



## Right notes

A group of dedicated teens have three operatic programs coming up starting Nov. 8. See Arts+Leisure.



## On the trails

Locals fared well at the state cross country meet, and one earned a Vermont title. See Page 1B.



## They do!

Read about five local couples' weddings, and one local cake baker, in our special section.

# ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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## New plant is turning waste into energy

### Company partners with Cabot, cidery

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — An inescapable metallic hum invaded last Thursday's grand unveiling of the new Middlebury Resource Recovery Center (MRRC) at 177 Industrial Ave.

But that hum — emanating from an onsite, 1,014-kilowatt generator — played like a symphony for PurposeEnergy officials. The din provided tangible proof that the MRRC was successfully receiving organic waste from local food/beverage industries and transforming it into renewable energy that's being fed into the statewide electricity grid.

"We are excited to support (See PurposeEnergy, Page 12A)

## Gratitude tree blooms in Bristol

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — While many trees around Addison County have already shed their leaves for the year, one tree in the area is just beginning to bloom — the Bristol Gratitude Tree.

The tree sits on Bristol's Main Street in the center of three trees located next to Cubbers Restaurant and in front of Walgreens. Residents who visit the tree can jot down (See Gratitude tree, Page 13A)



### Ahoy there!

PINT-SIZE PIRATE ARI RAMIREZ, 4, leads his buccaneering parents, Dave and Shena, on a hunt for candy along Middlebury's Main Street on Sunday afternoon during the annual Spooktacular. See more scary (and fun) photos on Pages 4A and 16A.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Candidates make their final pitches

### County expecting a big voter turnout

By JOHN FLOWERS

ADDISON COUNTY — Local, statewide and national candidates are wrapping up their campaign pitches.

Now it's up to the voters.

Residents in Addison County, Buel's Gore, Huntington and Rochester will go to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5, to cast ballots for candidates vying for a variety of positions, ranging from justice of the peace to president of the United States. And many locals have already cast ballots by mail or at drop-boxes.

Area town clerks are girding for a big turnout that's typical for a presidential election. In 2020,

77.69% of Addison County's registered voters cast ballots in the election that saw Joe Biden defeat Donald Trump at the top of the ticket. This year, Trump is seeking to reclaim his job, with his opponent Vice President Kamala Harris.

The Trump-Harris matchup is capturing voters' attention, as are other races up and down the ballot.

Bristol Town Clerk Sharon Lucia on Tuesday said that she had thus far

processed 767 general election ballots from residents who had decided to vote early. She was happy with the early interest in the election, but also voiced concern that 450 of the mail-in (See Candidates, Page 13A)

Clerks ask voters to take ballots they got in the mail with them to the polls.

## Bristol voters will field waterline bond

### Zoning changes also on the ballot

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — In addition to casting ballots for candidates in the General Election, Bristol voters on Tuesday will be asked to weigh in on two additional questions: whether to adopt proposed amendments to the Bristol Unified Development Regulations and whether to bond for up to \$3.95 million to support the next project in a multi-phase effort to replace aging waterlines in town.

That water project, called "Bristol West," would replace

nearly 120-year-old waterlines located west of North Street. The initiative is part of a larger effort to replace around half of the waterlines in Bristol's aging water distribution system, a good portion of which were installed around 1905 and are contributing to significant water loss.

The system was studied back in 2021 by Green Mountain Engineering, which recommended that around 33,000 linear feet (57%) of water main in the (See Bristol waterline, Page 12A)



## By the way

Elderly Services Inc. is hosting a community education series of three informative presentations this fall on topics important to area elders and their families. The series, which is free and open to the public, began last Thursday, Oct. 24, and has two more sessions. All programs are at the Congregational Church of Middlebury from 4-5:30 p.m. The program on Nov. 7 will be "Emergency Preparedness for the Elderly," presented by retired Middlebury Police Chief Tom Hanley. The session on Tuesday, Nov. 12, will be "You (See By the way, Page 9A)

## New solar array will help college advance energy, climate goals

### Provides 40% of institution's electricity

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College recently took a big step toward meeting the climate goals outlined in its Energy2028 initiative, particularly in its efforts to achieve 100% renewable energy use.

This past Thursday, Oct. 24, college officials joined Encore Renewable Energy and Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company to recognize the activation of a new five-megawatt solar array on South Street Extension in Middlebury. The array will provide the college with 40% of its total electricity.

"That is a remarkable achievement and one that should be understood in the context of the larger initiative that we inaugurated in 2019 called Energy2028," Middlebury College President Laurie L. Patton said at a ribbon-cutting for the solar array.

Energy2028 is 10-year plan that outlines Middlebury College's four big climate goals:

- Reduce energy consumption on the college's core campus by 25% by 2028.

- Phase out direct fossil fuel investments in the endowment, reducing the value of these (See Solar array, Page 11A)



A GROUP OF five leads the VUHS seniors away from their school at the beginning of their Oct. 24 senior walkathon, which raised more than \$5,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. Independent Photo/Andy Kirkaldy

## VUHS seniors walk for vets

### Class of '25 nets more than \$5K for Warrior Project

By ANDY KIRKALDY

VERGENNES — The Vergennes Union High School Class of 2025 set a goal of raising \$3,500 for its Senior Walkathon, which was held on a cool and mostly cloudy Thursday, Oct. 24, on behalf of the Wounded Warrior Project.

Before the seniors started on the nine-mile journey from school auditorium all the way to the shore of Lake Champlain at Button Bay State Park, the roughly three-dozen seniors who walked heard good news from retired VUHS special educator Lee Shore, who joined them that day and had helped planned the first walkathon back in 2009.

The front office had just told her they had raised

more than \$4,000, and the total was steadily growing as donations kept coming in.

As the seniors walked west out on Pantown Road and then northwest along Arnold Bay Road, drivers stopped and handed over cash and checks to them (some students were injured and rode in a van with National Guard representative Katie Kayhart, a VUHS grad herself) and to the class advisors who traveled and biked with the group. Meanwhile back on Monkton Road more pledges for the walkers were arriving at VUHS.

More seniors might have participated, but the date of the walkathon ended up conflicting with (See VUHS walk, Page 17A)



A NEW FIVE-MEGAWATT solar array on South Street Extension will provide Middlebury College with 40% of its total electricity. Activation of the array fits into the college's work in tackling the climate goals. Independent photo/Steve James

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# New dental office to open in Middlebury

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Oddly enough, Erik Koskinen and Rachel Rivard never crossed paths while attending the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine more than a decade ago.

Fate would instead unite them after both had coincidentally moved to Addison County several years later.

It's shaping up as a fruitful professional union.

Koskinen and Rivard — both doctors in dentistry — will soon open a new, 10-chair dental office in the former UPS Store at 105 Court St. in Middlebury.

MiddTown Dental, according to the partners, will offer a full suite of dental services, including teeth cleanings, general care, root canals, crown/bridge/denture service, and restoration of implants.

It was around seven years that Koskinen reached out to Rivard after learning they both shared the same alma mater. The pair made a lunch date to talk about their dental school experiences at University of Colorado, and also assess the dentistry landscape in Middlebury.

They had fun comparing notes and talking about their respective families. But life took over, and the luncheon proved a one-off. Koskinen had his hands full with the solo, practice at 9 Court St. he'd acquired in 2011 from the late Dr. John Langfeldt. At the same time, Rivard was busy as director of Rutland Community Dental.

But earlier this year, Rivard decided she was ready for a new chapter in her career, based largely on geography.

"It was time to (work) closer to home, to be part of the community," said Rivard, who lives in Weybridge. Her husband, Dr. Robert Rivard, is an Emergency Department physician at UVM Medical Center.

Rachel Rivard reconnected with Koskinen for advice on how to get her own dental career rooted in Addison County.

"As we got to talking, we realized how much fun it would be to (run a practice) as a partnership, to have a connection with another dentist and grow the practice into something that could better serve the community long-term," Rivard said.



DRS. RACHEL RIVARD and Erik Koskinen are joining forces to establish a new, 10-chair dental office at 105 Court St. The building, which most recently hosted the Middlebury UPS Store, is being renovated and should be open by year's end.

Independent photo/John Flowers

Koskinen has at times thought about expanding his 9 Court St. practice, but has been limited by the idiosyncrasies of a 200-year-old building.

"I have three chairs and would love to have five so I could serve the community better," he said, noting it can take seven months to get scheduled for a teeth cleaning in spite of the Middlebury's area's hardworking general dentistry community.

Still, Koskinen was fast approaching his 60th birthday and felt upsizing on his own might be a heavy lift this late in his career.

Rivard's partnership pitch gave Koskinen new energy.

"(She) came along and really provided the catalyst to say 'yes,'" he recalled. "If I did this with somebody, it would be better. I think practicing with another dentist is going to re-energize me during the final phase of my career here."

The partners began canvassing Middlebury village for a spot to host MiddTown. They have already built a staff of 18 full- and part-

time employees, including seven hygienists, five dental assistants and three front-office employees.

A search of available downtown-area properties eventually led the partners to the former UPS Store at 105 Court St. Laura Flint, the Middlebury UPS franchisee, had announced in April she was closing the store and selling the building.

Koskinen and Rivard checked out the spot and agreed it could be renovated for use as a general dentistry practice. It features, among other things, ample space and onsite parking.

They made an offer on the building on April 13 that was accepted two days later. The duo officially took ownership in early August, upon which they commissioned significant interior renovations to carve out 10 individual treatment rooms to be spread among the first and second floors. Offices and a break room will be sited on the third floor.

Plans call for MiddTown to open its doors by the end of this year. In the meantime, prospective new patients are invited to fill out a form

at [middtowntodental.com/newpatient](http://middtowntodental.com/newpatient), or email [info@middtowntodental.com](mailto:info@middtowntodental.com).

MiddTown shouldn't have much of a problem filling out its patient roster.

"There's such a need in the community," Rivard said. "There are a lot of dentists who aren't taking new patients because they're full."

She resigned from Rutland Community Dental back in February to make a measured transition to her first co-ownership of a dentistry practice. Koskinen noted Rivard will be breaking a glass ceiling.

"I think it's amazing that in 2024, we're talking about Rachel being the first female dentist ever in Middlebury," he said of his partner.

Koskinen is confident MiddTown Dental will be around for generations. It's being built with a solid foundation to pass on to future dentists.

"Even at this later stage of my career, I think it's worth the risk of taking on this project to better serve the community I've been fortunate to practice in for 13 years," he said.

# Array on Panton ballot

## Residents to vote on solar proposal

By ANDY KIRKALDY

PANTON — As well as choosing elected officials in the General Election, Panton residents will also make their opinions known on a 50-megawatt solar array proposed for a roughly 220-acre plot of land west of Route 22A surrounding the intersection of Slang and West roads.

The Panton selectboard has pledged to take a position based on the outcome of the vote for or against the ground-mounted array, which would be Vermont's largest.

The vote was petitioned by Panton residents who oppose the array, planned by a consortium of companies, and the selectboard approved the measure to be on the Nov. 5 ballot. The vote could be considered by — but will not be binding on — the Vermont Public Utilities Commission, or PUC, which will have the final say on approval of the array as it decides whether to grant the project a Certificate of Public Good.

If granted, that certificate would give the green light to install the array to the companies who plan at some point soon to apply for it: Stamford, Conn., firm Freepoint Commodities LLC; an affiliated Pennsylvania firm, SunEast Development LLC; and VT Real Estate Holdings 3 LLC (d.b.a. Viridis Solar). They call their proposal the Viridis Solar Project.

Freepoint is also proposing two 20-megawatt arrays in Vermont, also among the state's largest. One in Shaftsbury faced significant opposition, but is winding its way through the PUC process. Another proposed for Fair Haven is reportedly nearing a PUC application and appears to face fewer local headwinds, as reported in the *Rutland Herald*.

Most of the power from the proposed arrays appears destined for the larger New England grid, according to company officials, although it is possible some could remain in Vermont. A fact sheet for the Viridis Solar Project prepared for Panton describes the destination of the power generated by that array

as "Unknown."

Opponents of the project cite its impact on its neighbors and the natural beauty of the area, the fact that much of the land the array would cover is farmland that would be taken out of use, and the likelihood that much or all of the power would leave Vermont.

They also point out that only about 25% of the land for the array is within the area designated by Panton's Enhanced Energy Plan for such solar installations.

Panton is granted special status before the PUC in the permit process because of that enhanced plan. But experts at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission have said that status is untested, and it is unclear how much weight the PUC will grant the town if it opposes the array.

Much of the land is also owned by members of the Marszalkowski family who live out of state, but farmed by members of the family who live in Panton. The former want to lease it for the array, stating the money will be used to aid an aging family member. The principal owner of the grain business that is farming the land said losing use of it would be a financial burden.

Despite the vocal opposition the Panton selectboard has declined to take a position against the array. Board members have said they have heard from some residents that the tax revenue and other potential financial considerations from FreePoint would be welcome, and that they favor renewable energy. Opponents also say they do not object to renewable energy, but to the scale and location and to the other particular issues with this proposal.

In a Viridis informational packet, the companies estimate the array will generate about \$350,000 a year in town taxes over the estimated 35-year lifespan of the array.

The companies have also pledged to remove the array when it reaches the end of its useful life.

The companies also estimated the array would generate \$200,000 in school taxes per year, and pledged an extra \$50,000 a year to the town. Selectboard Chair Howard Hall described that number as "a starting point" in negotiations.

# Midd considering density zoning plan

## Area around Amtrak platform is eyed

MIDDLEBURY — At a preliminary visioning exercise last Wednesday evening, Oct. 23, Middlebury Director of Planning and Zoning Jennifer Murray introduced a process that will imagine future development in an area surrounding the Amtrak rail platform.

With grant money to work with, the goal of the exercise is to use the master planning process to imagine, or visualize,

how this area could be used for maximum benefit, particularly in terms of providing high-density residential housing, apartments or condominiums. That's because the land is within walking distance of downtown amenities and public transportation hubs.

The town has hired Town Planning and Urban Design Collaborative of Franklin, Tenn., which also recently worked on the town's master plan, to help

the town sketch out possible ideas and development scenarios. The area includes the MarbleWorks Business District and north for a quarter mile on Seymour Street and Exchange Streets and west to the lands bordering Otter Creek.

The goal is to help the town decide how zoning in that area could or should be changed to facilitate the desired development. Murray emphasized that no development plans are currently being considered and that the exercise is solely for the purpose of creating a vision for the area. The process is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2025.

According to information ahead of the meeting, the town posited a likelihood that the considerable amount of open land in this area would change hands over the next 5-10 years and it would be up to those purchasers to choose how that land is used. Creating a vision for the area and making adjustments to zoning to help realize that vision is one approach, Murray said.

# College protects Long Trail section

## Donates right of way across Snowbowl ski area to GMC

HANCOCK/WATERBURY — Middlebury College has donated a trail right-of-way to the Green Mountain Club that permanently protects 1.5 miles of Long Trail treadway through the Middlebury Snowbowl.

The trail traverses the Snowbowl just south of Route 125 in Hancock at the Middlebury Gap.

Since the 1980s, the Green Mountain Club has been working toward permanently protecting the Long Trail and its surrounding lands. The donation by Middlebury is a significant step toward achieving that goal, as the section of trail that crosses the Middlebury Snowbowl was the longest remaining section of privately owned Long Trail treadway, GMC Communications Coordinator Lily LaRegina said.

This trail right-of-way protects the longest remaining section of privately owned Long Trail treadway. Its donation brings the total miles of unprotected Long Trail down to just 4.5 miles, or 2% of the Long Trail.

"The Green Mountain Club is tremendously grateful to Middlebury College for their donation of a trail right-of-way to protect the Long Trail. Generous and supportive landowners like Middlebury College are what have made the Long Trail possible for 114 years. We couldn't have Vermont's hiking trails without them, and GMC is excited to be deepening our partnership with the college through this trail right-of-way," said GMC Executive Director Mike DeBonis in a press

release.

The 272-mile Long Trail is a long-distance hiking trail that runs the length of Vermont from Massachusetts to Canada, along the spine of the Green Mountains. It was conceived in 1910, served as the inspiration for the Appalachian Trail and, along with its side trails, provides 500 miles of hiking trails in Vermont. The Long Trail draws thousands of locals and visitors each year and provides economic and wellness benefits for local communities. Permanent protection of the Long Trail will ensure that hikers and communities continue to have access to and benefit from this incredible recreation asset.

"Middlebury College's century-long partnership with the Green Mountain Club is a shared commitment to preserving land for the public good," said President Laurie L. Patton. "We're pleased to help ensure that access to the storied Long Trail — and its enjoyment by our entire community — will continue into the future."

Since it was first constructed in the 1910s, the Long Trail has crossed the property that is now Middlebury Snowbowl. The route of the LT by Pleiad Lake and up Worth Mountain is first depicted in the Green Mountain Club's 1920 Long Trail Guide. Middlebury College was granted the land from Joseph Battell in 1916 and the first downhill ski trails were cut in 1934, making the Snowbowl one of Vermont's earliest ski areas.

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# Middlebury explores increased geothermal energy for downtown

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Current exploration of geothermal heating potential for Middlebury's Ilsley Public Library at 75 Main St. is being expanded to see if the technology can be harnessed for multiple buildings downtown.

Officials have mapped out six test wells in the Bakery Lane area that will tell the story of whether there's enough geothermal capacity to form a Thermal Energy Network, or TEN, that could funnel renewable energy to multiple downtown buildings, including Ilsley, the adjacent town offices at 77 Main St., and perhaps even the Marquis Theater, Haymaker Bun headquarters and Taste of India Restaurant.

"Everybody is on pins and needles watching this," said Lincoln-based consultant Judith Harris, who's serving as clerk of the works for the imminent renovation and expansion of the Ilsley Library. "It's exciting. It's a technology we haven't gotten into before," she said.

So what's a TEN? In short, thermal energy networks use underground pipe loops that link multiple buildings and provide heating and cooling through water-source heat pumps. Geothermal heat is commonly

*"The climate change angle is important, but (businesses) also need to know there will be cost savings and that this is something beneficial to their bottom line as well."*

— Fred Kenney

used in these networks, but it's also possible to bring in waste heat from other buildings through the system.

Exploration of geothermal potential was built into the \$17 million Ilsley makeover project. But several Middlebury officials and community members formed a "TEN working group" to encourage the community to maximize the geothermal energy potential in the downtown. The group includes representatives of the Middlebury Energy Committee, the Addison County Economic Development Corp. (ACEDC) and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

Assisting the working group has been Debbie New, coordinator of Vermont Community Thermal Networks, a statewide organization that works to develop community-led TENs in Vermont.

New described Middlebury's TEN effort as "a high-level exploration" at this point.

"We don't want to imply that there will be any further taxpayer burden in investigating this further, or that we're going to slow down the library project," New stressed.

TEN technology keys on harvesting heat from the more moderate temperature underground. A bore hole is drilled and a U-pipe installed, through which a mixture of water and glycol (a food-grade antifreeze) is

introduced, according to New. That mixture captures the underground heat and relays it to a water-source heat pump, which compresses it to produce a desired temperature inside the buildings being served in the TEN, according to New.

"We're starting with 50 degrees (underground), so it's much more efficient than an air-source heat pump," New said.

Harris is keeping close track of the six test wells that will soon provide a verdict on the Bakery Lane area's TEN potential.

Well No. 1, located at the ramp leading from the lower municipal parking lot to the lot behind the Ilsley, is seen as having the best geothermal potential, according to Harris.

"It's the luck of the draw, with wells," she said, adding officials should soon know specifics on per-minute water flow, water quality and other factors that would determine whether a TEN is worth pursuing. In essence, the tests will either show whether there's any geothermal potential at all, just enough for the Ilsley library, or enough to continue development of a TEN.

The Middlebury working group's TEN scrutiny isn't being confined to Bakery Lane. The group also wants to diagnose the thermal energy potential among closely knit buildings in the Washington Street neighborhood (Middlebury Inn, Middlebury Natural Foods Coop, Shaw's Supermarket, courthouse, etc.) and Exchange Street area, home to the town's industrial park.

Mining the potential for a TEN, New explained, would pave the way for a "neighborhood-scale

solution, rather than one building at a time. Because if you're going to drill and lay pipes, that's a large upfront cost."

She acknowledged a TEN could result in higher electric bills, but said those increases would be more than offset by transitioning from fossil fuels.

"Our goal is to have people pay the same or less than they're paying now, no matter which fossil fuel they're switching off of," she said. "If you're switching from oil or propane, it could be a 20-30% reduction in overall energy costs. That includes gradually paying back the upfront costs over time through monthly (energy) bills."

Those investing in TENs can mine multiple financing options, according to New. They include loans through infrastructure investment companies, as well as assistance through Vermont Bond Bank and the Vermont Economic Development Authority. The federal Inflation Reduction Act assures a minimum 30% subsidy for TENs, New noted.

Vermont has a Thermal Energy Networks Law that allows municipalities to build TENs — and establish thermal energy utilities — without approval or regulation from the Vermont Public Utility Commission.

Fred Kenney is executive director of the ACEDC. He's helping represent local business interests as part of the TEN working group.

"The climate change angle is important, but (businesses) also need to know there will be cost savings and that this is something beneficial to their bottom line as well," he said.

If Middlebury's foray into the TEN arena proves successful, it could be just the beginning, Kenney believes. Other than a thriving system at Champlain College, there are few TEN systems functioning

in Vermont right now.

"We're hoping it can serve as a model for other community efforts around Vermont," he said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



SIX TEST WELLS, including this one at the bottom of the ramp from the lower parking lot to the lot behind Ilsley Library, are being drilled to determine the potential for geothermal heating at the library and other downtown buildings.

Independent photo/John Flowers

# Lincoln School District eyeing FY'26 spending

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Lincoln School District officials have begun discussing what district spending could look in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Lincoln School Board at its Oct. 22 meeting reviewed a draft of an expense-only budget estimating fiscal year 2026 spending based on current programming. That draft reflects \$5,168,750 in spending, an increase of \$241,753, or 4.91%, over the current academic year.

"This is pretty early in the year to be looking at a budget," Brittany Gilman, accounting & budget manager for the district, said on Oct. 22. "That said there are still a lot of unknowns, so this will change. I do believe that it's directionally correct and that we have a good foundation to build on, but it's just a draft."

Gilman also noted that how the Lincoln School District's spending is presented continues to evolve as the district figures out how to best represent the cost of running the district and the Lincoln Community School.

"We really have only finished one year as Lincoln School District, going into our second year, so I think things are becoming much more detailed; we're able to drill in much more than we have been able to," she said.

District officials at the Oct. 22 meeting dug into each expense category in the budget draft. A recording of the board's discussion can be found on the Lincoln School District website (lincolnsd.org) under the School Board "Meeting

Agendas & Minutes" tab.

"As expected and typical, the largest expense categories will continue to be in the areas of personnel and tuition for Lincoln's pre-kindergarten and grades 7 to 12 students," Superintendent Amy Cole and Lincoln School Board Chair Jeanne Albert told the *Independent*. "The board plans to look at a second draft in late November, with the anticipation of receiving further information about potential revenue in December."

Figures presented last week reflect an estimated \$1,993,200 for middle and high school tuition in FY'26, up \$261,926. Gilman noted that cost in part factors in an increase in announced tuition rates.

Cole explained that the district is spending around \$1.86 million on 7-12 grade tuition for about 90 students attending public or approved independent schools. Middle and high school students in the district are offered full school choice, with the vast majority attending Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School.

District officials also discussed the anticipated fund balance from FY'24 and options for what to do with it. The district in 2023 established an Education Reserve Fund, which has a balance of around \$100,000.

Board member Deirdre Kelly asked if district officials could make a recommendation for use of the reserve fund during a future budget discussion. Gilman noted district officials are working with auditors to get an audited fund

balance for FY'24 and can come back more refined next time.

District officials created a timeline for FY'26 budget development that can be found on the district website. Albert and Cole noted the board plans to host a budget-related community engagement event in January prior to adopting the FY'26 budget.

Recent community engagement efforts within the district have included an Oct. 9 gathering with Montpelier nonprofit Public Assets Institute. The meeting was aimed at informing community members on the various aspects influencing education funding at the state level and how they impact local education property taxes. See a recording of the meeting on the district's website.

"Prior to that meeting, the

board developed materials on our website to provide an overview of education taxes in Vermont, also with the aim of helping community members understand the complexity of the system," Cole and Albert added.

The school board has also been hosting community engagement sessions to gather input on its ongoing development of statements of the district's mission, vision, and core values.

"Last week the board hosted an input session at the school and this week the board is sending out an online survey tool to gather additional input so that they can formalize the new district's mission, vision and core values prior to the March town meeting day," Albert and Cole told the *Independent* on Monday.



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# Editorials

## In county races, examine the root problems before you vote

In Addison County House and Senate races, here's a key point to consider: What has caused the crises Vermont faces, and who is in the best position to help solve the problem.

If one were only to listen to Gov. Phil Scott and Republicans running for office, you could believe it's the liberal Legislature that is causing Vermont's problems, and that the only responsible action is to veto significant measures proposed by them.

That's a shallow and uninformed platform reminiscent of a "do nothing" party.

The problem the state faces isn't the Legislature passing legislation to tackle specific issues, but rather fundamental changes to the state's demographics that will soon bankrupt the state if significant changes aren't made. The numbers aren't hard to understand: Vermont's working age population, 25-60, is shrinking as a percentage, while our oldest demographic, 65-85, is rapidly increasing. That trend is expected to continue until 2040, along with a simultaneous decline in young families and students to fill our schools.

In short, we'll have fewer people to do the jobs Vermont so desperately needs filled, along with less revenue to grow the state's economy, more older residents who'll require a growing share of the state's health care funds, and fewer students to fill classrooms.

Former Vt. Sec. of Education Rebecca Holcombe, who is now a House representative from Windsor/Orange, writes an astute op-ed in today's issue, Page 5A, in which she outlines the problems caused by this demographic trend and the way forward. (I won't repeat those points here, so please read it.)

In a nutshell, Vermonters face tough choices. We either need to rapidly invest in growth — and I mean real growth that requires state and local subsidies — or resign ourselves to a shrinking pool of workers and young families and steel ourselves for the serious cuts that will require. In fact, we'll need to do both.

The property tax crisis witnessed this year, and which looks inevitable next year (to a slightly less degree), means school consolidations are inevitable. Hospitals and health care systems will also need to be consolidated, and medical services will need to be provided in less expensive ways.

While stark choices confront us, too many Republican candidates are not suggesting viable solutions.

Just saying "no" to high property taxes, for example, doesn't cut it. If school district pass budgets, the legislature has to fund them. That's the law. So, the question is, what would those Republican candidates propose to reduce spending? They won't say. That's because none of them, including Gov. Scott, will advocate for school closures, even though it may be what they mean. Rather, too many hide behind empty slogans.

And when Republicans advocate for less regulation to make housing more affordable, they're behind the times ... that's been the Legislature's focus for the past four years and they've made significant process, though more is needed.

Also, when Republicans complain of living costs being expensive, what's their answer? Nothing. They just want to point blame at local Democrats for nationwide inflation over which they had no control.

To solve any of these problems, the first thing Vermonters must do is elect candidates who are honest in assessing the problem, and willing to address the root causes.

In the Addison County race for the two Senate seats, we remain impressed by the serious efforts of Sen. Ruth Hardy and Sen. Chris Bray to address the issues head-on in creative and effective ways. Both study the issues thoroughly and seek affordable solutions.

Over their years in office, both have successfully advanced significant pieces of legislation, including Sen. Hardy's recent championing of legislation to resolve the childcare crisis Vermont had faced for the previous decade. With the passage of Act 76 in 2023 more than 1,000 new childcare providers have reduced the shortage of workers and opened new childcare slots. Subsidies for families have enabled more families to be able to afford care. The small payroll tax imposed, which Republicans are railing against, is what solved this crisis and made it *more affordable* for families throughout the state. That's real leadership and an example of the state subsidizing what was a broken marketplace to create a long-term solution.

Sen. Bray has long been a champion of the farm-to-plate movement, which he helped develop in 2009. Since then it has created more farms, and created 6,400 jobs in the state's food system and over \$100 million in additional revenues for Vermonters. Plus farm-to-plate now provides healthy food to Vermont students through school lunch and breakfast programs.

Those are examples of solutions that make a real difference. Democrats were also early creators and supporters of the Efficiency Vermont program, which has benefitted thousands of Vermont families and reduced the state's carbon footprint. Sen. Bray's effort to apply that template to the Affordable Heat Act is similarly well-intended, and his caution in creating a two-year study to first test the premise ensures Vermonters no legislation will be passed until an affordable outcome is certain.

It's disappointing that local House and Senate Republicans, supported by the fossil fuel industry and with encouragement from Gov. Scott, have deliberately waged a misinformation campaign on the issue and specifically targeted Sen. Bray. To be sure the topic is a legitimate campaign issue, but suggesting the current bill would spark increases of up to \$4 a gallon is just fear-mongering of the worst sort and reflects poorly on those candidates and the state GOP.

To that end, vote your preference in local state House and Senate races, but do so knowing the fear-mongering on the Affordable Heat Act, the silly suggestion that Democrats are at fault for high property taxes, the high cost of housing and health care are all nonsense.

Every candidate, of every party, strives to make Vermont affordable; they all strive to keep taxes as low as possible; most strive to provide affordable housing and adequate, affordable health care. Take that as a given. Then, decide who is in the best position with the most thoughtful ideas (not complaints) to make solutions possible.

Angelo Lynn

## Endorsements in state, U.S. races

### For Governor:

There are five candidates for governor, three of whom you've likely never heard of — June Goodban, Kevin Hoyt and Eli Mutino. If you're interested in their stories, go to VTDigger's candidate profiles at: <https://vtdigger.org/2024-general-election-guide/statewide-candidates>.

The race will be between incumbent Gov. Phil Scott, R, and Democrat/Progressive Esther Charlestin. Scott is a shoo-in for re-election. That's because he's portrayed himself as a brake on the Legislature's Democratic/Progressive supermajority with a clever mantra: Keep Vermont Affordable, which resonates with everyone.

The just criticism of the governor is that he has failed to lead on any of the major issues, preferring to either veto legislation or give it his signature. That's hardly the measure of the strong leader Vermonters deserve.

Moreover, any objective voter who asked if the state is better off today than it was eight years ago when Scott was first elected would answer no. Vermonters face a worsening health care crisis, a school funding crisis, a housing crisis, and a demographic trend — along with a lack of labor — that will only make each crisis worse if significant change doesn't happen soon. Scott's not responsible for those maladies any more than the Legislature is, but when the governor offers no solutions and little to no support for any legislative initiatives, that lack of cooperation is one of the reasons Vermont

(See Editorial, Page 5A)



### Who's that?

**THIS GHOULISH TRICK-OR-TREATER** may be glum behind the mask since their Halloween bucket is empty at the start of Sunday's Spooktacular in Middlebury. But with a costume like that they surely filled it up fast.

Independent photo/Steve James

## MNFF organizers do it right way

This month the Middlebury New Filmmakers Film Festival held a friendly cocktail hour at Middlebury Inn to thank the hosts who had given housing to this year's filmmakers and guests. Lloyd Komesar, who started the Film Festival ten years ago, thanked those present for their help. Some of us remembered the first year Lloyd walked through our homes to make sure the lodging was adequate. MNFF has a list of 124 hosts and 62 other volunteers.

At this party, he thanked the hosts and shared how grateful the filmmakers were for the hospitality. Hanna Loeffler, Associate Producer, said how wonderful it was for the hosts "to invite someone into their home whom they had never met." I was tempted to add a filmmaker's point of view of why the hosts perform a wonderful function for the festival and the town. From traveling to film festivals, I know how precious a home experience would have been for me. In a new city or country, I could have used the extra support that Middlebury gives. For starters, a local person can share the locations of venues.

Once, I was honored to be invited to show my short documentary Gobi Children's Song at the prestigious five-day DOC X Film Festival in Vancouver Canada. May 2022 was at the end of COVID isolation. I had been home alone for two years, so it was a big change to fly across the continent. The volunteer who was to meet me at the airport did not show up. It was one in the morning Eastern time when I arrived. I thought I'd just call the person. I discovered that even though I had applied for Canadian service, my phone did not work. I did have the name of a hotel where I was to stay. Should

I get a taxi? Is it close or hours away? I was not familiar with Vancouver. A young woman saw my distress and offered her phone. Thank goodness they speak English in Vancouver.

In contrast, MNFF always has a volunteer meet the guests at the train station or airport. In the car, filmmakers have a chance to get oriented and ask questions about our town and the festival. There may be another traveler sharing the ride, which adds another opportunity for connection. This happened to the filmmaker from Lithuania whom we hosted. She rode from Burlington to Middlebury with another filmmaker from Poland. I noticed they attended films together.

Back in Vancouver, I called the festival organizers who said their volunteer couldn't make it to the airport. I called the hotel and learned that they did have a reservation for me. My taxi driver introduced me to Vancouver and pointed out the ethnic food stores as we rode. He said the hotel area of the city would be safe. Later, I was to screen my film in a dangerous area. Even as the festival progressed, I could not reach the directors. I ended up walking to that screening and it took me two hours, getting seedier by the moment. My experience at this festival could have been better.

Since we have a generous community and MNFF recognizes it, these extras that MNFF gives its filmmakers make a difference in their ability to present their work, experience the festival, and enjoy Middlebury.

*Sas Carey has made four feature documentaries and two shorts about Mongolian nomads, which are available at [www.nomadiccare.org](http://www.nomadiccare.org). Click on books and films. Her films have been accepted into about 100 festivals on five continents.*

### Ways of Seeing

By Sas Carey



## Are you smarter than your spouse?

Mark and I bring different qualities to our marriage. I am the educated one. I went to college. I know how to convert documents to PDFs. Just today I took a trivia quiz in which I correctly guessed — through multiple choice, but still — that "Bloomsday" is an annual Irish celebration in which people read passages from James Joyce's "Ulysses."

Mark, bless his heart, can't even diagram a sentence. (I know, how embarrassing.)

So it's not easy to admit that, in spite of all my acquired knowledge, he's the smart one.

Oh, I know things. I know the chemical symbol for potassium and the names of all six of Henry VIII's wives. But he knows how to do things, which, it turns out, can also be valuable.

If we were ever stranded on a desert island, I feel like Mark's ability to craft a shelter and trap animals for food would do more for us than my knowing how long a human can survive without water, however topical that information might be.

This isn't to say that he's better than me. Sure, he works with his hands and has developed capabilities that involve physical strength and dexterity as well as an understanding of physics applied to real-world situations. But I know the difference between "affect" and "effect."

I just worry that I've used so much of my brain capacity for learning about stuff that there's no space left for common sense. You should see me staggering 60 yards across the lawn with a 50-pound bag of chicken feed slung over my shoulder. A smarter person would back the car up to the coop.

Part of my issue is that I don't think ahead. In my world, "painting myself into a corner" isn't an expression; it's a real risk every time I embark on a home improvement project.

Mark, on the other hand, tackles every job or problem with forethought. He contemplates the process, envisions the desired result and works methodically to get there. Yet he can't quote a single line of Shakespeare. ("Yorick who? Is that the guy at the transfer station?")

I'm not ashamed that I can't compete with him when it comes to practical intelligence. But I do get mad when he teases me about it. Like the other day, when he broke a sneaker lace.

Shoelaces come in a range of inches, and the packets give suggestions based on how many rows of eyelets your shoe has. Still, it's a crapshoot. Despite my best guesses, I end up with laces so short I can't tie them or so long I have to wrap them around my calves like a

(See Jessie, Page 5A)

## Letters to the Editor

### Trump brings too much drama

Tired of all the Drama?  
Still undecided about who to vote for?

Here's one way to think about it. Do you want more drama or less? One thing we can be sure of is that another term with Trump will be full of drama, as we've seen from the past, and as he has promised us. He will continue to dominate the news, daily, weekly, monthly.

A Harris presidency won't be as exciting, but she's certainly well-qualified — strong, smart, experienced, and dedicated — to be our first woman president.

I plan to vote for Harris, for calm competence over strife and controversy. I'm tired of all the drama and ready to close the curtain on this crazy show.

Chris Runcie  
Starksboro

### Paper snubbed some running

Thank you once again this election season for providing our readers the 2024 Election Preview supplement. It is a real public service to give voters valuable access to the candidates' positions on the most important issues of the day, in their own words. As well, the people who step up to serve us in the Legislature must surely appreciate the opportunity to share their views.

Unfortunately, as you mentioned at the bottom of the front page of the supplement, you left out three House candidates who are unopposed, including Jim Casey, who is running for the Addison-Rutland seat. I for one would have appreciated seeing his answers to your questions, since I have not been able to learn anything about his positions on the issues. I have not been able to find a website or campaign flyer, nor any answers to VTDigger's or Vermont Public's online candidate questionnaires. While it is not Mr. Casey's fault that the voters of Shoreham, Orwell, Whiting, Sudbury, and Hubbardton do not have more than one candidate for the Vermont House to choose from, it is troubling that his views were not included in your 10-page supplement. I am sure that I'm not the only one in this district who would like to know where he stands on education funding, housing, the climate, and other important issues.

Since Nov. 5 is Election — not Coronation — Day, I can't vote for someone if I don't know how they plan to represent me in Montpelier.

Will Stevens  
Shoreham

### State spending out of control

Vermonters are being taxed to extinction. We need changes in Montpelier. Our Legislature has a strong left-leaning majority that is passing bills into law costing millions over and above the basic needs of our citizens. The individual earning \$20/hour wage is better off utilizing Vermont's social safety net and not working at all.

We are made to feel guilty for attempting to reduce an annual expenditure of \$150 million a year to house the unfortunate, when that program barely existed five years ago. The major education tax increase in the 15% range for all is, in part, the result of poor planning on the part of our Legislature, which refused Phil Scott's recommendation to use some of the state's rainy-day fund to temper the tax increases. In process, it's likely another tax, or surcharge price for the Clean Air bill that is under consideration. To think regulated efforts on the part of fuel dealers comes for nothing is a fantasy. We are already one of the cleanest states in that regard, but thinking that the already green state of Vermont, with a population of 650,000 residents, is going to move the clean-air needle in a world of billions, is a big stretch.

Low-cost housing is being funded to the tune of multi-

(See Norris letter, Page 5A)

# Editorial

(Continued from Page 4A)  
keeps falling behind.  
We need a governor who's bold enough to lead, who will help motivate voters to make the tough choices we all must face. Scott hasn't shown that kind of leadership. Maybe in what will likely be his last two-year term, he'll show he can.

For moderate to liberal voters focused on policy positions, Democrat/Progressive Esther Charlestin will check a lot of boxes as a supporter of those parties' key platforms. Her life story and background also make her a candidate who connects with working families.

A small business owner and current co-chair of Vermont's Commission on Women, a mother, and the eldest child of immigrant parents, she has "witnessed firsthand the virtues of hard work and the American dream," Charlestin states in her candidate biography.

Her experience as a candidate for the state's top job, however, is lacking. She was elected to the selectboard in Middlebury and re-elected for a second term, which she was unable to fulfill because, at the time, she wasn't able to find affordable housing in town. While that experience has spurred her focus on Vermont's housing crisis, not serving as a legislator or in any statewide office is limiting. It has showed in her under-financed campaign that has failed to gain traction.

## Zuckerman For Lt. Governor

The race for lieutenant governor pits well known Progressive/Democrat David Zuckerman against Republican John S. Rogers, who has made it a race with a well-financed campaign and a combined 16 years serving in the Legislature. Rogers grew up on a dairy farm in West Glover and has owned and operated JS Rodgers Masonry for the past 30 years. A resident of Glover, he was first elected to the House in 2003 and served eight years before being elected to the Senate in 2013, where he also served four terms. He has the credibility and the experience to serve Vermonters well as lieutenant governor.

Zuckerman has been a public servant for 24 years and owns and operates a large organic vegetable, pork, CBD, egg and chicken farm, at which he raises 1,000 chickens. He was first elected to the House in 1997, serving 14 years until 2011. He was elected to the Senate in 2013 for two terms. He served as Lt. Gov. from 2017-2021. In 2020, he was the Democratic/Progressive candidate for governor, losing to Scott.

Zuckerman has an extensive list of accomplishments in the agricultural sector, having served for six years on the Agriculture Committee and four years as its chair. A strong advocate for workers, families, small businesses, a strong public education system and equity issues, Zuckerman's progressive zeal puts him in the same political tradition as U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders. As a counter to Gov. Scott's lack of

leadership, Zuckerman is in the best position to help the public understand the tough choices ahead, if he will, and is our choice for lieutenant governor.

For more about Zuckerman, see his lengthy responses to VTDigger's questions at [vtdigger.org/profile/david-zuckerman](http://vtdigger.org/profile/david-zuckerman); Rogers chose not to respond to most of VTDigger's questions, though his positions can be found on his website.

## Clark for Attorney General:

Democratic incumbent **Charity Clark** has done an excellent job in her first term as Vermont attorney general and deserves the public's support for a second term.

In answering the question, "what is the most important thing voters don't know about you?" she responded:

"Motherhood is my first job, but my 'mama bear' mindset doesn't stop when I put on my suit to serve as your attorney general. My commitment to our kids – the future of Vermont – is one of the reasons why I am so passionate about protecting kids' online privacy, addressing the youth vaping crisis in our state, holding companies accountable for the harmful impacts of social media, safeguarding our natural environment, and prioritizing the criminal prosecution of child sexual abuse cases."

Read more about her accomplishments at: [vtdigger.org/profile/charity-r-clark](http://vtdigger.org/profile/charity-r-clark).

## Hoffer for Auditor of Accounts:

Democrat/Progressive **Doug Hoffer** was first elected as State Auditor in 2012 and continues to serve the state well in this role. He deserves re-election. For more on Doug's positions see [vtdigger.org/profile/doug-hoffer](http://vtdigger.org/profile/doug-hoffer).

## Hanzas for Secretary of State

Incumbent Sarah Copeland Hanzas has done an adequate job in her first term and earns our vote for re-election.

She's challenged by perennial Republican candidate H. Brooke Paige, a conservative who is fond of running for statewide office in any position that doesn't offer a Republican option. Give Paige credit for that. As for his ideas, some lack solid reasoning.

## Pieciani for State Treasurer

Mike Pieciani has shone in his first term as state treasurer and earns our enthusiastic endorsement for a second term. His qualifications are well chronicled on the state website, which notes he championed the passage of "Vermont Saves" — a publicly administered retirement program for the 80,000-plus Vermonters who currently lack access to a retirement plan through their employer.

He also expanded the "10% in Vermont" program and made the development of new housing a top priority. In September 2023, his office announced \$55.5 million in low-interest housing loans that's expected to leverage an estimated \$340 million in additional capital to support the construction of over

(See Endorsements, Page 10A)

# Norris

(Continued from Page 4A)  
millions. In the final analysis it is being funded by the working Vermonter. The supermajority in our Legislature being led by the left-leaning Democrats is a runaway train as evidenced by the numerous vetoes overriding our commonsense governor.

All of the above efforts may be noble in nature, but only if affordable by working Vermonters. Clearly that is not the case. It is time for a change in both houses in Montpelier. For the above reasons, I encourage voters to forget party loyalty and elect practical, conservative, business minded candidates such as Steven Heffernan, Chanin Hill and Renee McGinnis to Montpelier.

Our supermajority Legislature is spending and taxing the Vermont worker and business owner to unaffordability!

**Peter Norris Sr. Monkton**

# Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A)  
gladiator.

I always assumed that buying the right shoelaces was one of those impossible tasks that everyone struggled with, like plugging in a USB cord on the first try.

Imagine my awe when Mark, before heading out to buy new laces, pulled the unbroken one out of the other sneaker and grabbed the tape measure.

What was happening here? "Hold these," he said, handing me one end of the shoelace and the end of the tape.

Had other people done this? Was I so busy remembering the proper spelling of "supersede" that measuring the old laces had never occurred to me?

As he stepped backward, slowly extending the tape with the lace held alongside, I gaped at him like Homo Erectus No. 2 watching Homo Erectus No. 1 strike the first match.

"That's brilliant," I whispered. Mark snorted.

He walked past me, chuckling and muttering just loud enough for me to hear, "And she's the one who went to college. Wow."

Jerk. I wanted to tell him that college had taught me other vital skills — how to analyze the present in the context of the past, how to make connections across disciplines, how to format footnotes — but I couldn't get my thoughts together before he was out the door.

Then it came to me. Running out onto the porch, I waved the plastic tip of the shoelace I still held in my hand.

As he climbed into his truck, I yelled — loud enough for the neighbors to hear — "You think you're so smart? I bet you don't even know what this thing is called! It's an 'aglet,' genius!"

I admit it was a cheap shot. But he had it coming.

# Letters to the Editor

## Many reasons to vote against former president

I understand that you are planning to vote for Donald Trump. This is painful to hear on many levels, and I've written this letter in an attempt to talk you out of it.

- The man is a non-stop liar and braggart, whose mean-spirited and vindictive rhetoric incites the most intolerant and divisive passions in his supporters, stoking their grievances and inflaming them to violence against fellow citizens and against our own government, as he did on Jan. 6, 2020. The realities and problems we face as a nation are obscured by the fog of lies and disinformation he promotes. Our constitution and the rule of law, and the safety of poll workers, his political opponents and those who would uphold the law, will be in jeopardy if he were to be elected or even if the vote is close, as it will likely be.

- This is a man who tried to thwart the peaceful transfer of power that has occurred after every presidential election since the founding of our republic. Against overwhelming evidence, he still claims the election was

stolen from him, even though more than 60 lawsuits have been either thrown out, dismissed on procedural grounds or decided against him on the merits. This is his big lie.

- In his 78 years, even while in the presidency, there is no evidence of him ever serving any interest beyond his own. His former Defense Secretary (Mark Esper) has declared him "a threat to democracy... His actions are all about him and not about the country," and his former National Security Advisor (John Bolton) has called him "unfit to be president." His second Chief of Staff John Kelly described Trump as "A person that has nothing but contempt for our democratic institutions, our Constitution, and the rule of law."

- He openly aspires to be a dictator unrestrained by the rule of law. He admires Putin and Victor Orban above all other foreign leaders. He has said he would not hesitate to use the military against our own citizens. His election would be a disaster for aspiring democracies and republics around

the world and an encouragement to despots.

- His denial of human-induced climate change, coddling of oil and gas companies and rejection of basic environmental regulation would be a catastrophe for the country and the planet. More than ever before, we need cooperation and mutual respect among the nations of the world to curb the effects of climate change.

I know you value honesty and integrity, and your life is emblematic of those traits. You have always been measured with your words and deliberate in your actions and honored your commitments to family and work. This being the case, why would you spend your one and only vote on a man of such low character, one who promises division and rancor and violence for our country? When did honesty and character, or at least civility, cease to matter as qualifications for the highest office in the land? There is a disconnect here that I don't understand.

**Louis Dupont  
New Haven**

## One presidential candidate lacks leadership skills

For 24 years, I've worked with teachers who are studying to become principals. I think a lot about what makes a leader effective and ethical. I think about this today as we choose a leader for America for the next four years.

A book called "Bad Leadership" has influenced my thinking about leadership. The author, Barbara Kellerman, tells us that without understanding types of bad

leadership, it is impossible to really understand good leadership. Donald Trump embodies most of these bad leadership traits. Consequently, he is unfit to lead our nation and the world. He simply does not have the character to do so.

Mr. Trump is incompetent. Forty psychiatric doctors have expressed concern about Trump's deteriorating mental state. He is self-centered, grandiose and

cannot follow a train of thought. About half of his former cabinet, his Chief of Staff, and his Vice President, say that he's not up to the job.

He is intemperate. His inability to temper his need to control women through rape and intimidation is one example. His pathological inability to tell the truth is another. The *Washington Post's* fact checkers document

(See *Chaucer letter, Page 7A*)

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**Letters to the Editor can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 7A, 8A and 10A.**


## Elderly Services, Inc.

### Fall 2024 Community Education Series

**November 7:**  
**Emergency Preparedness for the Elderly**

In 2023, the U.S. experienced 28 separate weather and climate disasters. Older adults are more vulnerable during a disaster because they are more likely to have impaired physical mobility, diminished sensory awareness, chronic health conditions, or social and economic limitations. Elders living by themselves might not have a support system and many lack sufficient income or other resources to properly plan. Join us for a presentation and conversation about how to be safe and be prepared.

Presented by Tom Hanley, Retired Chief, Middlebury Police Dept./Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
Thursday, November 7, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.




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

**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.



**To RSVP or learn more, call Eileen Lawson at Elderly Services: 802-388-3983**  
[www.elderlyservices.org](http://www.elderlyservices.org)

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## Obituaries

## William Allen Mitchell, 66, of Starksboro

STARKSBORO — William “Bill” Mitchell passed away unexpectedly at his home in Starksboro on Oct. 21, 2024. He was born on May 20, 1958, in Burlington, Vt., to his parents, Ronald and Arlene Mitchell.

Bill was a loving husband, devoted father, and proud grandfather. Bill loved his family and cherished every moment he had with them. He was an avid hunter and fisherman that loved to share all his wonderful stories, and took pride in all his displays.

He is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Lisa Mitchell; his children, Melissa (Nathan) Perry of Lincoln, Justin (Janis) Mitchell of Shelburne, and Ethan (Dakotah McCormick) Mitchell of Bolton; his grandchildren, Zoey, Gavin, Dom, Abby, Natalie and Araelynn; his sisters, Teena (Michael) Bohm of Columbus, N.C., Diane (Tom) Stech of Essex, and Sherry (Jim) Chicoine of Mayer, Ariz.; several



BILL MITCHELL

nieces, nephews, his best friend Devon Elizarde, along with his co-workers, and so many more beloved friends.

Bill loved Nascar, football, and the Boston Bruins, and shared his passion with those around him. He loved his family gatherings and just being together. He enjoyed

cookouts during the summer and playing croquet where he would always say, “I will show no mercy” before each game. His laughter and huge smile were contagious.

Bill played in a softball league until he was 35. He dedicated 24 years to the city of Winooski as a Parks & Recreation worker. He spent the last 10 years working the night shift at Walmart, where he built lasting friendships and touched the lives of so many there. He will be missed dearly and never forgotten. May he live on in our hearts, memories and each other.

The family would like to thank Bill and Lisa’s neighbor Justin, Starksboro First Response, and Richmond Ambulance for their dedication and hard work. In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Bill’s memory to either organization.

There will be a celebration of life in Bristol, Vt., at the Libanus Lodge #47 at 11 a.m. on Nov. 16, 2024. All are welcome. ♡

## LaVerna Jean Bassett, 81, of Brandon

BRANDON — LaVerna Jean Bassett, 81, passed away Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, at the University of Vermont Medical Center.

She was born in North Ferrisburgh, April 2, 1943, the daughter of Lawrence Harley and Effie Leola (Carpenter) Vincent. She grew up in Addison on the family farm. She worked as a machine operator for Metro Mail of Rutland for 25 years and at Maple Meadow Farm in Salisbury for 30 years before retiring in 2020.

LaVerna loved nature, including camping, hiking, and snowshoeing, and enjoyed working in her flower gardens. She also loved all kinds of animals, especially hummingbirds.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 37 years, Richard;



LAVERNA JEAN BASSETT

her children, Foster Provencher, and his wife, Linda of Salisbury; Lawrence Provencher and his

wife, Heather of Weybridge; and Shelby Provencher and her wife Heather, of Columbia, S.C.; and a brother, Ronald Vincent of Addison. She also is survived by grandchildren Michael Provencher, Tyler Provencher (Britney), and Krisandra Provencher; three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Alva “Buck” Vincent.

A private graveside service and interment took place at the Evergreen Cemetery, Pittsford.

Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to the Rutland County Humane Society, 765 Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763.

Arrangements by Miller & Ketcham of Brandon, Vt. ♡

## Jennifer Harper Smith, 56, of Leicester

LEICESTER — Jennifer Harper Smith passed away peacefully on Oct. 26, surrounded by her family, after a two-year battle with cancer.

She was born Jennifer Anne Harper on April 7, 1968, in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., to Richard Harper and Chyrl Merria. She spent the first five years of her life in downstate New York with her mother, father and younger sister Rachel Harper. Her parents then divorced and she moved to central New York (Syracuse area), where she lived with her mom, sister and step father, William Hunt, who would raise her as his own daughter. The word “step” was never used to describe either of them; it was always dad and daughter.

She graduated from Baldwinsville High School in 1986 and started to attend Syracuse University studying International Relations. She always loved languages and studied both Spanish and French in high school, and Russian at Syracuse University.

In November of 1987 she drove to UVM to visit a high school friend and this is where she met the love of her life, Joseph Smith. They began a long-distance relationship, back when there was no internet, no cell phones. So they wrote to each other faithfully. In 1989 she transferred to SUNY Plattsburgh to be closer to Joe and to study her new major, Spanish Education.

After graduating, she and Joe moved to central New York, where they were married on Aug. 22, 1992, in Baldwinsville, N.Y. Jennifer taught middle and high school Spanish at Otselic Valley



JENNIFER HARPER SMITH

and then Southern Cayuga Schools. Teaching was Jennifer’s greatest passion. It wasn’t the subject that she taught that she loved but rather her students. She was fortunate to often loop with her students year after year, building long lasting rapport. She left teaching when her new greatest passion emerged, her own children, Harper and Spencer. Being a stay-at-home mom was very challenging but worth every moment, good or bad. In 2004, the family moved to Middlebury, Vt., and began a peaceful life in a beautiful community.

It turns out that God had a plan for Jennifer that she couldn’t even have imagined. She became the Director of Children and Youth Ministries at the Congregational Church in Middlebury, once again allowing her the opportunity to work with young people. She spent 16 joyous years there doing what she did best — seeing, listening to and loving children and youth. She

did not grow up in a religious family but God definitely found her.

She was predeceased by her mother in 1996, her sister in 2010, her step-father in 2011 and her father in 2021. However, she was not alone. Her church family always surrounded her and her family with love and support.

She spent nine months as the Director of School Age Programs at Mary Johnson, where she created new relationships with staff, parents and kids. She had to resign from that job in July 2023 when she fell ill from the two different types of cancer.

Jennifer loved a good cup of coffee with a friend or youth, she loved to be near or on the water, she loved spending time with her family, she loved the adventure of travel.

The memorial service celebrating her life will be on Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Middlebury, Vt. In lieu of flowers you can give money to the afterschool program at the Mary Johnson Center at 81 Water St, Middlebury, VT 05753, or the Friends of Patients at the National Institute of Health (NIH) at [www.friendsatnih.org/](http://www.friendsatnih.org/). The NIH cancer center was integral to keeping Jennifer with us for these last two years. The Friends organization supports the patients of the NIH during their treatment.

Arrangements are under the direction of Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home. Online condolences at [www.sandersonfuneralservice.com](http://www.sandersonfuneralservice.com). ♡

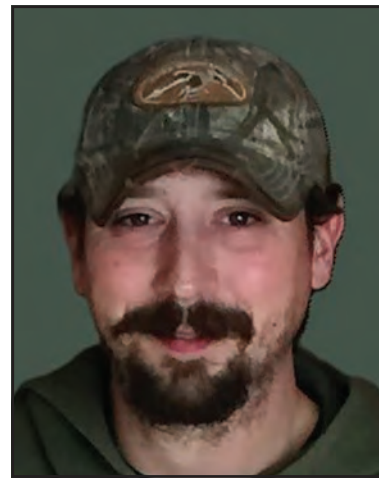
## George Candido II, 42, of Constable, N.Y.

MIDDLEBURY — George Candido II, of Constable, N.Y., 42 years of age, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 17, 2024. He was born on Dec. 27, 1981, and was the son of Tammy (DeGray) Candido and George Candido Jr.

George married the love of his life, Gina Buie, on March 5, 2005. He was a devoted husband and father. He encouraged his wife Gina to continue her education and achieve her academic goals while he supported, loved and cared for their home and their three wonderful sons, George, Landen and Jace.

His family meant everything to him, as well as his close friends. He educated his children, teaching them skills for their academic future, as well as the importance of love, kindness and respect. He enjoyed being outdoors, camping and four wheeling, especially with his boys.

He is survived by his wife of



GEORGE CANDIDO II

19 years, Gina Candido; his three children, George A. Candido, Landen Candido and Jace Candido; his parents, Tammy Candido and George Candido Jr. and wife Jane; his grandmother, Joyce DeGray; his siblings, Nicole, Aaron, Brittney, Troy, Rose, Mark and Michelle; as well as many aunts, uncles, nieces,

nephews and cousins.

He was predeceased by a sister, Christina; an aunt, Diana DeGray, and grandparents, George and Alice Candido, and George DeGray.

Calling hours will be at the Chateaugay Funeral Home, 36 Church St., Chateaugay, N.Y., on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A funeral service takes place at the funeral home immediately following calling hours.

A celebration of George’s life will be at the Chateaugay American Legion, 45 W. Main St., Chateaugay, N.Y., following the services.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the family. There will be a drop box at the American Legion during the celebration of life, or you can email [tammy.candido@outlook.com](mailto:tammy.candido@outlook.com) for other ways to donate.

Feel free to offer online condolences at [www.chateaugayfuneralhome.com](http://www.chateaugayfuneralhome.com). ♡

## Blair Strachan Hall, 84, of Starksboro

STARKSBORO — Blair Strachan Hall passed away at home in Starksboro surrounded by her family on Oct. 28, 2024. She was born March 27, 1940, in Norwalk, Conn., to Donald Cheyne Strachan and Arline (Warnock) Strachan.

Blair grew up in Westport, Conn., until age fourteen when the family moved to Burlington. She attended Oak Grove School in Vassalboro, Maine, and later graduated from Burlington High School in 1957. Blair received an associate’s degree from the University of Minnesota. She married Robert Brooks Hall Nov. 26, 1964.

She is survived by her husband; three children and their significant others, Heather Ragsdale and her husband Eric, Meridith McFarland and Kate Holmes, and Robert Renwick Hall and his wife Jessica. Blair is also survived by three grandchildren, Eleanore

and Isaac Ragsdale and Jordan Hall; her brother John Strachan of Morgantown, N.C., and her sister Sharon Surhoff of Tucson, Ariz., plus many cousins and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents, her sisters Gail Frasier and Leonie Sanders and her two brothers-in-law Terry and Jed Hall.

Blair was a loyal and loving wife for nearly sixty years. She and Bob raised three children to be responsible citizens in their community. Blair’s forte was being a hostess. Her passion for bringing people together was evident in the countless joyful celebrations she organized, where all felt welcomed and loved. Blair was fortunate to be a stay-at-home mom in the early years, but after the kids were in school she worked at several interesting jobs, including Country Home Products and Soundview Executive Book Summaries.

## Zillah Lee Albern, 89, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Zillah Lee Albern of EastView at Middlebury passed away peacefully on Oct. 14, 2024, after living with Parkinson’s Disease for more than 17 years. Lee was born in Glen Ridge, N.J., on March 20, 1935, to Zillah (Gray) Hall and Reginald S. Hall. She grew up in Essex Fells, N.J., and completed high school at the Emma Willard School in Troy, N.Y. She then attended Middlebury College, graduating with a B.A. in chemistry in 1957. Lee went to work at the Hercules Research Center in Wilmington, Del., where she met Robert (Bob) G. Albern, a chemical engineer. They married on June 10, 1961, in Essex Fells. Lee left Hercules to raise a family in 1962 and led a very active life as a volunteer in the community, first in Wilmington and then in Kinderhook, N.Y.

In Wilmington, Lee was a member of the Episcopal parishes of St. Andrew’s, where she chaired Wilmington Garden Day in the 1970s, and then Christ Church Christiana Hundred, where she served on the altar guild. She was a regular delivery volunteer with Meals On Wheels Delaware for many years. In Kinderhook, she had a daily walking group, and she joined the Garden Club of Kinderhook, participating in its Flower Show and editing its cookbook. Lee was a passionate believer in education and fervently supported her alma maters, Emma Willard and Middlebury.

From 1986-2010, Lee returned regularly to Vermont, where she and Bob enjoyed their A-frame cottage



ZILLAH LEE ALBERN

on Fern Lake. Lee loved hosting family and friends and sharing her appreciation of all that Vermont had to offer. She created many happy memories for her children and five grandchildren, who regularly came to visit, swim in the lake, hike the nearby trails, and help her cook in the kitchen. Several beloved family dogs also enjoyed their time with Lee at Fern Lake.

Lee and Bob moved to Middlebury fulltime in 2016, when they joined the EastView community. Lee stayed as active as her Parkinson’s condition allowed, walking and exercising regularly for several years. She had a weekly bridge group with three EastView friends, including her college roommate and another classmate (!). She was also a “Bugler,” editing and proofreading for The EastView Bugle newsletter.

Throughout her life, Lee nurtured connections to family, kept track of family history, and carried on

family traditions. For her 80th birthday, her special request was to take her extended family to visit the U.S. Naval Observatory in D.C., where her great-grandfather, Asaph Hall, had discovered the two moons of Mars in 1877. Lee learned to bake all the German Christmas cookie recipes that her mother-in-law made and to knit the same Christmas stocking pattern, both of which she produced in large numbers over many years. And she always loved bringing family together over good, home-cooked meals, and especially homemade desserts.

Lee is survived by her husband of 63 years, Robert G. Albern; her brother, Nathaniel Terry Hall of Canaan, Conn.; her daughter, Audrey Albern Sheffield and son-in-law John Sheffield of Seattle, Wash.; her son-in-law, James Olmsted of Boston, Mass.; and five grandchildren: Tory, Molly, Sheff, Sophie, and Mason. Her daughter, Ann Albern Olmsted, predeceased her by seven years.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 1:30 p.m., at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 3 Main Street in Middlebury, Vt. A burial service will be held separately at Rosedale Cemetery in Montclair, N.J., at a future date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects in Addison County) via their webpage, [www.hope-vt.org/donate](http://www.hope-vt.org/donate), or by sending a check to HOPE, 282 Boardman St., Suite 1A, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Online Condolences at [www.sandersonfuneralservice.com](http://www.sandersonfuneralservice.com). ♡



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# Affordability needs new approach

Vermonters are suffering from unsustainable increases in the cost of everything from property taxes to healthcare. Too many people are working hard and stretching social security checks, but still worry about bills. To understand why, we need to talk about demographics.

The aging of our population means more demands on our health care system, fewer kids in our schools, and fewer working-age Vermonters. We need to adjust how we operate to accommodate the reality of who we are.

A recent healthcare sustainability report drove home one impact of our changing demographics. We expect the number of people over age 65 to increase to 31% of our total population by 2040. This means we will need more expensive healthcare, including more dementia care and more care related to cancer, heart disease and stroke-related hospitalizations. Without changes, this means healthcare may get more expensive, even though we already feel we are paying too much to get too little.

As our working-age population contracts by an estimated 13% by 2040, we'll likely have fewer people to fill critical jobs, including as healthcare providers. This may cause gaps in preventative care and overdependence on much expensive travelers. We will also have fewer people insured by private insurers and more people insured by Medicare and Medicaid. Government payers generally pay a "fixed rate" for healthcare. When hospitals want to spend more, their first lever (aside from better managing costs or collaborating to find economies of scale) is to raise rates for private insurance to make up the difference. This means our shrinking work-aged population disproportionately shoulders the burden of growth in health care costs.

Some of the care we need could be better delivered at a lower cost outside hospital settings, including by primary care providers and community care coordinators. This won't happen without additional housing that enables our workforce to grow. In fact, this recent report

single out additional housing as one of the most important strategies for bringing down healthcare costs. The Green Mountain Care Board also identified out-of-control healthcare premium increases as one major driver of increased cost in school budgets.

Multiple local businesses and nonprofits worry about the shortage of workers, but also the harmful impact of relentless healthcare cost increases. Some had to choose between increasing wages and providing benefits. Wages in Vermont have not kept pace with inflation, which means a lot of working households are worse off than they were a few years ago. Low wages paired with high cost of living make Vermont a less attractive place for a family to live.

Our school-aged population is expected to shrink through 2040. As student numbers shrink, the cost per pupil in our public schools increases, driving up property tax bills. Small scale equals higher cost. We need a new and less inflationary funding formula, but we also have to talk about what we spend, not just about who pays. As a state, we have too much school infrastructure in some places for the children we have. In those regions, we are trading better quality and lower cost for "local control" and higher tax bills for everyone. Moreover, spending public school dollars on out-of-state prep schools and religious schools reduces scale; in contrast, redirecting those dollars to inclusive Vermont schools with a public mission would bring down everyone's tax bills.

If our state population has not grown, why is housing scarce? Many of us live in the homes where we raised our kids, but our kids are gone. This means the average size of our households has shrunk. We need more housing to hold the same size population. Worsening the challenge, almost 1 in 5 homes in Vermont is now a second home.

Recent migration patterns suggest that in-migration is offsetting some of our natural population decline. However, even before the pandemic, state migration data suggested that while a handful of better off families are choosing to relocate to Vermont, we are losing moderate income families, especially those whose income is under \$100,000 a year. These families represent an essential part of our workforce. We can't afford to put Vermont out of their reach.

We can fix our housing, healthcare and property tax challenges. For that, we need state level leadership to focus our precious dollars and efforts on the most powerful strategies for building a prosperous and affordable future.

Don't like high property taxes, high health care premiums, the workforce shortage and climate resilience? Get behind state expansion of wastewater treatment systems in developable regions near job centers and outside flood zones.

We can't cut our way to prosperity, but we do need a new approach. We can't afford to use K-12 school budgets to pay for every new program. We must tackle healthcare costs, including through reference pricing, some reorganization of our hospital system, and strengthening of primary care and community care coordination. And, we must increase the supply of reasonably priced, climate-friendly housing near where people work, but not in flood zones. It is this housing that will bring back the working families we need to build our future.

# Letters to the Editor

## Candidate Heffernan could bring new ideas to senate

We can ill afford to chase ideals, especially since the significant price spikes caused by the COVID disruption. I am not enamored with a legislative body that passes goals into law which unnecessarily increases the cost of living for our working families and provides private right of legal action against our state leading to lengthy and expensive litigation on the taxpayer's dime. I'd like to see our hard-earned tax dollars spent

on making progress in solving our regional problems that affect the greatest number of people — lack of housing, education overspend, inadequate labor force, and a health care system unable to achieve any economies of scale.

There's something refreshing about voting a novice legislator into the mess in Montpelier. I like the fact Steve Heffernan comes from a local family, has a history of service, has business experience

and carries the responsibility to make payrolls for employees. I like that he might bring new ideas to a legislative group that spins on assigning blame to those who lead our state's economy. I encourage you to support Steve Heffernan this year and help ensure we have a better system of checks and balances in Montpelier.

**Brian Carpenter**  
Middlebury

## Incumbent state senators have 'common sense'

In this election season I am hearing a lot about "affordability" and "high taxes." This is hard for many people and putting it high on the list of things to address is important.

I am also hearing about the need to elect "common sense" legislators. Who could argue with that? But who are those candidates for office who have common sense? I'd like to say a word about that.

We may be led to believe that common sense is all about "cutting

taxes." But it is not as simple as that. It is about using tax revenues in the most careful way to do what everyone needs for a good life in Vermont.

Sometimes, to elect legislators who will do this best means finding someone new who will bring a different perspective. But I do not believe it is time for a change of senators who represent Addison County in the Vermont senate.

Senators Chris Bray and Ruth Hardy have the experience and

accumulated knowledge to keep taxes as low as possible while still using our tax money in the best way to address the issues that affect our lives. They are both people who give so much of their time to serve the needs of everyone fairly and wisely. I urge my neighbors to vote for them as the real "common sense" legislators to represent us in the next term.

**George Klohck**  
Middlebury

# Chaucer letter

(Continued from Page 5A)  
30,573 "untruths" during his presidency averaging over 20 lies a day. He still irrationally claims to have won the 2020 election.

He is callous. He has shown no empathy for women in medical crisis, asylum seekers who seek a better life, for the 400,000 Americans who died from his inaction regarding COVID, for Gold Star families, or for the officers who defended the Capitol from his insurrection on Jan. 6.

He is corrupt. He has been a scam artist since his earliest days in real estate. He only focuses on what each transaction can benefit

him — he has no core values that guide is thinking. He has engaged in over 4,000 lawsuits. He is a convicted felon.

He is insular. Trump cannot tolerate diverse opinions. During his presidency he systematically fired all but those who flattered him and supported his thinking. His family played disproportionate roles in his administration further insulating him from diverse ideas.

This race should not be close. Our choice is between Kamala Harris, a highly competent, ethical and proven leader, and a flim-flam man who embodies the qualities of an ineffective, incompetent, and

unethical leader.

**Harry Chaucer**  
New Haven

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Call Kristen Wilson at 802-388-7259 with questions.  
Thank you.

# Letters to the Editor

## Addison-3 incumbents have 'proven leadership'

As Election Day approaches, I urge Addison-3 voters to support the re-election of Matt Birong and Diane Lanpher. In times as challenging as these, we need leaders with experience, proven leadership, and a deep understanding of the complex issues facing our state.

Matt and Diane have proven time and again that they are committed to tackling critical issues like healthcare, housing and education. Their leadership in the House has been essential and changing direction now would risk undoing the progress already underway. We need to focus on what's working while continuing to address what still needs to be fixed. Now is not the time to

start over with fresh faces who lack Matt and Diane's depth of experience.

Matt Birong is already taking meaningful action to improve public education in Vermont. He's working on new legislation to overhaul how the system operates, aiming to better serve students while ensuring the system is sustainable for communities. This kind of effort doesn't happen overnight. It requires time, collaboration, and knowledge — all of which Matt and Diane bring to the table.

Diane Lanpher's steady leadership has been instrumental in navigating tough budgetary challenges and pushing for affordable housing initiatives.

Her experience in balancing fiscal responsibility with compassion is a rare skill and it has served us well during uncertain times.

With Vermont still grappling with critical reforms in healthcare, housing, and education, we need continuity, not disruption. Matt Birong and Diane Lanpher are the right people to continue this work; their re-election will provide stability when it is needed most.

Let's not derail the progress being made. I hope you will join me in voting to re-elect Matt Birong and Diane Lanpher — leaders who are ready to keep working on our behalf.

**Mark Koenig  
Vergennes**

## Senate challenger's proposals lack substance

"I'll get back to you on that" should not be an acceptable political platform in our complex times. Like every political jurisdiction at every level, our wonderful state must address serious challenges regarding the education of our children, the affordability of daily life, the health and safety of our environment, and the sanctity of our freedoms and elections. Here in Addison County, we might just thank our lucky stars that we are represented in Montpelier by experienced senators and representatives who study the issues thoroughly, advocate detailed sensible approaches, and have earned senior positions in the legislature to advance the interests we voters support.

Steven Heffernan, the Republican candidate for the state senate, may well be an amiable neighbor and patriotic citizen, but his campaign doesn't evidence the kind of thorough preparation and detailed proposals we voters deserve.

Not on education. Not on affordability. Not on environmental issues.

Mr. Heffernan's promise to "study" ways to contain the costs of our education system

is an uncomfortable echo of Donald Trump's assurance that he is working on "concepts" for providing affordable health care. Just as the head of Mr. Heffernan's Republican ticket promises to eliminate the federal department of education, so Mr. Heffernan's specific proposals, to the extent he has articulated them, are grounded in a deceptively simple principle: e.g. teach "students only reading and 'rithmetic and skip all the rest."

Really? Cut STEM education? Cut arts and music education? Cut health and sex education classes? Cut sports teams and gym? Cut vocational training? Cut guidance counseling? Cut mental health and special needs help?

The funding challenge is real, but it really needs a more thoughtful proposal than a catchy "3 R's" slogan and a promise to study the issue in the future. Even school kids know they have to "do their homework" and "show their work."

Similarly, Mr. Heffernan's proposals regarding the Affordable Heat Act are simple — and simply wrong. Mr. Heffernan attacks the legislature for passing a bill without knowing the costs that future implementation legislation might entail. He

seems not to know — or chooses to mischaracterize — that the Affordable Heat Act authorizes precisely the study he seems to want — and defers any enabling legislation until legislators have had an opportunity to review the study and the prospective costs of further action.

Who is opposed to studying the issue: the fossil fuel industry. Voters have asked legitimate questions whether Mr. Heffernan's perspective has been influenced by the eye watering \$43,000 he has already raised from fossil fuel industry magnates and other Burlington business interests. (*The Vermont Political Observer*, October 24, 2024.)

Senators Bray and Hardy are hard-working public servants who have earned our trust and appreciation. They have detailed records to examine and have offered detailed policy positions on the issues Vermonters care about most.

They deserve our votes. And as this, like most local elections, will be decided by turnout, I urge you to call your friends and neighbors and encourage their participation as well.

**Skip Masback  
Panton**

## Clean Standard Act called expensive, ineffective

My question to Senator Chris Bray at last Thursday's Senate Candidates' Forum:

This question is for Senator Bray, about energy policy:

When the Vermont Department of Public Service first investigated the concept of subsidies for net-metered solar embodied in ACT 45 in 2009, before there were any net-metered solar installations in the state, they concluded, and I quote:

"As a general principle the Department does not support having ratepayers subsidize economic policy in their rates because regulatory discipline dictates that the rates that consumers pay should go solely to what is necessary to source power that lights their homes and businesses. Further, the least cost principals embodied in statute and implemented by the DPS dictate that the power that is purchased on a least cost basis." end of quote.

It is worth mentioning that ACT 45 was passed without a single Republican vote. 91 Democrats in favor, 45 Republicans opposed.

Since then, experts employed by the state at the PUC, DPS, ANR, as well as Governor Scott and nearly every Republican in the legislature, have continuously warned about the proliferation of the net-metering program and the Global Warming Solutions ACT, the Clean Heat Standard, and the 100% renewable by 2030 mandate, all of which, except Act 45, were vetoed by the governor and overridden by the supermajority.

But you have not listened to these voices. You don't even have a single Republican on the Senate Energy Committee (which you chair) to offer a contrary opinion. You have pushed these policies knowing that nothing Vermont does will make a difference to the global climate or to Vermont's weather patterns, and also knowing that the cost of these policies to Vermont ratepayers and taxpayers would grow logarithmically as more and more renewable mandates are passed into law and more of Vermont's electricity is produced by renewables, which cost 3-4 times more than ISO-NE's average wholesale cost.

My question is, how can

you say you represent your constituents when you ignore everyone but the renewable industry lobby and the voices in your own head?

To which Bray responded (as I recall it):

"I usually thank people for their questions but in this case I won't."

"I was on the House Agriculture Committee in 2009 when Act 45 was passed."

True, but Bray voted for it and since then has been one of the chief architects of Vermont's aggressive renewable agenda and climate goals.

"It would be better to have a 'regulated electricity market' than to be subjected to the volatility of fossil fuel prices."

This is total nonsense. Regulating the market to achieve the penetration of renewables that current statutes require will mean paying much more for electricity, due to the subsidies and capital investment for transmission upgrades required, than it costs today. You can't "regulate" a sector of the economy to operate at a loss and expect to achieve your goals. Net-metered solar is 3-4 times more expensive than the electricity from the grid. There is no getting around that. This does not even take into account the need for the conventional, reliable, dispatchable grid to grow to provide capacity when renewables are not available.

Under the new law, utilities that fail to deliver 100% renewable electricity will pay an "alternative compliance fee" that will be passed on to ratepayers. The impact on Vermonters' wallets will be felt regardless of whether the renewable goals are met or not. Vermonters will be much better off keeping their functioning heating systems than to change to heat pumps and then watch the price of electricity skyrocket.

"Yes, we recognized that net-metering was costing ratepayers too much, so we dialed it back a bit."

Finally! An admission of failure! However, this admission of failure does not address the enormity of the problem that has been created. The cost of subsidizing high-cost renewables to meet the 100% by 2030 requirement will be much more

than the cost of existing solar installations, which represent a small part of Vermont's electricity usage. The impact of these policies has yet to be felt. Existing net-metered solar is the canary in the mine and "dialing it back a bit" does not change the impact of the 100% renewable mandate.

"The Clean Heat Standard won't take effect in 2025, it will be 2026 before the program is implemented. And we are going to sue the fossil fuel industry to pay for the harm they are doing to Vermonters."

In other words, we are going to keep "Solving Climate Change" by imposing higher costs for energy on Vermonters. And we are going to waste a ton of taxpayer's money on legal costs to take on the fossil fuel industry, not only for Vermont's lawyers but the defendants' lawyers when we get laughed out of court. Where would Vermont be today without fossil fuels? There would not be a soul living here.

"I listen to everyone and make the best decisions for the people of Vermont, while keeping our responsibility to act on climate change in focus."

Senator Bray has not listened to everyone. He has ignored almost everyone. Vermont cannot impact climate change one way or the other so spending a disproportionate per capita amount relative to the United States taxpayers' existing responsibility via the Biden IRA and the Paris Climate Accords is akin to Vermont doing "self harm."

"There have been a lot of 'scare tactics and misinformation' from the other side designed to create fear and anxiety to try to get votes. Don't be taken in."

This is gaslighting at its finest. The facts speak for themselves. The "other side" has only been reporting on the facts that are contained in Vermont state government documents and recordings of hearings and meetings. Bray's opponents are reassuring Vermonters that they will not pursue policies that increase the size of government and cost to the citizens, while doing nothing to "Solve Global Warming."

**Steve Thurston  
Ferrisburgh**

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## Local school budgets, not lawmakers, drove taxes

Yet again there is a political ad on the radio paid for by Steve Heffernan blaming Sen. Bray for voting to raise your property taxes.

Let's be very clear. The legislature reduced projected property taxes. Local voters voted the education spending in their local school districts that resulted in the increase in tax rates. Gov. Scott proposed, and the Legislature passed, reductions in projected property taxes. The governor proposed reducing those tax rates by using over \$200 million in one-time money and the Legislature passed over the governor's veto using \$69 million in one-time money. The governor also proposed long-term savings

by eliminating state funding for school lunches and the Legislature added long term funding by including software services purchased over the internet in sales tax revenue.

One-time money is money we have right now and are unlikely to have again next year. So, the first thing that will affect education tax rates next year is repaying the education fund for the one-time money used this year. Both the Legislature and the governor proposed a process to try to find a way to reduce spending less in future years, while still delivering an excellent education to our children.

There is a commission ordered

by the Legislature that is looking at ways to reduce costs. They are accepting suggestions and I intend to offer some. Could you give me your ideas? What would you change? Tax the wealthy? Cut sports, lunches, history, personal finance? Close your local elementary school? Designate one high school per county? Use income tax money to address student and family mental health? Please email me with your ideas at davesharpe@gmavt.net.

**Dave Sharpe  
Bristol**

*Editor's note: Dave Sharpe is a former state legislator who served as chair of the Education Committee in the Vermont House.*

## Votes for third-party candidates really help Trump

An answer to letter from Joe Gleason in the Nov. 24 *Addy Indy*.

The numbers show that voting for third party candidates help one of the two major candidates, leaving the third party candidate far in the dust. This helps the least desirable candidate, of the two

from the major parties.

Joe quotes Chris Hedges, so look at what Chris writes. Chris does not like Trump at all, but Joe ignores this. I usually see Joe criticize the more likable candidate, like Harris over Trump. In his letter he didn't mention the

Big Menace to USA, Trump, as if Trump wouldn't mess up the country as he promises to do.

The vote counters show Trump/Harris about even. A few votes one way or the other can swing the "winner take all" election only from one candidate to the other, not, as Joe seems to want, to a third candidate. It is too late to change the voting system so we can only work with what we have.

Chris Hedges writes about both candidates having flaws. (What is new?) The way candidates are selected has become more positive since the 1900s when they were chosen in closed door back room groups of unknown cigar smokers. If people don't like the candidates the parties select, get ready to help in the next election. America needs more people to join the effort to run this nation. We don't need people to complain when it is too late.

So, forget third party candidates, vote for the major party candidate who doesn't promise to ruin what we have. Don't vote for Trump.

**Peter Grant  
Bristol**

# VETERANS DAY

## NOVEMBER 11, 2024

Please send form along with picture (if desired) and message to:  
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### A SALUTE TO VETERANS

Your FREE Veterans Day tribute will be printed on November 7th in our special Veterans Day edition.

**Deadline for submissions:  
NOVEMBER 4TH**

## ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946

**Letters to the Editor can be found on Pages 4A, 5A, 7A, 8A and 10A.**

# Climate matters

## Perspectives on Change

### Jared Duval, the Clean Heat Standard and Vermont's transition away from fossil fuel



JARED DUVAL

Mike Roy spoke with Jared Duval, an appointed member of the Vermont Climate Council who chairs the Council's Science & Data subcommittee, about the wonky, but important, Clean Heat Standard that will be voted on by the state legislature in the upcoming legislative session.

**Mike Roy: What is the Clean Heat Standard, and how is it different from a carbon tax?**

**Jared Duval:** A Clean Heat Standard is a requirement that importers of fossil heating fuels into Vermont reduce climate pollution over time. It's revenue-neutral, meaning no revenue will be collected by the government and any price increase on the fossil fuel side will go toward lowering prices on the clean side. Any costs that fossil fuel corporations incur to reduce emissions are tied to making it more affordable for Vermonters — especially lower- and middle-income Vermonters — to access cleaner heating options.

There's speculation that fossil fuel corporations might pass on the cost of compliance to their customers. To the extent that happens, there will be a corresponding decrease in the cost of cleaner heating fuels to help Vermonters transition off fossil fuels. Unlike a tax, the goal of the Clean Heat Standard is not to raise money, but to reduce emissions in the most cost-effective way possible while holding the fossil fuel corporations accountable for reducing pollution.

**What are the goals of the Clean Heat Standard?**

The goals are twofold. First, after transportation, the use of fossil fuels to heat buildings in Vermont is our second-largest source of climate pollution. To meet science-based targets and our legal obligations, we need to tackle pollution from fossil heating fuels.

Second, we need to help Vermonters escape the high costs and price volatility of fossil fuels. Clean heat options often save people money in the long run — whether through weatherization or switching to heat pumps. These

cleaner options tend to be lower-cost and more price-stable.

In short, the Clean Heat Standard aims to reduce both pollution and costs.

**Who is impacted by this, and how?**

The Clean Heat Standard sets requirements for corporations that import fossil heating fuels into Vermont — no one else. For Vermonters, it provides more choices and would help lower the cost of choosing cleaner heating options. It's about reducing pollution while lowering heating costs.

**How will fossil fuel importers be impacted?**

It depends on how they respond. If they act in a self-interested way, they will pass the cost of compliance on to their fossil fuel customers. However, that will be balanced by having to provide clean heat options at lower cost, especially for Vermonters with lower incomes. Baked into the design of the program is the requirement that fossil fuel providers generate sufficient clean heat credits to decrease emissions, thus requiring them to reduce the costs of cleaner heating options enough to incentivize sufficient clean heat activity. From a business perspective, the Clean Heat Standard opens up new opportunities and revenue streams for fuel dealers who want to transition from solely selling fossil fuels to offering cleaner heat services — like weatherization, biofuels, advanced wood heating, or heat pump installations.

**The current draft of the Clean Heat Standard allows biofuels and wood to qualify as clean energy. These definitions are hotly contested in certain environmental circles, who argue that neither of these should count as clean energy. Are these questions of what counts as clean energy still up for debate, and ultimately, how will these questions be answered?**

It's not about a simple in or out definition of clean. It's about what options reduce greenhouse

gas emissions on a lifecycle basis relative to fossil heating fuels. Those biofuels that are lower-emitting on a lifecycle basis will be eligible to earn clean heat credits under the Clean Heat Standard, but only proportional to the amount of emissions reduction they achieve relative to fossil heating fuels. Those biofuels that don't reduce emissions on a lifecycle basis simply won't be eligible for Clean Heat credits. And those biofuels that reduce emissions marginally will only get partial credit.

There are certainly disagreements about the lifecycle emissions of various biofuels and of wood heat. Those numbers will be determined by the Public Utility Commission, informed by the Clean Heat Technical Advisory Group and as guided by the statutory language in the Affordable Heat Act.

**There's conflicting information about how the Clean Heat Standard might impact consumers. Can you share what's known and what misinformation needs correcting?**

Right now, no definitive numbers are known because we don't have a fully fleshed-out rule. There will likely be some upward price pressure on fossil fuels alongside downward price pressure on cleaner heating options, such as biofuels, electricity and heat pumps. A comprehensive study by the Agency of Natural Resources estimated a potential 1-2 cents per gallon per year increase in the price of fossil heating fuels. The claims by the fossil fuel industry of massive fossil fuel price increases are wildly exaggerated. Their numbers are not based on anything real and are very dishonest and misleading.

**You've said that "The Stone Age didn't end because we ran out of stones." Can you unpack that?**

As humans, we tend to focus on the potential costs of change, but we rarely consider the costs of the status quo. The climate crisis is real, and the cost of inaction is significant—extreme storms, high fuel prices and more. Moving away

from fossil fuels isn't just about reducing climate pollution, it's about a better energy future that lowers costs for Vermonters and keeps more money in-state. When we invest in weatherization, heat pumps or advanced wood heat, the benefits stay much more within our communities, rather than primarily flowing out of state to multinational fossil fuel corporations.

**Why should Vermonters care about the Clean Heat Standard? And how can the average Vermonter get involved as the details are worked out?**

Vermonters should care because this is about making the clean energy transition equitable. Currently, wealthier Vermonters are primarily the ones installing heat pumps and benefiting from the cost savings. If we don't have policies like the Clean Heat Standard, we risk leaving lower-income Vermonters behind.

As for getting involved, there are three forums where this is being developed. First, the Public Utility Commission is drafting rules due to the Legislature by Jan. 15. People can submit comments or attend workshops. After January, the Legislature will consider those rules, and Vermonters can participate in that process. Lastly, the Vermont Climate Council is revising the Climate Action Plan, with public input sessions happening now.

**Last word?**

Getting public policy right is complex, but it's important to have honest, nuanced conversations. Vermonters should take the time to critically evaluate the information being presented and consider the interests behind it. The fossil fuel industry has invested heavily in spreading misinformation. For independent, reliable information, Vermonters can turn to resources like the FAQ on the Clean Heat Standard at [bit.ly/can-cleanheat](https://bit.ly/can-cleanheat).

## By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

**Are Not Alone — Navigating Caring for an Aging Loved One,** presented by Elderly Services clinical social workers Eileen Lawson and Joanne Corbett, who is also heading up the new ESI Center for Positive Aging. To RSVP or learn more, call Eileen Lawson at Elderly Services at 802-388-3983.

Two Addison County residents are featured among *Vermont Business Magazine's* 40 "Rising Stars" for 2024. They are Nora Ganley-Roper, co-founder of Lost Lantern Whiskey, and Kelsey VonDerlinn of ECHO, the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain. Each year, the magazine identifies what it believes to be Vermont's "most accomplished young leaders," with award recipients selected by a panel of judges for their "commitment to business growth, professional excellence and their communities." This year's selections are slated to be honored on Nov. 7 at a special event at The Farmhouse at The Essex Resort & Spa.

**Why all the fencing and heavy equipment around St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on Middlebury's town green? The church is keeping people away from parts of the building while it addresses ongoing water/drainage issues in the church basement. Weather permitting, the issues should take a couple of months to address. Services and most other goings on at the church will proceed.**

Middlebury Union Middle School Principal Michaela Wisell reported the third annual "MUMS Color Fun Run" on Oct. 19 was a smashing success that raised more than \$5,000 for teachers to offer additional learning opportunities and experiences for students. Specifically, the money will be used for such things as cultural field trips, guest speakers, outside performances, specialty

trade shows, and extracurricular adventures that are not paid for in the school budget. The Color Fun Run is a yearly fundraiser that features a games and activities — including, of course, the fun run, which features stations at which participants can be covered in colorful cornstarch.

**Addison County Home Health & Hospice invites you, your family and friends to gather for a Candle Lighting Service of Remembrance this Sunday, Nov. 3, from 2-4 p.m. at the Middlebury United Methodist Church on North Pleasant St. This ecumenical gathering is open to the community and is being held to remember hospice and palliative care patients that the agency has helped care for since October of 2023. All are welcome. Please call Kristen Wilson at 802-388-7259 with questions.**

The Congregational Church of Middlebury at 2 Main St. will hold its 100th Anniversary Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Both levels of the church will offer a festive atmosphere. Shop upstairs for beautiful handmade crafts, fashion and fine jewelry, scarves and silk neckties, and also explore our book room filled with an amazing selection of gently used books. Also upstairs, you can bid on a variety of creative theme baskets. On the lower level, this year's garden table is home to a wide variety of indoor and outdoor plants and a huge assortment of garden and home decorating items. There's also a room filled with games, puzzles and toys for both children and adults. Homemade food will be available and safely packaged for takeout. In addition to other tasty treats, there will be specialty and traditional pies. Proceeds from the Holiday Bazaar help benefit the church's many charitable programs.

### Come have breakfast in Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Start your celebration of Veterans Day weekend by coming to breakfast at the Shoreham Congregational Church on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Enjoy plain or blueberry pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, home fries, our famous quiches, beverages and more. The cost is \$12 for Adults, \$6 for children, and \$30 for families.

Please bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the food shelf to help those in need.

Enjoy chatting with your friends and neighbors as you feast on this meal.

The drawing for the winner of the Shoreham Congregational Church and Bridport Grange firewood raffle will be drawn at this event. The winner will need to deliver and split the wood themselves, or arrange to have it done. Tickets are still available at one ticket for \$1, six tickets for \$5, and 12 tickets for \$10.

You will not need to be present at the drawing to win.

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# Endorsements

*(Continued from Page 5A)*  
1,100 housing units in Vermont. Peciak previously served six years as the commissioner of the Vermont Department of Financial Regulation, where he was first appointed by Gov. Peter Shumlin in 2016 and reappointed by Gov. Scott in 2017. Read more about Peciak's goals at: [vtdigger.org/profile/mike-peciak](http://vtdigger.org/profile/mike-peciak).

He's challenged by Republican Joshua Bechhoefer, a life-long resident of Addison County and a credit analyst in the Farm Credit System. Bechhoefer has a strong background in economics and some combative ideas, which can be read on [VtDigger.com/profile/joshua-bechhoefer](http://VtDigger.com/profile/joshua-bechhoefer).

### Balint for Congress

Democrat Becca Balint is running for her second term as Vermont's lone representative in the U.S. House. Her re-election is vital if Democrats have any hope of recapturing the House majority — a must if America is to protect its democracy (if Trump were to win) and a huge bonus if Harris-Walz wins and progress can be made with a House majority that's not dysfunctional.

### Sanders for U.S. Senate

Without question, re-elect Vermont's Bernie Sanders to the U.S. Senate. It's crucial in the slim hope Democrats can keep control of the Senate, but also because Sanders works hard at getting things done, including working across the aisle. He's also a tireless champion of bridging the income and wealth inequality gap, addressing climate change and much more.

Here's his response to the single most important issue for Congress to address in the next term: "We are living in the richest country in the history of the world. Despite this, far too many Vermonters struggle to afford the most basic human necessities — a safe, stable place to call home; healthy food;

physical, mental and oral health care, including prescription medications; quality childcare and education after high school. We are also facing unprecedented levels of injustice: from racism and bigotry against the LGBTQ community to the devaluing of the working class in this country... All of this is happening as we experience more extreme weather... But we, as a nation, cannot begin to make progress on these critically important issues if we fail to address the very real threat to our democracy."

That's Bernie. He's honest, straight-forward, passionate and deserves Vermonters' continued support.

### Harris-Walz for President/VP

In the race for president, one issue overrides all others: whether Americans want to preserve our democracy by electing Kamala Harris for president or allow ex-president Donald Trump to remake the government into a single-party autocracy as spelled out in Project 2025. He has clearly stated and shown how he intends to rule — with fear and intimidation as weapons and with strong-arm tactics doling out tributions to his perceived enemies.

Based on the past, voters should believe him. His actions on Jan. 6, 2021, in which he undeniably provoked his supporters to march on the Capitol to stop the peaceful transfer of power was the clearest example of his willingness to use violence against fellow Americans. Voters also have seen how he uses lies, false information, and his support system (which includes Fox News) to manipulate public opinion for his personal gain. That he has been so successful in taking over the Republican Party and bending so many Republicans to his will is proof of the danger he presents to our democracy.

For those voters who may think Trump won't follow through on

such serious threats, they should listen to more than 100 former Republican national security and foreign policy officials and former staffers who have called Trump "unfit to serve." Trump's longest-serving chief of staff, John Kelly, a former Marine general, recently restated his view that Trump would rule like a dictator and has little understanding of the Constitution or the concept of the rule of law.

Moreover, voters should believe what they see at his rallies. He spreads hate and vitriol on every occasion. He demonizes immigrants, people of color, the LGBTQ community, and calls anyone who's not a supporter "the enemies within," adding they should be singled out and punished.

He's also wrong on most issues: from his proposal to impose higher tariffs to his belief that climate change is a hoax, nearly every proposal he advocates undermines everyday Americans or world order.

Harris is his opposite. Eminently qualified, rational, well-intended, a prosecutor by profession who will be tough on crime and has embraced a tougher approach to illegal immigrants crossing the nation's southern border, she is also a foreign policy leader who understands the threat to democracy and the world posed by Russia, China, Iran and others. She is prepared to lead America on the world stage and seek to heal the nation's divisions at home. Harris also embraces science and empirical evidence, which is essential if America is to help address climate change and, equally as important, the fast-approaching changes artificial intelligence will bring — for good and bad. It's crucial America has a leader capable of understanding the opportunities and challenges AI will present over the next four years.

For those reasons and more, cast your vote for Harris and Walz — our democracy and way of life may well depend on it.

Angelo Lynn

# Letters to the Editor

## Back candidates who eye limiting school spending

We're just a week away from Election Day, and I've been thinking about who to vote for in the races for Vermont Senators and Representatives from our district (although I hear there's a Presidential election happening this year, too). As I was reading the very helpful election coverage in this week's Addy Indy, I noticed something interesting about the way the candidates responded to the critical issue of Education Funding. They all agree that we have a big problem there, but they have very different views on how to approach it.

For anyone who does a household budget or manages a business, the budgeting process starts with knowing how much money you'll have available

to spend. Once you know that, you can decide how to spend the money, based on your basic needs and then on your personal priorities for whatever is left. Unfortunately, with education spending we generally do it backwards: we decide how much we want to spend and then we go looking for sources of money to pay for it. That's how school budgets get defeated multiple times.

There are a few candidates this year who are talking about ideas for how we could control the steadily rising costs of educating our kids. But more often, the first thing I see candidates talking about is the need to change "the funding formula" or to "find new sources of funding" (all of which

come from our taxes, even if it's not property taxes). If finding more efficient ways to provide a quality education is important, then starting out by thinking about where we can find more money to pay for it is backwards and ignores the underlying problem. Remember that if you can reduce the costs, you won't actually have a funding problem. We do have a choice around which one to focus on first.

As you're considering who to vote for on Tuesday, it might be worth knowing if the candidate has ideas for how to actually minimize education expenses, or if they're just promising to change the "funding formula."

Peter Straube  
Monkton

## Our wants & needs have increased; taxes followed

A number of posts in recent Front Porch Forums and letters to the editor have lamented the high cost of living in Vermont and how one party or the other will fix that.

Think back to Vermont of the 50s. I suspect most Vermonters lived in modest homes, had one car, probably a stick shift, hung the wash out to dry and watched TV on a small black and white set. Their RV's were probably tents, and if they had a boat it was either a canoe or a wooden flat-iron skiff.

In the public sector schools taught the basics in classrooms that hadn't changed in decades, technology was not even a dream. Doctors made house calls and all the technology they needed fit in the black bag. Cancer treatment was barbaric and minimally effective.

Most of us now live better, have more, and expect more than previous generations could have

even dreamed of, and that has consequences.

In 2024, look at our schools and the technology they employ, the services they have to offer and the staff required to support those needs. Or think about the services and procedures available now when you get sick because of the available procedures and technologies that weren't known in the 50s, things that can affect cures that were impossible then.

Unless we are willing to go back to a more basic lifestyle, and I don't think we are, costs and taxes are not going to go down. Are we going to stop funding technology in our schools, technology that prepares kids for the modern workforce? Are we going to stop providing services that our kids need to make them productive citizens? Are we going to tell hospitals to ration care, or not to invest in life-saving technology

so we can keep costs down to make employee health insurance cheaper? Are we going to reject supporting childcare that enables parents to go to work in a labor market that desperately needs them? What are we going to cut out?

The fact is, lowering the tax burden is only going to happen with deep cuts. Are we willing to make them?

I've always thought we've had it backwards, instead of projecting how much we think is available and then determining what to spend it on, we should be determining what our needs are, and then seek the funding to pay for them. And, in a truly caring society we would depend on a progressive tax system so those who are struggling are protected and those with more pay more.

Richard Butz  
Bristol

## Addison-4 candidate is thoughtful, non-partisan

First and foremost, I hope that everyone takes advantage of their democratic opportunity and responsibility by voting in this (and every) election. And when voting, I encourage you to vote for Herb Olson to represent "us" in the Vermont House of Representatives.

I first met Herb at the MAUSD Annual Budget meeting in early 2020. He passionately pushed the MAUSD Board and superintendent to specifically explain how their proposed budget would directly support *all* students in the district, especially those with extra need. Shortly after this, the world retracted into the Covid pandemic, I joined the MAUSD Board, and our meetings entered

the two-dimensional world of Zoom.

From my first official meeting to my last, Herb was there continuing to push the district leadership to "do better" for our students, our educators and staff at the line of scrimmage, and our community schools. There were many meetings with hours-long executive sessions, and when the board reentered public session, there was Herb all alone, ready to provide feedback during his one opportunity of public comment. Each time Herb spoke, he represented what I had been hearing from community members about the district. Herb spoke in a thoughtful and constructive manner that pushed the board to

be better and do better.

Herb is an active and compassionate community member. He is a critical thinker with the courage and competence to ask difficult questions, deliver constructive criticism, and contemplate pragmatic solutions. I have seen Herb signs next to John Rodgers signs in one yard and David Zuckerman in the next. I believe that this is the case, because Herb represents who the Addison-4 District is as "a whole." I firmly believe that Herb has the courage and conviction to represent "us" in Montpelier and not the whims of one person or party.

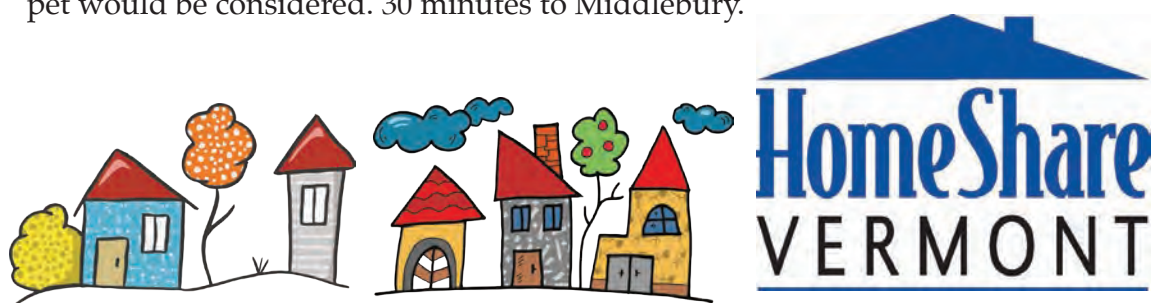
Thank you for voting!  
Rob Backlund  
Lincoln

# Homeshare Opportunities

**Middlebury:** Health-care professional and two elementary-aged sons, looking for a housemate who enjoys kids and can provide occasional childcare, transportation and meal prep. \$250/month, all utilities included.

**Lincoln:** Outgoing senior woman who enjoys conversation and hosting guests. Seeking housemate for company and transportation to shopping, Costco, doctor appointments. \$100/month.

**Starksboro:** Historic home to share with professional in her 60s with an active lifestyle. Private 1/2 bath. \$650/month, plus \$100 for utils/wifi. A well-behaved pet would be considered. 30 minutes to Middlebury.





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From left to right: Ben Fuller, Gretchen Kellogg, Wendy Hunt, Susan Hayes, Kelley Knight, Tammy Leno, Brooke Zeno, Missy Clifford, Heather Barnard, Catherine Bresette

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# Solar array

(Continued from Page 1A)  
investments by 50% by 2027 and by 100% by 2034.

- Prepare students to address the climate crisis by incorporating the Energy2028 initiative into the college's educational mission.
- Use 100% renewable energy by 2028.

## SOLAR ARRAY

Activation of the new solar array fits into that fourth goal, college officials noted.

"The goals of Energy2028 are key to always keep in our mind," Patton said this past Thursday. "We want to retain, and this allows us to retain, renewable energy credits and moves us closer to meeting our climate goals of calling for 100% renewable energy powering our campus in 2028, and we are well on our way to doing that as a result of this."

The solar array is located at 1342 South Street Extension, about two miles from the Middlebury College campus. The project was completed through a partnership between Middlebury College; Encore, a renewable energy project developer based in Burlington; and Greenbacker, an independent power producer and investment manager.

The solar array was developed and built by Encore and is now owned and operated by Greenbacker.

"This project is the first of its kind in Vermont," Encore founder and co-CEO Chad Farrell said on Oct. 24. "It's bringing a new model of customer-driven, lowest-cost clean energy without negative economic impacts to other ratepayers."

According to college officials, the array is one of the largest in the state. It consists of 15,348 solar panels mounted on single axis trackers that will follow the movement of the sun throughout

the day.

"The project results in nearly 10 million kilowatt hours per year of new, clean energy; enough to power well over 1,000 average Vermont homes and a heck of a lot more if we consider apartments and condominiums and smaller housing units that are being built all over the state," Farrell said. "It also represents about a third of the college's Energy2028 decarbonization goals."

The project also includes construction of South Street Storage, a two megawatt/eight megawatt-hour, grid-scale battery that can store excess energy produced through the array. Farrell noted the battery energy storage system will help "provide additional resiliency and energy security for the local community and important nearby institutions including the college, including schools and including the local hospital."

Middlebury College Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration David Provost echoed Farrell and Patton in noting development of the solar array marks a large step in the college's Energy2028 work.

"(Energy2028) is a fairly aggressive, complex goal for any college, for any business to have. But at the end of this we will be 100% locally sourced, renewable energies," he said. "We think it is representative of what everyone can achieve."

Provost acknowledged that the college could not have completed the solar project on its own and credited Patton with pushing the institution toward pursuing collaborations such as the one that brought about the solar array.

"The next two days she's attending her last board meeting as the president of Middlebury

College," Provost said of Patton on Oct. 24. "It is bittersweet for all of us, but she has set a course for Middlebury College and generations to come for Middlebury to be a leader."

## WORK ON BIRD HABITAT

As part of the new solar project, the college has set aside 90 acres of land along South Street to be managed for grassland bird habitats.

"That was an agreement that was negotiated in the permit hearings to account for the fact that the land the solar project is built on could have been grassland bird habitat sometime in the future," explained Jack Byrne, dean of environmental affairs and sustainability and director of the Franklin Environmental Center at the college. "Grassland bird habitats are important because grassland bird species tend to be threatened, to a certain extent. They have a harder time than some other species making a living."

The college is in the process of preparing the land under the solar array for the planting of pollinator species. Byrne said current efforts are focused on removing invasive poison parsnip from the area so those species can be planted.

Reflecting on Middlebury College's work with its climate goals over the years, Byrne noted one of the big shifts the institution has made is in moving from obtaining its energy from the global supply chain to local sources.

"We really are getting a much better understanding of what it actually means to go from global to local in how we source our energy and who produces it and what the issues are and the pluses and minuses are around it," he said. "I think that's also opening up some educational opportunities that are very valuable for students



COLLEGE OFFICIALS AND collaborators on Oct. 24, celebrated the activation of a five-megawatt solar array on South Street Extension. Encore founder and co-CEO Chad Farrell, left, Middlebury College Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration David Provost, Middlebury College President Laurie Patton, and Greenbacker Chief Operations Officer Matt Murphy were among those at the ribbon cutting.

Independent photo/Steve James

to explore."

Shifting to local renewable energy sources is a key part of the new solar project on South Street Extension and one that's long been advocated for by Middlebury College students.

"Were it not for the students of Middlebury College, this project would not be here," Farrell said. "They really championed the idea of having a locally-sited, local generation of clean, renewable energy to support the campus."

Patton underscored the crucial role students played in the effort.

"(The solar project) has also included input from our students who contributed to the solar array through research, project-based learning, signage and collaboration

to remain, as they always push us, at the forefront of climate productivity, of climate education and of climate justice," Patton said. "It's such an incredibly important point to remind everyone that the students have driven this from the beginning."

## SOLAR, NOT GAS

Middlebury College sophomore Anne Thompson, co-manager of the college's Sunday Night Environmental Group, is encouraged to see the institution make progress toward its goal of 100% renewable energy use through activation of the new solar array.

"However, we should not forget that many of the college's claims to sustainability rely on

the use of false renewable energy solutions, including the biomass plant and 'renewable' natural gas, which are not actually sustainable energy sources we should rely on in the future," Thompson told the *Independent*. "Other students and I hope that the college will continue its efforts to transition away from fossil fuels and false solutions; it is paramount that before too long we are entirely reliant on solar and geothermal energy."

"Middlebury has the privilege to be a leader in sustainability, and it would reflect well upon our legacy to use this power to set an example and influence other institutions to prioritize renewable and equitable energy solutions."

# College sees progress on energy use reductions, climate goals

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — During an activation ceremony for Middlebury College's big new solar array that will provide 40% of the institution's power, President Laurie Patton noted that the college meets the other 60% of its electricity needs through the biomass plant on its campus, local solar energy production sites and Green Mountain Power's grid. The new solar array joins eight other college arrays located on and off-campus, which together comprise around one megawatt.

Middlebury College has in recent years taken other steps toward meeting its goal of 100% renewable energy use, as well as the other objectives outlined in its Energy2028 plan.

Jack Byrne, dean of environmental affairs and sustainability and director of the Franklin Environmental Center, noted the college is looking at its energy in two forms: how it heats and cools the campus (thermal) and how it powers the campus (electricity). Currently, the college has around 70% of its energy coming from renewable sources.

Byrne said the institution is about halfway toward its goal of

reducing energy consumption on its core campus by 25%, having reduced by about 12% from where it stood in 2019.

"That has challenges going forward," he noted. "Particularly when we build a new building, that will be an interesting challenge for us."

College officials have also been doing a lot of work in the area of energy conservation and efficiency, Byrne said.

"Our facilities team and our Energy and Technology Manager Dean Ouellette has been really actively leading in that area," he said.

Ouellette was recognized last month at Efficiency Vermont's annual Best Practices Exchange for his efforts to reduce the college's energy usage, particularly in Bicentennial Hall. Those initiatives have included LED lighting conversions and have resulted in around \$280,000 in energy cost savings in that building each year.

Byrne said other efforts include installation of point-of-use smart controls that lower heating/cooling settings and turn off lights in an unoccupied room to reduce energy use.

"That's enabled us to only use

energy when it's actually needed by somebody who needs to be comfortable in the room," he said. "That's resulted in some significant reductions in energy usage."

He added that renovations of existing buildings have offered an opportunity to look at reducing energy consumption through tactics such as better insulation, windows and new sensors.

On the educational side, Byrne said Energy2028 has inspired some students to look into green building design standards, such as the Living Building Challenge. A project through the college's Sustainability Solutions Lab, it has allowed students to explore those different standards, and in some cases test them out.

"Most recently we had students working with our facilities team, and the construction and engineering folks to look at what would be the safest, best type of flooring to put in a new residence hall that's being built and for use in other buildings that are getting new flooring," Byrne said. "That's been some really in-depth and real-world practical learning that has taken place as a result of looking at the Living Building Challenge as an addition to (other green building

certification programs).

Other climate-related educational offerings have gotten a boost. Middlebury College's Climate Action Program last year secured \$7 million in gifts to support its work. The Climate Action Program supports students in their efforts to tackle climate change through paid fellowships, connections with Middlebury alumni and a variety of other offerings.

That program has become well established over the years, Byrne said.

"We're up to about 75 fellowships that have been awarded to students," he said. "We've had students do a really interesting array of projects — looking at Black farming in Vermont, looking at the impact of the war in Ukraine, de-escalation and nonviolent direct-action training ... That (program) is really making a significant difference in terms of not just the college taking institutional action around reducing its climate impacts, but also supporting students to take their own initiative and move further with that."

Moving forward, Byrne said Middlebury College has been installing heat pumps in some of its buildings and is looking at how

those systems perform throughout the year.

He added college officials are also exploring the use of geothermal as a heating and cooling source through a renovation starting up in Stewart Hall.

"Our biomass plant, which is

now 15 years old, has served us quite well and has been a really positive addition, but in another 10 years it may be time to replace it," he said. "This will help us understand better if the heat pumps and geo-thermal are a good way to go."

Cornwall - Goshen - Leicester - Ripton - Salisbury

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- Jen and John Nucedor of Salisbury, longtime community volunteers

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## This Election Season, Let's Start with Yes

An Open Letter from Senator Chris Bray

FEAR IS A GREAT MOTIVATOR, and a persuasive tool.

Unfortunately, this election season, there are voices out there pushing us toward fear, even selling fear: "Those people are going to do that bad thing to you if you don't vote for so and so."

This approach is unhealthy for us and for our communities. Fear disconnects us from friends and family, and it undermines our sense of community.

Yet, we all know from first-hand experience that when we face challenges, our greatest means of overcoming them is to pull together.

We are a small state. We depend upon one another in a thousand different ways—from regular volunteering to showing up for one another in floods and natural disasters.

This season—and always—I encourage all of us to be aware of the messages and messengers that peddle fear, that cause us to pull away from one another.

Candidates reveal a lot about how they will serve while they are running for office. Those who traffic in misinformation and fear now will do so later in office.

We must choose candidates who work honestly, accurately, and

positively to bring us together in a shared sense of practical optimism about how we can all live here, better together, in our beautiful state.

Let's keep this positive voice in our minds as we go to the polls this election season. Godspeed.



# PurposeEnergy

(Continued from Page 1A)

Vermont's sustainability goals by diverting organics from landfills and producing clean water and renewable electricity in Middlebury," Eric Fitch, founder and CEO of PurposeEnergy, told a crowd of around 60 colleagues, municipal and state officials, feedstock providers, lenders and other well-wishers on hand for the Oct. 24 unveiling.

The \$23 million MRRC plant largely consists of an anaerobic digester, a generator to produce renewable electricity from digester biogas. The project includes a newly built underground pipeline that receives organic waste, primarily from cheesemaker Agri-Mark/Cabot in Middlebury's industrial park and the nearby Vermont Cider Company. The pipeline stretches through rights-of-ways on Exchange Street, with spurs into the two businesses. In addition, the facility can receive trucked-in feedstock from businesses like WhistlePig Whiskey, the App Gap Distillery, Aqua ViTea, and Ben & Jerry's Homemade.

The facility depends on high-calorie waste from food and beverage industries, and not septic or sanitary waste.

Fitch noted PurposeEnergy's Middlebury facility is the state's first food-waste-to-renewable-electricity project awarded under the Vermont Public Utility Commission's Standard Offer Program. That program — a state effort to incentivize renewable energy projects — requires utilities to buy renewable power from an eligible generator at a premium price for a fixed period. Program costs are distributed among Vermont utilities based on their pro rata share of electric sales.

There are currently 63 plants in Vermont right now generating a total of 84.14 megawatts of power through the Standard Offer program.

"You can't build a (renewable energy) project without an offtake agreement," Fitch said, referring to

the buyer of the electricity that his company generates. "We were part of the 2018 class for the Vermont Standard Offer, and the program is great."

As permitted, the plant can process 100,000 gallons of high-strength organics per day into clean water, renewable electricity, and natural fertilizer, according to PurposeEnergy officials.

The Middlebury facility is expected to eliminate more than 2,000 metric tons of carbon emissions annually, while reducing the phosphorus content of waste processed at the Middlebury wastewater treatment plant.

"There are certain high-strength wastewaters that won't make it to our plant," Middlebury wastewater Superintendent Jeremy Rathbun said of the impact of MRRC. "What we get is very stabilized Ph from them ... Basically, it reduces load to our plant to have (MRRC) here, and it produces energy at the same time."

Among those celebrating the new facility last week was Agri-Mark/Cabot Vice President Jed Davis.

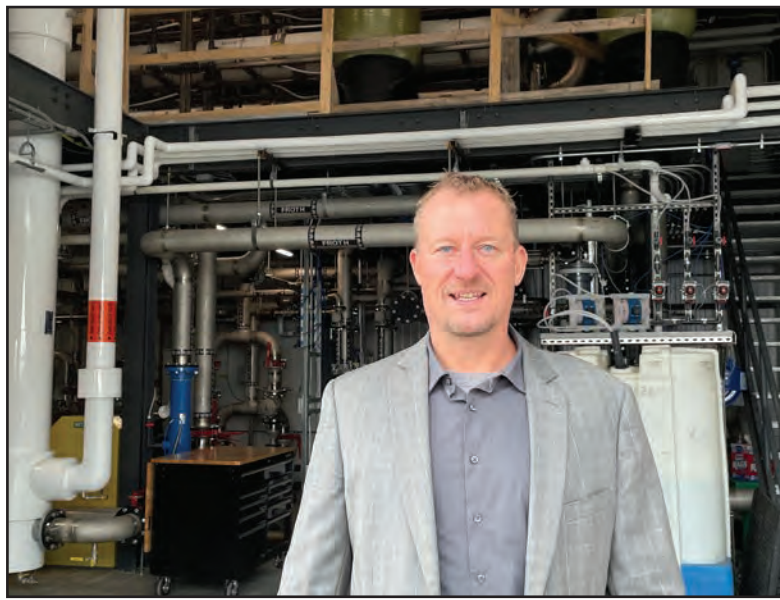
"At its core, this is a project about alchemy and magic and science," he said. "It's a key way in which we're trying to effectively manage some of our impacts in terms of our efforts to make the world's best cheddar. It's been a complicated project, and we're excited to see it finally come to fruition and hear that hum in the background."

### LONG ROAD TO SUCCESS

Fitch said it was in 2009 that PurposeEnergy began its quest to establish a renewable energy plant in Middlebury. The effort encountered — but overcame — a variety of small financial/logistical setbacks along the way.

"If you guys are like me, there were times you were probably wondering if this day would ever get here," Fitch told those assembled for the ribbon-cutting festivities.

Fortunately, folks like Middlebury's Bob Foster helped PurposeEnergy officials connect



ERIC FITCH, FOUNDER and CEO of PurposeEnergy, shows off the \$23 million food-waste-to-renewable-electricity facility that debuted late last week at 177 Industrial Ave. in Middlebury.

Independent photo/John Flowers

with the Addison County Economic Development Corp. and officials at AgriMark/Cabot and Vermont Hard Cider, whose waste products would ironically become the lifeblood of MRRC.

Fitch tossed numerous bouquets to the many people and entities that helped make MRRC a reality. They included:

- Property owner Tony Neri, who in 2018 signed a land lease with PurposeEnergy that paved the way for the new plant to be built at 177 Industrial Ave.

- A litany of investors and lenders. Fitch credited the Vermont Economic Development Authority, or VEDA, for getting the financial ball rolling with a \$2 million pledge.

"When we went out to the capital markets, that (VEDA commitment) validated PurposeEnergy and our project. Without that initial contribution from VEDA, it would have been much harder to do this, and I don't know if we could have," Fitch said.

"It takes a big pile of money to build a big pile of digester like that," he added, gesturing at the anaerobic digester and network of piping behind him. "And the hardest dollar to raise is the first dollar."

Cassie Polhemus, VEDA's CEO, shared her thoughts on the new PurposeEnergy facility.

# Bristol waterline

(Continued from Page 1A)

existing water distribution system be replaced. Town officials have noted that many of the water lines in the system are nearing 120 years old, well beyond their useful life expectancy of 50-80 years.

Town officials have opted to replace the aging lines in phases, dividing the town into four geographic areas representing four replacement projects: Pine Street, Bristol West, Bristol East and Rockydale.

Bristol voters in November 2022 agreed to bond for up to \$940,000 to support the Pine Street project, which was completed in the fall of 2023. The months-long effort replaced around 2,570 feet of unlined, cast iron pipe installed in 1905.

Next up is Bristol West, which consists of nine streets, including some or all of Munsill, Maple, Pleasant, Church, Elm, Taylor, West, Park and School streets.

Voters will be asked to bond for up to the total anticipated cost of the project, though town officials plan to apply for funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to support the project and lower the total cost to taxpayers in the water district. While all Bristol voters will weigh in on the bond proposal, only water district residents will pay for the project cost not covered by grant funding. Town officials haven't specified how long the bond would be.

If all goes to plan, town officials will apply for that funding in January and aim to break ground on the project in 2026. The project would be completed over two consecutive construction seasons.

### ZONING REGULATIONS

Bristol voters on Nov. 5 will also

be asked whether to adopt proposed amendments to the town's zoning regulations recommended by the Bristol Planning Commission and approved by the selectboard.

Those amendments include adjustments to the Dimensional Standards to allow for greater flexibility for residential use/housing in the Village Business and Village Mixed districts, as well as added "parameters identifying 'clearly subordinate' with regard to an Accessory Dwelling Unit."

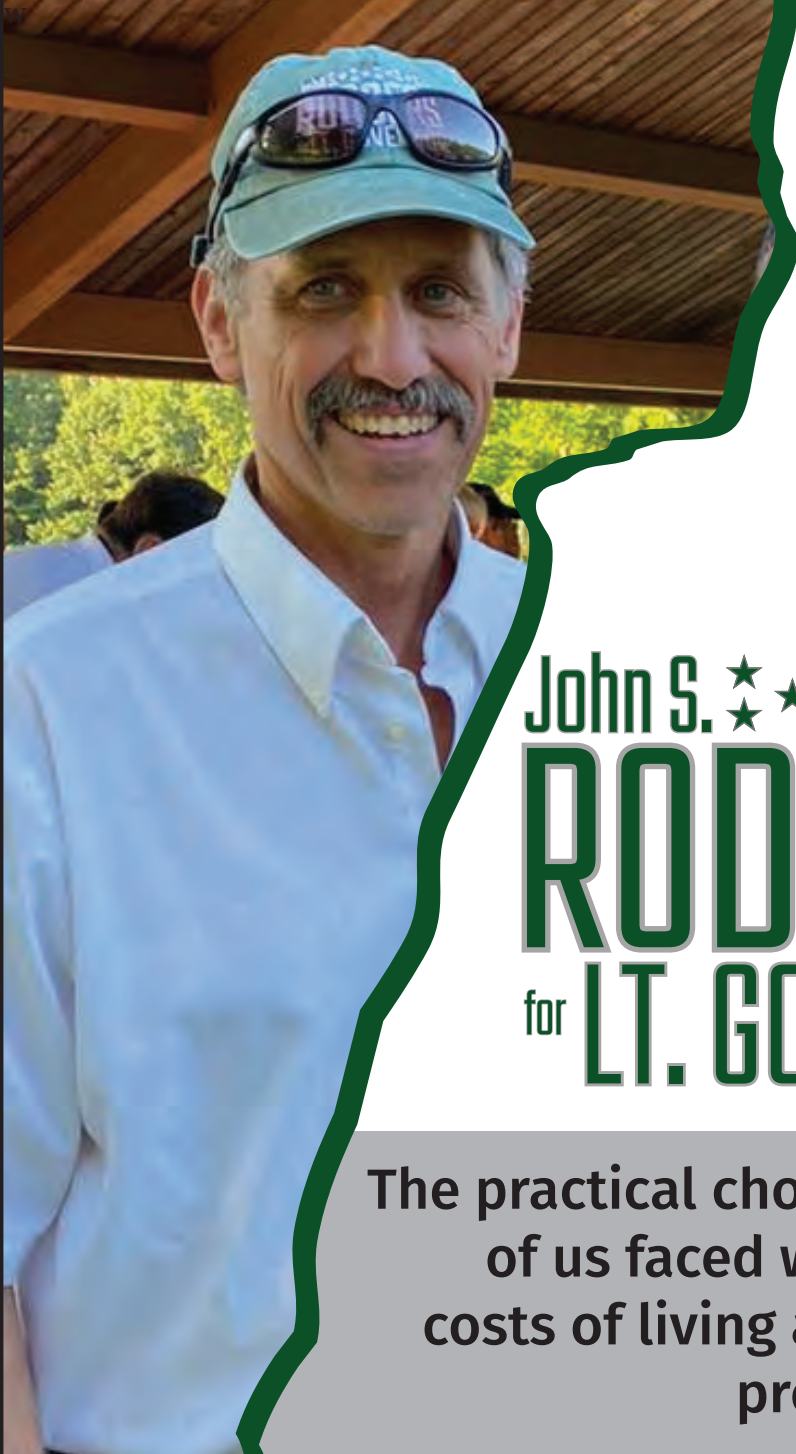
The suggested amendments are aimed at expanding housing opportunities in and around Bristol's village, specifically by making it easier to develop smaller, affordable homes in the Village Planning Area in accordance with the Bristol Town Plan.

The town's planning commission spent around a year exploring potential revisions to Bristol's Unified Development Regulations as part of its work with a \$9,800

Bylaw Modernization Grant the town received in 2022 from the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development. The grant was awarded to municipalities for "land use, development and zoning bylaw updates in support of a pedestrian-oriented development pattern that increase housing choice, affordability and opportunity in areas planned in accordance with Vermont's smart growth principles."

More information on the proposed amendments and bond vote can be found on the town's website (bristolvt.org). The town will hold an informational meeting on both articles during a Nov. 4 special selectboard meeting at 7 p.m. at Holley Hall.

*Town officials have opted to replace the aging lines in phases, dividing the town into four geographic areas representing four replacement projects: Pine Street, Bristol West, Bristol East and Rockydale.*



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# Candidates

(Continued from Page 1A)

ballots the town had sent out to local addresses had been returned to the clerk's office, marked as "undeliverable."

Lucia said she'll try to get in touch with those folks and hopes they — and all other eligible residents — exercise their right to vote. Bristol has around 3,000 registered voters on its checklist.

Meanwhile, Vergennes City Clerk Betsy Sullivan on Tuesday reported she'd received 633 absentee ballots from a checklist that numbers 2,204 registered voters, while Middlebury Town Clerk Karin Mott has received 2,240 from early voters.

What follows is a summary of Vermont House and Senate elections that Addison County voters will decide on Nov. 5. Also provided are the latest candidate fundraising totals (dating to Oct. 15). You can find campaign finance details at campaignfinance.vermont.gov, and check out the candidates' responses to an Addison Independent questionnaire at tinyurl.com/ydvn2dcz.

## VERMONT HOUSE

• **Addison-1**, a two-seat district that includes most of the town of Middlebury, except a portion that includes the west side of Route 7 to Main Street, Elm Street, Seymour Street, the Marble Works, the west side of Main Street and the north side of Weybridge Street. Incumbent Democratic Reps. Robin Scheu and Amy Sheldon are running unopposed.

Sheldon chairs the House Committee on Environment and Energy, and she is a consulting natural resource planner.

Scheu is vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Now retired, she was a bank executive for many years and during the latter stages of her career served as Executive Director of the Addison County Economic Development Corp.

• **Addison-2**, a single-seat district that includes Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Ripton and Salisbury, currently represented by Rep. Peter Conlon, D-Cornwall.

Conlon, who chairs the House Education Committee, is the former news editor of the Addison Independent who since 2014 has owned and operated Vermont Move Management and Home Inventory. He's a local firefighter who previously chaired the Addison Central School District board.

Challenging Conlon is Christine Stone, a Leicester Republican who appears on the ballot thanks to a successful write-in campaign during the August primary. Her public service includes a more than five years as the publications/communications coordinator for Vermont Medicaid's fiscal agent.

As of the Oct. 15 filing deadline, Stone had raised \$2,870 and spent \$4,738, according to the Vermont Secretary of State's Office. Conlon had reported no fundraising activity.

• **Addison-3**, a two-seat district that encompasses Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Addison, Panton and Waltham plus a slice of New Haven. Incumbent Democratic Reps. Matt Birong and Diane Lanpher are being challenged by Ferrisburgh Republicans Joe Baker and Rob North.

Baker doesn't have a campaign website. He is a retired GE worker, U.S. Navy veteran and used to represent the Rutland District 1-2 in the Vermont House.

Birong is vice chair of the House Committee on General Operations & Military Affairs. He has long worked in the food service industry, most recently as chef/owner of 3 Squares Café in Vergennes.

Lanpher, one of the longest serving members of the county's legislative delegation, chairs the House Appropriations Committee. She served for many years as training coordinator for the Vermont Department of Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs.

North retired from Collins Aerospace in 2020 after holding senior leadership positions there. In retirement, he's taught high school math, coached middle and high school soccer, served as a Ferrisburgh Justice of the Peace, and as Act 250 Commissioner for Addison County.

As of the Oct. 15, Baker had raised \$1,865 and spent \$2,240.

Birong had raised \$3,995 and spent \$3,836. Lanpher reported a campaign war chest of \$4,360, of which she had spent \$1,825. North reported raising \$6,140, or which he'd spent \$4,013.

• **Addison-4**, a two-seat district including Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton and Starksboro. The district is currently represented by Democrat Reps. Mari Cordes of Bristol and Caleb Elder of Starksboro, who took a pass on re-election to run for state Senate. Cordes is back on the ballot, joined by Bristol Republican Chanin Hill, Monkton Republican Renee McGuinness, and Starksboro Democrat Herb Olson.

The Bristol Democratic Committee on Tuesday hosted a forum at which all four Addison-4 candidates spoke. Northeast Addison Television recorded the forum and said it would be posted online at neatbristol.com for those who wish to watch it.

Cordes is seeking her fourth two-year term representing Addison-4. A longtime Registered Nurse, she serves on the House Committee on Health Care.

Hill is one of the driving forces behind Bristol's Four Hills Farm, one of the largest dairy operations in the Champlain Valley. She serves on the Bristol Planning Commission, as well as on the town's hazard mitigation committee.

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

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

As of the Oct. 15, Cordes had raised \$5,435 and spent \$2,909; Hill had raised \$1,965 and spent \$3,618; McGuinness had raised \$5,805 and spent \$4,628; and Olson had raised \$11,984 (\$7,583 from his own pocket) and spent \$10,297.

• **Addison-5**, a single-seat district that encompasses Bridport and Weybridge, and most of New Haven. Incumbent Democratic Rep. Jubilee McGill of Bridport faces competition from Bridport Republican Del Thompson.

McGill serves on the House Committee on Human Services. She has served as property manager and coordinator of rental housing for Vergennes-based John Graham Housing & Services and was senior property manager and compliance chief for Addison County Community Trust, the county's largest affordable housing provider.

Thompson is a former Randolph selectman who also served on the Two Rivers Planning Commission. He's a U.S. Army veteran.

As of the Oct. 15, McGill had raised \$1,785 and spent \$2,364; Thompson reported campaign revenues of \$3,750, while having spent \$4,246.

• **Addison-Rutland**, a one-seat district that includes Orwell, Shoreham, Whiting, Hubbardton and Sudbury. Rep. Joe Andriano, D-Orwell, decided not to seek reelection. The lone candidate for that seat is Jim Casey, a Hubbardton Republican. Casey, who doesn't have a campaign website and did not respond to a request for comment from the Independent, has been a Hubbardton selectboard member.

As of the Oct. 15, Casey reported raising \$1,500, while spending \$977.

## STATE SENATE

Four candidates are in the mix for the two-seat senatorial district representing Addison County, Buel's Gore, Huntington and Rochester. They include incumbent Dems Sen. Chris Bray of Bristol and Sen. Ruth Hardy of Middlebury, plus Republicans Landel James Cochran of Huntington and Bristol's Steven

Heffernan.

Leicester Republican Lesley J. Bienvenue was defeated in the August primary but is running as a write-in candidate.

Bray was originally elected to the Vermont House (Addison-5) in 2006, and then to the state Senate in 2013, where he chairs the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee. He also serves on the Senate Finance Committee, Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, and the Joint Carbon Reduction Committee.

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

• Hardy is rounding out her third term in the Senate. She chairs the Senate Committee on Government Operations, and serves on the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, the Canvassing Committee and the Judicial Retention Committee.

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

• Heffernan grew up on his family's farm in Bristol, and has a hand in three family businesses: 802 Excavating, Heffernan Inspection and Repair, and GHR Metal Recycling.

He has served for 30 years in the Vermont Air National Guard as an explosive ordnance disposal tech, a tenure that's included two tours in Afghanistan.

His past civic experience includes a stint on Bristol's Zoning Board of Adjustment.

As of the Oct. 15, Bray had reported a campaign war chest of \$40,083, while having spent \$47,836; Hardy reported \$21,294 in campaign revenues and expenditures totaling \$20,084; Heffernan had harvested \$43,969 in donations, of which he had spent \$34,304; and Cochran had raised \$14,105 and spent \$17,269.

Other elections with local ties include:

• **High bailiff, Addison County:** Incumbent Dave Silberman, a Middlebury Democrat, is challenged by Ron Holmes, a Middlebury Republican.

• **Governor:** Esther Charlestin, a Middlebury Democrat, is challenging incumbent Republican Phil Scott.

• **State Treasurer:** Joshua Bechhofer, a Cornwall Republican, is challenging incumbent Democrat Mike Picciak.

A complete list of all the 2024 General Election races can be found at the Vermont Secretary of state's website at tinyurl.com/58mpr9n8.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



THE BRISTOL GRATITUDE Tree continues to grow as community members add "leaves" of thanksgiving, expressing gratitude for the town of Bristol, the environment and friends and family, among other things. The project was set up by Bristol resident Porter Knight and is located near Cubbers Restaurant on Bristol's Main Street. Photo courtesy of Porter Knight

# Gratitude tree

(Continued from Page 1A)

something they're thankful for on blank tags of paper kept in a nearby kiosk and attach the gratitude "leaves" to the tree.

Bristol resident Porter Knight set up the project on Oct. 12 and said, so far, more than 100 gratitude leaves have been added to the tree.

"I saw a picture of a Gratitude Tree in another community and thought it would be a fun idea for Bristol," Knight said of the inspiration for the project. "Every day I am immensely grateful for this town — the people, the sense of community, the natural beauty."

Knight contacted Pomerleau Real Estate, which owns the tree, with the idea for the project and got the go-ahead from Legal Director & Property Manager Drew Waxler.

Community members have been quick to embrace the idea, adding leaves to the tree that give thanks for family and friends, the surrounding landscape and parts of Bristol, among other things. Some additions to the tree include, "I am grateful that the world's best dog likes me," and "I am grateful to have found love again."

Susan Keith is the owner of Bristol hair salon Harmonia. She said she feels the project is a reminder of residents' shared gratitude and the values that make up the Bristol community.

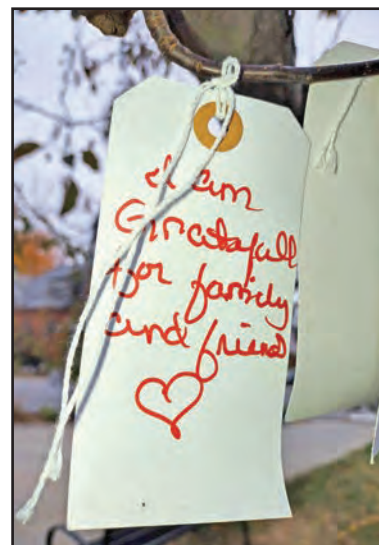
"It captures the spirit of our town, which is an eclectic, vibrant community. We're filled with some talented individuals who quietly, yet powerfully, shape our village's unique character," Keith said. "As a business owner, I'm grateful to be surrounded by such authentic, genuine people who bring creativity, kindness, a true sense of our home to our lives."

"This project is wonderful," Keith added. "During this heavy time, it's

a great little project, I think, to focus on humanity and the big picture. Times are kind of heavy right now with the election and viruses."

Knight said the plan is to keep the project up through the holiday season and either take the tags off after New Year's Day or leave them up through next summer until the end of August, depending on how the written messages hold up.

"We don't want it to look untidy or neglected. So far, the leaves seem to be doing great despite rain and wind," she said.



ONE LEAF ADDED to the Bristol Gratitude Tree gives thanks for family and friends. Community members have so far added over 100 "leaves" of gratitude to the tree, which sits on Main Street in Bristol. Photo courtesy of Porter Knight




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## Salisbury, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

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 spoke with four different companies before deciding to go with Bristol Electronics. They weren't the least expensive, however their reputation and presentation was, by far, the best out of all of the proposals we received.

The installation team did an excellent job. They were professional, friendly, neat and tidy and left the job with nothing to be cleaned up afterwards.

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.


You would think you'd notice the units on the wall, but they really blend in. We don't even notice they are there except that we are more comfortable with them than we were before them.

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.

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Wayne & Diane Smith, Salisbury, VT

## Vergennes local concerns meeting set

VERGENNES — A local concerns meeting about the Main Street/Route 22A Bridge over Otter Creek will be held Thursday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m., at the Vergennes Opera House or via Zoom.

The project is anticipated to include reconstruction of Bridge No. 27 carrying Main Street over Otter Creek. A construction date for the project has not yet been identified. The intent of the meeting

is to briefly review the project area, review existing conditions of the bridge and roadway approaches, define the project development process, and to hear concerns from the community. There will be a brief presentation followed by a question-and-answer period with an opportunity for those attending (in person or virtually) to present any concerns they might have.

The meeting will be presented

by the City of Vergennes, VTrans, and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., a consultant engineering firm based out of South Burlington working for VTrans to assist with conceptual design for the project. Representatives from the City of Vergennes, VTrans, and VHB will be available at the meeting.

Zoom link at bit.ly/vergenes-lcm.  
Meeting ID: 886 2912 5662  
Passcode: 345690

## Police settle couples dispute two times

VERGENNES — Vergennes police recently responded to three verbal domestic disputes on First Street, two of them involving the same couple on two consecutive days.

Police responded on Oct. 21 and 22 to the same First Street residence, one they described as the site of repeated verbal sparring matches. Police said that on Oct. 21 they separated the parties for the night and provided resources for a hoped-for long-term resolution.

But police returned on Oct. 22 at about 2:15 a.m. for an argument

## Vergennes Police Log

that police said centered around a charging cord, a spat during which a Subway sandwich was thrown to the ground. Police said they gave both parties involved information on how to file for relief from abuse orders, again told them to separate for the evening, and again provided them with contact information on resources that could be helpful.

Also on Oct. 22 police dealt with another domestic argument on First Street, this one that flared up at a child custody exchange at a grandparent's home. The mother complained that her son's father "got in her face" and "ripped papers out of her hands" during the exchange.

Police suggested to both parents that future exchanges should be held in public places, and said both parties seemed to agree. The man also admitted to being upset at the exchange because he mistook the papers meant he was being cited for something, but denied the specific accusations.

Between Oct. 21 and 27, Vergennes police also conducted 10 cruiser patrols, one foot patrol, 21 traffic stops and a property watch; processed seven pre-

employment fingerprint requests; and also:

On Oct. 21:

- Responded to a report of a homeless individual in the Walker Avenue community laundry room; the individual had left by the time police arrived.

- Took a complaint of vandalism to the tires of a vehicle parked on Main Street on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 19, between 8 p.m. and midnight. Anyone with info on the incident is asked to contact city police.

- Took a report about a Hillside Acres resident with what police described as a known mental health history.

On Oct. 22:

- Took an online report of a minor two-car accident on Green Street.

- Checked the welfare of a man at Falls Park, who said he was fine.

- Checked the welfare of a middle school parent who didn't pick up a student, and learned shortly afterward there had been miscommunication, and there was no problem.

- Heard a complaint about fireworks being set off on School Street just after 8:30 p.m.

On Oct. 23:

- Dealt with an accident between a truck and a Honda SUV on Main Street. No one was hurt, but the

(See Police log, Page 15A)



MEMBERS OF THE Brands family, including Casey and Clara Brands, center, were among those who gathered on Oct. 12 to celebrate the Champlain Valley Christian School's 50th anniversary. Church officials note their children were among the first students; their oldest son, Ray, was a member of the Capital Campaign Committee that helped raise funds for a new school building in 2008; and Ray's grandchildren all attend CVCS; and his son, Ryan, now serves as the school board president.

## Christian school celebrates 50th

VERGENNES — Four generations of Champlain Valley Christian School (CVCS) families gathered on Saturday, Oct. 12, to celebrate 50 years of the school's work educating families in the Champlain Valley.

Founded in 1974, CVCS has served more than 606 students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Today, the school serves grades K-8 and its mission has never changed: Committed to Christ, Grounded in Trust, Equipped for Life.

The fall colors painted the backdrop on Oct. 12 as nearly 200 folks roasted two pigs, viewed an archive of photos, and visited a historical timeline spanning the long hallway that hosts the

school's eight classrooms. A few of the school's founders were present and are now in their 80s.

Their grandchildren have taken leadership and teaching roles, and their great-grandchildren are enrolled in the school. Casey and Clara Brands of Ferrisburgh, Cornie and Wilma Dykema of North Ferrisburgh, Sid and Geziena Roorda of Bridport, and Sam and Gail Visser of Panton have been faithful supporters of CVCS since day one and were able to attend the event.

The celebration marked a truly joyous occasion, according to school administrators, who said, "It was a remarkable blessing to witness multiple generations coming together to honor our

school's humble beginnings and to give thanks to the countless ways God has guided us over the years."

The theme of the day was celebrating the past 50 years, but many folks also cited their prayers for the next 50 years. During the feast's opening ceremony, longtime school staff member Linda Larocque shared that although she won't be around to see everything the next 50 years will bring, she looks forward to how the school will nurture and educate the minds, bodies and spirits of generations to come.

Those interested in learning more about CVCS may visit [www.cvcsvt.com](http://www.cvcsvt.com).

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### A new member

**GRIFFIN KNIPPLER** FROM Cornwall gets to sit in the driver's seat at Cornwall Fire Department's Trunk or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 26. Griffin is the son of Rob and Katie Knippler and little brother to Nora.

Photo courtesy of Denise Berthoff



## Police investigate car thefts

**ADDISON COUNTY** — On the morning of Oct. 23, Vermont State Police received multiple reports of thefts from vehicles parked on Jerusalem Road and Jim Dwire Road in Starksboro. The value of the stolen items totaled over \$1,000 from each vehicle. Some of the items included medical equipment, Apple-brand electronic devices, forms of identification, and a gun.

That same morning, Hinesburg police located a stolen vehicle in their town; inside were the same stolen items from Starksboro. Hinesburg police identified Anthony Seagroves, 32, of Hinesburg as the suspect in the thefts and cited him for two counts of grand larceny.

Hinesburg police also charged Seagroves with criminal possession of a firearm as a convicted felon, violation of conditions of court-ordered release and unlawful trespass. Seagroves was lodged at Northwest Regional Correctional Facility with bail set at \$2,000.

Separately, Vermont State Police dealt with two drunken driving cases in Addison County late last week.

On Thursday, Oct. 24, just before 2 p.m., troopers responded to a single-vehicle crash on Morgan Horse Farm Road near Hamilton Road in Weybridge. Police report that Stephen Brooks, 64, of Ripton was driving a 2007 Ford F-150 pickup southbound on Morgan Horse Farm Road when he crashed into a ditch.

Brooks, who didn't report any injuries, refused standard field sobriety tests, was placed under arrest and transported to the New Haven Barracks for processing. Police cited him for driving under the influence, third offense, and driving with a criminally suspended license. He was also ticketed for driving off the road, which could carry a fine of \$220 and two points on his license. After processing, Brooks was released to a sober party.

The next day, Friday, Oct. 25, at a quarter to 7 p.m., state police stopped a car after observing a motor vehicle violation on Route 116 near the intersection with Big Hollow Road in Starksboro. They

### Vt. State Police Log

ended up citing Robert E. Paul, 66, of Starksboro for driving under the influence and gave him a ticket for the poor condition of his vehicle, which carries a fine of \$105.

In other recent activity, state police:

- On Oct. 16 at 10 minutes after 8 p.m. were advised multiple things had been stolen from a motor vehicle parked near the intersection of Route 22A and Doolittle Road in Shoreham. The value of the stolen items was in excess of \$900. Among the items stolen was a credit card that was later used in Brandon and Rutland. The Vermont State Police is asking for the public's assistance to locate a person of interest for further questioning regarding the theft and fraudulent use of a stolen credit card. Troopers released a few photos from security cams at a liquor store that show the unidentified suspect from a transaction on Oct. 16. This investigation remains active and ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact Trooper Taylor Demick at the New Haven barracks at 802-388-4919. Anonymous tips may be provided online at [vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit](http://vsp.vermont.gov/tipssubmit).

- On Oct 19 at 10:12 a.m. responded to a report of a theft from a farm stand on Leicester Whiting Road in Whiting. Police allege that Scott Malinowski, 60,

of Brandon stole items from the farm stand, and they cited him for petit larceny.

Troopers were assisted by the Brandon Police Department.

- On Oct 24 just before 11 a.m. responded to a report of a single-vehicle crash on Route 7 near Tappers Crossing in Ferrisburgh. Police report that Douglas Cole, 82, of Charlotte was driving a 2023 Ford F-350 pickup truck northbound when the truck left the lane, struck a culvert and crashed. Cole was not wearing a seatbelt and was transported to UVM Medical Center with suspected serious bodily injuries. Police think that he suffered a medical event, causing him to lose control of the vehicle.

Troopers were assisted on scene by the Addison County Sheriff's Department, Ferrisburgh Fire Department, Vergennes Fire Department and Vergennes Area Rescue Squad.

- On Oct. 25 reported that they had cited an Essex man for multiple offenses dating back to an incident last month. On Sept. 3, at 9:21 p.m., troopers were notified of a domestic violence incident that occurred the previous night at a Salisbury home. Police investigated and determined that Skylar Allen, 25, of Essex had committed the offenses of aggravated domestic assault, unlawful restraint and criminal threatening. After Allen surrendered himself to state police, troopers cited him for those offense and for committing them in front of a child.

## Police stop man for alleged threat

**MIDDLEBURY** — Middlebury police on Oct. 22 responded to Walgreens Pharmacy on Court Street Extension on a report about an armed man who had just left the premises and had allegedly threatened to return and shoot everyone at the store. Police investigated the incident, identified a suspect, and served him with a no-trespass order.

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

- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) in taking a "heavily intoxicated" woman to the hospital for evaluation on Oct. 21.

- Located and arrested Brian Dodds, 38, of Bristol on two outstanding arrest warrants on Oct. 21. Middlebury police were assisted at the scene by Addison County Sheriff's Department officials. Police said Dodds was taken to the Marble Valley Correctional Facility in Rutland for lack of bail.

- Were informed of a car break-in at the South Village Green property on Oct. 21.

- Responded to a dispute between two Weybridge Street residents on Oct. 22.

- Responded to a two-vehicle crash, with injuries, on South Main Street on Oct. 22. Police said one of the drivers was taken to Porter Hospital for treatment of a minor arm injury.

- On Oct. 22, received a complaint from a resident who said

### Middlebury Police Log

they had almost been struck by a vehicle while using a Main Street crosswalk.

- Warned two men about entering, and sleeping in, an unlocked Court Street building on Oct. 22.

- Cited Kevin Langlais, 42, of Middlebury for driving under the influence, following investigation of a complaint in the Valley View Drive area on Oct. 23.

- Received a report about a possible theft from the TJ Maxx store in The Centre shopping plaza on Oct. 23.

- Assisted a North Pleasant Street resident who believed they'd been scammed on Oct. 23.

- Investigated a bad check complaint on Oct. 23.

- Responded to a theft complaint at a Court Street business on Oct. 23.

- Responded to a report of a "strange smell" coming from a Valley View apartment on Oct. 24.

- Responded to a two-vehicle crash, with injuries, on Cross Street on Oct. 24.

- Responded to a trespassing complaint in a Route 7 South parking lot on Oct. 24. Police said they asked the trespassers to move along.

- Checked on a report of a man yelling inside his vehicle that was

parked in the Porter Hospital lot on Oct. 24.

- Investigated a dispute between some Valley View Drive neighbors on Oct. 25.

- Responded to a disorderly conduct report on Main Street on Oct. 25.

- Helped a person with a disabled vehicle on Elm Street on Oct. 25.

- Helped with a disabled truck that was blocking traffic on Court Street on Oct. 25.

- Investigated a hit-and-run accident involving two vehicles on Court Street on Oct. 25.

- Investigated a possible attempted break-in at a Valley View Drive home on Oct. 26.

- Cited Eric S. Quesnel, 50, of Middlebury for retail theft, after he allegedly stole three bottles of wine from a Court Street business on Oct. 26.

- Assisted Castleton police in recovering a stolen vehicle in East Middlebury on Oct. 26.

- Helped a local woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the Court Street area on Oct. 27.

- Arrested William Alexander, 37, of Middlebury on an outstanding arrest warrant on Oct. 27.

- Gave a courtesy ride to a stranded Porter Hospital patient on Oct. 27.

- Helped Porter Hospital staff with an intoxicated patient on Oct. 27.

- Gave a courtesy ride to a stranded Porter Hospital patient on Oct. 28.

## Police log

(Continued from Page 14A)

SUV had to be towed.

- Helped find a student who left Vergennes Union High School threatening self-harm.

- On Oct. 25: Helped a homeless individual find a place to stay and services in Middlebury.

- Took a complaint about a vehicle with a loud exhaust speeding and playing loud music regularly driving on South Water Street. Police said they would increase patrols there.

- Counseled a city resident

seeking "advice and assistance with some personal issues."

- Cited Thomas Roussin, 43, into court for violating an abuse prevention order by sending text messages.

On Oct. 26:

- Cited Travis Worthington, 46, of Montpelier for disorderly conduct. Police allege he punched a 14-year-old (not causing pain or injury) and spat on the teen's mother after accusing them of trespassing on his mother's property. Police also issued Worthington Restorative Justice paperwork.

- Participated in a Trunk or Treat event at the American Legion Post on Armory Lane.

On Oct 27:

- Checked out an abandoned vehicle on Route 7 in Ferrisburgh after the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad transported the driver to the UVM Medical Center following a medical event. Police said the vehicle was safely off the road with flashers on.

- Looked in on a driver pulled over on North Main Street. Police said the driver was tired and taking a quick nap.

### Porter Welcomes Dr. Kate Geschwind!

We're excited to introduce Kate Geschwind, MD, who recently joined our team at Vergennes Primary Care.

Dr. Geschwind completed her undergraduate and medical school training at the University of Minnesota and concluded her family medicine residency at UVM this past summer.

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## Don't forget to vote!

# A Spooktacular Day



## Boo!

MIDDLEBURY'S ANNUAL SPOOKTACULAR drew hordes of frightfully attired boys and ghouls to the downtown this past Sunday, Oct. 27. The event saw shopkeepers and volunteers hand out scads of candy to a collection of ghosts and goblins who haunted Main Street and Merchants Row. Adults also got into the act. Clockwise from top left: Frankie Dunleavy casts a spell; Tatum Lanpher (seven months) and brother Tanner, 7, get into the act; Addison Anderson (clown), 8, Jaylinn Smith (cowgirl), 9, and Olivia Anderson (witch), 5, are laden with candy; Bianca Spafford (angel) and Ella Corrigan (devil), both 11, get along fine; a skeleton vehicle adds to the ambiance; Sawyer Bravo, 6, is escorted by his dad in T-Rex costume; a "mystery pug" hands out treats; a Scream-themed reveler strikes a pose; and Harmonoee Jensen, 7 and Octavia Terrier, 6, are too adorable for words.

Independent photos/Megan and Steve James



# VUHS walk

(Continued from Page 1A)

a major FFA conference, others were reluctant to miss their classes at the Hannaford Career Center. Seniors were excused from classes at VUHS, and some did elect not to walk.

Fundraising exceeded \$5,000 (and counting) by the time the entourage reached Button Bay. No one is sure if it's a VUHS Senior Walkathon record, but the efforts of this class of 70 seniors — a smaller group than many — is certainly among the most successful.

Many of the seniors posed gleefully in a Button Bay parking lot with a makeshift poster made out to "Wounded Warrior Project ... Five Thousand Fifty Two."

According to the Wounded Warrior Project's website, that funding "will help bring independence back to our nation's most severely wounded veterans."

Students were also happy to support that cause, which as is tradition was selected democratically through a vote of class members. Often, seniors have chosen causes with more directly local ties. Porter Hospital was the first walkathon choice back in 2009, when donations were raised in honor of a class member's mother, who had succumbed to breast cancer.

This year's top class fundraisers Hayden Bassett and Spencer Grimm, who between them garnered about \$1,500 in donations

and pledges, said they believe all owe a debt to those who serve in the military.

"A lot of my family is ex-military or in the military," Grimm said. "So I thought this was a perfect way to help out my family and other people in the military."

Grimm relied on his family members for many of his donations.

"My mom and I made a family group-chat, and we sent out a lot of emails to my family. They were just super supportive," he said. "And my family raised money in their communities. We had people from, like, Boston and Denver donating. So it's really nice."

Bassett said he wanted to surpass his older brother Cyron's \$1,100 total of money raised in 2023. While Hayden came maybe \$300 short, it wasn't for lack of trying.

"I went around the school asking teachers," Bassett said. "And then last night I went to the football game and I just went through the lines, asking parents and coaches and stuff, just asking them for any amount of donations."

How did he feel about the walkathon?

"I think it's just a way for all of us to join together and do together as a class," Bassett said. "We don't get to be together all the time. And this is just a big group of all of us together."

Grimm noted many others in the class have family ties with the armed forces.



MEMBERS OF THE VUHS Class of 2025 pose outside the school on Oct. 24 before setting off on their successful nine-mile fundraising senior walkathon to Button Bay State Park.

Independent Photo/Andy Kirkaldy

"We have a bunch of kids in our grade, like Spencer Gebo, his dad was ex-Navy. So that means

a lot to him. I think everyone has some connection to the military," he said. "So I think it's just a great

way for us all to bond together as a class. We don't do a lot of things together, so I think it's a great way

for us to bond together before we graduate."

## SEN BERNIE SANDERS: RE-ELECT CHRIS BRAY



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SEVERAL VUHS SENIORS wait for a signal change to cross Green Street in downtown Vergennes during their Oct. 24 fundraising senior walkathon.

Independent Photo/Andy Kirkaldy

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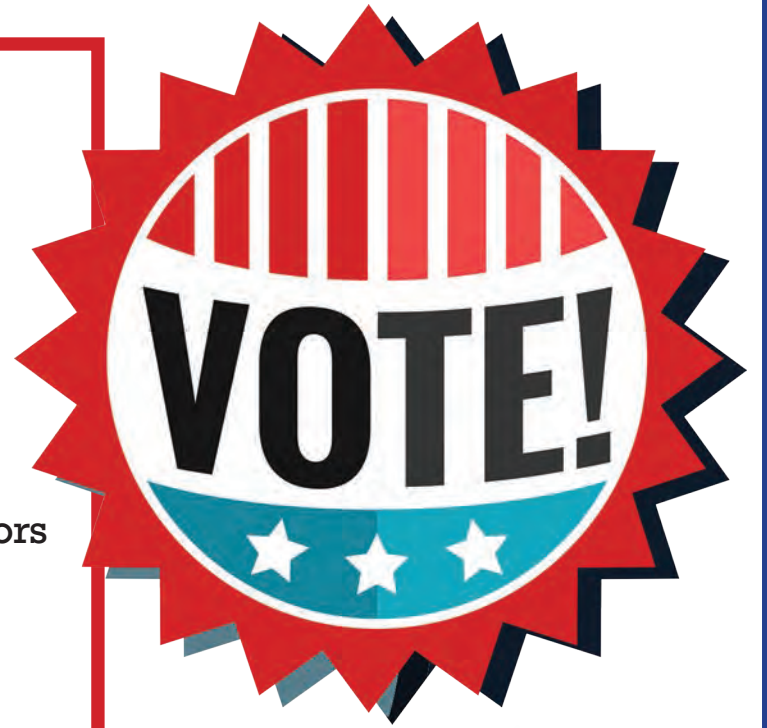
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- Reformed Act 250 to promote smart growth & protect critical natural resources
- Improved access to reliable broadband to rural communities
- Created a universal school meals program to feed all Vermont kids
- Increased support for vital mental health & social services agencies
- Reduced health insurance red tape for primary care
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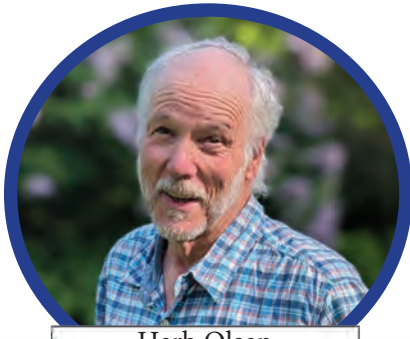
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Addison 2 (1 seat) - Cornwall, Goshen, Leicester, Salisbury, Ripton

Addison 3 (2 seats) - Addison, Ferrisburgh, Panton, Vergennes, Waltham, New Haven Northwest

Addison 4 (2 seats) - Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, Starksboro

Addison 5 (1 seat) - Bridport, New Haven, Weybridge, Middlebury Northwest

### Vermont Senate:

Addison County plus Buels Gore, Huntington, Rochester (2 seats)

# SPORTS

ALSO IN THIS SECTION:

- School News
- Legal Notices
- Classifieds
- Police Logs

## Mount Abe boys' soccer bows out

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
STRATTON — Host No. 3 Stratton on Friday, Oct. 25, ousted the No. 6 seeded Mount Abraham boys' soccer team from the Division II playoffs, 6-3, in a quarterfinal matchup. Stratton moved into the semifinal round with a 10-2 record, while the Eagles finished at 11-5 under first-year Coach Chris Coffey.

The Eagles were close after the first half, trailing by only 3-2 on goals from Jaran Griffin, assisted by Liam Lazare, and Aricin Griffin on a penalty kick.

But the Bears broke open the game in the second half, when Trevor Phaneuf scored two of his three goals. Three other Stratton players added a goal apiece.

The Eagles put more shots on goal, but Stratton keeper Knight Hampton made 14 saves. In the Eagle goal Truman Sawyer, pressed into service because starter Evan Audy was hurt in the Eagles' first-round win, stopped eight shots. The Eagles were already shorthanded without two regulars, James Graziadei and Nick Fox, who were hurt late in the season.



**LINCOLN'S STELLA LAIRD** hits the banner as she wins the Division I girls' race at Thetford Academy on Saturday. Laird is a senior at Green Mountain Valley School.

Photo by Dan Grossman, Maple Leaf Photos



**TIGER TOP BOYS'** finishers Baker Nelson, left, and Kaden Hammond navigate the Thetford Academy course during the Division II championship race on Saturday.

Photo by Joe McVeigh

## Local runners fare well at states

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
THETFORD — The Middlebury Union High School girls' and boys' cross-country teams finished third and fifth, respectively, in the Division II Vermont High School Cross Country Championships, hosted by Thetford Academy on a chilly and windy Saturday, Oct. 26.

In Division I, Lincoln's Estella Laird, a senior at the Green Mountain Valley School in Waitsfield this fall, won the girls'

race convincingly with a time of 19:16.7 over the 5,020-meter course. In the past two years Laird had helped the Champlain Valley girls win the D-I team title with top-four efforts. Laird also won the D-III title as a freshman running for the North Branch School.

MUHS senior Beth McIntosh led the Tiger girls with an 8th-place finish in D-II division, the top result for a local female runner in the division. She ran 21:23.9.

Laird's and McIntosh's times were among the top 25 of all females across all three divisions, and thus qualified for the New England championship meet, which will be held on Nov. 9 in Manchester, Conn.

MUHS senior Baker Nelson paced the Tiger boys by taking 18th.

But Nelson was not the top local boys' runner over the hilly 5K course on Saturday: In a race to the finish line, Vergennes senior Grey (See *Cross Country*, Page 3B)

## Score BOARD

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Football
D-II Playoffs
10/25 #4 MUHS vs #5 BHS/SB.....31-7
D-II Playoffs
10/25 #3 Fair Haven vs #6 MAV.....49-6
D-III Playoffs
10/26 #4 OV vs #5 Mill River.....46-14
Field Hockey
D-II Playoffs
10/25 #3 OV vs #6 Burr & Burton.....2-1
10/29 #2 U-32 vs OV.....3-2

### Girls' Soccer

D-II Playoffs
10/23 #7 Mt. Abe vs #10 MUHS.....2-1
10/23 #9 Enosburg vs #8 OV.....1-0
10/26 Mt. Abe vs #2 N. Country.....2-1
10/30 Mt. Abe at #6 Harwood.....Late

### D-III Playoffs

10/23 #9 VUHS vs #8 GMU.....3-0
10/26 #1 Fairfax vs VUHS.....3-0

### Boys' Soccer

D-II Playoffs
10/25 #3 Stratton vs #6 Mt. Abe.....6-2

### Volleyball

Playoffs
10/23 #7 MUHS vs #10 Randolph.....3-1
10/25 #2 St. Albans vs #7 MUHS.....3-0

### COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Soccer
10/26 Midd vs Bates.....1-0
10/29 Midd vs Williams.....2-0

### Field Hockey

10/26 Midd vs Bates.....3-1
10/29 Midd vs Williams.....3-0

### Women's Soccer

10/26 Midd vs Bates.....2-0
10/29 Williams vs Midd.....0-0

### Football

10/26 Bates vs Midd.....21-20
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## Schedule

### HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Football
D-I Playoffs
11/2 #4 MUHS at #2 CVU.....1 PM
11/9 Final at Rutland.....TBA
D-III Playoffs
11/2 #4 OV at #1 Fairfax.....Noon
11/9 Final at Rutland.....TBA

### Girls' Soccer

D-II Playoffs
11/1 Final at Burlington HS.....7 PM

### COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Soccer
NESCAC Playoffs
11/2 #7 Hamilton at #2 Midd.....Noon
11/9 & 10.....Final Four at Highest Seed

### Field Hockey

NESCAC Playoffs
11/2 #8 Hamilton at #1 Midd.....1 PM
11/9 & 10.....Final Four at Highest Seed

### Women's Soccer

NESCAC Playoffs
11/2 Quarterfinals.....TBD Late on 11/30
11/9 & 10.....Final Four at Highest Seed

### Football

11/2 Hamilton at Midd.....12:30 PM
11/9 Midd at Tufts.....12:30 PM

## Tiger football dominates SeaWolves

Win means MUHS will face No. 1 CVU for berth in D-I final

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
MIDDLEBURY — The No. 4 seed Middlebury Union High School football team used a dominant first half to get past No. 5 Burlington/South Burlington, 31-7, in the teams' Division I quarterfinal matchup this past Friday on Doc Collins Field. Both teams' record was 6-3 after the result.

The Tigers rolled to a 24-0 halftime lead behind dominant defense, allowing the SeaWolves only three first downs and 17 yards of offense before the break. MUHS also scored a defensive touchdown when lineman Angus Blackwell scooped up a fumble forced by Tucker Wright and rambled about 15 yards into the end zone.

The Tigers scored on their opening drive on a 27-yard swing pass from quarterback Luke Nuceder to running back Logan McNulty, on their third possession on Tucker Morter's 35-yard field goal, and made it 24-0 on their fourth possession on a perfect 26-yard pass from Nuceder to Morter, who made a fingertip catch in full stride in the left side of the end zone. The Tigers amassed 150 yards of offense in the first half.

Tiger Coach Jed Malcolm

afterward was asked about the defensive effort, which was impressive even given that SeaWolf starting quarterback Ahmed Diawara didn't play. Malcolm included younger players who've worked their way into the rotation to fill in for injured starters in praising the team-wide effort.

"We flew around tonight. We started to get a couple people back, which was key. And we've got some younger guys who are starting to get some experience because of these injuries, and that experience is starting to show," Malcolm said. "You're starting to see some big plays out of Levi Nuceder and Tucker Wright and Jason Sperry. Those guys, they're football players."

Among the injured on Friday were junior tight end Cooke Riney, who is out for the season with a foot injury; senior two-way lineman Cal Boulanger, who didn't play Friday, but who Malcolm is hopeful can return this weekend; and sophomore Aiden Benoure, who suffered a leg injury on Friday and whose status for the semifinal is uncertain.

Malcolm said the coaching staff took all that into account after halftime vs. the SeaWolves with

the Nov. 2 semifinal looming. "In the second half we were just trying to protect our starters, keeping everybody off the field as much as we could once the score got comfortable," he said.

Certainly, the Tigers looked comfortable early on, moving 60 yards on their first possession to take a 7-0 lead. A 25-yard McNulty run started the march, and two Avery Carl rushes moved the ball for another first down. A SeaWolf sack forced a third-and-12 play from the 27, but Nuceder's well-thrown swing pass to McNulty and good blocking allowed him to bolt down the left side for the go-ahead score at 7:31 of the first quarter. Morter tacked on the first of his four points-after.

Then the Tiger defense scored. Shamus Leggett, who alternated snaps at QB with Anthony Bouffard for the SeaWolves, bobbled a shotgun snap, and Wright leveled him. The ball popped loose, and Blackwell raced in to scoop up the ball and rambled untouched for the TD, and it was 14-0 with 2:33 left in the period.

The Tigers went three-and-out, and a Carl sack blew up the next BHS/SBHS possession. The (See *Tigers*, Page 2B)



**TIGER SENIOR LINEMAN Angus Blackwell** pancakes a SeaWolf defender to clear the path for ballcarrier Tassilo Luksch during the MUHS football team's big quarterfinal victory on this past Friday.

Independent photo/Steve James



**EAGLE DEFENDER ABBA Parker** works to cut off Tiger forward Jazmyne Hurley's route to the ball during the Oct. 24 Mount Abe-Middlebury first-round matchup. Both players assisted goals in the game.

Independent photo/Steve James

## Girls' soccer: Eagles reach semis

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
ADDISON COUNTY — In local high school girls' soccer postseason action, the biggest news was Mount Abraham, the No. 7 seed in Division II, won twice — once over No. 10 Middlebury in the first round — to reach the semifinal round against a traditional playoff rival.

The Eagles (11-5) were set to visit No. 6 Harwood (12-4) on Wednesday afternoon after the deadline for this edition. This story will be updated online on Thursday morning to reflect the result of that semifinal contest. Harwood won at home against Mount Abe, 2-1, early in September.

Elsewhere, Vergennes, the No. 9 seed in D-III, won once before succumbing to the top seed in a quarterfinal, while Otter Valley, seeded No. 8 in D-II, failed to take advantage of its home field, but still finished with a winning record after a narrow setback.

### EAGLES

This past Saturday, the Eagles prevailed over host No. 2 North Country, 2-1. **Mckenzie Griner** scored both Mount Abe goals, the second on a direct kick that snapped a 1-1 tie in the final minute of regulation and sent the Eagles to Wednesday's semifinal round (See *Girls' soccer*, Page 2B)

## Otter field hockey takes a tough loss

Despite rally, U-32 prevails with 3-2 win

**By ANDY KIRKALDY**  
ST. JOHNSBURY — No. 2 seed U-32 held off a rally by the No. 3 Otter Valley field hockey team to prevail, 3-2, in a Division II field hockey semifinal on Wednesday played on St. Johnsbury's turf field.

The 12-4 Raiders won their eighth straight game and advanced to Saturday's final at UVM against No. 1 Hartford, which improved to 13-1-1 after defeating Woodstock

on Tuesday in the other D-II semifinal. The Otters wrapped up their successful season at 9-5-2.

Despite early pressure from the Otters on Tuesday, the Raiders took a 2-0 lead with a pair of goals late in the first half in what was the teams' first meeting this season. The *Rutland Herald* reported good chances from Otters Sophia Parker, Breanna Bovey, Charlotte Newton and defender Matelin (See *Otters*, Page 2B)



# Cross Country

(Continued from Page 1B)

Fearon edged Nelson by less than a second and finished 17th. Fearon paced the Commodore boys to an eighth-place finish in D-II.

In D-III, Luke Calvin finished ninth for Otter Valley, and the OV boys were ninth as a team in D-III.

The Mount Abe boys and girls and the Commodore and Otter girls did not field scoring teams.

The top Eagle runners in D-II competition were freshman Cameron Vose, 33rd in the girls' race, and senior Elliot Senecal, 60th in the boys race.

In the D-II girls' race, VUHS freshman Lauren Hill was 40th, and in the D-III girls' race two Otters ran: senior Sara Loyzelle was 30th in 27:22.3, and freshman Shayla Frain was 62nd in 34:17.

The team winners in D-1 were the St. Johnsbury boys and the CVU girls. In D-II U-32 swept both races, as did Stowe in D-III.

## RESULTS

The girls' team scores in D-II were 1. U-32 had 31 points; 2. Burr And Burton 44; 3. MUHS 100; 4. Montpelier 118; 5. Harwood 122; 6. Woodstock 148; 7. Lyndon 169; 8. Hartford 201.

The boys' team scores in D-II were: 1. U-32 48; 2. Montpelier 73; 3. Burr And Burton Academy 85; 4. Harwood 114; 5. MUHS 147; 6. Hartford 176; 7. Lamoille 187; 8. VUHS 212; 9. Woodstock 248; 10. Spaulding; 251; 11. Lyndon 296; 12. Fair Haven 317; 13. Springfield 351.

The placements and times for the winner and local runners in the D-II girls' race were:

1. Ginger Long, U-32; 19:35.9.
8. Beth McIntosh, MUHS, 21:23.9.
12. Mary Harrington, MUHS, 21:47.9.
16. Louisa Orten, MUHS, 22:26.8.
27. Annika Bruning, MUHS, 23:51.4.
33. Cameron Vose, Mt. Abe, 24:42.7.
40. Lauren Hill, VUHS, 25:18.1.
48. Meredith Carr-Perlow, MUHS, 25:54.2.
49. Torrey Hanna, VUHS, 26:03.6.
54. Selma Citarella, MUHS, 26:37.2.
57. Eva Andrews, MUHS,

- 26:51.4.
62. Madeleine Stroup, VUHS, 27:02.9.
66. Georgia Kunkel, VUHS, 27:36.8.
73. Rhiannon Andrews, Mt. Abe, 30:11.3.
76. Eloise Newman, Mt. Abe 31:34.7.
- The placements and times for the winner and local runners in the D-II boys' race were:
1. Jay Borland, Montpelier, 16:52.6.
17. Grey Fearon, VUHS, 18:37.8.
18. Baker Nelson, MUHS, 18:38.5.
20. Kaden Hammond, MUHS, 18:51.2.
34. Jorgen Pirrung, MUHS, 19:36.1.
38. Matthew Berg, MUHS, 19:47.6.
40. Ethan Spritzer, MUHS, 19:56.2.
43. Keil Broderson, MUHS, 20:09.7.
44. Aaron Carr-Perlow, MUHS, 20:11.5.
45. Carter McGuire, VUHS, 20:34.
47. Chance Koenig, VUHS, 20:36.
49. Caleb Hatch, VUHS, 20:38.8.
59. Brody McGuire, VUHS, 21:49.5.
60. Elliot Senecal, Mt. Abe, 21:56.6.
69. Oliver Zelonis, Mt. Abe, 22:53.8.
80. Emerson Morrill, VUHS, 24:08.6.
83. Sawyer Garthaffner, VUHS, 24:41.
84. James Mount, Mt. Abe, 24:42.6.
88. Karson Norris, Mt. Abe, 26:10.3.

The overall placements and times for the winner and local runners in the D-III boys' race were:

1. Gage Magnuson, Fairfax, 17:12.4.
9. Luke Calvin, OV, 18:50.2.
22. Elisha Bagley, OV, 20:36.6.
33. Brody Lathrop, OV, 21:29.9.
66. Cooper Rubright, OV, 25:58.2.
76. Brendan McLoughlin, OV, 32:34.50.



THE RUNNERS IN the Division II championship girls' race were bunched near the start. The pack includes Tigers Mary Harrington (No. 431), Beth McIntosh (432) and Louisa Orten (434), and Eagle Cameron Vose (494).

Photo by Joe McVeigh

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Questions?  
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ADDISON COUNTY  
INDEPENDENT

58 Maple St., Midd., VT 05753  
802-388-4944 ext 104

Upcoming Events

**Thursday, October 31:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating  
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

**Friday, November 1:**  
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

**Sunday, November 3:**  
3:30 - 5:00 PM Public Skating

**Monday, November 4:**  
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

**Tuesday, November 5:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating  
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

**Wednesday, November 6:**  
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

**Thursday, November 7:**  
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating  
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

**Friday, November 8:**  
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

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info@memorialsportscenter.org  
MemorialSportsCenter.org



FRESHMAN LAUREN HILL, seen here mid-race, was the top female finisher for the Commodore girls at Thetford Academy on Saturday.

Photo by Joe McVeigh

PLEASE VOTE!

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## Take your skiing and snowboarding to new heights!

Registration is now open until December 1  
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For more information, please visit us online  
at [www.middleburyskiclub.org](http://www.middleburyskiclub.org)

**Public Notices** can be found in this  
**ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 4B, 11B and 12B.

**RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION IS SEEKING BIDS:**

**FOR SALE**  
**2014 Dodge Caravan, Blue**  
**7 Passenger with Stow & Go bench seats**  
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Some body rust. The engine and transmission are currently in working order, however, the power steering system has ruptured lines at the power steering rack unit.

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May be viewed by contacting Rich Vigue at 802.247.5757  
If interested, please send bid to:

Brenda Fleming  
RNESU, Business Manager  
49 Court Dr., Brandon, VT 0573

Bids will be opened at 12:00pm on Friday, November 8th. We reserve the right to accept or reject all bids.

**CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on November 18, 2024, at 7 pm as the first order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review, Subdivision Review, and Planned Unit Development Review for Application #2024-38 by Sienna Apartments LLC to create a four-lot Subdivision from the Property located at 0, 23 and 25 Armony Lane\*. Reviews will consider Article VII, Article IX, Article X and Section 1605.

Note\* The three Properties as described above were the subject of a Merger to one lot which was Approved by the Development Review Board on Oct. 2, 2024.

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.

10/28/2024  
David Austin,  
Zoning Administrator

**TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARING**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, November 20th, at 7 pm, at the Town Hall.

**Application Number 24-105:** Two-Lot Subdivision Applicant(s): Michele L. Racine; 399 Quaker Street; Rural Residential (RR-2) District; tax id no. 05/01/48.

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.



**MEETING OF THE ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
**13 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 12PM**

The quarterly meeting of the Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) will be held on 13 November at 12pm (in person at the ACRPC conference room at 14 Seminary St with Zoom option). Details can be found at:

<https://acrpc.org/acrpc-remc/>

Meetings are held quarterly, with future meetings scheduled for the:

- Second Wednesday of February
- Second Wednesday of May
- Second Wednesday of August
- Second Wednesday of November

The REMC conducts All-Hazards preparedness planning and coordinates with Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and the statewide Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

The REMC is made up of Local Emergency Management Directors and Emergency Services Representatives from each municipality in the region. Representatives from fire departments, emergency medical services, law enforcement, media, transportation, hospitals, the department of health district office, organizations serving vulnerable populations, and any other interested public or private individual or organization, are welcome to attend and participate! For more information, contact ACRPC Emergency Management Planner Andrew L'Roe at [alroe@acrpc.org](mailto:alroe@acrpc.org) or 802-388-3141 x3.

**LOCAL SPORTS**

Steve James   Andy Kirkaldy   Matt Dickerson   Karl Lindholm

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**Flag football offers thanks**

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury Flag Football Board would like to publicly thank its many volunteers who made this past year a success. This year, MFF served 114 young athletes of the greater Middlebury Community. The program could not run without the time, energy, commitment and dedication of its volunteers.

**Note of appreciation**

Thank you!

**Coaches**

**1st-3rd Grades** (30 players)  
Tony Niemo and helpful parents

**4th Grade** (13 players)  
Fire and Ice: Peter Brakeley,

Scott Sperry, Will Deering and Derek Coombs.

**5th-6th Grades** (34 players)  
Champlain Valley Equipment:

Andrew Peet and Donny Patterson.

The Middlebury Shop (Forth 'N Goal): David "Bootsie" Hanson

and Kyle Delabuere.

Nino's: Joe Wesley, Ben Wagner and Brian Clark.

Bristol (24 players): Dennis Relyea, Taylor Bessette, Jason Copeland, Scott Curtis, Matt Paul,

Matt Gagnon, Gary Russell-BYS Coordinator.

Brandon (12 players): Duke Whitney and Joe Desabrais.

**7th-8th Grades** (37 players)

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G. Stone: K.C. Bullock, Scott Bougor and Spencer Cadoret.

MacIntyre's: Bobby Sunderland,

Darcy Trudeau and Charlie Stone.

Monument Farms: Richard Audet, Brian Kemp and Dean Rheaume.

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Peter James, Dennis Smith, Sean Farrell, Bob Ritter, Erin Quinn,

Grover Usilton, Todd Desabrais, Jed Malcolm and Richard Audet.

**Middlebury Parks and Recreation Department**

Scott Bourne and Amber Hunt

**Special Thanks**

The American Legion Post 27

for their generous contributions to the program.

**SALISBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Salisbury Development Review Board (DRB) will hold Public Hearings in the Town Office (25 Schoolhouse Road) at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, to consider the following:

**Application 2024-09**

An application from Property Owners/Applicants, Gary & Stacey Brown, (Parcel ID #0608015) for a Conditional Use, in connection with a proposed permit to operate a motor vehicle service station (no gas), located at 523 Middle Road, in the Low Density Residential District, (LDR), in which the proposed activity requires review under 2.4.3D of the Unified Zoning Regulations. This application is pursuant to §2.4.3, §3.2, §3.4-§3.4.6, §4.0.2 and §5.8.2, of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

**Application 2024-11**

An application from Property Owner, Moosalamoo Club Inc./Applicant Jeff Schumann, (Parcel ID #13XQ153), for a Waiver and Site Plan Review, in connection with a proposed permit to raze and reconstruct Cottage C-8, located at 8 Moosalamoo Road, in Lake Shore District 2, (LS2), in which the proposed reconstruction requires review under 3.4.2 of the Unified Zoning Regulations. This application is pursuant to §2.4.4, §3.7, §3.8.4, and 4.0.5 of the Salisbury Unified Development Regulations.

Participation (either oral or written) is a prerequisite to an interested person's right to take any subsequent appeal from the DRB's decision. See 24 V.S.A. §4465(b) and §4471.

These hearings will be conducted with in-person and remote access. Those wishing to participate remotely must obtain the necessary remote access codes. Access codes (for online or phone) are available by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk during regular business hours prior to 3:00 PM on November 19, 2024. The Salisbury Town Office is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Application materials are available for inspection in the Town Office during regular business hours and on the Town Website at [townofsalisbury.org](http://townofsalisbury.org).

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS TOWN OF NEW HAVEN NEW HAVEN, VERMONT PLANK ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT**

**General Notice**

Town of New Haven (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

**Plank Road Culvert Replacement**

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the **New Haven Town Office** located at **78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472**, until **Friday, November 22, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.** local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

**Replacing the existing steel beam structure crossing a tributary to the Little Otter Creek with a 22-foot wide by 7.5-foot-high concrete box culvert.**

Bids are requested for the following Contract: **Town of New Haven Plank Road Culvert Replacement Obtaining the Bidding Documents**

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

**Otter Creek Engineering, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 712, 404 East Main St., Middlebury, VT, (802) 382-8522.

Prospective Bidders may obtain or examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Monday through Friday between the hours of **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Bidding documents may also be examined at the **New Haven Town Office, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472**, on Monday through Thursday between the hours of **8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** and **Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office.

Printed copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office, upon payment of **\$50.00** for each set. Make deposit checks for Bidding Documents payable to **Otter Creek Engineering, Inc., mailing address: P.O. Box 712, East Middlebury, VT 05740.**

Bidding Documents may be purchased from the Issuing Office during the hours indicated above. Cost does not include shipping charges. Upon Issuing Office's receipt of payment, printed Bidding Documents or electronic documents on compact disk will be sent via the prospective Bidder's delivery service. The shipping charge amount will depend on the shipping method chosen.

**Pre-bid Conference**

A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.** at **New Haven Town Office, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT.** Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

**Instructions to Bidders.**

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: **Town of New Haven**

By: **John Roleau**

Title: **Selectboard Chair**

Date: **October 24, 2024**

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## Congratulations to the 2024 Garden Game Winners!

Thanks to a spectacular growing season, the 2024 Garden Game was a thrilling competition full of delightful surprises! From towering green beans nearly tall enough for a roller coaster ride, to impressive veggies nurtured by the county's youngest green thumbs, to quirky garden oddities that made us smile, we loved every single entry. A big congratulations to our winners! We're already looking forward to seeing what you all grow next year.

presents the



# 2024 Garden Game



**Asparagus**  
Laura Asermily



**Beet**  
Carol Krawczyk



**Cabbage**  
Carol Krawczyk



**Cantaloupe**  
Ted Foster



**Carrot**  
Gary Miller



**Cauliflower**  
Carol Krawczyk



**Corn**  
Carol Krawczyk



**Cucumber**  
Genevieve Cammack



**Edible Leafy Greens**  
Sue Galipo



**Eggplant**  
Barbara Pelton



**Fennel**  
Dotty McCarty



**Green Bean**  
Gary Miller



**Kohlrabi**  
Michelle Black



**Leek**  
Peter Demong



**Melon**  
Donna Bezanson



**Onion**  
Carol Krawczyk



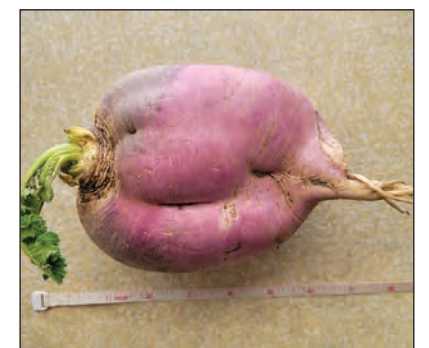
**Pepper**  
Bob Poirier



**Potato**  
Sue Galipo



**Pumpkin**  
Lisa Valley



**Radish**  
Barbara Rodgers



**Rhubarb**  
Barbara Rodgers



**Rutabaga**  
Sue Galipo



**Summer Squash**  
Stan Bigelow



**Sunflower**  
Ed Blechner



**Tomato**  
David Quenneville

### WINNING VEGGIE STATS

- Asparagus (length x circumference) - Laura Asermily, 37" x 1"
- Beet (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 19.5"
- 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) - Dotty McCarty, 25" x 15"
- Green Bean (length) - Gary Miller, 41.25"
- Kohlrabi (circumference) - Michelle Black, 12.5"
- Leek (length x circumference) - Peter Demong, 13" x 4.75"
- Melon (circumference) - Donna Bezanson, 34.5"
- Onion (circumference) - Carol Krawczyk, 17.25"
- Pepper (circumference x circumference) - Bob Poirier, 15.25" x 15"
- Potato (length x circumference) - Sue Galipo, 15" x 14"
- Pumpkin (circumference x circumference) - Lisa Valley, 37.5 x 36.25"
- Radish (circumference) - Barbara Rodgers, 12.5"
- Rhubarb (length) - Barbara Rodgers, 30"
- Rutabaga (circumference) - Sue Galipo, 26"



**Turnip**  
Joel & Sawyer Schwartz



**Winter Squash**  
Peter & Kathy Hubbard



**Zucchini**  
Julie Lonergan

- Summer Squash (length x circumference) - Stan Bigelow, 20" x 17"
- 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"

This contest is made possible thanks to our sponsor, Middlebury Agway. Prizes (limited to one per person) will be mailed to each winner. All winners will be contacted for their mailing address within the next week.

# Learn about the removal, restoration of a local dam

SALISBURY — Karina Dailey will give a PowerPoint presentation and answer questions regarding The Vermont Dam Task Force and the Removal and Restoration of the Wainwright Mill Dam in Salisbury at 7 p.m. on Nov. 7 at the Salisbury Meeting House, 853 Maple Street, in the center of Salisbury.

The Wainwright Mill Dam near the junction of Routes 7

and 53 in Salisbury was built in 1805 to power a sawmill. Many have witnessed the removal of the dam this summer and fall and wondered about the goals and procedures of that project. Dailey will give a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation with plenty of time for your questions afterward.

Dailey is the restoration ecologist (See Salisbury talk, Page 7B)

## Leicester

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

### NEWS

LEICESTER — Town Clerk Julie Delphia reminds voters that ballots need to be returned to the Town Office by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5. If you plan to mail your ballot, check with the post office to make sure it will be delivered in time. Voters may drop completed ballots in the drop box between the office doors, or drop the envelope off during the hours the office is open — Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you choose to vote in person, bring the ballot with you to the office, between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. If voting in person it is important to bring it with you as there is a limited number of ballots on hand.

Leicester Historical Society

is sponsoring Prize Bingo on Saturday, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m., at the Senior Center. Refreshments served and all are welcome.

Representatives from the Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County will be at recycling on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon to answer your questions about how to lower your energy costs, to qualify for incentives and rebates, and how to get support to get the necessary related work completed. Brochures and information, as well as coffee and baked goodies will be available at the town shed. Contact Diane Benware at 247-3786 for more information.



## oct 31 THURSDAY

**Library Halloween in Starksboro.** Thursday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Starksboro Public Library, 2827 Route 116. Stop by in costume for some Halloween treats and fun.

**Trick or Treating for children in Middlebury.** Thursday, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, Lodge Rd. Free and open to the public.

**Haunted Forest and candy galore in East Middlebury.** Thursday, Oct. 31, 4-7 p.m., Waybury Inn, 457 E. Main St. Get scared silly this Halloween night at the Waybury's haunted forest, promising thrills for the whole family.

## nov 1 FRIDAY

**"Forecasting the 2024 Presidential Election: Who Will Win, and Why?" in Middlebury.** Friday, Nov. 1, 10:30 a.m., Community Room, Isley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join Middlebury College Political Science Professor Matt Dickinson for his take on this year's pivotal election.

**"Radical Pamphlets Past and Present" in Middlebury.** Friday, Nov. 1, 4-6 p.m., Harmon Periodical Reading Area, Davis Library, Storrs Ave. New Perennials at Middlebury College hosts a celebration of and conversation about the pamphlet as a means of radical thought and inspiration for social change.

**Light Up the Night in New Haven.** Friday, Nov. 1, 6 p.m., New Haven United Reformed Church, 1660 Route 7. Community gathering, with free smores, hot chocolate, apple cider, cake walk, kid games and live music around the campfire.

## nov 2 SATURDAY

**100th Holiday Bazaar in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Congregational Church of Middlebury, 30 North Pleasant St. The church's Unity Hall, Fellowship Hall, other rooms and hallways are transformed into a holiday-style marketplace. The entire community is invited and welcomed into our church home to enjoy time for shopping.

**Christmas Bazaar in Whiting.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Whiting Town Hall, Route 30. Join us for our annual Christmas Bazaar. Enjoy a free doughnut and coffee, hot cocoa or tea while you shop our local vendors. Lunch available to purchase also.

**Bridport Strong Craft Fair in Bridport.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bridport Masonic Hall, 124 East St. Bridport Strong is a month-long fundraiser to help local women with breast cancer. This year as the final event of the year there will be a craft fair at the Bridport Masonic Hall. Vendors, lunch and a basket raffle. Come help us support the local vendors and local women when they need it the most.

**Puzzle swap in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m., Isley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join us in the Jessica Swift Community Room to stock up on new puzzles for this coming winter, a.k.a. puzzle season. Bring any puzzles you are done with and take home new-to-you puzzles.

**Used book sale in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Middlebury United Methodist Church, at 43 N. Pleasant St. Friends of Isley Library's book sale will be held this month in their new temporary location (for the next year and a half) in the lower level of the church. Entrance is at the back, by the parking lot. Children's books at 25 cents each, and a large selection of large print fiction.

## nov 3 SUNDAY

**Pancake Breakfast in Middlebury.** Sunday, Nov. 3, 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. Tickets \$12 adults/\$6 children. Open to the public. Proceeds benefit Veterans programs.

**Candle lighting Service of Remembrance in Middlebury.** Sunday, Nov. 3, 2-4 p.m., Middlebury United Methodist Church, 47 North Pleasant St. Addison County Home Health & Hospice invites you, your family and friends to gather for our annual service of remembrance, an ecumenical gathering open to the community and held to remember hospice and palliative care patients that we were privileged to care for since October 2023. More info contact Kristen Wilson at 802-388-7259.

## nov 5 TUESDAY

**American Red Cross blood donation in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., American Legion, 49 Wilson Rd. Eligible individuals, especially those with type O blood and those giving platelets, are encouraged to make a donation just ahead of the holiday season. Give blood or platelets and make a big difference in someone's life by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Those who give by Oct. 31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, and be entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards. Those who give Nov. 1-17, will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, and be entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards.

## nov 6 WEDNESDAY

**Holiday succulent wreath workshop in Bristol.** Wednesday, Nov. 6, 1-3 p.m., Minifactory, 16 Main St. AARP Vermont is partnering with Muddy Toes Terrarium to host a free succulent wreath workshop. All are welcome, but registration is required. For more information and to sign up go online to events.aarp.org/holidaywreath.

**"Screenagers — Elementary School Age Edition" on screen in Middlebury.** Wednesday, Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m., North Gym, Mary Hogan School, Mary Hogan Dr. All caregivers are encouraged to come view this film about how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions for empowering kids to navigate the



## The election is over, what now?

A WEEK AFTER the 2024 General Election, come to "Election Reflection — A Town and College Conversation," an inter-generational community conversation with a short panel featuring Middlebury College student Daniza Tazabekova, State Sen. Ruth Hardy and Professor Bert Johnson in Middlebury. Discuss the election results and reflect on the next steps for our country. The event is Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m., at Town Hall Theater.

digital world and find balance. A short discussion with local pediatricians will follow. Light refreshments be served.

**Book club in New Haven.** Wednesday, Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Join us to discuss "Hidden Valley Road" by Robert Kolker. Copies of the book are available to check out at the library. This is open to anyone from any town.

**Shoreham Historical Society meeting in Shoreham.** Wednesday, Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m., Stone School House, Route 22A. Explore the history of Shoreham through artifacts in the Shoreham Historical Society collection. Bring your curiosity and knowledge to this hands-on history evening at Shoreham's historic stone schoolhouse.

## nov 7 THURSDAY

**True crime podcast discussion group in Middlebury.** Thursday, Nov. 7, 6 p.m., Isley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join fellow amateur sleuths for a discussion of the podcast Park Predators, The Hunter (1 episode). Listen to the podcast on your own before the discussion. Renee will facilitate the discussions with prompts and visuals. For participants 18 and over.

**The Vermont Dam Task Force presentation in Salisbury.** Thursday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m., Salisbury Meeting House, 853 Maple St. The Salisbury Conservation Commission hosts Karina Dailey, who will give a PowerPoint presentation and answer questions regarding the removal and restoration of the Wainwright Mill Dam near the junction of Routes 7 and 53 in Salisbury. Free and open to the public. Donations for the use and maintenance of the building will be accepted.

## nov 8 FRIDAY

**Spaghetti dinner and basket raffle in Bridport.** Friday, Nov. 8, 5 p.m., Bridport Central School, 3442 Route 22A. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread and cookie/brownie sundaes. Basket Raffle and 50/50 will be drawn starting at 6:30. Cost under age 3 free/ 4-12 \$5/13-64 \$10/65+ \$8

**Family movie night in Ferrisburgh.** Friday, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7. Join the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall. Entry is free. Concessions, such as popcorn, candy and drinks, will be available for purchase. More info at unionmeetinghall@gmail.com.

## nov 9 SATURDAY

**Veterans Day weekend breakfast in Shoreham.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 8:30-10 a.m., Shoreham Congregational Church, School Rd. Start your celebration of Veterans Day Weekend with blueberry pancakes or French toast with Vermont maple syrup, sausages, home fries, our famous quiches, beverages and more. Tickets \$12 adults/\$6 children/\$30 families. Bring a non-perishable food item or paper product for the Food Shelf. Cord of wood raffle winner will be drawn.

**Kids' Cardboard Carnival in Middlebury.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 1 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Join the Museum and Middlebury College Makerspace Educators for the first Cardboard Carnival. Kids (and their adults) will use their creative minds to build fun and interactive games, simply from cardboard (and a few other materials). Build your own skee ball, ring toss, marble maze and anything else you can dream up. Free and Open to All. Designed for kids ages 6+ up. Adult supervision required.

**Prize Bingo in Leicester.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 1 p.m., Senior Center, Leicester Four Corners. Sponsored by the Leicester Historical Society. Refreshments served and all are welcome.

**Takeout only ham supper in Vergennes.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 5-6 p.m., Vergennes United Methodist Church, Main Street, across from the Vergennes Opera House. Menu includes ham, mashed sweet potato, vegetable, roll and dessert. Adults \$12. Take out preorder only. Must place order by 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7. To order call 802-877-3150.

## nov 10 SUNDAY

**Breakfast buffet in Vergennes.** Sunday, Nov. 10, 8-10 a.m., St. Peters 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.

**Presentation on Charles Miller in Ferrisburgh.** Sunday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m., Ferrisburgh Community Center, Route 7. Ferrisburgh Historical Society welcomes Jean Richardson, Silas Towler and Eliot Lthrop, who will discuss Charles C. Miller, great-grandson of Simeon Miller, one of the earliest settlers in Ferrisburgh, who was a master builder whose work helped create the Vermont landscape we see today.

## nov 11 MONDAY

**American Red Cross blood donation in Middlebury.** Monday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Middlebury EMS, 55 Collins Dr. Eligible individuals, especially those with type O blood and those giving platelets are encouraged to make a donation. Give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Those who give by Oct. 31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email, and be entered for a chance to win one of three \$5,000 gift cards. Those who give Nov. 1-17, will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, and be entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards.

**Veterans' Luncheon in Middlebury.** Monday, Nov. 11, noon, the Residence at Otter Creek, Lodge Rd. All veterans and their partners are invited for a free lunch in appreciation of their service to our country.

## nov 12 TUESDAY

**"America the Violent: How Group Terror has Shaped the Nation's Life" discussion in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Nov. 12, noon, Isley Public Library, 75 Main Street. Suzanne Brown will lead the discussion of "Cloudsplitter," by Russell Banks in the latest installment of this series. Participants can pick up a copy of each book at the circulation desk. A VT Humanities program.

**Election Reflection — A Town and College Conversation in Middlebury.** Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. A week after the 2024 General Election, you are invited to an inter-generational community conversation. We will begin with a short panel featuring Middlebury College student Daniza Tazabekova, State Sen. Ruth Hardy and Professor Bert Johnson. Participants will then join structured small groups to discuss the election results and invite reflection on our hopes and next steps. Refreshments and snacks provided. Free with Required registration. More info at townhalltheater.org.

## nov 13 WEDNESDAY

**Community turkey dinner in New Haven.** Wednesday, Nov. 13, 5:30-7 p.m., New Haven Congregational Church, Town Hill Rd. Menu includes turkey, squash, potatoes, gravy, stuffing, apple crisp and beverage. Free. More info contact Carol at 802-453-5059

## nov 14 THURSDAY

**"Who was Ira Allen?" in Vergennes.** Thursday, Nov. 14, 5-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Land speculator, pamphleteer, politician and revolutionary, Ira Allen has long been hidden in the shadow of his brother, Ethan Allen. Join author and Vermont historian J. Kevin Graffagnino when he illuminates the life of Ira Allen by discussing his new book, "Ira Allen: A Biography."

**"Journeys: Ospreys, Technology, and an Author" in Middlebury.** Thursday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. At the Rob Bierregaard, research associate of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia, will speak at the Annual Meeting of the Otter Creek Audubon Society. Free and open to the public, light refreshments served.

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## Reader Comments

Here's what one reader has to say about us!

A subscriber from Vergennes writes:

"Great paper. Keep up the good work!!"

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT



STUDENTS IN THE Hannaford Career Center Building Trades program pause during their work building an outdoor kitchen at Mary Hogan School's playground.

Photos courtesy of Mary Hogan Preschool

## HCC program helps build outdoor kitchen

The Mary Hogan Preschool would like to thank Neat Repeats, Addison County Education Endowment Fund (ACEEF) and the Environmental

### Notes of appreciation

Education Grant from Otter Creek Audubon Society (OCAS) for their generous donations to help create a better playground with the Hannaford Career Center's

Construction Technology class of 2023-2024.

Led by instructor Nick Cantrick, the high school students constructed a lean-to and outdoor kitchen for the preschool playground.

The structure has been a great addition to the playground! Thank you to all that helped this collaboration to happen!

Deb Martin  
Mary Hogan Preschool



MARY HOGAN PRESCHOOLERS flush with excitement over their new lean-to and outdoor kitchen space, which students from the Hannaford Career Center constructed on the Mary Hogan playground.



### VUHS students speak

MEMBERS OF FULL SEND, the Vergennes Union High School student social justice group, made quite an impression at the annual Rowland Foundation conference at UVM on Oct. 17. Members of Full Send — Claire Clark, Holland VanderWey, Kendra Jackson, Sidi Miguel, Connor Brogan and Jackson Germander — spoke to the full audience of attendees after lunch about the founding of their group and the need for authentic student voice in schools. They also led a morning workshop in which they shared the processes and structures they use to host and facilitate community dialogues about challenging topics, such as racism, belonging in school, mental health, and the Israel-Palestine conflict. According to Full Send's advisors, other school officials at the conference invited Full Send to come and present.

Photo by Gabe Hamilton

## Salisbury talk

(Continued from Page 6B)  
at the Vermont Natural Resource Conservation Council and the Chair of the Vermont Dam Task Force. The task force is a group of river and fish biologists, anglers, community members, freshwater advocates, and conservation organizations, that are working to restore and reconnect our rivers to support thriving fish populations,

improved recreational access, and a river's natural capacity to handle flooding.  
This is the first of a series of Thursday night presentations from stick season through winter organized by the Salisbury Conservation Commission. It is free and open to the public. Donations for the use and maintenance of the Meeting House will be accepted.

# STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

## Mount Abraham Union High School

### Lorenzo Atocha

Mt. Abraham Union High School has chosen Lorenzo Atocha as its latest Student of the Week. Lorenzo resides in Lincoln with his parents, Marion and Steven. He has two siblings, Brewer and Abel, who are both currently in college. The family also includes a dog named Ember and 22 chickens, all named Gator.

Lorenzo has earned highest academic honors every year in high school. His favorite classes are AP European History and Spanish. Lorenzo appreciates the strong connections he has with his teachers and believes they all contribute equally to his success. Lorenzo has been actively involved in a variety of school activities. He has played varsity lacrosse since 9th grade and served as Captain during their Division-III championship title win this past spring. He also competes in varsity Nordic skiing. In addition, Lorenzo is a member of the Eagle Leadership Society, attended Green Mountain Boys' State (at which he was recognized as State Treasurer) and represented Mount Abe at the Youth Athletic Leadership Conference. Lorenzo is also the co-president of the Mount Abe Environmental Action Group.

Outside of school, Lorenzo works at his family's outdoor goods store, Green Mountain Adventures, in Middlebury. He serves as a counselor at kids' summer adventure camps, waxes and tunes skis, and engages in retail work. In his spare time, Lorenzo enjoys photography, mountain biking, ultra running and downhill skiing with friends.

Reflecting on his high school experiences, Lorenzo says, "While at Mount Abe I have come to appreciate all of my great teachers and how connected they are to their students. They all have taken the time to get to know me as an individual and will usually ask what adventures I got up to over the weekend, support me at my sporting events, and push me to be the best student I can. They show that they care about all of their students and the Mount Abe community as a whole. To underclassmen, make sure to take advantage of the time you have in high school to make these connections, as it will help you greatly up until you graduate and beyond your life in high school."

Looking ahead, Lorenzo plans to pursue a college education in Environmental Science, where he hopes to further develop his passion for the outdoors. We wish Lorenzo all the best in his future endeavors.



Lorenzo Atocha  
MAUHS

## Otter Valley Union High School

### Savanna Cook

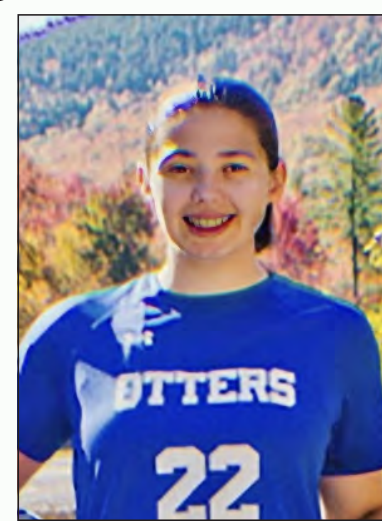
Savanna Cook is Otter Valley Union High School's latest Student of the Week. Savanna shares her time between her mom's and her dad's with her sister and her pets. Throughout school she has been fortunate to have many great teachers who have taught her a lot. Typically her favorite classes are math and science. However, she has taken French class for six years and has had a great time with Dr. Sicot as well as plenty of awesome times with Mrs. Callahan. She has also worked hard in all of her classes to consistently be on the honor roll as well as be a part of the National Honor Society.

While at school Savanna has been able to grow her passion for soccer by being the team captain of the varsity girls' soccer team for two years and participating at the varsity level for four years. She has also participated in Up for Learning, student council, and every part of the music program Otter Valley has to offer. She is a part of the Rutland City Band during the summer and has played with them for two years. It is a great experience, and she has learned a lot about music from people with different playing experiences. Savanna loves that she is able to play with people who also love to play music.

In her spare time Savanna loves to play soccer and be active outside, especially when the weather is nice. When she has the time, Savanna loves to practice her flute and trombone, especially when she gets to play with others. She also likes to spend time with family, do arts and crafts projects, read, and play video games.

"An important lesson I have learned is that what you get out of an experience is dependent upon what you put in," she says. "You can gain a lot from experiences in life if you put the effort in."

Savanna would like to go to college after high school and study Engineering. She is looking at schools close enough to her home to see her family often. She also hopes to play soccer in college. All of us at Otter Valley wish her well in her future plans.



Savanna Cook  
OVUHS

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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!**

**Vermont Book Shop**

Every Student of the Week will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Gift Card

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Keep up the great work, Lorenzo and Savanna

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**Great work, students!**

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Congratulations, Lorenzo and Savanna

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**Cheers to the Students of the Week!**

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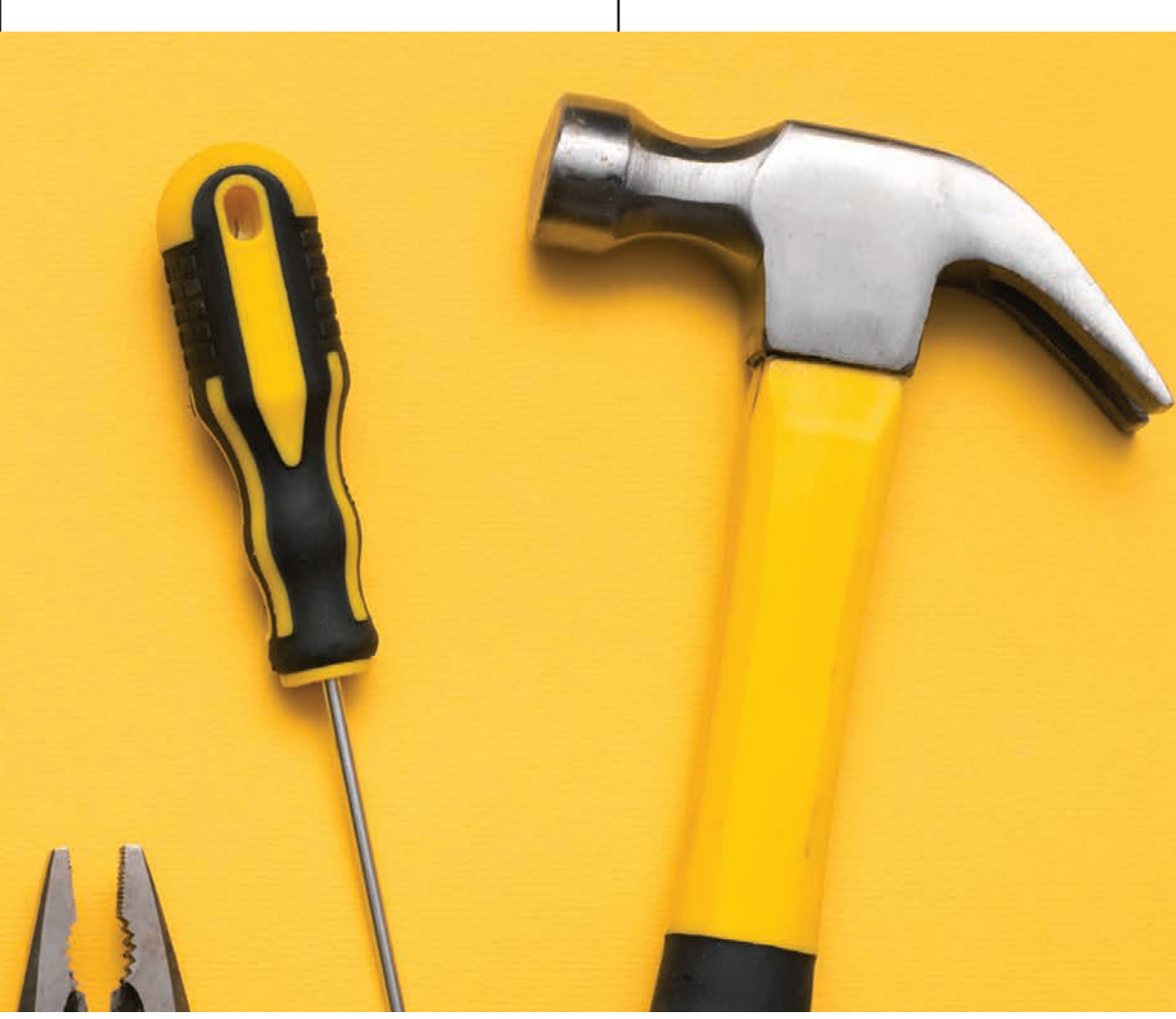
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# Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

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**WE ARE LOOKING** for an individual in Bridport to help us with snow shoveling after large snowfalls this winter. Roughly a 1 hour job each time. Call Jon 802-349-7187.

## For Sale

**FARMALL CUB** with side sickle mower, runs good, \$2500, [cabesette@juno.com](mailto:cabesette@juno.com)

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Minimum salary: \$63,500 depending on qualifications and experience. Health, dental, vision and disability insurance. State of Vermont pension program. See full job description at [pantonvt.us](http://pantonvt.us).

**Send cover letter, resume and three professional references by 11/01/2024 to Howard Hall, Chair, Panton Selectboard, [howardhall@pantonvt.us](mailto:howardhall@pantonvt.us)**

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## Garage Sale

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## Free

**DIGITAL ACCESS** View obituaries, calendar listings and classifieds online at [addisonindependent.com](http://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!

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## MARKET REPORT

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Total Beef - 145 Total Calves - 273

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## Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 4B, 11B and 12B.

Addison (1)	New Haven (2)
Addison County Regional Planning Commission (1)	Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (1)
Addison Northwest School District (1)	Salisbury (1)
Brennan & Punderson, PLLC (1)	State of Vermont (1)
Bristol (1)	Town & Country Self Storage (1)
Ferrisburgh (1)	Vergennes (4)

## PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF ADDISON

The Addison Planning Commission meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2024 at the Addison Community Center at 6:30 PM.

- Open the meeting.
- Roll call given.
- Plan for Katie Raycroft-Meyer for presentation on Chapters: 6 & 7 revisions for Town Plan—revisions on Chap. 6 on Population & Housing, Chap. 7 Economy & Economic Development at 6:20 PM & if time allows for reviewing & start Chap. 8 on Energy.
- Approve the meeting minutes for October 21, 2024 & continue the business meeting.
- Public Comment time allowed. (beginning & end if deemed necessary)
- Read over the VT State Ethics to review & follow.
- Discussion on Town Survey results—follow up with reopening the Survey & continue until Town Meeting Day March 2025 for more responses.
- 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

## LOCAL CONCERNS MEETING VERGENNES MAIN STREET BRIDGE

Main Street (VT Route 22A) Bridge No. 27 over Otter Creek  
November 7, 2024 - 6:30 PM  
At the Vergennes Opera House  
120 Main Street  
Vergennes, Vermont

or Virtually via Zoom at: <https://bit.ly/vergenes-1cm> (note: if typing, use all lowercase)  
Meeting ID: 886 2912 5662  
Passcode: 345690



Presented by the City of Vergennes, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)

**SUMMARY AGENDA:** The project is anticipated to include reconstruction of Bridge No. 27 carrying Main Street (VT Route 22A) over Otter Creek. A construction date for the project has not yet been identified. The intent of the meeting is to briefly review the project area, review existing conditions of the bridge and roadway approaches, define the project development process, and to hear concerns from the community. There will be a brief presentation followed by a question-and-answer period with an opportunity for those attending (in person or virtually) to present any concerns they might have.

The meeting will be presented by the City of Vergennes, VTrans, and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), a consultant engineering firm based out of South Burlington working for VTrans to assist with conceptual design for the project. Representatives from the City of Vergennes, VTrans, and VHB will be available at the meeting.

## CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 2: MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC ORDINANCES, SECTION 9: STOPPED OR UNATTENDED VEHICLES (WINTER PARKING BAN)

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, the Vergennes City Council adopted an amendment to Chapter 2: Motor Vehicle and Traffic Ordinances, Section 9: Stopped or Unattended Vehicles (Winter Parking Ban)

The purpose of the amended Ordinance is to ban parking on public streets during the months of January, February, March and December of each year, only when the City warns a winter parking ban. The proposed amended hours for the winter parking ban are from 12:00 am to 6:30 am. The City intends to provide advance notice of a winter parking ban to its residents via its website, social media, and via a free, downloadable mobile phone app.

A copy of the amended Ordinance can be obtained at Vergennes City Hall, 120 Main Street, during regular business hours, and on the City's website: [www.vergenes.org](http://www.vergenes.org)

The amendment to the Ordinance will become effective on December 5, 2024, 44 days after adoption, unless a referendum petition is filed within that period, in which case the Ordinance will not become effective until after the question of repeal is voted.

## (1628) TRACTORS, SKID STEER, ROLL BACK ONLINE AUCTION

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## ANWSD BOARD MEETING NOTICES FOR NOVEMBER 2024

Wednesday, Nov 6	5:30 PM	Community Engagement Committee Mtg. Virtual
Monday, Nov 11	3:50 PM	Policy Committee Mtg. ANWSD Conference Room
	4:50 PM	Facilities Committee Mtg. VUMHS Library
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Monday, Nov 18	4:50 PM	Finance Committee Mtg. VUMHS Guidance Conference Room
	6:00 PM	ANWSD Board Meeting VUMHS Library
Wednesday, Nov 20	5:30 PM	Community Engagement Committee Mtg. Virtual

## PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible. To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Administrative Rules of the Board of Dental Examiners. Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P044

AGENCY: Board of Dental Examiners (via SOS).

**CONCISE SUMMARY:** These rules generally update standards for dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants. The standards specify scope of practice and licensing standards for dental therapists (a new license type since the last rule update), and for public-health dental hygienists; update practice requirements for the use of anesthesia; incorporate fast-track licensure and uniform processes for licensure of internationally educated dentists; creates standards for the use of new non-invasive techniques by dental hygienists.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Emily Tredeau, Esq., Office of Professional Regulation, 89 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Montpelier, VT 05602 Tel: 802-828-1505 Email: [Emily.B.Tredeau@vermont.gov](mailto:Emily.B.Tredeau@vermont.gov) URL: <https://sos.vermont.gov/dental-examiners/statutes-rules-resources/>.

**FOR COPIES:** Gina Hruban, Office of Professional Regulation, 89 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Montpelier, VT 05602 Tel: 802-828-1505 Email: [Gina.Hruban@vermont.gov](mailto:Gina.Hruban@vermont.gov).

Vermont Criminal Justice Council Rules.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P045

AGENCY: Vermont Criminal Justice Council

**CONCISE SUMMARY:** The proposed amendments contain four additions to our Rule. The first addition is the training requirement for law enforcement officers regarding Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and a mechanism to apply for an indefinite waiver for officers who do not regularly engage in traffic enforcement duty such as the head of a law enforcement agency. (Rule 22(b) and 23). The second addition are rules for the content, implementation and modification of the newly legislated Law Enforcement Officers' Code of Conduct (Act 124). (Rule 28). The third addition is the Council's clarification that it conducts its meetings per Robert's Rules of Order. (Rule 4a). Lastly, the fourth amendment clarifies that the entity that "reviews" a waiver is the same entity that "approves" the waiver within the Council's training waiver rule. (Rule 23)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Kim McManus, Vermont Criminal Justice Council, 317 Academy Rd, Pittsford, VT 05763 Tel: 802-483-2741 E-Mail: [kim.mcmanus@vermont.gov](mailto:kim.mcmanus@vermont.gov) URL: <https://vcjc.vermont.gov/council/rules>.

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Christy Lynn, Advertising Manager  
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[christy@addisonindependent.com](mailto:christy@addisonindependent.com)

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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**TOWN OF BRISTOL  
WARNING  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
BRISTOL, VT**

The legal voters of the Town of Bristol are hereby WARNED and NOTIFIED to meet at Holley Hall in said Bristol, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 a.m., at which time the polls will open, and 7:00 p.m., at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot on the following article of business:

ARTICLE 1: Will the voters of the Town of Bristol adopt the proposed amendments to the Bristol Unified Development Regulations (UDR) as proposed by the Bristol Planning Commission and approved by the Selectboard to enable the creation of more housing in the Village Planning Area, traditionally the village and some outlying areas, consistent with the Town Plan using aspects detailed in "Enabling Better Places: A Zoning Guide for Vermont Neighborhoods" published by the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development and to implement reforms required by S.100 (Act 47) known as the "Housing Opportunities Made for Everyone (HOPE)

The following list highlights the Articles and other topics substantially amended in the proposed document. Other minor changes are also proposed.

(1) Article II: adjustments to the Dimensional Standards to provide greater flexibility for residential use/housing in Village Business (VB) and Village Mixed (VM); a portion of Village Residential (VR) was moved to High Density Residential (HDR).

(2) Article IV: added parameters identifying "clearly subordinate" with regard to an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU).

(3) Article X: definitions, including but not limited to Business Yard, Hotel, and Inn/Guest Facility.

A summary of the proposed amendments can be found in the Planning Commission's October 17, 2023 report at <https://bit.ly/4exXVVT>. Copies of the proposed Bristol Unified Development Regulations and PC report are available on Bristol's Web site at [www.bristolvt.org](http://www.bristolvt.org) and can be viewed or obtained at the Bristol Town Office.

ARTICLE 2: Shall general obligation bonds or notes of the Town of Bristol in an amount not to exceed Three Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$3,950,000.00), subject to reduction by available grants-in-aid or other funding sources, be issued to finance the cost of replacing circa 1905 water lines located west of North Street (Bristol West)?

Informational Meetings: The legal voters of the Town of Bristol are further notified that informational meetings will be held in person at Holley Hall and via Zoom on Monday, October 28, 2024 during a regular Selectboard meeting and on Monday, November 4, 2024 during a special Selectboard meeting, both of which will commence at 7:00 p.m., for the purpose of discussing the proposed Articles.

Monday, October 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87912810018>  
Meeting ID: 879 1281 0018  
Passcode: 619003  
Phone in: 1 (646) 558-8656

Monday, November 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87912810018>  
Meeting ID: 879 1281 0018  
Passcode: 619003  
Phone in: 1 (646) 558-8656

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Selectboard of the Town of Bristol duly called, noticed and held on September 23, 2024. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Town of Bristol on September 24, 2024.

Bristol Selectboard:  
Joel Bouvier, Chair  
Michelle Perlee, Vice Chair  
Ian Albinson  
John Heffernan  
Jessica Teets

ATTEST:  
Sharon Lucia, Town Clerk

**TOWN & COUNTRY SELF STORAGE**

107 Pantan Road, Vergennes, VT 05491  
802-877-3155

**NOTICE OF LIEN SALE  
November 14, 2024 at 3:00 pm**

The following units are being sold for non payment of storage fees:

Benjamin Smith Unit 36-14, 5x10 Furniture	Peter Sanger Unit 94, 5x10 Household items	Michelle Canyo Unit 52, 10x10 Household items
Robert Bougor Unit 56, 5x10 Household items	Damien Loop Unit 93, 5x10 Household items	Robert Partnoy Unit #10, 10x15 Household items

Payment to be made in cash at time of bid. A \$50 cash deposit is required. All units to be emptied & broom cleaned within 24 hours of accepted bid. Deposit will be returned at that time. Town & Country Self Storage and owners have the right to refuse any and all bids and to cancel the sale without notice.

**STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION ADDISON UNIT  
DOCKET NO.: 24-PR-06293  
IN RE ESTATE OF: HANNAH W. MAGOUN**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To the Creditors of: Hannah W. Magoun, late of Middlebury, 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: 10/24/24

Mark A. Niles, Executor  
% Katherine W. Hope, Esq.  
111 South Pleasant Street, Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-6356  
khope@langrock.com

Publication: Addison Independent  
Publication Date: 10/31/24  
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division  
Address of Probate Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

**TOWN OF NEW HAVEN  
INVITATION TO BID  
LAWN MOWING & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE  
BID FOR 3 YEARS**

Properties to include: Town Offices & Library, Train Depot, Village Green, War Memorial Green, West Cemetery, River Road Cemetery and DeMers Park

Duties to include: Lawn mowing, weed whacking, weeding, edging and mulching all flower beds. Also collaring and mulching the crab apple trees on the Village Green.

Please price out mowing and weed whacking for each location separately. Contractor is expected to keep the above-mentioned grounds clear of debris, branches and garbage and generally in good appearance.

The Selectboard reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Questions related to these projects should be directed to the Town Clerk's Office at 802-453-3516.

Replies to be submitted by December 2, 2024 to:  
The Town of New Haven  
78 North St.

New Haven, VT 05472  
All bids will be opened at the December 3, 2024 Selectboard meeting.

**Public Notices**

can be found in this  
**ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 4B, 11B and 12B.

Email your Public Notices  
to [legals@addisonindependent.com](mailto:legals@addisonindependent.com)

**NOTICE FROM BRENNAN & PUNDERSON, PLLC  
MONKTON, VERMONT OFFICE  
(including former clients of JOSEPH D. FALLON, ESQ.,  
of Hinesburg, Vermont)**

To all former clients of Kevin T. Brennan, Esq., of Brennan & Punderson, PLLC, (f/k/a Brennan Punderson & Donahue, PLLC), located at 1317 Davis Road, Monkton, Vermont (hereinafter "Attorney Brennan"), including former clients of Joseph D. Fallon, Esq., of Hinesburg, Vermont, transferred to Attorney Brennan effective December 1, 2018:

Effective October 31, 2024, Kevin T. Brennan, Esq., is retiring and closing his office in Monkton, Vermont. If you would like to retain your file or any portion of it, please contact Bonnie Brennan via email at [bonnie@bpd.legal](mailto:bonnie@bpd.legal) or by calling 802-453-8400. If Attorney Brennan's office has not heard from you by December 31, 2024, your file will be securely destroyed.

Additionally, if you believe you have an original Last Will and Testament being retained by Attorney Brennan (or which was retained by Attorney Fallon), please contact Bonnie Brennan as instructed above to make arrangements to have your Will returned to you for safekeeping.

**CITY OF VERGENNES  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Development Review Board will hold a public hearing on November 18, 2024, at 7 pm as the second order of new business, for the following purpose:

To consider Site Plan Review for Application #2024-42 by M&T Bank c/o Wiemann Lamphere Architects to construct Accessibility Improvements on the Property located at 3 North Maple St. Reviews will consider Article VII and Section 1608

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@vergenne.org](mailto:zoning@vergenne.org).

10/28/2024  
David Austin,  
Zoning Administrator



**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

**10% off**

any 4 tire purchase

Valid at Pete's Middlebury location only  
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED  
Expires 12/20/24

**Free seasonal tire storage**

with tire changeover service

Valid at Pete's Middlebury location only  
COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED  
Expires 12/20/24

Pete's Tire Barns operates 6 service locations and a retread manufacturing facility in VT. We employ more than 75 Vermonters.

**Independently owned and operated.**

**At Pete's Tire Barn in Middlebury**

every set of 4 tires purchased includes:

- \*Free Rotation
- \*Free Flat Repair
- \*Seasonal Tire Storage

**Valid for the lifetime of the tires!**

Pete's goal is to provide the best overall tire products and services to the New England market.

Green Initiatives continue to be a high priority at Pete's Tire Barns, including a manufacturing facility that produces truck retreads with solar power.

**FRIENDLY, LOCAL SERVICE**



**Enter to win a set of (4) Bridgestone or Firestone tires (with installation) a value of up to \$1,200.**

No purchase necessary to enter.  
No cash value substitute.  
Contest ends 12/20/24

Open Mon - Fri 7:30 am to 5 pm | Sat 7:30-Noon  
28 Willow Dr., Middlebury, VT 05753  
Phone: (802) 388-4053

# ARTS & LEISURE

The Addison

October 31, 2024



"Dido and Aeneas Project" soloists (pictured from left to right) Ella Kozak, Ivy Schuite, Subia Khan, Anya Szczecinski and Lila Brightman rehearse at Middlebury Union High School on Sunday with Sarah Cullins (back left). These five soloists will take the stage at Mount Abraham Union High School with about 140 of their peers from around Addison County on Dec. 13-14, for Youth Opera Company's annual production of Purcell's iconic work.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES

## 170 TEENS HIT ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

OPERA COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY'S 2024-2025 YOUTH OPERA SEASON OPENS NOV. 8

**W**hat do you suppose teens these days think about opera?

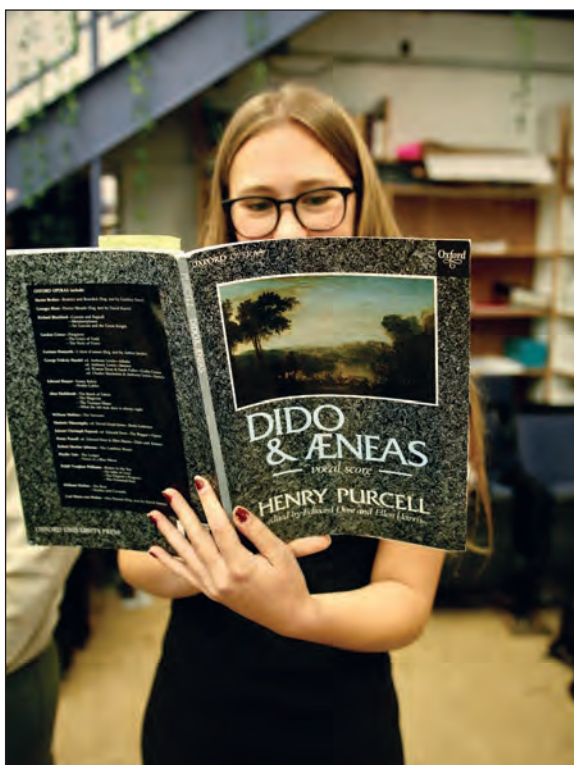
"It's for old, white people... old, **rich**, white people," Sarah Cullins charged. "And sung by very large women, with a helmet on their head."

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

Cullins, the founder of Youth Opera Company and director of Education and Outreach for Opera Company of Middlebury, doesn't shy away from these stereotypes.

"We like to play with stereotypes about opera in Youth Opera Company," she said in an interview last week. "Let's not be afraid of them... Instead of rejecting those stereotypes, we embrace them and make it fun for ourselves. Having a relaxed attitude



toward these stereotypes opens doors for conversation and flexible thinking."

This season, over 170 students will be involved in YOC's productions. The season schedule features the ironic wit of operetta greats Gilbert and Sullivan, the tragic Aeneid-inspired story of Queen Dido, and well-loved melodies of Mozart.

The season will open Nov. 8-12 with six students performing Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas "Iolanthe," "Patience" and "The Mikado," which have been re-woven into an original script featuring podcast hosts debating the age-old question: "Is it the music, or the text, that is most important?" The production, written and directed by bass Erik Kroncke, is led from the piano by YOC Music Director Mary Jane Austin.

"The political satire inherent in Gilbert and

SEE OPERA ON PAGE 3

# UPCOMING MUSIC



## The Dave Keller Band performs live in Vergennes

On Saturday, Nov. 2, the Vergennes Opera House will be hosting the Dave Keller Band, a high energy, dynamic and soul roots-based group.

Keller is one of the premier torchbearers of Deep Soul and Roots music, and his dynamic, high energy performances have earned him a legion of fans throughout the U.S. and Europe, but especially in Vermont.

Keller is a three-time Blues Music Awards (BMA) nominee for Best Soul Blues Album, with three of his albums being named Best Album of the Year by DownBeat magazine. Once you listen to his music, you will understand why his fan base is so massive and the accolades so numerous.

"Dave Keller's talent comes up through his soul and finds its way to the instruments he plays and the lyrics he sings," said Gerianne Smart, President of the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House. "He has performed on the VOH stage before but always as a guest vocalist. This is the first time our audience will experience the full breadth of his talent and the tight musicality of his band."

The Dave Keller Band has performed in almost every state east of the Mississippi river and quite a few to the west of it and they know how to fill a dance floor. Dave uses his passion for

music to connect with his fans in a real way, breaking down the barrier between performer and audience (he's been known to wander into the crowd while playing his guitar with gusto), and creating an experience that everyone remembers long after the show is over.

"Over the years I have enjoyed performing on the Vergennes Opera House stage as part of several outstanding musical events," Keller said. "This concert is the first time I will have my incredible band with me, and the opportunity to share some of our favorite music, both our new releases and some favorites. We're looking forward to creating a very special night in the little city."

Joining Keller on stage will be Ira Friedman on keyboards, Alex Budney on bass guitar, and Jay Gleason on drums. Opening the show at 7:30 p.m., will be Chris Wyckoff, keyboard/piano (and local "fav" VUHS teacher) accompanied by Avery Cooper on saxophone. Both Wyckoff and Cooper are lifetime musicians and have played in bands such as Panton Flats, the Good Parts, and Into the Mystic.

Tickets to this evening performance are \$15 in advance online and \$20 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](http://VergennesOperaHouse.org).



Dave Keller and his band will perform at the Vergennes Opera House on Saturday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

DAVE SNYDER PHOTOGRAPHY

"OVER THE YEARS I HAVE ENJOYED PERFORMING ON THE VERGENNES OPERA HOUSE STAGE... THIS CONCERT IS THE FIRST TIME I WILL HAVE MY INCREDIBLE BAND WITH ME, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MUSIC... WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO CREATING A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT IN THE LITTLE CITY."

— Dave Keller

## MORE TUNES



Catch Mohsen Amini in a Zoom performance and Q&A with MCMC on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m.

PHOTO / PAUL JENNINGS

### Trad talk with Mohsen Amini of Talisk and ímar

Join Middlebury Community Music Center at 11 a.m., on Sunday, Nov. 10, for a free Zoom-based performance and Q&A session with concertina phenom Mohsen Amini of Talisk and ímar. The event is free and open to the public, but only a limited number of registrations are available. Register today at [mcmcv.org](http://mcmcv.org), to reserve your spot for this unique opportunity to pick the brain of one of the brightest stars on the international trad scene.

SEE AMINI ON PAGE 4

### Jerusalem Quartet celebrates 30 years in Middlebury

Celebrating its 30th season, the Jerusalem Quartet embodies the pinnacle of chamber music excellence, renowned worldwide for its passionate performances and impeccable precision. With a repertoire spanning the classical to contemporary, they captivate audiences with spellbinding interpretations, blending technical virtuosity with profound musical depth. The Jerusalem Quartet will return to Middlebury on Saturday, Nov. 2 with a program of Haydn, Shostakovich, and Dvorák. The concert at Mahaney Arts

SEE QUARTET ON PAGE 4

# OPERA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sullivan's works felt like a particularly appropriate companion to the Opera Company of Middlebury's fall offerings of Derrick Wang's 'Scalia/

Ginsburg' and Jorge Martin-Bujan's 'The Interlopers,'" Cullins said.

The cast includes students from Colchester, Burlington, Roxbury and Starksboro.

"I joined YOC last year and performed in both the fall and spring programs," said mezzo-soprano Bailey Antos-Ketcham, who is a homeschooled junior from Starksboro, and also participates in the Addison Repertory Theater program at the Hannaford Career Center. "This was my first experience being in a show where vocal technique is the main focus... Overall, working with our faculty and casts has been an extremely positive experience for me."

Next up, is the third annual "Dido and Aeneas Project" — a semester-long school residency program that uses the rehearsing and performing of Purcell's iconic work to introduce opera to high school choral programs. This year performances, Dec. 13-14 at Mount Abraham Union High School, will feature soloists and the full choral programs of Middlebury, Mount Abe and Vergennes union high schools.

"The students have been super receptive," said MUHS choral director Liz LeBeau, adding that there's a lot of excitement about connecting with students from other schools too. "My students are generally game for new things... Having Sarah in-house and teaching classical techniques is very helpful. We talk about how to use that technique for projects that go beyond."

LeBeau herself sings classically, and maintains that "if you can sing classically, you can sing anything. It's helps you learn to use your full instrument — access your full range, project, and find your center. It's been really beneficial."



Sarah Cullins and pianist Ronnie Romano rehearse scenes from "Dido and Aeneas" with students at the Middlebury Union High School on Sunday.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

Choir directors LeBeau (at MUHS), Megan LaRose (at MAUHS) and Cailin O'Hara (at VUHS) have been working with their students on an assigned portion of the opera. Cullins has been visiting schools weekly for discussions about the opera, the source works, vocal technique, character development, musical style and staging.

"Out of the 140 participants, only 15 have seen live opera before," remarked Cullins about this semester's program. "When these 125 students step onto the stage at Mount Abraham, it will be their first experience with live opera. To me, that is **THE** most powerful way to experience a 'new' artform!"

In addition to her work with the full choirs, Cullins has also been working specifically with the 13 soloists who auditioned and were selected last May. The Middlebury soloists are **Ella Kozak** (Spirit), **Subia Khan** (Spirit), **Sole Pareja** (Sailor), **Eve Menguc** (Second Woman), **Isaiah Robinson** (Aeneas) and **Nathan Stefani** (Aeneas). Mount Abe soloists are **Ivy Schulte** (Sourceress), **Lila Brightman** (Witch 1) and **Anya Szczecinski** (Witch 2); and Vergennes soloists are **Phoebe Raphael** (Belinda), **Maddie Stroup** (Clarissa), **Gina LeBeau** (Dido) and **Rory Hendee** (Belinda).

"As I expected, everyone is so open and enthusiastic about this project; and the soloists are all in," Cullins said. "They are taking this opportunity very seriously... learning how to use their voices in this different way... Obviously so much of that has to do with their incredible teachers, who are so completely dedicated to their programs and that makes all the difference. They set fabulous expectations about how fun and different this experience can be, how much they will learn and what they're capable of! It's so exciting to see minds open."

Cullins pointed to the Opera Under 26 Program, that offers free tickets to Opera Company of Middlebury performances for those under the age of 26.

"If only 15 out of the 140 have seen live opera, that means it's not about the money," she said. "It's about perception. If we can change that by having students do it... then what other ideas can they learn to be more flexible about?"

Cullins's passion and philosophies for these educational programs are undeniable and contagious — in a good way. Thankfully funding sources recognize this too. The "Dido and Aeneas Project" is supported with funding from Vermont Humanities, the Vermont Arts Council and the Morris and Bessie Altman Foundation, which has made it possible to add two teaching artists, pianist Ronnie Romano and conductor Jeffrey Buettner.

The season continues in April, when Youth Opera Company will team up with the Vermont Youth Orchestra to perform scenes from Mozart operas, including "The Magic Flute," "Cosi fan tutte" and "The Marriage of Figaro." The season will wrap-up in the summer of 2025, with a Project Serenade concert series that tours senior residences and community centers.

Go and see for yourself what opera means to teens... It might just open **your** eyes. For details and more info about this programming visit [ocmvermont.org/youth-opera](http://ocmvermont.org/youth-opera).

## PERFORMANCES

### Gilbert & Sullivan: The Podcast

Friday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m. at the Waterbury Congregational Church  
 Saturday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m. at the CVUUS in Middlebury  
 Sunday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church in South Burlington  
 Tuesday, Nov. 12: School tours

### The Dido and Aeneas Project: Addison County

Friday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Mt. Abraham Union High School  
 Saturday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at Mt. Abraham Union High School

### YOC/VYO Mozart Program

April 11: School tours  
 April 11, 7 p.m. at the Elley-Long Music Center  
 April 12, 7 p.m. at the CVUUS in Middlebury  
 April 13, 2 p.m. at the Waterbury Congregational Church



MIDDLEBURY  
 PERFORMING  
 ARTS SERIES  
 FALL 2024 SEASON

November 2 ▪ 7:30 PM  
**JERUSALEM  
 QUARTET**  
 \$25/20/10/5

Tickets on sale now  
[go.middlebury.edu/pas](http://go.middlebury.edu/pas)

# ART ON EXHIBIT

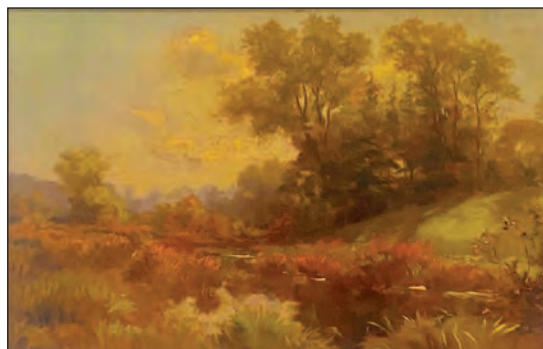
## 'Autum in Addison County' falls into Bixby Library

As the leaves fall and the air chills, the Bixby Memorial Free Library in Vergennes showcases its newest exhibit: "Autumn in Addison County." The stunning collection of historical artworks capture the local landscape in its autumnal splendor.

The exhibit stemmed from an effort to analyze the library's archives through a "biosphere lens." Reading, interpreting, and sharing the collection with a focus on the land, water, forest, mountains, farms, and industries of Addison County, through history. The exhibit contains pieces spanning the 20th century and asks how our physical landscape can shape history.

With sustainability in mind, the Historical Collections team turned inward to create this exhibit, combing through the archive's existing body of work. Each piece is accompanied by informational labels, which offer a glimpse into our region's past and the artists who captured it.

You can view "Autumn in Addison County" in the Bixby Library's Community Room anytime during open hours throughout November. Visit [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org) for more information.



"Autumn in Addison County" at the Bixby Memorial Free Library in Vergennes presents a century of local landscapes, tracing how Addison County's natural environment has shaped its history.

## QUARTET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Center's Olin C. Robison Concert Hall will begin at 7:30 p.m., and is open to the public.

Established as a leading ensemble on international stages, the Jerusalem Quartet's collaborative spirit and unwavering dedication to musical artistry continue to redefine and elevate the string quartet tradition. The quartet features Alexander Pavlovsky (violin), Sergei Bresler (violin), Ori Kam (viola), and Kyril Zlotnikov (cello).

Reserved Seating. Tickets: \$25 general public, \$20 Middlebury ID holders, \$10 youth (under 21), \$5 Middlebury students. Approximate running time: 90 minutes including intermission.



Marking three decades of chamber music mastery, the Jerusalem Quartet returns to Middlebury on Nov. 2 with works by Haydn, Shostakovich, and Dvořák.

Learn more about this concert's music in a free pre-concert lecture by Professor Emeritus of Music Larry Hamberlin, at 6:15 p.m., in MAC room 125. For more info and ticket reservations visit [go.middlebury.edu/tickets](http://go.middlebury.edu/tickets).

## AMINI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

## ABOUT MOHSEN AMINI

BBC Radio 2 Musician of the Year Mohsen Amini from Glasgow, Scotland is an incredibly fast-growing

name in the traditional world. Boasted by the Herald as a "virtuoso" and the BBC Scotland as a "Force of Nature" he's a leading voice on the music scene today. In 2014 he co-founded multi-award winning trio, Talisk, who after only a few months of formation won a BBC Radio 2 Folk Award. One of the most talked-about folk bands of the 21st century, Talisk have been tearing apart stereotypes and redefining the genre for almost a decade.

With over 15 million streams and 10,000 albums sold worldwide, and sell out shows across five continents — from Paris to New York, London to Tokyo, Glasgow to Vancouver — alongside headline appearances at festivals across the world, the Scottish trio have amassed a global, die-hard following. Since their inception, Talisk have stacked up major awards for their explosively energetic sound — including five between BBC Radio 2 and BBC Radio Scotland, and two highly coveted BBC Alba Scots Trad Music Awards.

Amini also founded acclaimed supergroup Ímar at the start of 2016. The group's combined commonality and diversity of background and influences fuels Ímar's unmistakable synergy, centered on the overlapping cultural heritage between Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man. In 2023, Ímar released their third highly acclaimed album "Awakening," which has been hailed as "an outrageous showcase of the highest-tier of musicianship and performance" by Bright Young Folk and "dizzying collective virtuosity striking sparks at every twisty bend" by RNR Magazine.

Alongside launching Ímar in 2016, Amini was crowned the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year. Amini has toured with some of the top names in the scene, been named in the Daily Record "Young Scot of the Year," named in The List's Hot 100, became the first ever musician to be nominated as "Instrumentalist of the Year" at the 2016 MG Alba Trad Awards, "Musician of the Year" at the 2017 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and win the 2016 "Young Traditional Musician of the Year," and to boot, he's now joined ranks with some of the biggest names today being the youngest ever person to be crowned "Musician of the Year" at the 2018 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

Talented? Yeah, just a little. Learn more at the Zoom performance and Q&A on Nov. 10.

**SUBSCRIBE**    
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

PRINT OR DIGITAL READ THE ADDY INDY

# ART ON EXHIBIT

## ART ON MAIN

**"Two Masters Reflect On the Seasons"** featuring pottery by Robert Compton and photography by Paul Forlenza. On view Oct. 4-Nov. 16.

## BIXBY MEMORIAL FREE LIBRARY

258 Main Street, Vergennes

For more info visit [bixbylibrary.org](http://bixbylibrary.org) or call 802-877-2211.

**"Autumn in Addison County."** This stunning collection of historical artworks capture the local landscape in its autumnal splendor. On view through November.

## EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit [edgewatergallery.com](http://edgewatergallery.com), call

802-458-0098 or email [info@edgewatergallery-vt.com](mailto:info@edgewatergallery-vt.com).

**"Falling Into It."** featuring two beautiful new collections from Scott Addis and Kay Flierl. Visitors can view the show, meet the artist, watch him paint and learn about his process. This event is free and open to all. The full exhibit will be on view through Nov. 17.

## JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury

For more info visit [townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery](http://townhalltheater.org/jackson-gallery) or call 802-382-9222.

**"Cultivating our Art: Farmer/Artists' Reflections on Farming as Muse."** This exhibit features artwork by individuals who make their living as both artists and farmers, including Hannah Sessions, Jen Roberts, Laurie Brooks, Louisa Conrad and Lucas Farrell. On view through Jan. 4, 2025.

## JOHNSON ATRIUM

78 Chateau Road, Middlebury

For more info visit [middlebury.edu/events](http://middlebury.edu/events)

**"Against Wings"** featuring paintings by Rebecca Kinkead and poems by Ben Humphries. The pairing of the paintings and poems represents a dialogue between the artists and their reflections/responses to human impacts on the natural habitats of animals and the Earth's climate. On view through Dec. 6.

## K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St, Vergennes

For more info visit [kgrantfineart.com](http://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.

## HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park St., Middlebury

For more information visit [henrysheldonmuseum.org](http://henrysheldonmuseum.org) or call 802-388-2117.

**"Model Boats: The Craftsmanship of Jerry DeGraff."**

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14



**ARIES:** March 21/April 20. Aries, this week you may find yourself with some extra energy and enthusiasm for new projects. Figure out what you want to get done and think through a plan.

**TAURUS:** April 21/May 21. Taurus, you may have a strong desire for stability and security. Now is a good time to focus on financial matters and investigate potentially valuable investment opportunities.

**GEMINI:** May 22/June 21. Communication will be key for you this month, Gemini. Whether you aim to strengthen existing relationships or start new ones, be clear and honest in all of your interactions.

**CANCER:** June 22/July 22. This week your focus shifts largely toward home and family, Cancer. Now might be the time to address any conflicts in your home life to reinforce family relationships.

**LEO:** July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, this could be a week when you find yourself in the spotlight more than usual. You don't shy away from extra attention; in fact, you will thrive this week.

**VIRGO:** Aug. 24/Sept. 22. This is a good week to start organizing and planning, Virgo. The holidays are right around the corner, and you want to be sure that everything you need to get done will be accomplished.

**LIBRA:** Sept. 23/Oct. 23. Relationships and partnerships are priorities for you this week, Libra. Figure out how you can balance your needs with those of others in your inner circle.

**SCORPIO:** Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, it's a good time to implement new habits or make improvements to your work life. Perhaps the balance has been skewed and you need more time for family?

**SAGITTARIUS:** Nov. 23/Dec. 21. This week could be bursting with creativity for you, Sagittarius. If you've been meaning to pursue hobbies or other interests, now is the time to explore and have some fun.

**CAPRICORN:** Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Making improvements to your home or living space can give you a fresh perspective, Capricorn. It might just be the change you need to feel revitalized.

**AQUARIUS:** Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Don't be afraid to share your ideas and connect with others this week, Aquarius. Staying curious and getting your perspective across may lead to some exciting opportunities.

**PISCES:** Feb. 19/March 20. Financial matters may come into focus this month, Pisces. It's a good time to look at your budget and make some tweaks, if necessary. Taking on extra work might be an option.

Yes, it's already time to start thinking about holiday gifts for knitters!

Wed-Thurs 11am-5pm  
Fri 11-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm  
Sun 12-4pm  
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## FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOV. 1 — Alfred Wegener, geophysicist (continental drift theory) (d)  
NOV. 2 — K.D. Lang, singer (63)

NOV. 3 — Jeremy Brett, actor (d)  
NOV. 4 — Luis Figo, soccer player (52)  
NOV. 5 — Tilda Swinton, actor (64)  
NOV. 6 — Colson Whitehead, author (55)  
NOV. 7 — Marie Curie, scientist (d)

# CALENDAR

OCT. 31 - NOV. 16  
2024



## THURSDAY, OCT. 31

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN PORT HENRY/MINEVILLE, N.Y.**  
Thursday, Oct. 31, Hike Cheney & Belfry Mountains. Scenic, easy, 2-mile, and 1-mile hikes with a few hundred feet of elevation gain. Multiple viewpoints, including one of the Dix Range, Rocky Peak Ridge, and Giant Mt. from Cheney and sweeping 360 views from the fire tower of Belfry Mt. If you have major vertigo issues, skip the tower and still enjoy some views. Both short hikes are within 30 minutes from Chimney Point parking for carpooling. Contact leader Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or kencorey53@gmail.com to register.

**TRICK OR TREATING FOR CHILDREN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Oct. 31, 5-7 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, Lodge Rd. Free and open to the public.

**HAUNTED FOREST IN EAST MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Oct. 31, Waybury Inn, 457 E. Main St. Get scared silly this Halloween night at the Waybury's haunted forest, promising thrills for the whole family.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 1

**ART PLAY FOR ADULTS IN BRISTOL.** Friday, Nov. 1, 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. More info at lawrencelibraryvt.org.

**ARTIST ROSE-LYNN FISHER IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 1, 12:30 p.m., Lower lobby, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Join us for a talk by Rose-Lynn Fisher, an artist featured in the exhibition "An Invitation to Awe," who uses microscope, camera and mixed media to explore the realms within realms we inhabit, in work that evokes a continuum of interconnections and wonder. Afterward, stay for conversation over a light lunch. Free and open to all, but \$5 donations are welcome.

**"RADICAL PAMPHLETS PAST AND PRESENT" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 1, 4-6 p.m., Harmon Periodical Reading Area, Davis Library, Storrs Ave. New Perennials at Middlebury College hosts a celebration of and conversation about the pamphlet as a means of radical thought and inspiration for social change.

**BLOODROOT GAP IN BRANDON.** Saturday, Nov. 1, 4-6 p.m., Red Clover Ale, 43 Center St.

**ARTIST'S OPENING RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 1, 5-6:30 p.m., Edgewater on the Green, Merchants Row. Come meet artist Julia Jensen and view her show, "Thereafter." Jensen is a new addition to the gallery's roster of artists.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 2

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB WALK IN STARKSBORO.** Saturday, Nov. 2. Discover some monster (and some not so) "glacial erratics" from a road walk with sweeping views of the Monroe Skyline. Contact Cecilia Elwert at ceciliaelwert@yahoo.com for more info.

**FAURÉ REQUIEM IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 4 p.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 3 Main St. The Choir of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will sing Gabriel Fauré's Requiem in the context of a Requiem Eucharist offered in memory of All Faithful Departed. All are welcome to attend this special service to remember departed loved ones — those attending will have the opportunity to light a candle and share the names of those to be remembered. More info at 802-388-7200.

**PRE-CONCERT LECTURE: JERUSALEM QUARTET IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 6:30 p.m., Room 125, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Learn more about this concert's music in a free pre-concert lecture by Professor Emeritus of Music Larry Hamberlin. Free and open to the public.

**MAIDEN VERMONT IN BRANDON.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. This chorus of 30 women specializes in everything from country to pop movie themes and plenty of classic barbershop tunes. Tickets at the door.

**REMEMBER BAKER IN BRISTOL.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 7 p.m., South Mountain Tavern.

**MAYA DE VITRY IN LINCOLN.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Burnham Presents. Doors open at 7 p.m. Maya de Vitry comes to the Burnham Presents stage on her album release tour for "The Only Moment"! de Vitry first traveled and performed as a fiddling street musician, and then in bars, theaters, and on festival stages as a founding member of The Stray Birds. She has been devotedly creating a powerful new body of work - one that consistently blurs genre while showcasing her delight in storytelling and her extraordinarily dynamic singing. Homemade refreshments available. Tickets \$20-\$25 sliding scale. More info at burnhampresents.org.

**DAVE KELLER IN VERGENNES.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. One of the premier torchbearers of Deep Soul and Roots music, Dave Keller's dynamic, high energy performances have earned him a legion of fans throughout the U.S. and Europe. Keller knows how to fill dance floors. But just as importantly, he connects with his fans in a real way, breaking down the barrier between performer and audience, creating an experience that everyone remembers long after the show is over. Tickets \$15 advance/\$20 door, available at vergennesoperahouse.org.

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.	
<b>Friday, November 1</b> Through the Night: Candidates 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 6:30 p.m. Candidates <b>Saturday, November 2</b> Through the Night: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Energy Week 6 a.m. Candidates 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Candidates <b>Sunday, November 3</b> Through the Night: Candidates 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar	7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 8:30 p.m. Candidates <b>Monday, November 4</b> Through the Night: Candidates 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conf., Candidates 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Candidates <b>Tuesday, November 5</b> <b>ELECTION DAY</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Services 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 10 p.m. Energy Week <b>Wednesday, November 6</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs 6:30 a.m. Energy Week 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 11 p.m. Energy Week <b>Thursday, November 7</b> Through the Night: Public Affairs	8 a.m. Congregational Services 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 8:30 p.m. Energy Week 9:30 p.m. Eckankar 10 p.m. Gov. Scott 11 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour <b>Channel 1091</b> <b>Friday, November 1</b> 5 a.m. Nulhegan Education 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. Arts & Performance 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 11 p.m. Town Hall Theater <b>Saturday, November 2</b> 6 a.m. Stuck in Vermont 7 a.m. Belinda Emmons, Nature & Wildlife Photographer: Songbirds 8:30 a.m. Nulhegan Education 10 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Songwriter's Notebook 6 p.m. Stuck in Vermont 7 p.m. Songbirds 8:30 p.m. Nulhegan Education	10 p.m. How To Weed Your Attic <b>Sunday, November 3</b> 4:30 a.m. Music In the Morning 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. All Brains Belong Club 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 6 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 p.m. Songbirds 8:30 p.m. ALL Brains Belong Club <b>Monday, November 4</b> 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7 a.m. Strategies for Stress Relief 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 4 p.m. Joanne Corbett- Elderly Services 5 p.m. Songbirds 6:30 p.m. Golden Ball Tai Chi 8 p.m. Science Colloquium <b>Tuesday, November 5</b> 4:30 a.m. Music In the Morning 6 a.m. Tai Chi 6:25 a.m. Chair Yoga 7:10 a.m. Strategies for Stress Relief 9 a.m. Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s	8 p.m. Strategies for Stress Relief 9:17 p.m. Robert Frost Birthday 10:13 p.m. Golden Ball Tai Chi <b>Wednesday, November 6</b> 4:30 a.m. Music In the Morning 6 a.m. Stuck in Vermont 7 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Golden Ball Tai Chi 10:30 a.m. How To Weed Your Attic 12 p.m. Strategies for Stress Relief 2 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 6 p.m. Joanne Corbett 7 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 8 p.m. Strategies for Stress Relief 9:17 p.m. Golden Ball Tai Chi 10:39 p.m. Tai Chi with Baylen Sloan 11:04 p.m. Stuck in Vermont <b>Thursday, November 7</b> 5 a.m. Nulhegan Education 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. Arts & Performance 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 11 p.m. Town Hall Theater	

**JERUSALEM QUARTET IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. With a repertoire spanning the classical to contemporary, they captivate audiences with spellbinding interpretations, blending technical virtuosity with profound musical depth. The Jerusalem Quartet returns to Middlebury with a program of Haydn, Shostakovich, and Dvorák. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5, available at [middlebury.edu/events/event/jerusalem-quartet-0](http://middlebury.edu/events/event/jerusalem-quartet-0).

**MATHIS PICARD: PRELUDES & FUGUES IN MIDDLEBURY.** \*CANCELED\* Saturday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The House of Jazz series welcomes back Mathis Picard for his new book of Prelude and Fugues. More info and tickets, \$40 table seating/\$30 adult/\$15 student, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## MONDAY, NOV. 4

**"EDWIN AUSTIN ABBEY'S MURAL PAINTING: CONTEXT AND CONSERVATION" AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.** Monday, Nov. 4, 4:30-6 p.m., Johnson Room 204, Chateau Rd. Theresa Fairbanks Harris, senior conservator of works on paper at the Yale University Art Gallery and the Yale Center for British Art, and Josephine Rodgers, Curator of Collections and Director of Engagement at the Middlebury College Art Museum, will lead a discussion on the conservation treatment and history of Edwin Austin Abbey's (1852-1911) drawings at Yale University.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6

**BOOK CLUB IN NEW HAVEN.** Wednesday, Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m., New Haven Community Library, 78 North St. Join the discussion of "Hidden Valley Road" by Robert Kolker. Copies of the book are available to check out at the library. This is open to anyone from any town.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 7

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN BRISTOL.** Thursday, Nov. 7, Deer Leap. An easy to moderate hike of 3.6 miles round trip with 440 feet elevation change. Enjoy views to the southeast, southwest, and west over the town of Bristol. Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or [kencorey53@gmail.com](mailto:kencorey53@gmail.com) to register.

**ART PLAY FOR ADULTS IN BRISTOL.** Thursday, Nov. 7, 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. More info at [lawrencelibraryvt.org](http://lawrencelibraryvt.org).

**TRUE CRIME PODCAST DISCUSSION GROUP IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 7, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join fellow amateur sleuths for a discussion of the podcast Park Predators, The Hunter (1 episode). Listen to the podcast on your own before the discussion. Renee will facilitate the discussions with prompts and visuals. For participants 18 and over.

**"EMILIA PÉREZ" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m., Dana Auditorium, 356 College St. Middlebury College Hirschfield screening series offers an exclusive advance screening of this audacious cinematic experience that defies genres and expectations. Through liberating song and dance and bold visuals, this odyssey follows the journey of four remarkable women in Mexico, each pursuing their own happiness. Pre-screening "International Cuisine Crawl" reception, starting at 6 p.m. and post screening conversation with Middlebury College film professor Christian Keathley. Free.

**JADED RAVINS IN BRISTOL.** Thursday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m., South Mountain Tavern, 31 North St.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 8

**MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE CHOIR FALL CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Open to the Public.

**"A CASE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD" STAGED READING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 8, 4 p.m., Byers Studio, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. In the latest installment of Middlebury Acting Company's MACo's Cutting Edge play reading series, faith, finance and fragile bonds collide in this intimate exploration of human connection. Seating strictly limited. More info and tickets, \$15, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

**"LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. THT welcomes the Middlebury College Musical Theater student group for their production of this horror comedy rock musical. Tickets \$10 adult/\$5 student, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

## SATURDAY, NOV. 9

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN KILLINGTON.** Saturday, Nov. 9, Shrewsbury and Killington Peaks. Moderate to strenuous hike of about 11.5 miles with over 3,000 feet of elevation change climbing two Coolidge Range peaks; Shrewsbury and Killington. Fairly steep grades up Shrewsbury and Killington peak with an easy grade in between. Contact Ryan Grace at [rgracersox@gmail.com](mailto:rgracersox@gmail.com) for more information.

**WILDLIFE WALK IN MIDDLEBURY.**

Saturday, Nov. 9, 8 a.m., meet at Otter View Park, corner of Weybridge St. and Pulp Mill Bridge Rd. Join Otter Creek Audubon and the Middlebury Area Land Trust to survey birds and other wildlife at Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. For more information, call 802-388-6019.

**LIVING HISTORY EVENT IN TICONDEROGA, N.Y.** Saturday, Nov. 9, Fort Ticonderoga. Explore how British soldiers and loyalists engaged in their final campaign at Ticonderoga in the fall of 1781. Discover how this feign of British military force was to threaten the U.S., while supporting a loyalist Vermont. Details at [www.fortticonderoga.org](http://www.fortticonderoga.org).

**PUZZLE SWAP IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 10 a.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Come to the Jessica Swift Community Room to stock up on puzzles for the winter, a.k.a. puzzle season. Bring any puzzles you are done with and take home new-to-you puzzles.

**"A CASE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOD" BY SAMUEL D. HUNTER STAGED READING IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 4 p.m., Byers Studio, Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Nov. 8 listing.

**BRANDON HAS TALENT IN BRANDON.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. This 10th edition of one of the most popular shows in the Town Hall promises great entertainment, plenty of laughter, and lots of fun with a few surprises.

**CONTRA DANCE IN CORNWALL.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Cornwall Town Hall, Route 30. Adina Gordon will be calling with live music by Red Dog Riley. Beginners welcome. All dances will be taught. \$5 to \$10 or pay what you can.

**SELECTIONS FROM GILBERT AND SULLIVAN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Young Opera Company's after-school opera workshop program weaves scenes from Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas "Iolanthe," "Patience" and "The Mikado" into an original script about podcast hosts debating the age-old question: "Is it the music, or the text, that is most important?"

**"LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Nov. 8 listing.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 10

**MOHSEN AMINI VIRTUAL TALK.** Sunday, Nov. 10, 11 a.m., Zoom. Join Middlebury Community Music Center for a free Zoom-based performance and Q&A session with concertina phenom Mohsen Amini of Talisk and Ímar. The event is free and open to the public, but only a limited number of registrations are available. Register today at [mcmcv.org/events-calendar/](http://mcmcv.org/events-calendar/)

mohsen-amini.

**"LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Sunday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Nov. 8 listing.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13

**"VAN GOGH: POETS AND LOVERS" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Nov. 13, 11 a.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. The Great Art Wednesdays series continues with this film, which focuses on Van Gogh's creative process. "Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers" explores the artist's years in the south of France, where he revolutionized his style. Tickets \$15, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

**"WHO IS KILLING ALL THE GREAT CHEFS OF EUROPE" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY.** Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1 p.m., Community Room, Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. the Middlebury Community Classic Film Club's fall series on movies about food continues with this romp through London, Venice and Paris is this comical tale of culinary crime.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 14

**GUEST CURATOR TALK: KENNETH J. MYERS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 14, 4:30 p.m., Room 125, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Middlebury College Museum of Art hosts Kenneth J. Myers, Byron and Dorothy Gerson Curator of American Art at the Detroit Institute of the Arts (DIA), who organized the major traveling exhibition, "Frederic Church: A Painter's Pilgrimage." Open to the Public.

**"WHO WAS IRA ALLEN?"** in Vergennes. Thursday, Nov. 14, 5-6:30 p.m., Bixby Memorial Library, 258 Main St. Land speculator, pamphleteer, politician and revolutionary, Ira Allen has long been hidden in the shadow of his brother, Ethan Allen. Join author and Vermont historian J. Kevin Graffagnino when he illuminates the life of Ira Allen while discussing his new book, "Ira Allen: a Biography."

**OIL PASTELS FOR BEGINNERS IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 14, 6 p.m., Ilsley Public Library, 75 Main St. Get your hands dirty in the step-by-step program to learn the basics of creating a wintery scene with oil pastels. Renee will be on hand for tips and advice as we follow a video guiding us through this project. All supplies will be provided. Space is limited. Register at [www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/oil-pastels-for-beginners](http://www.ilsleypubliclibrary.org/oil-pastels-for-beginners).

**OTTER CREEK AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND TALK IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 14, 7-8 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Join us for a celebration of the work OCAS has done in the previous year. Featured speaker Rob Bierregaard, Ph.D., will talk about his research on the ecology and migration of ospreys in eastern North America. State Rep. Amy

SEE CALENDAR ON PAGE 15

# 2024 SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN

Thank you to all the ghouls and goblins who entered our spook-tacular 2024 Halloween Coloring Contest! We received over 75 frightfully creative submissions, from dazzling rhinestones and eerie glow-in-the-dark paint to sparkling glitter and, for the first time ever, a cookie decorated with spine-chilling flair! You all embraced the spooky season!



Daisy Rochon, 4  
East Middlebury



Felix Clark, 4  
Lincoln



Ellie Koerber, 6  
Middlebury



Theo Ayers, 5  
Middlebury



Esmé Mikula, 7  
Killington



Skyler Lee Bushey, 7  
Vergennes

THANK YOU TO OUR FANG-TASTIC SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:



# COLORING & DECORATING CONTEST



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S WICKEDLY TALENTED WINNERS:

ADDISON COUNTY  
INDEPENDENT



Anya, 11  
Middlebury



Sienna Becher, 9  
Vergennes



Autumn Spritzer, 13  
Middlebury



Tess McGuire, 12  
Vergennes



Dave Thompson, 16+  
Lincoln



Wendy Livingston, 16+  
Bristol



Participants, creep on over to our office at 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., to claim your artwork and prizes by Wednesday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.



GET YOUR MARKERS READY!  
The next coloring contest will start around Thanksgiving!



# PUZZLES

sponsored by **SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

## ACROSS

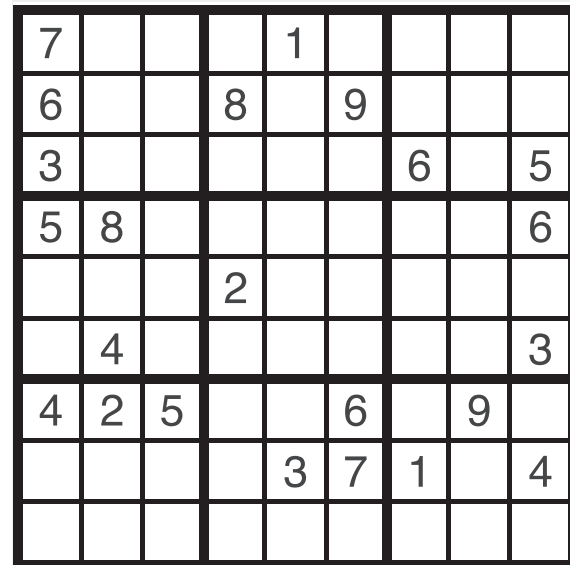
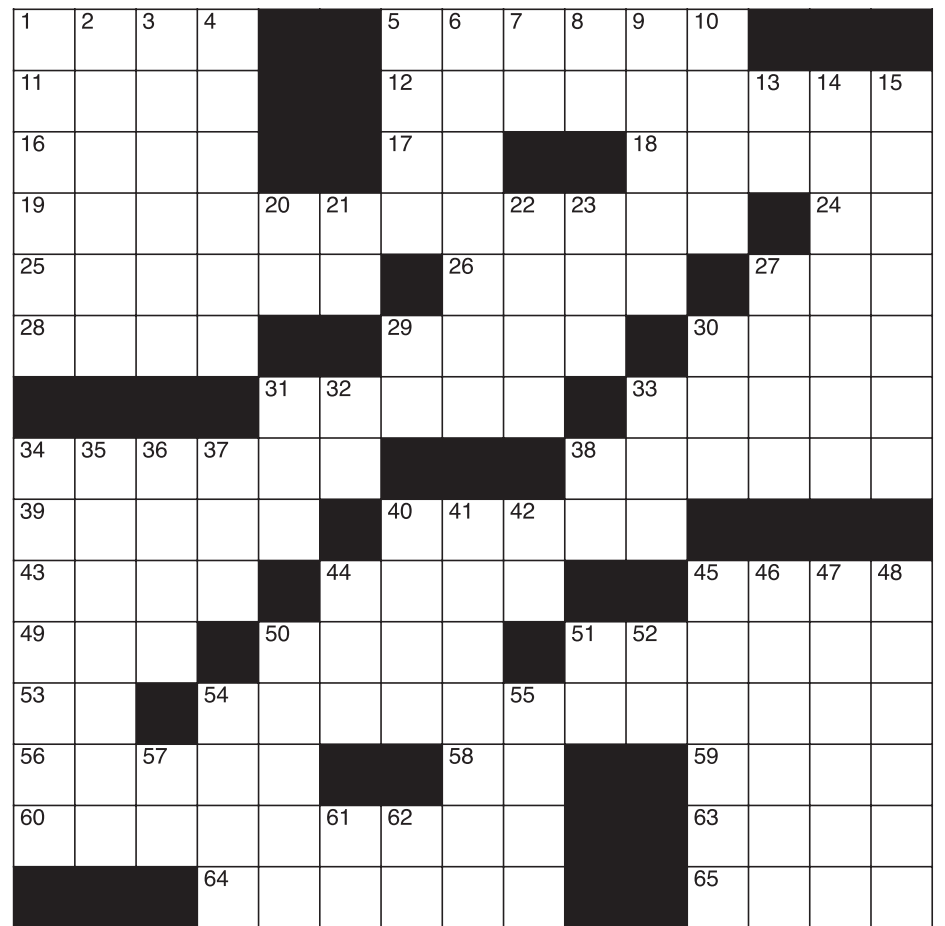
- 1. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 5. Highly impressed
- 11. Pronoun to identify something specific
- 12. Uttered in an impassioned way
- 16. Outfits
- 17. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 18. Stewed game casserole
- 19. Indignities inflicted on others
- 24. Blood type
- 25. Says beneath one's breath
- 26. Taxis
- 27. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm

- 28. NFL great Randy
- 29. Where college students live
- 30. Brief Yankees sensation Kevin
- 31. Condiment
- 33. -frutti
- 34. Polish city
- 38. Astronomy unit of distance
- 39. Romanian village
- 40. Bears first overall pick Williams
- 43. Irritated
- 44. Clothing for sale has them
- 45. One-time world power
- 49. When you anticipate arriving
- 50. Farm building
- 51. Organize thoughtfully

- 53. Detective
- 54. One who reduces
- 56. Nursemaids
- 58. Partner to "Pa"
- 59. World's longest river
- 60. Commemorates
- 63. Compound
- 64. The Lannisters and Starks fought for one
- 65. Email function

## DOWN

- 1. Open-roofed entrance
- 2. Japanese religion
- 3. Dancer's garments
- 4. Distributes
- 5. Yemeni port
- 6. Spanish doctors
- 7. It cools your house
- 8. Engine variant
- 9. Makes more manageable



## Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

**Level: Medium**

- 10. Days (Spanish)
- 13. Milliliter
- 14. Spread out from
- 15. With two replaceable hydrogen atoms
- 20. Respectful title for a man
- 21. Equally
- 22. Scarlett's home
- 23. Big Blue
- 27. Subway dwellers
- 29. One-tenth of a liter
- 30. Central European river
- 31. Distress signal
- 32. Expression of sympathy
- 33. Bar bill
- 34. Football equipment
- 35. Dance music
- 36. Russian river
- 37. Mary \_\_\_, cosmetics
- 38. Gym class
- 40. Autos
- 41. Fourth and honorable name in ancient Rome
- 42. Defeats (abbr.)
- 44. A way to color
- 45. Planet
- 46. Form of humor
- 47. Taken without permission
- 48. Go over again
- 50. Auto parts manufacturer
- 51. Detective's source
- 52. Home of the Flyers
- 54. Short official note
- 55. Emit coherent radiation
- 57. In the year of Our Lord
- 61. Atomic #18
- 62. Not from, but...

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

**OMGGGGG WE NOW SHIP!**

44 Main St  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
(802) 989-7225

Tuesday - Saturday  
10:30AM - 5:30PM

info@sparrowartsupply.com  
sparrowartsupply.com  
@sparrowartsupply

KICK OFF THE HOLIDAYS AT OUR WINTER EXHIBIT

# FROST & FABLE

Discover Winter's enchantment and gifts for the season!  
Featuring work by 14 local artists and makers

**OPENING PARTY ON NOVEMBER 15!**

Free and open to the public at 44 Main Street

**FREE WINE, FREE TREATS, LOTS OF ART!**

Visit [sparrowartsupply.com](http://sparrowartsupply.com) to learn more



Pictured artwork by Heather Zelonis

# DID YOU KNOW?

**Dog noses are at least 40x more sensitive than ours!**

These clever canines have an incredible sense of smell — allowing them to follow scent trails days after they were left. Amazingly, bloodhounds' sense of smell is so spot on that it can be used as evidence in court.

Dogs also have fantastic hearing. They can detect high-pitched noises and spot sounds from much further away than humans can.

Visit [natgeokids.com](http://natgeokids.com) for more fun facts!



## Pet of the WEEK

What is Pet of the Week?

Here at the Addy Indy we LOVE our pets. We also love publishing here at the local newspaper. So... put them together and you get PET OF THE WEEK, where we publish the news of how fabulous your pets are for FREE!

All you have to do, dear reader with opposable thumb, is send a picture to our news team with a short description of your best buds.

Send us a picture of your pet!

[news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)

### Paws To Consider

with Dr. Bri Letaw, Medical Director, Bristol Animal Hospital

**Q: Is dental care really necessary for my cat?**

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**Noir**

**Noir** is a playful, affectionate, and somewhat shy teenager. We estimate him to be 6 months old. Noir loves nothing more than food, treats, and more food! He also enjoys being pet and spending time with his cat roommates. Noir has lived with cats and dogs in his previous home.



**Ceney**

**Ceney** is a lovely and affectionate 16-year-old Maine Coon. She was surrendered with her roommate, Saucy, after their owner passed. Ceney is looking for a loving home to spend her golden years. She would love a nice place to nap and lots of yummy treats. She would enjoy a home with Saucy but they are not a bonded pair and could be adopted separately. Ceney is on a prescription kidney food to help her stay healthy in her old age. She is also newly diagnosed with hyperthyroidism and is on a low-cost medication that she takes 2 times a day. Please don't let this stop you from visiting!



**Saucy**

**Saucy** is a 13-year-old Maine Coon with a heart made of gold! He is super affectionate and loves cuddles. He was surrendered with his roommate, Ceney, after their owner passed. Saucy would do well in a home with Ceney but they are not a bonded pair and can be adopted separately. Saucy is a special needs cat with hyperthyroidism. He takes a low-cost prescription 2 times a day to regulate his thyroid.



**Thor**

Meet **Thor**! He's a 3-year-old, 65-pound terrier mix with a big smile. Thor came to the shelter as an owner surrender with Dixie. Found in a ditch in Tennessee as a pup, he's lived in New England since. Thor and Dixie can be adopted together but aren't bonded. While Thor gets along with cats and can live with older teenagers, he doesn't do well with other dogs. He may be nervous around new people, but treats quickly win him over. Thor is housebroken and crate-trained.



**Endi**

Hi, I'm **Endi**! I spend most of the day lounging in my favorite hidey hole, enjoying quiet moments. But during "bunny hour," I get playful, zooming through my bunnel (that's a bunny tunnel for those who don't know), digging in blankets or paper bags, and exploring every corner of my space. I'm great with my litter box training and would love a home with plenty of room to hop around and cozy hidey holes for naps. I'm full of personality and would be thrilled to find a family who appreciates both my calm and playful sides.

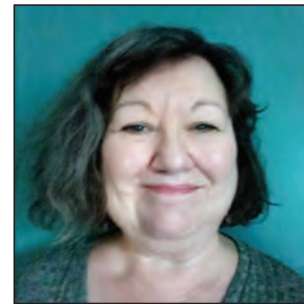


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# ASK A MASTER GARDENER

THINKING SPRING THIS FALL



*Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Massachusetts, who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.*

**F**all foliage color has peaked, and leaves are falling. Temperatures are dropping and it's time to put the garden to bed. It is also a perfect opportunity to prepare for spring. What you do this fall can provide big benefits when the garden wakes up next year.

BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

Spring flowering bulbs will be the most visible reward for work done in the garden now. If you don't

have early blooming plants such as hellebores or witch hazel, consider adding spring blooming flowers such as low growing crocus and snowdrops or showy daffodils and tulips. They bloom early (snowdrops will emerge beneath the snow) and provide welcome color at the beginning of the season. If deer are visitors to your yard, keep in mind they'll love nibbling on tulips but will avoid daffodils.

Plant spring bulbs in clumps for a colorful splash or scattered between perennials for a sprinkle of color. If you have the time, create a new bed or two, adding spring blooming bulbs for an early show. As an added bonus, once you've prepared the bed for bulbs, it will be

ready and waiting come spring for additional plantings.

If you're planning on adding new beds next year, you can get a head start now. Mark out the area and trim grass or weeds as close to the ground as possible. Then cover with a layer of moistened cardboard or multiple sheets of newspaper. Top with a layer of mulch to keep everything in place. By the time you're ready to plant next spring, the grass or weeds will be smothered and the bed ready to be prepared for planting.

Fall is a good time to have a soil test done. Why do a soil test? Without knowing the nutrients available in your soil, you might be adding unnecessary amendments and omitting those actually needed. A soil test can tell you your soil pH and available phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), micronutrients, and more, along with recommendations for amendments and fertilizer for specific crops. The University of Vermont Extension offers soil testing services. You can use a kit (available at UVM Extension offices and many garden centers) or print out a form from the website and mail in a

soil sample — just 1/2 to 1 cup. Follow the directions at [go.uvm.edu/soiltest](http://go.uvm.edu/soiltest).

You'll thank yourself next spring if you clear weeds from existing beds now and add amendments recommended in the results of your soil test.

If you lost the war on weeds this year, you can get ahead of them now for next year's garden. Most annual weeds have begun to die back and should be easier to pull. Just watch out for any seedheads. Avoid putting them in your compost pile to slow the spread of weeds to your garden in the future. Carefully remove seed heads and put them in the trash along with any diseased plant material.

The last item on your fall to-do list is likely storing garden tools for the winter. Take the time to clean them and sharpen those that need it. While doing that, inventory your garden tools. Over the winter, you'll have time to repair or replace items and purchase what you don't already have. When spring arrives, you won't have to make an emergency run to the garden center.

It's always sad to see the end of the gardening season but doing a few simple tasks now can put you ahead of the game come spring.



*Consider adding spring blooming flowers such as snowdrops which emerge beneath the snow and provide welcome color at the beginning of the season.*



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# PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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**EXHIBITS**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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](http://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](http://photoplacegallery.com).

**"Landscape."** Traditional or contemporary, natural, urban, industrial, abstract — show us how you see the world. Juror Ann Jastrab selected approximately 35 images for exhibition in the Middlebury gallery, and 40 more for the online gallery. On view Nov. 8-29.

**SPARROW ART SUPPLY**

44 Main St., Middlebury  
For more info visit [sparrowartsupply.com](http://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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# Stage reading looks at honesty & sadness in 2 fragile worlds

**M**iddlebury Acting Company's Cutting-Edge Staged Reading Series ends its 2024 season of provocative, relevant, intelligent plays with "A Case for the Existence of God" by Samuel D. Hunter.

"A Case for the Existence of God" will be performed in the Byers Studio at Town Hall Theater on Saturday, Nov. 9 and Sunday, Nov. 10, at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance at [towhalltheater.org](http://towhalltheater.org). Seating is strictly limited.

A thoughtful and meditative two-hander, the play which received its world premiere at Signature Theater in New York City on April 12, 2022, is both intimate and expansive as it explores themes of parenthood, financial insecurity and empathy.

The play unfolds in a cubicle where two seated people unexpectedly choose to bring one another into their fragile worlds. Keith, a mortgage broker, and Ryan, a yogurt plant worker seeking to buy a plot of land that belonged to his family many decades ago, realize they share a "specific kind of sadness."

At this desk in the middle of America, loan talk opens up into a discussion about the chokehold of financial insecurity and a bond over the precariousness of parenthood. With humor, empathy and wrenching honesty, Hunter commingles two lives and deftly bridges disparate experiences of marginality.

Director Rebecca Strum is thrilled to bring this important, beautiful play to Vermont. The cast included Delante Keys and Johnny Viel with Frankie Dunleavy reading stage directions. Join a discussion after the performance for refreshments and a talk-back with the cast.

## CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Sheldon will be presented the Silver Feather Award. And there will be a brief business meeting and board election. Free and open to the public.

**RUSS LAWTON & FRIENDS IN BRISTOL.** Thursday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., South Mountain Tavern., 31 Main St.

**"THE DROWSY CHAPERONE" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. MUHS Theater presents this delightful musical, which is rated PG and promises an unforgettable experience. Don't miss out. Get your tickets now at [cur8.com/projects/22970](http://cur8.com/projects/22970).

**"KING LEAR" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Thursday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m., Wright Memorial Theater, Chateau Rd. The Middlebury College Theatre Department presents Shakespeare's classic drama in an epic production starring Alex Draper and a large cast of Middlebury students. Original music composed by Clint Bierman (The Grift) and director Michole Biancosino, costumes by noted designer Summer Lee Jack. Tickets \$15/10/8/5. Info at [go.middlebury.edu](http://go.middlebury.edu).

## FRIDAY, NOV. 15

**"THE DROWSY CHAPERONE" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m., Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. See Nov. 14 listing.

**"KING LEAR" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m., Wright Memorial Theater,

## TOP PICK

### ADVANCE SCREENING OF "EMILIA PÉREZ"

**Middlebury College Hirschfield Screening Series** will host an exclusive advance screening of the film "Emilia Pérez" next Thursday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m., a week prior to the film's U.S. availability, Nov. 13 on Netflix.

The screening, to include a pre-screening "International Cuisine Crawl" reception, starting at 6 p.m., and post screening conversation with Middlebury College film professor Christian Keathley, will be held at Dana Auditorium, 356 College St., Middlebury. It is free and open to the public.

From renegade auteur Jacques Audiard comes "Emilia Pérez," an audacious cinematic experience that defies genres and expectations. Through liberating song and dance and bold visuals, this odyssey follows the journey of four remarkable women in Mexico, each pursuing their own happiness. The fearsome cartel leader Emilia (Karla Sofía Gascón) enlists Rita (Zoe Saldaña), an unappreciated lawyer stuck in a dead-end job, to help fake her death so that Emilia can finally live authentically as her true self. Written and directed by Audiard ("Rust and Bone," "A Prophet"), the double Cannes-winning film also stars Selena Gomez, Adriana Paz and Edgar Ramírez.

For more info visit [middlebury.edu/events](http://middlebury.edu/events).

Chateau Rd. See Nov. 14 listing. Post-show talk back with the director and company after the Friday performance.

**SEAN DORSEY DANCE, "THE LOST ART OF DREAMING" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Friday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Sean Dorsey is an Emmy Award-winning choreographer, dancer, writer, educator, and activist. Long recognized as the U.S.'s first



hike of Nature Conservancy protected property with about 490 ft. elevation gain. Hike north on the loop trail through the woods, then up a steep slope to the ridge with views of the Champlain Valley and interesting geological formations. Parts of the trail are steep and a hiking pole is recommended. Dress in layers, wear sturdy boots and bring water and a snack. Limited to 10 participants.

For more information and to register Contact leader Ruth Penfield at [ruthpenfield@gmail.com](mailto:ruthpenfield@gmail.com) or 802-458-1116.

**"THE DROWSY CHAPERONE" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 16, 2 p.m., Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. See Nov. 14 listing.

**"BARBED WIRE" ON SCREEN IN BRANDON.** Saturday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. During World War I, the French government commandeers a family farm for use as a camp for German POWs, setting the local population at each other. Intense 1927 silent film drama about forbidden love and the human condition, with a special holiday twist.

**THE MAIDEN SHOW IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Come hear Maiden Vermont sing their catchy tunes. Tickets \$20/\$15/\$10, available at [townhalltheater.org](http://townhalltheater.org).

**SEAN DORSEY DANCE, "THE LOST ART OF DREAMING" IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m., Dance Theater, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. See Nov. 15 listing.

**"KING LEAR" ON STAGE IN MIDDLEBURY.** Saturday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m., Wright Memorial Theater, Chateau Rd. See Nov. 14 listing.

acclaimed transgender modern dance choreographer, Dorsey brings his newest work — and his explicitly trans-positive pedagogy — for his Performing Arts Series debut. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5. More info at [go.middlebury.edu](http://go.middlebury.edu).

## SATURDAY, NOV. 16

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MONKTON.** Saturday, Nov. 16, Raven Ridge. This is a 2.2-mile moderate

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# Weddings



*A publication of the  
Addison Independent  
October 31, 2024*

Christopher and Emma Robinson/Photo by Amanda Rose Vincent



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# Made with love: Middlebury baker whips up wedding cakes, memorable desserts

By **MARIN HOWELL**

**MIDDLEBURY** — When

it comes to weddings, there are numerous details that make up a couple's big day — the venue, the music, the guest list and, of course, the dessert.

Middlebury baker Nikki Bowdish has spent the past several years helping make newlyweds' special day all the more memorable, whipping up cakes, cookies and other confections for weddings around Addison County and beyond.

Bowdish runs Thistle & Honey Baking, a Middlebury home bakery that specializes in handmade desserts and wedding cakes. From strawberry cakes to macaroons, she strives to provide couples with the perfect treats to celebrate their nuptials.

"I would say my favorite part (of making wedding desserts) isn't even the baking, it's just communicating with the couples and getting to be a small part of their day," Bowdish said during a recent interview.

Bowdish launched her home bakery in the fall of 2019 and began pursuing the business full-time at the start of the pandemic. She'd previously worked as a baker at the former Carol's Hungry Mind Café in Middlebury, as well as large production bakeries and a couple of businesses in Burlington.

"I've always baked on the side for friends and family. I made both of my brothers' wedding cakes," she added. "So, I've always been baking."

Thistle & Honey offers all sorts of baked goods, from cakes to cookies to treat boxes for students at Middlebury College. Bowdish said about half of her work at Thistle &

Honey consists of making desserts for weddings, largely during the May-through-October wedding season.

When she launched her business, Bowdish connected with couples through listings on wedding planning sites like The Knot and WeddingWire.

Now, a lot of those introductions come

through referrals from photographers, planners and other wedding vendors who recommend Bowdish to couples.

## FROM IDEA TO 'I DO'

When a couple finds its way to Thistle & Honey, Bowdish first has them fill out a wedding inquiry form that provides a basic idea of what they're looking for, such as a particular dessert idea, style or color palette.

Sometimes couples come to Bowdish knowing exactly what they want, which has largely been the case this year, she said.

"I would say 90% of the couples I worked with in the 2024 wedding season knew exactly what they were looking for and they had multiple reference photos and wanted me to do something similar," she said.

Bowdish tries to gather as much information from that initial contact as possible and then works with couples to get on the same page about their ideas, provide a tasting box to sample cakes or other desserts, and eventually iron out all the details.

"We don't get into the real nitty gritty until it's close to the wedding when they have a final guest count, but I would say along the way I try to be very communicative with my couples because I know how important the day is," she said.

The timeline for how long Bowdish works with a couple varies depending on how far out their wedding is, though she said most couples book with her and start the process about nine months to a year before saying "I do." A key part of the communication between Bowdish and couples takes place in the final month or two leading up to the wedding.

"I like to have all (See Cakes, Page 10)



*"I'm such a romantic at heart, my favorite part is when I get to deliver the cake and set it up and see the culmination of months of hard work on everyone's account."*

— baker Nikki Bowdish





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# Amber and Dustin: *Ships that crossed in the night*



**AMBER AND DUSTIN** Hunt stand amidst the trees of a beautiful autumn forest soaking up and radiating love at the time of their wedding in Bristol last month.

Credit: Paul Gamba Photography

*Amber Power and Dustin Hunt knew each other in high school, but never talked or hung out — or even, as Amber notes, acknowledged each other.*

“It wasn’t until our kids, who are similar in age, met in youth sports and became best friends,” she said.

The couple’s relationship blossomed

after they met at the Middlebury Parks & Recreation Department, where Dustin worked for 14 years until he left to become activities director for Middlebury Union Middle School. Amber is now Parks & Rec program director.

The relationship proceeded, deepened and finally, on June 25, 2023, hit a high point.

Dustin and Amber have five kids

between the two of them from previous relationships. They spent that morning with the kids at their soccer games. Then Dustin got them all involved in his plan to pop the question and made it super special. Each kid had a responsibility when they went to the Burlington waterfront to celebrate Amber’s birthday that afternoon.

Amber was surprised when Dustin turned to the subject of marriage, but she was receptive.

“I had no idea it was happening but it was so special to have all the kids involved,” she said.

Once the wedding was a go, the couple — and their kids — took a little more than a year to plan the big event. They set the date for Sept. 21, 2024.

Amber described the process as fun and exciting.

For a venue, they secured Black Label Ranch in Bristol, described by the couple as a beautiful property owned by Eric, Monica and Emma Carter.

“Dustin and I knew we wanted an outdoor wedding in the fall,” Amber said. “It was when we announced we were looking for venues that our daughter Nicola, her basketball coaches — father and daughter Eric Carter and Emma Carter — told us about their property. We went and looked and instantly fell in love — from the view, the barn, to the location.”

To officiate at the wedding, they turned to Bill More, who’s head of Parks & Recreation for the town of Brandon.

“We asked him because he is a fellow

parks and recreation guy and we know him on a personal level,” Amber said. “He just fit so well with how we met and how everything started with the two of us.

One unique detail was that after Moore married Amber and Dustin, he then served as DJ for the wedding celebration.

“When we did the anniversary dance, Bill asked everyone who was married to get on the floor and dance,” Amber recounted. “He would call out years and if you had been married less, you get off the floor. It was pretty remarkable that the last two couples still dancing were both sets of our parents. Dustin’s parents have been married for 29 years and counting and Amber’s parents 53 years and counting. It was pretty amazing to see.”

Amber and Dustin gave special shout outs to Coles Flowers (Megan & Melanie Pouliot) for the flowers, Pratts Catering, Louise Bowdish for the most amazing cake, Paul Gamba Photography, and to their family and friends who were there to help celebrate and make the day just great.

“Every little detail was perfect — from the location, flowers and food,” Amber said. “It was when we stepped back together to just take the day in that we looked around and we saw our kids along with our close friends and families’ kids running around the property, playing by the pond, and enjoying the beautiful day. It was very symbolic to our life and how

*(See Hunt, Page 11)*



photo by Andrea Warren

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# Allison and William: *A Valentine's Day surprise*

*Allison Cosey and William DiFrancesco met at work, but that's not where the romance started.*

"We work for the same school district (Slate Valley Unified Union) and had crossed paths for a few years, but ended up hanging out with mutual friends one day outside of work," Allison recalled as she looked back at their July 20, 2024, wedding. "And here we are!"

The couple had been discussing a possible wedding since they started dating, but the actual engagement caught Allison off guard.

"William surprised me on his birthday, which happens to be Valentine's Day," she recalled. "It was 6 a.m. and I was in my pajamas packing lunches. He gave me a card, and my initial reaction was that I felt so bad because I had already gifted him his birthday presents the weekend prior and we didn't celebrate Valentine's Day because it's his birthday."

Allison open up the card to see the ring taped inside.

"I always joke that I would have been onto him if he did it any other way," she said.

The couple gave themselves almost a year and a half to plan the nuptials. They called the planning process "exciting."

"We went for a very colorful and fun wedding. We wanted it to feel more like a festival than a wedding," Allison said.

"We prioritized fun, music and good food. We had two local food trucks and a Ben & Jerry's ice cream truck!

"We also made sure to have local wines, beers and ciders for our guests."

Choosing a venue for the wedding was not difficult; they got married at their Orwell home.

"We chose to get married on our property between two pear trees on our front lawn with our horse pasture behind us," Allison said. "There was really no question when it came to *where*. Our home was the perfect spot."

How about the wedding day?

"We didn't feel nervous at all," Allison recalled. "We were excited and happy. It was just so nice having all of our people together at our home."

The DiFrancescos recommend that the bride and groom schedule time alone together on the wedding day.

"Whether it be a first look, a private drink or snack after the ceremony, anything where you get some moments just you two (and your photographer, of course)," Allison said.

Their "first look" and private vows were a highlight this past July.

"We highly recommend this," Allison said. "It was some much-needed alone time on a very busy day, and there was absolutely no pressure from onlookers. We did this at the Historic Brookside in Orwell right on Route 22A. It was the perfect location and the owners were happy to



**WILLIAM AND ALLISON DiFrancesco gave their vows to each other at the historic Brookside Mansion in Orwell, a few miles down Route 22A from where the rest of the wedding festivities took place. They highly recommend this private moment for the bride and groom.**

Credit: Jean Hodgens Photography

have us."

After the wedding, the newlyweds embarked on a grand European tour — the trip of a lifetime — that concluded in the enchanting landscapes of Italy. Coincidentally, they got some big news to share on that last leg of the trip, Allison noted.

"We are expecting in the spring!" she said. "We found out while in Rome, Italy, which was just so exciting."



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Photos by Lilianne Hillsgrove/LPH Photography



Photos by Jean Hodgens Photography

*Tamara Aunchman & Austin Brown*



*Allison Cosey & William DiFrancesco*

*Alexandra Larrow & Nelson Burgos*



Photos by Lauren Sivo Photography

*Emma Bryant & Christopher Robinson*



Photos by Amanda Rose Vincent



*Amber Power & Dustin Hunt*

Photos by Paul Gamba Photography



## Alexandra and Nelson: *a new meaning to gone fishing*

*Addison native Alexandra Larrow met Nelson Burgos in 2013 after she had moved down to Massachusetts, where Nelson is from. They went out with a group of mutual friends and hit it off right away, but didn't start dating until the following spring.*

Fast forward to the summer of 2020, and Alex was back in Vermont with Nelson going fishing with Alex's dad, Jim — one of their favorite pastimes.

They weren't catching much on that July 19, and when that happens Alex has been known to ask for a worm and Green Mountain Grabber lure as an easy way to get a couple of perch in the boat. So she asked Nelson for one of the new grabbers she knew he had just gotten. Hidden in the stack was a perfect replica of the Green Mountain Grabber packaging (designed

by the bride's cousin/future Matron of Honor and her husband) but instead of the brand it read "Will You Marry Me?"

When Alex realized what it said, and saw her great-grandmother's wedding ring on the hook, she turned around on the boat to see Nelson down on one knee.

In her shock, her dad had to remind Alex that Nelson probably wanted an answer to the question. Obviously, she said yes!

They decided to get married at Alex's parents' house on Lake Champlain in Addison.

"Their home is where we spend so much of our time — from family holidays, Fourth of July barbecues, winter days ice fishing or summer fun boating and spending time together," Alex explained. "It made perfect sense to us to have our most important family gathering at the place we love spending time with our favorite people.

"It's so special to us that we can visit our wedding location any time we want."

The couple planned the ceremony for the shoreline to celebrate their love of the lake and take advantage of the incredible views Vermont has to offer.

"We were also able to have our wedding party stay on the same street thanks to some of their incredible neighbors," Alex said. "It gave the whole weekend a fun, family block party atmosphere that we loved."

The Burgoses described the planning process as fun. It was important that all of their wedding vendors were local businesses that they already love and support. The restaurant 3 Squares Cafe served an incredible meal featuring local meat and produce, Lu•lu made a stunning wedding cake. Lu•lu also made a surprise ice cream "groom's cake" with an illustration of Nelson bass fishing in his wedding best.



**ON A LAKE Champlain fishing trip, Alexandra asked Nelson to grab her a fishing lure. What he handed to her was a specially made replica of her favorite fishing lure with the question "Will You Marry Me?" printed on it. Before you know it, they were walking on a dock on the lake as the newly minted Mr. and Mrs. Burgos.**

Credit: Lauren Sivo Photography



**ALEXANDRA AND NELSON Burgos met in Massachusetts, but they celebrated their wedding in one of their favorite places: the Larrow family home on Lake Champlain in Addison. They were also excited to bring Nelson's family to this spot, since most had not been to Vermont.**

Credit: Lauren Sivo Photography

Flower Power Farm, an incredible local flower farm just a few miles from their house, provided the florals.

"I would recommend Anne and Hilary to anyone wanting stunning florals for their special day," Alex said.

A local artist that Alex has known since childhood hand carved and painted wooden birds and fish native to Lake Champlain to use as table markers.

"The entire wedding felt like a true collaboration between the best Addison County has to offer," Alex said.

One of the most personal touches was the invitations. Alex's cousin/matron of honor owns Loyal Supply Co. — a Massachusetts letter press card company. Her husband designed the invitations and Alex was able to go to their house and help hand press the invitations herself on their 1911 Chandler & Price press. Another local artist let them use his painting of the view of the ceremony site as part of the invitation suite.

Alex and Nelson said their best advice to other prospective brides and grooms would be to tackle one thing at a time.

"Wedding planning can be overwhelming and stressful if you try to tackle everything at once," Alex said. "Break down the big decisions into smaller parts and decide what is the most important to you. At the end of the day it was our wedding and we had a clear vision of what we wanted and what was most important to us."

Everyone always says that they can't believe how fast their wedding day goes by, so Alex and Nelson were well prepared for that.

"What we didn't expect was how incredible it was to see everyone from all parts of our lives together in one place," Alex noted. "Most of Nelson's family had never been to Vermont before, so it was really special to share our favorite place with them. Having guests that included Alex's friends from college, Nelson's family from Puerto Rico, and other people that have watched us grow and create a life together over the past 10 years was something we will never forget.

After the ceremony and their first round of photos, Nelson and Alex found they had a little bit of time to spare before they needed to make their entrance to the reception.

"One of the incredible servers from 3 Squares brought us our own personal cheese plate and the two of us were able to sit on the deck for 20 minutes and just reflect on the fact that we were now husband and wife," Alex said. "To be able to pause and have that time to just sit together and reflect on the importance of the day and everything it meant to us was so special and something that most couples don't get on their wedding day.

"It was just the two of us looking at the lake and reflecting on how far we've come. It was perfect."

# Emma and Christopher: *Chat online, meet in school*



**CHRISTOPHER AND EMMA Robinson took planning for the wedding seriously — setting a budget and communicating about the details. They also took their time and planned in chunks of time, rather than all at once. As a result of their preparation, their wedding day last month proved to be a wonderful experience.**

Photo by Amanda Rose Vincent

*Emma Bryant and Christopher Robinson certainly had a noteworthy meet-cute.*

"I found him randomly on Facebook and messaged him!" Emma recounted of their meeting when she was a ninth-grader and he was an 11th-grader at Vergennes Union High School. "We were friends of friends but didn't know each other. After

messaging back and forth on Snapchat and texting, we finally met in person at school."

Needless to say, it went well.

"I have always been very outgoing and was surprised I didn't scare him away with my golden retriever energy when we met, but ever since that day in high school, we have been inseparable," Emma said.

That was nine years ago.

In August 2023, Emma was getting ready to finish up her last year of nursing school when she and Christopher paid a visit to his parents, who were living then in Tennessee. Emma suspected that engagement could be coming, but she was surprised when it actually arrived.

"We were up on Clingmans Dome on the North Carolina/Tennessee border and there were a ton of people around," she recalled. "Knowing how shy Christopher was, I wouldn't have expected him to do it in front of all these people! It was an amazing vacation and we felt like we were on cloud nine for the rest of the trip!"

They had a very fun time planning their special day. After nine years, they had already talked so much about what they wanted for their wedding day and so they were ready to swing into action when they got home to Plattsburgh, N.Y., from vacation.

Christopher did a lot of the planning and they tag-teamed a lot of the details so they would both be less stressed.

"We also had lots of friends and family who were incredibly helpful with the whole process," Emma said.

They set the date for Sept. 7, 2024, at Kingsland Bay State Park in Ferrisburgh, which was near where they grew up.

"We for sure wanted to stay locally where we grew up," Emma said. "It is such a gorgeous location with lots of amenities and they were so easy to work with ... Kingsland Bay was budget-friendly for us and we got to stay right in the heart of

Addison County."

The Robinsons said that agreeing on a budget for the wedding is important.

"We sat down and talked about everything we wanted for the day together near the beginning of our planning process and we both went head into planning knowing what we both wanted," Emma said. "Open communication is very important in planning, as well as in your marriage!"

"We also suggest doing the planning in chunks of time and not rushing everything at once. We would decide some details, for example our vendors, one week and leave another detail for the wedding for another week so we weren't overwhelmed all at once. Also, use your resources around you and delegating tasks to others who are willing, this really saved us on our wedding day to be able to enjoy our day and not worry about the little things that go wrong with the day, because it's inevitable that things may go wrong."

They said they had to pull photographer Amanda Rose Vincent out of retirement to shoot their wedding.

"She is someone who took many of our prom photos throughout high school and we always knew we would want her to capture our day," Emma said. "When she said she would, it sealed the excitement we had for our photos!"

They said their first look and private

(See Robinson, Page 11)

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# Tamara and Austin: *All thanks to a seating plan*

Tamara Aunchman was a senior at Vergennes Union High School when she met a junior named Austin Brown in an engineering class at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center.

“We didn’t know each other at all beforehand but got seated next to each other,” Tamara recalled. “I think Jake (our teacher at the time) saw something, because we were then put in every single group project together. As the semester moved on, we began to date.

“And the rest is history. We’ve been together for nine years.”

Tamara admitted that she would be lying if she said she didn’t expect a proposal, when it came on Aug. 26, 2022, because they had been talking about it for a while.

Nevertheless, “It was definitely a surprise when it happened,” Tamara said. “Austin did say he was planning something at the end of the summer and to make sure I didn’t book anything on a certain weekend. I thought it may happen...”

Austin took Tamara to a Scotty McCreery concert, one of her favorite country singers.

“I figured *that* was my surprise,” she said. “I definitely didn’t expect him to propose too!”

While some couples find planning a wedding overwhelming, Tamara and Austin found it exciting.

“Don’t fret about all the small details. In the end, it’s your wedding day and it’s going to be the best day *ever* regardless if you have the perfect party favors or if something goes wrong the day of,” Tamara assured.

They originally planned to get married on a family farm in New Hampshire. But after going to visit and trying to make all the plans, Tamara and Austin realized it just wasn’t going to work because they had too many guests. So on a whim, nine months before the wedding and a year of planning, they pivoted and started looking for local places.

“That’s when we reached out to An Affair by The Lake,” Tamara said. “It was definitely meant to be, because they had our desired date available. When we went to visit it was a no brainer. Such a stunning location!”

One thing they made sure to do was to incorporate Tamara’s mom in the reception piece, since the father of the bride and mother of the groom already get special dances with their children during that phase of the day.

“So I dedicated *my* bouquet to my mother with a little speech,” Tamara said. “It was really special and I hope that others carry on the tradition.”

Family also came into play in another key moment.



**A CAREER CENTER teacher saw the sparks when two of his students, Tamara Aunchman and Austin Brown, met in his classroom. Their relationship progressed over nine years, and it culminated Aug. 31 in this — a wedding in West Addison where they became Mr. and Mrs. Brown.**

Photo by Lillianne Hillsgrove/LPH Photography

will never forget is their special vows together.

“We opted to do them privately, which was so special,” Tamara said. “To do them alone, and really be present with each other.”

But also it was kind of funny because Austin ended up with laryngitis that morning. Probably from the lack of sleep and the excitement of everything going on. Maybe that made it more special

(See Brown, Page 11)

The biggest surprise of the day was when Tamara’s brother Jacob was being introduced to the wedding party. The newly wedded Mr. and Mrs. Brown were introduced first at the reception, so that they could see the others’ entrances into the reception.

“Jacob came out wearing my bridesmaid’s dress and my bridesmaid in his tux,” Tamara said. “It was definitely the funniest surprise!”

One memory that Tamara and Austin



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# Cakes

*(Continued from Page 3)*

the details finalized a month prior to the wedding,” she said. “Sometimes you’ll get a straggling RSVP late in the game, but I try to account for that in terms of quantities.”

The actual baking process takes about four days, Bowdish said. Weddings often fall on a Saturday, so typically Bowdish makes the fillings for desserts on Wednesdays, bakes on Thursdays, decorates on Fridays and then delivers the desserts and sets them up at the venue on Saturday.

The baker aims to source her ingredients as locally as possible, using honey and maple syrup from Addison County producers and stocking up on local fruit when it’s in season and flash freezing it to use later on.

Bowdish offers both wedding cakes and dessert grazes, which are spreads of various goodies that can range from macaroons and hand pies to cupcakes, cookies and bars.

“Those have a similar (baking) timeline, but some of the stuff lends well to being made ahead of time because you can freeze a lot of things,” Bowdish explained.

Some of her favorite wedding creations over the years have includes a German chocolate cake for a couple getting married in Addison.

“The cake was my favorite because they’re the only couple in four wedding seasons who opted for a 100% chocolate cake,” Bowdish recalled. “I’ve had other couples get chocolate cakes, but this

one had chocolate on the inside, chocolate on the outside and it had these huge, gorgeous florals from (South Burlington florist) Clayton Floral.”

Other memorable orders included Bowdish’s biggest cake, a four-tier cake for a wedding at Brandon’s Lilac Inn, and a cutting cake for an elopement at the Swift House Inn in Middlebury this past fall.

“All (the couple) knew they wanted was color, texture, for it to be unique, and the flower in their boutonnieres to be featured,” Bowdish said. “I topped it with some local apple cider doughnuts and the trout lily that was their flower. It was such a sweet cake.”

## THE BEST PART

Whatever kind of dessert she’s working on, Bowdish said she loves getting to see all the pieces come together on the big day.

“I’m such a romantic at heart, and my favorite part is when I get to deliver the cake and set it up and see the culmination of months of hard work on everyone’s account,” she said.

She acknowledged that putting together the final product has involved some trial and error through the years, particularly when it comes to delivering the desserts. Bowdish recalled one particularly nerve-racking delivery, which required transporting a cake to a wedding via the winding Route 125.

“The cake was a three-tier and I had it stacked, so it’s got the support rods in it and theoretically it’s sturdy, but there was a hairpin turn I had to take, and the cake tipped over,” she said.

Bowdish was able to quickly return the cake to pristine condition, but delivering desserts long distances remains the part of the job she finds the most challenging.

“The plus of that is you arrive at the most gorgeous venues and get to see the beauty of it,” she said.

Bowdish has worked with couples all around Addison County and in other parts of the state. She tries to stay as local as possible when it comes to the venues she’s delivering to, including Tourterelle in New Haven, An Affair by the Lake in Addison, and the Bixby Free Memorial Library in Vergennes.

Bowdish works with various other wedding vendors based in the



Burlington area as well as some local vendors, such as Crooked Ladle Catering in Middlebury.

Some couples she works with are local residents, but more often they come from out of state to get married in this beautiful area.

“I’ve had maybe five couples this year who are local in Addison County or Vermont in general and are getting married in Addison County; everyone else is from all over the place,” she said. “I’ve had a Florida bride, a New York couple, Maryland, Tennessee, Texas, California, and a British couple.”

Bowdish loves getting to work with couples on their wedding desserts, and she tries to make it so most every couple can find something for their special day at Thistle & Honey.

She offers both a budget-friendly and luxury package for wedding treats. The budget-friendly package ranges from \$200-\$500 for cake and/or a dessert graze. For that package, the venue must be located in Addison County and delivery is free.

The luxury package ranges from \$700-\$1,500 and is a good fit for couples who might want more custom, specialty flavors,

more intricate designs, or a larger dessert spread. For example, Bowdish noted one order in that higher price range consisted of a spread with 17 different desserts.

Those interested in learning more about Bowdish’s offerings can visit [www.thistleandhoneybaking.com/home](http://www.thistleandhoneybaking.com/home).



*“I’ve had maybe five couples this year who are local ... everyone else is from all over the place. I’ve had a Florida bride, a New York couple, Maryland, Tennessee, Texas, California, a British couple.”*

— baker Nikki Bowdish

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## Hunt

*(Continued from Page 4)*  
we met.”

Dustin and Amber’s advice to other couples planning a wedding is, “Don’t stress.”

“The day is going to be great, especially if you have the people you love and want to

see you succeed in life there around you,” Amber said. “The day is about you and your partner. It will be perfect. I promise.

“Make sure you take your partner by the hand, stand in the corner and just watch everyone and take it all in. They are all here because of you two.”

## Robinson

*(Continued from Page 8)*  
vows are absolutely something that they will love and cherish for the rest of their lives.

“We decided to do this because we wanted more time to spend with our guests during the cocktail hour and we thought private vows with just the two of us meant a lot for us,” Emma said. “It was such a beautiful moment and we started the beginning of our marriage telling each other how we will continue to love each other through all the good and bad, and that was just an amazing moment.

“Being able to share this moment together before walking down the aisle calmed our nerves and got us even more excited for the day!”

Christopher and Emma had one pretty important detail they wanted on their day.

“Our first dance song was the first song we ever slow danced to, which was John Mayer’s ‘Gravity,’” Emma said. “This has always been the song we knew we would slow dance to for our first dance and we are so glad we did it!

“It reminded us of how far we have come from our little high school selves.”

## Brown

*(Continued from Page 9)*  
when he soldiered on and delivered his promises aloud to Tamara.

“We won’t forget how horrible his voice sounded and we laugh about it,” Tamar said. “He actually was super thankful we

did it privately, that way he didn’t have to strain or sound funny in front of 150 people — just me!

“The day goes by so fast — just cherish the moment and the memories!” she added.



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