



Fabulous

In this 'season between,' 15 local artists celebrate frost and fable in a new show. See Arts + Leisure.



NCAA time

Panther teams were upset in their league tournaments, but bigger prizes loom. See Sports, Page 1B.



United Way

2024 has been a rollercoaster but UWAC has kept us on track. See the special pull-out section inside.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Rollicking good fun

MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH School singers, actors and singing actors will perform the "best musical you've never heard of" — "The Drowsy Chaperone" — this Thursday through Saturday. At a recent rehearsal are K Haugen playing Feldzeig (right) and Bea Hooper as Kitty (center). They are supported by Paras Biancosino as George, Subia Khan as a gangster and Piper Farnsworth as Mrs. Toppendale. See more photos on Page 11A, then go see the show.

Photo by Jason Duquette-Hoffman

Midd. students were pumped for election

That's just one takeaway from local results

By MARIN HOWELL

ADDISON COUNTY — Middlebury College students Daniza Tazabekova and Laura McDow said they saw a lot of enthusiasm among college students about this year's election.

"Excitement about voting and participation in democracy was far higher this semester than previous years, according to both my lived experience since 2022 and our organization advisor's experiences from the last two decades,"

said Tazabekova, president of MidVotes, a nonpartisan student organization that works to increase civic engagement.

"Though it is standard practice for voters to be less engaged during midterm elections, the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections did not see similar turnout from the college."

Tazabekova pointed to a few examples of that engagement, such as professors and staff recognizing (See Election reaction, Page 18A)

ACSD wrestles with a tight budget year

Board targets 2% hike, but cuts loom

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — The Addison Central School District board on Monday asked ACSD staff to begin crafting a fiscal year 2025-26 budget reflecting a 2% increase compared to the current spending plan. But holding the spending increase to 2% would still require the district to absorb approximately \$2 million in contracted employee salary increases, health

insurance premium hikes, surging transportation expenses and other fixed costs.

In other words, a 2% increase would still necessitate major cuts — ones that would affect personnel and programming — and board members said they're prepared to make tough choices in deference to local taxpayers who're being stretched to their limits.

(See ACSD budget, Page 13A)

Bristol police getting help with non-criminal issues

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The town of Bristol has hired its first ever community resource specialist, a new position created by the municipality last year to help the Bristol Police Department respond to mental health calls, animal complaints and other instances where residents might not be breaking the law but need support.

It's seen as a trend that other local police departments may imitate.

Bristol Police Chief Bruce Nason said the town has hired Bristol resident Amy Smith for the position. Smith was expected to begin her new role this week.

"We look forward to working with her and (providing) this valuable resource to the Bristol community," Nason told the *Independent*.

The Bristol selectboard this past December voted to establish the community resource specialist position to assist police respond to non-criminal calls they receive and to perform other non-law enforcement responsibilities.

At the time, Nason told the selectboard the new position would support his department in its community policing approach and providing residents with compassionate and (See Bristol, Page 10A)

College students teach grade schoolers to cook, and try new produce

By MARIN HOWELL

MIDDLEBURY — Grade-school students learn a variety of important life skills in school each day, such as responsibility, critical thinking and collaboration.

A program run through the Middlebury College Center for Community Engagement is helping local elementary students add another key skill to their toolkit — cooking.

The Nutrition Outreach and Mentoring program, or NOM, works with area schools to provide hands-on cooking lessons for students with the goal of building community and introducing students to different foods and food practices.

"Our main aim is to create community and connect with people through food, and especially families and kids in the local (See Outreach, Page 10A)

Local farm equipment dealer grows into N.Y. state

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — On the cusp of 63 years old, Champlain Valley Equipment President Brian Carpenter thought he'd be easing into a more measured work schedule in tandem with his role as chair of the Middlebury selectboard.

But sometimes, life doesn't go according to plan — especially when a good business opportunity materializes.

That opportunity, for Carpenter, was a chance to add Central New York-based Empire Tractor Inc. to CVE's already broad portfolio of 11 dealerships offering farm, lawn & garden, and light construction equipment. Empire, a well-established company whose wares include Kubota and New Holland equipment, has store locations in Batavia, Atlanta, Cortland, Waterloo, Watertown, and Canton, N.Y.

Carpenter said Empire majority owner Tim Call — with whom he's been friends for some 30 years — first reached out to him in 2015 to gauge his interest in buying the company.

Carpenter was intrigued, but a merger wasn't in the cards at that time.

"I had other things going on here in Vermont, and it just didn't work," he said.

But when Call reached out last year with an acquisition pitch, Carpenter and his CVE colleagues (See CVE, Page 13A)



BRIAN CARPENTER



COLLEGE STUDENTS INVOLVED in Middlebury College's Nutrition Outreach and Mentoring program led a cooking lesson on Zoom with local families last month. Recipes are centered around a different produce each month and offer a chance for multiple people to get involved in the cooking process. Photo courtesy of Lucca Franz



By the way

Volunteers will be seeking Vergennes Community Food Shelf donations at Shaw's Supermarket in Vergennes this Friday, Nov. 15, from 4 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Vergennes Lions and Rotary clubs are co-sponsoring the event to collect food and non-food items needed for the Thanksgiving holiday season. Cash donations will also be gratefully accepted.

The *Independent* on Nov. 7 (See By the way, Page 16A)

New Haven offers a space to heal through crafts and connection

By MARIN HOWELL

NEW HAVEN — Navigating grief can be an isolating, painful and overwhelming experience, but we don't have to go through it alone.

A new program starting up at the New Haven Community Library aims to offer community members a space to process grief together while enjoying the healing benefits of crafting. It's called "Grieving and Weaving," and is being spearheaded by New Haven resident Jen Grilly.

"Everyone says that there's no timeline on grief, and so people who have lost someone years ago are still grieving this process and may not feel like there's space for that grief anymore because of that timeline," Grilly said during a recent interview. "I don't want people to feel that way. I want people to feel like (See Connections, Page 16A)

After long wait, Salisbury town hall fix is imminent

By JOHN FLOWERS

SALISBURY — Thanks to a couple of major grants and dedicated community volunteers, a more-than-20-year effort to renovate Salisbury's historic 1869 Town Hall building at 918 Maple St. is expected come to fruition next year.

One of the project's top beneficiaries will be town hall's primary tenant: the Salisbury Free Public Library. But the work will also greatly enhance the community's overall use of a building that's thus far been limited by accessibility issues and the absence (See Salisbury, Page 17A)

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MAUSD wants input about district's future

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — The Mount Abraham Unified School District is looking to hear from community members about what skills, characteristics and experiences they think all district students should have in order to succeed in and outside of school.

A one-question survey fielded to the MAUSD community earlier this month centers around that question and is part of a larger visioning process aimed at developing a Portrait of a Learner for the district.

The culminating Portrait of a Learner document will outline the community's shared aspirations for what every student will know and be able to do upon graduation.

District officials have noted the Portrait of a Learner will also frame an updated vision for the MAUSD and help inform the district's next strategic plan and its ENDS policy — the ENDS policy, like the strategic plan, captures MAUSD's goals and helps guide work in the district to realize those objectives.

"As we seek to make decisions that support our students while being respectful to our community members' bottom lines, having an ENDS policy that is contributed to both of those parties is highly important."

— Board Chair Erin Jipner

"The visioning happening here is far more than just an initiative. It is a steppingstone, a data point and a tether for all future budgetary, policy or district work that we engage in," MAUSD School Board Chair Erin Jipner told the *Independent*.

The school board at its Aug. 27 meeting approved the expenditure of up to \$25,000 from the district's Education Reserve Fund to support working with educational consultant UP for Learning on the Portrait of a Learner and strategic planning processes.

Jipner said the district's work with UP for Learning stemmed from an action from the school board earlier this year to reserve money in the budget for work on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

"This, coupled with the need to redo our district's Strategic Plan

and the board's yearly ask of a more advanced ENDS policy, made this partnering decision quite easy," Jipner said. "The investment in Up For Learning (which may also be referred to as a Portrait of a Learner, which is the culminating document) satisfies a piece of the DEI work and supplies data for both the Strategic Plan and ENDS policy, in that it builds a connection between the administration, the board, and our student base at the high school and elementary schools."

Jipner added that the culmination of the project will be a "North Star" guiding set of skills, characteristics and experiences all students should have when they leave MAUSD.

Over the next several months, UP for Learning will work to engage members of the MAUSD community in a visioning process to guide the development of that "North Star" Portrait of a Learner document.

"The 'North Star' Portrait of a Learner will become a seminal document as the district builds a new strategic plan (we have given our last plan a year's extension so we may be thoughtful in building a new one), looks at building budgets that strike a balance between student and taxpayer needs, and will become a data point for both the district advisory council's work and the school board's work on the ENDS policy," Jipner explained.

The advisory council is a team of administrative and teaching staff "who work together to find solutions to complex educational issues," Jipner said. While the council has many charges, its main one is collaborating on the strategic plan. The district's current strategic plan covers 2019-2024.

Jipner noted the MAUSD school board is a Policy and Governance Board and thus, is guided by its primary policy titled the ENDS

policy. The strategic plan includes a copy of the district's ENDS Policy, which was adopted in 2018.

"This has been a large piece of many board conversations because, if written and utilized well, (the ENDS policy) should be our governing document which we measure all district goals against," she said. "As we seek to make decisions that support our students while being respectful to our community members' bottom lines, having an ENDS policy that is contributed to both of those parties is highly important."

Jipner said so far the district's work on the ongoing visioning process has included:

- Clarifying goals as the district community moves toward a North Star picture.
- Identifying what its cohort finds important as the district navigates the process.
- Understanding how the district community currently views itself while identifying where it would like to be.
- Tackling topics of conversation that are uncomfortable but that directly impact MAUSD students each day.

As part of the process, a team of facilitators consisting of UP for Learning staff and MAUSD students will collaborate with a core group representing the district to engage the broader community around the Portrait of a Learner. That core group includes MAUSD staff, students, board members and at least one community member.

STUDENT VOICE

The school board at its Oct. 22 meeting heard from Elise, a sixth-grader at Beeman Elementary School who's been involved in the process.

"I think it's great that we kids get to do this because we have a big visual on what happens during our school days because we're always there," she told the board.

Elise said she joined the UP for Learning process to share her voice and help make MAUSD a place

(See MAUSD, Page 3A)



Local service

A UNIQUE FLAG recognizing East Middlebury residents who served in World War II was hung on the Sarah Partridge Library this past Monday in honor of Veterans Day. Coast Guard veteran Henry Haskell, caretaker at the East Middlebury library, hung the flag, which features 38 blue stars — one for each of the local men who served in the war.

Independent photos/Steve James



MUMS educator resigns after leave request denied

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury Union Middle School's popular and accomplished Wellness educator has resigned from her post, citing the Addison Central School District officials' denial of her request for four days of professional leave to attend a national health/physical education conference in Baltimore next April 1-5, at which she was slated to be a significant contributor.

Isabel "Izzy" Gogarty, who also serves on the Middlebury selectboard, gave notice on Oct. 29. The ACSD board formally accepted her decision at its Monday, Nov. 11, meeting.

"A national organization selected me to present my research and keynote at a regional session," she stated in her resignation letter. "I provided the district with eight months notice and ensured the availability of my teaching assistant and colleagues' availability for my classes on those (conference) days. It is disappointing that it is in this circumstance that I leave the district."

Gogarty acknowledged the district's denial of her leave request wasn't "personal."

District Superintendent Wendy

Baker served notice back on Aug. 27 that the ACSD would need to continue a strict policy on professional leave requests that had been instituted by her predecessor, Tim Williams. The reason: ACSD, along with other school districts statewide, is dealing with an extreme shortage of substitute teachers. As a result, the ACSD central office, in collaboration with building principals, created new guidelines "to determine priority for and the equitable distribution of professional leave approval, should a request take place while school is in session," according to Baker's Aug. 27 memo.

Guideline four on the list: "Requests to attend national, regional or statewide networking or professional development events may be approved pending other demands for substitutes." Baker, in an email exchange,

elaborated on the difficult denial of Gogarty's request.

"Our limited substitute roster does not allow us to approve professional development leave requests at the rate we would like, particularly those that involve multiple days. Professionals across ACSD are outstanding educators and many provide leadership within their fields. ACSD is in our second year of approving professional leave requests cautiously, and we look forward to lifting professional leave restrictions for all ACSD employees as soon as conditions allow."

That's provided little solace for Gogarty, who had hoped to share the success of MUMS's wellness curriculum with a national audience.

While she said she realizes the denial "was a district-wide decision, rooted in a shortage of substitute teachers," she was disappointed to see the ACSD apply

"a blanket policy across all schools, which unfortunately did not allow for flexibility or a case-by-case consideration of the specific situation in the middle school, specifically my classroom."

She added she believes the policy "does not fully consider the individual needs and abilities of schools or the potential for equitable solutions in unique cases like mine."

As the ACSD recruits a new Wellness educator, Gogarty is readying for her new job as part of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce Programming Team. There, she'll reunite with a familiar face — former Better Middlebury Partnership Director Karen Duguay, who currently serves as the Chamber's senior director of programming. Gogarty said she and Duguay will plan/lead a variety of Chamber events, including the Vermont Manufacturing Summit, the Vermont Economic Conference, Industry and Tourism Economy Day at the Statehouse, and various professional development and social events for Vermont businesses.

"I will also lead the implementation of the Vermont

(See Gogarty, Page 3A)



IZZY GOGARTY

Fleming steps down Ferrisburgh selectboard looking for interim board member

By ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — The Ferrisburgh selectboard on Nov. 5 accepted a letter of resignation from board member Stephen Fleming, who was elected to the board this past March.

Minutes of the meeting reflect simply that the board received his letter and thanked him for his service.

The *Independent* contacted Fleming on Nov. 7, and he offered no specifics, but said in general serving on the board "wasn't a good fit for me," and said upcoming circumstances might make it difficult for him to continue in the position.

"I might have a conflict of interest coming up," Fleming said.

Board Chair Clark Hinsdale told the *Independent* last week that he and other selectboard members might be reluctant to appoint a new and inexperienced board member with the typically challenging task of crafting next year's spending plan. That job must be completed by late January in order to be warned for a Town Meeting Day vote.

However, Hinsdale said, the board might reach out to two board members who recently stepped away, Jessica James and Red Muir, and see if one of them might be interested in helping out just through early March.

Then, he said, interested citizens could run for the final year of Fleming's term on Town Meeting Day.

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THIS ROUTE 22A SITE in Ferrisburgh just outside Vergennes will in the not-too-distant future be the home of the Champlain Valley Grain Center. The business will clean, mill and store grain for the region's organic farmers, offer products made with that grain at a 36-seat café, and distill and market whiskey.

Independent photo/Andy Kirkaldy

Ferrisburgh grain center moves ahead

By ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — Plans are moving forward to establish a multi-use, agriculturally based business — including grain processing, whiskey distilling and a café — on prominent Ferrisburgh land at the intersection of Routes 7 and 22A just outside of Vergennes.

Todd Hardie, a Greensboro resident, beekeeper and grain farmer, in February bought a 5.21-acre building envelope and a half-interest in 25.59 additional acres of conserved land from the town of Ferrisburgh, culminating a long purchase-and-sale process.

At the same time, the owners of Shelburne business Douglas Sweets purchased the land's remaining 4.21-acre building envelope with the intention of relocating. But Douglas Sweets' ownership eventually decided to expand onsite in Shelburne and has placed its share of the land back on the market (see related article).

Meanwhile, Hardie has obtained an Act 250 land-use permit to build on his Ferrisburgh land a grain-processing business he is calling the Champlain Valley Grain Center. He said it will serve farmers around Vermont and possibly New York in a planned 60-foot-by-100-foot building. The venture will also include the distillery and a 36-seat café, and has already established a

seven-hive bee-yard on the land.

The construction timetable is somewhat uncertain. Hardie is working with Middlebury firm Vermont Integrated Architecture on the building engineering and design in preparation for a Vermont Labor & Industry permit application that the state fire marshal must ultimately approve.

Hardie is confident in the outcome of the project.

"We're going step by step, and there's just a checklist that's miles long," Hardie said.

"We're working on all the engineering and ventilation, and we've got a Working Lands Grant for the distilling equipment."

Hardie says each element of the endeavor — cleaning, milling and storing grain for organic farmers, onsite café sales, and ultimately whiskey marketing — is key to its success.

"All the legs of the center have to support it. The community café has to be a wonderful and happy place with nutritious food. The grain cleaning and drying and storage has to be serving farmers. And we have to make whiskey," he said. "It

will all fit together, and I'm looking forward to it."

Hardie said there is now a lack of milling centers for organic farmers to process their grains, and that several farmers are already lined up to do business with the Champlain Valley Grain Center.

"Grain farming has been limited in the Champlain Valley by the lack of cleaning, drying and milling, and we're going to provide that service. I'm really excited about that," he said.

Hardie added there is also demand on the value-added side of the equation.

"People want better bread. There's a tremendous need for more whole-grain bread that people want in Vermont and the region," he said. "And we're going to help support that."

Hardie explained how it will work.

"What the grain center will do is receive grain from farmers on the day of harvest, clean it, dry it, mill it, and provide a market. We'll buy some of it. Some farmers want their grain back. We can't buy it all," Hardie said.

What the grain center does buy, he said, will be milled "for our use in the café. (And) We'll make whiskey."

The café, which already has town of Ferrisburgh zoning approval, will allow the grain center to "give value to the commodity," Hardie said.

"It will have pizza dough for wood-fired pizza, pizza dough to go, frozen waffles to go, we'll have sandwiches," he said, as well as soups and "nice meals" and, of course, a liquor license. He added it will probably be open for both lunch and dinner, and possibly breakfast.

Hardie said that whiskey distilled onsite, eventually 60 53-gallon barrels annually, will not be available immediately, given the nature of the production process. But he has an arrangement with Caledonia Spirits, a company he helped found, to create a bridge to the future.

"Whiskey typically takes about four years to age. That's a challenge.

(See Grain, Page 8A)

Sharpe to host MCTV talk show

MIDDLEBURY — Former longtime legislator Dave Sharpe wrapped up a 16-year career representing Bristol and the rest of the Addison-4 district in the Vermont House of Representatives, back in January 2019.

Now the Bristol resident is returning to the spotlight, this time as host of an interview program on Middlebury Community Television, in which he will talk with experts about public policy.

The show, called "Sharpe Takes with David Sharpe," premieres this Friday, Nov. 15, on MCTV cable channel (Comcast channels 1071 or 1091). It will be posted the next day on the MCTV website, middleburycommunitytv.org.

Sharpe has long been actively involved with his community, serving at various times on the Bristol selectboard and planning commission, Mount Abe school board, solid waste management boards and various history and recreation clubs.

"I have been thinking about how I could help people understand the state of education in our state today and what might be the best way to move information in the future," Sharpe said. When the possibility of a broadcast show arose, he jumped at it.

When he chaired the Vermont House Education Committee, Sharpe was a key architect of Act 46, which reformed the way that Vermonters pay for education more than a decade ago. His first guest on the half-hour interview show will be Rep. Scott Beck, R-St. Johnsbury, who last week won a seat in the Vermont Senate.

"Scott served with me on the House Education Committee

that wrote Act 46 and is very knowledgeable regarding Ed financing," said Sharpe, who served as a Democrat.

With the show just starting, Sharpe is unsure of how often it will air. He hopes to record twice a month at the outset.

MCTV had been looking for a public affairs show that could take the place of the one hosted for many years by State Rep. Betty Nuovo, who died last year.

Kurt Broderson, MCTV executive director, is excited to get another strong local affairs show on the channel.

"We're looking forward to help getting this started," he said.



DAVE SHARPE

MAUSD

(Continued from Page 2A)

where others can do the same.

"I want to make our school district feel like a safer place so that we can share our feelings, how we feel about our genders and our race, and be able to do that safely without judgment," she said.

Elise said she feels the work is going well so far.

"As a student I talked to other students in my class and they thought that they wanted to join this too, so what I shared with other students now they want to join, which is good so then we have other voices and other perspectives," she explained.

Incorporating all voices, particularly student voices, is a key part of the process and one highlighted in UP for Learning's plan for working with the district on this effort.

"What is exciting about this process is that it isn't focused on what adults are in the room or how many students are available (there are more students than adults in the room during these meetings)," Jipner said. "It is engaging in the art of discourse to understand a complex system and to collaborate to such a degree that our students are not simply looked at as those who have education done to them, but they themselves have agency in their educational journey from start

to finish."

Jipner said the one-question survey sent out to the community earlier this month asking what skills and experiences each district student should have marked the group's first major project in the ongoing process.

"Not only did we pose this question to our broader community, but we also have student groups in each school creating and implementing action plans to gather data from their school communities around this same question," she said. "We will come together in January as a group to go over the data we collect from this question."

WORK AHEAD

If all goes to plan MAUSD will wrap up its work with UP for Learning in the spring, at which point the Portrait of a Learner will be finished. Jipner said the advisory council's work with the strategic plan and the school board's work on the ENDS policy and budget will be more drawn-out. She noted the board and district administrators have spent several months looking at the budget and will continue that work at the board's Nov. 19 meeting.

"The board has also been engaging with the community to continue our conversations around the (FY'25) budget and future budgets," she wrote in a written response. "The

hope is to present a series of cost-saving options that are derived from that community engagement — coupled with the information from Portrait of a Learner, and any work that comes out of the Commission (on the Future of Public Education) — by November of 2025 that would impact how MAUSD educates all students."

Jipner said once the Portrait of a Learner is complete, the hope is that the set of values, experiences, skills and characteristics identified will fit nicely into work already being done at the high school with personal learning plans, which allow students to develop a personalized road map for their education. She added that she feels there is an easy connection with the proficiency-based learning grading structure used by MAUSD so that potentially all aspects of learning and grading can be connected.

"As far as I am aware, the utilization of this work impacts the high school in an immediate way in that their participation in their own learning is an ingrained part of their learning experience," she said. "This type of learning collaboration does not yet happen at our elementary schools as well as we would like, but with the North Star vision the district could begin bringing children up to a partner in their own learning."

Gogarty

(Continued from Page 2A)

edition of the National Civics Bee, guiding its development and execution to inspire young Vermonters to engage in civics and contribute to their communities," Gogarty said. "This initiative will foster civic literacy, skills and participation, empowering students across the state to become informed and active citizens."

Gogarty will continue to support statewide health and physical education initiatives as president of SHAPE Vermont. She'll work with the Agency of Education, leading elementary health education teams and supporting the implementation of the updated National Health Education Standards, set to roll out

in Fall 2025.

Perhaps most important to her shire town constituents, Gogarty will remain on the Middlebury selectboard, coach middle school field hockey, and still run her weekly collaborative lunch group between MUMS students, the Addison Central Teens center, and Ilsley Library Teen Librarian Kathryn Laliberte.

She believes her Chamber work will make her a more effective selectboard member.

"(It) will provide valuable insights that I can apply directly to my role on the selectboard, helping me advocate for policies that foster local economic growth and sustainability. Voters can expect

to see me on the ballot again in March as I have loved my time on the selectboard, leading with curiosity and sharing what I learn with young people and families in the community."

ACSD board members on Monday lamented Gogarty's impending MUMS exit. Her last classroom day at the school is Nov. 22.

"I've heard a lot of parents voicing their dismay about Izzy's resignation," board member Tricia Allen said. "It's really a blow to the middle school. It's going to be tough."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

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Editorial

Before school budget talks turn to slashing expenses, let's have a grand plan

With 2024-25 education property tax rate hikes well into double digits last year, it's little doubt school boards will be primed for holding costs to a minimum for their upcoming budgets. Already the ACSD board asked the school district's staff to keep its budget to 2% or under, compared to a 6.5% budget increase last year. (See story on Page 1A.)

Holding budgets that tight will likely mean significant cuts in staffing and programs when fixed costs like labor and health care see huge jumps. Increases in health care, for instance, are pegged at 11.9%; contract salary increases are 6% for ACSD staff and a 5% bump in base pay for teachers; and the district expects a \$650,000 increase in special education costs.

We don't envy the job school board members face. They'll have to make decisions many of their friends and neighbors will oppose, and some will despise. For everyone involved inside the system — staff, teachers, students, parents and the community at-large — cutting school budgets is always a lose-lose proposition. That's because we want our students to have the best education possible. The counterweight is its cost and the impact on taxpayers.

To that end, bringing the public into the conversation well before those cuts are made is the best tonic. Providing thoughtful, well-reasoned responses for the board's proposed cuts — that look at both the short-term and long-term — will be essential.

Let's also recognize there are minor cuts to programming (eliminating an elective class, for example), and major cuts, like school or grade consolidation.

Of the latter, specific studies demonstrating the proposed savings via a detailed spread sheet should be provided, as well as the probable costs in closing any school — not just in dollars and cents, but in costs to that community and the overall cost/benefit to the district. To that end, crafting these concerns into a grand plan — much like towns create 5-to-10 year master plans — would help residents understand the underlying issues facing our schools and how to reach solutions.

Part of that planning would be to factor in housing projections. We've long held that people would eagerly move to the greater-Middlebury area, and throughout the county, if there were adequate housing. Now that the state has finally recognized the creation of affordable housing as its top-priority, school districts should plan for that reality. Already in Middlebury, 200-plus housing units are in the making at Summit Properties, and studies have shown Middlebury would still be 100 housing units short to meet current demand with more needed each year.

The ACSD must answer the question: When 200-300 housing units come online, how many new students will that bring to the district; and if 25-50 more come online each year (as some have suggested are needed to meet demand) where will they attend classes? And if one or more district elementary schools are closed, how soon would it be before the district is faced with building new or expanded facilities to make room for more students? (I know that sounds like a fairy tale, but if the housing is there, there's plenty of evidence to suggest people will come.)

At the very least, school districts would be unwise to prematurely shutter classrooms right at the time the state and local towns finally understand that creating more affordable housing is the linchpin to addressing many of the state's underlying ills.

We're not suggesting no consolidations be considered, just that they're done with eyes wide open on the short-term benefits versus long-range consequences and that the communities impacted have ample time to respond and prepare. Preferably, any consolidations would be done with that community's support and not forced upon them as happened with Ripton Elementary School.

Districts should also pro-actively consider district-wide school choice, as the Otter Valley/Rutland Northeast schools do, allowing students in elementary schools to attend either a smaller or larger school to fit theirs and the district's needs.

And if educational outcomes of the student remain part of the reasoning to consolidate, districts should base those outcomes on something more than reading and math proficiency scores from a standardized test. Parental involvement and sense of community is known to be a signature benefit of smaller elementary schools, so sacrificing that, if need be, has to be offset by a greater societal gain.

Granted, that's all balanced by the necessity of lowering the high cost of education in Vermont. But nor should cutting education costs within our schools be the sole focus. Health care costs play an outsized role in school budgets. Simultaneously, the state has an ambitious road map to overhaul the state's unreasonably high health care costs, which in part, depends on building more housing for health care workers.

We are, in short, juggling many hefty balls in the air.

The caution is not to over-react.

In sizing up the national election on down to local elections, many observers have noted we're all still reeling from the aftermath of the pandemic — which was a massive disruption still rippling through the world, the nation and our local schools. As we seek solutions, we should operate with the faith that more housing will be built, that health care costs will come down, that education costs will again reach a more even keel and the one thing we should avoid, as English philosopher Francis Bacon famously said, is making the remedy worse than the disease.

Angelo Lynn



It's a hoot!

IN THIS WEEK'S MUHS musical "The Drowsy Chaperone," senior Piper Farnsworth gets to play the fun part (aren't they all fun?) of Mrs. Tottendale, the rich, slightly doty hostess for the wedding of glamorous star Janet Van de Graaff to handsome oil tycoon Robert Martin. The show runs Thursday and Friday nights, and Saturday afternoon.

Photo by Jason Duquette-Hoffman

Popular pet has big personality

Buster has a morning routine.

He waits at the back door for Rick to let him in. Then he wants to chase one of the little pom-poms Rick keeps for him in a small cup on the windowsill. Rick tosses and Buster fetches the pop-pom, this time a blue one. They go at it for a minute or a bunch of minutes. It's a guy thing. I get bored after the first few tosses, but Rick and Buster love this game. Rick laughs and Buster hoots and brings it back over and over.

At some point Buster starts flinging the pom-pom in the air on his own and jumping for it, then chasing it in a circle until it's not clear if he's chasing the pom-pom or his tail.

When he gets tired of that, Buster takes the pom-pom to his big bowl of water and drops it in while he drinks some water. He tries to fish the pom-pom out of the water. Occasionally he pierces it with his claws, but usually it stays in the water until Rick fishes it out, wrings it out and tosses it some more.

Buster likes the momentum of a weighted pom-pom. It travels faster, and he can chew on it for a while. Eventually he works up an appetite and heads to the food bowl, dropping his pom-pom somewhere nearby. Rick recycles it in the pom-pom bowl.

When Buster finishes eating, Rick heads out to work on garden cleanup. Buster likes helping him, stalking squirrels from beneath the asparagus ferns, rolling around in the straw, diving into a pile of leaves and popping his head out.

His morning routine spills into the rest of his day.

When I'm walking around the village, I often spot Buster sitting on someone's porch, prancing through

another yard or occasionally on another street. He gets around and people seem to know him. He's always open to getting a nice pat down. One friend calls him the neighborhood ambassador. He's charismatic and handsome, long and lean and friendly but not so much it's annoying.

While I'm reading on our porch, I watch two boys across the street, who spot Buster as he heads out for a stretch on the sidewalk. "Can we pet Buster?" They ask, and I say sure. They hop off their bikes and stroke him.

Buster enjoys evening walks with Rick through the wooded areas in the adjacent back yards on our block. It's their adventure time. Rick dares Buster to climb a tall tree, and he's always game.

Rainy or cold nights he sleeps with us. I have to be clear about my boundaries and how much space I need or he'll squish me into a little corner on the edge of the bed.

If you're wondering about his hunting, I did get Buster an anti-hunting collar. He's on his 3rd one. After he wears it a while he'll find a place to yank it off. He doesn't mind a fresh, brightly-colored ruffle and lets me snap it around his neck willingly, then rubs his cheek against it. It seems to keep him from snagging birds until he tugs it off somewhere and I have to order another one.

Rick hates Buster's clown collar and tells him he looks ridiculous, but Buster doesn't mind. It feels cozy, and each one comes with a catnip heart made from the same fabric. He loves those.

I call Buster Rick's therapy cat. At the end of a busy (See *Ways of Seeing*, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Alice Leeds



This weather really ticks me off

I've enjoyed the spells of pleasant, warm weather we've been having lately. But you know who's enjoyed them more?

The ticks.

I don't like bugs in general. There are those I consider mostly annoying, like mosquitoes and gnats; those that I find repulsive, like earwigs; and those that scare me, though, filling me with a trifecta of fear, disgust and loathing.

And with the balmy days we've been having, they're celebrating like it's Mardi Gras. With a magnifying glass, you can see them cavorting around the woods and fields, wearing strings of colorful beads and carrying open containers, making bad choices they will have time to regret when (if) the weather ever gets cold enough. (Yes, this is a humor column that touches on the effects of climate change; try not to laugh too hard.)

When I was a kid, I had heard of ticks only as creatures that carried Rocky Mountain spotted fever. That was before Lyme disease was all the rage. I worried far more about killer bees, which we heard were moving in swarms up from Central America and would be murdering us New Englanders en masse by the 1980s.

The killer bees didn't live up to the hype. But the

ones on which I would most like to be outside — they rush my dog like Black Friday shoppers pouncing on a scarce game console.

Over the entire summer, the dog might have picked up a tick or two. After a single walk in the woods one sunny October day, however, I found over a dozen on him. I crouched on the porch, frantically combing them out of his fur while resisting the urge to break into a St. Vitus's dance of revulsion; my reputation in this neighborhood is already iffy.

Though I spend about a dollar a day to protect the dog from the illnesses ticks can carry, they still climb aboard — sometimes ending up loose in our house. (If you suddenly feel imaginary creatures crawling on you, pause here to scratch. And brace yourself; it gets worse.)

Not long ago, I was in bed when I felt a tickle on the outside of my ankle. I instinctively swiped at it and felt something hard. Maybe a scab?

I switched on the 40-watt bedside light and put on my glasses to peer into the semidarkness. But my vision wasn't up to the task — and neither was my physiology. Have you ever tried to get a close-up look at the outside of your ankle? It's farther away (See *Jessie*, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Now America must wake up

Now we can have more fun, not only counting Trump's profuse lies, but now counting more ways he screws up our once great nation. He has mentioned several ways, like stopping government programs that help millions, and putting those people out of work, too.

Let us pray the nation wakes up before total ruin.

Peter Grant
Bristol

Governor silent when it counted

There are many painful images of the recent election, but one of the most despicable is a photo of Governor Scott exiting the voting booth announcing with pride his vote for Vice President Harris. Is his apparent glee intended to mollify a months-long disappointment in him?

While many courageous Republican politicians refused to support a man who has no sense of humanity, decency, or humility, the Governor remained silent. As a governor who was recently purported to be the most popular in the country, he has an obligation to speak the truth.

Recognition requires responsibility. He accepted the former and avoided the latter. He chose silence, and silence is approval. Scott's prideful smile as he exits the booth demonstrates self-interest and shallowness.

John Brattie
Salisbury

Raymond piece funny, timely

How did Ms. Raymond know that her commentary piece "Are you smarter than your spouse?" was so timely? (See *Jessie* Raymond column, Oct. 31, Page 4A.) At a time when our nation is so clearly and at times bitterly divided along levels of education lines (for lack of a better term), her comparison of herself (as a college-educated person) and her husband (who doesn't have a college degree) was poignant, hilarious and just what this country needs.

She recognizes with self-effacing humor that some of the skills one learns in college may seem superfluous (maybe like the use of the word superfluous!) when compared to what she calls the "practical intelligence" of her husband. She praises his ability to think through a project, even down to measuring a shoelace that needs to be replaced before heading to the store. Of course, we are left with the realization that without her education and effort we would not have this funny and reflective piece of writing, which calls to our analytical selves and keeps our thoughts interesting and our minds engaged.

In short, she helps us draw the conclusion that we need both. We need folks with practical knowledge and we need folks who intellectualize and theorize about life. One thing I love about Vermont is that we respect both contributions. The nation needs more of this!

Hannah Sessions
Salisbury

Writer all wrong about Panton

Gosh, Doug Dows certainly sounds like he was particularly cranky when composing his recent letter! (Nov. 7, Page 4A) Perhaps he might have paused for a sandwich. The following addresses his remarks.




The decision, made by Panton voters, to move Town Meeting to a Monday night with an Australian ballot the following day to elect officers and approve a budget was made at a Special Town Meeting on 7/23/2018. For some years town meeting had been poorly attended. Occasionally as few as 15-20 voters were present. The town meeting was even moved to a Saturday, hoping to improve attendance, which it failed to do. Also, I would stress that Panton is (See *Sokal letter*, Page 5A)


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Letters to the Editor

Unsuccessful candidate still grateful for support

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all in Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen, Ripton and Cornwall who supported me in the Addison District 2 House race. I am grateful to the people who trusted me with their vote, most notably those in my hometown of Leicester and neighboring town of Salisbury as well as those who contributed their time and financial resources to my campaign.

Though it is disappointing that we did not win, I am humbled by the outpouring of voters who engaged with me in meaningful dialogue and the desire to come together, often across party lines, to attain our common goal of restoring balance to the Vermont House.

I remain dedicated to making Vermont an affordable place to live, work and raise a family. Hopefully, my late-entry

candidacy at least amplified the message that Addison-2 wants thoughtful, realistic and affordable solutions to today's pressing issues.

Please continue to make your voices heard for meaningful change. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

Christine Stone
Leicester

Entire state should be grateful for senator's efforts

Vermonters owe Vermont State Senator Chris Bray a debt of gratitude for his 16 years of service in the Vermont Legislature.

Chris is one of the hardest working, most productive legislators in Vermont. With a legislative theme of working for "good jobs in a healthy Vermont," Chris has had a direct role in passing over 130 bills aimed at improving water quality, reducing

toxic substances, better managing waste, supporting affordable housing, encouraging sustainable farming and food manufacturing, developing statewide broadband, and advancing renewable energy. Chris, for several years the chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee, was the lead sponsor of the Farm to Plate program, Vermont's Renewable Energy Standard, the Vermont

Clean Water Act, and more.

Chris did his research, held inclusive committee hearings, and worked to achieve the state's ambitious climate goals in an affordable manner. His departure from the Vermont Legislature is a loss, not just to Addison County residents but to the State as a whole.

Spencer Putnam
Weybridge

Sokal letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

no outlier among Vermont towns which elect officers and vote their budgets by Australian ballot. Howard Hall did not 'orchestrate' this decision.

Doug Dows' disparagement of the rest of the selectboard as sycophants is inexcusable. These folks have been re-elected repeatedly. They are volunteers and work hard for the town. He's entitled to disagree, but his accusations are mean-spirited and rude.

I was appointed internal auditor for Pantan in 2009. Doug Dows, who became auditor in 2011, was given to long-winded pontifications at auditor's meetings, but when it came to actually doing the work,

he failed to attend scheduled meetings where the critical task of reviewing and auditing was to be done. As a result, in 2015 I felt compelled to resign, because I was unwilling to submit my work alone as sufficient for a legitimate audit. At the Town Meeting on Monday night, 2/28/23, prior to voting, Bob Groff, Pantan's town auditor, remarked that the auditor was a complex position and that he had been the sole auditor for several years which meant that there was no quorum and he could take no action. On the following day, 3/1/23, Pantan voters chose to eliminate the elected position of town auditor.

This hardly qualifies as Howard Hall cancelling the position of internal auditor.

Presently, in response to specific criticisms posed by a well-regarded former town treasurer, Pantan has hired an accountant to get the books in order.

For his unfamiliarity with the fine points of government accounting Howard Hall is accused by Doug Dows of malfeasance. Malfeasance implies intent. He makes this malevolent accusation absent any evidence.

Furthermore, his scurrilous rant does nothing to help resolve these problems. He distorts facts and places them in a fabricated, corrupt context. His misrepresentation is a disservice to our town.

Paul Sokal
Pantan

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

day or even a stressful election season, he'll curl onto Rick's lap and take a nap. It's better than meditation or even a massage. Buster's warm, purring body puts them both into a trance, and the

problems of the world go away. Rick and I are cat people. Cats love us in a gentle, snuggly way. They're funny, playful, adaptable and smart. They're soft and beautiful. Buster fills us with joy.

Alice Leeds, of Bristol, taught

in a variety of private and public schools and colleges for forty years. Presently retired, she tries to engage in some useful endeavor each day. She enjoys hearing from readers at aleeds@gmavt.net.

Jessie

(Continued from Page 4A)

than you think. Making a mental note to do more yoga going forward, I managed to contort myself into a position that briefly brought my outer ankle into focal range. What I had mistaken for a scab was, in fact, a bunch of tiny legs sticking straight up out of my skin. (I warned you.)

A calmer human might have said, "Oh, let me go into the medicine cabinet to search for a pair of tweezers with which I might pluck this embedded arachnid from my body."

I, in contrast, began screaming and half-gagging. In a panic, I pinched the tick with my fingernails and yanked it out of my flesh. I ran to the bathroom, flushed the tick down the toilet and took a long shower to wash away the full-body ick.

I was left with a sickening tick-shaped hole in my ankle — which

healed without incident or illness — and a residual attack of shudders any time I recalled the event.

I know bugs are never entirely gone, even in winter. One or two confused mosquitoes always show up in the bathroom around Christmas. And just last week I got startled by a wolf spider on the wood pile, prompting me to set a new personal best for standing high jump. But usually by this time of year, most of the bugs have died, migrated or gone into hibernation.

Not the ticks, though. On the unseasonably warm days when I most want to walk with the dog, they want to ride him like a party bus.

My growing rage against these disgusting little parasites has changed me in a profound way. By that, I mean I'm having thoughts that are out of character for a person whose toes are typically

numb from December to March.

I'll just say it: I hope the weather turns bitterly cold and doesn't get above freezing until spring.



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Welcoming 'New Americans'

Vt. Treasurer makes case for economic benefits

As Vermont's Treasurer, I am committed to growing Vermont's economy and building a more inclusive future for our state. To keep our economy on a positive track, we must address our demographic challenges and grow our workforce.

I regularly hear from employers about the difficulty of finding workers — a challenge impacting all sectors of our economy, from small businesses and our largest companies to service providers

and local governments. One way to grow our workforce is to address our housing shortage, and though we're making strides to build more homes, it's clear that solving Vermont's demographic challenges will require more than new housing.

To prepare Vermont's economy for the future we need to continue welcoming New Americans to our state.

Throughout the state, we're seeing real benefits from immigration. Winooski's

successful efforts to welcome new Americans have brought young residents, a host of thriving refugee-run local businesses, hardworking new employees for existing businesses, and new customers for existing shops and

services. Bridge to Rutland, a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to supporting asylum seekers, has played a crucial role in helping migrants settle in the area, supporting local population growth. In Montpelier, the Central Vermont Refugee Action Network has welcomed

several families from Afghanistan, including those who served as translators for the U.S. in their home country. These community-led initiatives are a healthy part of our democracy and, increasingly, a vital part of our economy.

Studies show that immigration nationwide is an overwhelmingly positive driver of economic growth. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects that from 2024 to 2034, immigration will reduce U.S. deficits by \$900 billion and increase federal revenues by \$1.2 trillion. These economic benefits don't account for the value added to local communities of welcoming individuals with new experiences, skills, and dreams.

Welcoming new Americans to Vermont's communities will strengthen our workforce and economy. Longer term, the

boost to Vermont's population will grow our tax base and help maintain our excellent credit ratings, making it easier to invest in critical initiatives like housing and climate resilience.

In 2023, Maine established the Office of New Americans. This office helps integrate foreign newcomers in Maine to strengthen the state's workforce and economy. Initiatives like these are forward-looking and are an important reminder to ensure Vermont does not lose out on the economic and societal benefits of immigration to neighboring states.

One of Vermont's greatest strengths lies in our welcoming and inclusive communities. As damaging falsehoods about immigration circulate in national political discourse, it is important to remember that new Americans have always played a key role — in Vermont and across our country — in building strong, resilient communities and economies. Our future will be no different.

As Vermont's Treasurer, I stand firmly with my fellow Vermonters — both newcomers and longtime residents — in wholeheartedly welcoming new Americans to our state. Their contributions are vital to our shared future, and I'm proud to know that so many Vermonters already share this vision.

Community Forum

This week's writer is Vermont State Treasurer Mike Pieciak.

Accept 'arc of the moral universe' longer than ideal

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice"

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

The arc of history and all, you know, bending toward justice. We seem to be somewhere along the upper reaches of that arc, where the air is thin. Where it's hard to breathe. It is bittersweet to see the arc's end, yet be generations removed from it. It would be soothing to stare into a grandchild's face, thinking of weddings after we're gone.

Or immerse ourselves in wilderness without end that we will always be part of. The blessings of riotous life in this thin air. It is our burden and our calling to ride this arc like a spaceship to Mars, feeding each other on our journey, singing like humpback whales, imagining a different result, bending the arc just a bit more. Saying good night with a calm heart.

Jack Mayer
Middlebury



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ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

George 'Bill' W. Whitney Jr., 87, of Monkton

MONKTON — George "Bill" W. Whitney Jr. of Monkton, Vt., passed away on Nov. 3, 2024, at the age of 87, at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, Vt.

He was born in Boston, Mass., on March 22, 1937, the son of George W. Whitney and Marion Mitchell Whitney. Following graduation from the Brown and Nichols School in Cambridge, Mass., he received his B.A. in Psychology from Brown University in Providence, R.I., in 1959. After several successful years in the business world, he and his family came to Middlebury, Vt., in 1974. He retired from Middlebury College as the Director of Operations in 2002, having been responsible for many building expansions and major renovations on campus, as well as the daily operations of the College.

In his youth, George was a three-sport athlete and involved in the Boy Scouts and Order of DeMolay. At Brown University he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

He was raised as a Master Mason in Union Lodge No. 2, in Middlebury. He then obtained dual membership in St. Paul's Lodge No. 25 in Brandon, Vt., where he served as Worshipful Master in his lodge and as the Worthy Grand Patron, Order of the Eastern Star in Vermont during 2002 and 2003.

George was an active member in The United Methodist Church



GEORGE 'BILL' W. WHITNEY JR.

of North Ferrisburgh, Vt., where he was involved in several committees. Sunday mornings before the church service he would be found ringing the bell outside of the sanctuary with the help of the Sunday Schoolchildren. He took great pleasure in helping the children, with smiles and words of encouragement, during this bell-ringing time!

A passion for ice hockey led him to participate in high school and college, followed by many years of coaching in the Middlebury Youth Hockey Association. George served as coach of the undefeated Middlebury High School Club Team in the Central Vermont Hockey League during three seasons, and the team won the Division II State Championship in 1979.

He leaves his "bride" of 63 years, Barbara Wallace Whitney; daughters, Kristen Ann Porter and husband, Bill of Monkton, Vt., and Kimberly Pease of South Burlington, Vt.; son, Todd W. Whitney of South Burlington, Vt.; son-in-law, Scott Pease of Shelburne, Vt.; grandchildren Katelyn Pelkey and husband Keith Coakley, Jacob Goldstein and wife Erika, Megan Pease and partner Joe Ybarra, Hannah Pease and partner Spencer Koller, Joplin Whitney, and Angus Whitney; great-grandchildren Raea Coakley, Maya Coakley, Lilly Sweeney and Joey Ybarra; sister-in-law Marilyn Shepherd and husband Billy; nephew Jeffrey Shepherd and wife Suzie; and niece Nicole Rolinson and husband Miller.

He was predeceased by his parents and two sisters.

A celebration of his life will be held Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church, at 11 a.m., followed by a reception.

Contributions in his memory may be made to The North Ferrisburgh Methodist Church, 227 Old Hollow Road, North Ferrisburgh, VT 05473 or The Order of the Eastern Star C/O Heather Hinckley 130 Chalet Heights, Unit 1, Box 5, Mendon, VT 05701.

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

Tom Rule, 76, formerly of Addison County

BETHEL — Tom Rule died peacefully with family at his side in his beloved home in Bethel Lympus on Nov. 5, 2024, following a short illness.

Born in Proctor, Vt., Oct. 17, 1948, Tom grew up attending a one room school in Weybridge, Vt. He was a free-range kid exploring Otter Creek and the woods around his family's home. As a teen in Middlebury he discovered music and taught himself to play guitar, which led to joining various rock and roll bands in Addison County, Burlington, and Stowe during the '60s and '70s.

In the early '80s Tom met Susan, his wife of 42 years. Together they played music in various venues around Vermont. Tom continued to play music in the studio he built with his dad, adding keyboard and drum kit to his guitar and bass skills.

Tom was an introvert whose motto was Less is More. He



TOM RULE

often read from an anthology of old and modern writings in praise of simplicity. Outdoor and mountaineering adventures, surviving in the wild, living as a hermit were stories that captured his imagination. He loved observing nature, the cosmos, camping,

canoeing, and exploring the White River, where he collected rocks and panned for gold.

Tom's dry sense of humor, honesty, and thoughtful comments endeared him to many. He will be missed by his family and friends, and his canine co-pilot, Duke.

Tom was pre-deceased by his parents, Charlie and Ruth; and sister Carolyn. He is survived by his wife, Susan; sister Judy, and brother Chuck; sons Chris, Brian, Adam and Matt; daughter Josie; stepdaughter Caitlin Morris; his six grandchildren, Lauren, Jason, Jessica, Sierra, Emeline, and Rivers; two great-grandchildren, Charlotte and Landon; numerous nieces and nephews; and his loyal dog, Duke.

A gathering in Tom's honor will be held sometime in the summer of 2025. Memorial contributions may be sent to For the Love of Dogs Vermont, P.O. Box 1112, Waitsfield, VT 05673. ♦

Mary Jane Huizenga, 92, of Monkton

MONKTON — Mary Jane Huizenga of Monkton passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 6, 2024. Jane was born in East Orange, N.J., on May 25, 1932, to Martha Teresa and Benjamin Joseph Leech. She grew up in West Patterson, N.J., and completed high school at Passaic Valley Regional High School, where she met and "chased until he caught me," Charles Raymond Huizenga Sr. They were married on Nov. 16, 1952, and started their family on a dairy farm in Newton, N.J. In 1967, the family, including Charlie's parents and his brother, Ray, sold the farm in New Jersey and moved to the farm in Monkton, Vt.

Ever busy being the wife of a farmer and raising four boys, she was the farm bookkeeper, ran for parts, made thousands of gallons of iced tea during hay season and was even the barber for Charlie and the boys.

Public service was an important part of her life in Vermont, and Jane served in many capacities over the years, including supporting the Monkton Fire Department on the Ladies Auxiliary, serving on the



MARY JANE HUIZENGA

school board, and as town auditor for many years. Jane also loved greeting people as the Assistant Monkton Postmaster for many years.

In her spare time, Jane was an avid knitter, and she collected yarn from various sources and knitted hundreds of baby hats for infants born at UVM Medical Center. She also loved her time with the "Red Hat" ladies!

Mary Jane is survived by her

husband of 72 years, Charles Huizenga Sr.; four sons, Charles (Rosie) Huizenga Jr. of Monkton, Brian Huizenga of Ferrisburgh, David (Robin) Huizenga of Monkton, and Alan (Melodie) Huizenga of Bristol; as well as ten grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild and sixteen nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by two brothers, Frank Leech and Robert Leech. When asked about her siblings, she would always say "Frank, Bob and Mary Jane is a pain!"

The family would like to thank the many home health aides from Addison County Home Health and Hospice, as well as the staff at Elderly Services in Middlebury.

A Mass of Christian burial washeld on Monday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m., at St. Peter's Church, Vergennes, Vt., immediately followed by a celebration of life at the Parish Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Monkton Volunteer Fire Department, 3747 States Pison Hollow Road, Bristol, Vt. 05443. ♦



BONNIE LOU JOHNSON

Bonnie Lou Johnson, 84, of Brandon

SPRING HILL, Fla./BRANDON, Vt. — Bonnie Lou Johnson, age 84, passed peacefully on Nov. 4, 2024, with her son Tim by her side, at Oak Hill Hospital in Spring Hill, Fla.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Miller & Ketcham Funeral Home in Brandon.

A complete obituary will appear at a later date. ♦



HANNAH MAGOUN

Hannah Magoun, celebration of life

MIDDLEBURY — Friends and family of Hannah Magoun, who died Aug. 14, 2024, are invited to a celebration of life memorial service and dinner at the Middlebury Inn. The service will start at 3 p.m., Friday, Nov. 29, followed by a buffet dinner and drinks and sharing stories and memories of Hannah. All are welcome, the more the merrier. Please RSVP, and send any questions to, jniles7@gmail.com. ♦



RICHARD P. MARKWELL

Richard P. Markwell, 87, of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Richard P. Markwell, 87, died early Thursday morning, Nov. 7, 2024, at Helen Porter Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury.

He was born July 15, 1937, in Keene, N.H., the son of Donald and Myrtle (McClary) Markwell. He was predeceased by his wife, Marjorie; brothers, Donald L. (Leslie) and Philip; and a sister, Linda.

Richard married Marjorie Merrill on March 28, 1958.

Richard worked together with his wife Marjorie on a dairy farm in New Haven Mills for many years.

Survivors are his children, Debra Ash (Glenn), Lori Poirier (Louis) and Donna Chase; and six grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Helen Porter Nursing Home in Middlebury, Vt.

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

Gerald Henry King, 93, formerly of New Haven

NEW HAVEN — Gerald Henry King, a remarkable soul whose life was woven with dedication, love, and service, passed away Nov. 2, 2024, at the age of 93, in South Burlington, Vt., with his family by his side. He was born May 26, 1931, the son of Leon J and Erma (Clark) King, in New Haven, Vt.

Gerald attended Beeman Academy in New Haven, receiving his diploma after joining the navy.

Gerald dedicated two decades of his life to the U.S. Navy, serving with pride and distinction on vessels such as the U.S.S. Ranger, U.S.S. Hamul, U.S.S. Dixie, U.S.S. Wedderburn, and U.S.S. Pine Island. His contributions were recognized through numerous accolades, including the Navy Unit Citation, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal, honors that spoke to his unwavering dedication and exemplary service. His affiliation with the Navy extended beyond active service as a longtime member of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he served as Commander of the Tuolumne County Korean War Veterans Association, and the Fleet Reserve Association, where he found a community that shared his experiences and values.

In his personal life, Gerald's greatest commitment was to his family. He married Patricia King,



GERALD HENRY KING

his devoted wife, on Feb. 12, 1972. Together, they shared 53 years of love and partnership, creating a life rich with memories.

After retiring from the navy, Gerald and Pat spent time in California, Bristol Vt., and Georgetown, Texas, returning to Vermont two years ago to be close to family. Gerald exemplified a life marked by commitment, honor, and vibrant presence. Known for his quick wit, intelligence, and occasionally colorful language — true to his roots as a sailor — Gerald was a quiet yet sweet man who commanded respect and affection from all who knew him. Gerald enjoyed antiquing, owned Kings Barn Annex in Bristol, was a member of the Twin Oaks Antique

Co-Op in California, enjoyed fishing, the outdoors and smoking his pipe. He also enjoyed many cruises with his wife Pat.

Gerald is survived by his loving wife, Patricia, and extensive family: his son Mike King (Lynn) of Washington State; stepchildren Forest (Chip) Futtere (Patsy) of Nebraska, Mathew Futtere (Cindy) of Texas, Ken Futtere of Nebraska, and Susanne Hedge (Bruce) of Oregon; and sisters Pauline Cousino of Ferrisburgh and Shirley Merrifield (Tom) of Weybridge. He also leaves step grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, and his sister, Doreen Gilmore, whose memory he cherished dearly.

As we bid farewell to Gerald, we remember him for the life he led — full of service, wit, and a love for those around him. His legacy will undoubtedly continue to live on through his family and the many lives he touched along his journey.

The family would like to thank the Addison County Home Health and Hospice as well as the UVM Hospice for all the care they gave Gerald.

A private family service will be held at The Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph on November 20th.

Condolences can be left on Sandersons Funeral Home web site at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com, in lieu of flowers donations can be made in his memory to a local veteran's group or hospice. ♦

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Marilyn 'Sue' Delorme of Vergennes

VERGENNES — Marilyn "Sue" Delorme passed away on November 6, 2024.

She grew up in Burlington and Shelburne, and attended Cathedral Grammar and High Schools.

She married the love of her life, Donald Delorme, in 1956. As the residential manager at the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes for 32 years, she helped to guide many people through the difficult times in their lives. She also worked various retail jobs at Kennedy Bros. and Sears.

She is survived by her children Dale, Darlene, Charlene (Roger Stearns), Stephen (Jan), Scott (Lana), Lori (David Gale), Mark and Merrilynn; 16 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and Reggie and Howard.

She was predeceased by her husband, Donald Delorme; parents Marjorie and Leo Monniere; brothers Alan and Edward Monniere; and grandson Raymond



MARILYN "SUE" DELORME

White.

Special thanks to Emily Rainey. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Age Well or an animal shelter of your choice.

Calling hours will be Friday, Nov. 15, from 5-8 p.m., at Brown-McClay in Vergennes.

Private burial will be held on Nov. 16, 2024. ◊

Letters to the Editor

Affordable Heat Act is irresponsible

A reply to three lengthy commentaries/letters over the past two weeks on the subject of affordable home heating. Last year the Vermont Legislature passed the Affordable Heat Act (S5). For good reason, Governor Scott vetoed the bill. The Legislature overrode his veto. Unfortunately, the act is now law. The Act directs the Public Utility Commission to set up a bureaucracy to administer the act's requirements. Basically, the act requires companies that bring fossil fuels into Vermont pay for weatherization and heat pumps for homeowners in Vermont.

The money for this is to come from the fuel dealer's pockets. Of course, that won't happen. Fuel dealers will increase the cost of fossil fuels for all homeowners in order to pay for the weatherization and other upgrades of a few homeowners. Democrats seem to think the fuel dealers are altruistic in nature and that they will absorb these costs — i.e. reduce their bottom line. Democrats, at their peril, ignore how a capitalist

economy works. People notice.

This faulty reasoning on the part of Democrats is certainly one reason for the shift this election toward more Republicans being elected and the super majority the Democrats held last legislative session being now obliterated.

Hopefully now we will have a more balanced discussion of the issues.

I'm a lifelong Democrat and will continue to be, however super majorities are not representative of the people and too often suffer from group think, or non-think.

Steve Thurston, Oct. 31, and Rev. Barnaby Feder, Nov. 7, had letters in the *Addison Independent* offering their perspective on this subject. Both offered some good ideas. Thurston thinks the Affordable Heat Act is unworkable, I agree, and that the small amount of fossil fuel saved by Vermonters won't matter on a global scale. Feder says that we all must save, even if it's only a small amount, to do our part and be leaders in the effort.

Of course we should all use

less fossil fuels; however, the Affordable Heat Act is too costly and too complicated. We should be leaders in the effort to reduce fossil fuel use. So, let's find a way to do that. Let's hope the legislature will develop a way to discourage use of fossil fuels and at the same time find a way to fund Efficiency Vermont and other such organizations to help Vermonters pay for winterization and switch off fossil fuels.

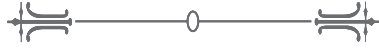
However, the most egregious commentary came from Jared Duval, Independent, Oct. 31. Duval offers nothing but falsehoods and lies about how wonderful the Affordable Heat Act is — the one that Governor Scott vetoed. I have to admit that Duval is slick in his sleight of hand presentation. And, if you don't already know that the fuel dealers will increase your cost of home heating fuels, he might be believable. He is another reason more Republicans were elected.

Recently, the Public Utility Commission, as required by the Affordable Heat Act, issued a draft

rule and a report, which questions the logic and workability of the Affordable Heat Act requirements. The report states in part: "the commission believes there are simpler alternatives that could be more effective." Bottom line is that the Affordable Heat Act is too complicated and unworkable and too costly to implement. The PUC also suggests that some sort of fee on fossil fuels would be a better alternative for raising funds to help Vermonters pay for reducing heating costs. I think the PUC is on the right track for reducing the use of fossil fuels. The PUC report is online and easy to find.

We built a super insulated house here on our farm in 1983 with the goal of reducing heating costs. This was accomplished. And now, 41 years later we are very pleased with the result and have since built several super insulated and efficient houses and buildings. The goal to save heating costs and to do our part in saving our environment.

Paul Stone
Orwell



Mary Fiona Douglas, 61, of Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Mary Fiona Douglas, 61, of Weybridge passed away peacefully on Nov. 11, 2024, due to complications from cancer. A service will be held at The Congregational Church of Middlebury at 1 p.m.

on Sunday, Nov. 17. Per Mary's request, the family asks that guests do not wear black attire.

A full obituary is available online at addisonindependent.com and will appear in the Nov. 21 print edition. ◊

Letters to the Editor

Lanpher's loss is bad for all of us

My heart sank to see that Diane Lanpher lost the election and by so few votes. It certainly shows very conflicted, ill-informed voters during these troubling times. It was also very short-sighted by the voters in a district in which I lived for 33 years. Talk about throwing the baby out with the bath

water. Diane was a genuine keeper and very hard worker for Vermonters. I fear for where we are headed now. Thank you, Diane for all your many years of hard work, dedication, listening and service.

Karen Florucci
Colchester

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Douglas Sweets to remain in Shelburne

Change in plans means Ferrisburgh property to be resold

By ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — Douglas Sweets, one of the two buyers earlier this year of the town-owned 34.9-acre parcel at the junction of Routes 7 and 22A in Ferrisburgh, has decided not to relocate its gourmet shortbread and cookie business from its Shelburne home.

The mother-daughter co-owners of Douglas Sweets, Debra Townsend and Hannah Townsend Allain, have placed their 4.17-acre building envelope — complete with an Act 250 permit in place, according to listing broker Carl Cole — on the market for \$350,000.

Douglas Sweets will continue to do business at 22 Sage Court in Shelburne, a cul-de-sac behind the Fiddlehead Brewing Co. on the east side of Route 7. Cole said a co-tenant moved out of the same building, thus allowing Douglas Sweets to make a more cost-effective and simple expansion onsite rather than building and moving into new headquarters in Ferrisburgh.

“They had the opportunity to double their space up in Shelburne, which is really what they needed, for considerably

less expense,” Cole said.

Douglas Sweets and the Champlain Valley Grain Center LLC, of which Todd Hardie is the principal, purchased the parcel from Ferrisburgh in three separate transactions in February, according to Town Clerk Pam Cousino.

Douglas Sweets paid \$171,044 for its 4.17 acres, Hardie’s firm paid \$213,856 for a 5.21-acre developable envelope, and they jointly paid \$100 for the remaining 24.59 acres, the use of which is restricted — largely to agricultural uses — by conservation easements and some wetlands and woods.

Cole explained why the asking price exceeds the price Douglas Sweets paid for the property.

“There is an Act 250 permit for this site for the purpose it was intended for. A new owner would probably have to amend that Act 250 permit, but the majority of the heavy lifting and the expense of getting an Act 250 permit has already been paid by the current owner,” Cole said.

Per Ferrisburgh zoning, conditionally permitted uses for the Industrial District in which the 4.17-acre parcel lies include warehouse, public utility, enclosed service and repair, freight or trucking terminal, contractor’s yard, public garage, parking lot, and manufacturing.

Given its sensitive and prominent location near the

gateway to Vergennes, some uses might face careful scrutiny. Conservation activists as well as Act 250 officials previously objected to a plan for a car dealership on the site, for example, and prospective buyer Tom Denecker withdrew his offer based on a permitting contingency.

Cole believes a buyer with similar space and land needs to Douglas Sweets could find the package attractive.

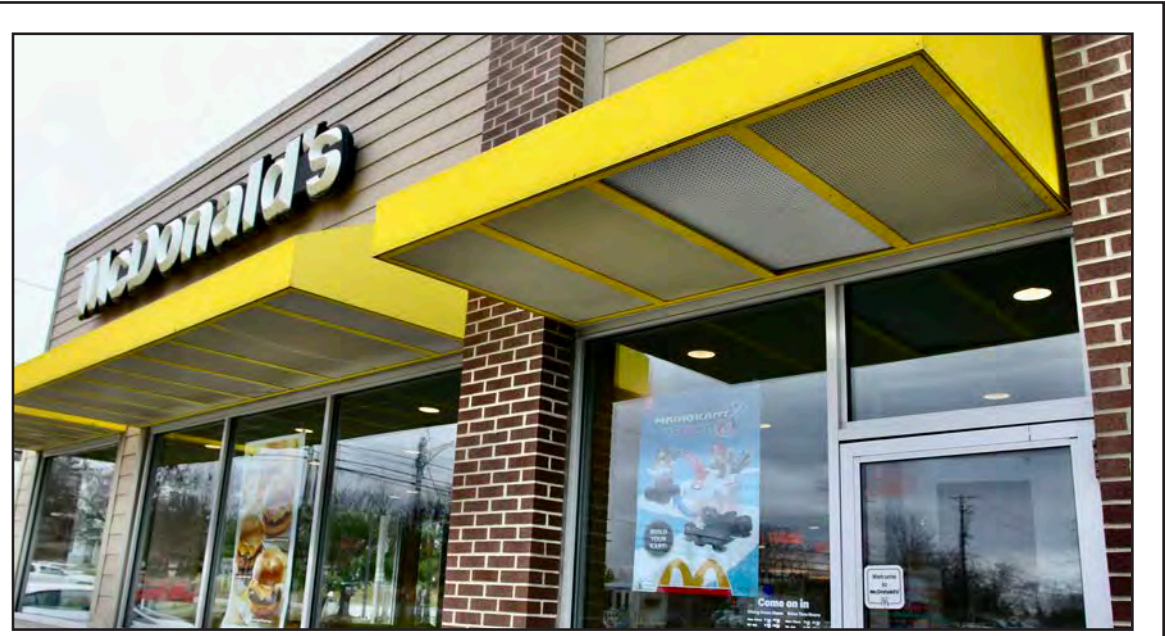
“It’s a 5,500-square-foot building they’ve got approved. If somebody had a business that could use basically that same building, it would be very simple to get an amended Act 250 permit. Because all of the expensive stuff has been done,” Cole said. “It would be pretty cheap for the right buyer.”

He added the cost to Douglas Sweets of getting that permit ran “into the six figures.”

Cole said buyers have kicked the tires in the three months the property has been listed, but not yet taken the leap.

“There’s been some interest. But it’s a slow time of year, and with interest rates where they are, we’re not expecting it to sell quickly,” he said.

Meanwhile, Hardie is also moving forward with his plans for a grain-processing center, distillery and café on his 5.21-acre building envelope; see related story.



Back in business

THE McDONALD’S RESTAURANT in Middlebury has reopened after a small fire on Nov. 9 damaged the interior of the fast-food eatery. Middlebury Fire Chief Dave Shaw said his department was called to the restaurant at around noon on Saturday, amid reports of smoke emanating from the building. Police said restaurant workers used an extinguisher to try and put out the blaze when the building’s fire suppression (sprinkler) system failed to knock it down. Middlebury firefighters quickly doused the blaze, which Shaw believes was triggered by a malfunction in the restaurant’s fryolator equipment. Middlebury firefighters — who received help from their Salisbury counterparts — left the scene at around 2 p.m. Shaw said no one was hurt; restaurant workers and customers evacuated the building without incident. The restaurant was temporarily closed to address fire and water damage.

Independent photo/Steve James

ACSD board member draws fire

Colleagues take Bauer to task for use of word ‘normal’

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Addison Central School District (ACSD) board member Brian Bauer was chastised by several of his colleagues on Monday after he twice used the term “normal” to identify students who’ve not been assigned Individualized Education Program (IEP) plans, versus children to whom the district has assigned such plans to help them overcome learning disabilities.

The tense moment occurred while Addison County Universal PreK Coordinator Ashley Bessette was giving ACSD board members an overview of Universal PreK programming for children in the district-member towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

Bessette, during her remarks, noted children are enrolled into preK programming with the following consideration (to ensure balance): One-third with children who have disabilities, one-third from “vulnerable populations,” and one-third from

children who don’t meet the qualifications of those first two groups.

Bauer, in asking Bessette to define that latter one-third segment of children, asked “describe the kids who are in that. Are they normal, or do they also have disadvantages?”

Around 10 minutes later, he asked Bessette: “How did it get divided, basically, two-thirds kids who were vulnerable or who had disabilities, and one-third semi-normal?”

While Bauer’s colleagues appeared to let his use of the descriptor “normal” pass with

looks of surprise, his use of the word a second time drew rebukes from two board members.

“I want to make sure we’re careful with our terminology and this idea that ‘normal’ is somehow different than disabled,” board member Mary Heather Noble said.

“I think we need to be respectful of all the students we serve.”

Board member Steve Orzech also weighed in.

“I looked around the room and every single board member had a bad reaction to that (word). This board does not condone the characterization of students as ‘normal’ and ‘not normal.’ We should not be painted with that brush,” he said.

Bauer sought to engage his colleagues on the issue, but board Chair Barb Wilson said crosswalk wouldn’t be allowed.

This isn’t the first time Bauer has seen things differently than a majority of his colleagues on certain issues. Last December, he was the lone ACSD board member who voted against a student-led effort to fly the Black Lives Matter flag at Mary Hogan Elementary School.

“Our role as a school board is to promote respect ... Respect for everyone. To focus on one group, to me, is divisive and contrary to our goals of equity and inclusion,” Bauer said at the time.

Bauer in 2022 ran unopposed for one of Middlebury’s seven seats on the ACSD board. Now retired, he taught physical and life sciences at Middlebury Union Middle School for 32 years.

The Independent plans to feature a full report on Bessette’s preK report in its Nov. 21 edition.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

“I want to make sure we’re careful with our terminology and this idea that ‘normal’ is somehow different than disabled.”
— Mary Heather Noble
ACSD board

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Grain

(Continued from Page 3A)

We’re putting up a building. We’re not taking over a business that our grandparents started 200 years ago in Scotland, where my family was in the whisky business for a long time,” Hardie said.

Hardie will tackle this problem two ways. One, he will distill just enough gin, which does not need to be aged to the same degree as whiskey, to sell on premises in the café, but not enough to compete with Caledonia Spirits, with which he retains a strong working relationship that includes providing grain.

“We’re close to Caledonia Spirits, and support what they do,” Hardie said.

Meanwhile, he said, “They (Caledonia Spirits), in the spirit of the partnership that continued, are making 30 barrels of bourbon for us.”

Those barrels will start aging before the grain center is open and thus give Hardie’s venture a head start while the grain center does its own distilling. Hardie is buying enough corn and malted barley from two New York farms and adding rye grown on his Greensboro farm for Caledonia to use in making those 30 barrels.

“This will give them good work for December, January and February,” Hardie said.

LONG-TERM INVESTMENT

Hardie is still seeking a few more investors. But, given the nature of whiskey production, not investors who seek instant gratification: They will have to be patient given the lag time it takes between bottling and selling while the project ages into drinkability. He believes such

investors are ready to step up.

“We are looking for investors for long-term investment, which is slow money. This is not high-tech venture capital. This is investment in farm families, the working landscape, organic agronomy jobs,” Hardie said. “And there is a fine return. It just takes time. There are people who understand that.”

Hardie also discussed what might be added on the conserved land as well as his beehives. He expects to plant a few acres “especially with experimental grains” to see what might work best for the site and for the larger good in the region. He said his Thornhill Farm in Greensboro has already been working closely with Heather Darby of the UVM Extension Service and the Northern Grain Growers Collaborative on similar efforts.

Before then, those many who pass by the site will first notice the first major improvement to the property sometime this winter: a road leading to the electrical transformer that will provide power to the planned building. Hardie said the rest of the project will wait for permitting to be complete, ideally with a start sometime next year.

“Sometime after we get the final permit to build, we’ll start to build,” he said. “It’s going to get built. There’s tremendous support for it.”

Hardie said he is grateful for that support, particularly of local residents and officials, for the project and its motto:

“Supporting grain-farming families, the working landscape, organic agronomy (soil & plants), jobs.”



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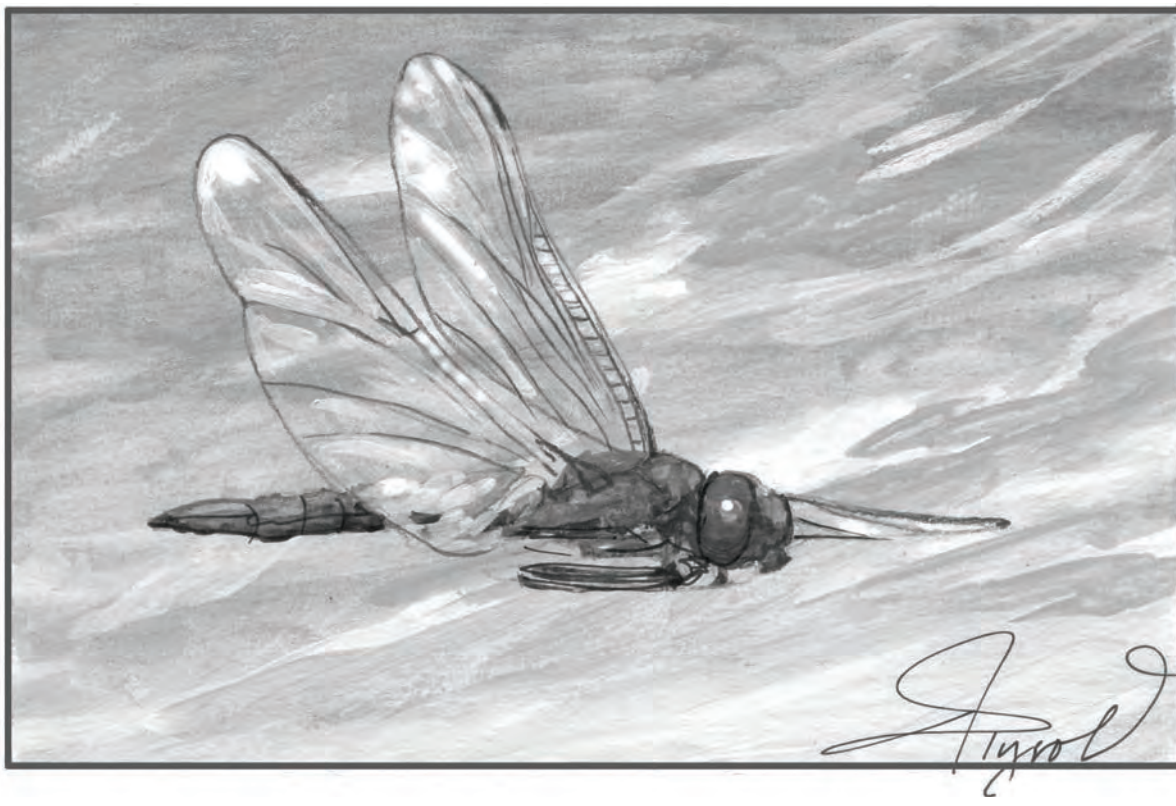
Autumn migration: Dragons on the move

By PAMELA HUNT

The great annual movements of fall include monarch butterflies winging toward Mexico, whales heading to the Caribbean to give birth, and multitudes of birds in the autumn skies. There's another migration this season that often goes unnoticed by casual observers: that of dragonflies. Given that dragonflies (or something closely resembling them) have been on this planet for more than 300 million years, there's even a chance they're the original migratory animals!

We'll never know of course, but it's likely that the ancient climate in which they evolved was warmer and seasonal movements weren't as necessary. At some point, however, migration did evolve in dragonflies, and there are now a dozen or so species known to undertake seasonal movements in North America. These are most obvious in fall, when large numbers of dragonflies are sometimes concentrated along coasts or ridgelines. Under the right conditions, thousands may pass by a location in a single day. The most familiar migratory dragonfly in our region is the common green darner (*Anax junius*), but this species is often joined by other migratory dragonflies such as the wandering glider (*Pantala flavescens*).

The common green darner is about 3 inches long and named for its lime-green thorax. More notable is the bright blue abdomen of the males (in females this is pinkish brown). These are usually the first dragonflies to appear in the Northeast in spring (often in April) and the last to leave in fall (typically by mid-October). And like monarch butterflies, the north- and south-bound individuals are



from different generations.

One of the first attempts to study the fall movements of common green darners involved attaching tiny radio transmitters to dragonflies in New Jersey in 2005 and attempting to track their movements from a small airplane (being high in the air makes it easier to pick up the radio signals). Researchers found that most dragonflies stopped to rest for a couple of days (as migrating birds do), and the maximum single day flight was just under 100 miles — not bad for an insect weighing a little over a gram.

The darners we see moving south in fall are heading to the Gulf of Mexico or beyond, where they will mate, lay eggs, and die. A second generation emerges in these more southern climes in late fall and gives rise to a non-migratory cohort, which spends winter there. It is the offspring of this sedentary group that move north in the spring, arriving in our region in April or May. This third

generation mates and lays eggs, which will hatch and become adults in the Northeast and begin their southward migration as summer wanes again. Migratory green darners may travel up to 2,000 miles.

The distances covered by another migratory species are even more impressive. The wandering glider (appropriately called the "globe skimmer" in other parts of the world) has been recorded on every continent except Antarctica, and even on isolated islands in the Pacific Ocean. Unlike the darner, this species has relatively broad wings that allow it to move more efficiently with wind, and it uses this to its advantage when migrating. Wandering gliders are slightly smaller than common green darners, with golden bodies and red eyes. Most studies on this species' migration have been done in Africa and Asia, so we know little about its life cycle in North America. What we do know is that

individual wandering gliders may travel up to 6,000 miles in their lifetimes, with some making non-stop flights of 3,000 miles from Africa to India.

Only a handful of New England's 120 dragonfly species migrate, while the others overwinter as nymphs. So if you catch a glimpse of a dragonfly that seems like it's on a mission this fall, take a closer look. Is it a common green darner headed south to launch the next generation? A wandering glider on an epic migratory journey to South America? Or perhaps it's another migrant — a black saddlebags, Carolina saddlebags, or twelve-spotted skimmer. Whatever the species, wish them luck as they travel south into the next stage of their lives.

Pamela Hunt is the senior biologist for avian conservation for New Hampshire Audubon. Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: www.nhcf.org.

The Outside Story

Forest service reminds you of hunting regulations

MENDON — With rifle season fast approaching, Forest Service officials on the Green Mountain National Forest are encouraging the public to use caution and to be visible and mindful of their surroundings in the coming weeks. Saturday, Nov. 16, marks the opening day of the white-tailed deer rifle hunt in Vermont, a lifelong tradition for many Vermonters.

Through prescribed fire, timber management, and wildlife monitoring programs, the GMNF works year-round to enhance wildlife habitat, including that for large and small game. Officials remind hunters and other forest users that almost the entire 400,000-plus acre National Forest is open for hunting, the only exceptions are developed recreation sites such as campgrounds and day-use areas or any areas that would be in violation of state laws.

Please contact either the Manchester District office or Rochester District office for specific information or with any questions.

As with any recreational opportunity on the GMNF, all applicable state and federal laws and regulations must be followed. Below are some safety tips for hunters that may be planning to hunt on the GMNF:

- Clearly identify your target before shooting to prevent accidents or fatalities. Fire only at clearly identified wildlife and know what is beyond your target.
- Be alert when hunting near developed areas and trails. Other recreationists are in the forest as well.
- Check weather reports before visiting the forest -- dress properly and be prepared for the worst possible conditions.
- Tell someone where you will be hunting and when you will return -- be familiar with the area that you are hunting.
- Wear blaze orange and try to be visible from all directions.
- Check hunting equipment

before and after each outing and maintain it properly. Familiarize yourself with the operation of your firearm before using it in the field.

- Carry a spare set of dry clothes. Use layering techniques to prevent moisture retention, while maintaining body warmth.
- Always bring waterproof gear.
- Have a first aid kit, flashlight, cell phone, food and water in case of an emergency.

Hunters should be cognizant of other forest users. The forest is open to all other lawful uses including mountain biking, hiking and horseback riding. Non-hunters who plan to use the National Forest during hunting season should also be cognizant of hunters using the same locations they may be utilizing. The Forest Service recommends wearing blaze orange while hunting seasons are running concurrent with your visit.

For more information about hunting on the Green Mountain National Forest, please visit: Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests — Hunting (usda.gov). For additional information on Vermont hunting regulations, please visit: vtfishandwildlife.com/.



UVM garden conference to be held online Dec. 7

BURLINGTON — How do we invite nature into our gardens?

This will be the question explored at this year's University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Garden Conference. Gardeners will learn how to live in harmony with nature to support ecological processes, encourage personal wellness and provide wildlife habitat, all while enjoying the bounty and beauty of our landscapes.

With the theme, Gardening with Nature in Mind, the conference will be held online on Dec. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration is \$40 per person before Nov. 28, \$55 after that date. Discounted rates are offered for UVM Extension Master Gardener and Vermont Master Composter volunteers. The fee includes access to the recorded presentations for 30 days after the conference.

Featured speakers include national columnist and author Nancy Lawson who will discuss how you can become a more ecological gardener by using science and heart and a keen sense of observation. Lawson wrote "The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife" and "Wildscape: Trilling Chipmunks, Beckoning Blooms, Salty Butterflies, and other Sensory Wonders of Nature," which have

been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *O: The Oprah Magazine* and other media outlets.

She also founded the nonprofit, The Humane Gardener. This outreach initiative is dedicated to cultivating compassion for all creatures great and small through animal-friendly, environmentally sensitive landscaping methods.

Rachel Boyers, garden educator with the UVM Medical Center's Culinary Medicine Program, will kick off the conference by sharing how connecting with nature through our gardens, mindful practices and nourishing foods can boost wellness and foster resilience. UVM Landscape Architect and Lecturer Fortino Acosta will provide ideas on how to landscape with nature in mind. Sarah Kingsley-Richards, the UVM Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program coordinator, will share ideas on how to nurture nature in our lawns.

For more information or to register, please visit the conference website at go.uvm.edu/gardenconference. Registration closes on Dec. 5.

If needing another disability-related accommodation contact Deb Heleba at debra.heleba@uvm.edu or (802) 656-1777 by November 28.



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Outreach

(Continued from Page 1A) elementary and middle schools,” explained NOM Co-Vice President Lucca Franz, a Middlebury College junior.

NOM is one of 15 student organizations supported and advised by the college’s Center for Community Engagement. These organizations collaborate with community partners in areas like civic engagement, food security and social justice.

Cooking experiences offered through NOM differ from school to school. The program organizes monthly cooking sessions at Cornwall and Mary Hogan elementary schools. College students also visit Middlebury Union Middle School about twice a month to make a quick, nutritious snack with students during the school day.

Cooking activities offered through NOM’s partnership with Mary Hogan Elementary are organized in a dinner-style format and alternate between being held on Zoom and in-person. Each month, students and their families are guided through a different recipe, often centered around the Vermont Harvest of the Month.

For example, March’s harvest of the month was maple syrup, and students used the ingredient to whip up maple green beans and maple bacon mac and cheese. Apples were the harvest of the month for October, and participants prepared apple crisp and stuffed bell peppers.

“One of my favorite recipes from a Mary Hogan family dinner that we cooked, the harvest of the month was beets, and so we made a beet pesto pasta,” Franz recalled. “The pasta was pink, which was really fun. The kids loved that because it added some fun color and also tasted amazing.”

NOM provides all the ingredients participating students and their families need to complete each month’s recipe. The program currently purchases produce for meals from area grocery stores but hopes to eventually source some ingredients from The Knoll, Middlebury College’s educational garden.

“This is still a work in progress because there’s a few logistical things that we’re trying to figure out, but that’s definitely a partnership that we’re looking to develop more because they have a lot of leafy greens and different herbs that would be awesome to start incorporating more into our recipes,” Franz said.

The group tries to pick recipes that might be new to students and that offer a chance for multiple people to contribute to the final product.

“It’s also a fun challenge for us to think of new recipes and get creative with the harvest of the month and with meals that are both time efficient and have multiple steps to get everyone involved in the process,” Franz said.

BUILDING A MEAL

NOM President Aliya Hosford said the program is intended to help create space for students to learn about all that goes into building a nutritious meal.

“For me, I was really lucky that my parents involved me in the kitchen when I was little, but I



MARY HOGAN ELEMENTARY School students and their families whip up beet pesto pasta during a Nutrition Outreach and Mentoring cooking session this past spring. Such cooking experiences are designed to introduce students to different local foods and teach them about all that goes into preparing a nutritious meal. Photos courtesy of Lucca Franz

also recognize for a lot of families that’s not something that’s feasible, whether kids are off at sports or parents are really busy or it’s a frozen meal,” she said. “This really gives kids the opportunity to learn how to measure, how to read a recipe, how to follow directions. There’s the food element but there’s also a lot of really practical problem-solving skills that come from learning in the kitchen.”

Franz said the program has been well received by parents.

“Even though cooking in person would be more ideal, the ability to have a Zoom option is also super nice for parents who are busy with their workday and different things their kids are a part of,” she said.

The program also offers benefits for college student volunteers, such as providing a chance to get off campus.

“I just love the opportunity it provides Middlebury College students to connect to the local community in general,” Franz said. “It’s so easy to get caught up in college life, but the ability to cook and hang out with kids is very refreshing and rewarding. I feel like every time I leave, I’m so happy that I went.”

The club also organizes member-only dinners where college students involved in the program cook a meal together and, in some cases, meal prep for upcoming cooking events. Around 50 students are involved in the program, about 25 of whom are active members.

“It’s just another way to connect and be able to make a homecooked meal,” Franz said of the club dinners.

Hosford said her favorite meal the club has made is a butternut squash and sage pasta dish from long-distance runner Shalane Flanagan’s cookbook “Run Fast. Eat Slow.”

“The first time I had it I was

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NUTRITION OUTREACH AND mentoring college student volunteers prepare stuffed bell peppers during a cooking event last month. The program hosts cooking sessions at three schools in the Middlebury area throughout the school year.

really homesick for a homecooked meal, and we made it at a club dinner my freshman year,” she recalled. “We’ve made that a few times with Mary Hogan and that’s definitely a fan favorite for the club dinners on campus as well.”

NOM is currently working to get this year’s program up and running at MUMS and interested

students can sign up to take part in the program during their flex block once it becomes available. Mary Hogan families looking to take part in an upcoming cooking session can keep an eye out for information in the elementary school’s newsletter.

To learn more about NOM visit tinyurl.com/nomprogram or @middnom on Instagram.

Bristol

(Continued from Page 1A)

caring responses. The community resource specialist is a town employee position housed within the Bristol Police Department that works directly for the police chief and under the supervision of the officer on shift.

According to the job description, the community resource specialist will “provide crisis response services and act as a referral source, diverting matters not related to violation of law to the appropriate channel of support.”

The position’s responsibilities include responding to quality-of-life calls, such as welfare checks, neighborhood disputes and intoxicated individuals.

“The goal is to assist with non-criminal in nature calls for service, and our focus is going to be proactive with assisting people who need services and making sure they’re getting their services,” Nason told the *Independent*.

“When we’ve encountered people in the past that may be having a crisis, we’ve found that when we did follow up with them, we seem to be dealing with them less in crisis,” he continued. “This person would be doing more of the follow-up to make sure they’re getting the resources they need and helping them obtain those services.”

According to Nason, the Bristol Police Department deal with around 422 incidents in September, which is largely reflective of a typical month, if not a little higher. Nason noted everything the

police department does generates an incident, from traffic stops to responding to calls for service, and that some of those incidents are the type of situations the new community resource specialist would be able to address.

Overall, the goal is to assist community members in getting the services they need. He noted the police department often receives calls from people who have reached out to different resources already but aren’t getting calls back because organizations are short-staffed.

“We’re going to try to work with (community members) in whatever situation they’re in to be able to obtain resources,” Nason said.

He noted the position will also allow the department to be more proactive in preventing non-criminal situations from rising to the level of an offense, such as by mediating citizen disputes.

“Our focus is community

policing, which is going out and being proactive, not waiting for a situation to happen and then reacting to it,” Nason said.

When the *Independent* spoke with Nason this past Friday, he said he planned to sit down with Smith to identify ideas for the new role. One idea included connecting with elderly residents to see if they’d like to receive a phone call once a week or every other week to make sure they’re OK.

“We’re going to sit down and see which of these services we might like to prioritize; what are we going to start with,” Nason said.

IN OTHER COMMUNITIES Other police departments across the state have augmented their forces with similar community resource positions in recent years.

Middlebury Police Chief Jason Covey said his department doesn’t have this type of position currently but might someday.

“It’s a growing trend in law enforcement nationwide, including Vermont,” he said. “I could see us in the future developing a position such as this. It would be a budgetary issue; we’d have to go through the budget process to develop that position.”

In the meantime, he said Middlebury police officers handle routine non-criminal calls, including mental health calls. Covey noted the Vermont State Police at the New Haven barracks has an embedded mental health crisis specialist who local forces can rely on.

“It’s only one person so she’s not available all the time, but we reach out to her to give us a hand or give us referrals,” he said.

Covey added that the police department does the same with other local agencies, such as reaching out to the Counseling Service of Addison County if they think someone might need resources provided there.

Responding to mental health calls and similar calls for service has become a bigger part of the job in the past several years, Covey acknowledged.

“I’ve been doing this for almost 25 years, and it’s always been a large chunk of our day dealing with mental health related incidents, not always criminal in nature but sometimes they are,” he said. “Anecdotally I would say there’s certainly been an increase in the past 5-10 years that we’re doing more of that than in the past.”

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Show within a show

A forgotten Jazz Age musical will come to life in the living room of a diehard theater fan when Middlebury Union High School stages the musical "The Drowsy Chaperone" this Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. In this marvelous production featuring a live pit orchestra, a Broadway show magically appears in the apartment of a man listening to old cast recordings on his phonograph. Playing the man, who narrates the show for the audience, is Lucas Flinner (top right). Others in the cast are, counterclockwise from Flinner, Mira Biancosino, Eve Mengüç and Lila Hescocock with Ella Kozak; Kozak as Janet Van De Graaf; Kozak and Greta Suter as the Drowsy Chaperone; Piper Farnsworth as Mrs. Tottendale, Raine Evans Nash as her servant Underling, plus trombonists Indy Fetterolf and Eva Andrews; Suter, Anika Heppell, Subia Khan, Clara Chant, Isaiah Robinson, Paras Biancosino, Bea Hooper and K Haugen with pianist Ethan Spritzer in the foreground; and Kozak, Isaiah Robinson as Adolpho, and Suter.

Music director Liz LeBeau said the cast and crew are excited to share this show with the community. "This is the best musical that you've never heard of," she said. Get your tickets now at cur8.com/projects/22970.

Photos by Jason Duquette-Hoffman





VERGENNES MIDDLE SCHOOL rowers dressed as cereal brand mascot won the costume contest at the Otter Creek Challenge Race on Nov. 1 in Vergennes.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns



ROWERS PUSH THROUGH the final leg of the Otter Creek Challenge Race on Nov. 1 in Vergennes.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns

Local rowers compete in the Otter Creek Challenge in Vergennes

VERGENNES — Local youth rowing teams gathered at Vergennes Falls Park on Saturday, Nov. 1, for a festive finale to their Vermont fall open-water rowing season, all while donning their Halloween costumes! Athletes from Mount Abraham High School, Vergennes Union High School and Middle School, Champlain Valley Union High School, Lake Champlain Waldorf School, and Burlington High School competed in an exciting down-and-back race along the beautiful Otter Creek. This year, organizers welcomed visiting

members from the Ardglass Coastal Rowing Club Junior Team from Ardglass, Ireland, who joined the Burlington High School rowers for the event.

The racecourse began at Vergennes Falls Park, featuring a 2-mile round trip for Novice rowers and a challenging 3 miles for Intermediate and Experienced rowers. The Novices kicked off the day with five entries in the six-oared gig category and one in the four-oared category. Following them, the Intermediate rowers took to the water, competing with seven

boats in total.

In a display of teamwork and skill, Champlain Valley Union High School dominated the Six-Oared Novice and Six-Oared Intermediate categories, clinching first place in both. The CVU novices finished strong with a remarkable time of 22:31 in their boat, Frank Beckett, while the Intermediate team rowed to victory with a time of 32:14 in their vessel, Maple.

Combined teams of BHS and Ardglass rowers also made waves, winning both the Four-Oared Novice and Four-Oared

The Experienced rowers were the last to hit the water, navigating the challenging 3-mile course, which included a tight turn to cross the finish line.

Intermediate categories.

The Experienced rowers were the last to hit the water, navigating the challenging 3-mile course, which included a tight turn to cross

the finish line. With two four-oared skiffs and three six-oared gigs competing, a team from Vergennes High School triumphed in the six-oared category, while Mt. Abraham took home the win and the fastest time on the 3-mile course in the four-oared category with an impressive time of 27:24.

After the races, the excitement continued with an awards ceremony and a lively costume contest. The competition was fierce, but the best team costume was undoubtedly from Vergennes Middle School, where each rower

dressed as a different beloved cereal character. Other standout costumes included a flock of crows, a Ratatouille-themed boat, a Spirit HalliROWween store, and Snow White with her Seven Dwarfs.

The Otter Creek Challenge is not only an annual celebration of rowing but also a vibrant showcase of community spirit and creativity. We are looking forward to completing the full fall season with the annual Icebreaker Northeast Regional Youth Open-Water Rowing Championships race in Hull, Mass., on Nov. 23.

We've Got Mulch!

Addison County Solid Waste Management District is giving away **FREE** wood chip mulch to District residents on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

Stop by the District Transfer Station, located at 1223 Route 7 South, Middlebury, during our normal business hours (M-F, 7 AM - 3 PM and Sat, 8 AM - 1 PM) to pick up a load. BYOS (Bring Your Own Shovel), please! You may load your own, or District staff will load your truck or trailer for \$10 per scoop.

The mulch may contain some larger-size pieces of wood, but should be suitable for new tree or shrub plantings, weed control, or trail cover.

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Robotics engineer offers talk at Ilsley

MIDDLEBURY — Local Robotics Engineer Jaime Perotti will speak on “Underwater Robotics” on Tuesday, Nov. 19, as part of AAUW/Ilsley Library Speaker Series. The talk will be in the Ilsley’s Jessica Swift meeting room at 7 p.m.

Perotti graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh in 2022 with dual bachelor’s degrees in Robotics and Physics and lives in Richmond. She works for a Vermont company which specializes in custom subsea

robotics software and marine robots. Perotti has been involved in mapping and navigation software deployed on the U.S. Navy’s fleet of EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) robots, which map and track mines in the water.

Her current project is developing SLAM (simultaneous localization and mapping) software to help improve navigation accuracy on ship hull-cleaning robots, including for major cruise lines. Perotti will talk on her career trajectory, from

her college education through her current projects.

The next speaker will be Amy Collier, Associate Provost for Digital Learning at Middlebury College, who will talk on “The Impact of AI.” For more information about AAUW, visit aauw.org. With questions about Middlebury branch AAUW activities, contact current president Dinah Bain (802-758-2218) or immediate past president Ann Straub (207-210-5563).

State police respond to crash on Rte. 22A

ADDISON COUNTY — After a BMW Mini Cooper crashed on Route 22A in Orwell at a quarter to 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 8, Vermont State Police responded.

Troopers report that Lauren Peters, 34, of Wilmington, N.C., was driving the car northbound on 22A when it went off the road “for an extended period of time,” before it struck a utility pole near Cook Road.

Peters sustained minor injuries in the collision and was taken to Porter Medical Center. While speaking to Peters, troopers observed indicators of impairment and she refused screening for drunken driving. Police cited Peters for driving under the influence.

The Mini Cooper sustained damage to its front end and undercarriage.

Route 22A around Cook Road was temporarily reduced to one lane of travel due to the collision.

The Orwell Fire Department and Orwell First Response assisted police.

Separately, state police on Nov. 7 announced that they had cited Michael Kenyon, 47, of Vergennes for home improvement fraud for

Vt. State Police Log

the third time in about a month.

On Oct. 21 VSP were contacted regarding a possible home improvement fraud. A New Haven resident told police that they had hired Michael Kenyon for pool servicing through Valley Pool and Spa Service LLC. Police said Kenyon received a down payment for a pool product and installation, however never completed the work or provided the item. Attempts were made by the victim over several months to contact Kenyon to have the work completed and requested the funds be returned for the work that was not completed over several months.

Ultimately, Kenyon failed to follow a contract between him and the victim, police allege. Kenyon failed to complete the work in which he received funds for or provide a refund for the services not rendered.

Troopers cited Kenyon for home improvement fraud.

Be sure to wear orange during rifle deer season

MONTPELIER — Vermont Fish and Wildlife is reminding hunters to wear fluorescent orange.

While some hunters might be concerned that deer are scared by hunter orange, in fact deer have been shown to be unaffected by the color. A deer’s vision is based on movement, patterns and color variations. Unlike humans, deer do not have multiple color receptors in their eyes. They can see color,

but their spectrum is limited. This means deer must rely heavily on their ability to detect movement over the ability to interpret color variations and patterns.

Hunting in Vermont continues to be a safe recreational pursuit and hunters can help keep it that way by choosing to wear hunter orange.

Hunt smart. Hunt safe. Wear orange.

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.

Wayne & Diane Smith, Salisbury, VT



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CVE

(Continued from Page 1A)
 were in a better position to listen. After several months of productive talks, CVE and Empire officials on Nov. 1 finalized a deal that will see Empire's six stores rebranded under the Champlain Valley Equipment name and integrated into its existing operations. The merger "strengthens (CVE's) position as a leading equipment dealer in the region, expanding its reach into one of the largest markets in the Northeast," according to a press release announcing the deal.

Negotiations were smooth and amicable. "We started talking seriously during the winter. We agreed on a valuation process in the spring. But with the busy season, we didn't want to (finalize) something until post-harvest," Carpenter recalled.

Call and Phill Doty Jr., also part of the prior Empire ownership, issued a joint statement that included the following quote:

"This decision was not made lightly, but after careful thought, it became clear that it was time to consolidate into a bigger organization with more resources so we could offer you more services and opportunities. CVE is a well-respected company, and we have complete confidence they will continue to provide the same high-quality service and products you've come to expect from Empire Tractor."

The Nov. 1 closing date gave

CVE and Empire plenty of time to bring their workforces up to speed on the transition to come. The changes were largely related to rebranding, as the merger won't result in any job cuts at the former Empire (now CVE) locations, which have a combined workforce of about 90.

With the Empire cast now firmly in the fold, CVE's workforce has grown to roughly 200, and the company is looking to fill another 10 positions, according to Carpenter.

So why are Carpenter and CVE conquering a new Empire?

Well, it's largely the quality of the asset and the fertile ground for major equipment sales in New York state.

"It's a large territory with some interesting agricultural diversity, compared to what we've been doing," Carpenter said.

He noted the Finger Lakes region has become a hotspot for vineyards. Farmers are big into vegetable crops in the Batavia area, Carpenter noted. There are many orchards near the Ontario, Canada, border. And, of course, dairy farms can be found throughout CVE's new service region.

All those farmers, orchardists and winemakers need good, solid equipment to ensure reliable plantings and harvests. Carpenter wants to make sure they continue to come to CVE for those purchases.

"It's a tremendous opportunity," he said.

At the same time, Carpenter promised his company won't downshift in its commitment to its Green Mountain State customers.

"One of our messages to our staff is we won't reduce our effort here in Vermont. It's very important that we don't slide backwards," he said.

Just as Empire staff will need to get acquainted with new ownership, CVE staff will negotiate a learning curve on the new equipment it'll sell in its new service area.

Carpenter explained CVE's wares have historically been tailored mainly to dairies and contractors. With the more eclectic crop mix in New York, the company will add to its repertoire implements such as massive carrot harvesters; planters that span 16 rows, as opposed to the usual 12; very large, articulated tractors and combines; and specialized vineyard equipment.

He described the new service area as "massive." It basically extends from the St. Lawrence Seaway, with Canton and Watertown, down through Syracuse, Rochester and central New York, all the way to the southern tier covered by the Cortland and Atlanta stores.

ACCUSTOMED TO GROWTH

Absorbing Empire was a major step for CVE leaders, but they've become accustomed to growth. Empire is CVE's eighth add since its founding in 1970 by Brian's dad, Russell C. Carpenter, and his grandfather, Russell F. Carpenter.

"It's a family business buying another family business, and we always try to be fair and equitable. It has always gone very smoothly. We're always open to reasonable negotiation. In most cases, the prior owners have stayed on and



BRIAN CARPENTER, OWNER and president of Middlebury-based Champlain Valley Equipment, recently confirmed his company's acquisition of Empire Tractor Inc., a Central New York company with store locations in Batavia, Atlanta, Cortland, Waterloo, Watertown, and Canton, N.Y.

Independent photo/John Flowers

worked with us for extended periods," Carpenter said.

Prior Empire ownership will stay on to manage individual stores, he noted.

"I think they'll enjoy just the fun part of operating the business, which is talking to customers," he said with a smile.

Carpenter promised his expanded team will stick to a long running formula of fairness and friendly sales.

"My goal is to stay family owned and raise our own talent. We try to recruit locally, train and mentor to develop leaders and

provide them (the tools) to take care of customers locally at each store," he said.

This new chapter for CVE means Carpenter will keep his nose to the grindstone. But work has never really been a chore for the CVE president.

"I love the business, still. I enjoy working with a great team and our customer base — some wonderful family businesses, farms and contractors," he said.

That said, he'll make sure to carve out time for family and other interests.

"We have such a great team.

I'm still able to travel and take vacation; I'm not a slave to the business," he said.

When putting pen to the contract papers, Carpenter could harken back to his late father and the company's humble beginnings — a single store on Middlebury's Seymour Street, near where Adams Electric and Danforth Pewter are currently doing business.

"He always believed in me, and us," Carpenter said of his dad. "I'm sure he's smiling."

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

ACSD budget

(Continued from Page 1A)
 "Last year, we really said, 'We'll take a hard look at (the FY'26 budget); give us a grace period,'" recalled ACSD board Chair Barb Wilson.

That grace period saw district voters in March approve an FY'25 preK-12 spending plan of \$50.6 million (a 6.5% hike) by a 2,081-1,157 tally, while the ACSD welcomed new Superintendent Wendy Baker. That budget produced major education property tax increases in the district-member towns of Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge.

The ACSD was the only district in Addison County to pass a school budget on the first try; statewide, one in three districts saw their initial FY'25 spending proposals fail on Town Meeting Day.

Frustration over surging taxes seeped into the November elections, producing sizable gains by GOP candidates pledging to turn the tide on spending.

"People I've spoken to, who have traditionally been folks who voted for the budget, they're not saying that now," Wilson noted.

"I think, personally, we need to do something hard."

And it will be a heavy lift for the board to balance taxpayer limits with an FY'26 budget that can meet students' educational needs.

On Monday, ACSD Director of Finance and Operations Matthew Corrente presented the panel with preliminary budget numbers and described some of the headwinds coming from Montpelier. ACSD officials said they're committed to ensuring the district's per-pupil spending doesn't exceed the state's per-pupil spending threshold — tentatively estimated at \$16,126 for next year. Districts that do so must pay an additional tax for the amount of spending over the threshold.

Per-pupil spending limits are calculated, in part, using the district's estimated enrollment, or "long-term weighted average daily membership."

ACSD must receive more information from the state before it can confidently crunch its per-pupil spending and average daily membership numbers. This district's per-pupil spending for this year is \$16,099.36, according to the Vermont Department of Education.

Notwithstanding state-imposed variables, the ACSD board will have its hands full deciding what the district can afford after factoring in fixed expenses. According to Corrente, it will take \$3,063,000 in new money just to fund the same programs in FY'26 that the district is offering this year. Non-

controllable increases next year are expected to include:

- An 11.9% bump in healthcare premiums.
- Contracted salary increases of 6% for ACSD staff and a 5% bump in base pay for teachers.
- A \$650,000 increase in special education spending.
- An additional \$312,000 associated with student transportation, utilities, supplies, materials, service contracts and inflation.

The board on Monday voted 8-4 to target a 2% budget increase. Those voting against had advocated for a smaller increase, or level funding.

Member Steve Orzech noted the district could soften the FY'26 budget impacts by dipping into the ACSD's capital and operating reserve funds, which Corrente currently placed at a combined \$4 million.

But he and his colleagues ultimately concluded that siphoning those savings for next year's operating budget would simply transfer the financial crisis to fiscal year 2027.

MAJOR CUTS FORESEEN

School board members concede that preserving programming —

let alone increasing it — will be a tough task. Officials seem resigned to having to make major cuts; it's just a matter of how draconian they'll be.

"When voters go into the booth (to decide) this FY'26 budget, they will have already experienced the tax increases from the last one," board member Mary Heather Noble said. "So, with the generosity of our taxpayers — who I personally feel have reached their limit — and given the atmosphere of this past election, I think we need to be really cognizant of what's on voters' minds."

As bleak as the financial landscape looks right now, it could get more dire. Board member Suzanne Buck noted current budget estimates don't yet include the Patricia Hannaford Career Center's (PHCC) FY'26 tuition ask, a number that will become clear by next month. The Career Center delivers career and technical education to high school and adult students in 17 Addison County towns, with the majority of its enrollees coming from Middlebury, Vergennes and Mount Abraham union high schools.

"(The) PHCC budget is a large chunk, and it's not in here," Buck

said. Like Noble, Buck has taken the temperature of ACSD taxpayers. "I know what people around me have said. They've said, 'You've

got to keep the rates down, if not a zero, or a 1% (increase)," she said.

The board will take plenty of additional swings at the FY'26 budget before they finalize a draft

in January that'll be put to voters in March.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



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Best wishes to the Cast and Crew!

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Bates named Family Physician of the Year

BRISTOL — Brian Bates, a primary care doctor at Mountain Community Health in Bristol, has been named 2024 Family Physician of the Year by the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians. This award recognizes a physician who has made a significant impact on the health and well-being of their patients and community. The selection is based on criteria including clinical excellence, patient advocacy, and



DR. BRIAN BATES

Dr. Bates has been at Mountain Community Health since 2018, where he serves as a full-spectrum primary care physician for children and adults and provides medication treatment for opioid

use disorder (MOUD). “Dr. Bates represents the best of what it means to be a family physician,” said Dr. Heidi Melbostad, CEO of Mountain Community Health. “This award is a testament to his tireless dedication to our patients and our mission. We are incredibly fortunate to have such an exceptional provider as part of our medical team and contributing to Mountain Community Health’s ongoing efforts to serve our community with excellence and compassion.”

Mountain Community Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) whose collective mission is to provide comprehensive primary care services to all, regardless of their ability to pay or insurance status. FQHCs are non-profit organizations, governed by the communities they serve and are regulated by the Health Resources and Services Administration.



Voters back waterline project bond

Bristol residents also adopt zoning changes

By MARIN HOWELL
BRISTOL — Bristol voters on Tuesday, Nov. 5, agreed to bond for up to \$3.95 million to support the next phase of a series of projects aimed at replacing aging waterlines in town. Residents favored the bond, 936-279.

Voters in Bristol also agreed to adopt proposed amendments to the Bristol Unified Development Regulations, 853-358.

Those proposed changes to the town’s zoning regulations include adjustments to the Dimensional Standards to allow for greater flexibility for residential use/housing in the Village Business and Village Mixed districts and “parameters identifying ‘clearly subordinate’ with regard to an Accessory Dwelling Unit.”

The recommended amendments are intended to expand housing opportunities in and around Bristol’s village, particularly by making it easier to develop smaller, affordable homes in the Village Planning Area in accordance with

the Bristol Town Plan. The changes fielded by the Bristol Commission’s exploration of potential revisions to the town’s zoning regulations, an effort the committee tackled through its work with a \$9,800 Bylaw Modernization Grant Bristol received from the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development in 2022.

WATERLINE BOND
The bond approved by Bristol voters on Tuesday will support the “Bristol West” waterline replacement project, the second-leg of a larger effort to replace about half of the waterlines in Bristol’s aging water distribution system.

Bristol voters in November 2022 agreed to bond for up to \$940,000 to support the first phase of the effort, which took place on Pine Street and was completed in the fall of 2023. The months-long

effort replaced around 2,570 feet of unlined, cast iron pipe installed in 1905.

The recommended amendments are intended to expand housing opportunities in and around Bristol’s village, particularly by making it easier to develop smaller, affordable homes in the Village...

The Bristol West project consists of nine streets, including some or all of Munsill Avenue and Maple, Pleasant, Church, Elm, Taylor, West, Park and School streets. Bristol officials hope to break ground on the project in 2026. The project would be completed over two consecutive construction seasons.

Town officials plan to apply for funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to help finance the project and reduce the total cost to taxpayers in the water district. While all Bristol voters were asked to weigh in on the bond proposal on Tuesday, 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.

Monkton

Have a news tip?

Contact Liz Pecor at rascal0406@gmavt.net

NEWS

MONKTON — At the Russell Memorial Library on Monday, Nov. 18, Lauren Parren will be at the Town Hall at 7 p.m. to discuss the history of one-room schoolhouses in Monkton. The focus will be on the Dart(t) school mainly, but she will point out the locations of all nine schools, explaining changes in educational movements over time. Come join in on this free presentation.

On Friday, Nov. 22, 802 Homeschool Group Meet Up will have a presentation from Project Microscope from 9:30 to

11:30 a.m. at the Library. All are welcome. Call 802-453-4471 for more information.

Join Chris Koliander for Yoga at the library on Nov. 23 from 8 to 9 a.m. This class is donation based, all proceeds going to a local food bank.

It’s time for the Monkton Friends Methodist Church annual bazaar! To be held on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., this is the sale that everyone is craving — those wonderful homemade donuts along with delicious handmade chocolates and many other bake sale items.

The bake sale items will include pies, cakes, cookies, whoopee pies and other items too many to list, including gluten-free options. The church will also have those great homemade soups for sale by pint and quart sizes. The lunch menu includes assorted sandwiches, pea soup, chicken vegetable soup and cheddar broccoli soup. You can eat them there or take them home with you. Don’t forget to browse bazaar items including crafts and attic treasures while choosing those wonderful eats. For more information call Marilyn at 802-453-5192.

Area teen caught with vape pen

BRISTOL — Bristol police on Nov. 7 received a report of a juvenile in possession of a vape pen containing THC on Airport Drive and issued court paperwork regarding the incident.

Between Oct. 20 and Nov. 9 Bristol police completed 59 foot patrols and two car patrols, conducted 10 traffic stops and checked security at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School 19 times, at Bristol Elementary School 20 times and at local businesses six times.

Police also processed 24 fingerprint requests, conducted three welfare checks, helped four people get into their locked vehicles, facilitated the return of one cell phone, and responded to two alarms — one activated by an employee error and another set off by a malfunction.

In other recent activity, Bristol police:

- On Oct. 22 received a report of a disabled vehicle on Villa Drive. Police determined the owner had contacted a tow company to retrieve the vehicle.
- On Oct. 22 received a report of an assault from someone who previously lived on Mountain Street. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Oct. 22 responded to a threatening complaint on Airport Drive, and an investigation is ongoing.
- On Oct. 23 monitored traffic

Bristol Police Log

during student arrival at Robinson Elementary School.

- On Oct. 23 assisted Mount Abe with a truancy concern.
- On Oct. 23 participated in an after-school activity at Bristol Elementary.
- On Oct. 24 responded to the theft of a motor vehicle on Spring Street. Police reported a white Toyota Highlander with Vermont license plate HNC262 was stolen overnight. Burlington police located the vehicle on Oct. 27 and took Joshua Jerger, 37, of Starksboro into custody.
- On Oct. 24 received a report of a cell phone theft. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Oct. 25 cited Daryn Barsalou, 28, of Starksboro for operating a vehicle without the owner’s consent after he was located on West Street with a vehicle he failed to return to the owner.
- On Oct. 25 were told of a bicycle stolen on Maple Street. The bicycle was later located by the owner.
- On Oct. 25 received a report of a bicycle stolen from a yard on Maple Street. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Oct. 28 responded to a report of shoplifting on Prince Lane. An

investigation is ongoing.

- On Oct. 28 received a dog found running at large. The dog was later picked up by its owner.
- On Oct. 28 responded to Mountain Street for a report of someone looking into a parked vehicle. The person was gone when police arrived, and nothing was missing from the vehicle.
- On Oct. 29 received a found wallet and notified the owner.
- On Oct. 29 responded to four loose horses running up Carlstrom Road. Police reported that the horses were corralled by concerned individuals until the owner could retrieve them.
- On Oct. 31 monitored traffic and helped pedestrians crossing the street during Halloween festivities.
- On Oct. 31 received a report of a suspicious person on North Street and determined no action at the time rose to the level of an offense.
- On Nov. 3 received a loose dog. Police identified the owner and returned the dog.
- On Nov. 4 responded to a motor vehicle complaint on Monkton Road. Police located the vehicle but did not observe any violations.
- On Nov. 7 helped someone access local resources.
- On Nov. 8 received a theft complaint from Morgan Horse Lane. An investigation is ongoing.
- On Nov. 8 responded to a suspicious circumstance on Pine

Storytelling event to be held on Nov. 21

BRISTOL — Bristol will host a live storytelling event on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 6-8 p.m., at Holley Hall. A number of presenters will stand up in front of a live audience and tell their true story, live with no notes. The program will be the fourth storytelling event hosted by our local libraries, and it’s hoped to expand across Vermont in collaboration with its 185 independent libraries.

First popularized by the Moth storytelling programs and live events, these stories are renowned for their great range of human experiences from hilariously funny, to profound and heart-felt. Each event hosts unique talks, lasting from 5 to 7 minutes, by inviting storytellers of all experiences to their events and giving anyone the chance to be heard.

In an increasingly digital world, this event series keeps storytelling human. Everyone loves a good story, and this is an opportunity to settle in and enjoy listening to a live storytelling event. Moth events and Slams have also been popular in various schools thought the U.S. and help students to build up confidence and communication skills and cultivate empathy.

Started in 1997 by the author George Dowes Green, who

Street, but determined no action reported or observed rose to the level of an offense.

- On Nov. 9 received a noise complaint on South Street. Police patrolled the area but there was no noise heard beyond the initial report.

enjoyed gathering with friends to swap stories, the Moth Talk events have become an American institution, spawning a series of live shows across the U.S., a weekly radio show on NPR, and a hugely successful podcast with enthusiastic adherents all over the world. The use of the word

Moth symbolizes how moths are drawn into a bright light; similarly storytellers are drawn to the light of adventure, ambition and knowledge.

For more information about the event, please contact Katie Male-Riordan, Library Director, at director@lawrencelibraryvt.org.



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Exploring the life of water talk Nov. 21

SALISBURY — Declan McCabe, professor of biology at St. Michael's College, will give the presentation "Turning Stones: Exploring the Life of Water," on Thursday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Salisbury Meeting House at 853 Maple Street.

Professor McCabe's primary area of expertise is the ecology of freshwater communities. He writes a regular nature column for

Northern Woodlands magazine and recently published a book with the same title as his upcoming presentation. His book and his upcoming presentation are "a careful look at the mysteries and life that can be found in a river if you just take the time to look."

McCabe's presentation will examine the rich diversity of life that depends on water, including the unique chemistry of water that

makes it essential for all life. In addition, he will introduce us to a range of freshwater life forms and how to preserve clean water for the next generation. As a bonus, he will have some live invertebrates that the audience can examine under a microscope.

This presentation is part of the Salisbury Conservation Commission's Thursday series. It is free and open to the public.

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)

told you about an ongoing effort to reimagine the Henry Sheldon Museum. Well, the "Shape the Sheldon" campaign will feature another "community listening session" on Thursday, Nov. 21, from 5-6:30 p.m. at Little Seed Coffee Roasters at 24 Merchants Row in downtown Middlebury. Bring your ideas on how the Sheldon could advance its mission as a showcase of Addison County history.

The Vermont Community Foundation's Spark Connecting Community grant program has awarded a total of \$153,934 to 35 organizations throughout Vermont, including the Better Middlebury Partnership (\$5,000) and Bristol's Lawrence Memorial Library (\$3,845). Recipients — which include municipalities, schools, nonprofits and community groups — will use the money to host local projects that strengthen community connections around such topics as climate resiliency work, art, gardening and food. Spark Connecting Community is a competitive grant program that puts building and nurturing community front and center. These grants — where a small amount can make a big difference — are intended to "light the spark

that encourages community vitality and keeps Vermonters healthy and happy," according to the Community Foundation.

Shop for a bargain and do a good deed at the same time. The Med47 Annual Holiday Shoppe & Craft Fair is just around the corner on Nov. 30 and will offer great deals on great products. Proceeds will benefit the Brendon P Cousino Med47 Foundation, which raises money to help aspiring first responders and rescue organizations in the Addison County area. The Annual Holiday Shoppe & Craft Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the New Haven Town Hall at 78 North St. This well-attended event will also include vendors and a related online auction. Check out Facebook.com/med47foundation. To learn more or donate an item or gift certificate to the sale or silent auction, contact Cindy at 802-233-8334 or at med47foundation@gmail.com.

The Vermont Health Connect open enrollment period began on Nov. 1 and extends through Jan. 15. Vermonters who get their insurance through VHC can act during this window to avoid some of this year's rate increases and get better insurance in 2025. During open enrollment,

Vermonters can sign up for health insurance or switch between insurance companies for the upcoming year. MVP prices are lower than BlueCross BlueShield of Vermont in 2025. If you have a BlueCross plan, you might find a similar or equal MVP plan for less money. But make sure the MVP plan covers your preferred doctors, because not all caregivers are covered by all plans. If you want to switch, check that your doctors will be in-network, and your medications will be covered. Gold plans will have a lower monthly premium than silver plans. Learn more through the Office of the Health Care Advocate, which has a Helpline at 1-800-917-7787. Also, check out vtlawhelp.org/health.

If you live in Cornwall and have an interest in wildlife, nature and conservation, your local conservation commission needs you. The commission is looking for nature enthusiasts to join its team and help support the community's natural environment. As a member, you'll help advise Cornwall residents on the preservation and restoration of natural areas. You'll also recommend land use policies to keep Cornwall's ecosystems balanced. Current members include Mary Dodge, Kristina Sargent, Michael Sheridan, Don Burns, Andrea Landsberg and Donna Marks. To learn more visit tinyurl.com/3dmtk8hh or email cornwallconservationvt@gmail.com.

Reminder: The Addison County Solid Waste Management District's new residential waste/recycling drop-off center in New Haven is open for business. It's located at 100 Kings Way, New Haven, (off 65 Campground Road), and it's open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays and 7 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. As previously reported by the *Independent*, the drop-off center was designed to offer a new, convenient way to county residents to dispose of their bagged trash, recycling, leaf and yard debris, and food scraps. Please note that large loads, bulky wastes and special wastes should continue to go to the ACSWMD Transfer Station off Route 7 South in Middlebury. For information on pricing contact JR & Sons at 802-735-9760.

Connection

(Continued from Page 1A)

there's a space for them wherever they are in this grief process, and that their grief is valid and real and there are people out there who understand."

Grilly found inspiration for the program in an NPR audio story a friend forwarded her after Grilly's mother died this past summer. The piece highlighted a "Grieving and Weaving" workshop at the Greenwood Cemetery in New York City.

"I had no idea what (the article) was about, but I had sat down at my sewing machine that my mom gifted me and was working on a project because it was something that she and I shared together," Grilly recalled. "(I) started listening to this story about a group of folks in Brooklyn that essentially started this type of gathering where people were bringing crafts together and just sharing in their stories and what those projects meant to them."

The story resonated with Grilly, who said she'd found working on crafts to be helpful while navigating grief.

"It provided me a lot of comfort because it was something my mom and I had shared in terms of quilting and doing a lot of crafting together," Grilly said. "I found a lot of comfort in it immediately, but had never thought about doing it with others and that others might also find comfort in the projects and the ritual and the tradition."

Grilly took to Front Porch Forum to see if other community members were also grieving and finding crafts as a source of a comfort, as well as if there was any interest in creating a space for residents to work on those projects together.

She heard back almost immediately from the New Haven Congregational Church and from New Haven Community Library Director Ruth Shattuck Bernstein, both offering to provide space for such gatherings.

"I'm looking for the library to be that community space, so it just seemed perfect to reach out to Jen and offer," Shattuck Bernstein said. "What I'm doing here is always trying to find community needs, and I have a feeling that just on its own coming together is a need, and then also since so many people are grieving in different ways and different times that that's a need."

Shattuck Bernstein reflected on a grief retreat she'd attended, noting that the most powerful part of the experience was being with others who'd had similar experiences. She said that aspect of the program is one reason the idea for Grieving and Weaving appealed to her.

She also shared a couple of ways the program fits into the library's programming overall.

"One thing that this reflects is trying to offer resources and programs that aren't easily available somewhere else already and emphasizing reaching people/groups of people who might



NEW HAVEN RESIDENT Jen Grilly, shown here working on a knitting project, recently helped establish the new Grieving and Weaving program at the New Haven Community Library. The offering is aimed at providing a space for community members to connect with others who are grieving and enjoy the healing benefits of crafting together.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

not already be easily accessible resources," Shattuck Bernstein said. "Also, one of my favorite things is to jump on awesome ideas community members have, especially if they want to volunteer to help facilitate!"

Grilly and Shattuck Bernstein held the first Grieving and Weaving gathering at the library in September, and a second event is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 21, at 6 p.m.

All are welcome to attend the gatherings, and participants can bring any type of craft or project to work on.

"I think it can be open to anybody grieving any kind of loss and any kind of project that is helping them heal," Grilly said.

The goal is to eventually offer Grieving and Weaving gatherings monthly, depending on community members' interest.

Grilly and Shattuck Bernstein noted a key part of the offering is just letting residents know such a space is out there and available to them.

"Even if somebody never comes but they just saw, 'Oh, there are other people going through something similar,' or maybe someday they want to (attend)," Shattuck Bernstein said.

They envision the program will be fairly free-form to start out, but could eventually incorporate reading a book together or bringing

in community members with expertise in different areas related to grief and loss.

"Definitely we're not mental health professionals; we're not guiding people through grief or anything," Shattuck Bernstein noted. "We're just a place to build community and talk."

Ultimately, Shattuck Bernstein and Grilly hope the gatherings provide a space for community members to connect with others going through similar things.

"(Providing) the metaphorical space and the physical space — but just where people can find each other in that space," Grilly said.

MORE AT THE LIBRARY

Grieving and Weaving is one of several offerings at the New Haven Community Library, which hosts a variety of events and programs each month. Recent events have included a presentation by Vergennes boatbuilder Douglas Brooks, a college application essay workshop with Middlebury College admissions staff, and a story and snack time with WIC.

"I try to do a lot by partnerships," Shattuck Bernstein said of the library's offerings. "I'm always trying to do a range of different things."

The New Haven Community Library recently added a new library assistant position for four hours per week. The new role will help tackle a variety of responsibilities at the library, such as supporting patrons and assisting different aspects of library services and programs.

More information about that role and other library happenings can be found at www.nhcl.org.

"I want people to feel like there's a space for them wherever they are in this grief process, and that their grief is valid and real and there are people out there who understand."

— Jen Grilly

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The Department of English and the Creative Writing Program at Middlebury College welcome Professor Emeritus John Elder for a talk:

Gathering at the Table
 A Personal Account of Poetry and Community in the Face of Loss

John Elder returns to the Middlebury College community to share reflections about how poems by Emily Dickinson and the 8th-century writer Du Fu have helped him arrive at a more resolute response to this challenging moment in American history.

Wednesday, November 20th
4:30-5:30pm
 Axinn Abernethy Room
 15 Old Chapel Road
 Refreshments will be served.
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Middlebury College

Contact mjohnsen@middlebury.edu with questions

Salisbury

(Continued from Page 1A)
of onsite water and septic systems. Right now, use of the town hall's second floor is limited to 50 people, based on the lack of a second egress.

"It's incredibly exciting," Kate Williams, chair of the Salisbury Library Board of Trustees, said of the impending upgrades. "We owe a big debt of gratitude to the Vermont Department of Libraries."

Williams is referring to a \$978,807 grant that the state agency awarded to the Salisbury town hall/library project last month. That federally sourced money — paired with a \$200,000 historic preservation grant from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) — will together cover a town hall renovation plan that will "make both floors of the building available and comfortable for all," according to Deb Brighton, a community volunteer who's helped advance

the project. Renovations, according to Brighton, will include:

- Drilling a well and constructing a wastewater system.

"Raising that kind of money in a small community like Salisbury ... would have been a huge slog and unlikely to happen — especially with people so concerned about rising property taxes."

— Kate Williams

Neighboring property owners Glenn and Barbara Andres, as well as Merle and Kathryn Schloff, have agreed to donate easements for the construction of an off-site well and septic system. This, along with the big grants, were key in breaking the decades-long logjam for the town hall project, officials said.

- Bringing potable water into the building and installing an ADA-compliant restroom.
- Constructing an ADA-compliant

entrance.

- Creating a parking spot close to the access ramp.
- Installing a lift to the second floor, which library officials would like to see more actively used by patrons for quiet reading, added bookshelves and occasional

special events.

"That upstairs is a beautiful space," Williams said.

- Providing an internal staircase to be used as a second egress.
- Retrofitting for energy efficiency.
- Buttressing the basement walls and improving drainage.
- Strengthening the structure and making related repairs.

Each of the town hall's two floors is roughly 1,500 square feet.

Vermont Integrated Architecture of Middlebury has been planning the town hall repairs, while Jason Larocque and Jeremy Rathbun have done pro bono work on the water/wastewater design, Brighton said.

YEARS IN THE MAKING

To say the project has been a long time coming would be an understatement.

Salisbury created a Town Hall Committee back in 2009. In 2011, the community commissioned a preliminary study by Jeremiah Parker, an architectural historian. Since then, Salisbury residents have voted modest, annual appropriations to a town hall renovation fund.

In 2017, the town commissioned a Salisbury Town Hall Feasibility Study, prepared by Wagner Development Partners. That study concluded that, among other things, there was adequate space on the property on which to locate a drilled well and septic tank; better building access could be achieved through a combination of site grading and a ramp leading into the front entrance; an additional stairwell would be added at the back of the building; and there were excellent opportunities to increase energy efficiency and lower operating costs in the building by installing insulation, new or rehabilitated windows, and taking other weatherization measures.

Wagner Development Partners at the time estimated repair costs at \$458,000, to be raised through a combination of loans, grants, in-kind contributions and local fundraising.

The bad news is that construction costs have risen appreciably since



KATHY DICK, WHO runs a book club, and her daughter Christina Dick Slater display books at the Salisbury Free Public Library, which will use funds from a \$1 million grant for extensive renovations to the building, which hosts the library and meeting space upstairs.

Independent photos/Steve James

the 2017 study. The good news is that the Vermont Department of Libraries, or VDL, and VHCB grants are expected to cover project costs without the town having to search for additional revenues.

Williams recalled delivering news of the VDL funding to the town selectboard last month.

"It was fun to see their faces," she recalled of the board members' reactions.

Absent the two grants, it was unclear when — or even if — the town hall repair plan would get off the ground.

"Raising that kind of money in a small community like Salisbury ... would have been a huge slog and unlikely to happen — especially with people so concerned about rising property taxes," Williams said.

So with the money in place, what happens next? Plans call for the project to be put out to bid in January, leading to a spring construction start and completion of work before the end of 2025, Williams noted.

A lot must be accomplished before spring, however. Officials are committed to ensuring the

continuation of library services through construction. This will mean landing temporary spots for book storage and library operations

"We are looking at local options where we could keep our library hours, have events and a limited selection of books available," Williams said.

The Salisbury Congregational Church at nearby 853 Maple St. is among the mix of interim library options, officials said.

Glenn Andres, a historian of considerable renown, is the chair of the Salisbury Town Hall Committee. He's thrilled to see the stars

finally align for a project that's seen its share of setbacks through the years.

"We're speechless," he said of the reaction to the VDL windfall.

It was a tiny grant, through the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, that led to the huge grants. The planning commission money allowed Salisbury to hire Elizabeth Curry of CommonLand Solutions LLC to work with Brighton on the Salisbury Town Hall's successful VDL grant application.

Asked to sum up his feelings about where the Salisbury project currently stands, Andres said, "It feels like we're at the top of the first hill on a rollercoaster."

Renovation of the historic town hall is just the latest in a recent string of major community achievements in Salisbury this year. The Middlebury Area Land Trust recently unveiled its Salisbury Mills project — a series of walking trails, two crossings of the Leicester River, wayfinding signs and a variety of interpretive materials — all aimed at showcasing sites on an 80-acre parcel in town where some of the town's earliest settlers harnessed waterpower to fuel thriving cotton, lumber and other industries that have receded into time and decay.

In August, the new Salisbury Family Center opened its doors in a portion of the town's former elementary school building at 25 Schoolhouse Road.

Meanwhile, efforts to solidify the Salisbury Congregational Church as a community center are gaining momentum.

"It has been a long time coming, but suddenly things are happening in Salisbury," Brighton said.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



SALISBURY FREE PUBLIC Library Director Alissa Shethar shows some of the books available at in the community's historic town hall building at 918 Maple St. Salisbury's long effort to repair the building, which has long hosted the local library, is expected to bear fruit next year with a major renovation of the structure.

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Election reaction

(Continued from Page 1A)
 MiddVotes efforts and first-year students frequently checking in on a residence hall pledge challenge.
 “I would go as far as to say that Middlebury now has a strong culture of voting. Students not only see it as a privilege, but treat it as a responsibility,” Tazabekova said.
 Tazabekova was a speaker at a community conversation hosted at Town Hall Theater on Tuesday, where over 50 people gathered to discuss the results of the elections and next steps.

The “Good Talks: Election Reflection” event was sponsored by Middlebury College’s Kathryn Wasserman Davis Collaborative in Conflict Transformation and is the latest in a series of such events, which feature a brief overview on a topic from an expert and structured conversations in small groups led by a facilitator.

Tazabekova was one of three panelists who started things off with remarks on Tuesday, along with State Sen. Ruth Hardy, D-Middlebury, and Middlebury College political science professor Bert Johnson.

“I first want to acknowledge some of the emotions that have come with this election and with the results of the election,” Sen. Hardy said. “I know lots of people are feeling sadness, and some people are feeling elation and excitement ... Right now, I’m feeling determined and grateful,

and I just want to make sure that everybody feels OK and safe to feel whatever they’re feeling about the election and about the results and about what happened before and after last Tuesday.”

Tazabekova described the experience at the college.

“The last week has been filled with a lot of energy and emotion, but for me the long haul really started the moment I got back to campus (in late August),” she recalled. “We did voter registration drives almost every week, in the last month twice a week. We helped over 200 students send absentee ballots back home, a lot of them from the New England area but a couple from Arkansas, Texas, Michigan, Missouri, California.”

Tazabekova acknowledged that election excitement on campus can’t all be a direct result of MiddVotes’ civic engagement efforts, as this election is generally viewed as one of the most consequential elections in American history.

“However, it is reasonable to say that we have substantially helped generate excitement and education surrounding absentee voting,” she added.

COLLEGE TURN OUT

Tazabekova told the *Independent* that MiddVotes has traditionally held voter registration drives and offered absentee voting assistance.

“However, one of my goals when I became president of MiddVotes

GOP fortunes improve

ADDISON COUNTY — Local Democrats’ political fortunes took a significant hit on Nov. 5 after they’d executed — for the first time ever — a clean sweep of all the county’s Vermont House and Senate seats in 2022.

The county’s delegation now includes three Republicans — state Sen.-elect Steve Heffernan of Bristol, along with Ferrisburgh’s Rob North in the Addison-3 House district and Jim Casey of Hubbardton in the Addison-Rutland district.

Heffernan in January will become the county’s first

Republican state senator since 2002. That’s when longtime GOP incumbent Tom Bahre of Addison was defeated by the late Gerry Gossens, a Salisbury Democrat.

Republicans last controlled a majority of the county’s Statehouse seats back in 2000. The delegation then included Bahre in the Senate, along with former GOP state Reps. Craig Scribner of Bristol, Ward Mann of Leicester, Connie Houston of Ferrisburgh, Harvey Smith of New Haven, Mark Young of Orwell and Dean George of Middlebury.

— John Flowers

was to expand MiddVotes’s reach to community building more generally,” she said. “As such, we have hosted community watch parties for students to watch the presidential and vice presidential debates in the Student Center together.”

Those events were moderated by Johnson and political science professor Matthew Dickinson. Tazabekova noted that over 300 students in total attended those watch parties, and more than 350 students gathered on Election Night to watch results come in.

This fall MiddVotes also hosted a panel with Middlebury College community members who served as delegates at the 2024 Democratic National Convention and worked to strengthen its ties with various cultural organizations on campus to engage historically

disenfranchised groups in local and state politics.

McDow, the communications director for MiddVotes, noted that the organization also works to connect with first-year students and provide them with resources to vote while at college.

“This year we held voter registration drives during the first-year orientation activities and registered around 100 new students in both Vermont and their home states,” McDow said.

MiddVotes also organized its second First-year Pledge to Vote Residence Hall Challenge, which asks freshmen to pledge to vote if they are able or commit to other civic engagement activities if not. The residence hall with the most pledges wins a bonfire and doughnuts, McDow said.

“We have found that specifically

engaging with the freshman class creates a new wave of civically engaged and excited voters who want to share that with their peers,” she said.

McDow saw results.

“I was absolutely blown away by the commitment, engagement, and enthusiasm that I saw in the weeks leading up to the election.”

Students’ enthusiasm was reflected in the number of students who took part in MiddVotes offerings this fall. Tazabekova said the organization registered at least 200 students to vote leading up to the election and around 90 college students took advantage of a shuttle service providing rides to the polls on Election Day.

“We heard reports that the Middlebury Rec

Center polling station got a record amount of students registered to vote on the same day,” Tazabekova said.

“A huge block of it voted one way, and a huge block of it voted another way, and to me that was equally empowering because it means that students are getting their voices heard despite being in what could be seen as a bubble of Middlebury.”

Middlebury Town Clerk Karin Mott confirmed that the polling station saw a substantial amount of same-day voter registration on Election Day, anecdotally in the hundreds, but could not say how many of those voters were Middlebury College students. She noted that it’s common to see a lot of same-day registration during presidential election years.

Following Election Day, a variety of different events were held on campus to help students reflect on the election and build community. Tazabekova said she’s been in conversation with college officials about post-election events.

“We hope to engage a wide variety of student organizations to address both the emotional and educational implications of the election results, and MiddVotes will play a critical role in these events,” she said. “We want to give community members (faculty, staff and students alike) space to relieve stress and connect with others emotionally, and learn the potential political, social and economic consequences of a second Trump presidency.”

OTHER TAKEAWAYS

Attendees on Tuesday also heard from Johnson, who offered insight on the election results on the national level from a political scientist’s perspective.

“This election, for all the momentous potential impact that it may have, was not far and beyond what we might have expected given the economic context,” he said. “This was about a 49%-51% election; that is about what economic indicators would have prepared us to expect.”

Johnson provided context on some of the voter trends seen in this year’s election.

“There were some demographic shifts that were in many ways continuations of what we’ve seen before, particularly among Hispanic voters moving farther to the right, people in rural areas moving a little farther to the right, working class people moving a little farther to the right, but these are all continuations of trends that existed beforehand,” he said.

Johnson also offered attendees an idea of what to look for in the months to come, based on what’s occurred during previous presidencies.

“Typically, a new president who is newly elected gets a lot done in the early months of the

term and gets very ambitious, and there’s a lot of enthusiasm, particularly if we have a unified government as we expect to have,” he said. “Then the immediate agenda may peter out, ambitions may get beyond what voters are willing to accept, and there may be a diminishment in enthusiasm among the majority party and a backlash among the minority party, and then the midterm election comes around and that tends to reverberate against the party in power.”

IN ADDISON COUNTY

Hardy spoke with the crowd about how the election played out in Addison County and Vermont, noting that prior to Election Day Democratic lawmakers held a supermajority in both the Vermont House and state Senate.

“After last week, the Democrats had pretty big losses,” she said. “We lost our supermajority in the House and the Senate. We lost six senate seats in the majority.”

Hardy noted that Democrats also lost 18 seats in the Vermont House. In Addison County, GOP candidates unseated two longtime Democratic lawmakers — incumbent state Sen. Chris Bray and Rep. Diane Lanpher of Vergennes.

“After being a completely blue county for the last two years, having a completely blue delegation, we now have a decidedly purple delegation with a mix of Democrats and Republicans,” Hardy said. “I think that says a lot about what’s happening nationwide and a microcosm of what’s happening in our state and in our county.”

Following the election, Hardy said she feels fortunate and grateful to have been re-elected (she was the top vote-getter in her race).

“I’ve been thinking a lot about processing what’s going on; what did I learn and what do I need to focus on, but I’ve also been thinking about how I work with new colleagues,” she said. “I think a lot of that is the conversation that maybe we’ll have tonight; how do we talk with and work with people who have a difference of opinion from us.”



STATE SEN. RUTH HARDY was one of three panelists to speak at a conversation reflecting on the election held this past Tuesday at Town Hall Theater. Attendees heard remarks from Hardy (center) Middlebury College political science Professor Bert Johnson (left) and Middlebury College student Daniza Tazabekova. Then the crowd split up into small groups to discuss the election results and next steps.

Independent photo/Marin Howell

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SARAH BONA, CENTER left, and Amy Griffin, center right, lead the Panther defensive charge on a Bates penalty corner during Saturday's NESCAC semifinal in Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James



PANTHER CAROLINE HAGGERTY attempts to make a play on a ball high in the air near the Bates goal during Saturday's NESCAC semifinal in Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James

Despite NESCAC loss, Panther field hockey to host in NCAA tourney

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — Fifth-seeded Bates on Saturday ended the top-seeded Middlebury College field hockey team's streak of six straight NESCAC playoff championships with a 2-1 upset victory in a Saturday semifinal on the Panthers' Kohn

Field

In a game in which the Panthers had significant statistical advantages (26-5 in shots at goal and 18-6 in penalty corners), the teams traded first-half goals, but Bates converted a penalty stroke early in the fourth quarter for the decisive score. Bates, ranked

No. 14 in NCAA Division III, improved to 11-5 with the victory, but lost in Sunday's NESCAC final to Tufts in a shootout.

Despite the setback, the Panthers still have a shot at their seventh straight NCAA-D-III title: Middlebury received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament

when pairings were announced on Sunday night and will host a four-team sectional this Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday at 11 a.m. the 15-2 Panthers will face the winner of a Wednesday game between Bryn Mawr (14-6) and SUNY Geneseo. At 2 p.m. the winners of

Wednesday games between Johns Hopkins (17-3) and Marywood (14-6), and Cortland (17-1) and Ohio Wesleyan, will meet in the other sectional semifinal on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Saturday's winners will square off on Sunday at 1 p.m. for a berth in the NCAA final four at

Washington & Lee in Lexington, Va.

The NCAA semifinals will be contested on Nov. 22 at noon and 3 p.m., and the final will be held on Nov. 24 at 1 p.m. The other schools hosting sectionals are Williams (14-3), Tufts (16-2) and
(See NCAA, Page 3B)



PANTHER COLIN DUGAN touches the ball around lunging Bowdoin goalie Alex Ainsworth during Middlebury's NESCAC semifinal win this past Saturday, but he saw a Polar Bear defender deny him on the goal line.

Independent photo/Steve James

Connecticut defeats men's soccer, 3-1 Midd's NESCAC run ends; will host NCAA games this weekend

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — No. 6 seed Connecticut College upset the top-seeded Middlebury men's soccer team in Sunday's NESCAC playoff final, 3-1, but the 14-13 Panthers, ranked No. 3 in NCAA Division III in the final regular season poll, will still host an NCAA regional this weekend after being awarded an at-large berth on Monday.

The 10-2-6 Camels earned the NESCAC's automatic NCAA berth after winning the NESCAC postseason title. Middlebury and Connecticut joined a NESCAC parade into the NCAA tournament: Tufts, Williams, Bowdoin, Wesleyan, Hamilton and Amherst also received NCAA bids into the 64-team field.

The Panthers will host Hunter (6-11-2) at 11 a.m. on Saturday, with Rowan (12-4-5) and Vassar (12-3-3) squaring off at 1:30 p.m. The winners will meet at 1 p.m. on Sunday. It is possible the Panthers could also host a sectional the following weekend.

Coach Alex Elias said his team was disappointed this past Sunday

not to claim the NESCAC playoff final, but he acknowledged the Panthers' trouble with their finishing touches, while crediting the Camels.

"I think we created enough chances. We just didn't take them. It's a game of fine margins, and I think they were better in the box than we were," he said. "But it's a good team. They do a lot of things well, and they make it hard to play."

That said, even after Sunday's setback, Elias added the Panthers knew there would be more to play for.

"It's not the end of the road for us," he said. "When you lose and don't end your season, you can fix some things and go on. That's a luxury."

Now it's time to refocus, Elias said after Sunday's game.

"We've got to set our eyes on the next tournament, which is the national tournament, and we have so much confidence we can achieve our goal in the next four weeks," he said. "We've got to get better, and the guys know that, so we'll be OK."

SUNDAY FINAL

The Camels' best early chance came in the fifth minute on a foray deep into the Panther box by Gavin Vanden Berg, but Middlebury center back William O'Brien dispossessed him.

Three minutes later Panther Tyler Payne one-timed a Kyle Nilsson feed from the right, but Camel goalie Peter Silvester was well positioned to make the first of his seven saves.

In the 13th minute O'Brien and fellow center back Liam Madden both blocked dangerous bids by Matt Scoffone. Five minutes later Scoffone broke loose, but Panther goalie Joey Waterman took his shot off his chest for one of his five saves.

Connecticut College struck first at 21:38. Marco Perugini broke in from the left past two defenders and laced a shot home from just inside the box.

Ari Klayman equalized for the Panthers five minutes later. Colin Dugan served a corner from the left that Klayman nodded in low off the far post.

(See Mens' soccer, Page 2B)

OV's football title hopes dashed

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ST. JOHNSBURY — Top-seeded Woodstock dashed the No. 4 seeded Otter Valley football team's dreams of a Division III title on Saturday, rolling to a record-setting 65-14 victory.

The 9-0 Wasps led by 46-0 at the half on the way to setting a record for points scored in a Vermont football final in any division. Burr & Burton held the previous record of 63. Woodstock's 12th title also tied the Hartford and Bellows Falls programs for most overall titles in

all divisions in state history.

Woodstock back Caeden Perreault led the Wasp attack with seven rushing attempts for 163 yards and three touchdowns. Wasp QB Aksel Oates threw TD passes of 42 yards to Carter Warren and 23 yards to Ben Runstein. Warren also rushed for a 33-yard TD rush, and Runstein returned a kickoff 74-yards for a score. Wasp back Vincent Petrone added nine carries for 87 yards, and a touchdown, and Raymond Petrone and Boyd Schaefer added rushing touchdowns.

In the second half, OV quarterback Zac Dragon tossed a 55-yard TD pass to Dominyk Waite, and Isaac Whitney ran into the end zone from a yard out.

The Otters are a young team with only four seniors: Whitney, running back/linebacker Addison Boynton, running back/defensive back Noel Pearsons, and offensive lineman/linebacker Kyle Pockett. They reached the final by upsetting undefeated top seed Fairfax-Lamoille the previous Saturday after defeating No. 5 Mill River at home in the quarterfinal round.

Middlebury football falls to Tufts Season ends with a 17-7 loss to the Jumbos

MEDFORD, Mass. — The Middlebury football team closed its season on Saturday with a 17-7 loss to Tufts. The Panthers wrapped up a successful campaign with a 6-3 record.

The Panthers finished fourth in NESCAC, while Tufts (7-2) finished in a second-place tie with Trinity. Wesleyan (8-1) defeated the Bantams on Saturday to claim the NESCAC title.

Middlebury had a chance to take a first-quarter lead, but the day's stiff breeze pushed Zach Levy's 32-yard field goal attempt wide.

The Jumbos took the lead on the first drive of the second stanza. Following a few rushing plays from quarterback Michael Berluti, Berluti found Keller Rogers for a

34-yard touchdown reception, and the point-after made it 7-0.

On the following drive, Jumbo Ty Richardson intercepted a pass by Panther QB Brian Moran and Tufts ended up with a 26-yard field goal that made it 10-0.

With six seconds left in the first half Levy's 43-yard field goal attempt fell short, and the Jumbos went into the break up 10-0.

With six minutes left in the third quarter, Tufts also missed a 33-yard field goal attempt.

Middlebury broke through on a 13-play, 80-yard drive that culminated with a score four seconds into the final stanza: Connor McClellan rushed 30 yards into the end zone and a Levy kick
(See Panther football, Page 3B)

Girls' soccer all stars chosen from across the county

ADDISON COUNTY — Seventeen members of the Mount Abraham, Middlebury, Vergennes and Otter Valley girls' soccer teams received postseason recognition from either the Lake Division or the Southern Valley League B Division.

Four of those players also earned Division II all-state honors: from MUHS, senior defender Merideth Horne and junior midfielder and defender Solstice Binder; from Mount Abe, junior defender and midfielder Isla Underwood; and from OV, sophomore midfielder Allie Charbonneau.

Named to the Lake Division First Team from Mount Abe were Underwood, Mackenzie Griner and Whitney Dykstra.

From MUHS, Binder and Horne received Lake First Team honors. Binder was also named the Lake Division Defensive Player of the Year.

From OV, Charbonneau, Mallee Richardson and Savanna Cook made the SVL B Division First Team.

Named to the Lake Second team from Mount Abe were Louisa Painter, Lauren Cousino, Hazel Guillemette, Rosemary, Behounek and Payton Shepard.

Tiger Jazmyrn Hurley and Commodores Adeline Smith and Ava Francis also earned Second Team Lake honors.

Earning Honorable Mention for the SVL B Division were Otters Michelle Hendee and Tegan Boynton.

Score BOARD

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS	
Football	
D-III Final at St. Johnsbury	
11/9 #2 Woodstock vs #4 OV	65-14
COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Soccer	
NESCAC Final Four at Midd	
11/9 #2 Midd vs #8 Bowdoin	1-0
11/9 #6 Conn vs #4 Williams	2-1
11/10 Conn vs Midd	3-1
Field Hockey	
NESCAC Final Four at Midd	
11/9 #5 Bates vs #1 Midd	2-1
11/9 #3 Tufts vs #2 Williams	2-2
(Tufts Wins Shootout)	
11/10 Tufts vs Bates	0-0
(Tufts Wins Shootout)	
Football	
11/9 Tufts vs Midd	17-7

Schedule

COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Soccer	
NCAA Regional at Midd	
11/16 Hunter vs Midd	11 AM
11/16 Rowan vs Vassar	1:30 PM
11/17 Final	1 PM
Field Hockey	
NCAA Regional at Midd	
11/16 TBD Wednesday vs Midd	11 AM
11/16 Teams TBD Wednesday	2 PM
11/17 Final	1 PM
Men's basketball	
11/16 Midd at U St. Joseph	1 PM
Women's Basketball	
11/16 Midd vs Milliken	5 PM
11/17 Midd at U Chicago	3 PM
Women's Hockey	
11/15 Midd at Hamilton	7 PM
11/16 Midd at Hamilton	3 PM
Men's Hockey	
11/15 Bowdoin at Midd	7 PM
11/16 Colby at Midd	3 PM

What I saw in the woods

It was the third and final morning to hunt with my uncle Jerry during New Hampshire's muzzleloader season. We were working the hardwood forests on and around his land, across the Connecticut River from (but still within sight of) Vermont's Mount Ascutney). Although his trail cams had shown a lot of recent deer movement on his property, including several antlered bucks, on the first two days of our hunt we had seen very little — perhaps because of the strange weather patterns, including some unusually warm air for November. I'd spotted one spikehorn an hour before dusk on the first evening, and Jerry had jumped another buck that had bounded off showing only its muscular rump and bouncing white flag. That was it.

So on our third morning, we left his land and made our way well before dawn to a ridge heavily forested with oak about a mile away by crow flight and a little farther by road. It was the same ridge where I had harvested some free-range antibiotic-free venison during the muzzleloader season two years earlier, so my hopes were high for success. I dropped Jerry off on one corner of ridge about a half mile from one of his stands, and I drove his truck back around to the other side, where I hiked into the stand. Shortly before legal twilight, I climbed up this ladder and clipped my harness to a loop on the tree.

The morning was beautiful: too warm for whitetails in their dark winter coats to be roaming about, but a lovely day to sit in the woods and watch the sun rise over the hills across the way. A barred owl called from across the swamp below me. Faint

answers came from farther in the distance. As the sky and woods grew lighter, gray squirrels came out to play, while the braying of a domestic donkey echoed across the valley. Woodpeckers went to work. Blue jays scolded the squirrels.

Two hours after I sat down on my little metal seat a dozen feet above the ground, my phone vibrated with a text alert. Jerry was starting to move. The prearranged plan was for him to work his way along the ridge on the other side of the swamp until he was roughly parallel with me, with the hopes that a whitetail buck might sense him coming and flee across the swamp straight toward me. His text was simpler. "Starting the push ... Guessing about 45 minutes plus or minus."

His plan worked, though not quite the way he hoped. Forty minutes after his text, I'm still sitting in my stand alert for any animal activity around me. My butt is getting sore, but at least I'm not cold. I hear a sound from the slope across the swamp. Something large is moving through the dried leaves on the forest floor. My eyes focus in the direction of the sound and zero in on a small gap in the trees where I can see the ground 300 yards away. Just as they do, a large dark object scurries through that patch and then disappears again into the understory.

It was just enough glimpse to know what is coming. I set down my muzzleloader and immediately pull out my phone and start videoing. A few seconds later, a black bear sow appears running down the slope at a fast pace — presumably

fleeing the sound or scent of my uncle, though Jerry never actually saw the bear. And a half second later, two little spring cubs bound down the hill after their mother. Still moving at a fast run, the three of them bolt across the swamp on a strip of high dry ground, coming straight toward me. Without slowing, they climb right up the slope where I'm

seated. Not a dozen yards from the base of my stand, the sow finally stops and looks back over her shoulder to see if whatever threat she had sensed is in pursuit. When no sign of pursuit appears, she decides to rest from her morning exercise. She walks almost to my stand, and without ever looking up into the tree where I sit watching her, she spends the next two minutes catching her breath while her tireless cubs explore the area. Finally, the three of them amble off in a more leisurely pace on up the hill behind me.

A few minutes later, my phone buzzes again with another text from Jerry. "I'm in the swamp and almost out."

When Jerry arrives, I climb down from my stand to meet him. I show him the video and several photos I took of the bears so I can enjoy the experience again and he can enjoy it vicariously. We walk back to the pickup and drive back to his house. That afternoon and evening I hunt his meadow again. I don't harvest anything, but I realize that I don't need to. The season has already been a success. As I drive back across the river into Vermont and head home, I think how the day was the perfect illustration of why I spend time in the woods.



MATTHEW DICKERSON



THE COLUMNIST AND his uncle had a plan for flushing deer out of the underbrush during a recent hunt. As sometimes happens, a different kind of wildlife arrived at the deer stand — a mother bear and her two cubs.

Photo by Matthew Dickerson

MUHS volleyballers tapped as all-stars

Tigers' Morrissey chosen as top coach in Division II

MIDDLEBURY — Four members of the Middlebury Union High School girls' volleyball team and their coach received postseason recognition after the second-year varsity team posted an 11-5 record that included a run to the quarterfinal round of the

statewide tournament. Making the Lake/Capital Division Girls All-State First Team were senior Emma Morrissey, who plays the libero role on the team, and senior setter Ronan Young. Earning Second Team recognition was senior outside

hitter Aven Frankovic. Sophomore Tenny Laroche earned Honorable Mention for her work on defense. Program Coach Bethany Morrissey was named Coach of the Year of the Lake/Capital Division.



MIDDLEBURY'S KYLE NILSSON heads in the game's only goal in the Panther men's soccer team's NESCAC semifinal win over Bowdoin this past Saturday.

Independent photo/Steve James

Mens' soccer

(Continued from Page 1B) Middlebury controlled most of the rest of the half. In the 32nd minute Silvester blocked a Nilsson shot from the right, and the rebound bounced to Hugo Horwitz moving in from near the penalty stripe. Horwitz's shot ricocheted between Silvester's legs and rolled toward the goal line, but the goalie scrambled back to cover the ball before it crossed the stripe.

Three minutes later, Dugan sent another corner from the left into the box, but Nilsson's header banged off the crossbar.

The Camels took the lead 10 minutes after halftime. Panther back Owen Davis made a goal-line save, but Sam Boehm collected the rebound near the top of the box and sent it goalward. Vanden Berg redirected it out of the air into the bottom left corner.

Klayman almost tied the game 15 minutes into the half. He worked past two Camels and fired at the lower right corner, but Silvester dove for the save.

The Panthers pressed, with five corner kicks over the dozen minutes, but failed to develop a serious threat. One last opportunity came in the 76th minute. Silvester turned aside a Horwitz bid, but it bounced to an open Dugan with some open net beckoning — but his shot sailed it over the bar. The Camels padded their lead

less than a minute later. Elliot Spatz controlled on the top left of the box and beat three defenders as he worked across the 18 before turning and firing a bullet back into the lower left corner at 13:45.

Middlebury earned two more corners and a dangerous free kick. Silvester made a routine save on an O'Brien header and snared the other two serves as he commanded the box, and time ran out on the Panthers.

"Conn started the game playing well, got a good goal," Elias said. "I thought we fought back well, had a lot of momentum from our goal to the end of the first half. They were really clinical in the second half and did some things well."

Ultimately, Elias said, it came down to finishing. "The keeper made some good saves. We were very close on a couple, but we have ultimately to be better," he said.

SATURDAY SEMIFINAL

On Saturday, Nilsson netted a header in the 36th minute that proved to be the only of the semifinal with feisty No. 8 seed Bowdoin.

The 7-5-5 Polar Bears, who had upset top seed Tufts in penalty kicks, played strong defense, moved the ball well, and forced Waterman to make eight saves.

Middlebury also created threats, but only managed three shots on

target, one saved by Bowdoin goalie Alex Ainsworth and one blocked by a defender.

Waterman had a save in the first minute, reacting quickly to a free kick that Polar Bear Jack Banks deflected on target. In the first 11 minutes Dugan also just missed wide twice.

In the 19th minute, Banks sent a header at the bottom right corner, but Waterman was there to snare it.

The Panthers then took control of the game for the next 15 minutes with better poise and ball movement, and it paid off with the goal.

From the left, Keagan Harder sent a ball toward the goalmouth. Nilsson dove through a crowd and headed against the grain into the bottom left corner.

The Panthers had a chance late in the half. Dugan worked past three Polar Bears and had an open goal, but defender Paul Surkov dove to block the ball with his back in the center of the net. Another Panther had a shot at the rebound, but skied it over the bar.

Late in the half, Waterman tipped a long Surkov bid over the bar. Bowdoin had chances in the second half, but Tyler Payne blocked one early, and Waterman denied Tyler Huck and Keito Ishibashi to secure his 10th shutout of the fall and the Panthers' berth in Sunday's final.

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NCAA

(Continued from Page 1B)

Salisbury (15-2).

SATURDAY GAME

Certainly, the Panthers opened well in this past Saturday's NESCAC semifinal setback. Just 1:11 after the game started, Amy Griffin ripped a reverse sweep shot that found the cage's left side.

Middlebury almost doubled its advantage at 7:44, but Bobcat defender Haley Dwight made a defensive save on a bid by Lilly Branka. Nearly four minutes later, another Bates defensive save, this by Amy LaBelle, denied a Caroline Segal blast.

With 1:34 gone in the second quarter, Bates knotted the contest on a penalty corner. Panther goalie Izzy Redzic stopped the initial shot, but Brooke Moloney-Kolenberg tapped in the loose ball on the rebound.

Seven minutes later on a Middlebury penalty corner, Dwight made another defensive save on Branka, and it remained 1-1 at the half.

Panther Georgianne Defeo had a bid five minutes into the second half, but Bates goalie Ava Donohue blockered away her high shot.

Just 53 seconds into the final frame, Panther defender Ellie Hughes made a defensive save on a rocket from Bobcat Anna Lindeis.

But Panther goalie Madeline DiLemme, who played the second half, could not stop Bobcat Anna Cote's penalty stroke less than a minute later, at 1:35 of the final period: Cote whipped the ball into the lower right corner, just out of the reach of DiLemme's blocker.

Middlebury pressured Bates in the quarter, earning 10 penalty corners, but could not equalize, even with DiLemme pulled for another field player for the final three-plus minutes.

The setback ended Middlebury's home winning streak at 25 games.

Griffin's goal moved her into a tie for sixth all-time on Middlebury's career points list with 155 (54 goals, 43 assists).



BOBCAT ANNA COTE'S fourth-quarter penalty stroke is just out of the reach of Panther freshman goalie Madeline DiLemme in Saturday's NESCAC semifinal. Cote's tiebreaking score held up as the game-winner.

Independent photo/Steve James



PANTHER SENIOR KATHERINE Lantzy carries the ball upfield with two Bates players in pursuit during Saturday's NESCAC semifinal in Middlebury.

Independent photo/Steve James

Boys' soccer all-stars picked

Twenty-five county athletes tapped for postseason honors

ADDISON COUNTY — Twenty-five members of the Mount Abraham, Middlebury and Vergennes union high school boys' soccer teams received postseason recognition from the six-team Lake Division.

Five also earned all-state honors. From MUHS, junior goalie Jonathan Kafumbe and senior midfielder Ollie Choudhury and from Mount Abe senior forward Aricin Griffin and junior midfielder Liam Lazare were named Division II all-state players. VUHS junior defender Riker Mosehauer was named a Division III all-state player.

Nine Lake all-stars came from the Eagles, who finished second with eight league wins; 10 from MUHS, tied for fourth with three league wins; and six from sixth-place VUHS.

Three Eagles earned first-team honors: Griffin and juniors James Graziadei and Lazare.

Three Tigers were also named to the first team: seniors Ian Sinclair and Choudhury, and junior Kafumbe.


Commodores on the Lake first team were senior Owen Collette and junior Mosehauer.

Earning spots on the second team were Eagle juniors Evan Audy and Johnny Stanley.

Senior Ethan Croke was the only Commodore named to the second team.

From Middlebury, sophomore Annan Duquette-Hoffman and juniors Benjamin Longman and Theodore Fallis made the second team.

Receiving Honorable Mention from Mount Abe were senior Riley Coffey, juniors Evan Corrigan and Maverick Livingston, and sophomore Rowan Clark; from Vergennes, seniors Reese Paquette and Spencer Gebo and sophomore Colton Reed; and from Middlebury senior Joshua Kafumbe, juniors Barlow McWilliams and Oscar Drake, and sophomore Noah Gillespie.



Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 14:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck


Friday, November 15:
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Tuesday, November 19:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

Thursday, November 21:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

Many public skating events are held each week.

See our website for latest schedules.



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Andy Kirkaldy Matt Dickerson Karl Lindholm

SPORTS WE'VE GOT IT COVERED!

Panther football

(Continued from Page 1B)

made it 10-7.

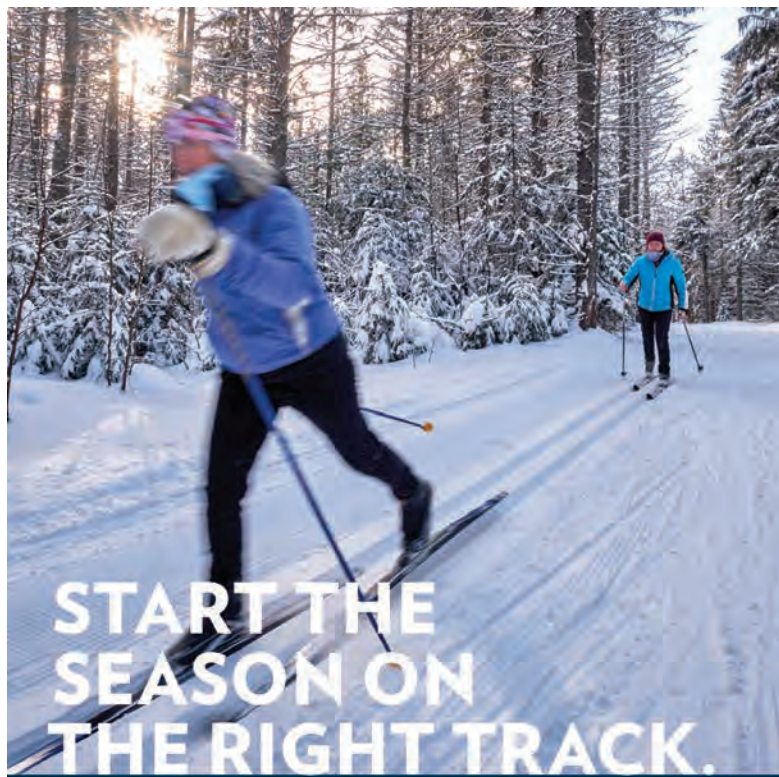
Senior Luke Leongas then came in for Berluti and orchestrated a 12-play, 75-yard drive capped off by Leongas finding Cade Moore for a seven-yard touchdown strike to make it 17-7 with 7:17 remaining.

Both teams traded possessions until the Panthers had their final chance with 2:14 left at its 41-yard line. But after a first-down sack, a fourth-down pass from Moran to Jeremy Kiefer came up four yards short, and Tufts knelt three times

to clinch the 17-7 victory.

Panther senior Patrick Jamin caught six passes for 53 yards and moved into fifth place all-time in career receiving yards with 1,995, and McClellan, a freshman, ran for a career-best 126 yards.

On the other side of the ball, senior Teddy Daniel had a pass breakup and a career-high 11 tackles, while senior Tomás Kenary's five solo tackles gave him more than 100 for his career. He also extended his school record in tackles for loss (50) and lost yardage (267).



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Volunteers made our city beautiful

Three Cheers for Volunteers! Volunteerism and community service is alive and well in the Little City. The downtown's cascades of hanging baskets, bump-outs and City Park floral displays have warmed the hearts of locals and visitors alike. Three cheers for Kelly Sweeney who masterminds the overall plan, along with additional volunteers, Christine Garrow and Lisa Godfrey. Special thanks to the

Leo Lions of Vergennes who swooped in this spring, then again this fall, to save the day as we prepared for the season ahead. Vergennes, the Little City with the Big Heart, owes a huge debt of thanks to all volunteers who are so giving of their time, expertise and muscle too.

Notes of appreciation

Julie Basol
Executive Director
Vergennes Partnership

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- Parent Training & Child Center

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community calendar

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. 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. Also, State Rep. Amy Sheldon will be presented the Silver Feather Award. Free and open to the public, light refreshments served.

History of the Orwell Masonic Lodge in Orwell. Thursday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. John Tester, historian and Freemason, will talk about the 208-year history of the Masonic Lodge in Orwell, highlighting the people and events of Independence Lodge and their impact on the town.

"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.

nov 15 FRIDAY

Financial fraud talk in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 15, 2 p.m., The Residence at Otter Creek, Lodge Rd. Nickolas Kerest, U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont, will give this informational talk on financial fraud education. Free and open to the public.

"The Drowsy Chaperone" on stage in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 15, 7 p.m., Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. See Nov. 14 listing.

nov 16 SATURDAY

Toy swap in Lincoln. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. At the second annual Community Toy Swap in Lincoln, you will find like-new toys, games, puzzles, and other items, all free for the taking. Open to everyone, objectives of the event include providing an opportunity to de-clutter your space of items children have outgrown or do not use anymore; keeping things out of the landfill; saving money on holiday gift shopping; and, encouraging community interaction. More info on item donation and what can and cannot be accepted at facebook.com/share/gextfycxXR234R1XH7, ekeenan00@gmail.com or text/call 413-250-9334.

Food Drive for HOPE in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hannaford Supermarket, Court Street Plaza. The Congregational Church of Middlebury will be collecting donations for H.O.P.E.

Wellesley College Carillon in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10-11 a.m., Middlebury Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. Carillonists of the Wellesley College Guild will perform a variety of classical and contemporary music. The carillon is best enjoyed from the lawns surrounding the chapel. Free.

Max Cassano in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Middlebury Farmers Market, VFW, 530 Exchange St. The Middlebury Farmers Market invites you to join enjoy live acoustic music by Max Cassano as you shop local to support local farmers, vendors and musicians.

Story Hour with Ashley Wolff in Orwell. Saturday, Nov. 16, 11 a.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Come join Ashley Wolff, beloved children's book author/illustrator and local artist, for a special story time. Everyone is welcome. There will be ample time to meet the author and enjoy a special snack.

Reflecting on the good things in life in Monkton. Saturday, Nov. 16, 2 p.m., East Monkton Church, Church Rd. Join with others and reflect on the good things in your life. Share what you are thankful for and the value of gratitude. November is the month of Thanksgiving and reminds us to reflect and be grateful. Dress warmly as there are no facilities during the winter months. Cost is by donation.

"The Drowsy Chaperone" on stage in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 16, 2 p.m., Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. See Nov. 14 listing.

Bingo in Vergennes. Saturday, Nov. 16, 5 p.m., St Peter's Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. A family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Sponsored by the St. Peter's Historic Preservation Committee to benefit the ongoing restoration efforts for the bell tower and the Church.

nov 17 SUNDAY

All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast in Addison. Sunday, Nov. 17, 7-11 a.m., Addison Fire Station, junction Routes 17 & 22A. Menu includes: plain and blueberry pancakes, sausage, bacon, home fries, coffee, hot chocolate and orange juice. Cost \$10 adults/\$7 kids under 12. Proceeds help the Addison Volunteer Fire Department to purchase equipment. More info at 802-759-2237.

Chili Cook off and basket raffle in Orwell. Sunday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Farmers Haven, 318 Route 22A. Come try some amazing chili and refuel for the rest of your hunt. Free to enter a chili into the cook off, \$5 per person to taste all chilis and vote. Cash prizes for winners. All proceeds from the basket raffle will be donated to Richard and Katie Shimmel. More info contact Makayla Davis at 802-349-3038 or makayla.davis96@gmail.com.

nov 18 MONDAY

Family sing-along with Liz in Starksboro. Monday, Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m., Starksboro Public Library, 2827



Serving it up

BUSTER GRANT of the Addison Volunteer Fire Department flips blueberry pancakes during one of the department's pancake breakfasts last year. If you missed it, the department will be serving up an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 17, from 7-11 a.m., at the Addison Fire Station, junction of Routes 17 & 22A.

Independent file photo/Steve James

Route 116. Liz sings and plays imaginative, high-energy tunes for kids and their families.

ACORN annual meeting in Middlebury. Monday, Nov. 18, 5:30 p.m., ACORN Food Hub, 616 Exchange St. Be the first to see ACORN Food Hub's new space and hear how ACORN has been getting more fresh, delicious, healthy food into Vermonters' homes and bellies. Light bites provided by farmer-chef Janis Reinke of Frog Hollow Farmstead. A Moth-style local foods storytelling event on the theme of "Showing Up" will follow. Registration at bit.ly/3YbH5W3 is required, and includes a light dinner. No one turned away due to lack of funds.

Ira Allen presentation in New Haven. Monday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 78 North St. A presentation by Kevin Graffagnino, biographer of Ira Allen. Allen played an important role in the founding of Vermont as the 14th state. "He is a complex human being," Graffagnino says of his latest subject. "You don't have to like him. You don't have to admire him. But you've got to put him in the picture."

History of Dart(t) School in Monkton. Monday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m., Community Room, Monkton Town Hall, 92 Monkton Ridge. Join Lauren Parren as she discusses the history of one room schoolhouses in Monkton through the lens of Dart(t) School. She'll point out where all nine schools were, but will focus on Dart(t) to explain changes in educational movements over time. Offered by Monkton Museum and Historical Society.

Middlebury Community Players auditions in Middlebury. Monday, Nov. 18, 7-9 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Auditions for "Morning's at Seven," a Tony Award-winning, heartwarming classic comedy by Paul Osborn. More info at www.middleburycommunityplayers.org/mornings-at-seven.

nov 19 TUESDAY

"Don't Burn Our Future: Clean Power Now!" in Middlebury. Tuesday, Nov. 19, 5 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. Join 350VT Addison volunteer organizers to learn more about what we can do to organize and build political power for a just transition in our community. In these moments of great political uncertainty, getting organized is more important than ever. Dinner provided. No expertise or requirements necessary — just excitement for a green and just future for all.

nov 20 WEDNESDAY

Middlebury Community Players auditions in Middlebury. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7-9 p.m., Middlebury Fitness, 175 Wilson Rd. (Please park on lower level.) Auditions for "Morning's at Seven," a Tony Award-winning, heartwarming classic comedy by Paul Osborn. More info at middleburycommunityplayers.org/mornings-at-seven.

nov 21 THURSDAY

Interlude open house in Middlebury. Thursday, Nov. 21, 3-6 p.m., Marble Works, 99 Maple St., No. 16. Interlude provides an alternative approach to mental health crisis response. Meet the staff and find out about our services, including the use of Intentional Peer Support, Trauma-informed Therapists and the offering of Open Dialogue. Refreshments, music and a free

jewelry workshop, welcomes you to our lovely space. Questions? Call 802-458-8219.

Shape the Sheldon: Community Listening Session and Annual Meeting in Middlebury. Thursday, Nov. 21, 4:30 p.m., Little Seed Coffee, 24 Merchants Row. The Henry Sheldon Museum is embarking on an exciting journey to create a new strategic vision, and they want you to be a part of it. Share feedback, offer suggestions, and help the Sheldon grow as a resource for learning, connection and inspiration. Light refreshments provided. All are welcome. RSVPs appreciated at henrysheldonmuseum.org/events.

Girl Scouts informational meeting in Vergennes. Thursday, Nov. 21, 6-7 p.m., Vergennes Union Elementary School, 43 East St. Girls in grades K-3 and a caregiver are invited to learn about opportunities to get involved in your community. Try out sample activities and see the many ways to get involved in Girl Scouts while having fun. RSVP to 888-474-9686 or customercare@girlscoutsgwm.org — or just drop in. Open to all in the area.

"Turning Stones: Exploring the Life of Water" in Salisbury. Thursday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Salisbury Meeting House, 853 Maple St. Declan McCabe, professor of biology at St. Michael's College will give this presentation on the ecology of freshwater communities, taking "a careful look at the mysteries and life that can be found in a river if you just take the time to look". McCabe will have some live invertebrates that the audience can examine under a microscope.

"Anything Goes" on stage in Bristol. Thursday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, 220 Airport Dr. Come see this high-energy, toe-tapping musical filled with dazzling dance numbers, witty dialogue, and unforgettable songs by Cole Porter. Tickets \$15 adult/\$12 seniors and children under 12, online at cur8.com/22548/project/124217.

nov 22 FRIDAY

"Anything Goes" on stage in Bristol. Friday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, 220 Airport Dr. See Nov. 21 listing.

nov 23 SATURDAY

Food Drive for HOPE in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Shaw's and Middlebury Natural Foods Coop, Washington St. The Congregational Church of Middlebury will collect donations for H.O.P.E.

"Anything Goes" on stage in Bristol. Saturday, Nov. 23, 2 and 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, 220 Airport Dr. See Nov. 21 listing.

nov 24 SUNDAY

Friends of Brandon Free Public Library holiday auction in Brandon. Sunday, Nov. 24, 2 p.m., Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Sq. Offerings from renowned local artists and crafts persons, local business owners, and loyal supporters of the Library. They may include wreaths and holiday decorations, quilts, original artwork and much more. Doors open at noon. A \$1 entry fee is requested for each bid card. Preview Saturday, Nov. 23, 2-5 p.m. Payment by cash or check is preferred, or by credit card for larger purchases.

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Around TOWN

Building Bright futures awards grant money

ADDISON COUNTY — Building Bright Futures has announced a new round of grant recipients for the Vermont Early Childhood Fund totaling \$1.9 million for projects focused on Vermont children and families.

Thanks to these grants, awardees in every region of Vermont will be able to pursue important and innovative projects

Several Addison County organizations were awarded an Opportunity Grant of between \$10,000 and \$80,000, including: The Growing Tree, a program coming to Addison; Junebug, Middlebury; Middlebury Community Music Center, Middlebury; and Otter Creek Child

Center, Middlebury.

BBF received 51 applications from throughout Vermont for the fall 2024 round of VECF grants, and requests far surpassed the available funding. Applications were evaluated through a rigorous process by 26 reviewers, including BBF staff members, parents, nonprofit leaders and state agency representatives from the Office of Racial Equity, Vermont Department for Children and Families - Child Development Division, Vermont Department of Health and Department of Mental Health.

For more information, visit buildingbrightfutures.org/vecf.

Invasive Golden Clam found in Lake Champlain

GRAND ISLE — When a volunteer pulled a suspicious clam from the lakebed in Whitehall, N.Y., as part of a routine monitoring program last month, they immediately reported the find to lake scientists. Further analysis confirmed the first known occurrence of invasive golden clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) in Lake Champlain.

The clam, which is native to the eastern Mediterranean and Asia, can crowd out native species and increase occurrences of cyanobacteria blooms.

The volunteer, working with the Champlain Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Program, made the discovery while conducting a survey at the South Bay boat launch, which is owned and operated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The volunteer reported the find to the Lake Champlain Committee, which operates the monitoring program. Staff from the Patrick Leahy Lake Champlain Basin Program and NYSDEC later confirmed the specimen as golden clam, which has been in the region since 2008 but was previously unknown in Lake Champlain.

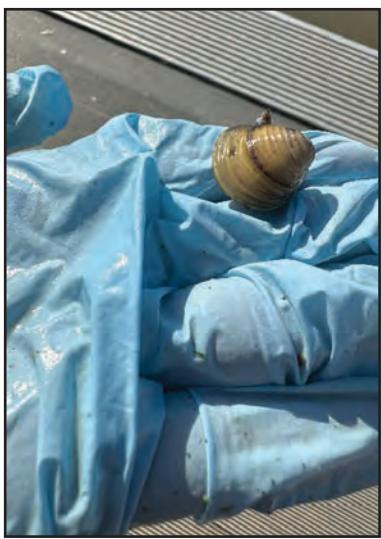
The Lake Champlain Rapid Response Task Force met last week to review potential next steps in responding to the discovery. The LCBP and NYSDEC are assessing the significance of this introduction and conducting further surveys to define the extent of this population.

An established presence of golden clam would bring the number of known nonnative and aquatic invasive species in Lake Champlain to 52. This finding underscores the importance of ongoing efforts to protect the lake's ecosystem and native species through early detection of invasive species.

The golden clam is hermaphroditic, meaning a single individual can reproduce and start a new population in previously uninfested waters. The species is known to reproduce quickly in other waterbodies in northeastern North America.

Golden clam was confirmed in the region in 2008 in Hudson Falls, N.Y., near lock C9 of the Champlain Canal. It has since become established in Lake George, N.Y., in 2010 and Lake Bomoseen, Vt., in 2016. All three waterways drain into the southern portion of Lake Champlain.

Meg Modley, Aquatic Invasive Species Management Coordinator for the LCBP, said, "Lake Champlain is a large lake, and volunteer monitoring can play a critical role in finding new or suspicious species. The discovery of golden clam reinforces the need for all visitors to Lake Champlain to clean, drain, and dry their boats, trailers, and equipment to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive



INVASIVE GOLDEN CLAM

species."

To learn more about the golden clam and aquatic invasive species management, visit the LCBP Aquatic Invasive Species web page at www.lcbp.org.



Thank you, firefighters

CHILDREN FROM Ark Preschool and Kindergarten in Vergennes took a field trip to the Vergennes Fire Department on Nov. 8, where they met firefighters, got to see some big trucks, and became honorary firefighters in their own right.

Photo courtesy of Ark Preschool

OVUHS to offer exploratory welding class

BRANDON — The Otter Valley Unified Union School District recently received a \$114,000 grant funded entirely by the Vermont Department of Labor to enhance hands-on student career exploration opportunities with an introductory welding course. This initiative is one step in early exposure that will help students explore options in our local workforce, increase student engagement through hands-on learning opportunities, and make connections to further educational opportunities both at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

The grant builds on the momentum of the American Welding Society Light a Spark Grant, which OVUUSD received in 2022. That initial grant laid the foundation for bringing welding education to Otter Valley, and this new funding will

take this work to the next level — allowing students to gain even more practical, hands-on experience. This continued support enables OHUUSD to provide students with the tools and knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their pathways to graduation, opening doors to further training with its secondary partner, Stafford Technical Center.

Nationally, the U.S. is projected to face a shortage of 360,000 skilled welding professionals by 2027. Vermont employers are already feeling the pressure, as businesses struggle to fill positions in critical industries. A recent survey of Otter Valley students, grades 7-12, revealed strong interest in welding education, with 70 out of 104 respondents expressing a desire for a short-format welding course.

This demand highlights the need for innovative educational programs that offer career exploration and technical training for Vermont's next generation of workers.

The grant will enable Otter Valley schools to build a fully equipped 5-6 booth welding shop, offering students a 50-plus-hour introductory course in welding. The course, designed for 9th- and 10th-graders, will cover fundamental welding techniques, equipment usage, blueprint reading, and welding symbol identification. Students will also complete a hands-on project to demonstrate their new skills. The course is designed to prepare students for further training at regional CTE centers like Stafford Technical Center, where they can continue preparing for their post-secondary lives.

The introductory welding program is targeted to be operational by the fall of 2025. The program has the long-term goal of offering micro-credentials to students' portfolios. OVUUSD will collaborate with the Stafford Technical Center to ensure the curriculum meets industry standards. By equipping students with valuable technical skills, the program aims to place students on a path toward successful secondary training with our partners at the Stafford Technical Center.

Otter Valley is grateful to the team at the Vermont Department of Labor for helping to make the grant possible. This grant will help the district build a state-of-the-art welding facility and re-engage students who are eager to find new ways to learn.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Mount Abraham Union High School

Abigail Parker

Mt. Abraham Union High School has named Abigail Parker as our student of the week. Abigail lives in Monkton with her parents, Karen and George, twin sister Elise, as well as two dogs and a cat. She also has an older sister, Lucy, who attends UVM, and an older brother, Tristan, who is currently living in Alaska.

A recipient of highest academic honors each semester, Abigail has valued the opportunity to personalize her high school experience and pursue courses that benefit her future plans. Her favorite classes include Semester Precalculus with Mr. Foster, Forensic Science with Ms. Dewitt, and AP Literature and Composition with Ms. Grzyb. Notably, her favorite teacher at Mt. Abe was Ms. Mayo "because she always found a way to make learning fun in her classroom, and always found a way to put a smile on your face no matter how you were feeling."

Outside of the classroom, Abigail is very active. A member of the soccer, basketball and softball teams, she was the captain of the varsity softball team last spring. She was also selected to be a member of the Eagle Leadership Society in 11th grade. She volunteers with fellow female BSA Troop 802 members at

different community events and helps out at the local American Legion with their member dinners. Over the summer she works at Full Belly Farm in Monkton. In her spare time, Abigail enjoys playing sports, hiking, swimming, being outside and spending time with her family and friends.

When asked about an important lesson she has learned, Abigail said, "Allow yourself to branch out within the community. Stepping out of your comfort zone and trying new things opens up a world of opportunities. Whether it's joining a new club, trying out for a sports team, or taking a challenging class, each new experience helps you grow. You meet new people, discover hidden talents, and learn more about yourself. Embrace every opportunity to branch out, and you'll find that your school years aren't just about learning from books, but also about discovering who you are and what you can achieve. So remember, the real magic happens when you push yourself beyond what you know."

After high school Abigail plans on attending college and pursuing math as an area of study. The Mt. Abraham community wishes her all the best.



Abigail Parker
MAUHS

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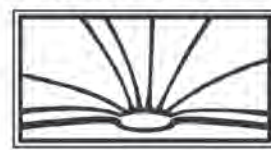
Students of the Week from all area high schools are entered into a raffle to win a \$100 gift card to The Vermont Book Shop. The winner will be chosen at the end of the school year. Students of the Week are chosen by school teachers and administration.

Best of luck to all Addison County students!

If you are interested in advertising in Student of the Week contact advertising@addisonindependent.com

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Abigail

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Congratulations,
Abigail

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Great work, students!



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Keep up the great work,
Abigail



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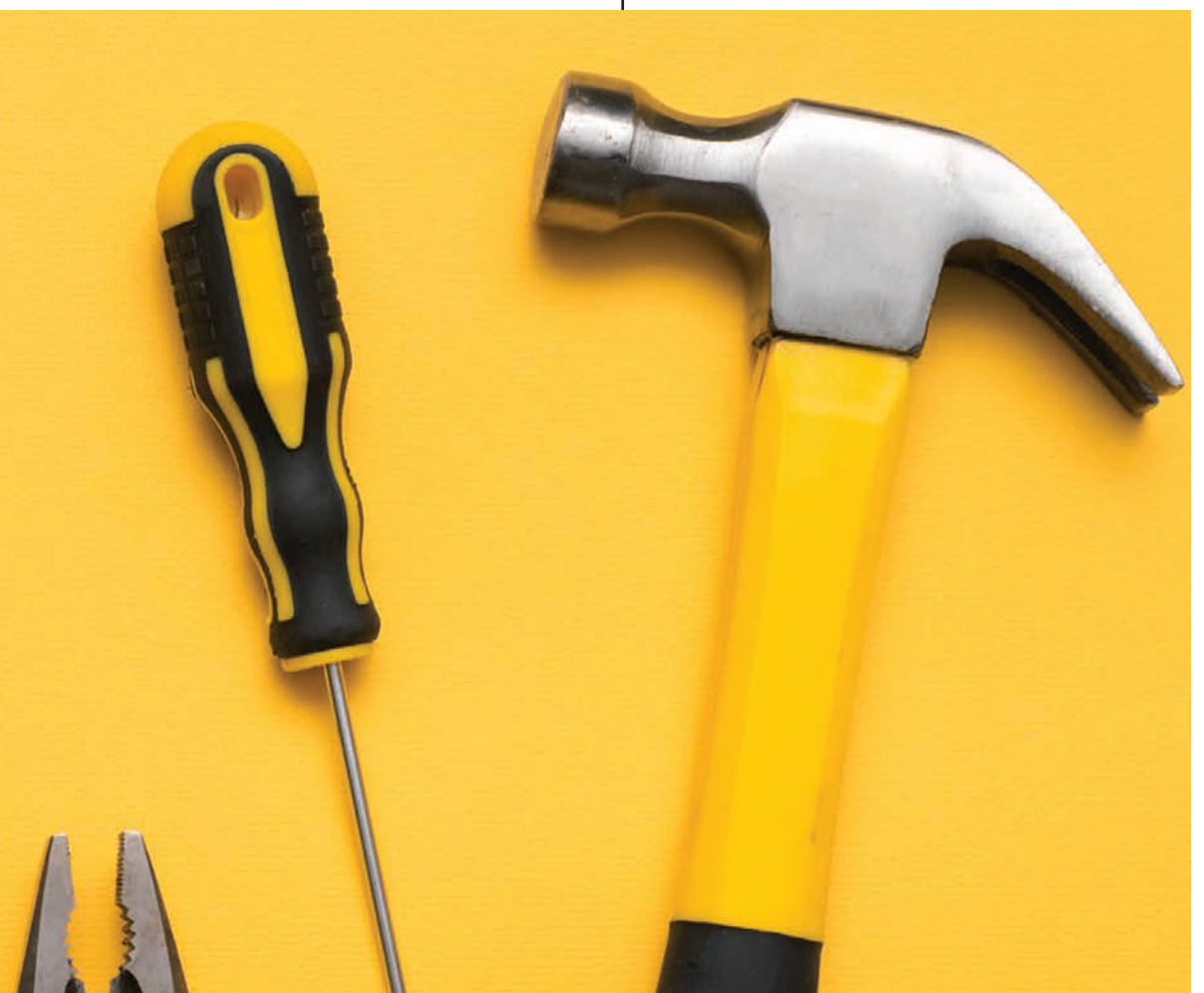
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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aaavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

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Help Wanted

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



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Opportunities

Opportunities

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 - Wood Heat
 - Real Estate
 - Animals
 - Att. Farmers
 - Motorcycles
 - Cars
 - Trucks
 - SUVs
 - Snowmobiles
 - Boats
 - Wanted
 - Real Estate Wanted
 - Vacation Rentals
- *Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted
- ** no charge for these ads Spotlight with large ✓ \$2

PLEASE PRINT YOUR AD...

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

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

RATES

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- \$2 internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

Free

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

Help Wanted

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

Help Wanted

For Sale

PAIR OF 2500W GENERATORS, with kit to combine for 5000W, plus all hoses and regulators. Propane and gas. \$850. for all. 850-520-0941, ronandkayla-due@yahoo.com

PUREBRED ENGLISH MASTIFF PUPPIES

6wks old looking for their forever home. Wormed & first shots! \$1000.00 call or text (802)349-5587

Lawn and Garden

CUB CADET GT2544 with mower, snow blower, small cart, chains and weights. \$1800, cabesette@juno.com

Help Wanted

For Rent

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

ALL REAL ESTATE

advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

COMMERCIAL/OFFICE SPACE

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

FURNISHED ROOM

East Middlebury. Separate entrance. All included; w/d, wifi, kitchen, & parking. Security and references required. \$675 per month. Text Rochell 802-989-8941.

LAKE DUNMORE

Enjoy Vermont at our rustic heated 2BR lakefront cottages now until June 1 by the night, week, or month. 15 minutes to Middlebury and Brandon. Fully equipped kitchens, bathrooms with showers, satellite TV, broadband, comfortable furnishings, plowing, trash collection. For rates: 802-352-4236; karen@northcovecottages.com.

Help Wanted

For Rent

LAKE DUNMORE, 2 bedroom house, winter rental. Efficiency unit. Hooker Road. 802-349-8544.

MIDDLEBURY, OFF CAMPUS HOUSING

available. 802-388-4831, AJ Neri Property Rentals.

VERGENNES VALLEY VIEW APARTMENTS

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

VERGENNES WILLOW APARTMENTS

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

Want to Rent

MATURE SCHOLAR/ARTIST, (with cat) seeks 2-bedroom condo or apartment in or near Middlebury, ideally from January 1. Excellent references. (802) 310-5429.

Wood Heat

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

Real Estate

BUILDING LOT approximately 1/2 acre Daisy Lane, East Middlebury, village water, underground utilities, designed septic. Established neighborhood with Little League field. \$105,000. Tel 802-388-2502. Jack Brown.

Help Wanted

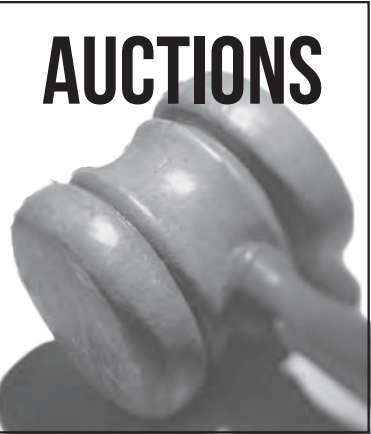
Att. Farmers

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

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

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

Help Wanted



AUCTIONS

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 11/7/24 & 11/11/24

BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$
Nop Bros	1680	1.40	\$2352.00
H. Degraaf	1660	1.33	\$2207.80
Ethan Allen	1440	1.30	\$1872.00
Savello Farm	1990	1.25	\$2584.50
Macglaghlain	1885	1.25	\$2356.25

MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 11/7/24 & 11/11/24

CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$
Deer Valley	90	10.00	\$900.00
Savello Farm	89	10.00	\$890.00
Barnes B&W	97	9.00	\$873.00
Monument	98	6.60 (H)	\$646.80
Conants	89	6.60 (H)	\$587.40

Total Beef - 146 Total Calves - 237

We value our faithful customers.

Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.

call 1-802-388-2661

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 9B and 10B

- 116 Self Storage (1)
- Addison County Solid Waste Management District (1)
- Addison Housing Works (1)
- Ferrisburgh (1)
- Hancock (2)
- New Haven (2)
- Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union (1)
- Tri-Town Water (1)
- Vergennes (1)
- Vergennes Panton Water District (1)

TOWN OF HANCOCK REQUEST FOR BIDS

Seeking bids for 3-year Grading Contract. Bid package available at www.hancockvt.org.

TOWN OF HANCOCK REQUEST FOR BIDS

Seeking bids for 3-year Winter Roads Contract. Bid package available at www.hancockvt.org.

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.

ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on its proposed draft CY2025 Annual Budget on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the ACSWMD Office, 1223 Rt. 7 South, Middlebury, VT, and via Zoom. Zoom log-in instructions will be included on the meeting agenda. For a copy of the meeting agenda and/or proposed draft CY2025 Annual Budget in the District's 2024 Annual Report, please visit the District website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org, or call the District at 802-388-2333.

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF PERSONNEL RECORDS RUTLAND NORTHEAST SUPERVISORY UNION

Brandon, Chittenden, Goshen, Leicester, Mendon, Pittsford, Sudbury, Whiting (RNESU, Otter Valley & Barstow Unified Union School Districts)

Let this serve as notice that Personnel Records of employees who were employed at Barstow Memorial School, Lothrop Elementary School, Neshobe School, Otter Creek Academy (formerly known as Leicester Central, Sudbury Country and Whiting Elementary Schools), or Otter Valley High School in the 1993 and 1994 school years are being destroyed in accordance with Federal, State and Local Guidelines.

Anyone who would like their record should call Kayla Emerson at the RNESU Office at (802)247-5757 prior to December 31, 2024 to make arrangements to pick it up.

Brooke Dahlin
Human Resources Coordinator

TOWN OF BRISTOL FINAL PUBLIC HEARING MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024, 7:00PM

The Firehouse Apartments new construction project received \$585,000.00 from the State of Vermont for a grant under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held at the Bristol Town Offices, One South Street on December 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the range of community development activities that have been undertaken under this program, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine a statement of the use of these funds. The VCDP Funds received have been used to accomplish the following activities:

Construct twenty (20) units of mixed-income housing in three buildings located at 45, 47 and 75 Firehouse Drive, Bristol Vermont. The 16-unit building contains fourteen, one bedroom and two, two-bedroom apartments as well as a management office, community laundry and community room. The two duplex buildings include a total of three, two bedrooms and one, three-bedroom apartments.

The mixed-income development will have three tiers of income targeting – six (6) units will be affordable to households earning less than 50% of the Area Media Income (AMI); ten units will be targeted to households earning less than 60% AMI and four units will be designated to households making up to 120% AMI. In addition, four of the units will be prioritized for households experiencing homelessness.

Information on this project may be obtained from and viewed during the hours of 8:00am and 4:30pm at the Bristol Town Office, 1 South Street, Bristol, VT Monday through Thursday. Should you require any special accommodation please contact Valerie Caples at 802-453-2410 to ensure appropriate accommodation is made. For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) #1-800-253-0191.

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the *Addy Indy*.

addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

TRI-TOWN WATER DISTRICT NO. 1 P.O. BOX 85 BRIDPORT, VERMONT 05734-0085 802-758-2202 tritownwater@gmavt.net

The Legal Voters of Tri-Town Water District No. 1, a municipal corporation, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the business office of Tri-Town Water District No. 1 at 14 Crown Point Road in Bridport, VT on December 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM to transact the following business:

- Article 1. To elect the officers for the ensuing year
 - Moderator
 - Clerk
 - Treasurer
- Article 2. To hear and act upon reports of the District.
- Article 3. To see if the District will authorize the Board of Water Commissioners to borrow money to pay debts and expenses in anticipation of revenue receipts, if necessary, for the ensuing year, said money to be paid to its Treasurer.
- Article 4. To approve projected budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.
- Article 5. To transact any other business thought proper to be done at this time.

Tri-Town Water District No. 1

Tricia Gordon, Clerk

Kathleen Shimel, Treasurer

WARNING ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. DECEMBER 10, 2024

The legal voters of VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. are hereby notified and warned to meet at the V.P.W.D. business office building on 63 School Street in the City of Vergennes in said District, on the 10th day of December, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in person to transact the following business to wit:

ARTICLE I: To elect by ballot the following officers:
(a) a moderator
(b) a clerk
(c) a treasurer

ARTICLE II: To hear and act upon the reports from the officers of the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC.

ARTICLE III: To have presented by the Board of Commissioners of the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC. their estimate of expenses for the ensuing year and to appropriate such sum as it, the VERGENNES-PANTON WATER DISTRICT, INC., deems necessary for said expenses together with the amount required to pay the balance, if any, left unpaid expressing said sum in dollars in its vote.

ARTICLE IV: To establish salaries for the Commissioners and other elected officers of the Water District.

ARTICLE V: To see whether the voters of said Water District will authorize its Board to borrow money pending receipt of water rents, by issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one(1) year to date.

ARTICLE VI: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Dated at Vergennes, Vermont, this 7th day of November, 2024

Maria L. Brown, Clerk

WE'RE HIRING!

Come join our team!

Do you enjoy meeting new people, problem solving and working as a team? Are you self-motivated, curious and eager to help others?

If so, we have the perfect opportunity for you!

The Addison Independent is seeking a top-notch advertising account representative to develop new and grow established sales accounts in the greater Middlebury and Vergennes areas, plus Chittenden County. Candidate must have strong written and verbal communication skills and be an eager and self-motivated worker.

Full or part-time position available, 20 to 40 hours weekly, depending on your situation. Flexible work schedule and a great work culture. Excellent opportunity for motivated sales person with a desire to succeed!



To apply, please send resume and cover letter to:
Christy Lynn, Advertising Manager
58 Maple Street | Middlebury, VT 05753
christy@addisonindependent.com

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946



Just chillin'

MANY PEOPLE HEAD out to Route 17 in Addison this time of year to see the flocks of migrating geese, but Theresa Foran captured this interesting image of two bald eagles recently seemingly relaxed in a field near Dead Creek probably not far from their year-round home.

Photo by Theresa Foran

Police, social services help homeless person

Vergennes Police Log

VERGENNES — Vergennes police and local social service agencies worked last week on a case in which a homeless individual allegedly had been sleeping in the unlocked lobby of the Walker Avenue residential complex.

On Nov. 4, city police responded to a report that an unhoused person was accessing the complex's lobby to sleep. Police said they suggested the building manager secure the lobby for resident access only, and they also spoke to John Graham Shelter and HOPE officials about identifying and finding the individual and offering him resources. Police said the agencies planned to reach out.

On Nov. 5 police returned to 13 Walker Ave. after further reports of a man sleeping in the lobby, but said they found no one there and no evidence of anyone having been there.

In other actions between Nov. 4 and 10, Vergennes police conducted nine patrols by cruiser and two on foot, 14 traffic stops, and a property watch; processed six pre-employment fingerprint requests; and also:

- On Nov. 4 cited Edward J. Corbett, 63, of Panton into court for violating a no-trespass order banning him from Shaw's Supermarket.

- On Nov. 5 took the first of a number of calls and voicemails from a Hillside Acres resident with a history of mental health issues.

- On Nov. 6:
 - Took a call from a Champlain Farms clerk about a man who made her feel uncomfortable. She was advised to call again if he returned.
 - Calmed a dispute between West Main Street neighbors over their property lines.

- On Nov. 7:
 - Dealt with a juvenile problem on Monkton Road in which one teen was in possession of another's cellphone; police said the phone was returned.
 - Heard from a city resident at the police station that a former co-worker had been sending threatening emails and voicemails

over a former work dispute. Police determined the messages were more harassing than threatening, and spoke to the sender, who admitted to being upset with the complainant, but said he had no intent to harm him. Police said the complainant was satisfied with the resolution, and he blocked the sender's number.

- On Nov. 8 dealt with a minor two-car accident on West Main Street.

- On Nov. 9:
 - Calmed a domestic argument at a Hillside Acres apartment and separated the parties
 - Took a complaint from a Hillside Acres man that his ex-wife was taking their son to the hospital in violation of a court order. Police reviewed the court order and found it allowed her to seek medical attention for the child in an emergency. Police explained to the complainant that his ex-wife was acting responsibly by addressing their child's medical needs and by keeping the complainant informed.

- On Nov. 10:
 - Took a complaint from a Hillside Acres resident that packages delivered from Amazon were missing.
 - Took a request from Maplesfields that a no-trespass order be served on a woman, described as intoxicated, who became belligerent when store employees would not sell her alcohol.
 - Calmed an ongoing custodial dispute that flared up between Hillside Drive parents.
 - Helped a Green Street female with disabilities who had wandered from her home.
 - Escorted a Champlain Farms employee out of the building after she reported two suspicious males in the store who made her feel uncomfortable leaving.

Middlebury man cited for simple assault

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury police cited Matthew Johnson, 50, of Middlebury, for simple assault. The citation followed an investigation of an alleged incident at a Route 7 south business on Nov. 6.

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

- Cited Thomas E. Hynes, 38, of Shelburne, for driving with a criminally suspended license on Porter Drive on Nov. 4.

- Received a complaint on Nov. 4 about a person — claiming to be a DMV official — allegedly calling an East Middlebury resident to warn them about alleged driving infractions.

- Took complaints from two separate individuals on Nov. 4 about alleged thefts of prescription drugs.

- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS officials with an emergency call at a Seminary Street Extension location on Nov. 4.

- Responded to a vandalism complaint at a Route 7 south location on Nov. 4.

Middlebury Police Log

- Responded to a theft complaint at a Route 7 south business on Nov. 4

- Investigated a report of a person allegedly violating a temporary restraining order in the Elm Street area on Nov. 5.

- Received a Nov. 5 complaint about children allegedly knocking on a Jackson Lane resident's door and then running away.

- Investigated a complaint about a man allegedly violating a no-trespass order at a Route 7 south business on Nov. 5.

- Received a report on Nov. 5 about a bad check being passed at a Boardman Street business.

- Responded to a family dispute at a Case Street residence on Nov. 5.

- Investigated a report of a sick raccoon in the Three Mile Bridge Road area on Nov. 5.

- Checked on a suspicious vehicle parked at a closed Route 7 south business on Nov. 6.

- Received a report on Nov. 6 of a juvenile missing from the Main Street area. Police said the youth was later located safe in another town.

- Investigated a hit-and-run incident involving two vehicles in a Main Street parking lot on Nov. 6.

- Cited Nathanael S. Regues, 20, of New York state for driving under the influence following a Nov. 6 vehicle crash on South Main Street. Police said they measured Regues's blood-alcohol content at 0.118%.

- Responded to a report of two people lying down in Route 7 south at around 11 a.m. on Nov. 6.

- Responded to a report of someone throwing rocks through windows of a Creek Road building on Nov. 6. Police said the case is under investigation.

- Found goats walking along Case Street on Nov. 6. Police said they returned the animals to their enclosure.

- On Nov. 7, arrested 39-year-old Joshua Martell on a state parole-board issued warrant in the Foote Street area.

- Responded to a request for help with an out-of-control youth in the Case Street area on Nov. 7.

- Received a complaint on Nov. 7 that a person, purporting to be a priest, was soliciting money via email from Middlebury-area residents.

- Assisted a woman who said she has been harassed in the Buttolph Drive area on Nov. 7.

- Were informed of the theft of beer from the Maplesfields store on Route 7 south on Nov. 8.

- Helped sort out a child custody dispute in the Deerfield Lane area on Nov. 8.

- Investigated a stolen vehicle complaint in the Valley View area on Nov. 8.

- Responded to a child custody dispute in the Lindale Circle area on Nov. 8.

- Were informed of break-ins at multiple storage lockers off Exchange Street on Nov. 8. Police said the culprit(s) cut the locks off the lockers to gain access.

- Helped an Overbrook Drive resident with an internet scam complaint on Nov. 8.

- Received a report of a hit-and-run accident involving two vehicles in the Court Square area on Nov. 8.

- Supported Middlebury Regional EMS officials on a medical call at McDonald's Restaurant on Court Street Extension on Nov. 9.

- Spoke on Nov. 9 with a local resident who was concerned about his elderly father's driving.

- Received a report on Nov. 9 of locks being cut off some storage units located off Route 7 north. Police reported no thefts from the lockers in connection with this incident.

- Responded to the Foote Street area on Nov. 9 on a report of a truck losing part of its load.

- Were informed of the theft of alcohol from the Jolly Short Stop on Nov. 10.

- Investigated a report of a person driving erratically near the intersection of Cross and Court Streets on Nov. 10.

- Gave a courtesy ride on Nov. 11 to a stranded patient who had been discharged from Porter Hospital.

- Supported Middlebury Regional EMS officials on a medical call to a Washington Street location on Nov. 11.

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

NEWS

LINCOLN — Registration for Lincoln youth basketball is now open. Basketball not only promotes physical fitness but also encourages teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. The K/1/2 group will not participate in any games, but will be focusing on skills and drills. The other two teams will consist of grades 3/4 and grades 5/6.

The season starts after Thanksgiving and goes to February break. Coaches of each team will be in contact with parents of

players via email throughout the season communicating logistics.

There is a need for coaches. This program is only successful because of the wonderful volunteers that make up the coaching team. Please email info@lincolnsports.org if you are interested in coaching. To register your player online, please visit lincolnsports.org/basketball.

Lincoln Sports is offering co-ed indoor volleyball on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the LCS gym. Come learn the game and play with others who are great fun and supportive teachers. Players aim for good ball-handling skills, trying to bump, set and spike on most plays. Teams are formed each week depending on who attends, to keep the skill levels balanced on both sides and fun for all!

PLEASE NOTE
The library will be closing at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27, and will be closed on Friday, Nov. 29, for Thanksgiving.

REMINDER
The second annual Community Toy Swap will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Burnham Hall.

Until next time ... Find A Way To Make It Happen. What We See Depends Mainly On What We Look For.

Public Notices
can be found in this
ADDISON INDEPENDENT
on Pages 9B and 10B.

NOTICE OF SELF-STORAGE LIEN SALE

116 SELF STORAGE, BRISTOL, VT
Notice is hereby given that the contents of the self-storage unit listed below will be sold at public auction by sealed bid at the 116 Self Storage facility. This sale is being held to collect unpaid storage unit occupancy fees, charges and expenses of the sale.

The entire contents of the self-storage unit listed below will be sold, with the proceeds to be distributed to 116 Self Storage for all accrued occupancy fees (rent charges), attorney's fees, sale expenses in relation to the unit and its sale. Any proceeds beyond the foregoing shall be returned to the unit holder.

Contents of the unit may be viewed on 11/29/2024 commencing at 10 a.m. Sealed bids are to be submitted on the entire contents of the self-storage unit. Bids will be opened one-quarter of an hour after the unit has been viewed on 11/29/2024. The highest bidder on the storage unit must remove the entire contents within 48 hours after notification of their successful bid. Purchase must be made in cash and paid in advance of the removal of the contents of the unit. A \$50.00 cash deposit shall be made and will be refunded if the unit is broom cleaned. 116 Self Storage reserves the right to accept or reject bids.

Unit # 2021 - K. Cox

Shop Locally this Holiday Season

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 24-PR-07070 IN RE ESTATE OF: PAULINE M. NOVAK NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Pauline M. Novak, 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: 11/12/24

Executor/Administrator: Cheryl K. Novak
738 Boardman Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
(518) 339-0885
novakcheryl311@gmail.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 11/14/24
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

CITY OF VERGENNES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the residents of the City of Vergennes that the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 6:30 P.M. for discussion of the final draft of the revised Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

This public hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting with participation remotely through Zoom or by phone, or in person at City Hall.

To join the meeting by Computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9268360439>
Meeting ID: 926 836 0439 Passcode: 907999.

To join by phone: Dial 1 (929) 205-6099, passcode 907999.

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 the Zoom meeting, contact David Austin at 802-989-6315.

Statement of Purpose:

- To establish a defined expiration date for all Zoning Permits and to establish Enforcement Procedure for expired Permits.
- To enable the Zoning Administrator and Development Review Board to review Permit Applications and issue Decisions where City of Vergennes Zoning and Subdivision Regulations are not in conformance with current State Statutes.

Geographic Area Affected
All Districts

Table of Contents of Proposed Amendments – There is no change in the Table of Contents.

CHANGES ARE PROPOSED TO ARTICLE II, Section 201(C), ARTICLE III Section 307, Section 308, and ARTICLE VII, Section 702.

A copy of the full text of the final revised version of the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations is available for public review by contacting David Austin at zoning@vergennes.org. Copies are also available for review at the office of the City Clerk.

November 14, 2024
Shannon Haggett, Chair
Planning Commission
City of Vergennes

TOWN OF FERRISBURGH NOTICE OF HEARING ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold the following public hearings to be held on December 4, 2024, at the Town Hall at 7 PM.

Application Number 24-106: Signage Installation; Applicant(s): Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD); Property ID #20/20/20; 3909 Ethan Allen Highway; Rural Residential 2, Rural Agricultural 5 (RR2/RR5); Conditional Use.

Application Number 24-110: Conversion of garage to Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU); Applicant(s): Gerhard Daden; Property ID #13/01/19; 1422 Basin Harbor Road; Conservation (CON-25); Site Plan Review

The above files are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

TOWN OF NEW HAVEN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4464, a public hearing before the Development Review Board of the Town of New Haven will be held at the Town Offices, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472 on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following:

- Conditional Use Hearing Re Application #2024-DRB-22-CU submitted by Cross Pollination, Inc., P.O. Box 64815, Burlington, VT 05406, per Sections 329 and 527 of the New Haven Zoning and Subdivision Regulations adopted April 2024.

Please note that participation in the local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. The hearing will be held as a hybrid meeting, either in person at the Town Offices, or by remote:

<https://zoom.us/j/98142119190?pwd=U0pFdDQ2a1ZRZzVCRkN4ZGcyYUF-3dz09>
Meeting ID: 981 4211 9190
Passcode: 4jYbTA

An electronic copy of the application may be obtained by emailing: newhaven-zoning@gmavt.net; a hard copy is available at the Town Offices during normal business hours, and can also be found on the Town's website at: <https://www.nethavenvt.com/>

New Haven Zoning Administrator (802) 453-3516

Real Estate

Entertainment

Music

Calendar

Feature Interviews

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison County

November 14, 2024



15 LOCAL ARTISTS CELEBRATE WINTER'S CHILL IN THE NEW EXHIBIT

FROST & FABLE

SEE STORY
PAGE 3

This blockprint by Heather Rusch Zelonis of Bristol is one of the many pieces on display at Sparrow Art Supply in downtown Middlebury. The exhibit "Frost & Fable" will open with a public reception on Nov. 15, from 5-7 p.m.

COURTESY IMAGE

THE MONTH IN POETRY



Susan Jefts is a poet, editor, and writing mentor from the southern Adirondacks. Her poetry book, "Breathing Lessons," was published fall of 2023 by Shanti Arts Publishers of Maine and can be found on the publisher's site, the usual online outlets, and in local bookstores. Her poems have been published in many anthologies and journals throughout the country. She is currently taking new clients for editing their manuscripts and individual works, and offers workshops using poetry to explore our connections to the vital wisdom of the natural world. Her website is SusanJefts.com.

I'm always highly attuned to November's arrival—that clear and stark change in the light, the muted colors, the inward shift. I know I will miss the bright varied greens of summer and autumn's deep crimson red, gold, and marmalade orange. So hard to let them go. But I also welcome the chance to settle in when it's too cold to stay outside, and the darkness sends us indoors early. More time to read, nestle in with a blanket, linger over meals with friends and family.

And there are those moments that I tend to forget until they happen again: taking a bend in a forest path and finding a burst of red holding to a stalwart maple. Or the faded rust gold of a beech canopy caught by day's last light, illuminated as if from within while everything around it is in shadows. Such moments can be like discovering a cache of words, written or spoken, that ignite inside you a forgotten place of strength and courage. May we all find such moments in the coming months. May we find whatever light we can, wherever we can, and hold it close. Let it fill our bodies and our breath, every step we take.

THE DIMMING SEASON

MOVING THROUGH NOVEMBER

*I try to see what's before me, hold close
the light as the light is, as it makes its
diminishing way toward Solstice.*

*I make my way too, don a hat,
a jewel or two. Make an occasion
of going across town or country.*

*We ring a bell for thanksgiving, say a psalm
for darkening days. Offer paradox for comfort—
May the darkness be as light to you.*

*May we carry these words as we go,
hold them close, and breathe
whatever light that comes.*

— By Susan Jefts

*This poem and others can be found in Susan's
poetry collection, Breathing Lessons, available in
bookstores in New York State and Vermont, through the
publisher, and online at many online outlets.*

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An exhibit worth braving the cold comes to Middlebury

Positioned squarely in fall, but still ahead of the holiday rush, what do we call this momentary calm? Ah, the season of the sticks. One of frosty mornings and darkness; a time when fables begin floating into our conversations.

BY **ELSIE
LYNN PARINI**

"It's a time for folklore, remembering and making new memories," said Beth Bluestein, owner of Sparrow

Art Supply in downtown Middlebury, as she unpacked art boxes for the shop's newest exhibit "Frost & Fable."

The new exhibit, featuring the work of 15 local artists, will open Friday, Nov. 15, with a reception from 5-7 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public, and will have complimentary refreshments by Lincoln Peak Vineyard and Thistle and Honey Baking.

"'Frost & Fable' explores the beauty and enchantment of the winter season through storytelling and art," Bluestein wrote in a recent statement. "It celebrates the unique ways winter inspires, inviting visitors to step into a world of wonder and imagination."

From fine art to handcrafted ornaments, woven blankets, ceramics, stained glass and hand-bound books, Bluestein has positioned this exhibition thoughtfully ahead of the gift-giving season.

"'Frost & Fable' is a place to find perfect gifts of local artistry," she said, adding that she encouraged artists to be considerate of price-points. "This exhibition offers one-of-a-kind items that reflect the quiet elegance of frost-kissed landscapes, the warmth of holiday traditions, and the whimsical narratives that emerge as the days grow shorter. Each piece is a unique expression, bringing winter's stories to life."

Featured artists in "Frost & Fable" are Danielle Bergeron, Anne Meredith Barlow, Beth S. Bluestein, Kati Christoffel, Judi Danforth, Meghan Doherty, Alison Forrest, Denise Letendre, Sara Longworth, Katie Peck, Andrea Quillen, Barbara Saunders, Emily Smith, Heather Rusch Zelonis, and Katie Zuanich.

"I would love to give a shout out to owner Beth Bluestein and [store manager] Katie Zuanich," said exhibiting artist Rusch Zelonis. "I love the community that Beth is building in addition to providing a great art supply store. She is always ready to help out whether it's looking for a product, great art or even art advice. Also worth checking out is the Sparrow Artist Collective.



This watercolor by Kati Christoffel is on view at Sparrow Art Supply's newest exhibit "Frost & Fable" Nov. 15-Jan. 25.

It is a great place to meet other artists, learn about local opportunities and the monthly online seminars provide helpful learning opportunities. It feels great to support this local business knowing that she is supporting our community!"

Indeed this hits the nail on the head for Bluestein's efforts. "It can be challenging to get into galleries for the first time," she acknowledged, "and we're looking to provide that space for new or emerging artists."

"Sparrow Art Supply has given our community's artists of any background an opportunity to show their work in a gallery setting," said fellow exhibiting artist Danforth. "As a relative new-comer to painting, I truly appreciate Beth making these opportunities available."

"We want local artists to share their voice, share their stories, and share their visions," continued Bluestein passionately. "It's been so great to see how well the gallery has been received here in Middlebury. It's my favorite part of this business — there's really a community thing going on here."

MORE FROM THE ARTISTS:

ANDREA QUILLEN OF BRISTOL

Tell us about yourself and your art.

I am a pastry chef by trade (currently working as the pastry chef at Minifactory in Bristol) and found myself drawn to clay as another way to express my creativity through functionality. My ceramics mirror the way I like to bake: rich, earthy tones, lightly glazed, and adorned with whimsical flourishes.

I took up ceramics during the pandemic in part because I watched the "Great Pottery Throw Down" and was really struck by the parallels in baking, the camaraderie of the pottery community, and I wanted to learn something new. In January 2022, my husband and I took an intro to the wheel class at the AVA Gallery and Art Center in Lebanon, N.H., and met an inclusive and supportive group of artists. I first exhibited my work at the AVA Holiday Show in December 2022.

I'm motivated to make art because I find it to be a way that I can express myself to the fullest. I'm so fortunate to be creative in my career as a pastry chef, but there is something about ceramics that I can just create what my heart and hands desire in the moment and really lean into my own aesthetics.

What type of artwork do you have in the Frost & Fable exhibit?

I was inspired by the "magical and whimsical narratives" from the brief. My inspiration drew from the winter solstice and the sort of magic that comes from the season's transition into darkness. I've been finding a lot of joy through working with black clay and being playful with decorative under-glazing. My pattern work is inspired through festive bakes such as the swirls of lussekatter (St. Lucia's Day

SEE EXHIBIT ON PAGE 15



FALL 2024 SEASON

November 15 ▪ 7:30 PM

November 16 ▪ 7:30 PM

SEAN DORSEY DANCE
THE LOST ART OF DREAMING

\$25/20/10/5



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go.middlebury.edu/pas

FILM REVIEW

Using film to ask the right questions

The Academy Awards attract world-wide attention each year and the gala event plays to several hundred million viewers. Most of the attention goes to Best Picture, Best Actress and Best Actor — despite the fact that cinema gems can always be discovered among the nominees for Best Foreign Film. Nominees, over the years, have included enduring classics like Federico Fellini's "La Strada," Akira Kurosawa's "Rashomon," Gilo Pontecorvo's "Battle of Algiers," and Francois Truffaut's "Day for Night." More recent titles include "All Quiet on the Western Front" and "Zone of Interest."

"The Teachers' Lounge" was one of this year's Best Foreign Film nominees — though its closely observed drama set inside a contemporary seventh-grade German classroom could have easily been American. The film's protagonist, idealistic young teacher Carla Novak, is new to the school, but she soon finds herself pressured by other teachers



BY JAY CRAVEN

to identify which of her students might be responsible for a series of thefts from the teachers' lounge.

What follows is a tense thriller that unfolds against a backdrop of everyday life. Novak initially advises her students to stay silent, as their right. But other teachers push their way into her classroom, forcing her male students to turn over their wallets for inspection. From there, power dynamics and hair-trigger emotions escalate, with unexpected twists, turns, shifting loyalties and character ambiguities that emerge to reveal the very human dilemmas faced on all sides. Outraged parents and impatient administrators are drawn in and soon Novak is forced to re-examine all she believes as she struggles to preserve her job, respect her students and navigate this impossible situation.

Director İlker Çatak, mines potent themes from this ordinary situation. And he fulfills the



"The Teachers' Lounge" will be screened on Thursday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury.

dramatic imperative to place his characters under pressure to truly reveal them. When asked, after the film's premiere at the Berlin Film Festival, what he was trying to achieve with his film, Çatak said it was not about making a statement — "only asking a question." Among them, I'd say: "What is truth and what does it mean? How can we find agreement in today's sensitive times? What if you "do the right thing" and still fail? And do teachers have a truly private life?"

Jay Craven is artistic director of the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival (MNFF). The Vermont premiere of "The Teachers' Lounge" will be screened as part of the MNFF's year-round Cinema Selects Series — at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 21, at the Middlebury Town Hall Theater. Tickets will be available at the door or, in advance, at tickets@townhalltheater.org.

UPCOMING MUSIC

Dead Set brings grateful spirit to Middlebury

One of the founding members of the Grateful Dead, bassist Phil Lesh, passed away on Oct. 25 this year. To honor his memory and celebrate the iconic American band, Zach Nugent's Dead Set will play at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury on Saturday, Nov. 23. The show starts at 7:30.

Zach Nugent's Dead Set is more than just a cover band; they are an extraordinary ensemble that brings the Grateful Dead's timeless music to life with remarkable precision and passion. Nugent is also known to play Jerry Garcia's guitar, nicknamed "The Wolf," which Nugent used to record his debut album, "Good For Now."

Led by Nugent, Dead Set's uncanny ability

to channel the spirit of Jerry Garcia is nothing short of astounding. Nugent's virtuosic guitar work captures Garcia's essence, enchanting audiences with spellbinding solos and breathtaking improvisations. The band's tight-knit chemistry and unwavering dedication ensure that every note resonates with the same magic that made the Grateful Dead legendary.

Experience a musical journey like no other as Dead Set transports you through the ethereal realms of the Dead's extensive catalog. From the cosmic explorations of "Dark Star" to the uplifting anthems of "Sugar Magnolia," every



song is delivered with unwavering authenticity and a contagious enthusiasm that will leave you dancing and singing along all night long. Don't miss your chance to be part of this extraordinary celebration of Jerry Garcia and recently departed Phil Lesh's enduring legacy. Immerse yourself in a one-of-a-kind experience, and feel free to dance or kick back and enjoy the music.

Tickets \$25 at townhalltheater.org or call 802-382-9222. Cash bar available.

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

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For more info visit 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, call

802-458-0098 or email 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.

EDGEWATER ON THE GREEN

6 Merchants Row, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call

802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Thereafter," a solo exhibition of new work by Julia Jensen. The title of the show echoes Jensen's evolved process of painting the landscape by suggesting that there is a continuation of something that started from a particular point, in this case, the details of a scene, but then continues on to evolve into a composition with its own set of elements of abstraction, color, light and emotion. On view Oct. 25-Dec. 1.

JACKSON GALLERY

68 S Pleasant St, Middlebury

For more info visit 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

"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.

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 14

Cosmic Forecast

ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, put aside any errant musings and give important tasks your utmost attention this week. Energy is better spent on others, so keep this in mind when you get busy.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, your coworkers are all excited and fussing over a new development. Maintain an even keel as you assess the situation. You can be curious, but be guarded as well.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, your love life is in a really good place this week, which enables you to spend some quality time with your special someone. A romantic dinner sounds like a good plan.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Your partner is the most important person in your life right now, Cancer. So much so that this week every bit of your attention will be focused his or her way.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, money could be burning a hole in your pocket, so you might want to go on a spending spree. Keep in mind that there are a few big-ticket purchases waiting in the wings.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. You don't always have to be decisive, Virgo. Sometimes you can kick back and let someone else make decisions for a change. This is a great way to rest and recharge.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. A few jobs need to get done, Libra. But afterwards you should have plenty of time for some social interaction, whether that be attending a party or simply enjoying a night out.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Scorpio, think about the things you want instead of what other people want. It's alright to be a little selfish once in a while and put yourself first for a change.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. Sagittarius, you could have fun this week and so may all the other people around you simply for being in your presence. This situation will continue in the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, the next challenge on your list could be a big one. But if there is anyone who can handle the pressure, it is you. Don't be afraid to call on friends if you need them.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, go out into the world and try a few new things. Your social energy and curiosity might peak this week, and you'll need new experiences to feel satisfied.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Your finances might need an overhaul, Pisces. This could mean taking a new job or expanding what you're doing to earn more. Start putting out feelers to gain information.

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FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOV. 15 — Shailene Woodley, actor (25)

NOV. 16 — José Saramago, writer & Nobel laureate (d)

NOV. 17 — Lorne Michaels, creator of SNL (80)

NOV. 18 — Louis Daguerre, creator of the daguerrotype (d)

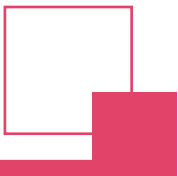
NOV. 19 — Jodie Foster, actor (62)

NOV. 20 — Nadine Gordimer, writer & activist (d)

NOV. 21 — Ronny Chieng, comedian (39)

CALENDAR

NOV. 14-DEC. 1
2024



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 wintry 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.

"JOURNEYS: OSPREYS, TECHNOLOGY, AND AN AUTHOR" IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. 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. Also, State Rep. Amy Sheldon will be presented the Silver Feather Award. Free and open to the public, light refreshments served.

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.

"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.

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, 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 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.

SATURDAY, NOV. 16

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN MONKTON. Saturday, Nov. 16, Raven Ridge. This is a 2.2-mile moderate 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 or 802-458-1116.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE CARILLON IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10-11

a.m., Middlebury Chapel, 75 Hepburn Rd. Carillonners of the Wellesley College Guild will perform a variety of classical and contemporary music. The carillon is best enjoyed from the lawns surrounding the chapel. Free.

MAX CASSANO IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Middlebury Farmers Market, VFW, 530 Exchange St. The Middlebury Farmers Market invites you to come enjoy live acoustic music by Max Cassano as you shop local to support local farmers, vendors and musicians.

"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.

SEAN DORSEY DANCE, "THE LOST ART OF DREAMING" IN MIDDLEBURY.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MCTV SCHEDULE Channels 1071 & 1091		MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY TELEVISION: P.O. Box 785, Middlebury, Vt. 05753		Please see the MCTV website, www.middleburycommunitytv.org , for changes in the schedule; MCTV events, classes and news; and to view many programs online. Submit listings to the above address, or call 388-3062.	
Channel 1071 Friday, November 15 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church 5:30 p.m. Energy Week 6:30 p.m. Public Affairs Saturday, November 16 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5 a.m. Energy Week 6 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 7 a.m. Press Conferences 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. Public Affairs Sunday, November 17 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 8 a.m. Energy Week 9 a.m. Catholic Mass 11 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 12:30 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs	4 p.m. Congregational Service 6:30 p.m. Eckankar 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Energy Week 8:30 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour Monday, November 18 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conferences 9 a.m. Energy Week 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 7 p.m. State House, Public Affairs Tuesday, November 19 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 10 p.m. Energy Week Wednesday, November 20 Overnight: State House, 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 Thursday, November 21 Overnight: State House, Public Affairs 8 a.m. Congregational Service 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 Channel 1091 Friday, November 15 5 a.m. Preservation Burlington 5:30 p.m. OCM - La Boheme 6:31 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. Arts & Performance 12 p.m. State Board of Education 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 11 p.m. OCM - La Boheme Saturday, November 16 5 a.m. OCM - Carmen 6:32 a.m. The Real Joan - Conversation	with Historian Louisa Burnham 7:30 a.m. OCM - La Boheme 9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. OCM - La Boheme 7:02 p.m. How to Love Big Trees 8 p.m. Leahy Public Policy Forum Sunday, November 17 4:30 a.m. Music In the Morning 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 8 a.m. Authors and Poets 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 6 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 7 p.m. Moments with Melinda 8 p.m. Historian Louisa Burnham 9 p.m. OCM - Carmen Monday, November 18 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 a.m. OCM - Carmen 7:31 a.m. Moments with Melinda 8:04 a.m. Historian Louisa Burnham 9:01 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 3 p.m. OCM - Carmen 5 p.m. At the Ilsley	9 p.m. OCM - Carmen Tuesday, November 19 4:30 a.m. OCM - La Boheme 5:32 a.m. Tai Chi 6 a.m. Chair Yoga 7 a.m. Leahy Public Policy Forum 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. From The Archives Wednesday, November 13 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Moments with Melinda 9 a.m. From the Town Hall Theater 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Moments with Melinda 7 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Thursday, November 14 4:30 a.m. Music In the Morning 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Yoga 12 p.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. Preservation Burlington 5:30 p.m. How to Love Big Trees 11 p.m. From the Archives	

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.

SUNDAY, NOV. 17

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE SING ALONG IN RIPTON. Sunday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m., The Chipman Inn. Bring songs. Bring stories. Bring hope. We will unite in song! Call 802-388-6107 with questions and ideas.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY FIDDLERS' JAM AND LUNCHEON IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m., 4 p.m., VFW, 1530 Exchange St. Meal starts at noon and includes roast turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, squash, macaroni & cheese, rolls, apple crisp or brownies. Music by Joe and Jackie Rivers. 50/50 raffle and two \$50 raffles. Tickets \$10 members/\$25 non-members/\$5 children/\$3 music only. More info and sign-up call Susie Coburn at 802-352-4489 by Nov. 10.

THE MAIDEN SHOW IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Nov. 17, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. See Nov. 16 listing.

THE SKY BLUE BOYS IN NORTH FERRISBURGH. Sunday, Nov. 17, 3 p.m., North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church, 227 Old Hollow Rd. Come join Banjo Dan and Willy Lindner as the Sky Blue Boys and their benefit event to support the 2025 painting of our church. Suggested donation of \$20 adults/\$15 children under 14. More info call Randy Gates at 802-373-3340.

MONDAY, NOV. 18

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY PLAYERS AUDITIONS IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, Nov. 18, 7-9 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Auditions for "Morning's at Seven," a Tony Award-winning, heartwarming classic comedy by Paul Osborn. More info at www.middleburycommunityplayers.org/mornings-at-seven.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY PLAYERS AUDITIONS IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7-9 p.m., Middlebury Fitness, 175 Wilson Rd. (Please park on lower level). Auditions for "Morning's at Seven," a Tony Award-winning, heartwarming classic comedy by Paul Osborn. More info at middleburycommunityplayers.org/mornings-at-seven.

WARREN MILLER'S "75" ONSCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Get ready for a stacked lineup featuring snowboarders Shaun White, Zeb Powell, Toby Miller, Danny

TOP PICK

SHAPE THE SHELDON: ANNUAL MEETING & COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION

Thursday, Nov. 21, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (annual meeting-4:30-5 p.m.; community listening session 5-6:30 p.m.)
Little Seed Coffee Roasters, 24 Merchants Row, Middlebury

The Henry Sheldon Museum invites the public to share ideas and "shape the Sheldon's" future. Give feedback, offer suggestions, and help the museum grow as a resource for learning, connection, and inspiration. Ensure that the museum reflects the rich history, diverse perspectives, and vibrant culture of our community. Light refreshments will be provided. To help us plan, RSVP at henrysheldonmuseum.org/events.

Davis, and 15-year-old phenom LJ Henriquez, plus skiers Max Hitzig, Lexi duPont, Caite Zelif, Aaron Blunck, and many more. Explore powder stashes and chutes around the world, from Canada, Colorado, California, and Utah to Finland, Japan, Austria, Alaska, and New Jersey. Tickets \$25 in advance/\$27 at the door, available at townhalltheater.org.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

"THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. MNFF Selects offers a holiday screening and Vermont premiere of the riveting drama set in a contemporary time in a German middle school. The film's compelling central character is a dedicated, idealistic young teacher in her first job. Tickets \$17 individual/3-pack pass \$45, available at townhalltheater.org or midfilmfest.org/selects.

BLUES WITHOUT BORDERS IN BRISTOL. Thursday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., South Mountain Tavern, 31 Main St.

"ANYTHING GOES" ON STAGE IN BRISTOL. Thursday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, 220 Airport Dr. Come see this high-energy, toe-tapping musical filled with dazzling dance numbers, witty dialogue, and unforgettable songs by Cole Porter. Tickets \$15 adult/\$12 seniors and children under 12, online at cur8.com/22548/project/124217.

"TURNING STONES: EXPLORING THE LIFE OF WATER" IN SALISBURY. Thursday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Salisbury Meeting House, 853 Maple St. Declan McCabe, professor of biology at St. Michael's College, will give this presentation on the ecology of freshwater communities, taking "a careful look at the mysteries and life that can be found in a river if you just take the time to look." McCabe will have some live invertebrates that the audience can examine under a microscope.

FRIDAY, NOV. 22

CONTRA DANCE IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m., Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, 2 Duane Ct. All ages and skill levels are welcome at this free, non-gendered contra dance. Richard Hopkins will teach and call the dances. Music will be played by a live band. Park at MUHS and join the fun.

"ANYTHING GOES" ON STAGE IN BRISTOL. Friday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, 220 Airport Dr. See Nov. 21 listing.

TINA FRIML AND FRIENDS IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Comedian Tina Friml returns to Middlebury with some of her funny friends for this free performance. Jason Lorber MCs. Limited seating. Registration required. More info at townhalltheater.org.

SATURDAY, NOV. 23

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN FAYSTON. Saturday, Nov. 23, Mad River Glen. Hike Mad River Glen to Stark's Nest. Beautiful open views, strenuous hike, 5 miles round trip with 2,000 ft vertical gain. Contact Morris Earle at [morisearle@gmail.com](mailto:morrisearle@gmail.com) or 802-734-0984 for information or to register.

"ANYTHING GOES" ON STAGE IN BRISTOL. Saturday, Nov. 23, 2 and 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, 220 Airport Dr. See Nov. 21 listing.

DEAD SET: A TRIBUTE TO THE GRATEFUL DEAD IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Dead Set's uncanny ability to channel the spirit of Jerry Garcia is nothing short of astounding. The band's tight-knit chemistry and unwavering dedication ensure that every note resonates with the same magic that made the Grateful Dead legendary. Tickets \$25, available at townhalltheater.org/event/dead-set.

SUNDAY, NOV. 24

THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY HYMN SING IN VERGENNES. Sunday, Nov. 24, 3 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. Local musicians from over a dozen area churches unite on our stage to lead the audience in singing along to traditional favorite hymns and popular contemporary worship songs. The Champlain Brass Quintet, the Addison County Gospel Choir & Worship Team, and featured soloists promise to lift your spirits as we reflect on all that we are thankful for. Song books will be provided at the door. Donations toward the All Access Project will be gratefully accepted.

MONDAY, NOV. 25

CRIBBAGE NIGHT IN BRISTOL. Monday, Nov. 25, 7-8:30 p.m., Libanus Lodge, corner of North and Elm streets. Hosted by The Masons. All are welcome to take part.

FRIDAY, NOV. 29

ROLLING DOWN THE TRACKS: HOLIDAY TRAINS! opening day in Middlebury. Friday, Nov. 29, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. The elaborate Lionel train layout at the Henry Sheldon Museum is an annual tradition, delighting all ages. The assemblage stands three levels high, with tracks running Lionel O gauge trains, Lionel 027 gauge trains, and an upper track running HO trains. Exhibit will run every day the museum is open from Nov. 29, through Jan. 4, 2025. More info at www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events/holidaytrains or call 802-388-2117.

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

CLINT TURNS 50! in Middlebury. Saturday, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Legendary local musician Clint Bierman is turning 50, and Vermont music all stars are honoring him in an epic concert. Featuring past and present members of The Grift, alongside other Vermont Music All-Stars, including Peter Day, Ben Lively, Ryan Clawson, Neil Matthews, Rian Alfiero, TV's Josh Panda, Mihali (from Twiddle), Evan Jennison, Matt Schrag, Ty Bierman, Instagram's Sam Bierman and Rhonda Jean. All are welcome, and the show is free, but reservations are required. More info at townhalltheater.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 1

"THE POLAR EXPRESS" ON SCREEN IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Dec. 1, 2 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Join us at Town Hall Theater for a matinee screening of the classic film about a boy and a train. Pajamas are encouraged, and there will be a build-your-own hot chocolate bar. Tickets \$10 adult/\$5 children 12 and under. More info at townhalltheater.org.

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The Exercise Ball

BY **MEGAN JAMES**

When my kids were babies they would only be soothed on an exercise ball. My husband and I would take turns sitting on the big red ball, which we bought in person at Olympia Sports, back when you could do such a thing here in Middlebury, Vermont. We'd cradle the baby tightly in our arms and bounce (more vigorously than you'd think) up and down and up and down until finally, mercifully, she fell asleep.

We lost many months of our lives to that ball. We watched whole seasons of "Better Call Saul" while bouncing, seasons we watched again years later because I had no memory of ever seeing them. I'd like to say that all this relentless core exercise gave me ripped abs, but alas it did nothing of the sort. It got us through a difficult time, though. (Thanks, ball.)

These days when I hear the rubbery squeak of someone's butt pivoting on an exercise ball — in the office, say — it rockets me back to that new mom feeling: bouncing and bouncing and bouncing, my arms aching, my heart filled with love, sure, but mostly with desperation and exhaustion.

By the time my younger daughter was a toddler, the ball just took up space. The girls liked pushing it around the house, so it was often blocking some crucial right of way in our open-plan living area. When someone gave it a swift kick out onto our deck, we never let

it back in. And then one gusty night, the wind picked it up and carried it away. I spotted it days later in the woods behind our house, a faded red orb caught in a tangle of buckthorn.

I can't remember how we disposed of it, but the ball didn't come along when we moved to a new house in 2020.

A few weeks ago my mom invited me to join her at a pilates class, and that's how I found myself once again sitting on an extra large exercise ball. This time, though, I was in a room full of older women each sitting on her own ball, bopping up and down together to Earth, Wind & Fire's "September." It was so silly, so full of joy, I couldn't stop smiling. It was the exact opposite of bouncing on a ball with a baby who won't settle.

Inspired by the pilates class, I ordered myself a new ball last week to do exercises at home. So now we have a giant ball back in the house, rolling from room to room, blocking my path to everything I need, startling the cat.

The girls love it, though. They dribble it like a freakish basketball, backbend over it, flop onto it belly first, their long limbs undulating over the floor. It's almost like they've missed it, their dear ball.

And I love them. So I guess we'll keep it.



Cozy Kids

Last year Junebug, the Middlebury children's clothing resale shop, bought brand new coats, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens for 92 Addison County children in need as part of its annual Cozy Kids program. This year local schools have asked Junebug for even more help outfitting children in our community before the snow flies. You can support this effort by making a donation — or by volunteering to be a personal shopper — at junebugvt.org/cozy-kids.

Huskies!

STORYTIME WITH A SLED DOG, Nov. 26, 10:30 a.m., at Bixby Memorial Library in Vergennes: Cozy up to read books about sled dogs by Milagro Amaya Turner — and then meet one of her gentle dogs featured in her books.

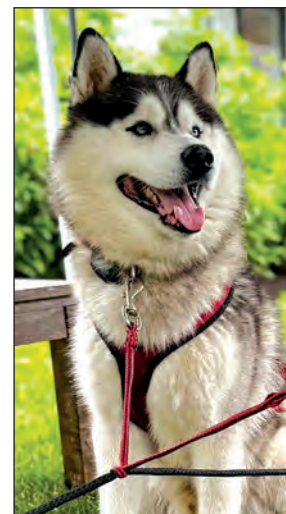


IMAGE COURTESY OF SIBERSLEDDOGS.COM

Coming Up

COMMUNITY TOY SWAP

Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Burnham Hall in Lincoln

Drop off your gently used toys and games and pick up new-to-you items for free!

COFFEE & TRAIL CLEANUP WITH MALT

Nov. 16 & 30, 8:30-10:30 a.m., at the Washington Street Ext. Chipman Hill trailhead (on the 16th) and Otter Creek Gorge (on the 30th)

Grab a free hot drink, and make some new friends while you tidy up the trails.

See more online

MiniBury.com

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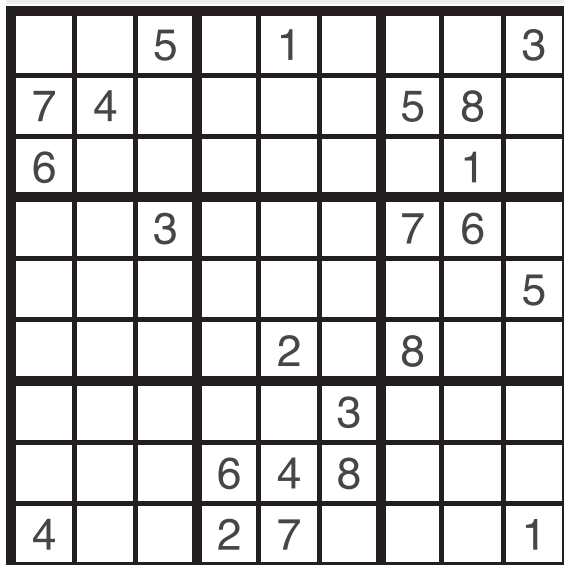
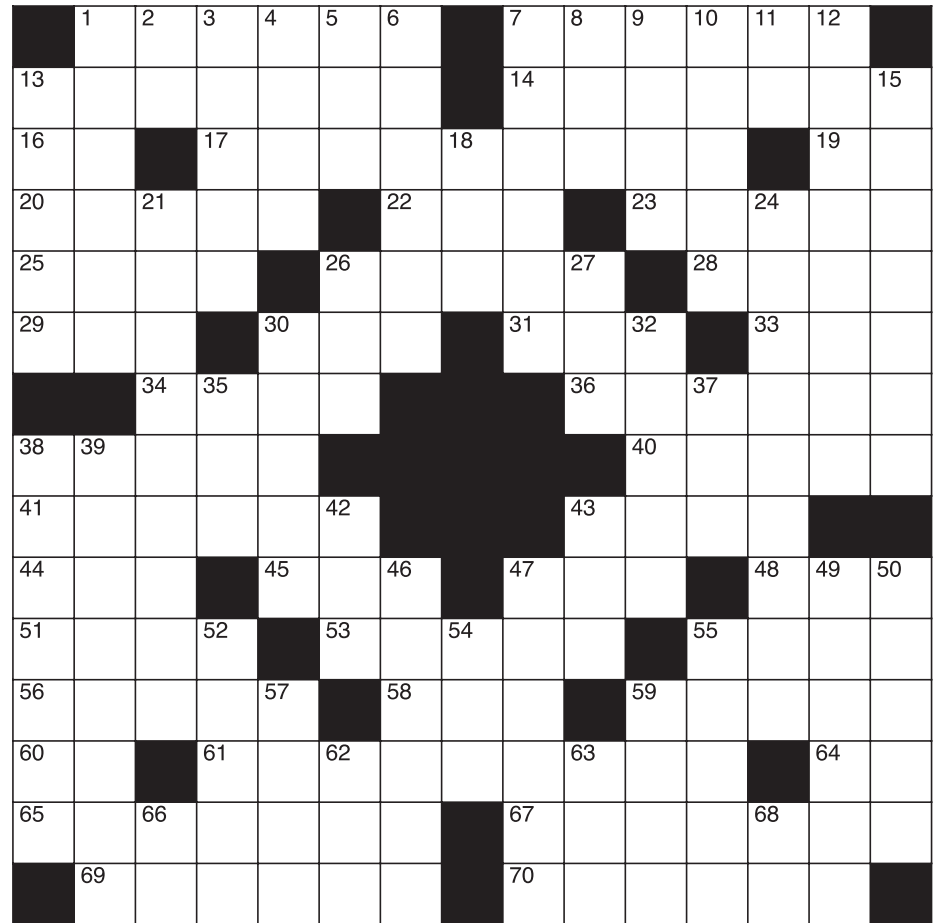
- 1. Schoolhouse tool
- 7. Martens
- 13. Slags
- 14. One who scrapes
- 16. Centiliter
- 17. White wine
- 19. Of I
- 20. Former Syracuse great Warrick
- 22. Relating to the ear
- 23. Sandwich shops
- 25. Victories
- 26. White (French)
- 28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 29. Genus of parrots
- 30. Unhappy
- 31. Talk incessantly
- 33. Type of Squad
- 34. Unit of perceived loudness

- 36. Violent seizure of property
- 38. Agave
- 40. Sound units
- 41. Removes from record
- 43. Partner to Mama
- 44. Mythological bird
- 45. Dash
- 47. Hair product
- 48. Two-year-old sheep
- 51. Signs a deal
- 53. Conifer
- 55. Autonomous republic in NW Russia
- 56. Wife of Muhammed
- 58. British Air Aces
- 59. Ears or ear-like appendages
- 60. Not caps

- 61. Deep-bodied sea dweller
- 64. Rural delivery
- 65. Feeling
- 67. Study of relations of organisms to one another
- 69. Room to argue
- 70. Question

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cream puff
- 2. Road open
- 3. Stressed syllable
- 4. Thailand's former name
- 5. Cologne
- 6. Recounted
- 7. Garment of cloth
- 8. Airborne (abbr.)
- 9. Reproduced
- 10. Emits coherent



Sudoku

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3x3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

Level: Medium

This week's puzzle solutions can be found on Page 13.

radiation

- 11. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 12. Smallest interval in Western music
- 13. Unstressed central vowel
- 15. Lives in
- 18. When you expect to get somewhere
- 21. Storage bags
- 24. One who covers with plastic
- 26. Cast out
- 27. Automobile

30. Repaired shoe

- 32. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 35. Possesses
- 37. Soda
- 38. Programs
- 39. In an unexpected way
- 42. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- 43. For each
- 46. Unbelief
- 47. Seized or impaled
- 49. Arrive on the

scene

- 50. Especially happy
- 52. Classic western film
- 54. Split pulses
- 55. Frida __: Painter
- 57. Start again
- 59. Employee stock ownership plan
- 62. Young women's association
- 63. Frozen water
- 66. "The First State"
- 68. Computers need one

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Pet of the Week



Sweet Sadie!

Sadie has been running (these days walking) the TAM for 18 years! We adopted her as a puppy in 2006 from what was the Addison County Humane Society, now Homeward Bound. We're told she is a Sheltie mix who was born in West Virginia and transported with her mom and litter mates to Middlebury.

She grew up in Weybridge with our kids, who were in pre- and elementary school when we adopted her and are now out of college and moved away.

Likes: trail running, hiking, chasing bunnies, fetching the ball, a good ear-scratch, napping in the mulch, greeting her family excitedly by doing the low-butt run.

Dislikes: swimming, being brushed, an audience while she eats, dropping the ball, looking anywhere near the camera for a photo.

She is the best of dogs who has given and accepted abundant love!

— The Hammels,
Weybridge

Paws To Consider

with Dr. Bri Letaw, Medical Director,
Bristol Animal Hospital



Q: What are some common toxic foods for my dog?



A: There are many things that could be in your home and toxic to animals. Some of the most common items are grapes, raisins, onions, garlic, leeks, chives, macadamia nuts, xylitol, chocolate, yeast dough, alcohol, and undercooked meats, eggs, and bones. If there is any question about what you can feed your pet, or if you're concerned about something they ate, please contact your veterinarian.

Bristol Animal Hospital, 167 Monkton Rd., Bristol
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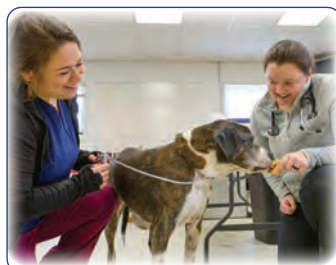
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Pets In Need
HOMeward BOUND
Addison County's Humane Society

Clemant

Clemant, affectionately called Clem, was found as a beaten-up and shy stray. It was unsure if he would trust people but after only a few days he showed how sweet he is! Clem really loves tuna and anything fishy flavored. He also enjoys head pats and having his cheeks rubbed. We are unsure if he gets along with cats or dogs but he would do best in a quiet home with lots of patience and love.



Eve

Meet **Eve!** A sweet polydactyl girl who likes to play. She is super affectionate and curious. She gets along with other cats and has no experience with dogs.



Mae

Mae is a shy but affectionate girl! She purrs easily and loves to give head nudges. Mae would like a quiet home without dogs where she could get all the attention and love.



Uni

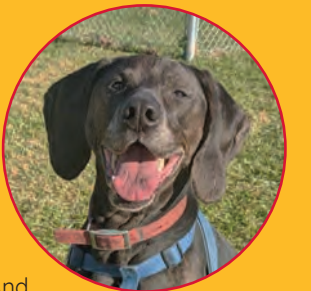
Uni was found as a stray and is estimated to be 2 years old. She is equal parts affectionate and independent. She enjoys being pet on her own terms and is looking for a loving owner who can also respect her boundaries. Uni likes to play and burrows under her blankets to nap. She may want to be an indoor/outdoor cat in her new home but may also be content

being only indoors. We are unsure if she gets along with cats or dogs.



Duke

Hey there! My name is **Duke**. I'm a friendly, grey-muzzled Plott hound with a heart full of love and a nose ready for adventure! If there's one thing I can promise, it's that I'll make every single walk feel like a safari - sniffing out each blade of grass, leaf, and interesting scent like it's my job! And speaking of walks, I absolutely adore them! I get a little goofy on the move too; I've got this wobbly, hound-style run that makes people say I look just like Pluto! I'm also a bit of a performer when there are treats around. Show me the goodies, and I'll show you the commands I know- I live to make you smile! As an older gentleman, I'd love a calm, cozy home where I can settle in on a couch and enjoy all the belly rubs, treats, and strolls that my heart desires. I may have a little extra grey, but I still have so much love to give and can't wait to find my person to share it all with. I need to be your only pet.



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A LOOK AT ADDISON COUNTY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

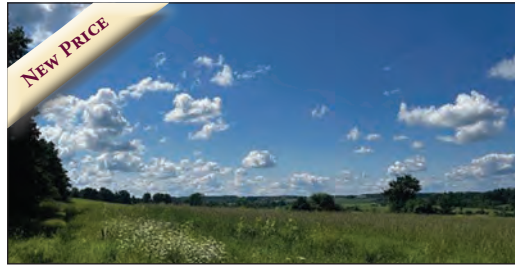
Love lake life in this fully furnished home

Do you love lake life? Do you love gorgeous sunsets on the porch with your favorite beverage? Do you love bird watching, sailing, fishing, boating? Then Welcome to Heron's Watch! This wonderfully maintained home is set up to enjoy all that Lake Champlain has to offer. With 3 bedrooms and 3 baths, this lakefront home comes completely furnished including approx. 36 feet of docks with new decking, a kayak, a canoe, and the specially made "Heron's Watch" sign. This Lakefront home sits at the end of a private road nestled on two private acres. A barn in the back of the property is great for a garage or storage. Another wonderful feature is that you can launch your own boat right from your own land on the east side of the house and bring it in and the docks in the fall. Enjoy the view of the Adirondacks, the Champlain Bridge in the distance, and phenomenal sunsets. Eagles, ospreys and herons frequent this area called Giard's Bay. Don't let this one get away. Use it seasonally as a rental, it has a history as an Airbnb, or keep it for yourself!



This week's property is managed by RE/MAX North Professionals, The Gridley Group, in Middlebury. More info at midvthomes.com.

THE FALL SEASON BRINGS RE OPPORTUNITIES!



1650 Crown Point Road, Bridport
Golden opportunity to own a large open parcel of land with country setting which includes generous westerly Adirondacks views. The 4 lots are enrolled in the Vermont Current Use Program to help ease the property tax burden. The seller is working on obtaining a state wastewater permit for a 3 BR residence. Sale is contingent upon seller obtaining a subdivision permit.

- Lot A-4 45 acres: \$349,000;
- Lot A-5 67.5 acres: \$349,000;
- Lot A-6 58 acres: \$309,900;
- Lot A-7 95 acres: \$369,000



Sean Dye,
802-338-0136



Nancy Larrow,
802-989-9653



Susan Burdick
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MLS #5021254 | \$1,099,000
3 BD | 3 BA | 2773 SF | 30.20 ACRES

Incredibly well-built and maintained home just a few minutes to your local general store, a few more to the shores of Lake Champlain, and with the amenities of both Middlebury and Vergennes just a leisurely drive away. Mature landscaping surround the home, attached two-car garage, and detached barn, all wrapped up in the privacy of the wooded acres surrounding. You'll see the value around every turn in this immaculate home, from the powder room to the walk-in pantry and laundry room, to the primary bedroom suite with its own sitting room/office/exercise space and walk-in closet and tiled bath. A loft family room adds getaway space for the bedrooms upstairs, while the basement offers abundant storage and plenty of room to expand were you to finish all or a portion. You'll enjoy abundant natural light throughout with picture-perfect landscape behind every window. You may just want to make this Addison County gem a part of your family's legacy.



**BRISTOL
188 RIVER ROAD**

MLS #5012050 | \$650,000
3 BD | 3 BA | 3064 SF | 7.75 ACRES

Stunning eastern panoramic views. All bedrooms on the main level. The finished, walkout basement will have many uses. Add an oversized garage with a workshop area, a walk-up attic and enough power for your EV!



**VERGENNES
3 THORNWOOD LANE**

MLS #5011065 | \$634,900
4 BD | 2 BA | 2144 SF | 1.90 ACRES

Easy access to both local amenities & recreation while being convenient to picturesque downtown. Hardwood floors, stainless appliances, quartz countertops, extra space for guests—a must-see home.

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

K. GRANT FINE ART

37 Green St, Vergennes
For more info visit kgrantfineart.com.

"Eternal Harvest"

features painting and sculpture by New

England-based artists Neil Berger, Clark Derbes, and Lydia Jenkins Musco. The exhibit will be on view Oct. 5-Nov. 30.

HENRY SHELDON MUSEUM

1 Park St., Middlebury

For more information visit henrysheldonmuseum.org or call 802-388-2117.

"Model Boats: The Craftsmanship of Jerry DeGraff"

Jerry DeGraff, a native Vermonter from Essex Junction, served four years in the Navy before working many years in local building trades. As he honed his skills as a craftsman, a Christmas gift in 1994 gave him the motivation to try his skills at another trade — constructing model boats from scratch. On view through Jan. 4, 2025.

"From Homespun to Couture: Fashion in Historic Middlebury,"

offers a window onto the sartorial tastes of local women and the growing Middlebury tailoring scene from the 1800s to the early 20th century. On view through Jan. 4, 2025.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

72 Porter Field Rd., Middlebury

For more info visit middlebury.edu/museum/exhibitions or call 802-443-5007.

"An Invitation to Awe."

This exhibit addresses questions about where and how awe is most readily experienced. Older paintings and prints are displayed in conversation with contemporary objects, scientific equipment, and interactive work that compels the viewer to think of how awe is experienced through senses other than sight and to expand their own understanding of where awe lives now. On view Sept. 13-Dec. 8.

PHOTOPLACE GALLERY

3 Park Street, Middlebury

For more info visit photoplacegallery.com.

"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

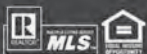
44 Main St., Middlebury

For more info visit sparrowartsupply.com

"Frost & Fable." Featuring the work of 15 local artists, "Frost & Fable" celebrates the unique ways winter inspires, inviting visitors to step into a world of wonder and imagination. On view Nov. 15-Jan. 25, with an opening reception Nov. 15, from 5-7 p.m., free and open to the public, with complimentary refreshments by Lincoln Peak Vineyard and Thistle and Honey Baking.

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info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242



FABLE

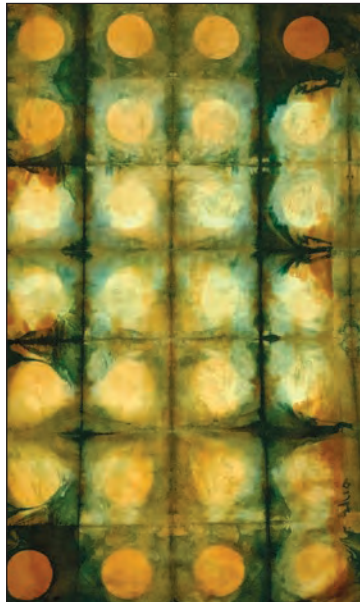
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

buns), decorative chocolate work, and ingredients like oranges, star anise and cinnamon.

HEATHER RUSCH ZELONIS OF BRISTOL

Tell us about yourself and your art.

I enjoy creating blockprints to share my love of nature and humans. I am fascinated by works of art that show time passing as marked by the seasons and the cycles of the moon and I often incorporate these themes in my work. The flexibility to share multiple hand printed images is what draws me to blockprinting along with the complexity of planning, the challenge of making a variety of marks, textures and tones, the finality of each carve mark, and just the feeling of carving. Through my art, I am able to connect to the world around me while also finding a quiet meditative place inside myself. I strive to find meaningful ways to share my art and skills. I enjoy teaching and continually learning new skills to challenge myself.



I am driven to share my art by the happiness art can bring to people. Over the summer, I was grateful to hear that one of my owl pieces, that had sold in a show at Sparrow, had been given to a grandchild and is now in their room watching over them.

I was recently inspired to learn blockprinting after trying it with some friends and seeing the show "The World Between Block and Paper" at the Southern Vermont Arts Center in 2021. Since then I have been lucky enough to take Moku Hanga (Japanese woodblock printing) classes with two of the local artists featured in that show, Matt Brown and Patty Hudak.

What type of artwork do you have in the Frost & Fable exhibit?

I have six blockprints. (My piece) "Frost & Fable" sets the scene for the transition from swirling colors of leaves to a world of white illuminated by the Wolf Moon. I'm excited to share my love of snow and cozy fires as we move through the long dark night of the winter solstice and welcome

the serene beauty of winter.

I am most looking forward to sharing my art and my absolute love of the magic of winter. I think everyone could use a little magic now and then — it's there if you look for it.

JUDI DANFORTH OF LINCOLN

Tell us about yourself and your art.

After a career in design and making master models for pewter jewelry, ornaments and home décor items, I was ready to express my creativity in new ways. I learned to hook rugs and really enjoyed "painting with wool." That led to taking an oil painting class and I was hooked in a new way! Since then I have learned from Mary Lower, TJ Cunningham, Janet Fredericks and even traveled to Provence with a friend to paint with one of my favorites, Julian Merrow-Smith! It has been a stimulating and rewarding journey I never anticipated.

I love painting animals and everyday objects that have meaning or tell a story, much like what I designed throughout my career, only flat and in color. I am also challenged by painting our beautiful landscape en plein air with dear friends with whom I share this quest.

What type of artwork do you have in the Frost & Fable exhibit?

I responded to *Frost* more directly, but there is *Fable*, or story-telling, in objects we surround ourselves with and traditions we hold dear. And living in the mountains certainly gives the word "Frost" very real connotations!

Painting is a new and personal endeavor for me. I know I could spend another lifetime grasping the fullness of paint on canvas. I seem to have a need to express myself and am honored to be a part of this exhibit.

I would also like to thank my husband, Fred, for making many frames for these paintings.

I have always made art and made stuff! I have found my way, throughout my life, to express myself and reflect on the world around me in various ways.

"Frost & Fable" will be on view from Nov. 15-Jan. 25, 2025. The show will also be available online at sparrowartsupply.com, where pieces can be viewed and purchased.



Oil paintings by **Judi Danforth** (above) and *Shibori* by **Danielle Bergeron** (left) will be on display at Sparrow Art Supply on Main Street in Middlebury starting tomorrow, Nov. 15. An opening reception will kick off the new exhibit "Frost & Fable."



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Open auditions for mid-winter comedy

The Middlebury Community Players will hold open auditions for "Morning's at Seven," a comedy by Paul Osborn, on Nov. 18, at the Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, and on Nov. 20, at Middlebury Fitness in Middlebury.

This Tony Award-winning, heartwarming classic focuses on the four aging Gibbs sisters and their husbands living "a stone's throw" away from each other in a small midwestern town in 1928 and the reactions within the family when 40-year-old Homer announces he's finally going to marry his girlfriend of the last 12 years and move out. Long-simmering resentments, rivalries, betrayals, misunderstandings, and familial bickering ensue.

The play is being directed by MCP board member Peter Kristoph. There are five female roles and four male roles. Seven characters are in their 60s-70s, while two are around 40. No preparation is required, but actors may wish to read the play in advance. A lending copy of the script will be available for perusal (for 24 hours) at the Town Hall Theater box office prior to auditions.

AUDITION PLACE & TIMES

(Please attend only one audition session. Callbacks will be scheduled after auditions, if needed. If you are absolutely unable to attend either audition session below, please email the director, Peter Kristoph, at pkristoph@gmail.com to discuss arranging an alternative time.)

Town Hall Theater

68 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT 05753
Monday, Nov. 18, 7-9 p.m. (Check-in starts at 6:30 p.m.)

Middlebury Fitness

175 Wilson Rd, Middlebury, VT 05753
Wednesday, Nov. 20 7-9 p.m. (Check-in starts at 6:30 p.m.)
(Park in the lower parking lot, west of the building).

Rehearsals will begin the week of Dec. 17 and will be held two evenings during the week and on Sunday afternoons, with a break between Christmas and New Year's. All rehearsals are in Weybridge. Performances will be Feb. 20-23, 2025 at Town Hall Theater.

The Middlebury Community Players are committed to inclusive and diverse casting. For every role, we consider

ROLES

Cora Swanson: 70, mildest sister, patient, married to Thor and lives next door to Ida and Carl.

Theodore "Thor" Swanson: 65, Cora's husband. A cynic.

Aaronette "Arry" Gibb: 65, never married, lives with Cora and Thor, slightly bitter with "an edge."

Ida Bolton: 66 years old, simple, motherly, lives next door to Cora and Thor.

Carl Bolton: 68, Ida's husband, quiet, reflective, and nervous. Has "spells."

Homer Bolton: 40, Ida and Carl's son, a "mama's boy" who still lives at home.

Myrtle Brown: 39, Homer's fiancée for the last seven years after five years of dating him, seemingly naïve, sweet, and innocent.

Esther Crampton: 72, oldest — and wisest — sister, lives two blocks away.

David Crampton: 70's, Esther's husband, educated, retired professor, looks down on Esther's sisters — he thinks they're all "morons."

actors of all races, ethnicities, ages, and backgrounds. Questions? Email info@middleburycommunityplayers.org, visit MiddleburyCommunityPlayers.org or leave a voicemail at 802-377-3540.

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A Special Publication of the Addison Independent · November 14, 2024

Three funds share \$155K to help build community

UWAC's Board of Directors approved \$155,000 in Community Impact Funding (CIF) for the 2024 priority area of Financial Stability. The funding available this year is a \$25,000 increase compared to 2023, thanks to the community's strong support of UWAC's fundraising efforts.

UWAC focuses its efforts in three areas: Health, Education, and Financial Stability. Any organization receiving a CIF grant from UWAC must clearly align with one of these areas of need. Every year, UWAC enters funding relationships under one of these focus areas and makes three-year grants. A diverse team of dedicated Addison County citizens carefully review and evaluate applicants and make program funding recommendations to UWAC's Board of Directors.

UWAC takes a trust-based philanthropy approach for its CIF application and review process. Rather than requiring nonprofits to submit a lengthy application scored by reviewers, nonprofits submit a Letter of Interest. UWAC's volunteer review team then looks at local data, researches applicant organizations, and prepares for site visits, allowing reviewers to gain a deeper understanding of each organization's work and how/if UWAC could best support them
(See *Impact funding*, Page 2C)

A lot going on at UWAC

Dear Friends of UWAC,

Our Fiscal Year 2023-2024 might best be described as "rollercoaster-like." We began the year with the extreme rainfall and flooding in Addison County and needing to re-deploy Addison County Responds, UWAC's emergency relief fund first established in 2020 during the pandemic. With strong support from the Vermont Community Foundation and a Steering Committee of residents, we helped over 70 local families recover from this event, which, unfortunately, has proven to become a recurring issue.

UWAC's CIF (Community Impact Funding) process gained traction in year two of our trust-based philanthropy

approach, and our funded partner family expanded to 40 nonprofits that are moving in the same direction to help solve our county's most challenging problems.

We welcomed four new Board members (Sarah Cowan, Nikki Dobрева, Silvia Gonzalez and Ryan Torres), and thanked three outgoing Board members (Bruce Bayliss, Bruce Grove and Logan Price) for their years of service.

And you. You broke records here at UWAC. Together you gave \$859,941 for our community, raising the bar for philanthropy in Addison County and increasing our Community Impact Funding investments for the fourth year

(See *Welcome*, Page 2C)



HELENA VAN VOORST

County digs deep to help those hurt by floods

In July 2023, historic levels of rain affected businesses, homeowners, and people living in many areas of Vermont. While Addison County seemed to avoid

catastrophic damage caused by July's rainfall, the area did not fare as well in early August when more isolated storms brought heavy rainfall. The areas of the state affected by July's flooding received a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster declaration, but Addison County did not.

In the absence of Federal relief, United Way of Addison County established the Addison County Responds: Flood Relief fund to support Addison County residents who experienced home and/or property damage from the

rainfall and needed financial assistance. This fund was made possible in part thanks to a contribution from the VT Flood Response & Recovery Fund 2023 of the Vermont Community Foundation.

A volunteer group of community members approved 71 applications totaling \$104,623 in funding. Priority was given to applicants that had significant documented home/property damage, and/or experienced financial hardship as a result of flooding damage. The turnaround on award decisions was swift, and UWAC was able to make payments to third-party vendors, contractors, etc. to partially or wholly cover repair costs.

"Please know that I am deeply grateful and appreciative to you and your volunteers. Thank you so much! And please extend my thanks to the generous donor who made these grants possible. Yet another reason why Addison County remains to be such a remarkable place! I'm weeping with joy that I'll be able to provide my son some assistance for the items I lost that were earmarked for him."

— a recipient of an Addison County Responds grant



Back to school

STUDENTS FROM THE Addison Northwest School District help stuff backpacks full of school supplies for UWAC’s “Stuff the Bus” initiative. Each summer, UWAC distributes over 500 filled backpacks to Addison County students. Pictured, from left, are Hendrik Van Voorst, Isabelle Van Voorst, Ayla Kittredge, Kendall Kittredge, Logan Reed and Gina LeBeau.

Impact funding

(Continued from Page 1)

with its limited local philanthropic dollars. “Our approach to CIF reviewing has worked out beautifully for the second year in a row. Reviewers are spending their time on the important factors — getting a hands-on experience of what the nonprofit is doing, who they are helping, and the impact it’s making on our community,” said UWAC Executive Director Helena Van Voorst.

“The experience of the site visit completely changes the process for the better. Our allocation meeting this year was one of the most efficient we’ve ever had. Reviewers felt confident in their knowledge of applicants and could make informed decisions based on their site visits,” Van Voorst added.

Welcome

(Continued from Page 1)

in a row!

Throughout the year, we all remained United in Purpose. What started off as a scary ride ended with hope and momentum to carry on with the work that still needs to be done. With your support, we know UWAC can lead the way in creating a healthy, thriving Addison County.

With hope and gratitude,
Helena Van Voorst Executive Director
United Way of Addison County



The Addison County 365 Business Circle provides busy entrepreneurs, business owners, and managers an opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of people in your community – with just one gift. Get involved at UnitedWayAddisonCounty.org.

Thank you to our 2023-2024 Members

Acorn Painting
Addison County Independent
Bristol Financial Services
Champlain Valley Properties
Co-Operative Insurance Companies
Green Mountain Electromagnetics

HomeSmith Services, LLC
J.D. Fuller Plumbing & Heating
Kennedy Brothers
Middlebury Eye Associates
Middlebury Fitness
The Middlebury Shop

National Bank of Middlebury
South Mountain Transport
Vermont Book Shop
Vermont Gynecology
Wildflower Ironworks



MEMBERS OF THE Addison County Substance Use and Prevention Coalition gather at Lake Morey Resort for the Prevention Works! VT Conference in May 2024.

Partners work to prevent personal, public health problems

Addison County Substance Use and Prevention Coalition is a public health and advocacy coalition comprised of community leaders across health and human service sectors. We come together

with the overall mission of improving the health of all residents in Addison County by increasing protective factors, decreasing risk factors, and engaging partners across all sectors. We use

evidence-based prevention and public health strategies to support families and individuals in our community. Addison County Substance Use and Prevention Coalition is funded by three federal

prevention grants received by the coalition and one state grant awarded in 2022.

Vision Statement

Addison County prioritizes the health and safety of its residents.

Mission Statement

Improving the health of all in Addison County by increasing protective factors, decreasing risk factors, and engaging partners across all sectors.

peer guided enhancement of recovery

Providing peer-based recovery support to all; we seek to enhance the spiritual, mental, physical, and social growth of our community affected by substance use disorders and addictive behaviors.

cultivating hope, support and success

We focus on cultivating hope, support, and success for all people affected by the challenges of substance use disorders and addictive behaviors. We envision a future where stigma and stereotypes are overcome by an empowered community.



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Thank you, UWAC!

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Health & communities

IN DECEMBER 2023, more than half a dozen people represented Addison County at the Social Determinants of Health and Policy forum in Washington, D.C., to learn more about policies, structures and strategies impacting health and communities for personal, local, state and federal advocacy and funding. Pictured, from left, are Sylvie Morrison (UWAC), Danielle Wallace (Turning Point Center of Addison County), Ingrid Pixley (Counseling Service of Addison County), Deb Wesley (Addison County Home Health & Hospice/ACHHH), Celia Heath (UWAC), Helena Van Voorst (UWAC), Fred Person (Addison County resident) and Maureen Conrad (ACHHH).

Local United Way raises fund drive goal this year

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Encouraged by stellar support during philanthropic fund drive, the United Way of Addison County this year is aiming higher.

UWAC earlier this fall launched a 2024-2025 campaign to raise \$750,000 for charitable causes in our area. That's \$50,000 more than last year's fund drive, which ended up netting an impressive \$859,941. So officials are pleased to be able to boost this year's goal, which had plateaued at \$700,000 in recent years.

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

“We have a great base of donors in Addison County who really care about our mission and are committed to supporting that mission.”

— Erin Reed, development & marketing director

But she hastened to add that more than half of the \$159,941 in above-goal support last year was related to “Addison County Responds: Flood Relief,” a special UWAC effort to raise money for folks who took a particularly painful hit from two major rainstorms in summer 2023.

“We have a great base of donors in Addison County who really care about our mission and are committed to supporting that mission,”

Reed said. “We are seeing some donors increase their gifts because they see some of the issues that are happening in our county and want to help.”

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

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

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

“We’re expecting to see 1,000 people across the state be unsheltered who were staying in hotels and motels, and hundreds of children are included in that number,” Van Voorst said around the time the campaign kicked off. “In Addison

County, we don’t have a lot of people staying in hotels and motels, but we’re already seeing an increase in (service requests) at our local shelters.”

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

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

Not all the news has been discouraging, however.

BIG FEDERAL GRANT

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

(See Goal, Page 15C)

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What youth say about substance use

The 2024 Addison County Youth Survey provides data that helps inform and improve substance misuse prevention programs for Addison County youth and families. 1,071 middle and high school students in Addison County schools participated in the survey, providing UWAC with some of the data below.



2024 Survey Results

2023 Survey Results

57.0%
of high schoolers

52.9%
of middle schoolers

Think people have great risk of harming themselves if they smoke one or more packs of cigarettes per day

63.6%
of high schoolers

53.9%
of middle schoolers

19.5%
of high schoolers

6.5%
of middle schoolers

Any alcohol use in the past 30 days

29.2%
of high schoolers

6.3%
of middle schoolers

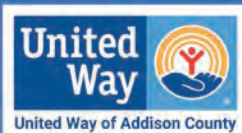
14.6%
of high schoolers

3.6%
of middle schoolers

Any marijuana/cannabis use in the past 30 days

20.4%
of high schoolers

3.2%
of middle schoolers



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STUDENTS FROM THE Bristol Hub-Teen Center & Skatepark teamed up with Bristol CORE and the Addison County Substance Use & Prevention Coalition to spread the message about Project Sticker Shock by posting stickers on alcohol products in Champlain Farms and Bristol Beverage and Redemption.

Stickers raising awareness

Project Sticker Shock is a community awareness campaign sponsored by the Addison County Substance Use & Prevention Coalition that aims to prevent minors from obtaining alcohol from adults 21 and older or using a fake ID to purchase alcohol. The campaign takes place in October, National Youth Substance Use Prevention Month.

Earlier this fall, Bristol CORE and The Bristol Hub-Teen Center & Skatepark teamed up with the Coalition to spread the message about this campaign by posting stickers on alcohol products in Champlain Farms and Bristol Beverage and Redemption in Bristol.

“We’re incredibly grateful to these retailers

for supporting this campaign,” said Celia Heath, UWAC’s Public Health Grant Manager. “Their commitment to keeping the youth in our community safe is exactly what our Coalition hopes to accomplish: by engaging partners across all sectors, we are helping to improve the health of Addison County.”

To learn more about the Addison County Substance Use & Prevention Coalition, please visit our website at unitedwayaddisoncounty.org/acsupc or sign up for our monthly newsletter. You may also email Celia Heath at celia@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org with questions or for more information.





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MAUSD Mentoring



For Fiscal Year 2025, United Way of Addison County is investing \$402,216.

The campaign dollars raised in 2023-2024 will allow UWAC to invest in three impact areas with the following partners in the coming Community Impact Funding cycle:

Health \$115,841

Addison Allies Network: \$8,000	John Graham Housing & Services: \$16,771
Addison County Home Health & Hospice: \$7,542	Junebug: \$1,500
Addison County Relocalization Network: \$5,000	Lund: \$2,000
Age Well: \$10,690	Open Door Clinic: \$23,149
Atria Collective: \$20,000	Pathways Vermont: \$3,000
Elderly Services: \$8,689	Prevent Child Abuse Vermont: \$3,000
Green Mountain Foster Bikes: \$1,500	Turning Point Center: \$5,000

Education \$131,375

Addison County Parent Child Center: \$11,375	Middlebury Area Land Trust: \$5,000
Addison County Readers: \$2,500	Otter Creek Child Center: \$12,000
Bixby Memorial Free Library: \$2,500	Red Clover Children's Center: \$5,000
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes: \$7,500	Starksboro Cooperative Preschool: \$12,000
Bristol Family Center: \$12,000	The Teen Center: \$7,500
DREAM Program: \$1,500	Teen Makery After-School: \$10,000
The HUB Teen Center & Skatepark: \$7,500	Vermont Adult Learning: \$11,000
Mary Johnson Children's Center: \$12,000	Willowell Foundation: \$10,000
MAUSD Mentoring: \$2,000	

Financial Stability \$155,000

Addison Housing Works: \$20,000
CVOEO: \$5,000*
Charter House Coalition: \$22,500
Counseling Services of Addison County: \$20,000
HomeShare Vermont: \$10,000*
HOPE: \$22,500
John Graham Housing & Services: \$22,500
New Community Project: \$5,000
Tri-Valley Transit: \$22,500
Vergennes Community Food Shelf: \$5,000*

*Indicates new funded partner in FY25



United Way Staff

Pictured L to R: **Steve Williams** (Director of Finance), **Celia Heath** (Public Health Grants Manager), **Amy Hoekstra** (Volunteer & Donor Engagement Coordinator), **Helena Van Voorst** (Executive Director), **Lee Bilson** (Office Manager), **Erin Reed** (Development & Marketing Director) and **Sylvie Morrison** (Director of Advocacy).



Gina LeBeau, Youth Coordinator,
Vergennes Union High School



Aislynnne McGill, Youth Coordinator,
Middlebury Union High School

J.D. FULLER

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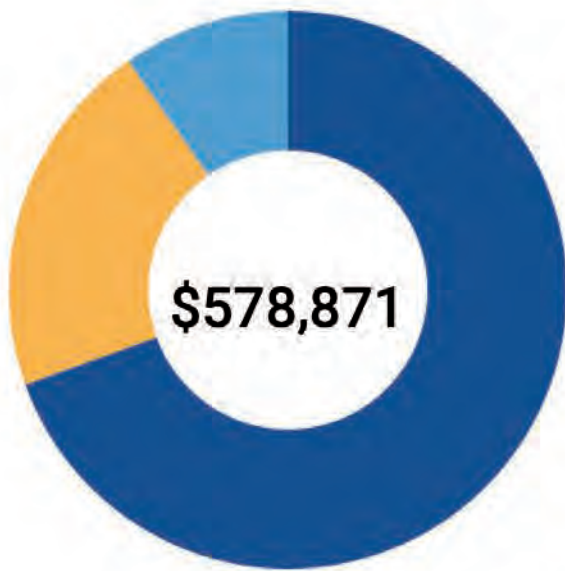
THANK YOU UWAC!

ADDISON COUNTY READERS IS PROUD TO BE A FUNDED PARTNER.

Thanks to **United Way of Addison County** and **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**, Addison County Readers is able to send free books to any child under 5 in Addison County. Scan the QR code or visit the link below to learn more and register your child today!

United Way Register at addisoncountyreaders.org

UWAC Community Investments



Community Impact Funding Grants:
\$402,216

Community Programs:
\$56,072

Mission Investments:
\$120,583

Community Programs

Addison County Racial Equity Learning Community facilitates conversations with local nonprofit leaders who support each other to dismantle systemic racism both within our organizations and within our communities

Days of Caring connects volunteers with nonprofits for two days of making a change in our community

Learn United, a collaboration with Hedgehog + Fox to bring free professional development opportunities to nonprofits

Stuff the Bus, an annual program that provides 500 backpacks and school supplies to Addison County students

The Volunteer Center connects volunteers with opportunities that match their interests, availability, and passion

Vermont 2-1-1, the helpline that connects callers to available human services including food, shelter and healthcare

Youth Scholarship Award recognizes an Addison County student for their volunteerism

Mission Investments

\$15,960 **Addison County Housing Solutions Group:** to support individuals experiencing homelessness and the agencies providing services

\$104,623 **Addison County Responds:** relief funding to support Addison County residents who have experienced hardship due to natural disasters or emergencies

Thank you to the donors, staff, and volunteers of United Way of Addison County.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN *all* OF OUR LIVES!



34 MAIN STREET
downtown MIDDLEBURY, VT
info@ipjrealestate.com
802.388.4242
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Community member

A VOLUNTEER STANDING on the Middlebury green in January 2024 draws attention to the problem of the unhoused during the annual Homelessness Awareness Day.

Photo by Jason Duquette-Hoffman

Thank you, United Way, for your work in our communities!



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Mackenzie Flint earns Youth Volunteer Scholarship

United Way of Addison County fosters community service in all community members, but especially in our youth. In that spirit, we are pleased to honor a local high school senior through our “LIVE UNITED” Volunteer Scholarship Award. On behalf of a generous donor, an Addison County student is chosen annually for the “LIVE UNITED” Volunteer Scholarship Award, recognizing them for volunteering in their community and helping them in advancing their education. This award comes with a \$3,000 cash award, to be used for post-graduation education (college, trade school, adult education, etc.).

The 2024 UWAC Youth Volunteer Scholarship Award recipient is Mackenzie Flint of Waltham. Kenzie is a member of the Vergennes LEOS Club, an affiliation of the Vergennes Lions Club, which strives to give back to the community. Through her participation with the LEOS, Kenzie has participated in various community service projects, including assistance following 2023’s floods, building

an outdoor owl rehab space, reading with elementary school students, and planting so many gardens it is hard to count! One of her biggest projects with LEOS included providing a new playground space for the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes.

Cookie Steponaitis, a Mentor for the Vergennes LEOS Club, calls Mackenzie Flint “a wonder!”

“Mackenzie has learned not only to envision change but how to take the sometimes-cumbersome steps needed to bring all parties to the table.”

— Cookie Steponaitis

“Mackenzie has learned not only to envision change but how to take the sometimes-cumbersome steps needed to bring all parties to the table,” Steponaitis said. “She has met with town leaders, gotten permits, discussed funding options with other civic groups, and engaged members of her senior class and the local career center to participate in the cleaning and building process. Mackenzie completed her goals of securing the donation of a children’s playground, a mural, a raised garden bed, and a barbeque grill for the John Graham Shelter.”

After graduating from Vergennes Union High School this past spring, Kenzie is attending the University of New England-Biddeford to major in Environmental Science.



MACKENZIE FLINT

Addison County Substance Use & Prevention Coalition

Improving the health of all in Addison County by increasing protective factors, decreasing risk factors, and engaging partners across all sectors.

(Hosted by: United Way of Addison County)



Local High Schoolers care about improving their health! According to the 2024 Addison County Youth Survey, students in your community have decreased their substance use:

Q: Any use in the past 30 days?	2023	2024
Alcohol	29.2%	19.5%
Vaping	14.2%	9.5%
Cannabis	20.4%	14.6%

Scan here for full report of the 2024 Youth Survey:



\$625,000 grant will help us keep youth on the right track

United Way of Addison County this past year was selected as a recipient of a \$625,000 federal grant from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) under the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program. This grant program, managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, represents an opportunity to strengthen the Addison County Substance Use and Prevention Coalition's ongoing efforts to prevent youth substance use in our community (Learn more online at unitedwayaddisoncounty.org/acsupe).

are thrilled to award this grant because we know the outcomes DFC-funded coalitions can achieve when implementing evidence-based prevention strategies at the local level," said Helen Hernandez, administrator of the DFC Program.

"Through the DFC program, CDC is empowering community coalitions to implement local solutions to unique, local conditions, with the common goal of preventing youth substance use," added Allison Arwady, MD, MPH, director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at CDC.

"UWAC is grateful for the support of and partnership with ONDCP and CDC."

— Celia Heath

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

ONDCP's DFC program is the nation's leading effort to mobilize communities to prevent and reduce substance use among youth. The DFC program provides federal grants to community coalitions to identify and respond to the issues unique to their communities and change community conditions tied to youth substance use. With this grant, United Way and Addison County Substance Use and Prevention Coalition will be able to continue building a safe, healthy and drug-free community.

"Preventing substance use today is critical so that today's youth don't become tomorrow's overdose victims. We

More information about the DFC program can be found online at tinyurl.com/PreventODs.



Celebrate safely

MOUNT ABRAHAM UNION High School students pose for the Addison County Substance Use & Prevention Coalition's annual "Celebrate Safely" campaign. Celebrate Safely is a social marketing campaign during high-risk times, such as prom and graduation season, that aims to increase student engagement, reduce the rate of underage drinking, and encourage parents to have conversations with their children about how to celebrate milestones without the use of substances.



How does an affordable place to live sound?

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Check out our listings here:



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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENTS help with the harvest at New Community Project in Starksboro in September 2023.

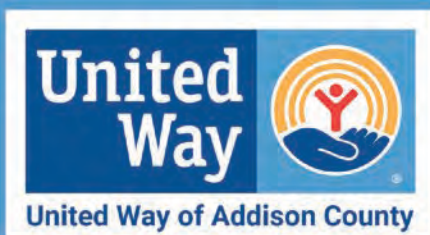
Volunteering shows how much we care

We are grateful for the contributions of all the volunteers who support us and the Addison County community. Whether it be the individuals who help us stuff backpacks for our back-to-school drive, the corporate groups who have pulled weeds and painted fences, or our board members and community collaborators who rally their networks to support our funded partners and events, volunteers are helping build a stronger community.

While we connect people to volunteer opportunities all year long, we bring it to the next level for two days in September. During Days of Caring, we connect hundreds of volunteers with dozens of nonprofits for two days of hard work, laughter and making a change in our community. Days of Caring is the perfect teambuilding opportunity for families, coworkers, sports teams and clubs. It's also a great way for individuals to deepen their understanding of local human service needs, find a cause they care about, roll up their sleeves, and get to work making a difference!



FRIENDS FROM YELLOW HOUSE Community stopped by the United Way of Addison County offices in August 2023 to help fill backpacks during the annual "Stuff the Bus" initiative.



Strong communities need a strong United Way.

Please make your gift today at UnitedWayAddisonCounty.org.



Otter Creek Child Center Inc.

"Celebrating 40 years of helping children discover their love for learning"



UWAC's Mission: We are committed to mobilizing the compassion and generosity of individuals and organizations to improve lives and strengthen Addison County.

We focus our efforts on three foundations of better lives:

Health, Education and Financial Stability.

Health means all people in Addison County experience holistic well-being.

Education means all people in Addison County are ready to learn and can acquire the skills and competencies to succeed.

Financial Stability means Addison County has the resources such that all people thrive in an environment that is safe and secure.



Investing in programs and services that help ensure people in Addison County can increasingly:

ON EDUCATION

- Have options for and feel supported by affordable, high-quality

CHILDCARE

- Are **READY TO LEARN**, experience **QUALITY EDUCATION** in public schools, and successfully

GRADUATE

- Feel a **SENSE OF BELONGING** in community with others
- Participate in **LIFELONG LEARNING**, skill-building, and personal growth

ON FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Live in stable **HOUSING** that meets our needs, and have options when our needs change
- Can get where we need to go with flexible

TRANSPORTATION

- Have resources for **FOOD** and self nourishment
- Have **JOBS** that pay living

WAGES

- Have enough **MONEY** to meet basic needs and the **SKILLS** to plan for the unexpected

ON HEALTH

- **ACCESS AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE** that meets our needs, and have options when our needs change

- **Prevent and manage CHRONIC ILLNESS** and effectively access affordable treatment and care (for physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder)

- Have the **FOOD** and nourishment we need to be healthy

- **AGE** with dignity, choice, and connection

- Access safe spaces and resources to address and prevent **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Goal

(Continued from Page 4)

and alcohol, while promoting healthy behavior.

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

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

- Community-wide parent nights, at which participants brainstorm substance use and prevention strategies.
- The “Getting to Y” program, through which teens are brought together to discuss and analyze results of Vermont’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey. That survey is administered biannually to middle and high school students statewide.

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

- A social marketing campaign called






SARAH COWAN
LAURA MACK
JON CRYSTAL
KEN STOCKMAN

UWAC Board of Directors

The volunteers that make up our Board of Directors represent the small business, higher education, health and human service, and financial service sectors, as well as the community at large.

Ken Stockman, President	Ann Crumb, Member-at-Large	Janet Franklin
Laura Mack, Vice President	Fahimeh Bahrami	Silvia Gonzalez
Sarah Cowan, Treasurer	Maria Collette	Mark Peluso
Jon Crystal, Secretary	Nikki Dobрева	Ryan Torres



“Talk, It’s Important,” which encourages parents to discuss with their children the dangers of alcohol and cannabis use.

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

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

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

In 2023, 29.2% of area high schoolers acknowledged having consumed alcohol

at some point during the prior month. This past spring, that stat had dropped to 19.5%, according to Heath.

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

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

The United Way helps to support the Addison County Parent/Child Center’s Learning Together Program.

The Learning Together Program is an intensive, twenty-eight hour per week training program which focuses on helping young people gain the job readiness and retention skills along with other skills that prepare participants to be successful in the work place, as parents, and in life.

The program consists of six basic components, while representing a general framework, are balanced through a schedule that is individualized for each participant. Participants spend the bulk of their hours in Learning Together at an on-the-job placement doing childcare, clerical work or food service at the Center. The focus is on learning how to get along with co-workers, how to take supervision, how to be reliable and dependable and able to avoid distractions while on the job.

Parental Resilience: We work with families in their homes, in community and in our Learning Together Program. Each family has an outreach worker who can support them in ways that the family is expressing as helpful. Learning Together provides support through classes, groups, peer connections and counseling opportunities. Outreach workers offer families help with housing, transportation, medical appointments and financial help.

Social Connections: Learning Together, which offers 28 hours per week of programming for parents and youth at risk of dropping out of school and/or becoming parents early. Participants



are able to get and give peer support and receive professional supports while their children are in a therapeutic childcare setting.

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development: We teach parenting weekly, as well as give individual supports to parents who are with us in childcare or in their homes. Parents spend time in childcare and learn strategies in the room, with their child.

Concrete Support in Times of Need: we have a family assistance fund where families can access up to \$250 per year to help them through hard times, lessening stress in their lives. We also provide supports such as food, clothing and help to find housing.

Social and Emotional Competence of Children: The core of Learning Together is that one third of the time a parent is in our program; they are in childcare with professional caregivers and their children. We teach parenting through teaching child care job skills and focus on development and well-being for children. We focus on emotional regulation for children and other developmental and pro-social behaviors. We have key phrases to help parents and children. We focus on building the relationship between the parent and child. Our therapeutic program works on the social and emotional well-being of infants and toddlers.



Addison County Parent/Child Center

info@addisoncountypcc.org

addisoncountypcc.org

388-3171



LEADING THE WAY



United Way of Addison County

At United Way of Addison County, we believe everyone deserves to thrive. That's why we're committed to mobilizing the caring power of neighbors, businesses, and community partners to lead transformational change right here in our community. We can't change lives without your support. Your donation helps us tackle critical issues and make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Join UWAC and Lead the Way to a better future for all.

Make your gift today at UnitedWayAddisonCounty.org