about his award-winning book "Before we went Wireless." The talk and demonstration will be a walk-through history from the introduction of the telegraph up through today's modern communications and what the future holds. More info at 802-453-4471 or russellmemlibr@gmail.com.

Twist O' Wool Guild meeting in Middlebury. Thursday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. Bring a project to work on and come hang out. We will be drawing the winner for the 2024 Guild Afghan Raffle.

oct 4 FRIDAY

The Ladies Aid Industria rummage sale in Lincoln. Friday, Oct. 4, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd. See Oct. 3 listing.

Drive-in movie double-feature in Brandon. Friday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m., Estabrook Park, Grove St. The drive-in is back just in time for Halloween with spooky movies. "Hocus Pocus" screens at 7 p.m., followed by "Friday the 13th" at 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 per car with yummy snacks on site.

oct 5 SATURDAY

The Ladies Aid Industria rummage sale in Lincoln. Saturday, Oct. 5, 8-10:30 a.m., Burnham Hall, 52 East River Rd. See Oct. 3 listing.

American Red Cross blood donation in New Haven. Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Brandon American Legion, 550 Franklin St. Help alleviate the ongoing critical need for blood and platelets to keep the blood supply stable as fall begins. Donors of all blood types, especially those with type O blood, those giving platelets and those who have never given before, are needed now. Make an appointment to give now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

Dead Creek Wildlife Day in Addison. Saturday, Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, 966 Route 17 West. A day of activities for all, including live critters, warden dog demonstration, decoy carving and painting, nature and habitat walks, fishing how-to's, building bluebird boxes, face painting, soap carving and nature art and crafts. Rain or shine, though the schedule may change slightly due to unforeseen conflicts.

Classic Quaddball festival in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Battell Beach, Chateau Rd. Formerly know as Quidditch, come watch games and celebrate the greater Middlebury community with food, merchandise and fun activities for children of all ages, including "Kidditch" — a chance to learn how to play quaddball. Free Harry Potter-themed snacks and craft activities, and food from Taste of Abyssinia available for purchase.

Used book sale in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Town office plaza, Main St. The last Friends of Ilsley Library Used Book Sale until after the completion of the renovation and expansion project. We will be stocked with lots of fiction and non-fiction books for both adults and children. Rain location Ilsley Community Room. Right after the sale, we will move our operation to the basement of the Middlebury United Methodist Church, at 43 N. Pleasant St., Middlebury. The more books we sell, the less we have to move.

Drive-in movie double-feature in Brandon. Saturday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m., Estabrook Park, Grove St. The drive-in is back just in time for Halloween with spooky movies. "Nightmare Before Christmas" screens at 7 p.m., followed by "Nightmare on Elm Street" at 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$25 per car with yummy snacks on site.

oct 6 SUNDAY

Fundraiser breakfast in Middlebury. Sunday, Oct. 6, 8-10 a.m., VFW, 530 Exchange St. Menu includes pancakes, sausage, gravy/biscuits, bacon, hash, sausage, hash browns, eggs to order, scrambled eggs, toast, coffee and orange juice. Cost adults \$12/children \$6. Open to the public. Proceeds benefit veterans programs.

Lewis Creek Association 2024 Party in Starksboro. Sunday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Cota Field, States Prison Hollow Rd. and Route 116. A day-long celebration of the lives and work of Marty Illick and Terry Dinnan in partnership with Vermont Master Naturalist. Explore the watershed (registration required), lunch and remarks, treasure hunt, and outing with local experts on history, wildlife and geology. Join



Celebrating classic cars and community

MIDDLEBURY WILL HOLD its second annual Car Show and Fall Festival on Sunday, Oct. 13 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in downtown. Streets will be closed to traffic and more than 75 antique and classic cars will be on display, with music on the bandstand, over 50 craft and food vendors and activities for children.

Independent file photo/John S. McCright

friends and neighbors for all or part of the day. Free and open to the public. More info at www.lewiscreek.org.

Middlebury Maple Run in Middlebury. Sunday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m., Porter Medical Center, 115 Porter Dr. A half marathon/10k/5K running event. A beautiful and varied half marathon course in and around Middlebury and Weybridge. More info, race fees course map and volunteer info available at www.middleburymaplerun.com.

Addison County CROP Walk in Middlebury. Sunday, Oct. 6, noon, town green. Addison County CROP Hunger Walk is part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world. Check out the list of teams already started or create your own. More info at events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/teams?event=middleburyvt.

Megan's Meadow dedication in Middlebury. Sunday, Oct. 6, 12:30 p.m., Middlebury Area Community Garden, Collins Dr. Friends and family of Megan Battey as well as the public are invited to attend.

Harvest Fest in Brandon. Sunday, Oct. 6, 1-4 p.m., Estabrook Park, Grove St. Leaf people, pony rides, goats, hayrides, a bounce house, One for the Road Band, leaf people for purchase, a BIG basket raffle, and tons of vendors selling all manner of goods and services Fun for all, in a beautiful location. Admission and parking free.

Brandon Has Talent auditions in Brandon. Sunday, Oct. 6, 3-6 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. If you like to sing, dance, or have a special talent, join us for the 10th Annual "Brandon Has Talent" show. To sign up for an audition day and time e-mail Dennis at denniswarden@gmail.com or call 802-247-5420.

"The Shining" on screen in Brandon. Sunday, Oct. 6, 8:30 p.m., Estabrook Park, Grove St. The drive-in is back just in time for Halloween with spooky movies. Tickets \$25 per car with yummy snacks on site.

oct 7 MONDAY

Book Club in Starksboro. Monday, Oct. 7, 5 p.m., Starksboro Public Library, 2827 Rout 116. The Starksboro Library has started a new book club. The first book is "The Food Explorer" by Daniel Stone, the adventures of the globe-trotting botanist who transformed what America eats. You don't have to be from Starksboro to join us. Everyone is welcome.

oct 8 TUESDAY

"Living Deliberately: What Thoreau Means Today" in Middlebury. Tuesday, Oct. 8, 5:30-7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The final installment of "Up for Discussion," a free series created by Vermont Book Shop and Town Hall Theater designed to spark community conversation and featuring local experts in their fields sharing timely topics that span literature, art, film, and contemporary issues. The 30-minute presentation will be followed by a roundtable discussion and sharing of thoughts and ideas. Free, but registration required at townhalltheater.org.

Traditional Boatbuilder talks in New Haven: From Japan to Hollywood. Tuesday, Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Did you hear about Disney/FX's "Shogun" winning a record-breaking 18 Emmy Awards, including Outstanding Production Design? Vergennes boatbuilder, writer and researcher Douglas Brooks worked on the series as the Boat Consultant and will be at New Haven Community Library to present about this and other experiences in his 30 years studying, building and teaching on the subject.

oct 9 WEDNESDAY

The Evolution of "Stuck in Vermont" with Eva Sollberger in Middlebury. Wednesday, Oct. 9, 1 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. or Live Stream. In the latest presentation in VT Humanities' Snapshot series discussions program, *Seven Days* senior multimedia producer Eva Sollberger will discuss her "Stuck in Vermont" video series, reflecting on what lies ahead for this video series — and possibly for Vermont — in the coming years. To live stream, register at tinyurl.com/VT-Humanities-Stuck.

"A Political History of Palestine: The Gaza War

and the Post-War Future" in Middlebury. Wednesday, Oct. 9, 3 p.m., EastView at Middlebury and via Zoom. Professor Emeritus Russell Leng presents the sixth talk in a six-part series.

oct 11 FRIDAY

"America the Violent: How Group Terror has Shaped the Nation's Life" in Middlebury. Friday, Oct. 11, noon, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Suzanne Brown leads this Vermont Humanities Reading and Discussion Series program on "The Rope: A True Story of Murder, Heroism & the Dawn of the NAACP," by Alex Tresniowski.

oct 12 SATURDAY

Pride celebration in Middlebury. Saturday, Oct. 12, 1-5 p.m., College Park and town green. Middlebury

Teen center invites all to join the family-friendly festivities on the Green to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ members in our community. The parade starts at 1 p.m. at College Park and the rest of the events will be hosted on the Green until 5 p.m. Live music, drag performances, food, lawn games, and, of course, rainbows.

Prize Bingo in Leicester. Saturday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m., Senior Center, Four Corners. All are welcome. Refreshments served; monies raised help with the maintenance of the historic buildings in town.

Takeout harvest supper in Monkton. Saturday, Oct. 12, 4-5 p.m., Monkton Friends Methodist Church, 78 Monkton Ridge. Menu includes baked ham (or substitute a vegetarian option), macaroni and cheese, squash, coleslaw, dinner roll, and apple crisp. Gluten-free versions of all items are also available upon request. Orders can be placed on the Monkton Friends Methodist Church website (easy to Google) or leave a phone message with your name, phone number, and include the number and type of meals by calling 802-453-3020. Cost \$13. Pay at pick-up. Proceeds to support the church painting project.

Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 12, 5 p.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. A family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Historic Preservation Committee to benefit the ongoing restoration efforts for the bell tower and the Church.

Takeout turkey and all the fixin's supper in Vergennes. Saturday, Oct. 12, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main Street across from the Vergennes Opera House. Menu includes: roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, vegetable, roll, and dessert. Adults \$12. Takeout preorder only. Must place order by 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10. To order call 802-877-3150.

oct 13 SUNDAY

Charity breakfast and presentation in Bristol. Sunday, Oct. 13, 7:30-10 a.m., Libanus Lodge, North St.

Along with serving breakfast the Masons of Libanus Lodge 47 F & AM will donate the proceeds (all receipts, not just the profit) of their monthly charity breakfast to the Bristol Fire Department, which is raising funds for an industrial dryer that will help keep their equipment safer in preventing possible exposures to cancer pathogens while fighting fires. Come to the Lodge breakfast to support all the hardworking, dedicated volunteers that make up the Bristol Fire Department.

Breakfast buffet in Vergennes. Sunday, Oct. 13, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter's Parish Hall. Omelets to order, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, fruit, plain and blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, corn bread, home fries, mini muffins, juice, milk, and coffee. \$13 adults. \$8 children 8 to 12 years. No cap/cost on family cost. Sponsor: Vergennes Council Knights of Columbus.

Car Show and Fall Festival in Middlebury. Sunday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Triangle Park/ Main St. Come to Middlebury, for the 3rd annual Middlebury Car Show and Fall Festival, Main Street will close to welcome 75 classic cars and trucks. Food trucks, 50+ vendors, live music, raffle drawings, and more. With kids' activities as well, this event is fun for the whole family and free for spectators.

CALENDAR ONLINE
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Leicester

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

NEWS

LEICESTER — The Leicester Historical Society is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Sat., Oct 12, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center at the Four Corners. All are welcome. Refreshments served; monies raised help with the maintenance of the historic buildings in town.

Property taxes are due to be paid in full by Nov. 15. Postmarks are not accepted as proof of timely payment. There is a drop box under the bulletin board for after hour payments. Do not put cash in the drop box.

Monkton

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

NEWS

MONKTON — The Monkton Friends Methodist Church will be hosting a take-out Harvest Supper on Saturday, Oct. 12. The menu includes baked ham (or substitute a vegetarian option), macaroni and cheese, squash, coleslaw, dinner roll, and apple crisp. Gluten free versions of all items are also available upon request.

Orders can be placed on the Monkton Friends Methodist Church website (easy to Google) or leave a phone message with your name, phone number, and include the number and type of meals by calling 802-453-3020. Pick up and payment will be from 4 to 5 p.m. at the church parking lot, 78 Monkton Ridge. Dinner is \$13 per meal and payment may be

cash or checks payable to Friends Methodist Church.

The Monkton Friends Methodist Church has shared a portion of the proceeds from the Harvest Supper for several years to help address local concerns such as food insecurity, housing insecurities such as heat and emergency shelter. This year, one third of the proceeds from this dinner will be used to support the painting project at the church building itself.

We would also like to take this opportunity to collect donations to help sustain the Little Free Pantry. If you would like to help, you can drop off items or cash/check donations when you pick up your dinners.

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Reader Comments

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

A subscriber from Bristol writes:

"Outstanding coverage. Fabulous photos."

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Around TOWN

Rotary Club's online auction ends Oct. 4

MIDDLEBURY — The Rotary Club of Middlebury's online auction to raise funds for local nonprofits is now open and will conclude Saturday, Oct. 5, at 9 p.m. "Last year we distributed over \$60,000 to provide operational and capital funds to nonprofit organizations and to individuals," said Rotary Club President Paul Horn. "The distribution reflected member desires as well as the overall goals of Rotary International."

Over 120 items are posted, from art and auto to unique experiences (stays at Blueberry Hill and

Middlebury Inns and Robert Frost Mountain Cabins).

Registration and a credit card are required to bid. See the items and services offered at: tinyurl.com/rotary-auction-2024.

The auction is one of the international service club's three annual fundraisers. The other two are the display of flags around town on federal holidays and the Buster Brush Golf Outing.

For further information or to donate an item, contact auction chair Michael Kellogg at rotaryclubofmiddlebury@gmail.com.

Rules for reporting wildlife

MONTPELIER — Vermont hunters will be able to report turkeys and some deer they harvest this fall online through the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's website, www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Turkeys may be reported online or in-person at a regional big game reporting station.

Deer may be reported online or in-person during the archery and muzzleloader seasons, but deer must be reported in-person during the youth and novice deer hunting weekend on Oct. 26-27 and during the regular deer season on Nov. 16-Dec. 1. The in-person reporting requirement allows biologists to collect important information from deer during these seasons.

Bears may be reported in-person at a regional big game

reporting station. The hunter must also submit a premolar tooth from the bear at the time the bear is reported or within 30 days. The tooth provides important data on the age structure and size of the bear population. Envelopes for submitting teeth are available at all big game reporting stations.

Hunters are required to report deer, bear and wild turkeys they harvest during the hunting seasons within 48 hours. Deer and bear must be field-dressed prior to reporting, and a hunter must take a warden to the kill site of a deer or bear if requested by a warden.

The online reporting link for deer and turkey as well as a map and list of big game reporting stations is available under "Hunt" on the left side of Vermont Fish and Wildlife's website.

BIRTHS

Abbey Gendreau and Andre Letourneau of Monkton, Aug. 27, a boy, **Andrew Thomas Letourneau**, grandson of AnneMarie Letourneau and Amy and Andy Gendreau.

Wilbur named Showing Champion

ADDISON COUNTY — For 29 Vermont 4-H dairy members, the 2024 Eastern States Exposition 4-H dairy show provided an unparalleled opportunity to compete against top dairy competitors from the other New England states.

The regional dairy show, held Sept. 14 and 15 at the fairgrounds in West Springfield, Mass., included both fitting and showing and conformation contests. Vermont's exhibitors qualified based on their outstanding performance at the state 4-H dairy show in August.

Placements in the fitting and showing classes were determined by how well the 4-H'ers presented and handled their animals in the show ring. Several classes for juniors (ages 12 to 14) and seniors (ages 15 to 18) were held to accommodate the large number of exhibitors. The top two finishers in each class then competed for grand and reserve championships in their age group.

Of the Addison County 4-H'ers participating, Isabella Wilbur of Orwell was named Senior Champion and Caroline Allen of Pantou was the Honorable Mention Junior Champion.

Addison County 4-H'ers placed as follows in their respective fitting and showing classes:

- Seniors**
Group A: 6. Jaden Ploof, Pantou.
Group C: 4. Peyton Ball, Vergennes.
Group D: 2. Torrey Hanna, Addison.
Group E: 1. Ruby Hubbell, Shoreham; 5. Hailee Allen, New Haven.
Group F: 1. Isabella Wilbur, Orwell; 2. Brailey Livingston, New Haven.
Juniors
Group A: 2. Tenley Chittenden, Whiting.
Group B: 3. Jordan Hutchins, North Ferrisburgh; 4. Payton Lucas, Orwell.
Group C: 1. Ava Wood, Shoreham.
Group D: 4. Collin Chamberlin, Addison.
Group E: 1. Kylee Shepard, Pantou.
Group F: 1. Caroline Allen,



ISABELLA WILBUR, ORWELL (right) was named Senior Fitting and Showing Champion at the 2024 Eastern States Exposition 4-H dairy show held September 14-15 in West Springfield, Mass. With her, holding Isabella's trophy, is Taryn Burns, Shoreham, the Brown Swiss Junior Champion and Grand Champion.

Pantou; 7. Bella Roell, New Haven.

Group G: 3. Lola Rollins, North Ferrisburgh; 4. Taryn Burns, Whiting.

For the conformation classes, arranged by breed and age of the animal, the judges evaluated the appearance and body condition of the animals. The first- and second-place winners in each class competed for championships.

Placements for Addison County 4-H'ers were as follows:

- AYRSHIRE**
Reserve Junior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion: Bella Roell, New Haven.
Winter yearling: 1. Bella Roell, New Haven.
BROWN SWISS
Junior Champion and Grand Champion: Taryn Burns, Shoreham; **Reserve Junior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion:** Tenley Chittenden, Whiting.
Fall calf: 1. Taryn Burns, Shoreham.
Summer yearling: 1. Jordan Hutchins, North Ferrisburgh; 2.

Jayden Ploof, Pantou.

Spring yearling: 1. Tenley Chittenden, Whiting.

HOLSTEIN

Junior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion: Collin Chamberlin, Addison.

Reserve Junior Champion: Ava Wood, Shoreham.

Spring calf: 1. Hailee Allen, New Haven.

Fall calf: 1. Collin Chamberlin, Addison; 2. Ava Wood, Shoreham; 8. Payton Lucas, Orwell.

Spring yearling: 3 Peyton Ball, Vergennes.

JERSEY

Reserve Junior Champion: Lola Rollins, North Ferrisburgh.

Winter calf: Torrey Hanna, Addison.

Fall calf: 2. Lola Rollins, North Ferrisburgh; 3. Kylee Shepard, Pantou; 4. Ruby Hubbell, Shoreham; 5. Mackenzie Chase, Bristol.

Summer yearling: 1. Isabella Wilbur, Orwell.

Spring yearling: 1. Caroline Allen, Pantou.

MILKING SHORTHORN

Honorable Mention Junior Champion and Honorable Mention Grand Champion: Brailey Livingston, New Haven.

Fall calf: 2. Brailey Livingston, New Haven.

Vermont placed third overall in herdmanship where judges consider a number of criteria including general appearance and cleanliness of assigned area and stalls, cleanliness of animals, arrangements of exhibits and how well the 4-H'ers engage with fairgoers and respond to their questions.

Bristol 4-H'er Hailey Chase was selected as the Teen Leader for the Vermont delegation, serving as organizer, assisting with the feeding of the cattle, caring for the heifer used in the clipping contest and handing out ribbons in the show ring. She also took care of the heifers belonging to the eight Vermont youths in the judging contest as they were not allowed in the barn until after they competed.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Mount Abraham Union High School

Chase Atkins



Chase Atkins MAUHS

Mt. Abraham Union High School has chosen Chase Atkins as our student of the week. Chase resides in Lincoln with his parents, Matt and Kayla, and his younger brother, Mason. They are the 6th generation to live on the family farm. Stella the black lab and Duke the English mastiff are also part of the family.

Chase has received high or highest honors for all of his high school career and has challenged himself academically by taking multiple Advanced Placement classes while at Mt. Abe. Math and science have always piqued Chase's interest, he states that these courses "challenge me and give me numerous opportunities to solve problems and create solutions." Chase was nominated by his teachers to attend Green Mountain Boys' State this past summer. He was nominated as a second alternate for Boys' Nation, which was a great honor.

Chase enjoys being a part of the Mt. Abe school community. He has been a member of the varsity basketball team since 11th grade and a member of varsity lacrosse since 9th grade. Chase's favorite sports memory was winning both the lacrosse state semi-final and state championship last season. He has an interest in sports medicine and has served as an intern with Mt. Abe's Athletic Trainer. Chase is also involved in both the Environment Action Group and The Eagle Leadership Society.

Outside of school, Chase works for his dad's company, Matt Atkins Property Services, doing landscaping and excavation. Chase finds that manual labor has taught him perseverance and a strong work ethic. He also volunteers for the town of Lincoln's volunteer fire department as the captain of the cadets. In his free time, Chase enjoys hiking, running, hunting, playing sports and spending time with his friends and family.

Chase has some advice for younger students at Mt. Abe. "It's important to put yourself out there and get involved in new opportunities even though they may challenge you and put you outside of your comfort zone," he said. "Our school and community have many opportunities for us to get involved whether that's playing sports, joining clubs or volunteering. Take advantage of these opportunities to meet new people and grow yourself as a person and a learner."

Chase plans to attend college with a focus on physical therapy or sports medicine. We wish Chase all the best in his future endeavors.

Otter Valley Union High School

Brendan McLoughlin



Brendan McLoughlin OVUHS

Otter Valley Union High School has chosen Brendan McLoughlin as its Student of the Week. Brendan, who lives with his mother, sister and four pets, has been attending Otter Valley since he moved to the area midway through 7th grade. He came from a very big school in New York, and has grown to appreciate how personal OV is, and the strong sense of community there.

Brendon is a history guy as a rule, but his favorite class this year has been AP Biology. He has great appreciation for all his teachers, and nods to Mrs. Callahan and Dr. Sicot as particularly important to his experience. His academics have been stellar, with consistent appearances on the Principal's List. Last year he received the Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award from the University of Rochester. He has also served as class president for three years. He says his biggest honor has simply been the cast of characters surrounding him throughout high school — friends, teachers and friendly faces in the hallway.

Brendan has participated in 14 theater productions, is a member of Debate Club, Otter Valley Alliance, Broadcast Club, Jazz band and student council. This year he joined the Cross Country team and has had an amazing experience. Outside of school he works at both Hannaford and Morningside Bakery. When he has spare time, Brendan loves to go for walks, drive around listening to music, live it up and hang out with friends and family, watch Buffalo Bills games, visit his Dad and family in North Carolina, go swimming, fish, visit Washington, D.C., eat steak, be a "sigma" and read from time to time.

He says when he was in middle school he had a very black and white outlook on life, but his years at Otter Valley have taught him that people are multifaceted — far more complicated and interesting than he'd previously thought.

Brendan is looking into American University, University of Rochester, N.C. State, William & Mary and Georgetown University as possible destinations next fall. He is also considering the Peace Corps after undergraduate school. He hopes to study political science/pre-law courses and eventually go on to law school so that he can do his part to make the meaningful change no one in Washington seems to be able to. All of us at Otter Valley wish Brendan well.

Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.

Best of luck to all Addison County students!

If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact advertising@addisonindependent.com

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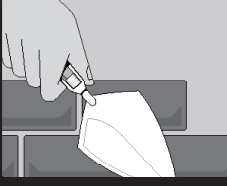


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CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

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

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

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

Public Meetings

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

Public Meetings

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

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.

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

Help Wanted

Garage Sales

RAIN OR SHINE SALE Many new items; great for holiday shopping! A lot of fall and Xmas decor, uranium-glass, kitchenware, kids items, wedge wood, Tupperware, lamps, hundreds of salt and pepper shakers, frames, chairs, small tables, more items from junk drawers and from an attic! 477 Doolittle Road Shoreham, Vt. Thursday October 10th 4-6 pm, Friday October 11th 8-4, Saturday October 12th 8-4

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Help Wanted

BEAU TIES OF VT is looking for a FT or PT machine sewer to help us create bow ties, neckties & more. 30+ yr old company in Middlebury. Great work environment, vacation time & benefits. Email resume to greg@beautiesltd.com.

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Addison County Parent/Child Center

VAN DRIVER JOB OPENING
Addison County Parent/Child Center
We are seeking a van driver who will transport children, youth, and parents to our center from around Addison County.
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Please contact **Donna Bailey** at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org

Services

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

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

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To apply, send resume and note of interest to receptionist@hope-vt.org, or drop off at the store (334 Boardman Street, Middlebury,) or at HOPE's office (282 Boardman Street.)

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Help Wanted ads can be found on Pages 11B and 12B.

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.

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58 Maple Street | Middlebury, VT 05753
christy@addisonindependent.com

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

LCMM Volunteers

LAKE CHAMPLAIN MARITIME MUSEUM

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has volunteer opportunities in its grounds and gardens for anyone who enjoys working with their hands or being outdoors. Grounds and gardens volunteers help make repairs to buildings, paint walls, weed and maintain the gardens, and more.

To learn more please reach out to Sarah at sarahy@lcmm.org.

United Way of Addison County

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TOTAL: _____

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

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

WINTERGREEN RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME in Brandon, Vermont, under new management, is seeking full and part time Resident Aides to assist in caring for our residents living at Wintergreen. No experience is necessary. Applicants should have a positive attitude, good

Help Wanted

work ethic, a clean criminal background check, reliable transportation, and a love for the elderly. Competitive wages and earned time off. If interested, please email Rick at: rickhillvt@gmail.com or call Tara at (802)-465-8340 for more information and to get an application.

For Sale

BARN BEAM DRILL-PRESS Antique, great condition. Comes with a dozen drill bits. \$250 cash. 23in high by 27in long. 802-425-3529

ELECTRIC WHEEL-CHAIR, \$300. Kirby vacuum with shampoo attachment, \$200. Total Gym, Jr. \$150. 802-989-7533.

USED GOLF CLUBS. 18 clubs. Make an offer. Contact 219-242-6108.

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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.

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Help Wanted

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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 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

For Rent

MIDDLEBURY BRIARWOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2-br apartments. No smoking/No pets. Income limits apply - rent based on income- 2 person minimum occupancy. Equal Housing Opportunity. Handicapped accessible. 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

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

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

Wood Heat

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

Att. Farmers

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



Eastern States

SHYANNE WEDGE OF Shoreham was one of six 4H-er's to compete at the 2024 Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass., Sept. 20 and 21. Wedge placed tenth in Western Fitting and Showmanship and was on the third-place general knowledge team, among other placements in 4-H horse events.

Photo by Mary Fay

SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL NURSE FAIR HAVEN GRADE SCHOOL

Slate Valley School District is seeking a full-time School Nurse to be placed at Fair Haven Grade School, supporting student health needs PreK-Grade 6.

For additional information contact Deborah Infurna, Principal at 802-265-3883 or dinfurna@svvvt.org. Apply at: <https://slatevalley.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>

Position will remain open until filled.

EOE

Seeking a driver for Thursday paper delivery.

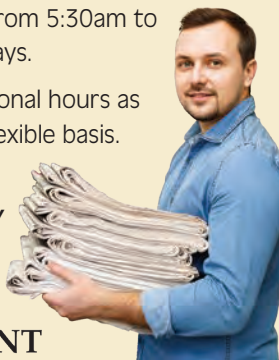
Must be available from 5:30am to 3:00pm on Thursdays.

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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Contact us at: (802)388-4944 or frontdesk@addisonindependent.com



FERRISBURGH VERMONT

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Ferrisburgh is seeking a Zoning Administrator. This is a part-time position, up to 32 hours a week. The position of Zoning Administrator is the town's "Administrative Officer" as described in 24 VSA Chapter 117, responsible for processing permit applications, enforcing the Land Use Regulations, maintaining records, and supporting the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment. This position requires the ability to communicate effectively with applicants, work with office staff, multi-task, and attend two evening meetings per month. Knowledge or experience with land use planning preferred but not required. EOE. Salary range \$39,000 - \$52,000. Benefits available.

A detailed job description is available upon request to the Town offices (802-877-3429). To apply please e-mail cover letter and resume to TownClerk@FerrisburghVT.org by the 18th of October at 4:00 p.m.

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT
Sales for 9/26/24 & 9/30/24

		LBS.	/LB	\$
BEEF				
Blue Spruce	1955	1.56		\$3049.80
Correia Family	1370	1.52		\$2082.40
C. Butler	1735	1.47		\$2550.45
Gosliga	1980	1.30		\$2574.00
Deer Valley	1190	1.40		\$1666.00
K. Rousseau	1225	1.29		\$1580.25
Savello Farm	1475	1.25		\$1843.75

		LBS.	/LB	\$
CALVES				
A. Brisson	96	9.00		\$864.00
M+L Quesnel	105	8.00		\$840.00
Elysian Fields	88	8.00		\$704.00
Vorsteveld	101	7.00		\$707.00
Correia	93	7.00		\$651.00
Barnes Bros.	87	7.10		\$617.70

Total Beef - 161 Total Calves - 251
We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
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Auction Closes: TUESDAY, OCT. 15 @ 10AM
Preview: Wednesday, October 9 from 11AM-1PM



Over 175 lots of framed giclee prints, lamps, sofas, tables, dining room sets, candle holders and assorted candle sticks, china cabinets, wood cabinets, flatware, assorted glassware, folding tables, framed mirrors, framed artwork, ceramics, antique bedframe/mattress set, wooden fireplace mantle, wardrobes, gas stove/oven, wooden chest, rocking chair, bookshelves, marble topped furniture and more! **BIDDING NOW OPEN! THCAuction.com**

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Ferrisburgh

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

NEWS

FERRISBURGH — We are all encouraged to participate in the development of the next Ferrisburgh Town Plan. The Ferrisburgh Planning Commission is working this fall to update the Town Plan by the spring of 2025. There will be three informational public meetings in October: Thursday, Oct. 10, 6:30-8 p.m., at the Town Offices on Route 7, discussing septic and water needs; Thursday, Oct. 17, 6:30-8 p.m., at the Basin Harbor Club, discussing planning issues in West Ferrisburgh; and Thursday, October 24, 6:30-8 p.m., at the North Ferrisburgh Methodist Church, discussing flood resiliency. For more information, contact Arabella Holzapfel at arabella.listens@gmail.com, or any of the Planning Commission members.

The Ferrisburgh Historical Society is sponsoring a cruise aboard the Escape, Basin Harbor's own tour boat, as a wonderful way to experience a Lake Champlain tour. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. During this 1- to 2-hour cruise, the captain and crew will explore the New York and Vermont shores. Attendees will see a bald eagle nest, spot an osprey on Otter Creek, and learn about the rich history of the area, including the many naval battles that occurred nearby. Please contact Gail Blasius at gblasius@aol.com for more information and reservations.

The Ferrisburgh Historical Society invites the Ferrisburgh community to join them for the FHS Annual Meeting on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 2 p.m., at the FHS building on the corner of Route 7 and Little Chicago Road. Come and meet your neighbors and assist our historical society in planning for their important work of preserving and promoting the history of our town.

The North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church at 227 Old Hollow Road has opened its doors to

a new knitting/crocheting group. The meetings dates are Oct. 1, 8, 15, and 22, from 6:30-8 p.m. All are invited, beginner to expert, to hone their knitting and crocheting skills. This is also a good time to finish up those halfway completed projects taking up space in your home. The group's leader has knitted and crocheted for over sixty years and will provide expert advice. The most important part of a craft group is conversation and comradery so come out and meet your neighbors. There will be yarn and needles/hooks available for new crafters. For more information, email nfume@gmavt.net.

Rokeby Museum is presenting a new production of "Spirits of Rokeby," inspired by the Spiritualist history documented at the museum. Ticket holders will gather for a drink and a short talk on Victorian Spiritualism before entering the historic home, where actors will guide them through participatory dramatization, creating scenes based on actual historic transcripts from Rokeby's archives. This year's production imagines a visit to Rokeby by Achsa Sprague, a Vermont native and nationally known medium. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members, and are organized for timed entry. A limited number of seats are available so pre-booking is recommended as times sell out quickly. Performances will be held on Friday, Oct. 25 and Saturday Oct. 26. For more information, visit www.rokeby.org.

Ferrisburgh Grang "King Pede" card parties are scheduled for the Saturdays of Oct. 12 and 26. These community get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a sandwich supper and then on to the games! King Pede involves "trick-taking" such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. These are fun events, but come prepared to use your strategic thinking.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, from 11 a.m.-noon, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Executive Director Chris Sabick will give a presentation on lesser-known canal boat shipwrecks in Lake Champlain and what the museum's Research and Archaeology team has uncovered from these mysterious wrecks. After the talk, attendees can step into the museum's exhibit, "Underwater Archaeology: Diving into the Stories of People and Canal Boats on Lake Champlain" for more canal boat archaeology. This free event will be held in the auditorium of the Hoehl Family Education and Visitor Center. Afterwards, all are invited to visit the other exhibits, on this last day of the museum's 2024 season.

Bixby Library is showing two films in October that will provide lots of fun in celebrating the spookiness of the Halloween season. The Family Movie Night film is "Hotel Transylvania 3," the story of the Dracula family's vacation on a luxury cruise ship. This film showing is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 18, at 6:30 p.m. Additionally, Bixby will host a screening of the film "Beetlejuice." The new version of this classic movie is in theaters this fall, but Bixby is taking it back to the place it all started with this 1988 Halloween classic. Snuggle up in the comfy couches of the Community Room with fresh popped popcorn and there will be candy for anyone who comes in costume. "Beetlejuice" will screen on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 7-9 p.m.

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ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Questions? CALL SEAN TODAY!

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT
58 Maple St., Midd., VT 05753
802-388-4944 ext 104

Judge finds Panton dairy farmers in contempt

By EMMA COTTON
VtDigger.org

PANTON — A judge has found a family of Panton dairy farmers in contempt of court after they failed to stop water from coming out of a drainage system on their farm, washing over their neighbors' property and flowing into Lake Champlain.

Brothers Gerard and Hans Vorsteveld, who operate a large dairy farm in Addison County, must stop the water from flowing out of their fields by Nov. 15 or face a fine of \$1,000 per day, according to the decision, written by Addison Superior Court Judge Mary Teachout on Sept. 12.

The Vorstevelds plan to appeal the decision, according to their attorney, Claudine Safar of the Burlington firm Monaghan Safar. Gerard Vorsteveld did not respond to a phone call from VtDigger.

Safar called the decision "dramatically incorrect" in a Sept. 17 interview, saying Teachout's ruling "ignores all of the evidence that we put before the court."

Safar argued the water coming off the farm isn't generated by the farmers themselves and that the increased amount of water that neighbors have seen in recent years is a result of climate change. Because the court is holding the farm responsible for the quality of water that isn't immediately flowing from the tile drains, "my client is now responsible for dealing with the brown water that is coming off of the town of Panton's dirt roads," she said.

But Teachout wrote in her decision that the original court order instructed the Vorstevelds to "prevent the destructive flushing of water that originates from the tile drain system onto Aerie Point

land." Because the farmers haven't stopped that water, they haven't complied with the court order, Teachout held.

The high-profile case has been playing out since 2020, when the Hopper family — neighbors of the Vorstevelds who live between the farmers and the lake — filed a complaint. In December 2021 and January 2022, a six-day trial led to a decision in March 2022 from Teachout calling for the Vorstevelds to stop the runoff flowing from their farm.

The case has spurred debate about the state's regulatory system related to agricultural pollution and caused lawmakers to consider whether farmers should have greater protections from nuisance lawsuits by neighbors.

In her March 2022 decision, Teachout found that the Vorstevelds "had committed trespass and nuisance against its downslope neighbor Plaintiff Aerie Point by increasing the volume and velocity of water discharged into two streams that crossed Plaintiff's land."

That change in the volume and velocity of water was caused by the Vorstevelds' tile drainage system, a network of perforated underground pipes that carry the water away from the field.

The system resulted in "the discharge of water in a manner that caused damage in a number of ways, including erosion of land and deposits of sediment and phosphorus," Teachout wrote in her latest decision.

In a January decision, Teachout found the Vorstevelds in contempt but didn't assign penalties while the court waited to see whether a mediation process would identify solutions.

By May, the parties had completed that process "without resolution," Teachout wrote.

Gerard Vorsteveld estimated the farmers had spent roughly \$60,000 to comply with the 2022 court order, though the court noted in its most recent decision that this money may have been spent anyway on a separate enforcement order issued by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Teachout wrote the water coming from the tile drains had become clearer. To emphasize this point, Vorsteveld "captured clear water" at some of these drainage points in a cup and "drank it" during a recent site visit, the court order stated.

"He testified that he did not get sick," Teachout wrote.

Still, the judge found that once the clear water "gets down to the ditch on the farm side of Arnold Bay Road, the water that enters the ditch during rainfalls is generally brown and murky, and some is foamy."

Safar said she doesn't know how the farmers would comply with the order.

"How are you supposed to stop 300 acres of water from going back where it naturally went in the first

place?" she said. "What are you supposed to do with it?"

She noted tile drains are allowed by Vermont's Required Agricultural Practices, though state law includes restrictions on how the drains can be used.

"These guys have spent \$60,000 doing water quality improvements on their property with absolutely no evidence that there's any contamination leaving these tile drains, and we're asking them to either take them out, which is a \$3 million expense," and plug them up, which could cause environmental problems, or truck the water away, she said.

Merrill Bent, an attorney who represents the Hoppers, said the court's decision "is based largely on the farm's own evidence and just a very straightforward interpretation of a court order that's been interpreted multiple times over the last couple of years."

If the Vorstevelds "can farm responsibly within the confines of their farm, then they wouldn't need to impose their burden on their neighbor," she said.

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Sale Date: Saturday, 10/05 at 9 am

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
All residents of Addison County are hereby given notice of the annual meeting of Addison County Fair & Field Days, Inc., to be held at the Weybridge Congregational Church, 2790 Weybridge Road, Weybridge, VT 05753 on October 7, 2024 at 7:00pm.
AGENDA
I. Welcome and Introduction of Board Members
II. Review of 2024
III. Financial Report
IV. Audience Comments and Questions
V. Election of Board Members and Officers
Cara Mosier
Business Manager

**STATE OF VERMONT
SUPERIOR COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
ADDISON UNIT**
DOCKET NO.: 24-PR-00889
IN RE ESTATE OF:
MITCHELL KELLY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
To the Creditors of: Mitchell Kelly, late of Starksboro, Vermont.
I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate must present their claims in writing within four (4) months of the first publication of this notice. The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be barred forever if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.
Dated: 09/27/24
Co-Administrators:
Sarah B. Haselton, Esq.
& Paula Layman
Maple Haven Law, PLLC
PO Box 32, Waterbury Center, VT 05677
(802) 477-3434
sarah@maplehavenlaw.com
Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 10/3/24
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

**LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHILD FIND NOTIFICATION
2024-2025 School Year**
Dear Lincoln Residents, Under the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act), the Lincoln School District is committed to providing all children between the ages of two and a half and twenty-one years of age, who have an identified disability and who live within the district, with a free and appropriate public education. Eligible students who have left school prior to graduating have a right to return to receive services until graduation or until they turn twenty-two years of age. A student with a disability who does not qualify for services under IDEA may qualify for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
To make a referral or for further information please contact Student Support Services Director, Elizabeth Maher at emaher@lincolnsd.org or call 802-453-2119.

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
The Bristol Development Review Board will hold the following hearing on October 22, 2024, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The hearing will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 1 South Street. The hearing will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.
CONTINUATION: Appeal by Ash Smith of Zoning Administrator decision regarding the Lathrop Mill located at 44 South St (Parcel #225040), subject to Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article III, Section 363.
Copies of zoning permits and decisions are available for review at the Bristol Town Office during regular business hours.
Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/85786761083 • Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823
Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 • Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85786761083?pwd=RFIWSGFWamJRG5KOEPCal-NITDczdz09

**TOWN OF NEW HAVEN
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
NOTICE OF HEARING**
Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4464, a public hearing before the Development Review Board of the Town of New Haven will be held at the Town Offices, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472 on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:
• Conditional Use application #2024-DRB-18-CU submitted by Pike Industries, Inc., 174 Campground Road, New Haven, VT requesting to amend existing conditional use permits 2011-DRB-16 and 2023-DRB-01-CU to allow night work out of the Hot Mix Asphalt plant on an ongoing basis, as necessary.
Please note that participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. The hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting, either in person at the Town Offices, or by remote:
https://zoom.us/j/98142119190?pwd=U0FkdDQ2a1ZRZzVCRkN4ZGcyYUF3dz09
Meeting ID: 981 4211 9190
Passcode: 4jYbTA
An electronic copy of the application may be obtained by emailing: newhavenzoning@gmavt.net; a hard copy is available at the Town Offices during normal business hours, and can also be found on the Town's website at: https://www.nethavenvt.com/
New Haven Zoning Administrator
(802) 453-3516

**CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
Notice is hereby given that the Vergennes City Council will hold the first of two public hearings on November 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Fire Station during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting. The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments from the public on the following proposed Amendment to the Vergennes Sewer Ordinance: Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1972, City Council proposes to address the adoption of new language to Article II Building Sewers and Connections, Section 2.b. of Chapter 3 Regulation of Sewer Rules and Regulations in the Vergennes Sewer Ordinance.
The proposed draft language is as follows:
Any request (residential, commercial, or industrial) for sewer capacity to be reserved shall pay a one-time fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per unit for residential uses and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per unit for non-residential uses. The sewer capacity reserved shall expire in three (3) years if construction has not commenced.
Betsy Sullivan
Vergennes City Clerk
(802) 877-2841

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING
ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.**
Also available via Zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88097243183By
Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free)
Webinar ID: 880 9724 3183
For those wishing to watch but not participate:
Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV's YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTVVermont
and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071
AGENDA
7:00 1. **Call to Order
2. *Approval of Agenda
3. *Approval of Consent Agenda
3a. Approval of the Minutes of the September 24, 2024 Regular Selectboard Meeting
3b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes Policy Review Committee - Draft Meeting Minutes - 8.26.2024
3c. Approval of Renewal Applications for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Class Liquor Licenses, Outside Consumption Permits, and Entertainment Permits
3d. MidPride Parade & Festival - Public Assemblage Permit
3e. Consent Agenda Placeholder
3f. Consent Agenda Placeholder
3g. Town Manager's Report
CWSRF Priority List - Availability of Funds for Town State Recognition - Town WWTP Staff
Police Department - Funding Award Received - Police Vests
VT Space Grant for Public Libraries - Awarded
7:05 4. *Citizen Comments (Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda)
7:10 5. *Municipal Tax Insert Letter - Follow-Up/Discussion
6. *Proposed Easement Consideration Policy - Policy Review Committee Recommendation
7:20 7. *Community Decarbonization Partners Proposal - Thermal Energy Networks - Energy Committee Proposal (if available)
7:35 8. *DEI Working Group - Goals/Objectives Discussion
7:50 9. *Board Nominations - Development Review Committee & Energy Committee
10. *Agenda Placeholder
8:00 11. *Approval of Check Warrants
8:05 12. **Board Member Concerns
8:10 13. *Executive Session - Anticipated - Personnel
8:20 14. **Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session
8:25 15. *Adjourn
* Decision Item ** Possible Decision

**TOWN OF ADDISON
PUBLIC NOTICE**
The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, October 21, 2024 at the Addison Community Center at 6:30 PM.
1. Open the meeting.
2. Roll call given.
3. Plan for Katie Raycroft-Meyer's presentation on Chapters: 5 & 6 revisions for Town Plan—revisions on Chap. 5 Education (now no school exists), Chap. 6 Population & Housing & continue to Chap. 7 Economy & Development, if possible that Katie is available to come for 6:20PM.
4. Approve meeting minutes for September 16, 2024, and continue the business meeting.
5. Public comment time allowed (beginning & end if deemed necessary).
6. Discuss VT State Ethics to review & follow, if necessary.
7. Discussion on Town Survey results—follow up with reopening the Survey & continue until Town Meeting Day March 2025 for more responses.
8. If time, we may decide to work on the comments from the Town Survey & Zoning Regulations.
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

**CITY OF VERGENNES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on October 21, 2024, at 7 pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:
To consider Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Review for Application #2024-31 by Petras Girdenis for a Change of Use from Warehouse to Motor Vehicle Sales and Service for a portion of the Principal Structure and Property located at 14 Main St. Reviews will consider Article VII, Article VIII and Section 1612.
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.
Meetings are accessible via Zoom;
Meeting ID: 842-5290-1890;
Meeting password: 689859.
Join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099; 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.
9/30/2024
David Austin,
Zoning Administrator

Public Notices Index

Addison (1)	Ferrisburgh (1)
Addison County Fair & Field Days (1)	Lincoln School District (1)
Addison Northwest School District (1)	Middlebury (1)
Bridport (1)	New Haven (1)
Bristol (1)	Vergennes (2)
Bristol Stor-Mor (1)	

**TOWN OF BRIDPORT
PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING**
The Legal Voters of the Town of Bridport are hereby warned and notified that the Bridport Selectboard will hold a public informational hearing on the following Article at the Bridport Masonic/Community Hall on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7 PM.
Article 1. Shall the Town of Bridport withdraw from the Lemon Fair Insect Control District?
This Article is to be voted on by Australian ballot from 7 AM to 7 PM at the Bridport Masonic/Community Hall on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH
NOTICE OF HEARING**
The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to be held Wednesday, October 16th at 7PM at the Town Hall.
• **Application Number 24-091:** Subdivision Amendment; Applicant(s): Charles Shapiro; 628 Robinson Road; Rural Agricultural (RA-5) District; tax id no.05/02/56
• **Application Number 24-092:** Final Plat Review; Applicant(s): Vaughn Collins; 408 Webster Road; Rural Agricultural (RA-5) District; tax id no. 13/01/5.1
The above files are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office.
Persons wishing to appear and be heard may do so in person or be represented by an agent or an attorney. Communications about the above hearings may also be filed in writing with the Board or the Zoning Administrator.
Pursuant to 24 V.S.A 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

**NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF OIL,
GAS AND MINERAL LEASE**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: **Donna H. Corcoran** (landowner) of Waltham, in the County of Addison, and the State of Vermont presume that certain oil, gas and mineral leases granted to Cambrian Corporation by Donald H. Hunt and Mildred B. Hunt, dated November 24, 1964 and recorded in Book 9, Page 336 in the Town of Waltham Land Records and Book 29, Page 439 in the Town of New Haven Land Records is abandoned.
The Lease encumbered certain land situated on Green Street, in the Towns of Waltham and New Haven, County of Addison, State of Vermont and being more particularly described as being all and the same land and premises conveyed to Mildred B. Hunt (now deceased), Donna H. Corcoran, and Thomas L. Corcoran (now deceased) by Warranty Deed of Marion N. McGrath dated February 7, 1977 and recorded in Book 11, Page 175 of the Town of Waltham Land Records and Book 36, Page 136 in the Town of New Haven Land Records.
This Notice is given pursuant to 28 V.S.A. §563(g). The address of the persons giving this Notice is 2803 Green Street, Waltham, Vermont, 05491.

**ANWSD BOARD MEETING NOTICES
FOR OCTOBER 2024**

Monday, Oct 14	3:50 PM	Policy Committee Mtg. ANWSD Conference Room
	4:50 PM	Facilities Committee Mtg. Vergennes Union Elementary School
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting Vergennes Union Elementary School
Wednesday, Oct 16	5:30 PM	Community Engagement Committee Mtg. Virtual
Monday, Oct 21	4:50 PM	Finance Committee Mtg. VUMHS Guidance Conference Room
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library

Police cite man three times in a single day

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police on Tuesday, Sept. 24, arrested the same man on three separate occasions for offenses ranging from disorderly conduct to retail theft.

First, police cited Kenneth Gilbert, 49, of Middlebury for retail theft, following an investigation at the Champlain Farms store on Court Street.

A short time later, police cited Gilbert for unlawful trespass, violations of his conditions of release and disorderly conduct, following an incident in the Court Street area.

Then, that evening, police again cited Gilbert for violating his conditions of release, after investigating a report of a man allegedly trying to urinate in front of a group of people — and then on a parked vehicle — behind Ilsley Library. Police said they took Gilbert into protective custody, and then to receive detox services in Rutland.

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

- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) with a drunken and combative patient on Main Street during the evening of Sept. 23. Middlebury police and the ambulance service were also assisted on scene by the Addison County Sheriff's Department and state police.
- Assisted a person on Route 7 South who was experiencing a mental health crisis on Sept. 23.
- Served a no-trespass order on Sept. 23 on a person who wasn't wanted at Kinney Drugs on Court Street.
- Gave a woman a ride to Porter Hospital on Sept. 23.
- Responded to a report of a loud argument between some people in the Bakery Lane area at around 11:45 p.m. on Sept. 24.
- Investigated a report of two people fighting in the Bakery Lane area on Sept. 24.
- Received information about

Middlebury Police Log

"possible drug activity" in the Woodbridge Lane area on Sept. 24.

- Responded to a possible burglary at a Route 7 South business on Sept. 24.
- Investigated a loitering complaint in the Court Street area on Sept. 24.
- Backed up a sheriff's department deputy who was dealing with an aggressive driver on Cross Street on Sept. 25.
- Were informed of the theft of a bike from the Academy Street area on Sept. 25.
- Received theft complaints from two Court Street business owners on Sept. 25. Police are looking for a woman believed to have been responsible for both thefts.
- Investigated a report of an employee of a Court Street business harassing others at that business on Sept. 25.
- Responded to a report of a man harassing customers in front of Hannaford Supermarket on Sept. 25.
- Cited Jordyn Walker, 26, of Bridport for driving under the influence, second offense, with serious bodily injury resulting, and gross negligent operation of a vehicle (resulting in serious bodily injury), following their investigation of a driver striking a pedestrian on College Street on Sept. 26. Police said MREMS treated the pedestrian at the scene for non-life-threatening injuries and then took them to Porter Hospital. Police said they measured Walker's blood-alcohol content at 0.140%; the legal limit for driving is 0.08%. Middlebury police and MREMS were assisted on the scene by Vermont State Police and Middlebury College Public Safety.
- Investigated an online bullying report at Middlebury Union High School on Sept. 26.

Bristol Masons donate to fire dept

BRISTOL — The Masons of Libanus Lodge 47 F & AM will be donating all of the proceeds (all receipts, not just the profit) of their monthly charity breakfast to the Bristol Fire Department Sunday, Oct. 13. The department is trying to raise funds for an industrial dryer that will help keep their equipment safer in preventing possible exposures to cancer pathogens while fighting fires.

In the past, the Lodge has done benefits for those in need for medical issues and most recently, was able to make a donation of \$2,500 to Queen Bee's Snack after they sustained a devastating fire last fall. So be sure to keep Sunday, Oct. 13, open and come to the Lodge Breakfast to support all the hardworking, dedicated



LIBANUS LODGE 47 passed Brother Mason Fraser from the entered apprentice degree to the second degree of a Fellowcraft. The ceremony took place Wednesday, Sept. 18, at the Lodge on North Street in Bristol.

volunteers that make up the Bristol Fire Department.

Winners of the Masons raffle drawings for the month of August include: \$50 winners Mike Kiessling, Sue Buonincontro, Linda Smith, Dave Giese, and Cole Lossmann; and \$25 Winners

James Charon, Richard Brunet, Jesse Hines, Cathy Sheldon, Gene Kensek, Cole Lossmann, Allison Pouliot, Gita Sachs, Rod Cousino, and Cedric Tashro.

On Wednesday, Sept. 18, Libanus Lodge 47 passed Brother Mason Fraser from the entered

apprentice degree to the second degree of a Fellowcraft. Several members performed new roles in the degree and several rehearsals were held to ensure that a fine rendition of the degree was conferred upon him.

• Responded to a report that a dog had been hit by a vehicle near the intersection of Seymour Street and Methodist Lane on Sept. 26.

• Investigated a reported theft at a Court Street business on Sept. 26.

• Responded to a report of a heated exchange between two women in the Porter Field Road area on Sept. 26. Police said the women had sorted out their difference by the time officers arrived.

• Responded to a noise complaint at 14 Cross St. on Sept. 27.

• Served a temporary restraining order on a local person on Sept. 27.

• Responded to a reported domestic disturbance at a Jayne Court residence on Sept. 27.

• Served a no-trespass order on Sept. 27 on a person no longer welcome at a Court Street business

• Responded to a noise complaint in the Jackson Lane neighborhood on Sept. 28.

• Checked a report of a person

allegedly staggering down Munger Street during the early evening of Sept. 28. Police said they found no such person.

• Responded, with MREMS, to a medical incident on Sheldon Lane on Sept. 28.

• Cited Jackson C.U. Buck, 43, of Panton for gross negligent operation of a vehicle and reckless endangerment; and Martin G. Bushey, 44 of Vergennes with negligent operation of a vehicle, following investigation of an alleged road-rage-related accident on North Pleasant Street on Sept. 28.

• Checked on a report of a dog running loose in the Storrs Avenue area on Sept. 28.

• Helped MREMS get to an elderly Buttolph Drive resident who had fallen and was unable to respond to messages on Sept. 29.

• Recovered a possibly stolen bike on North Pleasant Street on Sept. 29.

Vt. State Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — In an otherwise quiet week for the Vermont State Police operating out of the New Haven barracks, troopers on Sept. 22, a little after 9 a.m., started getting 911 calls from Cyrus Bedard, 34, of Salisbury. State police said Bedard made repeated calls for non-emergent purposes and harassed dispatchers. Police said

these calls continued for the next two days. Finally, on Sept. 24, troopers cited Bedard to appear in Addison County Superior Court, Criminal Division, to answer the charge of disturbing the peace by use of a telephone.

That was the only activity troopers in New Haven reported to the public between Sept. 21 and Sept. 30.

ADDISON COUNTY

School News Briefs

Genevieve Wojciechowski of Bristol has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's

summer 2024 president's list. The summer terms run from May to August.

Make a Pete's Stop!

\$30 off

a 4 tire changeover service (\$80 price after coupon)

Valid at Pete's Middlebury location only
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED
Expires 12/20/24

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Valid at Pete's Middlebury location only
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Expires 12/20/24

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--	--	---	--	---------------------------------

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Phone: (802) 388-4053

Real Estate

Exhibits

Entertainment

Music

Calendar

Feature Interviews

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

Oct. 3, 2024



ELISABETH VON TRAPP

SINGS IN BRISTOL

SEE STORY
PAGE 3

Elisabeth von Trapp will sing a solo benefit concert at the Bristol Federated Church on Sunday, Oct. 6, at 4 p.m. Open to all. Suggested \$10 donation.

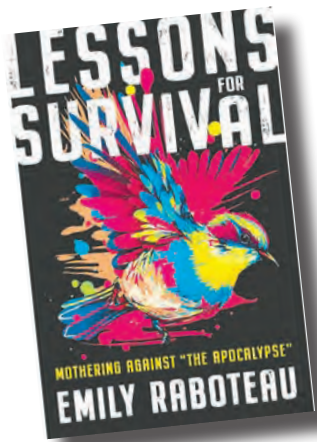
PHOTO / HANNELORE-KIRCHNER.COM

Author offers ‘Lessons for Survival’

FREE READING, OPEN TO ALL, COME LISTEN ON THURSDAY, OCT. 3

Emily Raboteau will be giving a free reading from her new book “Lessons For Survival: Mothering Against ‘The Apocalypse,’” on the Middlebury College campus on Thursday, Oct. 3, at 4:30 p.m., in the Axinn Center Room 232.

Raboteau writes at the intersection of social and environmental justice, race, climate change, and parenthood. Her latest book is “Lessons for Survival,” recently shortlisted for the Brooklyn Book Festival Book Prize. Her last book, “Searching for Zion,” won an American Book Award. Since the release of the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, she has focused on writing long-form essays about the climate



crisis. A contributing editor at *Orion Magazine* and a regular contributor to the *New York Review of Books*, Raboteau's writing has recently appeared and been anthologized in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *The Nation*, *the Atlantic*, *Best American Science Writing*, and elsewhere. Her distinctions include an inaugural Climate Narratives Prize from Arizona State University, the Deadline Club Award in Feature Reporting from the Society of Professional Journalists' New York chapter, and grants and fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Bronx Council on the Arts, the Robert B. Silvers Foundation, the Lannan



EMILY RABOTEAU

Foundation, and Yaddo. She is a full professor at the City College of New York (CUNY) in Harlem, once known as “the poor man’s Harvard.” She lives with her family in the Bronx.

Lauren Groff has called Raboteau a “force for good” and Teju Cole calls her work “vital.” Raboteau is a passionate advocate for urban environmentalism and social justice, and a longtime faculty member of the Bread Loaf Environmental Writers’ Conference.

African Master musicians BALA BILA to perform in Middlebury, Oct. 4

The Middlebury College Performing Arts Series presents the virtuosic duo BALA BILA on Friday, Oct. 4, at the Mahaney Arts Center. BALA BILA brings together two African master musicians — Balla Kouyaté (balafon, calabash, bass guitar, and voice) and Matchume Zango

(timbila, mbira, percussion, and voice) — in an intimate, living-room style concert and intercultural musical conversation between two extraordinary artists. Kouyaté hails from the West African country of Mali, and Zango calls the East African nation of Mozambique

home. They are leading exponents of their respective principal instruments, balafon and timbila — two world heritage instruments that will be played together in harmony.

SEE BALA BILA ON PAGE 8

OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY
 October 4, 5 & 6, 2024
 22nd Season
 Douglas Anderson, Director
 Filippo Ciabatti, Conductor

Scalia/Ginsburg
 Scalia/Ginsburg Illustration by David Perkins. Used by permission. Copyright. All rights reserved.

An Opera by Derrick Wang
Tickets: townhalltheater.org - 802-382-9222

With The Vermont Premiere of “The Interlopers”
 in a new arrangement by the composer of *Beast and Superbeast*

Music by Jorge Martín-Buján **Libretto by Andrew Joffe**



Balla Kouyaté and Matchume Zango will perform at the Mahaney Arts Center on Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Bristol Federated Church brings von Trapp's music to town

The hills are alive with fall colors, and also the sounds of Elisabeth von Trapp's music. Yes, that von Trapp.

"Elisabeth is the granddaughter of the legendary Maria and Baron von Trapp, whose story inspired 'The Sound of Music,'" explains the Waitsfield native's biography on her website. And, guess what? She's coming to Bristol

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

to sing this Sunday, Oct. 6, at 4 p.m., in the Bristol Federated Church.

"Von Trapp Music sent out an email to churches offering to come perform, with an opportunity to fundraise in lieu of paying her normal fees," explained Robin Hewitt, who is coordinating and promoting the concert for the church. "I spoke to our leadership team and interim Pastor Chris Heintz and they were all supportive."

The concert on Sunday is open to all with a suggested \$10 donation.

"Ten percent of the funds raised will go to the church," said Jessie-Ruth Corkins, who is on the Bristol Federated Church leadership team and assisting Hewitt with the organization and day-of tasks for this event. "We use our funds to support our mission and our brick-and-mortar operations."

"Mostly we love to provide opportunities to open up our church and host events and intimate concerts," added Hewitt. "The tithe donation from Elisabeth for donations and CD sales will be used for continued renovations to our parsonage and other needs as they are prioritized like replace/repair of our steeple."

Yes, this concert will garner funds for the church, but it's also simply an opportunity to

hear beautiful music in a beautiful setting.

"It is very exciting that the Bristol Federated Church has invited me to come sing in their church," von Trapp said. "I have always enjoyed visiting Bristol. It is a beautiful town that extends gracious hospitality because of its wonderful shops and restaurants right in town and the many farmers markets or craft fairs held on the green."

This concert will feature von Trapp singing a "few of her favorite things" in the large church on North Street in Bristol.

"I collect and sing songs that encourage the heart and soul," von Trapp explained. "I will be singing songs from the different CDs I have recorded including my album, 'Something Good,' with songs by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein III and from a recording called 'Love Never Ends-Sacred Sounds,' which is a collection of hymns and songs that I love."

"The church is large, with the capacity to seat upwards of 200 people and should have great acoustics," Corkins exclaimed. "I'm excited for a community event with an intimate concert feel. Elisabeth is a Vermont native and it's always special to hear Vermont artists live in concert."

Hewitt echoed Corkins's appreciativeness: "We are grateful for [Elisabeth's] generosity in offering this to us... I am excited to have her here, enjoy her beautiful voice, buy a CD, and just be in the moment!"

"There are so many wonderful people in the Bristol area and beyond who know my music and the have been so very supportive of my musical journey," added von Trapp, who recently returned to Vermont after spending the summer months in Salzburg, Austria, the ancestral home of the von Trapp family. "This is a place like no other, where I can return to nature's quiet, to enjoy the beauty of each season, to connect with friendships and family once again and where I return to that part of myself that is uniquely creative and free. I look forward to seeing those who venture out to come to my concert."

Editor's note: This past February the Bristol Federated Church became an "Open and Affirming Congregation," which means they welcome all people regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, economic status, etc. Learn more at bristolfederated.com.

"I COLLECT AND SINGS SONGS THAT ENCOURAGE THE HEART AND SOUL."

— Elisabeth von Trapp



DEBORAH HOLMES WATERCOLORS



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24 Garfield Street
Bristol, Vermont

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Oct. 5 & 6, 2024 Sat. & Sun. 10-5

deborahholmesart@gmail.com
www.deborahholmesart.com
802.989.8580

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FALL 2024 SEASON

October 4 ▪ 7:30 PM

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Autumnal exhibition opens in Vergennes

R Grant Fine Art, on Green Street in Vergennes, will open its second exhibit "Eternal Harvest" on Oct. 5, which will feature painting and sculpture by New England-based artists Neil Berger, Clark Derbes, and Lydia Jenkins Musco. The exhibit will be on view Oct. 5-Nov. 30, with an opening reception held Oct. 5, from 6-9 p.m.

"Eternal Harvest," celebrates the vibrant beauty and quiet transformations of the autumn landscape. Works by Neil Berger, Clark Derbes, and Lydia Jenkins Musco pay tribute to the powerful cycles of nature in New England, exploring themes of change, death, and renewal.

Opening during the height of the leaf-peeping season, the exhibition invites visitors into a contemplative space where the beauty of transformation takes center stage. It includes striking landscape paintings and sculptures inspired by the landscape, reflecting the serene yet

vibrant nature of this time of year.

NEIL BERGER

Neil Berger's work captures the quiet intensity of nature through his oil paintings and prints, created with profound awe and reverence for the natural world. Inspired by his walks and wanderings, Berger's pieces convey a mood that is "quiet but alert," drawing viewers to experience nature's raw beauty. Influenced by poets like Walt Whitman and T.S. Eliot, Berger's work embodies a love for the landscape that is both passionate and introspective.

CLARK DERBES

Clark Derbes, known primarily for his dynamic, polychrome wooden sculptures, offers a fresh perspective with a selection of new oil on wood landscape paintings. His vibrant colors and bold forms bring a playful yet meditative energy to the exhibition, bridging the gap between traditional landscape painting and contemporary art.

LYDIA JENKINS MUSCO

Lydia Jenkins Musco's concrete sculptures provide a powerful commentary on the accumulation of time, growth, and memory. Her work, constructed from layers of integrally pigmented hand-cast concrete, create moveable, stackable forms, mirroring the process of moving through time and the slow transformation of the landscape. Musco's sculptures are both grounded and dynamic, reflecting her deep engagement with the material and her quest to understand the world through making.



CLARK DERBES

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**Class registration
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for adult and
teenage students!**

For more information please contact
Barbara Elias at (802) 388-8253

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PAUL FORLENZA

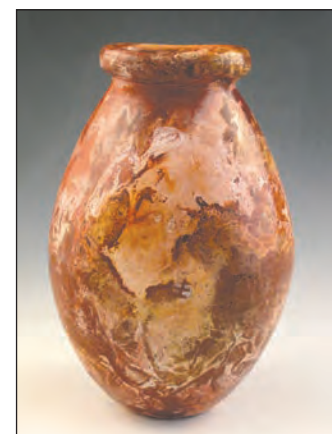
Photographer and potter reflect on the seasons

Art on Main in downtown Bristol will open a new exhibition on Friday, Oct. 4, featuring the work of Robert Compton and Paul Forlenza. "Two Masters Reflect On the Seasons" will open with a reception on Friday from 5-6:30 p.m., and will be on view through Nov. 16.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Robert Compton became a potter because of a desire to be self-employed and work with his hands. He opened his studio in Bristol, in 1973, where he initially made unusual water sculptures, such as hanging clay aquariums and freestanding fountains. These large-scale objects were carried by galleries, some as far away as Japan. In 1990, his interest in clay shifted to making pots as a vessel and he started firing his work in a variety of kilns, producing wood-fired, salt-glazed, pit-fired, and gas-reduction stoneware. Compton's recent focus has been on studying history and working on Pit-Fired Pottery. The mix of wood-firing, and fuming of minerals over the surface of these low-fired pots creates a symphony of color that is unpredictable and fascinating. Clients of his work include the late musician, George Harrison, and hotelier Baron Von Hilton.

Paul Forlenza's photography tells real and imagined stories as he invites viewers to take a deep breath, relax, enjoy and be open to the emotions his images might summon. Forlenza's work uses soft light and strong contrasting to capture the moment of emotion. He gets his inspiration from the people in our community — hunters, loggers, artist, writers, children, people of all ages and just ordinary folks trying to make a living and raise a family during tough times. Forlenza has been published in the Boston Globe, Focus on Sports, Vermont Life and the Washington Post. In 2013, he was selected to exhibit in the New Britain Museum of American Art in Connecticut and has had several solo shows in Washington, D.C., and Vermont.



ART ON EXHIBIT

ART ON MAIN

"Two Masters Reflect On the Seasons" featuring pottery by Robert Compton and photography by Paul Forlenza. An opening reception will be held on Friday, Oct. 4, from 5-6:30 p.m. On view Oct. 4-Nov. 16.

BIXBY MEMORIAL FREE LIBRARY

258 Main Street, Vergennes

For more info visit bixbylibrary.org or call 802-877-2211.

"Building St Peters" celebrates the 150th anniversary of St. Peter's Church in Vergennes. Learn about the community effort to construct the local catholic church through antique photographs, newspaper clippings, handmade maps, and artifacts including a brick from the Ferrisburgh Brickyard and an antique organ pipe. This exhibit, found in the Half-round Room, connects with our ongoing display in the Bixby Hall about Josephine Meneely, whose husband, William Meneely, President of the Meneely Bell Foundry of Troy, N.Y., gave two bells to the church. The exhibit is on view during the library's open hours, Tuesday-Saturday through the fall.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Domestic Alchemy." Contemporary realist painters Kate Gridley and William B. Hoyt interpret the theme, conveying the connections created, and the warmth and familiarity of the kitchen. On view Sept. 13-Oct. 20.

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 through Oct. 5.

K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St, Vergennes

For more info visit kgrantfineart.com.

"Eternal Harvest" features painting and sculpture by New England-based artists Neil Berger, Clark Derbes, and Lydia Jenkins Musco. The exhibit will be on view Oct. 5-Nov. 30, with an opening reception held Oct. 5, from 6-9 p.m.

HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park St., Middlebury

For more information visit henrysheldonmuseum.org or call 802-388-2117.

"Patent Pending: Ingenuity and Innovation in Vermont" features many patents, ideas, and inspirational "firsts" that have come out of Vermont. On

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 15



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Even though you told yourself you'll just suck it up and get through the week, you're having a change of heart. Aries. Some modifications are necessary to navigate the waters.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, all bets are off this week, especially if you've been smoothing over your emotions to get along with someone close by. All true feelings are bound to come to the surface.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. This week you may not be feeling like yourself, Gemini. Low energy have you feeling out of sorts. Spend some time with a close friend to get things back on track.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Cancer, your friends always have your back, but this week there is a disruption in your crew. Someone isn't playing nice, but a few words from you will smooth things over quickly.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. You are anxious to get started on an exciting project, Leo. Others on your team may need a dose of inspiration. It could be up to you to motivate the troops.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. Virgo, you made a commitment to keep things toned down. Enjoy the slower pace and take note of how the lack of hustle and bustle suits you.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Normally you're satisfied to let someone else take the lead and make all of the decisions, Libra. This week you might need to be the one taking a leadership role.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. A surprising bit of information may be brought to your attention, Scorpio. You might be up for a promotion or an exciting change could be coming in your personal life.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Don't stop now when you are so close to the finish line, Sagittarius. It may be a busy week ahead, but you will reap the rewards of your labors. Remain patient.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Take inventory of your romantic relationship, Capricorn. You might need to put in a little extra effort if things haven't been as smooth as you would like. Don't give up on this.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, you are working at keeping everyone on the same page. Continue to emphasize the importance of teamwork. Others notice and appreciate your efforts.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. It is not possible to make it all the way through your to-do list this week, so plan on some carryover to the next, Pisces. Space out your work so you don't get too overwhelmed.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

OCT. 4 — Buster Keaton, silent film actor (d)
OCT. 5 — Kate Winslet, actor (49)
OCT. 6 — Fannie Lou Hamer, community organizer (d)

OCT. 7 — Yo-Yo Ma, cellist (69)
OCT. 8 — Frank Herbert, science fiction writer (d)
OCT. 9 — Marie Kondo, organizing expert (40)
OCT. 10 — Thelonious Monk, Jazz pianist (d)

CALENDAR

OCT. 3-10
2024



THURSDAY, OCT. 3

"LESSONS FOR SURVIVAL," A READING WITH EMILY RABOTEAU AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE. Thursday, Oct. 3, 4:30 p.m., Room 232, Axinn Center, Old Chapel Rd. See story page 2.

TRUE CRIME PODCAST DISCUSSION GROUP IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Oct. 3, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join fellow amateur sleuths for a discussion of three different true crime podcasts on three different crimes. The first meeting will focus on True Crime Garage, The Dartmouth Murders (2 episodes). Listen on your own before the discussion. Renee will facilitate the discussions with prompts and visuals. For participants 18 and over.

IVOR HUGHES IN MONKTON. Thursday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m., Russell Memorial Library, 92 Monkton Ridge. As part of the Russell Memorial Library author talk series, Hughes will give a talk about his award-winning book "Before we went Wireless." The talk and demonstration will be a walk-through history from the introduction of the telegraph up through today's modern communications and what the future holds. More info at 802-453-4471 or russellmemlibrary@gmail.com.

REMEMBER BAKER IN BRISTOL. Thursday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m., South Mountain Tavern, 31 Main St.

"ECHOES OF TRUTH" AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE. Thursday, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.,

Hepburn Zoo, Hepburn Rd. A newly devised theater production, "Echoes of Truth" embarks on a profound exploration of the intricate relationship between truth and humanity through a series of interconnected scenes. The performance seeks to illuminate the shared human struggle for understanding and connection in a world where truth often feels elusive. Tickets \$5 available at 802-443-6433, boxoffice@middlebury.edu or middlebury.edu/college/box-office.

FRIDAY, OCT. 4

ART PLAY FOR ADULTS IN BRISTOL. Friday, Oct. 4, 10 a.m., Lawrence Memorial Library, 40 North St. Art Play for Adults is a space for you to play with art and enjoy stress-free creativity and camaraderie. The focus is on process, not outcome, so bring your curiosity and take a break from it all. Workshop will begin with a simple prompt, with art supplies provided (although you're welcome to bring your own). Fun for all levels. Four sessions available — come to any or all. More info at lawrencelibraryvt.org.

ART OPENING IN BRISTOL. Friday, Oct. 4, 5-6:30 p.m., Art on Main, 25 Main St. Local artists potter Robert Compton and photographer Paul Forlenza will speak on their respective works in Art on Main's new show, "Two Masters Reflect On the Seasons."

BALA BILA IN MIDDLEBURY.

Friday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See story page 2.

"SCALIA/GINSBURG" AND "THE INTERLOPERS" OPERAS IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Opera Company of Middlebury presents a gripping double bill. Two tales of unexpected alliances and shocking twists, set to music that spans centuries and styles. Tickets \$88/\$77/\$61, available at 802-382-9222, tickets@townhalltheater.org or app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=247708. Pre-performance talk at Memorial Baptist Church one hour before performance. Opera repeats Saturday and Sunday.

"ECHOES OF TRUTH" IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., Hepburn Zoo, Hepburn Rd. See Oct. 3 listing.

THE MAMAJAMAS IN BRANDON. Friday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Returning for their third year, this co-ed a capella group from Middlebury College brings exciting original arrangements of favorite songs and will amp, good old-fashioned fun.

SATURDAY, OCT. 5

DRIVING TOUR OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION MILITARY ROADS IN ORWELL. Saturday, Oct. 5, 8:30-11 a.m., meet at Orwell Historical Society, 473 Main St. Drive Orwell's

Revolutionary War military roads with and learn about their construction, use and legacy. Hosted by the Orwell Historical Society and guided by board member and historians Jim Rowe and Walter Phelps. Car caravan departs at 9 a.m., rain or shine. Free. All are welcome.

DEAD CREEK WILDLIFE DAY IN ADDISON. Saturday, Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, 966 Route 17 West. A day of activities for all, including live critters, warden dog demonstration, decoy carving and painting, nature and habitat walks, fishing how-to's, building bluebird boxes, face painting, soap carving and nature art and crafts. Rain or shine, though the schedule may change slightly due to unforeseen conflicts.

CLASSIC QUADBALL FESTIVAL IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Battell Beach, Chateau Rd. Formerly known as Quidditch, come watch games and celebrate the greater Middlebury community with food, merchandise and fun activities for children of all ages, including "Kidditch" — a chance to learn how to play quadball. Free Harry Potter-themed snacks and craft activities, and food from Taste of Abyssinia available for purchase.

GROWING IN PROCESS & SPIRIT IN NATURE FALL ART OPEN STUDIO IN RIPTON. Saturday, Oct. 5 and

Sunday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day, Spirit in Nature Trails. Come experience the vibrant beauty of peak fall with an outdoor art event nestled in the heart of the Green Mountains. Learn firsthand how pigments are foraged and transformed into watercolors, as artist Mira Cabrera gives live demonstrations on her process. This event will take place entirely outdoors, so dress for the weather and bring comfortable walking shoes. Art will be displayed rain or shine. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/SPINopenart.

VERMONT CRAFTS COUNCIL OPEN STUDIO WEEKEND IN ADDISON COUNTY.

Saturday, Oct. 5. Artists open their workspaces to share their tools, equipment and inspirations. Small galleries and art centers also take part in this event, showing a unique collection of hand made and local artwork, including special events and exhibits. More info at vermontcrafts.com/open-studio-weekend. Look for Addison County (Loop 4), and Brandon area (Loop 5). Continues Sunday.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN BOAT TOUR IN FERRISBURGH. Saturday, Oct. 5, 2 p.m., Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, 4472 Basin Harbor Rd. The Ferrisburgh Historical Society is sponsoring a cruise aboard the Escape, Basin Harbor's own tour boat. During this 1-2 hour cruise, the captain and crew will explore the New York and Vermont

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org, for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.			
Channel 1071	Sunday, October 6	Affairs	8 p.m.	Intersex, Invisible No More	7:25 a.m.	Word Time	
Friday, October 4	Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	10 p.m.	9:06 p.m.	Howard Coffin: Standing Stones in Vermont	8 a.m.	State Board of Education	
6 a.m.	8 a.m.	Energy Week	6:30 a.m.	Saturday, October 5	1:30 p.m.	School Board Meeting/s	
	9 a.m.	Catholic Mass	7:30 a.m.	4 a.m.	Tuesday, October 8	4:30 a.m.	Music In the Morning
7:30 a.m.	11 a.m.	Memorial Baptist Service	10 a.m.	6 a.m.	6 a.m.	Chair Yoga	
10 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	Mental Health Urgent Care	7 p.m.	7:01 a.m.	7 a.m.	Tai Chi	
4 p.m.	4 p.m.	Congregational Service	11 p.m.	7:30 a.m.	7:25 a.m.	Word Time	
5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	Eckankar	Thursday, October 10	8 a.m.	9 a.m.	School Board Meeting/s	
6:30 p.m.	7 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Overnight: Public Affairs	5 p.m.	5 p.m.	Decoding Jiu Jitsu	
8 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	Energy Week	6 a.m.	6 p.m.	5:45 p.m.	Festival On the Green	
9:30 p.m.	11 p.m.	Mental Health Urgent Care	7:19 a.m.	8 p.m.	8 p.m.	From the Archives	
Saturday, October 5	Monday, October 7	Overnight: Public Affairs	8 a.m.	From the Archives	Wednesday, October 9	4:30 a.m.	Festival On the Green
Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	Overnight: Public Affairs	5:30 a.m.	8 a.m.	Sunday, October 6	7:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga	
5 a.m.	5:30 a.m.	Eckankar	12 p.m.	4 a.m.	8 a.m.	Tai Chi	
6 a.m.	6 a.m.	Mental Health Urgent Care	8:30 p.m.	6:55 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	Word Time	
6:48 a.m.	9 a.m.	Energy Week	9:30 p.m.	7:30 a.m.	9 a.m.	Authors and Poets	
12:30 p.m.	10 a.m.	Public Affairs	10 p.m.	7:01 a.m.	12 p.m.	School Board Meeting/s	
2 p.m.	7 p.m.	Press Conf., Public Affairs	Channel 1091	7:30 a.m.	8 p.m.	from the Archives	
	9 p.m.	2024 Election	Friday, October 4	9:54 a.m.	Thursday, October 10	5 a.m.	Montpelier Brown Bag Concerts
3:19 p.m.	Tuesday, October 8	Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	5 a.m.	12 p.m.	5 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	Tai Chi
4 p.m.	Overnight: State House, Public Affairs	9:30 a.m.	6:05 a.m.	5:30 p.m.	6 a.m.	8 a.m.	Chair Yoga
5:30 p.m.	9:30 a.m.	Eckankar	6:30 a.m.	6:30 p.m.	7 a.m.	9 a.m.	Poets and Authors
6 p.m.	10 a.m.	Public Affairs	12 p.m.	8 p.m.		12 p.m.	School Board Meeting/s
7 p.m.	12 p.m.	Mental Health Urgent Care		Monday, October 7			
7:30 p.m.	4 p.m.	Congregational Services		5 a.m.			
	5:30 p.m.	Mental Health Urgent Care		6 a.m.			
	7 p.m.	Selectboard (LIVE), Public		7 a.m.			

shores. Attendees will see a bald eagle nest, spot an osprey on Otter Creek, and learn about the rich history of the area, including the many naval battles that occurred nearby. Please contact Gail Blasius at gblasius@aol.com for more information and reservations.

THE MORNING DUDES IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 5, 3-6 p.m., Happy Valley Orchard, 217 Quarry Rd. Listen to great music for free at Happy Valley's Mountain Mac Music Series. Pies, donuts, and Mountain Mac Hard Cider available for purchase. Bring chairs, blankets, picnics. No outside alcohol. Leashed dogs are welcome.

CARLA STAFFARONI CARILLONNEUR IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 5, 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.

ART OPENING RECEPTION IN VERGENNES. Saturday, Oct. 5, 6-9 p.m., K. Grant Fine Art, 37 Green St. Come view the show and meet the artists of the show "Eternal Harvest," an exhibition featuring works by New England-based artists Neil Berger, Clark Derbes and Lydia Jenkins Musco that celebrates the vibrant beauty and quiet transformations of the autumn landscape.

SHORT NOTICE IN BRISTOL. Saturday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m., South Mountain Tavern, 31 Main St.

THE CLEMENTS BROTHERS IN LINCOLN. Saturday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. The Clements Brothers are George (guitar) and Charles (upright bass), identical twins from the heart of New England. The two have been playing and writing music together for as long as they can remember, first entering the Americana music scene in 2012 as part of an internationally touring grass-roots band. Doors open at 7 p.m. Homemade refreshments

available. Tickets \$20-\$25 sliding scale. More info at burnhampresents.org.
"SCALIA/GINSBURG" AND "THE INTERLOPERS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Oct. 4 listing.

"ECHOES OF TRUTH" AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE. Saturday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m., Hepburn Zoo, Hepburn Rd. See Oct. 3 listing.

BLUES WITHOUT BORDERS IN BRANDON. Saturday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Expect to hear covers of blues rock tunes, a few classics, and many new songs from today's hottest acts plus some original music.

SUNDAY, OCT. 6

MIDDLEBURY MAPLE RUN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m., Porter Medical Center, 115 Porter Dr. A half marathon/10K/5K running event. A beautiful and varied half marathon course in

and around Middlebury and Weybridge. More info, race fees course map and volunteer info available at www.middleburymaplerun.com.

LEWIS CREEK ASSOCIATION 2024 PARTY IN STARKSBORO. Sunday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Cota Field, States Prison Hollow Rd. and Route 116. A day-long celebration of the lives and work of Marty Illick and Terry Dinnan in partnership with Vermont Master Naturalist. Explore the watershed (registration required), lunch and remarks, treasure hunt, and outing with local experts on history, wildlife and geology. Join friends and neighbors for all or part of the day. Free and open to the public. More info at www.lewisecreek.org.

VERMONT CRAFTS COUNCIL OPEN STUDIO WEEKEND IN ADDISON COUNTY. Sunday,

Oct. 6. See Oct. 5 listing.
SOULSHINE REVIVAL IN MONKTON. Sunday, Oct. 6, 1-4 p.m., Yates Family Orchard, 1074 Davis Rd. Free to the public. Come and enjoy some of the finest local musicians, pick some apples, bring a picnic, enjoy a Dreamee and relax in the orchard.

"SCALIA/GINSBURG" AND "THE INTERLOPERS" IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Oct. 6, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Oct. 4 listing.

ELISABETH VON TRAPP IN BRISTOL. Sunday, Oct. 6, 4 p.m., Bristol Federated Church. See story page 2.

HARVEST FEST IN BRANDON. Sunday, Oct. 6, 1-4 p.m., Estabrook Park, Grove St. Leaf people, pony rides, goats, hayrides, a bounce house, One for the Road Band, leaf people for purchase, a BIG basket
 SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 14

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UPCOMING MUSIC

The Legendary Leroy Preston debuts new songs live in Vergennes on Saturday, Oct. 12

The fact that Leroy Preston lives right here in Waltham, is pretty special, but not as impressive as the long list of songs he has penned and performed over his decades-long career. Preston's song credits are filled with familiar songs covered by his band Asleep at the Wheel and other notable artists such as Rosanne Cash ("My Baby Thinks He's a Train"), k.d. Lang ("Full Moon Full of Love"), Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes, Los Lobos, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Ruth Brown, Maria Muldaur, and the Cate Brothers.

Preston will give a debut concert for his new collection of songs at the Vergennes Opera House on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

In 2023, Leroy Preston enlisted the services of Unknown Blues Band veterans, Chas Eller (also in Waltham), Paul Asbell, and Clyde Stats, as well as drummer Jeff Salisbury of Bob Stannard and those Dangerous Bluesmen, to record this new

collection of songs that Leroy had written. The band went into Lane Gibson's Charlotte studio and recorded what Leroy is calling, "a songwriter's album" — an album that is performed by the songwriter himself.

While it is likely that other artists may want to cover these new tunes, this show is an opportunity to hear the music the way the writer intended. In addition to an already top-notch band, the show will feature outstanding guest horn player Michael Zsoldis, as well as the wonderful Vermont-based female vocalists, Taryn Noelle, a Western Swing Female Vocalist of the Year (2019), who will perform some of Preston's early hits covered by female artists.

This concert's proceeds will help raise funds for the All Access Project slated to break ground in February 2025. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Doors and cash bar open at 6:30 p.m. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. General seating. For tickets and more info visit vergennesoperahouse.org.



Leroy Preston will give a concert of his new song collection at the Vergennes Opera House on Saturday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from this event benefit the All Access Project.

BALA BILA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

BALLA KOUYATÉ

A virtuoso balafon player and oral historian of Mandé culture, Balla Kouyaté carries on the centuries-old role of a djeli (oral historian/musician). Kouyaté's lineage goes back more than 800 years to Balla Faséké — the first of an unbroken line of djelis in the Kouyaté clan. He has received multiple accolades including the NEA's National Heritage Fellowship in 2019, and has collaborated with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Angélique Kidjo, Vusi Mahlasela, and the Silk Road Ensemble. Kouyaté currently teaches in the Contemporary Musical Arts program at the New England Conservatory.

MATCHUME ZANGO

Born and raised in Maputo, Mozambique, master timbila player and percussionist Matchume Zango is well known in the Southern African region for his many collaborations with international musicians and his spectacular timbila and dance shows. While studying for his Bachelors and Masters degrees at the University of Cape Town, he began composing and performing traditional, experimental, and fusion music for the departments of music, theatre, dance, and cinema. Zango has given workshops and courses in Mozambican music and dance at schools and universities in several countries.

BUCKET BAND WORKSHOP

Audiences will have a chance to try their own hands at percussion at a free workshop on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Mahaney Arts Center, Room 221. Kouyaté and Zango will introduce participants to the rhythms and culture of their respective African traditions. Together, the group will learn some of these rhythms and play them on five-gallon buckets. (No experience needed; ear protection recommended/provided.) The workshop is free; register at go.middlebury.edu/bucketband.)

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

BALA BILA will perform at the Mahaney Arts Center's Olin C. Robison Concert Hall on Friday, Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the general public, \$20 for Middlebury faculty/staff and alumni, \$10 for youth, and \$5 for Middlebury College students. For tickets or information, call 802-443-MIDD (6433) or visit middlebury.edu/arts.

PUZZLES

sponsored by **SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

ACROSS

1. Separate with an instrument
5. State clearly
11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
14. Broad in scope
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Caps
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Checked
25. One-sided
27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
31. Potted plants
34. We all have one

35. Lake north of the Kalahari
38. Unidentified flying object
39. Aging persons
41. Small amount
42. Mother of Perseus
44. Ornamental waist box
45. Officials
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. Extensive, treeless plains
55. Your consciousness of your own identity
56. Consumer advocate Ralph
60. Notable Spanish sports club

61. Body part
62. One's responsiveness
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught
66. Muslim ruler title
67. Unhappy
68. Gradually disappeared
69. Able to think clearly

DOWN

1. Brushed
2. Water sprite
3. Ones to look up to
4. Monetary units
5. We all have one
6. Marine invertebrate
7. One who institutes a legal proceeding

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14					15							16		
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4			7	2				
5			9					8
	3							6

Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

8. Outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Uncomfortable feelings
11. Cross to form an X
12. Remove
13. Some pages are dog-__
18. Capital of Ukraine
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Eighth month (abbr.)
28. Hindu queens
29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
31. Wet dirt
32. Russian city
33. Observed
36. Irrate
37. Travelers need them
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. Form of "to be"
45. Women
47. Inspire with love
48. Think Japanese ankle sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The lead dancer: __ ballerina
53. Protein involved in motion
54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
57. Popular 1920s style art __
58. __ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to rest

Join us in the gallery for Palette Perspectives

A series of *free* artist talks and demonstrations featuring artists from *Inked* at 6:30pm!

Charon Henning INK AND SCRATCH BOARD

Charon explores liminal and legendary spaces through her ink-on-clayboard technique, capturing both drama and beauty. Her method of adding and removing ink conveys the uncanny qualities of these spaces. Learn how she evokes wonder and deeper significance in her work.

Thursday, October 10, at 6:30pm

Reservations are required. Go to sparrowartsupply.com to grab your spot!



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Tuesday - Saturday
10:30AM - 5:30PM

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ASK A MASTER GARDENER

SUSTAINABLE FALL MAINTENANCE



Bonnie Kirm Donahue is a UVM Extension Master Gardener and landscape designer from central Vermont.

When the air becomes cooler, and leaves begin to turn colors, it's time to gear up for fall garden maintenance. Or is it?

If you're interested in doing more sustainable fall garden maintenance, then fall might be less busy for you than usual.

BY **BONNIE KIRM DONAHUE**



Not cutting back plants with seed heads in the fall will give birds an extra food source on cold winter days.

PHOTO / BONNIE KIRM DONAHUE

The first big thing that you can do is to consider not cutting back your herbaceous plants. Leaving up plant stems of perennials and grasses can provide winter habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects that can lay eggs or overwinter inside dried stems.

The dead material can be cut back and removed in the spring after the ground has dried out, temperatures have warmed and you notice insect activity in the area.

If you want to test this out before fully committing, prioritize leaving plants with

hollow, pithy stems that pollinators enjoy, such as milkweed, joe-pye weed, ironweed, sunflowers, goldenrod, asters and ornamental grasses.

To provide winter food for birds, too, don't

disturb plants with seed heads for the winter. Birds take advantage of this extra food source in plants such as, but not limited to, echinacea, black-eyed Susan, goldenrod, aster and sunflowers. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing little birds nibbling on the seed heads of your perennial plants in the winter.

Leaving seed heads and stems also provides some color and texture against a blanket of white snow. It might be hard to imagine how a dead stem might look nice in the winter, but I encourage you to give it a try to see what it is like this season. You might be pleasantly surprised!

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 11

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Pet of the Week



Meet Marshmallow!

Marshmallow is a one-year-old Bichon Frise puppy who loves to take our shoes and run and find all sorts of trouble to get into! He loves everyone and can't get enough attention. Here he is dressed up for a parade. We love our Marshmallow!

— Hileia Seeger & family
Vergennes

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

After the leaves fall, consider leaving fallen leaves in your

garden as mulch. This leaf litter can become habitat for ground-nesting bees and other insect larvae, helping insulate them throughout the winter.

If leaves drop on your lawn, try mowing the leaves (you may have to mow over them multiple times), and leaving the pieces as mulch. The leaf material will decompose, and the nutrients will get absorbed by the soil, helping your lawn stay healthy.

Fall is a great time to plant new trees, shrubs and any plants. Make sure to water them, even as they go dormant. Evergreens

have roots that are especially sensitive to drying out, so thoroughly water if they are planted late in the season.

To make fall watering more sustainable, consider collecting rainwater using rain barrels next year to water your non-edible garden plants.

One more practical and sustainable tip is to make sure your compost system is ready for the winter. Is the area that you compost accessible in winter? Will you need to climb over snow piles to get to it? Try to plan ahead now to help make composting less of a pain during the winter season so that you will continue this important practice all year long.

By transitioning to more sustainable landscape maintenance methods this fall, you can save yourself time, and give back to Mother Nature.



Pets In Need
HOMeward BOUND
Addison County's Humane Society

Coraline

Hi there, I'm **Coraline**! Yes, just like the brave and curious girl in the movie, only I'm all about love and cuddles, not spooky button eyes! My story may not involve a secret door or another world, but I have been on my own little journey. I was abandoned in the woods of Ripton, but instead of looking for a hidden escape, I hopped on over to Homeward Bound, and am searching for my furever family- one who will truly love me for the sweet bunny I am. I am fully litter box trained (so neat and tidy!) and I adore being held! There's nothing quite like cozying up in someone's arms after my favorite veggie snacks.



Luke and Leia

Luke and Leia are some of our available kittens! They were found as strays. They are a little shy and take some time to warm up but can be very affectionate. Both enjoy playing and cuddling with each other. Luke and Leia are considered a bonded pair and must be adopted together. Luke is a white/grey tiger, male. Leia is a brown/white tabby, female.



Ralph

Ralph is a sweet and affectionate young boy. He loves to stand on your lap, make biscuits, and stick his tongue out in an attempt to stop his happy drooling! The shelter noises are a bit scary for him but he will come out of hiding for some love. He has lived with other cats and dogs and was an indoor/outdoor previously.



Thor

Hi! My name is **Thor**! I'm a 3-year-old, 65-pound, terrier mix with the happiest smile. I came to the shelter as an owner surrender together with Dixie. We were both found in a ditch in Tennessee when I was only a few months old. Since then, we've lived together in New England. Dixie and I can go to the same home, but we're not considered bonded. Although I enjoy her company, I don't get along with other dogs. I've peacefully coexisted with cats in my previous home and can go to a home with older teenagers. I can be nervous around new people, but I'm very food-motivated so treats will easily win me over. I'm housebroken and crate-trained.



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

FILM SCREENING

Monthly screening series returns to Middlebury this season with 3 films

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival Selects Monthly Screening Series returns to Town Hall Theater in Middlebury with its 2024-25 program beginning Thursday, Oct. 10, with a 7 p.m. screening of "Carlos," the new documentary feature from director Rudy Valdez about the towering rock and roll guitar icon Carlos Santana. The series will continue on Nov. 21 with "The Teachers' Lounge," and Dec. 19 with "Jim Henson: Idea Man."

"I'm feeling so grateful for the opportunity to sustain and build on the festival's exciting 10-year history," said Caitlin Boyle who will be taking the reins from Lloyd Komesar as MNFF Executive Director this fall. "The energy of the filmmakers and audiences I met at screenings, panels and parties at MNFF10 this August was contagious and inspiring. And I am excited to continue to grow in and learn from this vibrant and committed community."

ABOUT THE FILMS

CARLOS

Oct. 10, 7 p.m.

At the age of 5, in his native Mexico, Carlos learned to play the violin. At 8, he developed a lifelong love for the guitar. At 14, he honed those guitar virtuoso skills and his performance style working as a street musician, starting his own band not long after, while still a teenager. And at 22 — just

before his first album was released to acclaim — Carlos Santana became one of the major discoveries of Woodstock, anchoring the famous festival's second afternoon on Aug. 16, 1969.

A music industry legend for 50 years and a 10-time Grammy-winning global sensation, as well as a recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor and a Billboard Century award, Santana continues to be one of the music world's premier artists, blending jazz, blues and the Mariachi sound with a rock n' roll spirituality and a sense of primal connection to our deepest emotions. The electric documentary Carlos incorporates new interviews with Santana and his family alongside extraordinary, never-before-seen archival footage — including home video recordings Santana himself made, excellent concert footage and behind-the-scenes moments — as two-time Emmy-winning director Valdez (*The Sentence; Through Our Eyes; We Are: The Brooklyn Saints*) creates an intimate, rich film about a man whose sound casts a spell on fans who love — as one of Santana's famous titles says — "how his rhythm goes."

"THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE"

Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

Nominated for the 2023 Academy Award for Best International Feature Film and a winner



"Carlos" will screen on Oct. 10, at 7 p.m., at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

of major prizes at the Berlin and Palm Springs film festivals, "The Teachers' Lounge" has been widely recognized for its exceptional storytelling and taut execution.

"JIM HENSON: IDEA MAN"

Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

Join us for a very special holiday screening of the Disney+ documentary, "Jim Henson: Idea Man," directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ron Howard. A fascinating film, "Jim Henson: Idea Man" takes us into the mind of this singular creative visionary, from his early years puppeteering on local television to the worldwide success of Sesame Street, The Muppet Show and beyond.

For tickets and more info visit townhalltheater.org or middlefilmfest.org.



"The Teachers' Lounge" will screen on Nov. 21, at 7 p.m., at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.



"Jim Henson: Idea Man" will screen on Dec. 19, at 7 p.m., at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

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Galina Mencilr
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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.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

OCT. 3, 2024



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5	6	2	9	3	1	4	8	7
1	3	7	8	5	4	9	2	6



CORNWALL
112 OLD CHURCH LANE
 MLS #5015866 | \$1,345,000
 3 BD | 3 BA | 2133 SF | 1.10 ACRES

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These two showcase colonials set the stage for a new development built around a common green with an historic church slated to be the community's social center. Each heritage home is carefully sited amidst the pastoral landscape with views of the Green Mountains to the east and conserved acreage behind ready for "out-the-back-door" recreation. Meticulously crafted from the highest quality materials, you'll find an elevated ease throughout, from limestone counters and stainless appliances, to handsome cabinetry and exquisite built-ins, rich wood floors, fireplaces, and luxurious baths. Abundant natural light illuminates every fine detail. Though Middlebury is just minutes away, you'll find home hard to leave.



CORNWALL
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Great location, several smart updates, and classic charm make this historic home one your family will cherish for generations—from the covered front porch to elevated back deck and the vintage carriage barn out back.



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765 SMEAD ROAD
 MLS #5015528 | \$469,000
 3 BD | 3 BA | 2621 SF | 1.50 ACRES

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CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

raffle, and tons of vendors selling all manner of goods and services Fun for all, in a beautiful location. Admission and parking free.

MONDAY, OCT. 7

BOOK CLUB IN STARKSBORO.

Monday, Oct. 7, 5 p.m., Starksboro Public Library, 2827 Rout 116. The Starksboro Library has started a new book club. The first book is "The Food Explorer" by Daniel Stone, which tells the adventures of the globe-trotting botanist who transformed what America eats. You don't have to be from Starksboro to join us. Everyone is welcome.

TUESDAY, OCT. 8

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN SALISBURY.

Tuesday, Oct. 8, Rattlesnake Point. Moderate hike to ledges with beautiful views of Lake Dunmore. Enjoy Falls of Lana along the way. Round trip is 4.5 miles with 1,100 feet of elevation gain. Contact Morris Earle at [morisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com) or 802-734-0984 for information or to register.

"LIVING DELIBERATELY: WHAT THOREAU MEANS TODAY" IN MIDDLEBURY.

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. As part of the Up for Discussion series, Julian W. Abernethy, Dan Brayton and Rebecca Gould will discuss the significance of the great transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau in the context of modern-day America. Free. Registration is required at townhalltheater.org/event/up-for-discussion-living-deliberately. Snacks and cash bar.

TRADITIONAL BOATBUILDER

TALKS IN NEW HAVEN: FROM JAPAN TO HOLLYWOOD.

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Did you hear about Disney/FX's "Shogun" winning a record-breaking 18 Emmy Awards, including Outstanding Production Design? Vergennes boatbuilder, writer and researcher Douglas Brooks worked on the series as the Boat Consultant and will be at New Haven Community Library to present about this and other experiences in his 30 years studying, building and teaching on the subject.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9

"SKETCHES OF FRANK GEHRY" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. THT 2024-2025 Great Art Wednesdays series kicks off with this 2006 documentary director by Sydney Pollack about architect Frank Gehry. The film features footage of various Gehry-designed buildings, including Anaheim Ice (the training rink of the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim), and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. Tickets \$15, available at 802-382-9222 or townhalltheater.org.

"MA RAINEY'S BLACK BOTTOM" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7-9 p.m., Dana Auditorium, 356 College St. Viola Davis and Chadwick Boseman shine in August Wilson's Jazz Age drama. Students in Tara Affolter's class "Make Room: Teaching August Wilson" will introduce the screening with short remarks about the playwright's significance and legacy, and will also lead a Q&A afterward. Free. More info at middlebury.edu/events.

THURSDAY, OCT. 10

"CARLOS" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.

Thursday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See story on page 12



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EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

view through Oct. 19.

"Model Boats: The Craftsmanship of Jerry DeGraff."

Jerry DeGraff, a native Vermonter from Essex Junction, served four years in the Navy before working many years in local building trades. As he honed his skills as a craftsman, a Christmas gift in 1994 gave him the motivation to try his skills at another trade — constructing model boats from scratch. On view through Jan. 4, 2025.

"From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic Middlebury," offers a window onto the sartorial tastes of local women and the growing Middlebury tailoring scene from the 1800s to the early 20th century. On view through Jan. 4, 2025.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Rd., Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions or call 802-443-5007.

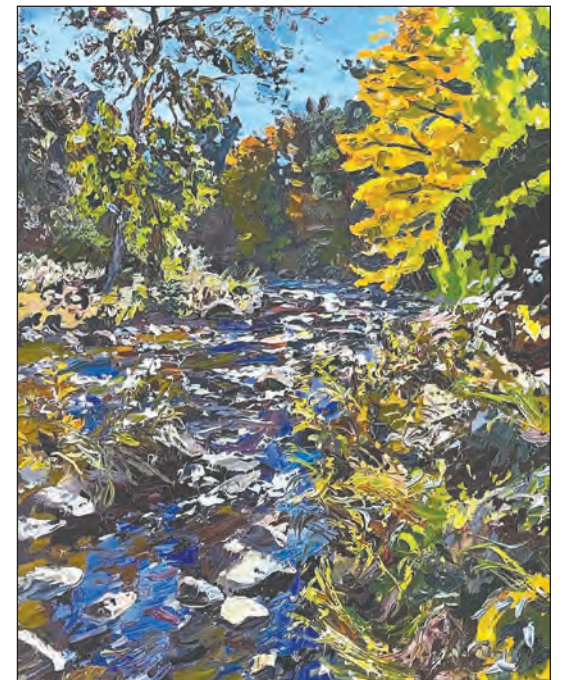
"An Invitation to Awe." This exhibit addresses questions about where and how awe is most readily experienced. Older paintings and prints are displayed in conversation with contemporary objects, scientific equipment, and interactive work that compels the viewer to think of how awe is experienced through senses other than sight and to expand their own understanding of where awe lives now. On view Sept. 13-Dec. 8.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"Light and Shadow" features images that effectively use light and shadow to draw attention to the subject, emphasize dimension, strengthen composition, or simply create beauty by the interplay of the two. Juror Laura Moya selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view Oct. 4-25.



Works by Lydia Jenkins Musco (left) and Neil Berger (right) are on view at K. Grant Fine Art gallery on Green Street in Vergennes. The new exhibit "Eternal Harvest" will be on Oct. 5-Nov. 30, with an opening reception held Oct. 5, from 6-9 p.m.

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. On view from Aug. 30 - Nov. 2.

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THT PRESENTS
MAL MAIZ

October 31st at 7:30pm
Tickets \$25



THT PRESENTS
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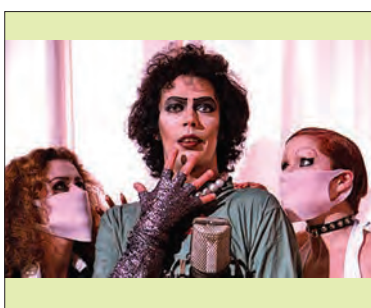
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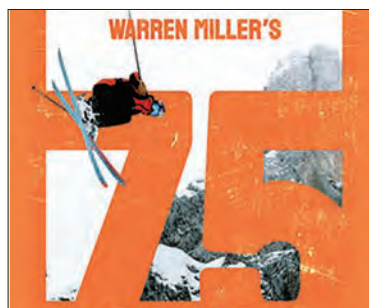
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AT AN OPEN house this past spring, guests enjoy inspecting and learning about a tiny home built by Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center students.

Photo courtesy of Homes First VT

Tiny homes offer one remedy for ongoing housing crisis

By ALYANA SANTILLANA
ADDISON COUNTY

— Hundreds of Vermonters are in desperate need of permanent housing and have been for a long time.

“Saying it’s been a challenge to find housing would be an understatement. I’ve been in Vermont for about 13 years and we’ve moved 15 or 16 times,” Kate Bentley told the Independent in August.

The Bristol resident is one of many Vermonters who has been affected by the housing crisis.

Frustrated by being in a constant state of limbo and at the mercy of landlords and the prospect of eviction, Bentley sought a more permanent and affordable solution for her problem: a tiny house. Tiny houses, an idea that has gained traction over the last few years amid rising costs of homeownership, is a small, stick-built mobile home that is typically smaller than 500 square feet.

The tiny house idea came about locally after a group of community members founded an organization called Home First VT in an attempt to address the issue on a grassroots level. Members include Mary Simons, Andrea Galiano, Ingrid Pixley, Jean Terwilliger, Nick Cantrick and Dutton Smith.

“It’s just sad to know that people in your community don’t have access to housing, shelter, and just the comfort and safety of having your own home. If you care enough, you’ll figure out a way to help,” Simons said.

Once they decided that tiny homes were a viable



solution, Cantrick, a Construction Technology Instructor at Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center, assigned building tiny houses as a project to his students. After two school years, the first house was complete this past school year.

“It’s one thing to build something for a class just to build it, but it’s another to know that what you did changed someone’s life. Some students even volunteered time on the weekends to build the house.”

— Mary Simons

Dimensions of first home was 30 feet long by 8.5-foot wide by 13 feet high. This size was determined by highway regulations, in order to move this to its permanent site.

Upon completion, Home First found five serious potential buyers. Various obstacles that buyers encountered prolonged the process of closing the

(See *Tiny houses*, Page 4C)

“The students loved it because it was a meaningful way to practice their skills. It’s one thing to build something for a class just to build it, but it’s another to know that what you did changed someone’s life. Some students even volunteered time on the weekends to build the house,” Simons said.

This first tiny home was designed by local architects Jean Terwilliger and Shelly Pottorf. It was built on a trailer as a traditional tiny house. Once the home is situated at its permanent site, the wheels will be removed and the home will be connected to a cement foundation.



AT AN OPEN house this past spring, guests enjoy inspecting and learning about a tiny home built by Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center students.

Photo courtesy of Homes First VT

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HANNAFORD CAREER CENTER students who learned practical carpentry skills proudly show off the tiny house they were helping build.

Photo courtesy of Homes First VT

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Tiny houses

(Continued from Page 3C)

deal. The most common barriers were finding land and financing. As of a month ago, Home First was in the process of finalizing the sale to a local 75-year-old woman who hoped to situate the house on her daughter's property.

"The hardest thing right now, other than finding people with money for the project, is finding land and places we can do septic and other things you need to place a house," Simons said.

The team hopes to begin Bentley's tiny house soon and estimates it will take about two school years to complete. While student labor is instrumental to the process, the team is seeking other volunteers to work on weekends to speed up the building process. The team also hopes to attract local partners to help find land for future builds.

"We are looking for people with land and who are interested in building an accessory dwelling unit on their property. We will do the labor of building the house and only charge material cost. They'll take on a more landlord role once the property is finished," Simons said. "We're also looking for more volunteers. We value carpentry skills, but we can really truly find something for anyone who wants to help."

For those in need of housing, a solution can't come soon enough.

About Home First VT

Homes First is a grassroots, no-profit, all-volunteer collaboration between individuals who believe that housing is a basic human need, and that our responsibility in being good neighbors is doing our best in helping to find secure housing for all members of our community.

Specifically, the 501c3 organization seeks to provide economically and environmentally sustainable, "right sized" homes to Addison County residents that are designed and funded, fully or in large part, by the community that resides alongside them. Home First participants are a cohort of community members who cultivate partnerships in order to fund, build and site right-sized, single-occupancy homes for those who cannot afford market rates, so that we all may live in Addison County.

Members are motivated by community, not profit. This is not paid work for any participants.

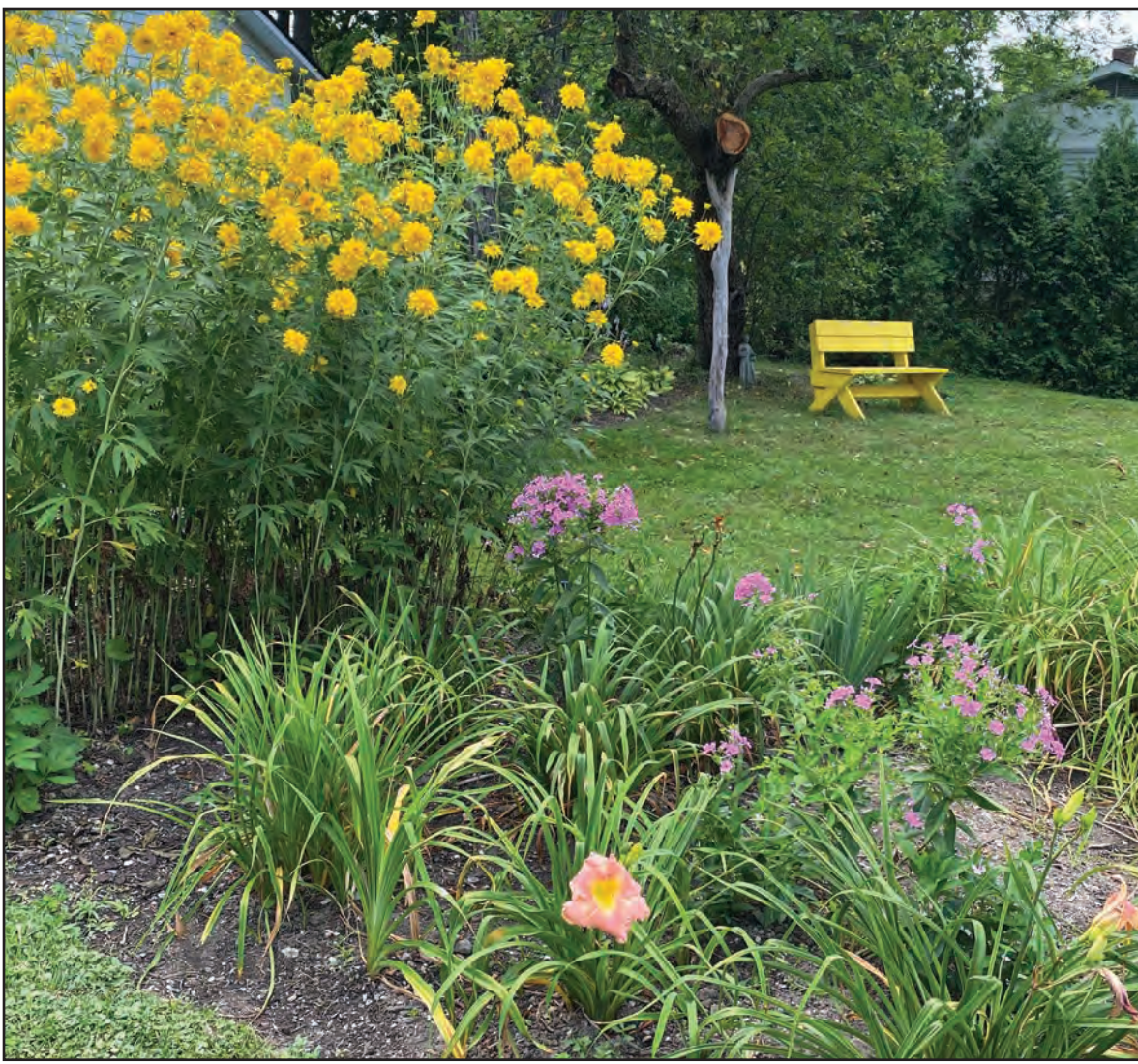
"I don't know what it's like to not have to think about housing. Will my rent increase? Would I be able to afford it? Do I need to get a second job? It's in the back of my mind every day," Bentley said.

Look for more information online at homesfirstvt.org.

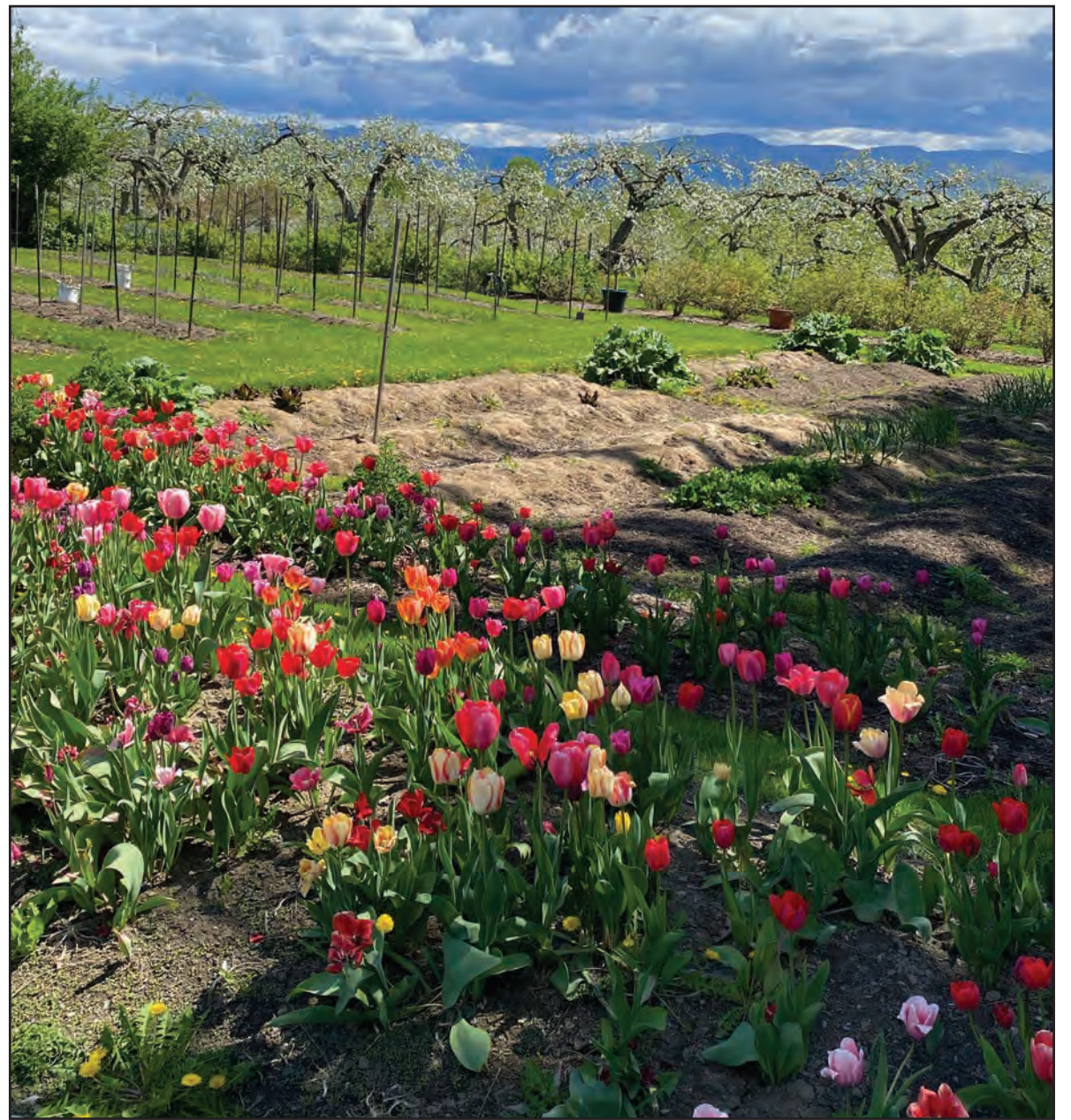


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ABI SESSIONS'S GARDEN IN WEYBRIDGE



BRAD KOEHLER'S GARDEN AT WINDFALL ORCHARD IN CORNWALL

Local gardens receive praise Addison County was stunning this year!

Story and photos provided by Elizabeth Karnes Keefe and Barbara Greenwood

Wasn't Addison County a beautiful place this past summer? Certainly the colorful and interesting gardens cultivated by local residents added to the appeal of this place.

Every year, the Middlebury Garden Club gives awards to public and private gardens in

Addison County.

The club recently announced four winners of its 2024 Roadside Attractions awards. The awards recognize beautiful gardens around Addison County in both residential and commercial settings that are visible from roadways. Each of this year's winners is unique and stunning.

The awards went to Lorraine and Fran Paquette in West Cornwall,

Abi Sessions in Weybridge, Brad Koehler of Windfall Orchard in Cornwall, and the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op. Here are some photos and information about each winner.

The Garden of Lorraine and Fran Paquette in West Cornwall

Lorraine and Fran have lived on a quiet dirt road in West Cornwall since 1983. There they raised four children and lots of veggies. The vegetable garden helped sustain the family throughout the year.

Lorraine started by adding flowers to the vegetable garden, and then she added a separate garden just for flowers. When her health forced her to leave the workplace, she doubled the size of the flower garden.

"I enjoyed the work, which at times was a challenge, but even more felt fulfilled when the flowers bloomed," she said. "What a feeling of happiness and accomplishment. I continue to grow, reshape, experiment and enjoy my gardens."

A long list of vegetables and a vast array of flowers grow throughout the spring, summer and fall. Vegetables include asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, spinach, radishes, potatoes, garlic, tomatoes, corn cucumbers, kohlrabi, beets, celery, onions, peas, pumpkins and squash.

The spectacular flowers include angels breath, hostas, daisies, echinacea, yarrow, black-eyed susan, lily, iris, peonies, bleeding hearts, dahlias, sweet William, hibiscus, trumpet vine, lupines, delphiniums, lavender, and a favorite, two long beds of zinnias that Lorraine and Fran grow from seeds saved from the previous summer's crop.

The Garden of Abi Sessions in Weybridge

Abi's flower garden is planted

to show color all year, from crocus in March to red-stemmed dogwood all through the winter. She likes a combination of shrubs and perennials, so the front garden has a fringe bush, a dwarf ginkgo tree, three *Itea* (sweetspire), two junipers and a new baby evergreen among the perennials. Elderberries not only feed the birds, but also provide a year-round privacy screen.

Abi says that since she planted native plants, each one "has been trying to take over the world."

At the height of summer the front garden is a battleground among echinacea, rudbeckia, bee balm and phlox. Abi notes that she was fortunate to inherit excellent

soil when she and her husband, Bill, bought their house six years ago, and it makes her happy when people walking the sidewalk enjoy the garden.

The Garden of Brad Koehler of Windfall Orchard, Cornwall

Brad Koehler, orchardist and proprietor of Windfall Orchard on Route 30, has been tending his flower and vegetable gardens for 22 years. The apple orchard, formerly belonging to well-known Middlebury surgeon Dr. Ray Collins, was rejuvenated by Brad, who has nurtured almost two dozen varieties of apples on the property.

With a great interest in the (See Gardens, Page 6C)



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Gardens

(Continued from Page 5C)

biodiversity of plants and natural pollinators including various types of bumblebees, Brad said that “flowers are my obsession.”

Driving by in the spring, you will see masses of tulips, and dozens of varieties of daffodils, alliums and glory-of-the-snow, so called because it blooms early enough that its flowers sometimes poke right out of the snow. Some of these flowers are sold at the farmstand in May. They are followed in summer by daylilies, zinnias and snapdragons.

“The flowers are mostly for our enjoyment — other than the tulips and daffodils, which I sell at my stand in May. We keep a lot of cut flowers in our house this time of year.”

Almost all of the fruit grown at Windfall is sold either at the farmstand, through accounts with restaurants, or to hard cider makers. Some of it is used to press Windfall Orchard’s own fresh sweet cider.

The Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op

Sebastian Miska and Kate Corrigan from North Branch Farm and Gardens have been doing the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op’s landscaping work for the past several years. The gardens in the front and along the side of the Co-op contain a variety of interesting and attractive plants and flowers to greet members and visitors as they arrive at the store off Washington Street in Middlebury. Notable this year is a diminutive pineapple plant.

Middlebury Garden Club

One of the oldest garden clubs in Vermont, the Middlebury Garden Club was founded in 1933 to stimulate an interest in gardening, as well as to undertake and encourage projects to make Middlebury and surrounding areas more attractive. Among other projects, the Garden Club maintains the gardens at the Sheldon Museum.

The Garden Club plans an active calendar of events, tours, and activities. To learn more, visit middleburygardensclub.org.

Home maintenance is a big job

By ELISE SHANBACKER
Executive Director of Addison Housing Works

As fall advances and many of us are thinking about wrapping up our properties for the season ahead. It’s time to put the garden to bed, patch the porch, and repair that piece of trim under the eaves before the wasps move in to overwinter.

At Addison Housing Works (AHW), we’re busy making sure that our housing is not only affordable, but safe, decent, and well-maintained.

Addison Housing Works, formerly known as Addison County Community Trust, is a nonprofit affordable housing trust. We develop, own and manage affordable housing in Addison County, including rental apartments, mobile home parks, single-family homes, and senior housing. As such, the organization has a lot of experience maintaining homes.

Maintenance is important for obvious reasons, like health and safety. Moreover, it supports dignity and pride of place for residents who may experience stigma and even discrimination for having low incomes and residing in affordable housing. Finally, many people may not know that AHW properties are permanently affordable, meaning the organization must maintain them in perpetuity to serve future generations of low- and moderate-income Vermonters in need of affordable housing. We invest significant time and resources making sure our properties are in good condition so they don’t become lost from Addison County’s precious permanently affordable housing stock.

AHW manages and stewards more than 750 permanently affordable homes in Addison County. That includes 14 multifamily properties with 48 buildings and 353 apartments, nine manufactured housing communities (MHCs) with 340 lots for owner-occupied homes, and 75 shared equity



MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR COLBY Benjamin stands with Director of Property Management Tori Marukelli outside a historic building on Seminary Street in Middlebury after a fresh coat of paint has been applied.

single-family homes and condos. In 2023 alone, AHW reinvested more than \$1.3 million into regular maintenance for our multifamily family apartment buildings and MHCs — not including a \$5 million community septic upgrade at Lindale MHC in Middlebury and a \$409,000 water system upgrade at Vaughn Court MHC in Monkton.

How do we do it? We have a dedicated property management and maintenance team as well as trusted local vendors who take on projects ranging from leaky toilets to new curb stops. Read on for a peek at what it’s like to be a maintenance tech with Addison Housing Works.

A Day in the Life of an AHW Maintenance Tech

A day might begin with a resident calling in a toilet that doesn’t flush at Weybridge Street Apartments



A CONTRACTOR LOOKS for the source of an electrical problem in Lindale Manufactured Housing Community in Middlebury.

in Middlebury. Maintenance Supervisor Donnie Wall enters the work order and dispatches Maintenance Tech Ben Kivlen to assess the issue. Arriving at the property, it appears an alarm on the sewer pump station is going off — the pump is jammed! What appeared to be a simple call now requires a call to a licensed professional to fix the pump. Even when a pro is called in, AHW’s maintenance team is there to help, whatever it takes — in this case, it took going headfirst into a sewer pit to investigate a malfunctioning sewer pump!

While it isn’t every day we have to get down and dirty with septic systems (though perhaps more often than you’d think), renovating a unit between tenants is something we do every day — in fact, we did it 35 times in 2023 alone, at an average cost of about \$6,000 per unit. A typical turnover at a minimum involves a fresh coat

of paint and a deep clean. Often, we replace old carpet with more durable vinyl plank flooring — this comes at a higher up-front cost, but pays off with a longer lifespan and reduced wear and tear. The punch list of a unit turnover also frequently includes things like tub resurfacing, drywall repairs, new stove heating elements, repairing baseboard hot water covers, replacing broken bath fixtures, down to the “Sparkle Inspection” — that’s the thing Alice Quesnel performs before leasing up a new tenant. It includes things like making sure the oven light works and the fans have been dusted.

Preventative maintenance is of course an important focus of the maintenance team as well. For example, every year (and after storms, as needed) we walk properties to identify trees that might be a threat to residents and properties. Given the increasing

(See Maintenance, Page 7C)

Home maintenance pro tips

- Did you know you can lose 200 gallons of water per day from a running toilet? That’s more than the average three-bedroom home uses in a day! The fix can be as easy as replacing the parts in your toilet tank.
- Cleaning the fins at the back of your fridge can help boost its energy efficiency!
- Changing out traditional light bulbs for LEDs is another great way to reduce your electric bills.

— Addison County Housing Works

Year-Round Hazardous Waste Collection

The HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury is open to residents from any of the District’s member towns.

Most items are accepted from residents free of charge.

Businesses must pay for disposal and must call 388-2333 for an appointment.

Common items include:

Acetone	Drainer opener/cleaner	Mercury thermometers	Primers or shellacs
Acids	Driveway sealer	Mercury thermostats	Rechargeable batteries
Adhesives	Dry cleaning solvents	Mineral spirits	Roach traps/poison
Algaecides	Flea & tick killer	Mothballs	Rug/upholstery cleaner
Aerosols	Fluorescent bulbs*	Motor oil	Solvent-based glues
Antifreeze	Fly killer	Mouse/rat poison	Stains
Ant killer	Formaldehyde	Nail polish	Stump remover
Ammonia	Fuel additives	Nail polish remover	Tars or resins
Auto body filler	Fungicides	Naphtha	Transmission fluid
Automotive fluids	Furniture polish	Oil-based paint	Tub & tile cleaner
Chlorine bleach	Gasoline	Oily waste	Varnish
Brake fluid	Hair dyes	Oven cleaner	Weed killer/fertilizer
Bug spray	Kerosene	Paint thinner/turpentine	Wood preservative
Button cell batteries	Latex paint	Parts cleaner	
Contact cement	Lead paint chips	Pesticides/herbicides	
Deck sealer	Lead-acid batteries	Photographic chemicals	
Diesel fuel	Lime/rust remover	Pool chemicals	



Household hazardous waste includes any unused product that is poisonous, reactive, corrosive, or flammable.

You can easily identify hazardous products by reading packaging labels. Look for key words such as **Warning!** **Danger!** **Poison!** **Caution!**

Improper disposal of these products poses a risk to human health and the environment.

*All compact fluorescents (CFLs) are accepted at no cost; other types of general purpose fluorescent bulbs are free to recycle in quantities of 10 or fewer per day. A per-bulb nominal fee applies for more than 10.

Not accepted: laboratory chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fireworks, flares, explosives, smoke detectors, ammunition, and radioactive waste.

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BEN KIVLEN (LEFT), Donnie Wall (right) and a tech from J&A Pump investigate a malfunctioning sewer pump at Weybridge Street Apartments.

Maintenance

(Continued from Page 6C)

frequency and severity of storms we're experiencing due to climate change, this activity is absolutely essential to ensuring safety at our properties. We were very lucky that tree damage from the windstorms this past January mostly missed residents' homes and cars, but in the wake of that event, we completed \$20,000 in tree removal at Lindale and identified \$20,000 more in needed tree removal at KTP in Bristol. Otter Creek MHC in Vergennes earlier this year had 97 trees identified for removal; 70 of those were ash trees, which have become blighted by the emerald ash borer.

In addition to preventative maintenance, work orders and unit turnovers, AHW's maintenance team also handles large capital projects at our properties. In 2023, we completed a nearly \$100,000 project at Stone Hill on Court Street in Middlebury to improve drainage around the foundation, which was experiencing significant ice penetration into the garage. This year, we are completing road paving projects in several of our manufactured housing communities (MHCs), including Brookside in Starksboro and Otter Creek in

Vergennes.

Finally, some projects go above and beyond the normal scope of maintenance, and require a team of developers and project managers to complete—such as the new Lindale community septic system serving 67 homes in Middlebury, which took more than five years to develop at a cost of over \$5 million. The new system improves health and safety at the park, which suffered for years from surfacing effluent, and benefits all of us who live in the Lake Champlain watershed by properly treating discharge before it reaches our waterways.

Our maintenance team gets it all done, providing service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and they do it with a smile and a kind word for residents. One resident at Pete Coe Village Apartments says, "The Maintenance staff is great, they never make me feel ashamed of my space and never make me feel like I am bothering them." Even when they're putting out (sometimes literal) fires, they make time to go the extra mile, helping fill raised beds with topsoil at our community gardens, installing new signs at our properties, sharing a kind word with a resident, and helping set up and take down for our fundraising

event every year.

Even if you don't know how to replace a lightbulb, let alone a smoke detector, kitchen hose or rotten clapboard, you can still get involved with Addison Housing Works and help us provide safe, quality, affordable housing to more than 1,000 of our Addison County friends and neighbors—including families, seniors, children, individuals and their four-legged friends and support animals. For example:

- Join your town's Housing Committee if they have one, and if not, encourage them to explore creating one.
- Show your support at public hearings for new housing development in your community.
- Join a Planning Commission or Development Review Board in your town.
- Come to AHW's events, like the 35th Anniversary Celebration we hosted in Bristol this past Sept. 13.
- Become a sustaining donor at www.addisonhousingworks.org/donate where you can help ensure Addison County continues to have a strong local housing trust that cares deeply about our residents and the quality of our properties.

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Survey: Pellet stove owners love their stoves and are interested in heat pumps

The Alliance for Green Heat has reported that a survey taken by 486 people who use pellet stoves revealed some predictable and some unpredictable results. For instance, an overwhelming majority of pellet stove owners, 85%, said they would buy another pellet stove if theirs broke and 90% say their stove is reliable or very reliable, challenging a perception that pellet stoves are not very dependable.

Pellet stoves are cleaner and more efficient than wood stoves and make up 25% of the stove market in New England, and 10% nationally, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Until recently, likely around five years ago, American homes still made more renewable energy from wood and pellets than they did from residential solar photovoltaics, which have since surged past wood and pellet heat.

The survey was undertaken between April and June of 2024 by the Alliance for Green Heat, an independent non-profit. AGH chose the Survey Monkey platform and circulated it through scores of social media pages, newsletters and neighborhood listservs. Thus, the survey is not rigorously scientific and likely over-represents pellet stove enthusiasts. Keeping that in mind, the data offers a glimpse into an important demographic of pellet stove users. By segmenting the data, ACH was also able to compare the views and values and pellet stove users based on income, region, motivation to buy a pellet stove and other characteristics.

Of this group, 61% of the 486 respondents used their stoves for primary heat and in the future 38% were interested in buying heat pumps and 33% were interested in buying solar panels. Unlike households adopting solar panels, the primary reason homes adopt pellet stoves is for the substantial short-term cost saving. In the survey, all income groups except one listed "saving money" as the most common reason to heat with pellets.

Twenty-six percent of households with pellet stoves displaced electric heat (both resistance and heat pumps), 20% displaced oil, and 18% displaced wood, 16% displaced propane and 13% displaced gas. This, along with several other questions, showed a high crossover with wood and pellet stoves, as many households that used to heat with wood have moved to pellet heat. In some cases, the reverse also happens with homes moving from pellets to wood fuel.

The median annual household income group was \$75,000-\$99,000, higher than the national median (\$74,580), and significantly lower than the median average income of homes with solar panels (\$117,000 in 2022). The number of people per household was close to the national average with an average of 2.58. The national average is 2.51.

The survey also asked if pellet stove owners smelled smoke from their stoves and 17% said they did, and 52% said they didn't. In between those groups, 30% said they only smelled it during start-up which in most homes is no more than once a day.

Survey respondents were from across the country, with respondents from every state except five, mostly in the deep south. The top five states were New Hampshire (10% of responses), Massachusetts (9%) and New York (9%), California (6%) and Pennsylvania (6%). Countries outside of the U.S. had 7% of responses.

Scores of state and national studies show that small scale wood and pellet heat is enormously important to the transition away from fossil fuels both here and throughout Europe, in part because it does not strain the grid in the winter, and complements available renewable electricity.

Pellet heating has grown, but public education lags, and there remains a lot of confusion about the export of pellets to make electricity versus the use of pellets for domestic heating.



BUMBLEBEE QUEENS ARE important pollinators, so consider leaving leaves in flower beds for them to nest under during the winter when cleaning up the yard in the fall.

Photo by Amy Simone

Seed heads transform into happy homes

By AMY SIMONE
UVM Extension Master Gardener

Autumn colors are painting the landscape. As beautiful as those reds, oranges and yellows are, many gardeners tend to focus too much on the formerly green perennials that are now a crispy brown.

What may seem ugly to you, however, is a happy winter home for a beneficial insect or food for an overwintering bird. Therefore, try your best to only remove what is really necessary.

Wait for a few hard frosts to occur and then assess the plants in your yard. Perennials with foliage that is browned or blackened, like peonies, daylilies and speedwell should be removed. Hosta plants should be cut back and all foliage removed to avoid harboring slug eggs over the winter.

In the vegetable garden, clean up

can be thorough. Pests that plagued your crops this year may overwinter in the plant debris so clean that out. Likewise, pull weeds now before they become established.

Diseased perennials are the last category of plants to remove. Bee balm and phlox are often victims of powdery mildew. Even if they were not afflicted this year, cutting them back will help avoid that next season.

Remember to put any diseased plant parts in the garbage or bury them but not in the compost, unless your compost pile is active and reaches temperatures above 131 degrees Fahrenheit for at least four hours. Be sure to clean your tools and gloves after handling them.

Beyond that, many perennials can — and should — be left standing in your landscape. Low-growing evergreen or semi-evergreen perennials like hardy geraniums, heucheras, moss phlox, dianthus and hellebores should not be cut back.

Marginally hardy perennials such as garden mums and anise hyssop also will be better protected if left standing during the winter. The



THE SEED HEADS of flowering perennials such as the coneflower are a good source of food for overwintering birds.

Photo by Amy Simone

plants will collect leaves and snow, providing them with insulation and moisture.

What else should you leave in place? Plants that will provide winter interest such as ornamental grasses. They will flutter in the late fall breeze and then offer three-dimensional beauty to your snow-covered landscape. The grasses can be cut down in the spring once

new growth appears.

Keep any cut or broken stems in the flower bed to provide a winter habitat for beneficial insects. Hollow stems offer a place for native bees to nest and other insects to lay their eggs.

Flowering perennials such as black-eye Susan, purple coneflower, Joe-pye weed and stonecrop contain seeds that can sustain overwintering birds. In addition, leaving these plants standing allows them to catch leaves, giving them extra insulation.

Speaking of leaves, don't be in such a hurry to rake them up and put them in the compost pile. Leaves are an excellent insulator on your flower beds, or they can be mulched on the grass with a mower. They are also important habitat for woolly bear caterpillars and provide protection for the bumblebee queen who burrows into the soil under a cover of leaves.

As you gaze out at your "messy" fall landscape, know how much the birds, bees and beneficials appreciate you.



PLANTS SUCH AS this bee balm with powdery mildew should be cut down and disposed of in the garbage.

Photo by Amy Simone

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Mulling a garage renovation

Garages may rank below kitchens and bathrooms in the home renovation pecking order, but these unsung heroes of suburban dwellings deserve their day in the sun. It's easy for garages to become convenient, if crowded and disorganized, storage spaces, but scores of homeowners are embracing the idea that renovated garages can serve a more functional purpose.

Prior to beginning a garage renovation, homeowners can consider a host of factors that will guide the direction of the project and ultimately produce a more functional space.

- **Appeal:** Though many homeowners understandably want to ensure their homes are amenable to their own lifestyles without worrying about the effects a given project might have on resale value, it's best that they do not completely ignore the latter variable. A 2019 analysis from the National Association of Home Builders found that 65% of newly constructed homes included two-car garages. That suggests a traditional two-car garage remains widely appealing. However, it's worth noting that the NAHB analysis was conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, when fewer people were working from home. Now that more people work from home, some may see a garage converted into a home office space as more functional. Homeowners can speak with a local real estate agent to learn more about local buyers' preferences before beginning a garage renovation project.

How much does the renovation cost?

Several factors will ultimately determine the final price of a garage remodel, but HomeAdvisor says the national average for a garage remodel falls between \$6,000 and \$26,000. Most homeowners come in at around \$15,000 for a total garage conversion.

- **Function of the space:** It's important to consider why you want to renovate the garage. Is it to build a designated home office space? A fully outfitted home gym? A home theater? An extra bedroom? An in-laws suite? Each of these options are popular reasons to renovate a garage, and each may require a different approach during the project. The desired function also may affect the cost, so it's best to identify precisely what the room will be used for post-renovation.

- **The existing space:** When mulling a garage renovation, contact a local garage conversion expert to audit the space. Such a professional can assess the existing space and determine what will need to be done beyond the design of the room. Will additional electrical outlets need to be installed? Will the room require additional ventilation? Will a new doorway need to be created to allow for easier access? These are questions a qualified expert can answer. Some may estimate the cost as well, but

it's likely the garage expert will defer estimates regarding electric and ventilation to contractors who specialize in those areas.

- **Storage:** Some home renovation experts estimate that the average garage remodel costs around \$18,000. That's considerably less than a home addition project, which can easily exceed six figures. So a garage remodel might be more budget-friendly than a room addition. However, homeowners should consider what's currently in their garages and where those items will end up if the room is repurposed. If it's primarily lawn care items and kids' toys, a new shed with ample storage space might work. But if the garage currently holds more items than can reasonably fit in a shed, homeowners should determine where those items can be stored once the garage is repurposed.

- **Lighting:** Installing more windows or improving on the lighting in the garage can be important. Window installation enables people to circulate air in the garage without having to open the garage door. Improving the lighting means the garage can still be enjoyed or used after dark. Spread out lighting in the garage, and use a combination of overhead and task lighting just as one would in the home itself.

Garage renovation projects can make these spaces more functional, making them worthy of consideration among homeowners who feel like they need some additional space at home.

— Metro Creative

Are formal dining rooms old school?

Formal dining rooms were once a must-have in homes, but that popularity has waned in recent decades. Dining rooms were the spaces to host holiday dinners or family birthday parties. Slowly but surely, dining rooms became obsolete in modern homes that favored open-concept layouts.

And in those homes that had formal dining areas, the need for home office spaces or playrooms for children saw many dining

rooms repurposed. According to the National Association of Home Builders, 43% of millennials prefer the look and feel of an open-concept layout and casual dinner parties.

However, even though dining rooms may no longer be de rigueur, designers are noticing an increase in clients requesting formal dining spaces, according to a report in *Southern Living*. Perhaps it's a matter of open-concept fatigue.

After spending a year or more during the height of the pandemic at home with few to no barriers between rooms, homeowners may be looking for homes that carve out niches for specific tasks (and privacy) once more.

It may not be long until homes come back to including more traditional layouts with separate dining spaces to make hosting a little more intimate. Time will tell.

— Metro Creative



Help with the roof

VOLUNTEERS WITH HABITAT for Humanity of Addison County and employees from Naylor & Breen (and office workers and N&B President Tanner Romero pitch in!) watch in early September as the roof trusses go up on the first of four new homes that the organization is constructing off Gorham Lane in Middlebury. Habitat has had the site excavated and graded, and two foundations have been poured.

With the exterior walls up, Naylor & Breen arrived with an expert crew, including a very large crane, to raise the trusses and sheath the roof.

Habitat officials said Romero and his crew ensured a safe and professional process, but they also allowed the organization's somewhat older volunteers to remain safely on *terra firma*.

Photo by Kathy Purcell

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Pollinators like messy fall gardens

By JUDITH SIEGEL & HOLLY FULTON

Fall is here, are you dreading all the garden and yard clean up that comes with it?

The good news is that you don't have to do all that work. You can cut back significantly on the amount of work that you do and help our pollinators and other beneficial insects at the same time. Pollinating insects are in decline and need these places to hide, reproduce, winter-over and live to pollinate our plants and food.

Did you know that in Vermont our native bees nest in the ground, in wood piles, and in hollow stems of perennials like bee balm, sunflowers and goldenrod?

What can you do instead of a traditional fall yard clean up? Join the "re-wilding" effort to conserve habitat, increase soil health and bolster biodiversity. Don't cut down last season's old stems. Leave the leaf litter where you can. Where the leaves could smother your lawn, rake fallen leaves into beds, borders and under trees, but don't shred them. Leaves retain moisture like mulch and protect insects and their eggs.

For more details, watch the presentation by Xerces Society entomologist Emily May on "Fall Gardening for Pollinators — Leave the Leaves"; it's online at tinyurl.com/MessyFall.

Wildlife likes it messy!

Native Seed collection workshop set

Pollinator Pathway of Addison County presents Tobi Schulman, owner of Bird and Bee Native Plants in Jericho, to lead a Native Seed Collecting Workshop on Saturday, Oct. 12, 1-3 p.m. in Weybridge.

Schulman will demonstrate techniques for identifying, responsibly collecting, cleaning and storing pollinator plant seeds



LEAVE BEEBALM PLANTS like these in your garden and yard and they could provide a winter home for pollinators.

Photo courtesy of Jill Vickers

native to our area. Each attendee will leave with a selection of seeds for sowing later in our winter season.

The workshop will be held in rain or shine so come dressed appropriately for the weather and with footwear suitable for walking on uneven terrain in a meadow. Materials will be provided.

However, if you have a metal bowl and sieve, please bring both as having additional materials on site will reduce wait time.

Registration limit 20 participants, suggested donation \$5-\$10. To register, contact Fran Putnam at franputnam24@gmail.com. The location of the workshop and directions to the site will be

sent when registration has been completed.

The workshop and Tobi Schulman are sponsored by the Pollinator Pathway of Addison County with a generous grant from Neat Repeats. For more information contact pollinatorpathway.addisoncty@gmail.com.

Is a ductless heat pump right for you?

A heat pump helps you to maintain a comfortable temperature in your home year-round. These units use less energy than many other heating and cooling systems such as baseboard electric heat, propane, or oil, Efficiency Vermont reports. As with any heating and cooling option, you'll want to consider your home's unique setup and layout to determine if a ductless heat pump is right for you.

Will they work in a cold climate (like Vermont's)?

Heat pumps can handle most of the heating needs of homes in Vermont. Like most heating systems, the colder it is outside, the harder it works. Cold-climate heat pumps can handle temperatures as low as -15 degrees F. We recommend that you have a supplemental heat source (e.g., furnace or boiler, stove or fireplace, or central wood heat) as a backup for the coldest days of the year. During periods of lower temperatures, you can use your supplemental source to make up the difference. When installing a new ductless heat pump, consider adding integrated controls, which can coordinate the operation of the heat pump with your supplemental heat for best savings and comfort.

Do you have an open floor plan or multiple zones?

Homes with an open floor plan, where large spaces are well connected, are good for heat pumps. In a small home or business with an open floor plan, one or two ductless heat pump units can displace most of your heating fuel use and save you money.

For larger spaces and those with enclosed rooms, multiple units are needed—one for each room or zone. Locate the heat pump in the most open part of the home and keep doors open to increase the impact of the ductless heat pump.

Is your home properly air sealed and insulated?

Consider your insulation and air sealing before installing a ductless heat pump. Improving the thermal efficiency of the building will maximize the effectiveness of the heat pump and reduce the use of supplemental heat. Eliminating

drafts and increasing insulation are affordable improvements that pay for themselves.

Is your home's electrical panel up-to-date?

Switching to a heat pump is an electric load increase that could mean panel upgrades. This is also a consideration if you are thinking about a heat pump water heater, electric clothes dryer or stove, or electric vehicle charging at home. Your electrical service has a limit on how much electricity it can deliver to your house. To accommodate a heat pump in your home, you may or may not need to upgrade your electrical panel. Even in older homes, your existing electrical service may be adequate for the addition of a heat pump. If you live in a home less than 50 years old, your home is likely capable of handling a bigger electrical load.

Be sure to ask your contractor whether your home's electrical service can handle the extra load.

The good news is: The Inflation Reduction Act offers income-based rebates and tax credits to help cut the costs of an upgrade.

Will you save money when you have a heat pump?

Heat-pump savings depend on what fuel you are switching from, how much your electricity costs, and how well the ductless heat pump satisfies the heat demand of your home. If you have baseboard electric heat or typically more expensive heating fuels, like propane or oil, the savings can be significant. While your electric bill will increase, it will be offset by a decrease in the costs of more expensive fuels. If you're switching from natural gas, wood, or pellets, a heat pump may not lower your heating bills. Consider the upfront price of the system, as well as long-term operating costs, when deciding on a heat pump installation.

Interested in installing a heat pump at home?

Efficiency Vermont provides an incentive when you work with one of our participating HVAC distributors. Installing a ductless heat pump may also qualify for Federal tax credits and rebates.

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Make renovations go smoothly

Homeowners are spending big bucks on home renovations. According to the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, home improvement project spending continues to increase. It's predicted to go from \$472 billion spent in 2022 to \$485 billion in 2024.



the budget no matter what comes down the pike.

• **Assemble a good team.** Thoroughly research all contractors who will be involved with the renovation. These include designers, architects, builders, and more. Be sure they come highly recommended and research online reviews. A good team removes some stress from the project because you'll know the work is in experienced hands.

Prepare for worst-case scenarios by adding anywhere from 1% to 20% to the budget. Commit to sticking to the budget no matter what comes down the pike.

• **Prepare the space for the remodel.** Any work you can do will help save on labor costs and make it easier for the team to get started on the project. Clear out clutter and personal items. Ask if it would be helpful for you to handle some demolition, whether

Those targeting a specific home renovation likely know there is much that goes into the process from start to finish. Patience is a requisite virtue with any remodel, as even a thoroughly conceptualized plan can encounter a few bumps along the way. Although there is no way to completely remove renovation-related obstacles, there are ways to make projects go more smoothly.

• **Establish a clear plan from the beginning.** Now is not the time to be on the fence about details. A vision for the renovation is essential, and should include details about layout, materials, colors and design.

• **Manage your expectations.** Again, this speaks to a need for patience with a project but also involves flexibility. Being too rigid when choosing materials can require waiting for back-ordered supplies to come in. Wanting contractors to bend to your schedule can delay the project even further. Creativity and flexibility are key.

• **Establish a budget.** It can be easy to spend beyond one's means, especially when issues crop up. Black House Real Estate stresses the importance of creating a budget before starting a renovation, which may involve working with a local professional to help. Prepare for worst-case scenarios by adding anywhere from 1% to 20% to the budget. Commit to sticking to

that's pulling up old tile, removing drywall or another task.

• **Have an escape hatch at the ready.** Home renovations can cause upheaval to daily life, and that can mean stress on top of already chaotic schedules. If money and situation allow, plan a getaway during a particularly tough stretch of the project so the noise, mess, and disruptions will not induce headaches. Consider spending a few nights at a hotel or a friend or relative's house to escape the constant grind of the project.

Home renovation projects add value and functionality to homes. Such undertakings can go more smoothly with some sound planning.

— Metro Creative



Unimpeded view

VAPOR BARRIER IS partially installed on this Habitat for Humanity home going up on Gorham Lane in Middlebury, but with no windows and only half a roof, a lot of vapor will still make it inside — for now.

Independent photos/
John S. McCright

5 signs it's time to renovate

Homeowners renovate their homes for a variety of reasons. Renovations can increase the value of a property and make homes safer and more comfortable for their occupants. Improvements also can be made to stay current with the times or to give a home a new vibe.

Statista projects \$510 billion will be spent on home improvements in 2024. The home improvement market is generating significant revenue. In fact, nearly a quarter of Americans opting to renovate their homes will spend an average of \$10,000 on their projects. According to a Home Stars Renovation report, 8% of Canadian homeowners who have renovated have spent more than \$20,000 on a home improvement project.

Kitchens and bathrooms often get the most attention when it comes to home improvement. However, every room and space in a home may need a renovation at some point, and the following are five signs it's time to renovate.

1. Age

The National Association of Home Builders states that 50% of U.S. homes are over the age of 40. That means that age alone could dictate a need to renovate, particularly if some materials are original to the home. For example, asphalt roofs typically last 25 to 30 years, while window frames can last 20 to 50 years depending on how well they have been maintained.

2. Inconvenient layout

Some homeowners scratch their

heads when faced with awkward floor plan layouts. While one may live with the inconvenience for some time, typically a floor plan that isn't working for the homeowner is a major driver of renovations.

3. Outdated looks

A home can look dated even if it is a relatively recent build. That's because trends change quickly. For example, dark, cherry cabinets that were popular just a little while ago have now been replaced by lighter color palettes. Homeowners whose homes do not match the looks emulated in design magazines may consider a change, particularly if they're planning to sell soon.

4. Deterioration

Signs of water, storm or structural (See *It's time*, Page 12C)

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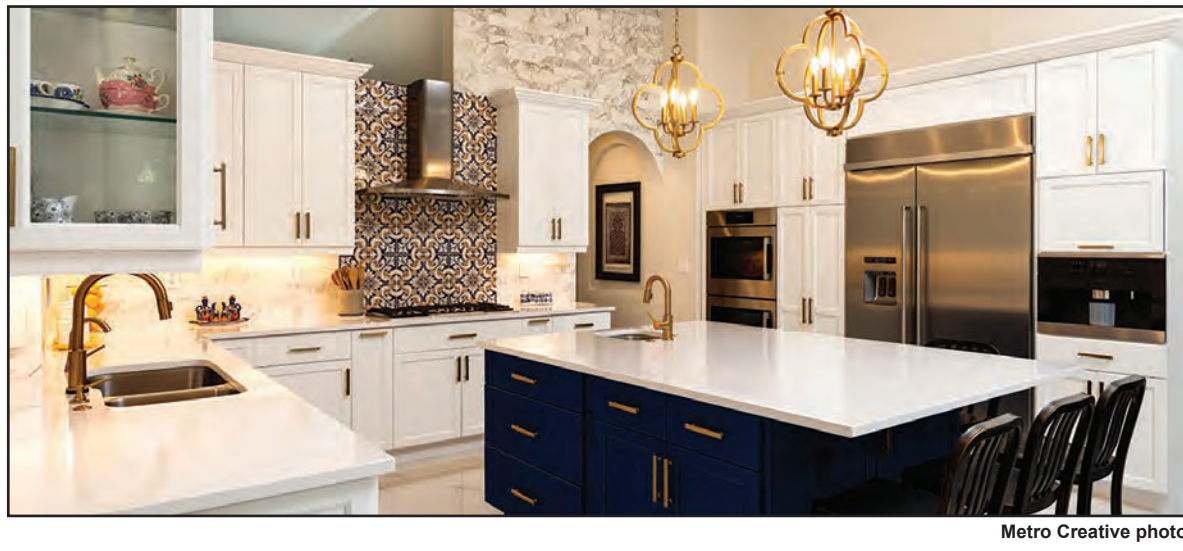
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3 modern kitchen features

It's well documented that kitchens are the most popular rooms in many homes. Kitchens are where families tend to congregate during holiday celebrations, and many a child has tackled their homework as mom or dad prepares dinner just a few steps away.

With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's no wonder kitchen renovations are popular. In fact, data from the National Association of Home Builders indicates kitchens are the most popular room to remodel. Whether homeowners are planning a full scale remodel or a few tweaks to update the room, the following are three popular features of modern kitchens.

1. Kitchen island

A recent survey from the interior design experts at Houzz found that kitchen islands are popular for a variety of reasons. Fifty-eight percent of respondents indicated they enjoy eating at kitchen islands, while 49% reported they like islands for entertaining. Forty-five percent of respondents like socializing around kitchen islands. Islands provide a versatile

functionality that comes in handy when preparing meals on typical weeknights and when hosting friends and family on special occasions like the holidays and birthdays. Islands come in a variety of shapes and sizes and can be customized to fit just about any space. Mobile islands can be utilized in small kitchens when homeowners want the extra prep space but think the kitchen would be too cramped if a permanent island were added.

2. Deep sink

The popularity of farmhouse style sinks is proof that large and deep sinks are sought-after among today's homeowners. Farmhouse sinks may be best suited to a particular aesthetic, but a 2021 study from the National Association of Home Builders found that side-by-side double sinks and walk-in pantries were the most popular of 30 listed kitchen features. That study surveyed more than 3,200 recent and prospective home buyers. Deep sinks are especially useful for people who love to cook, making them a solid addition to

any kitchen where home chefs ply their trade most nights of the week.

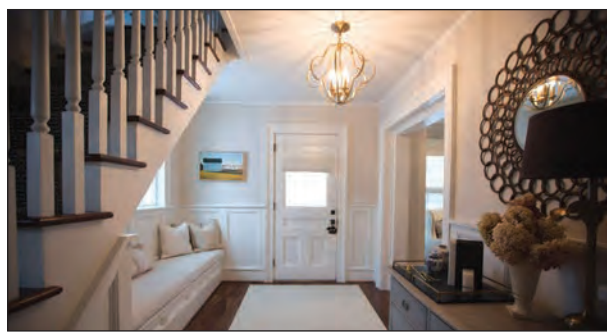
3. Storage

As the NAHB study indicated, kitchen storage space is sought after among modern homeowners. As home cooks expand their culinary horizons and cook more elaborate meals, they need extra places to store specialty pots and pans, ingredients and other materials. Homeowners looking to add more storage in the kitchen can consult with a local contractor about how to create such space. A walk-in pantry can do the trick, but homeowners with kitchens where space is more limited may need to get a little more creative. Sliding-door pantries and roll-out shelving in existing cabinets can add functional space in kitchens with close quarters.

Modern kitchens are visual marvels and highly functional spaces. A new island, a deep sink and some extra storage space can help homeowners transform their existing kitchens into spaces that cater to their every need.

— Metro Creative

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It's time

(Continued from Page 11C) damage should be addressed as soon as possible. Any deterioration should be a strong indicator that it's time to renovate.

5. Efficiency

Escalating utility bills could be

indicative of an inefficient home. Homeowners can conduct energy audits and then improve the areas where energy loss may be occurring, such as windows, doors, siding, and insulation.

Homeowners can renovate their

homes when they see fit, but various signs may warn that it's time consider updating or remodeling a home.

— Metro Creative

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Signs your bathroom needs work

Homeowners know that the work involved to maintain a home is never done. The end of one project has a tendency to roll into the planning of another, and so it goes for years on end.

Fortunate are the homeowners who get to choose when to begin a renovation project, but it's far more common that homeowners spot an issue and then realize it's time to renovate. When it comes to bathrooms, which can be among the more expensive spaces to renovate in a home, homeowners can keep an eye out for various signs suggesting the room needs a remodel.

- **Mold and mildew:** Mold and mildew is perhaps the most glaring sign a bathroom needs to be renovated or remodeled. Mold and mildew pose a notable threat to human health, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that molds can cause allergic reactions. Individuals sensitive to mold may develop symptoms that mimic reactions to outdoor allergens like pollen, including sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and dermatitis (skin rash). Mold also can trigger asthma attacks in people allergic to mold who have the condition. Mold can grow in poorly ventilated bathrooms, such as those without a fan or ones in which fans are not working properly. Mold and mildew will return if it's merely scrubbed away, so the underlying



Metro Creative photo

cause of mold must be addressed to prevent its return.

- **Small signs of fading:** Stains, peeling paint, cracked paint, and gaps in grout are small signs of fading that indicate a bathroom is in need of renovation if not a complete remodel. These issues also can serve as warning signs of larger issues, such as water issues and structural problems, so they should not be merely written off as minor problems or eyesores.

- **Rising water bills:** Some signs a bathroom could use a little TLC are not necessarily confined to the room itself. If water bills are rising significantly and do not align with price increases or an uptick in

water consumption, homeowners may have leaking pipes. Such pipes might be beneath a bathroom sink or behind tiled walls. Discoloration on the walls, peeling paint or wallpaper and/or a musty odor may indicate leaks inside a bathroom wall. If coupled with rising water bills, these signs could be indicative of a significant issue that requires immediate attention.

- **Issues with tiles:** Cracked or damaged tiles in the shower and bathtub or even on the floor are unsightly and also pose a safety hazard. Cracked floor tiles can lead to slips and falls, which can be especially harmful to older residents. And cracked tiles within

the shower and tub area can indicate water problems behind the walls or general disrepair. Such issues should be addressed before they escalate into something larger.

- **A dated vibe:** Of course, some issues affecting a bathroom are not necessarily health or safety hazards but more an affront to homeowners' grasp of current styles and trends. If walking into a bathroom unintentionally feels like stepping backward into a bygone era, then it's probably time to consider a renovation or remodeling job.

Various signs can indicate to homeowners it's time to consider a bathroom renovation.

— Metro Creative



Metro Creative photo

Create more kitchen storage

If home is where the heart is, then the kitchen is where that heart spends most of its time. Kitchens are where family and friends tend to congregate during holiday celebrations, and many a homework assignment has been completed at a kitchen island while parents prepare dinner.

The popularity of kitchens is reflected in the attention these rooms get from renovation-minded homeowners. Data from the National Association of Home Builders indicates kitchens are the most popular room to remodel. Upgrading kitchen storage is a popular renovation project, and it's also one that has practical appeal. Adding more storage in the kitchen gives the room a more organized feel, which can make preparing meals more enjoyable and create space when hosting and guests inevitably congregate around an island. With those benefits in mind, would-be organizers can consider these strategies to create more storage space in the kitchen.

- **Take stock of the spice rack.** Creating more storage space does not necessarily have to involve tools like screwdrivers, hammers and nails. Spice racks can easily become overcrowded as amateur cooks expand their culinary repertoire. A crowded spice rack inevitably spills out onto the surrounding countertop. Take stock of the spice rack and discard any spices or seasonings you haven't used in a while. This can create a more organized look and free up extra counter space.

- **Make a digital cookbook.** If your go-to recipes are filling

a binder or two, those binders are almost certainly taking up precious storage space. Scan printed recipes and convert your physical recipe collection into a digital cookbook you store on a tablet.

- **Install roll-out shelving in the pantry.** Roll-out shelving puts the entire pantry to use. Without such shelving, items are destined to be relegated to that nether region known as the back of the pantry. Some items never emerge from this area, as cooks forget they're there and then purchase duplicates, which inevitably contributes to storage issues. Roll-out shelving ensures all items in the pantry can be found and greatly reduces the likelihood that cooks will have lots of duplicate items taking up precious kitchen space.

- **Remove single-use gadgets from the kitchen.** Much like spices and seasonings vital to the preparation of specialty meals have a tendency to be used just once, kitchen gadgets that lack versatility have a way of gathering dust and taking up storage space. Whether it's a popcorn maker, a seldom-used gadget that's used infrequently, if at all, store single-use gadgets in the garage or another area of the house where they won't get in the way or contribute to a less-than-organized look in the room.

A handful of simple strategies can help anyone create more storage space in the kitchen.

— Metro Creative

Nature in home design

Outdoor living spaces were prioritized during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when public gatherings were greatly limited and individuals were urged to stay home as much as possible. Such demands have had a ripple effect on various industries, including home design. According to a survey conducted by the New Home Trends Institute in collaboration with Pro Builder, 58% of the more than 300 residential architects, designers and design-minded builders who participated said connection to the outdoors/nature will be an important influence on their design choices in the years to come. In addition, 45% of respondents indicated increased attention will be afforded to outdoor entertaining spaces.

So what might the outdoor spaces of homes built in the not-so-distant

future look like? Respondents to the survey anticipated a growing demand for various built-in outdoor features, including:

- Firepits or fireplaces
- Outdoor kitchens (even in Vermont?)
- Gazebos or pergolas
- Pools
- Spas or hot tubs

Though trends and consumer demands are ever-shifting, architects and designers are anticipating that future homeowners will want more developed outdoor living spaces and greater access to nature, which is something current homeowners can keep in mind when renovating their properties.

— Metro Creative

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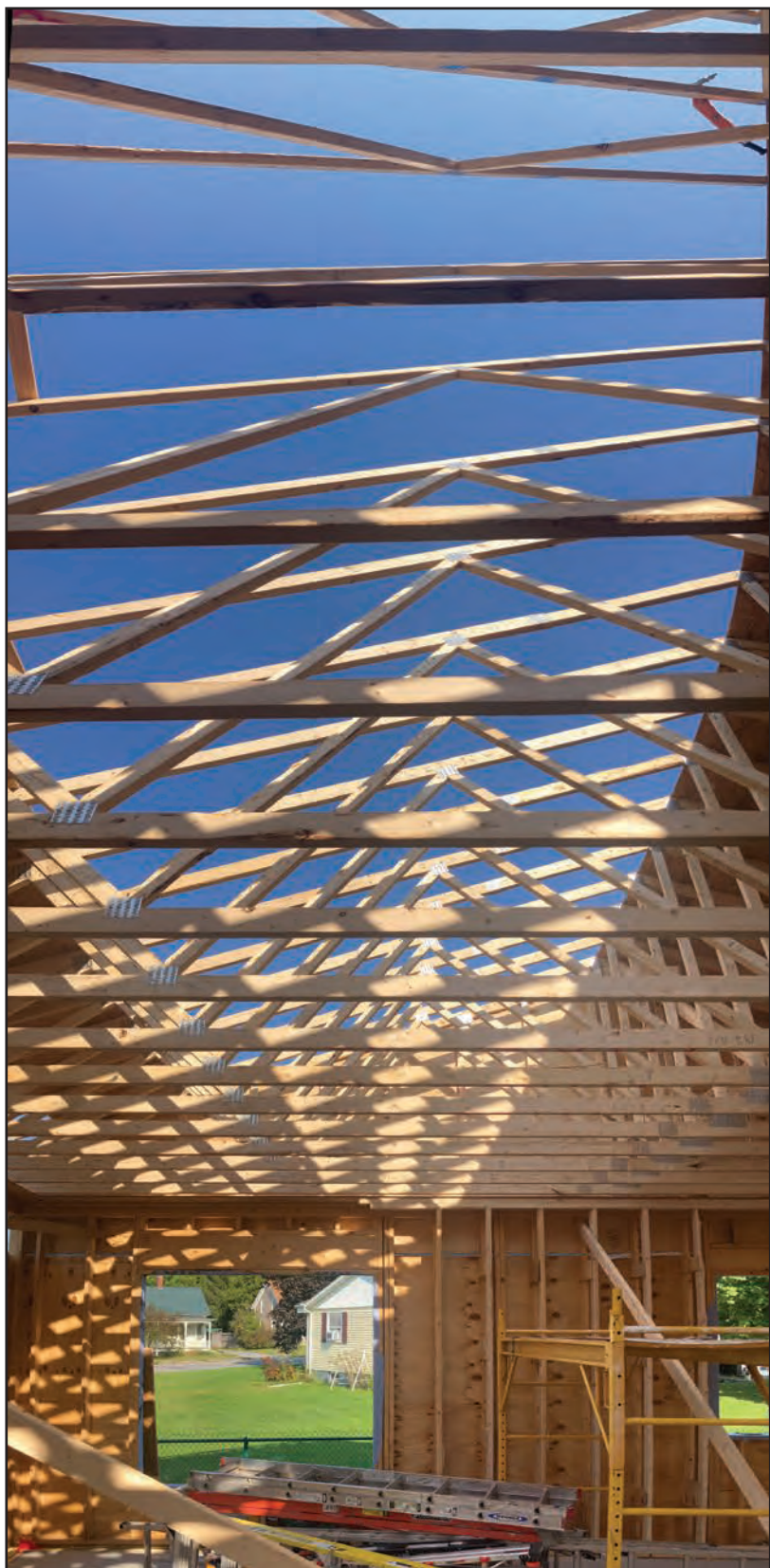
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It takes a village

THE FIRST OF four Habitat for Humanity houses is taking shape off Gorham Lane in Middlebury. These September photos show the roof going on with the help of many volunteers, as well as Naylor & Breen. When the first house is completed late this year or next, a foundation awaits a second home, which will be constructed next year.

Photos by Kathy Purcell and John S. McCright

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Benefits of energy efficient homes

Consumer efforts to be more eco-conscious are more and more noticeable. For proof of that, one need look no further than the increase in vehicle charging stations. Such stations are more accessible than ever and illustrate that consumer preference is increasingly leaning toward products that leave as small a carbon footprint as possible.

Another indicator of a growing interest in eco-friendly products is the popularity in energy-efficient homes. In fact, a recent survey from the National Association of Home Builders found that energy-efficient features are among the most sought-after “must-haves” among homebuyers. Among those surveyed, 83% desired Energy Star-rated windows, 81% wanted Energy Star-rated appliances and 80% preferred energy-efficient lighting.

Though eco-conscious sensibilities compel millions of homeowners to make their homes more energy-efficient, that’s not the only reason to upgrade your

home. The following are a handful of the many benefits of energy-efficient homes.

- **Save money:** Inflation was one of the biggest stories of 2022, as the cost of living rose dramatically in the wake of world events. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation led to an overall 6.5% increase in prices. But that increase was dwarfed by the cost of electricity, which increased by 14.3% in 2022. Energy-efficient appliances can help homeowners overcome that spike, as the U.S. Department of Energy indicates upgrading to such products can help homeowners reduce their energy costs by as much as 30%.

- **Improve resale value:** As the NAHB survey indicates, modern homebuyers want energy-efficient homes. They’re also willing to pay more for such homes. Research from the mortgage lender Freddie Mac found that homes with energy-efficient ratings sold for nearly 3% more on average than homes without such ratings.

- **Live healthier:** The benefits of energy-efficient homes aren’t just economic, though health-related benefits certainly produce an economic incentive as well. According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, insulation and air sealing protect individuals from heat waves and other ripple effects of climate change. The ACEEE notes that weatherization can improve indoor air quality and comfort, a notable benefit for asthma sufferers and seniors. In fact, the ACEEE estimates that integrating energy efficiency programs in homes could reduce seniors’ risk for falls in their homes, potentially saving \$2 billion in fall-related health care costs over the next decade, and improve asthma outcomes, which could reduce health care costs by as much as half a billion dollars.

Energy-efficient products and practices pay numerous dividends, making them a worthy expenditure for any homeowners looking to upgrade their homes.

— Metro Creative



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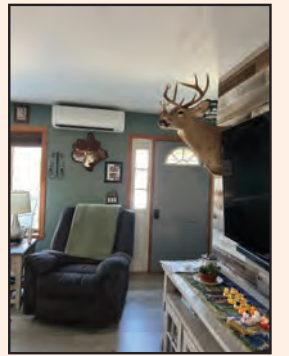
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Homeowners Recommendations



We received quotes from Bristol Electronics and another well-known Vermont solar company, and were pleasantly surprised that Bristol had the better price, and we preferred Bristol's microinverter approach. Additionally, we were very pleased to learn that the panels and racking system were made in the USA with some components manufactured by a Vermont company. On top of this, the folks at Bristol were such a pleasure to work with. We can't remember a more pleasant experience when making a major investment.

We had a variety of questions which they happily addressed. Their knowledgeable staff was well versed with applicable regulations and requirements, building codes and even wind loading concerns. They truly went out of their way to make sure we were educated on the system and pleased with the installation.

This was a very rewarding experience which began with a goal of wanting to make our home fully renewably powered by working with a local team and culminated with meeting great members of our community, keeping our dollars local while also supporting other American renewable technology manufacturers. We found kindred spirits at BE and we can't recommend them highly enough!

Megan Nedzinski and Joshua Faulkner – South Starksboro, VT

We had Bristol Electronics install three heat pump systems for us in November of 2023. One system covers our bedroom. The other two systems cover the front side of our home. We have saved money and we feel more comfortable. During our first winter, our heating bill went down by \$200 - \$300 per month while our electricity costs only went up by \$100 per month, saving us \$100 - \$200 per month.

During our first summer, we sold the three window air conditioners we had been using. We can see out the windows and won't have to put the a/c units in and out when the seasons change. The heat pumps have only needed to be on "low" to keep the temperatures comfortable. We notice we can hear each other better and we don't have to turn the television up to get over the loud air conditioners like we did before. These systems are so quiet.

The heat pumps have provided more consistent heating and cooling than our old heating and cooling equipment. We are saving money, are more comfortable, can hear each other and can see out of our windows.

Wayne & Diane Smith, Salisbury, VT



"Bristol Electronics makes it easy for you to go solar. From the detailed, patient explanations, to the rebates, estimates and permits, Bristol Electronics takes care of it all. I obtained several quotes from various companies but it was Bristol Electronics who ultimately won my business with their friendly, approachable attitude and superior knowledge of the technology. When I began this project I was uneducated and apprehensive. Now I find myself encouraging my friends and family to call Bristol Electronics for a free quote and explanation because I truly believe in their product and company. They are highly skilled and professional in every respect.

Stephen and his crew encouraged my children's curiosity and made learning fun for them. Little things like making handprints in the cement of our solar system sparked talks about reducing your carbon footprint and how everyone can help, even children. The whole experience could not have been easier or better. Seeing the power meter run backwards is just icing on the cake."

Heather Shepard – Bristol

