



Wherefore art?

Local elementary school students are tackling “Romeo and Juliet.” See how in Arts + Leisure.



Crunch time

Several Panther teams advanced in or made it to NCAA D-III tournament. See Pages 1B & 2B.



The cut

Meat processing in Vermont gets a boost from a new state college butcher program. See Page 14A.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Vol. 78 No. 47

Middlebury, Vermont ♦ Thursday, November 21, 2024 ♦ 52 Pages

\$1.50

MAUSD is weighing teacher cuts

But board seeks savings elsewhere

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — What will it take for the Mount Abraham Unified School District to keep the overall tax increase in the coming year to only 6%?

Superintendent Patrick Reen on Tuesday presented a FY 2026 budget proposal that would do

that, in large part by cutting more than 15 jobs — many of them in the classroom.

School board members at that meeting asked him to take another stab at it.

This first proposal would limit tax increases by lowering education spending by \$1.8

million in the upcoming fiscal year. About \$1.6 million of those savings would come from reducing 15.4 fulltime equivalent (FTE) positions in the Bristol-area district. Board members on Tuesday raised concerns about such cuts, as community members have repeatedly urged district officials to preserve student-facing positions.

Some board members suggested exploring potential reductions in other areas, such as the district's central office. One point was echoed by multiple board members throughout the conversation: wherever cuts come from, they will be impactful.

“It’s been stated several times tonight that cutting \$1.8 million is (See MAUSD, Page 8A)

Hunters claim around 200 deer on opening weekend

By ANDY KIRKALDY

ADDISON COUNTY — The rifle deer season got off to a good start in Addison County this past weekend — but the numbers are hard to pin down and compare to other seasons for a couple of reasons.

For one, popular Orwell weigh station Buxton’s Store closed its doors at the end of October, more than two weeks before the Nov. 16 start of the 16-day rifle season. In 2023, Buxton’s handled 70 deer taken (See Deer season, Page 9A)



All aboard for song and dance

THE STAGE AT the Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium is decked out with a dramatic set in the form of a Jazz Era cruise liner and some Mount Abe actors singing and dancing in sailor costumes during a Monday evening rehearsal of “Anything Goes.” The fabulous musical featuring Cole Porter tunes and scores of Mount Abe students will be staged Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 7 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. Get tickets online at tinyurl.com/MtAbeAnythingGoes and see more photos on Page 10A.

Photo by Buzz Kuhns

Food shelf in Bristol gets boost for holidays

By MARIN HOWELL

BRISTOL — Volunteers at the Bristol Have-A-Heart Food Shelf are gearing up for a busy holiday season.

The food shelf served a record number of community members in November (392) and December (424) of 2023. Have-A-Heart Food Shelf Treasurer Allison Pouliot said the nonprofit expects a similar turnout this year.

“Thanksgiving (2023) was our biggest distribution to date, and then Christmas surpassed that, so we’re expecting similar attendance this year,” she told the Independent.

Pouliot noted that during the holidays the food shelf serves about twice as many people as it does throughout the rest of the year. (See Bristol, Page 11A)

HOPE needs help to provide food and gifts for the season

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — As the same time that Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects (HOPE) is fielding a growing number of requests for food, clothing and other necessities, the Middlebury nonprofit is also readying its annual Holiday Shop and

food boxes to ensure area folks in need have a joyful Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Jeanne Montross, who for the past 24 years has served as HOPE’s executive director, said she’s as concerned as she’s ever been about the organization’s ability (See HOPE, Page 13A)

College is investing \$3.5M locally

Ilsley Library and housing project get crucial financial backing

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury College has earmarked a combined \$3.5 million toward the impending renovation/expansion of the Ilsley Public Library and construction of a major, mixed-income housing project at the northeast edge of Middlebury village.

College trustees at their Oct. 24-26 gathering specifically OK’d \$1 million

in support for what will be a \$17 million makeover of the Ilsley at 75 Main St. They also agreed to invest \$2.5 million in Stonecrop Meadows, a 218-unit residential neighborhood to be built in phases on 35 acres off Middlebury’s Seminary Street Extension.

ILSLEY LIBRARY

Work will begin early next year removing Ilsley’s 1977 and 1988

additions. The original 1924 building will be retained, restored, and equipped with a new, 8,000-square-foot, two-story addition on its northeast side. The new-and-improved facility will boast double the space for youth services; new activity and conference/flex rooms; a new “early learning” area; new spaces catering to teens and “twens”; a new outdoor (See College, Page 12A)



By the way

The Vermont Agency of Transportation this year again invited Vermont schools to name the state’s big orange plow trucks. Eight Addison County schools weighed in with names that will spend this coming winter on eight VTrans plow trucks. State plow truck operators visited the schools that named a truck on Thursday, Nov. 7. Here are the names offered up by Addison County schools: (See By the way, Page 12A)

Theater closer to raising the curtain

Addition to be ready by spring

By JOHN FLOWERS

MIDDLEBURY — Those spearheading an ongoing expansion and renovation of Middlebury’s Town Hall Theater (THT) at 68 South Pleasant St. had hoped to see the \$8.2 million project completed in time for a festive, public unveiling this New Year’s Eve.

A legion of diligent Bread Load Corp. workers has made great progress on the 7,000-square-foot, three-story addition being built onto the southwest end of the historic performing arts building, though a “grand opening” celebration will need to wait until late next spring or early summer, THT Executive Director Lisa Mitchell said during a tour of (See THT, Page 16A)



DOUGLAS ANDERSON AND Lisa Mitchell, artistic director and executive director, respectively, of Middlebury’s Town Hall Theater, stand in the Doug and Debby Anderson Rehearsal Studio and gallery that’s taking shape in the new addition to the THT building. Work on the space is expected to wrap up this winter with a gala opening in late spring or early summer.

Independent photo/Steve James

Index

Obituaries.....6A-7A
Classifieds.....9B-10B
Service Directory.....7B-8B
Entertainment..... Arts + Leisure
Community Calendar.....5B
Arts Calendar..... Arts + Leisure
Sports.....1B-3B



UVM Health Network announces widespread service cuts

Porter Hospital is not targeted, but Addison County patients will still feel the pinch

By PETER D’AURIA
VTDigger.org
VERMONT — The University of Vermont Health Network (UVMHN) on Thursday, Nov. 14, announced plans for a sprawling series of health service cuts at its facilities — reductions that could affect how and where patients across Vermont could receive medical care.

Officials at Porter Medical Center, a UVMHN affiliate in Middlebury, said the cuts won’t directly affect health care operations here but will have some impact on Addison County residents seeking health care.

The network plans to eliminate the transplant department at UVM Medical Center; shutter the inpatient psychiatric unit at Central Vermont Medical Center; offload dialysis programs in Newport, Rutland and St. Albans; and close two clinics in the Mad River Valley.

UVM Medical Center in Burlington is also slated to reduce its census of inpatients — currently about 450 — by about 50 in the coming months.

Health network leaders blamed the reductions on recent orders from the Green Mountain Care Board, a key state health care regulator. Those orders limit how much revenue the network’s hospitals can raise from medical services, and how much it can charge commercial insurance for those services.

“Today’s a hard day for our organization and for our leaders,” Sunny Eappen, the CEO of the

UVM Health Network, said at a press briefing this past Thursday. “We’re having to take action on a number of measures that we don’t want to be doing. But as a result of the decisions by the Green Mountain Care Board, we’re being forced to do that.”

Porter Medical Center appears to have emerged relatively unscathed from UVMHN’s announced cuts.

“There are no layoffs or reduction in services at Porter as the result of the Green Mountain Care Board actions that were discussed this morning,” Bob Ortmeyer, president of both Porter and Elizabethtown Community Hospital in New York, said through an email exchange.

But PMC clients will nonetheless feel the effects as they navigate the state hospitals’ interconnected web of services.

“Porter will feel the downstream impact of managing the difficulty in transfers and the impact to the cuts in the administrative shared services that all the hospitals in the network rely on,” he said.

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM STRUGGLES

Vermont’s aging population — as well as labor shortages, high pharmaceutical costs, a lack of long term care facilities and other factors — has pushed prices for health care up around the state.

In an attempt to keep those costs in check, the Green Mountain Care Board has recently taken a harder line with Vermont hospitals, placing firmer limits on patient revenue and commercial insurance charges.

But the board’s recent orders

have caused friction between the regulator and UVM Health Network administrators, who say they plan to appeal them. In the meantime, however, the network will move forward with cuts, executives say.

“We unfortunately need to take these actions because this is for this fiscal year,” Eappen said, “and so we need to keep moving forward while that legal process continues down the road.”

The Green Mountain Care Board said in a Nov. 14 statement that members learned about the network’s plans just one day earlier and are seeking to better understand the rationale behind them.

Board members are “deeply concerned about the impact of UVMHC’s decisions on patients, its dedicated staff, and the broader healthcare system,” the board said.

CHANGES ACROSS VT

If implemented as planned, the changes at the UVM Health Network — which includes UVM Medical Center in Burlington, Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin and Middlebury’s Porter Medical Center, as well as three hospitals in New York, including Elizabethtown Community Hospital — could affect care throughout Vermont.

In Burlington, UVM Medical Center is seeking to decrease, by roughly 50, the number of patients who stay overnight, by limiting transfers to the hospital and removing barriers to getting patients into lower-level facilities like nursing homes. It was not immediately clear how that would

be achieved. The Burlington hospital currently performs roughly a dozen kidney transplants a year. Halting those would likely send patients to New Hampshire’s Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, UVM Health Network administrators said.

The health network is also hoping to transfer dialysis centers in St. Albans, Newport and Rutland to other non-network operators. Those centers serve about 115 patients and lose about \$3 million annually, the network said.

UVM Health Network also plans to shutter a family medicine clinic and a rehabilitation clinic, both affiliated with Central Vermont Medical Center, in Waitsfield.

“Those providers and staff will be moved to existing primary care locations,” said Anna Tempesta Noonan, Central Vermont Medical Center’s president and chief operating officer. “The closest being the Waterbury clinic that we have, which is approximately 12 miles from where our current practice is in the Valley.”

Central Vermont Medical Center’s inpatient psychiatric unit, which currently has eight patients, would also shut down. Noonan said that the hospital was working to provide lower-level psychiatric care elsewhere in the hospital, through “enhanced services” in the emergency department and “psychiatric supports” in primary care facilities.

Administrators said they’ve also implemented or planned cuts to non-clinical expenses totaling \$38 million, which include delaying maintenance and upgrades and halting programs to improve patients’ access to care, according to a Nov. 14 press release.

Network administrators said the cuts would affect about 200 employees in total. The hospitals plan to not renew contracts for roughly 100 traveling staffers and find other positions within the network for around another 100 permanent staff.

The changes announced last week come just a month after UVM Health Network announced a delay in construction of an outpatient surgical center — another action it blamed on orders from the Green Mountain Care Board.

UVM administrators did not provide a hard timeline for the cuts, saying they will likely take months to implement.

STAKEHOLDER CONCERNS

In an interview, Owen Foster,



Food for thought

STUDENTS AT MIDDLEBURY’S Mary Hogan Elementary School celebrated “Spirit Day” on Tuesday, Nov. 19, by dressing up as their favorite foods. In this photo, fifth-grader Tilly Ribaldo shows off her love for fruit salad, as her friend Jessie Brown (left) gets in on the act. Among the group are a banana, also known as Jack MacIntyre, and a strawberry, aka Sylas Erno.

Independent photo/Steve James

the chair of the Green Mountain Care Board, pushed back against UVM Health Network executives’ argument that the regulator was to blame for the cuts.

“I think that the board’s responsibility is to contain costs and ensure access and quality is sufficient,” Foster said. “And our findings explain that UVM did not hit those marks. They have extremely high prices, their quality was declining, and their access was poor. So I think in that circumstance, with those budgets, we made the right decisions.”

Foster said that the hospital could have taken multiple other steps to cut costs other than reducing health care services, such as improving efficiency, repaying loans from the

network’s New York hospitals and correctly budgeting federal grant money.

“I think that there’s many other hospitals, other academic medical centers across the country, other Vermont hospitals, that (did) a far better job of controlling expenses over the last five years,” Foster said.

“I think that there’s many other hospitals, other academic medical centers across the country, other Vermont hospitals, that (did) a far better job of controlling expenses over the last five years.”

— Owen Foster, chair, Green Mountain Care Board

UVMHN’s announcement also drew a rebuke from the Vermont Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, which represents nearly 3,000 nurses and other staff at the UVM Medical Center. Deb Snell, the president of

the federation, called news of the cuts “very disappointing” in an interview this past Thursday.

“The UVM Health Network (See Cuts, Page 3A)

Lincoln considers electric school buses

By MARIN HOWELL

LINCOLN — Lincoln School District officials are exploring the option of using electric school buses in the learning community.

Lincoln School Board members at their Nov. 12 meeting voiced their support for Board Chair Jeanne Albert gathering more information on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean School Bus Rebate Program — a program that provides funding for replacing existing school buses with zero-emission or clean vehicles.

During the board’s discussion, Albert noted there are a few aspects of the program she’d like to further investigate, including how much money is available and what is the

risk of applying for the program, if any.

“I think right now there’s no risk to apply; we’re not committing dollars,” Albert said. “If we decide we don’t want to get the buses we’re not in some weird bind about it or whatever, but I want to just confirm that that is true.”

The Lincoln School District educates preK-12 students in Lincoln. The district runs two bus routes, providing transportation for K-6 students attending Lincoln Community School and for middle and high school students attending Mount Abraham Union High School.

The school district contracts with Betcha Transit/Student

Transportation of America, which has for decades provided transportation to Addison County school districts. The Lincoln School District is under a two-year contract with Betcha and will need to go out to bid this upcoming spring, Superintendent Amy Cole told the Independent.

At the Nov. 12 meeting, Albert said she’d also like to clarify who the applicant would be if the district decided to apply for the program. She noted the program is open to school districts that, like Lincoln, contract out for transportation services to a private fleet.

If selected, those districts can pass along the funds they receive to (See Buses, Page 3A)

AGWAY

Check our Black Friday ad next week!

30% off Deals on select Pet Supplies, Christmas Décor, and more!

*plus see our website, Facebook, or store for details!

KRINGLE CANDLE

BUY 1 GET 2nd at 50% off

Christmas Trees Are Here!

SHOP EARLY!

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY

338 Exchange Street

802-388-4937

Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4

www.MiddleburyAgway.com

Closed Thanksgiving Day

Memory Tree

The Middlebury Lions Club informs those who wish to memorialize the names of their deceased relatives and friends on this year’s “Christmas Memory Tree” that they may do so by the donation of a dollar for each name and forwarding the names to the:

Middlebury Lions Club
P.O. Box 5
Middlebury, VT 05753

The Lions suggest each name be typed or printed so as to be legible.

Please use below or attach a separate list for more names.

SPONSORED BY IPJ Real Estate

DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE IS DECEMBER 13.

NAME	NAME

MIDDLEBURY NATURAL FOODS CO-OP

\$3.00 OFF ANY LOCAL CHOCOLATE

(minimum purchase \$3.00) (Expires Wednesday, 11/27/24)

9 Washington St | 802.388.7276 middlebury.coop

Co-op basics just got better!

Shop Co-op Basics Staples on Sale Now - Help HOPE Fill Shelves from 10-2 on 11/23

3/\$5 \$2.99/ea

Field Day Organic Skip Jack Tuna 5 oz

2/\$3 \$1.99/ea

Field Day Organic Macaroni & Cheese 6 oz

\$3.99 \$4.99

Field Day Organic All Varieties Peanut Butter 18 oz

See in-store flyer or scan the QR code to stock up on holiday essentials!

CO-OP MEMBER DEALS

Members Take an Extra 20% Off

Lake Champlain CHOCOLATES®

Nov 21 - Nov 27

Ferrisburgh says a big thank you to volunteers

By ANDY KIRKALDY

FERRISBURGH — The town of Ferrisburgh on Thursday, Nov. 14, said a big thank you to its employees, volunteers, and elected and appointed officials and committee members by serving them a meal prepared and served by town businesses at the Ferrisburgh Volunteer Fire Department.

All who serve Ferrisburgh were welcome, from the town's fire chief to members of its Trails Committee — 110 in all, including their significant others, according to organizer and Selectboard Member Walter Reed.

Keeping it local, food was provided and served buffet style by Ferrisburgh businesses: the Ferrisburgh Bake Shop and Deli, Gilfeather's Fine Provisions and Dakin Farms. The Basin Harbor

Club also donated a gift certificate as a door prize, and selectboard Chair Clark Hinsdale donated bottles of maple syrup as additional door prizes.

Reed had suggested the idea to fellow board members, modeling the plan after more modest dinners the town had staged in the past just for its elected officers. He said he first began thinking about how vital volunteers are while working with officials with other local communities to help the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad get back on track, an ongoing effort in the past year that he said has borne fruit.

"I came up with the idea while working with VARS and seeing how important volunteers are," he said. "And in my role in the town as a selectman, I see how important the ones we have in our own town

are. And I brought it to the board that we need to do something to show appreciation to everybody in the town for what they do."

Reed said he felt it was particularly important given the struggles of recent years.

"We've all gone through a hard time adjusting to COVID, how that affected our town, how the floods affected our town. Everybody pulled together," he said. "We just felt it was the right time to thank everyone for what they're doing so that we can keep our town strong and the volunteers volunteering."

The list of people on appointed committees doing good work in Ferrisburgh is impressive: The town has Recreation, Town Center, Trails and Climate and Energy committees; a conservation commission, as well as the standard planning commission, zoning board, and board of listers.

The selectboard also makes appointments to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District board and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, as well as to the Maple Broadband board of directors (a Ferrisburgh resident is its chair). Other groups not officially affiliated with the town, but which do vital work, are the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall and the Ferrisburgh Historical Society.

All were invited this past Thursday, as were members of the fire department, town hall and highway department employees, and every official on the town meeting ballot, including justices of the peace and first constable. VARS members were also welcomed.

"I could send you a list of all the organizations in town," Reed said. "But there are a lot of them when you start putting them together."

One of the many town volunteers, Jean Richardson, was chosen by anonymous vote as Ferrisburgh's volunteer of the year.

Reed referred to the past, smaller-scale annual event for town officers, but said he believed a larger, rarer and more inclusive event — such as this one — meant more.

"I think it's more special if it's not annually," he said. "I think when it's an annual thing, people become used to it, and there's

nothing special about it. And we've never invited the significant others. This year we are."

Circumstances also made the event affordable this year. In February, the town sold its roughly 34-acre parcel at the intersection of Routes 7 and 22A next to the Agency of Transportation park-and-ride lot and railroad station. The interest alone on the proceeds funded the dinner's roughly \$5,000 cost, Reed said.

"We put the money from that sale in a CD, and we're using the money earned from that CD to pay for this dinner," Reed said. "So it's not an expense to the taxpayer, and it's a way of showing our appreciation to all the townspeople."

He described the evening as worth the investment.

"Everybody had a wonderful time," Reed said. "It was just a great social event for the town."

Cuts

(Continued from Page 2A) seems to be taking no responsibility for their poor management of their finances the last few years," Snell said. "And now these decisions are coming on the back of Vermonters."

Mike Fisher — a former state representative from Lincoln who now serves as Vermont's chief health care advocate — also expressed concern about the network's announcement.

"I'm frustrated at UVM for blaming the economic situation we're in on the Green Mountain Care Board," Fisher said. "We desperately need UVM and other hospitals to come to the table in good faith to figure out how we can best serve Vermonters, given the financial crisis we're in."

The *Independent's* John Flowers contributed to this report.

Buses

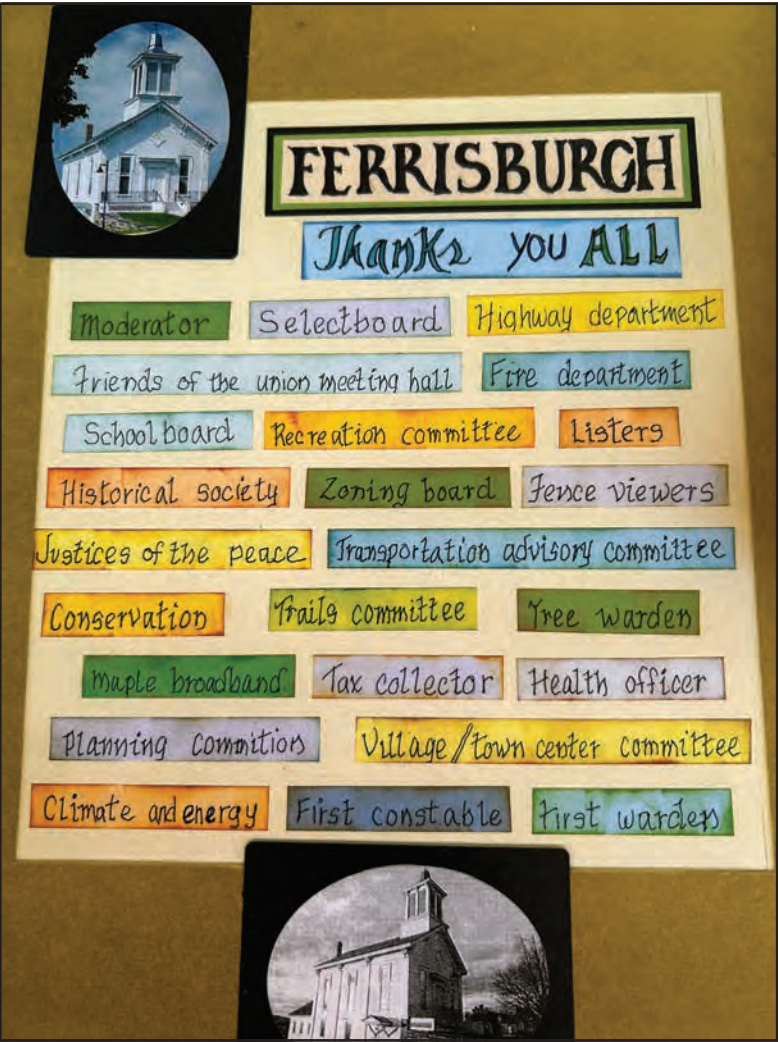
(Continued from Page 2A) the private fleets to replace buses. The program also allows for a third party to apply on behalf of a school district.

"That's the third category I think needs to be clarified; what is the difference between those two options," Albert said.

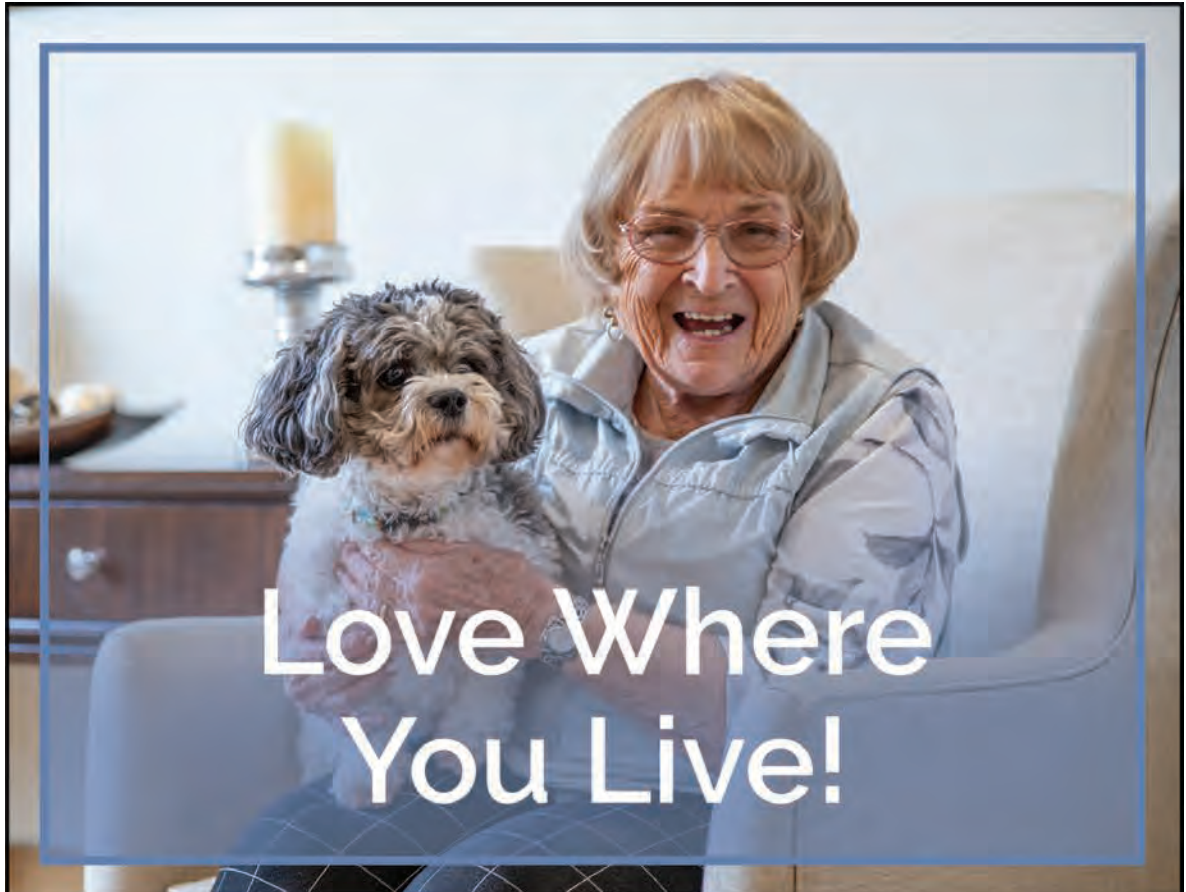
The deadline to apply for the program is in January.

Cole told the *Independent* on Friday that district officials were looking into the EPA program as part of the district's ongoing sustainability efforts. District officials planned to attend a webinar this past Monday to learn more about the benefits of the program and if it would be a good fit for the Lincoln School District.

Cole said the school board would probably discuss the matter again at either its Nov. 26 or Dec. 3 meeting.



THIS POSTER, designed by artist Janet Seaburg, promoted the Nov. 14 thank-you dinner Ferrisburgh staged for its volunteers and employees and their significant others at the town's fire department.



Reclaim your independence with personalized service, a thriving community full of new friends, and just the right amount of care.

Ask about our *Fall Incentives* and lock in your exclusive rate.

 THE RESIDENCE at Otter Creek

Independent, Assisted & Memory Care Living

350 Lodge Road, Middlebury
802-483-4657 | residenceottercreek.com

An LCB Senior Living Community: More Than 25 Years of Excellence



SOCK SALE

Buy 3 • Get 1 FREE



November 22nd - December 1st

56 Main St., Middlebury | 802-388-7245 | mmvf.com




STUFF-A-TRUCK HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!


HOPE served over 600 children, right here in Addison County last Christmas!
It's time to re-stock the Holiday Store shelves.

Drop off your new unwrapped toys, or make a monetary donation at G. Stone Motors or StoneCDJR. Help us make sure every child has gifts under the tree and a smile on their face!





Questions?
www.gstonemotors.com or 802-388-6718 • www.stonecdjr.com or 802-388-9961



36 Boardman St.,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-6718
gstonemotors.com



2149 Rt 7 South,
Middlebury VT 05753
802-388-9961
stonecdjr.com



Editorial

Rutland sets example of how to grow local housing

An important concept in building new housing was recently articulated by Nevon Neary, executive director of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. “Housing,” he said, “doesn’t just pop up out of nowhere. I think what’s most critical is that the city of Rutland is really laying the foundation for significant housing growth.”

Rutland and its county, as most of us know, has been losing population since area marble quarries declined in the 1970s-80s. But even though its population has been in decline, it also needs significant new housing to meet its needs, which were pegged at 7,000 new units for renters and homeowners by 2040, or about 450 new units per year.

To have housing meet such demand requires proactive planning, which Rutland has been doing. A year ago, Rutland Mayor Mike Doenges set a goal of creating 1,000 new housing units by 2028, or about 250 units per year. Step one was to recognize bureaucratic roadblocks and get them out of the way, that is to remove costs and zoning barriers that hamper building projects. Step two is to partner with affordable housing developers, such as the Housing Trust of Rutland County, as well as with area banks and private developers. The housing trust already has 46 new units in the works in two projects.

“It can’t just be the affordable housing organizations that are doing this,” said Marry Cohen, executive director of the Housing Trust of Rutland County. “It’s a lot of private developers that need to step to the plate as well.”

But because the market won’t support affordable housing without public subsidies, special programs have to be developed. According to a story in VTdigger, Doenges worked with the Rutland Heritage Family Credit Union to launch a program called “Roofs over Rutland” which recently received \$8 million to provide low-interest rate loans to developers. That money came from a fund set up by State Treasurer Mike Pieciak, called “10% in Vermont.” Since the rollout of the program last month, about a dozen housing development loan requests have been made.

Other steps to boost housing development in Rutland city include the reduction of “prohibitive” permitting fees and wastewater water allocation permits, which were lowered from \$4 per gallon to 25 cents per gallon for residential developments. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission also recently published a housing guide for developers with the goal of “bringing clarity to the housing production process” to help developers manage the city’s permitting process and better contain costs.

Neary told VTdigger the document “has been monumental in removing some of the barriers, especially information barriers for accessing public money and incentives for housing development and really bringing resources directly to those developers’ fingertips.”

None of these action-oriented ideas have met the city’s current demands, but they are steps that don’t cost a lot of money, tap into existing grants and funding to help subsidize affordable housing, and let developers know the community is trying to pave the way for more housing developers to build and sell at a modest profit.

The Vermont Housing Finance Agency is the group that estimates housing needs for each county and major population centers, and its data profiles per town and county provide much needed information about current housing demographics, including projections of about 30 new housing per year in Addison County from 2020-25 — far less than what’s needed. A 2021 report by the Addison County Housing Trust found Addison County needed 230 new housing units at that time to meet demand, and a Vermont Futures Project report suggesting the state reach a population of 802,000 reported Addison County would need to build 358 housing units per year through 2035 to meet that lofty goal.

Those big housing numbers would help fill area schools, staff area businesses and hospitals to near capacity, reduce high labor costs, and create more vitality throughout our communities. The same is true even if the number of new housing units is a more modest 100 per year. The point is to meet existing demand, not continually fall behind.

Of the several recommendations the Vermont Housing Finance Agency suggests for communities interested in tackling the problem, one is to establish a local Housing Committee to examine obstacles the town may be posing to developers, listen to local developers and address their concerns, help connect developers with grants and other funds to subsidize affordable housing units, and identify local parcels (perhaps by changing those parcels’ zoning from industrial to high-density residential, for example) that would be suitable for multi-unit developments.

None of this is to suggest Addison County hasn’t been working on increasing housing density and affordability for the past several years. They have been. But a formalized plan and a goal like Rutland is pursuing, along with removing obstacles that are costly and subsidizing fees that are restrictive, are good ideas to copy. And because providing more housing is the linchpin to help solve the state’s and county’s other vexing issues — lowering the cost of healthcare and education — the sooner we lay the foundation and set achievable goals, the better off we’ll be.

Angelo Lynn

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

Periodicals Postage Paid at Middlebury, Vt. 05753

Postmaster, send address change to Addison Independent,
58 Maple Street, Middlebury, Vt. • 802-388-4944 • Fax: 802-388-3100 • Web: www.addisonindependent.com
E-Mail: news@addisonindependent.com • E-Mail Advertising: ads@addisonindependent.com

Editor/Publisher: Angelo S. Lynn

Assistant Editor: John S. McCright

Reporters: John Flowers
Andy Kirkaldy
Marin Howell

Multimedia: Megan James
Photographer: Steve James
Front Office: Vicki Nolette

Advertising Managers:
Christine Lynn
Jenna Hunsinger

Advertising Representatives:
Tom Van Sant
Katy Foote

Business Manager: Elsie Lynn Parini

Production Manager: Susan Leggett

Graphic Designers:
Shannon Hart

Copy Editor: Sarah Pope
Circulation: Sean Dougherty
Driver: Dennis Smith

Megan James

Sarah Pope

Vicki Nolette

Shannon Hart

Steve James

Published every Thursday by the Addison Press, Inc. Member Vermont Press Association; New England Press Association; National Newspaper Association.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: All print subscriptions include online access. 6 Months \$35.00, 1 Year \$65.00, 2 years \$125.00. Discounted rate for Senior Citizens and students call for details. 802-388-4944.
Online Only – 1 Week \$3.00, 1 Month \$10.00, 1 Year \$50.00
The Independent assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which the typographical error occurred. Advertiser will please notify the management immediately of any errors that may occur.
The Addison Independent USPS 005-380

What’s a carrot’s favorite martial art? Carrotee
MARY HOGAN ELEMENTARY School second-grader Ainsley Butler was a picture-perfect carrot on Tuesday as part of “Spirit Day,” when students were challenged to dress as their favorite foods. Independent photo/Steve James

Listening, learning, getting along

My goal for this column was to not write about election outcomes. Yet, I’m experiencing the pink elephant paradox: No matter how hard I try not to think about the results, they permeate my thoughts. Still, I realize that what I’ve been thinking about lately has been percolating in my mind for quite some time and the election brought it to the forefront.

The country has seemed very divided for years. I use “seem” deliberately. Newscasters, pundits, and other media people would have us believe that these divisions are because we all fall into either the red camp or the blue camp.

In my experience, people are more complex than this media-generated narrative that focuses on constant conflict. According to Seth Godin, the current media business model is “amplified catastrophe [that] never ends, and it can easily make us feel helpless.” He describes the model as “Endless catastrophes, endlessly examined, magnified and perfected.” The red/blue dichotomy does not inform us about important issues. It’s intended to increase the number of viewers, readers, and followers.

I deeply resent being categorized simplistically as red or blue. Personally, I don’t vote along party lines. I don’t concern myself with which political party someone belongs to when I meet them, when they take a course with me, repair my roof, or sell me groceries. I talk with people of varying social and political persuasions in my roles as teacher, volunteer,

churchgoer, family member, friend, neighbor, and regular person walking on this planet. Even when we disagree, we manage to avoid fighting. I’m convinced that most of us want to live in a world where people and other living things can thrive. Not just survive but thrive.

Fueled by the media’s coverage of political campaigns, I was moved to brainstorm a list of over twenty guidelines, caveats, and lessons I’ve shared with my students over the years. When I read it, I was reminded that education is nonlinear and iterative, that I’m constantly learning alongside my students, and that I need to take my own advice. Here are some lessons that are especially important to me right now:

- Step outside your comfort zone
- Ask questions
- Listen
- Acknowledge agreement
- Disagree respectfully

When I’m in conversations with people whose social or political perspectives I disagree with, it takes a lot of willpower to resist trying to convince them how wrong they are. I’m not always successful and I occasionally get into arguments. Sometimes, I take my own advice. I ask questions and listen (really listen; not just stop talking). When I notice points of agreement, I acknowledge them (and resist saying, “but...”). I do my best to disagree respectfully, which sometimes merely results in me steaming inside. But

(See Ways of Seeing, Page 5A)

Ways of Seeing

By Ruth Farmer

Birds in flight symbolize transcendence

I don’t know why birds so often show up in my life, and therefore in my writing. But they do, often serving as conduits for some sort of metaphor about life. Birds have a particularly Vermont association for me: Before moving to Vermont 13 years ago I lived mostly in suburban or urban spaces and rarely noticed birds. I was younger then, and didn’t have the time or curiosity to pay my avian neighbors any mind. I can’t say that I have more time now, but those birds keep breaking in on me.

Over the past 18 months, great blue herons seem to be following me. My house is situated between two streams, so it’s not unusual for me to glimpse a great blue heron standing gracefully atop its long legs in a stream bed. I’m always stirred by the beauty of these birds’ curved silhouettes. But in the past year-and-a-half, it’s great blue herons *in flight* that have burst repeatedly into my field of vision and stopped me in my tracks.

In case it’s been a while since you’ve seen a great blue heron, here are some quick facts: The average great blue stands about 4.5 feet tall, has a wingspan of roughly 6 feet, and weighs between 4 and 6 pounds. These are *large* birds. When you see one lift off and fly, if you’re anything like me, your first thought is, “Holy cow, that bird has no business flying! How does it *do that*?!”

Until recently, I’d almost never seen a great blue heron

in flight. Now, I see at least one great blue propelling itself across my field of vision every month. Sometimes they’re flying across my back field or over the trees alongside my driveway, but I’ve seen them all over Vermont. I’ve seen them in California. And one magical afternoon by the Nubble Lighthouse in Maine, I saw an entire *flock* of them flying over the rocky Atlantic coast.

Maybe they have been there all along; maybe I’m just noticing them now because I’m looking for them, like a self-fulfilling ornithological prophecy. Still, it’s gotten to the point where I’ve started to wonder: *Is someone trying to tell me something?* And not far behind that thought: *Should I write about this?*

I just wasn’t sure what, or how.

Here is something that I have found to be true: Live long enough, and someone will hurt you unjustly. That seems obvious enough, but until recently, I had never really experienced having an “enemy.” I’d had disagreements with people, of course. I’d been hurt by family members from time to time. But that’s not what I’m talking about here. My hurts were the sort of hurts that come from living closely with the imperfect people we love and are loved by. I’d always been able to resolve these conflicts, or at least to deny them.

I’m also not referring to the enemies we choose for

(See Clippings, Page 5A)

Clippings

By Faith Gong

Letters to the Editor

Collaborate on healthcare costs

The Green Mountain Care Board is working hard at the near impossible task of reducing Vermont health care costs. Many Vermonters are unable to afford the high cost of health care insurance and are falling into medical debt. Since hospitals are a main driver of insurance premiums, UVM Health Network, which includes three Vermont hospitals and three in New York, must reduce their costs to make health insurance affordable.

UVMHN should not be blaming and undermining the decisions of the GMCB by threatening to cut services. The GMCB is a five-member board of health experts appointed by the governor with the responsibility to improve access, affordability and quality of health care for Vermonters. UVMHN should be demonstrating their understanding of the health care crisis in Vermont and cooperate with the GMCB to make health care insurance more affordable. They should find steps to cut costs other than just cutting health care services. For instance, how deeply have they cut their administrative costs?

Mike Fisher, Vermont’s chief health care advocate, recently said, “We desperately need UVM and other hospitals to come to the table in good faith to figure out how we can best serve Vermonters, given the financial crisis we’re in.” Sunny Eappen, accept the challenge, bring UVMH to the table and by partnering with the GMCB, find real solutions to make health care insurance affordable for Vermonters!

Linda Andrews
Bristol

Offer help, not condemnation

The Nov. 14, 2024, article “ACSD Board Member Draws Fire” paints Brian Bauer in a negative light. The article recounts a portion of the Nov. 11, 2024, ACSD School Board meeting, during which Brian used the term “normal” to identify students who do not have disabilities and do not come from historically disadvantaged populations, and two fellow school board members chastised him for doing so.

I was at that meeting. I heard Brian’s words. If there is anyone that could be offended by Brian’s reference to “normal” kids, it’s me. I am the mother of a neurodiverse family. I am a disability rights and special education advocate. I am the mother to an ethnically, racially, and linguistically diverse family. I disagree with Brian on most issues. And I was not offended. I cringed, but I was not offended.

To anyone paying attention, it was clear that Brian’s reference to “normal kids” was not made in malice. He just didn’t have the “right” words. When one school board member first called out Brian’s use of the word “normal,” Brian asked for help; he asked what he should have said. Instead of getting help, he was told to be quiet as “a point of order.”

Let me be clear: By no means do I think it is OK for anyone to use the word “normal” to refer to any population of human beings. That would only serve to perpetuate harm and the delusion of there being some “normal” standard for us humans. But it is also harmful (and definitely not helpful) to shame people when they don’t use the “right” words — especially when they are asking for help.

As I tried to communicate in my public comment at that same meeting, I think we should help our fellow community members learn with grace when it’s clear that they mean no harm. We should help them find the “right” words and help them understand why certain words might be hurtful or harmful to others. We should not shame them.

Brian meant no harm. He asked for help and he deserved our help. Instead, he received a public shaming from some fellow school board members and an even more

(See Slosar letter, Page 5A)

Letters to the Editor

Commute U.S. death sentences

If, like me, you dread the prospect of a second Trump presidency, please sign the ACLU petition urging President Biden to commute the sentences of federal death row inmates to life in prison before he leaves office.

You can Google “commute the row” or read the excellent free article in the *Guardian* <https://amp.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/14/biden-death-row-clemency>, which contains a link to the petition.

According to the *Guardian* and the ACLU, Donald Trump oversaw more executions than any president in the past 120 years, including the thirteen on death row in the last six months of his first term. It is likely that early in his second term Trump will kill all 40 inmates currently on federal death row, as advocated in

the Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025.

There is abundant evidence that those sentenced to death are disproportionately members of racial minorities, poor, suffering from mental illness, survivors of abuse, and victims of inadequate counsel or procedural malfeasance. Whether or not some were wrongfully convicted, it is long past time for the United States to end the barbaric practice of state executions.

Contemplating the foreseen and unknowable consequences of this month’s disastrous election may seem overwhelming and even paralyzing. But we can call on President Biden, as one of his last official acts, to spare 40 lives and deny Trump another killing spree.

**Judy Olinick
Middlebury**

Clippings

(Continued from Page 4A)

ourselves; the people (or groups of people) we decide to dislike, for whatever reason. Due to a combination of temperament and spiritual beliefs, I try to see others with empathy and charity. Sure, there have been various people throughout my life whom I didn’t particularly care for, but for the most part I’ve been able to avoid them.

What I’m talking about are people who make themselves into our enemies without our consent. People who abuse our trust, who willfully misunderstand our motives, who put words in our mouths that we never said. People who lash out at us in anger when we’re unaware of committing any wrong, and then refuse to accept our apologies.

Just as my heron sightings have been concentrated, after a lifetime of relative peace I have had several upsetting relational disruptions within the past months. I’ve gained a newfound and unfortunate understanding of how it feels to have enemies. It’s a painful injustice to be going along, trying to do your best in life, and then have someone re-write the narrative casting you as the villain.

Some mornings I’ve awakened filled with rage: *They did this hurtful thing and they got away with it!* When someone is convinced that you are the evil one, there is usually nothing you can do to convince them otherwise. Then you start wondering if they’re right. They’ve gotten inside your head, making you doubt your very self. And while it’s not a bad thing to examine oneself and one’s motives, you realize that *they* won’t attempt to understand your nuances and extend you the benefit of the doubt.

Being hurt like this can feel like having to eat a big plate of steaming

dung every day.

This is where the herons come in. After seeing my umpteenth-dozen great blue heron in flight this fall, it occurred to me that maybe all those herons were preparing me for this moment. They’ve been showing me what to do when we are hurt, when others make themselves into our enemies: *We must shoulder the unbearable weight of that pain and injustice and lift off into impossible flight.*

This is the backbreaking work of not allowing ourselves to become hard and bitter. Of refusing to eat our daily serving of dung. Some might call it *forgiveness*. And it’s not one-and-done; just as I’ve seen herons repeatedly, the work of forgiveness must be done regularly, over and over again. Sometimes daily. Sometimes hourly.

In writing this, I did an internet search to see what great blue herons symbolize in our cultural mythology. The AI-generated compilation read: “Blue herons symbolize self-determination and self-reliance, reflecting an ability to progress and evolve. They are seen as reminders to follow one’s unique wisdom and path, emphasizing the importance of standing on one’s own while navigating through life.” A little smarmy, but I’ll take it.

“Do better,” someone spat at me in recent months. It was meant as a curse. Then I realized that I could turn it into a benediction: I could *do better* by determining to extend grace to others, to seek the good behind their imperfection, to refuse to curse them by turning them into villains, and to resolutely combat bitterness. What began as a critique may end up becoming my creed; maybe I’ll make t-shirts.

It is hard and heavy work to take flight under the weight of our hurts, but if the herons can do it, so can I.

Ways of Seeing

(Continued from Page 4A)

at least I’ve avoided an argument. It can be hard to engage with each other around our differences.

What I hope for in the coming weeks is that we all take a collective breath and resist the story that ours is a country of people incapable or even afraid to come together to solve shared problems. Despite our political,

socioeconomic, gender, and other differences, we live in the same country, on the same continent (with two other countries), on a planet that seems poised to push us off or die trying. I hope that people have celebrated and grieved long enough and are now ready to move ahead to start solving shared problems.

I’m ready to do that. Are you?

How to understand the different kinds of AI

Artificial Intelligence is a confusing term because it encompasses quite a lot. Take for instance cruise control in your car, that’s artificial intelligence, as is the autopilot on airplanes that keep flights safe and timely. Speech recognition. Spell-check. These tools quietly make our lives better running behind our harried lives. These tools work; we appreciate them and want more.

What gets confusing is when we begin to speculate. Will AI ruin our lives? Will people lose jobs? Can AI turn on its creator? Media eats up these narratives; every week brings another sensationalized headline about the catastrophic potential of AI. It doesn’t help, either, when AI works well, but the outcomes are harmful, as with facial recognition technologies especially for the purpose of mass surveillance. Think racial profiling created by bias fed to AI models.

The recent national election faced unprecedented AI challenges, from deepfakes manipulating candidates’ words to synthetic media distorting reality. These sophisticated tools can seamlessly alter videos, swap faces, and fabricate entire speeches, making it increasingly difficult for voters to distinguish truth from artificial content. We can devote quite a bit of time and space discussing these things, particularly in politics, but these problems point in a singular direction: AI requires education. We need to learn how to verify. This takes time. In education, beginning at a very young age, we will have to create space for instructing kids so that they can discern deepfakes from reality and the truth.

In my family, we did just that when our 8-year-old granddaughter wanted to share images of a fawn with a huge snake wrapped around her, suggesting something “cute”

and “playful.” After some study and examination, it was clear that it was fake — but not to an 8-year-old. In this new world reality is blurred. We have to be taught to tell the difference, or we run the risk of accepting the fake as the truth.

Understanding AI’s power begins with mastering its two core pillars: generative AI, which creates new content, and predictive AI, which forecasts outcomes. This foundational knowledge helps us build effective safeguards while harnessing AI’s potential.

Generative AI is technology that can create new content based on patterns it learns from existing data. Generative AI generates text, images, code, music, video, or other media; it learns patterns from large amounts of training data and aims to create content that seems human-made. This is ChatGPT and Claude, which are text generators; DALL-E, Midjourney, and Stable Diffusion, which are image generators; and GitHub Copilot, which creates code.

Generative AI is commonly used as writing assistants for content creation; it designs and generates artwork. AI accelerates the creative process, from helping programmers write code to designing products and generating marketing content. It’s also important for creating educational materials and creative brainstorming. I use this strategy in my courses at Middlebury. A key characteristic of generative AI is that it creates endless variations, something students love. The



HECTOR VILA

quality of AI output directly reflects our input — success depends on asking precise, thoughtful questions and understanding how to guide the technology in combining styles and concepts.

We can ask AI to re-write the article you’re reading in the style of Hemingway, for instance, and have some fun.

Thus, the human is indispensable; and education is essential because we — each of us — are literally creating training data.

We are on the ground floor of AI development. Wowed though we are, AI is in its infancy. More is coming. We are headed towards predictive AI, a technology that analyzes existing data to make predictions about future events or outcomes. Predictive AI uses historical data to identify patterns and applies these patterns to forecast future outcomes; it continuously learns and adjusts from new data, providing probability-based predictions. Common applications are weather forecasting, stock market predictions, and customer behavior analysis. It is also used for medical diagnosis and prognosis, fraud detection, and traffic predictions. In business, it’s used for sales forecasting. We are all familiar with recommendations that come our way from Netflix and Amazon. In other words, the goal of predictive AI, say its creators, is to make our lives better.

But there are limitations to predictive AI. It is only as good as its training data, and it can’t predict unprecedented events; it may miss nuanced human factors and requires

regular updating. Critically, it can perpetuate existing biases — gender bias, racial bias, and ageism. As Arvind Narayanan and Sayash Kapoor write in *AI Snake Oil: What Artificial Intelligence Can Do, What It Can’t, and How to Tell the Difference*, “Predictive AI is attractive because automation makes decision-making more efficient, but efficiency is exactly what results in a lack of accountability.” We “learn” (AI’s influence), adapt, and accept AI’s output, even if biased and inaccurate. “AI is being used to make impactful decisions about us every day,” say Narayanan and Kapoor, “so broken AI can and does wreck lives and careers.” AI can make good predictions “if nothing else changes,” which is impossible since change is constant.

Generative and predictive AI are here, but one is more dangerous than the other. The art and science of prediction is not fully formed, and some experts say it may never come, but we’re using what we have, for better or worse. I’ll let Narayanan and Kapoor have the final word: “As predictive AI is deployed, it is important to understand how it fails and how it harms people, in order to avoid falling prey to snake oil. Change starts by challenging the deployment of harmful AI tools in your workplace, neighborhood, and community. An informed public is the first step to demanding change.” And for me, an educator, I find this a daunting task and a moral responsibility for education.

I recommend two very accessible books for anyone who wants to learn more: “Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI” by Ethan Mollick, and “AI Snake Oil: What Artificial Intelligence Can Do, What It Can’t, and How to Tell the Difference,” by Arvind Narayanan and Sayash Kapoor. It’s a good place to start for everyone.

Slosar letter

(Continued from Page 4A)

public shaming from an article in this newspaper — neither of which gave him a chance to comment or explain himself.

In the future, I look forward to continuing to disagree with Brian

and others on issues facing our school district, giving them grace when warranted, and helping them find the “right” words (if I happen to have them).

Mary Slosar
Weybridge



Thanksgiving Hours & Deadlines


Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our November 28th edition will hit the stands on **Wednesday, November 27th**, and will be in mailboxes, as usual, on Friday.

The advertising deadline for the November 28th edition will be **Friday, November 22nd at 5pm.**


ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT
58 Maple Street • Middlebury, VT
802-388-4944 • addisonindependent.com

Worried About Your Elderly Relative?



Eileen Lawson and Joanne Corbett provide eldercare counseling

By phone: 802-388-3983
By email: elawson@elderlyservices.org



Elderly Services

Supporting Elders and Families since 1981

112 Exchange St., Midd., Vt. | 802-388-3983
www.elderlyservices.org

THE ONLY LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED CANNABIS STORE IN MIDDLEBURY



Addison County’s Largest Selection of Premium Vermont Cannabis

Cannabis has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For use by individuals 21 years of age or older or registered qualifying patient only. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN AND PETS. DO NOT USE IF PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING. Possession or use of cannabis may carry significant legal penalties in some jurisdictions and under federal law. It may not be transported outside the state of Vermont. The effects of edible cannabis may be delayed by two hours or more. Cannabis may be habit forming and can impair concentration, coordination, and judgement. Persons 25 years and younger may be more likely to experience harm to the developing brain.

It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-2222

25% OFF FALL FLOWER CLEARANCE SALE!

WIDE SELECTION OF FLOWER JARS AND PREROLLS

(while supplies last)



SALE ENDS 11-28

OPEN MON-SAT 10-7 | SUNDAY 10-5

2 PARK STREET | MIDDLEBURY | WWW.FLORAVT.COM

ADDISON
COUNTY

Obituaries

Mary Fiona Douglas, 61, of Weybridge

WEYBRIDGE — Mary Fiona Douglas, 61, passed away peacefully on Nov. 11, 2024, due to complications from cancer. Mary spent her final days with loving friends and family constantly by her side. She will be remembered by all who knew her as an extraordinarily kind, generous and loving friend, spouse, mother and sister.

Mary was born in the small village of Fetcham in the British countryside on Sept. 18, 1963. She was the daughter of Angela Ruth Fryer and John Lunn Douglas, and was the youngest of three girls. Mary spent her early life in the town of Leatherhead, U.K., and attended the Sherborne School for Girls before her family moved north to the town of Settle in North Yorkshire, where she attended Settle High School. She maintained a special connection to Settle and nearby Yorkshire Dales National Park. Mary attended Manchester Metropolitan University, graduating as a top student before earning a master's degree in criminology at the University of Keele.

Soon after earning her degree, Mary moved to the United States to begin a career as a social worker, specifically working with teens and young adults. Initially, she lived and worked in Boston and was soon introduced to her future husband, David Crowne, through a mutual friend during a skiing vacation in Vermont.

Mary and David formed an instant connection, evident to all who saw them together. From that point on, Mary began building a



MARY FIONA DOUGLAS

life with David; first in Bridport, Vt., then to Brightwalton in the U.K., before finally settling in Weybridge, Vt. Together they welcomed three children, Thomas, Ross and Maddie, and eventually their border collie, Hamish, who immediately took to Mary as his leader. She began working at American Flatbread in Middlebury in 2003, where she formed lasting friendships with her coworkers and became notorious for her delicious cheesecake.

Mary was an intelligent, compassionate woman, with remarkable wit and playfulness. Her character was constantly admired by those around her, and her warmth extended to every person she encountered. She possessed a deep love for art and music, often found blissfully singing along to carols at Christmas services.

It was a shared love of skiing that brought Mary and David

together, and her appreciation for the outdoors extended to hiking, kayaking and spending time in her vegetable garden and flower beds. She took great joy in sharing these passions with her children and friends. She was particularly pleased with the success of her garden this year and could regularly be found digging up potatoes and picking Brussels sprouts.

Mary is survived by her husband, David, of Weybridge, Vt.; her sister Jane, of Manchester, U.K.; her son Thomas, of Albuquerque, N.M.; her son Ross, of Oakland, Calif.; her daughter Maddie, of Weybridge, Vt.; and many loving friends and family.

The family would like to express its gratitude to Dr. Unger and his staff for their expertise and support in managing Mary's cancer as it progressed. She was able to enjoy life with her family and friends to the fullest until very near the end. They'd also like to extend their gratitude to the Porter Hospital Medical-Surgical unit's nursing staff, who were incredibly caring and compassionate in helping Mary navigate her final hours.

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 not wear black attire.

Mary had a lifelong interest in owls, and in lieu of flowers, the family requests charitable contributions be made to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science Wild Bird Rescue in Mary's name. ◊

Catherine 'Kay' Vought Bryant, 87, formerly of Middlebury



CATHERINE 'KAY' VOUGHT BRYANT

Pamela L. Bryant of Fenelon, Pa.; grandchildren, Jake, Catherine, and Claire Bryant and Adam (Audrey), Benjamin, and Nicholas Lope; her sister-in-law, Patricia B. Koedding;

as well as nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Donna V. Shaw; brother-in-law, William Thomas "Tom" Shaw; brother-in-law, H. Raymond Koedding; and her former husband, Clark W. Bryant, M.D.

A private celebration of life will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements were entrusted to Boylan Funeral Home, Inc., 324 E. Grandview Ave., Zelienople, PA 16063.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Special Olympics, an organization Kay supported for many years while tirelessly caring and advocating for her daughter, Pam.

Kay's family wishes to express appreciation for the services provided by the skilled nursing and support staff at Masonic Village as well as for the compassionate services of Bridges Hospice. ◊

Richard Peter Dahlgren, 82, of Cornwall



RICHARD PETER DAHLGREN

CORNWALL — How can you sum up 82 years that made such an impact on so many? Whether you knew him as a beloved husband, father, "Opi," "Richie," "Coach" or "Mr. D," you have likely never met a kinder soul than Richard Dahlgren. Raised in Bergenfield, N.J., he excelled in multiple sports at Bergenfield High, and went on to play basketball and lacrosse at Lafayette College. While there is documented proof of his vast academic and athletic achievements, we can find no such support for his claim he was selected for the "All Bergen County Chorus" or that anyone ever encouraged him to sing.

In a scene straight out of a Hollywood rom-com, he first spotted the love of his life, Eva, while working as a summer lifeguard. The next day, he ended up at the hospital, surprised to find the same pretty blonde was his nurse on her very first day on the job. His blue eyes leaving her so flustered, she had to have him take his own temperature. They married in 1967 and were together for almost 58 years of laughter, love, and a lot of (mostly) good-natured bickering.

After receiving his masters, Richard received many lucrative job offers, but his love of teaching, science, sport and time with family led him to his dream job — teaching and coaching at Northern Valley Regional High School in Demarest, N.J. He was a favorite with students, and had a brilliant knack for knowing just how to motivate each one. As a basketball coach, he had the highest winning percentage in school history.

His proudest achievement, though, was being a Dad. Craig and Kristen, meant the world to him,

and he instilled in them a love of learning, family, nature, adventure and Lake Dunmore, Vt. For more than a decade Rich spent summers as the head counselor at Camp Dunmore for Boys, making lifelong friends and eventually retiring on the lake. We were touched when one former camper recently described how he "only had him in my life a couple of 1970's summers, [but] still regard him as one of [his] most influential role models."

Retirement was filled with travel, boating at the Jersey Shore, winters in Englewood, Fla., and time with his grandchildren. His shed became a 'science lab' and an afternoon with Desi and CC was usually filled with erupting volcanoes and hands-on experiments. "Opi" was always a teacher, his lessons full of fun ... and usually some facts you weren't quite sure if he was making up. His campfire stories were epic, his skills on the grill superb and his dry humor a gift to any gathering. He was as even keeled as they come and tough as nails to the end. When doctors

suggested having a railing built to help him get down to the lake as his balance waned, Rich showed them and carried 40-lb. bags of concrete down the steep hill to build his own railing, just to prove he could still do everything himself.

He was a beloved brother to Wayne, a best friend to Jim and like family to many he had mentored over the years. Whether you knew him for a lifetime or simply a season, you were sure to learn something that made you better. It is a comfort to know how many of us carry those lessons, especially how to live life with grace, kindness and strength.

He is survived by his loving wife Eva (Opolony,) Craig (Katie,) Kristen (Greg) and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to one of the nonprofits run by his children: The Cancer Vaccine Coalition (www.cancervaccinecoalition.org) to accelerate cancer vaccines so no family has to go through this.

Or The Perry Institute for Marine Science (www.perryinstitute.org) to help save the oceans he so loved.

A celebration of life will be held June 14, in Cornwall, Vt.

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

D. Philip Pokrinchak, 63, of Bristol

BRISTOL — D. Philip Pokrinchak died on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, at the age of 63. He was born on June 3, 1961, in Endicott, N.Y.

A full obituary is available online at addisonindependent.com and will be in the next issue. Arrangements are being made by Estey, Munroe & Fahey Funeral Home, Owego, N.Y.

FUNERAL
MEMORIAL
SERVICE
CREMATION
PRE-PLANNING
SERVICES

BROWN-McCLAY
FUNERAL HOMES

BRISTOL VERGENNES
802-453-2301 802-877-3321
brownmccclayfuneralhomes.com

AGWAY



HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION!

The more you BUY,
the more you \$AVE!

Includes Fall & Winter Clothing by carhartt PLUS Winter Boots, Winter Hats, Winter Gloves & Winter Socks.

MIX & MATCH TO MAXIMIZE YOUR SAVINGS.

All Your Fall and Winter Clothing Needs for Men, Women and Kids.

carhartt RANGER by Honeywell BERNE KINCO DARN TOUGH

Nov. 25th - Dec. 8th

In stock items only. Cannot be combined with any other sale or offer. Customer gets best discount at checkout.

See store & website for more details

SANTA IS COMING SUNDAY DEC. 8th 12-2 PM

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY 338 Exchange Street Closed Thanksgiving Day 802-388-4937 Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4 www.MiddleburyAgway.com

REACH THE COUNTY
ads@addisonindependent.com

Gilbert Joseph Mongeon, 81, of Winooski

WINOOSKI — Gilbert Joseph Mongeon, born on July 16, 1943, passed away on Nov. 4, 2024. He was 81 years old. He was a lifelong resident of Winooski, Vt.

Gilly enjoyed spending time at his hunting and fishing camps. He had a passion for the great outdoors. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He especially loved teaching his children, grandchildren and any other child the enjoyment of the great outdoors.

Gilly was predeceased by his wife, Mary Jane (Schmaldienst) Mongeon and his daughter, Judith Marie Desautels.

Gilly is survived by his children, Susie Robinson and significant other, William Pate; Nancy Mongeon Villemaire and

husband, Matthew Villemaire; Thomas Gilbert Mongeon and ex-spouse Meghan O'Brien Mongeon; son-in-Law Craig Desautels; and his sisters, Sandra Lawrence and Linda Race.

He also leaves behind his 10 beloved grandchildren: Dakota, Tyler and Jackson Desautels; Katelyn and Christopher Robinson; Sierra Villemaire; and Logan, Riley, Cian and Violet Mongeon.

A graveside memorial service for is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 23, at 12:45 p.m., at St. Francis Cemetery, 300 Weaver Street, Winooski, Vt.

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



TRADITION

Where Our Roots Are Planted

From humble beginnings based on affordable, trustworthy services, we have grown into a reliable resource your family can depend on. Rooted in our traditions, we stay firmly connected to the families we serve and the care we provide. We continue serving all faiths and all families in the only way we know how — by staying true to our heritage.

Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home 117 South Main St. Middlebury, VT 802-388-2311 sandersonfuneralservice.com



N/A options abound!

HARE AND THE DOG

Legendary WINE • BEER • SPIRITS

Middlebury • Vergennes www.Hare.dog

Come see and shop for your gifts, decor and holiday spirit!



141A Main Street, Vergennes • 802-877-6200

Open 9:30-4pm Monday-Friday and Sat 10:00-2:00

SweetCharityVT.com • info@sweetcharityvt.com

Our volunteer Elves transformed 40 totes of Holiday into a magical store of shopping enchantment.

SWEET CHARITY

Marjorie L. Carsen, 80, of Bristol

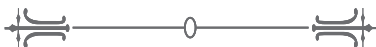
BRISTOL — Marjorie Augusta Lincoln Carsen passed away on Nov. 12, 2024, at the age of 80, surrounded by family and friends after succumbing to a year-long battle with cancer. Marjorie was born in Hartford, Conn., on May 31, 1944, to Alfred and Mildred (Bostrom) Lincoln. Marjorie graduated from Smith College and earned her medical degree from the State University of New York Downstate with a specialty in psychiatry.

She was a practicing psychiatrist in both New York and Vermont. Prior to her illness, she lived in Bristol, Vt., where she was an active member of the Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society. A lover of classical music, she found tremendous joy singing with the CVUUS Choir and the Middlebury College Community



MARJORIE L. CARSEN

Chorus. Throughout her life she also enjoyed traveling, gardening, and good meals with friends and family. She was graceful on the ski slopes and was known to finish the



Janetta Schultes of Shoreham

SHOREHAM — Janetta Schultes was born in Franconia, Germany in 1948. Her parents later immigrated with young Janetta to Detroit, Mich. There, Janetta was joined by two siblings, Helen and Christopher.

From an early age, Janetta demonstrated a creative temperament. She studied art education at Wayne State University. Several years later, Janetta earned a degree in Interior Design from Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC. An interesting residential design career followed.

After marriage to Tom Paske and the birth of their son, Christian, the family relocated to Westfield, Mass. There, Janetta earned a master's degree in Special Education and was employed at White Oak School, Westfield, Mass. She then shifted to public education in West Springfield, Mass. She retired in 2018.

After retirement, Janetta moved



JANETTA SCHULTES

to Shoreham, Vt., where she was a devoted parishioner and member of St. Mary's choir in Middlebury, Vt. Janetta's lifelong interests included interior design, pottery, travel, gardening and theological reading. Her favorite activity was spending time with her little

granddaughter, Genevieve Paske. hardest *New York Times* crossword puzzles in ink while half-watching the news.

Marjorie is survived by her brother, John Lincoln (Jill Stevens); her sons, Daniel (Talene Yacoubian) and Adam (Jennifer Vivolo-Carsen); and four grandchildren, Jonathan, Lucine, Ryan, and Mayri.

Her family is deeply grateful to the nurses and staff at the Residence at Quarry Hill in South Burlington, and to her care team at the University of Vermont Medical Center's Department of Gynecologic Oncology for the dedication, professionalism, and kindness they showed to Marjorie throughout her illness.

Family and friends will gather for a memorial service at the CVUUS on a future date. Please feel free to share your memories of Marjorie in the Memory Wall. ♡

granddaughter, Genevieve Paske.

Janetta is survived by her husband, Tom Paske; her son, Christian Paske; and her beloved granddaughter, Genevieve Paske.

Visiting hours will be held on Thursday evening, Nov. 21, from 4-6 p.m., at the Sanderson-Ducharme Funeral Home, located at 117 S. Main St., Middlebury.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Friday Nov. 22, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with the Rev. Brandon Schneider as the celebrant.

Burial will follow in St. Genevieve Cemetery in Shoreham.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the Building Fund of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 326 College St., Middlebury, Vt. 05753.

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

Janet Carlisle Bogdan, 84, of Orwell

ORWELL — Our beloved Janet Carlisle Bogdan of Orwell, Vt., died on Aug. 17, 2024, with family by her side. Janet, wife of Robert (Bob) Charles Bogdan, and the daughter of Ruth (Burt) Carlisle and James Mallory Carlisle Jr., was 84 years old. She will be deeply missed by her family, and remembered fondly by friends, neighbors, community members, and others whose lives she touched.

Janet was born on April 29, 1940, in Philadelphia, Pa., and grew up with her three siblings, Dixie (Lillian Dixon Carlisle), Peg (Margaret Ann Hanousek), and Jim (James Mallory Carlisle III). She spent much of her childhood in New Jersey, graduating from Westfield High School in 1958. She did her undergraduate work in literature at Penn State and earned a Masters and Ph.D. in Sociology from Syracuse University, with a dissertation on the History of Childbirth. She was an avid SU basketball fan, cheering surprisingly loudly at games.

Jan and Bob, her partner for more than 60 years, were active in the civil rights movement and joined the Peace Corps together in Nigeria, where they had their first child. After returning to Syracuse, they began storied careers as professors, Jan teaching at Le Moyne college, also in Syracuse, where they grew their family to four children.

In the early 1980s, Jan and Bob purchased a dilapidated farmhouse in Orwell, Vt. They spent many summers fixing up the house with their children and friends, with the hopes of retiring there, which they did in 2005. Tending to their garden, stewarding the fields and forest, experiencing the changing seasons in all their glory, and connecting to the community brought them deep contentment. Their Orwell home became a gathering place for relatives, friends and, happily, their six grandchildren.

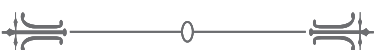
Although Jan's life was full of success as a professor, she often said her greatest joy and proudest accomplishment was raising her four children. Jan was a devoted mother, steadfastly encouraging



JANET CARLISLE BOGDAN

and contributing to her kids' varied interests. There was rarely a time she didn't stop what she was doing to help with homework or provide emotional support. She learned the rules for different sports or obtained the necessary certification so she could volunteer on their teams. She modeled a loving partnership, forgiveness, generosity, kindness and unconditional love. She taught a sense of justice and respect for the dignity of all people. She persevered through hardship and helped others do the same.

Jan will be remembered for her gentle kindness, genuine curiosity and her warm nature; her love



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. ♡

of laughing and willingness to laugh at herself; her subtle facial expressions and the conversational comments she made to herself; her thrifty spirit; her desire to open her home to both her friends and her kids' friends; her joy of small things and appreciation of beauty in its many forms; her gift of listening without interruption when it was needed the most; and for the rare intimacy and unwavering love she shared with her husband, Bob.

Janet is survived by her husband, Bob, and her four children, Yinka, Meg, Chet and Jono Bogdan; her siblings, Dixie (and wife Linda Yenkin) and Jim Carlisle; and all of her loving grandchildren, Calvin Thayer, Martha McQuillan, Athena Bogdan, Luke McQuillan, Riley Bogdan, and Jude Bogdan. Janet was predeceased by her parents and her sister Peg.

A celebration of Jan's life will be forthcoming. Arrangements are under the direction of Sanderson Funeral Services in Middlebury, Vt. Memories can be shared online at www.sandersonfuneralservice.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a non-profit organization that offers food, shelter, medical care or respite, or you can show kindness to a stranger today in remembrance of Jan. ♡



HANNAH MAGOUN

Lincoln

Have a news tip?
Call Dawn Mikkelsen at 453-7029

NEWS

LINCOLN — The library is offering free hands-on technology help sessions on Monday, Nov. 11 and 18, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Volunteers will be available to help assist with any questions you may have regarding your cell phone, laptop or tablet. Please be sure to bring a fully charged device.

A gratitude kids craft session will be held on Nov. 20 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the library. Crafters can make a Thanksgiving wreath or tree sculpture decoration. Refreshments will be provided.

FROM THE TOWN

The Lincoln Selectboard is a five-member elected board, which is the legislative and governing body of the town. The resignation of a member of the selectboard has created a vacancy. The selectboard intends to appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy until

the next annual Town Meeting on March 4. At that time, the two-year term will be filled by election.

Persons interested in filling the vacancy until March 4 should submit a letter of interest to Tim McGowan, Selectboard Chair, via email at timcgowan@lincolnvrmont.org, by mail or hand delivery to Lincoln Town Office, 62 Quaker Street, Lincoln, VT 05443.

FROM LCS

Do you have hobbies or skills you would like to share with children at the Lincoln Community School's Creative Spark afterschool program? There are creative children who love cooking, music, drama, arts and crafts, sports and outdoor nature exploration. The program is looking for volunteers to run ongoing activities throughout the year. Workshop lengths can vary depending on the leader. Please

reach out to Maureen Rotax at mrotax@lincolnsd.org for more information.

REMINDER

On Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Carol Bradford leads a RSVP Bone Builders class at the library.

Until next time ... Make Yourself A Priority. Trust The Process. Be Bold.

Obituary Guidelines

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

either paid obituaries or free notices cost \$10 per photo. Obituaries may be emailed to obits@addisonindependent.com.

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

Vt. State Police Log

ADDISON COUNTY — Vermont State Police learned of a bad one-car crash on Deform Road in Leicester on Nov. 13 at around 3:30 p.m., and were told that Collin Bell, 41, of Bristol was unresponsive in the driver's seat of a totaled 2004 Honda Civic.

While Brandon firefighters and police revived Bell and began extricating him from the car, he allegedly assaulted a Brandon police officer and two Brandon firefighters with bodily fluids.

Troopers then met with Bell at Porter Medical Center, and detected indicators of drug impairment. Bell consented to provide an evidentiary blood sample and was released to hospital staff with a citation to appear in Addison County Superior Court, Criminal Division, to answer the charges of driving under the influence of drugs and three counts of assaulting protected professionals with bodily fluids. Bell's injuries were minor. Traffic tickets are pending.

In other recent activity, state police:

- Looked into a report of a domestic disturbance at a Route 22A home in Bridport on Nov. 11 at around 8:30 a.m. Police said they determined that Donny Austin, 27, of Bridport had caused pain to a 19-year-old household member. Police then found Austin at the Jiffy Mart gas station in New Haven, arrested him and cited him for domestic assault and interference

with access to emergency services.

- On Nov. 11 at around 10:22 p.m. observed a traffic violation on Route 7 near Kelton Drive in New Haven. The trooper ended up citing Richard J. Bodington, 28, of Middlebury for refusing to take a drunken driving test, and they issued a traffic ticket for driving up to 20 mph over the speed limit, an offense that carries a fine of \$172 and two license points.

- Were told that a Rutland Northeast school bus was involved in a collision with a FedEx delivery vehicle on Cutting Hill Road in Whiting on Nov. 13 at around 3:30 p.m. No injuries were reported, and the one student on the bus at the time was collected by their parent.

STUFFED LIKE A TURKEY WITH INVENTORY!



2016 TOYOTA TUNDRA
DB Cab 4X4 TRD, SR5, loaded, 94k miles
\$28,995



2021 TOYOTA TACOMA
DB Cab, 4X4, Auto, SR5, V6, 80k miles
\$31,995



2019 TOYOTA PRIUS
LE, AWD, Like new! only 8k miles!
\$24,995



2015 CHEVY EQUINOX
LTZ AWD, Loaded, Leather, 78k miles
\$13,995



2014 SUBARU CROSSTREK
Limited, AWD, Nav, Sunroof, 149k miles
\$11,995

AFFORDABLE, SAFE & RELIABLE USED CARS AND TRUCKS

We also buy cars, locate specialty orders & consider consignments
Call Dave for an appointment

Wimett Trading Company

at the Big White Barn in Leicester

Michael Jackman, 52 Years Experience
David Wimett, 39 Years Experience
Mark Grant, 11 Years Experience

802-465-4688

2668 Route 7 • Leicester, VT 05733 • wimetttradingco@gmail.com

More than a decade of delivering Quality!

Private Caregiver and Nursing Services

Our kind, competent and compassionate caregivers offer assistance with daily activities to allow clients to remain in their homes safely and comfortably.

Our in-home caregiving services include: personal care, meal preparation, errands, household management, and companionship. Our Nurse Case Management services provide clients and their family or loved ones with peace of mind. Our nurses can assist clients with medication management, head-to-toe assessment, foot care, disease management and health education. They communicate with families and physicians to relay concerns or help coordinate care.

These services are privately paid and designed to keep clients living safely at home.

Cool weather is coming and with it additional challenges for loved ones living alone. We can help! Call us to discuss.

You Are Not Alone

Whether you have short term medical needs or need longer term support to help



254 Ethan Allen Highway, New Haven (Route 7) | 802-388-7259 • ACHHH.org

ADDISON COUNTY
HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE
Your nonprofit VNA since 1968

AGWAY

BLACK FRIDAY AND SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY ONLY
11/29 & 11/30
UP TO 40% OFF SELECT SWEATSHIRTS

In stock items only. Cannot be combined with any other sale or offer. Customer gets best discount at checkout. While supplies last.

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street
802-388-4937
Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4
www.MiddleburyAgway.com

Closed Thanksgiving Day

MAUSD

(Continued from Page 1A)
going to be painful, and the people that are going to feel this pain are our community members,” board member Meredith Rossignol said. “I think however we get to that number we have to be really thoughtful and intentional and explicit with how we communicate this to our community to make sure that they understand every step of

the way why we’re recommending what we’re recommending.”
The school board asked Reen to further explore what central office cuts could look like and provide more information on a handful of budget-related questions.
The budget figures presented by Reen on Tuesday reflect an estimated \$33,968,295 in total expenses, a decrease of \$1,412,901,

or 3.99%, from the current year. Revenue coming into the district is expected to total, \$6,226,905, down \$768,431 from the current year. That estimate is about \$600,000 less than what district officials were projecting in October due to adjustments in special education and fewer tuitioned students expected to come from the Lincoln School District.

According to Reen’s presentation, those figures would translate into a projected decrease of 1.97 cent per \$100 in assessed property value in the district-wide tax rate, or a decrease of 1.4%, from the current year.

But tax rates would still be expected to rise after Common Level of Appraisals are factored in. Figures presented on Tuesday assume CLAs will drop by five points in each of the district towns in the coming year, an estimate district official are using as they don’t yet know how much local CLAs will drop.

Based on the Nov. 19 budget figures and the estimated drop in the CLAs, the projected rise in property tax rates across the district would range from 2.85 cents in Starksboro (1.44%) to 11.78 cents (5.96%) in Bristol for MAUSD residents who pay education taxes based on the value of their home.

Based on Reen’s presentation, education spending for FY’26 would total \$27,741,389. That’s \$1.8 million less than the amount anticipated in the level-served budget Reen presented to the board last month, a reduction district officials needed to make in order to meet the board’s target for limiting overall tax rate increases to 6%.

However, Reen explained that the overall reduction in year-over-year spending had to be greater than that \$1.8 million target due to the decrease in anticipated revenue. That’s because education spending reflects a district’s budgeted expenses minus offsetting revenues.

“Bottom line is what we’ve had to

reduce, effectively by \$1.8 million from the last presentation, was this education spending because that’s really what drives down the cost per pupil, which drives down the tax rate to be able to hit the target that was set,” Reen said.

PROPOSED CUTS

Reen’s presentation identified a total expense decrease of \$2,457,545 for FY’26. Those savings would come from staff reductions (\$1,592,786); a

lower increase in healthcare premiums than anticipated (\$ 2 1 9 , 4 4 4) ; and a variety of reductions in tuition to private schools, special education transportation and many other smaller changes (\$645,315).

Those staff reductions:

- 6 FTE eliminated unfilled positions (including a social emotional learning coach, 3 FTE social emotional learning interventionists, a math interventionist and a school based clinician).
- 9.4 FTE reduction in force (RIF).

Reen said many of those unfilled positions have been vacant for around two years.

“So really just realizing those might be things that we’d love to be able to fill but we haven’t, and when we’re in hard times like this that’s a place we want to look pretty seriously about choosing to not fill rather than issue a reduction in force,” he said.

The 9.4 FTE staff reductions made through reduction in force would be: one elementary assistant principal, two FTE elementary classroom positions, an 0.4 social emotional learning interventionist, an 0.5 FTE in the Design Tech department at Mount Abraham Union Middle/High School, one

English position, one science, one social studies, and 0.8 music, a 1.2 art and an 0.5 world language job.

According to Reen’s presentation, the resulting impacts to programming would include beginning to phase out middle level language. All other courses would continue to be offered, but some courses would be offered less frequently, which could create scheduling challenges and mean that students need to choose between courses.

Board members also heard a presentation from the Mount Abraham Education Association, the educators’ union, which highlighted the effects of the proposed staff reductions. Educators noted that those reductions in teaching staff would have a direct impact on the range of offerings to students. They urged the board to prioritize student needs and make comparable cuts in other budget areas, such as the central office.

Multiple board members on Tuesday also asked about the possibility of consolidating or reducing various central office positions to achieve savings. Reen said he didn’t see a way to do so without putting the district at risk of being out of compliance with state regulations and that some positions (such as administrative assistants) already serve a variety of needs.

MAUSD Business Manager Floyd Davison noted some of those reductions have already taken place in the central office, such as moving from 2.4 FTE accountants to one.

Board member Kathi Apgar pointed out that such central office reductions haven’t taken place in the past fiscal year and aren’t

being proposed for the upcoming one.

“We’re already proposing RIFs. We’ve already told teachers, who we heard tonight are serving multiple functions to meet a variety of children’s needs and their desires and their wants, but we’re doing absolutely nothing to make that kind of accommodation through central office reductions,” she said. “We heard it loud and clear last year. Virtually every one of us heard it in our open meetings — where are the cuts in central office? And there still have been no cuts in central office.”

Rossignol asked if district officials could further explore what reductions in central office staff might look like, even if that’s ultimately not a route the school board decides to take.

“It sounds like everybody is overworked and everybody is strapped and everybody is doing more with less year after year after year,” she said. “I’m curious if it would be possible to look at options for reducing the number of central office staff ... maybe we look at all the different options and none of them make sense, but I’m wondering if we could dig a little deeper to see if there’s any possibility that some of these cuts could come from central office.”

Other board members echoed that sentiment, and the school board later asked Reen to dig deeper into such cuts.

In addition to looking further into potential central office staff reductions, the board asked that Reen provide more information on the ratio of principal to building staff, the ratio of central office staff to all other district staff, year-to-year salary and benefit increases, and what the impact would be to elementary “specials” teachers, such as art and music educators, with the proposed staff reductions.

The school board will take another look at a spending plan for FY’26 in December.

OR, SKIP THE ALCOHOL. WE SUPPLY PLENTY OF N/A BEER AND MOCKTAIL SUPPLIES!



HARE AND THE DOG
Legendary WINE · BEER · SPIRITS

260 Court St, STE 3
Middlebury, VT
(802) 458-8060

211 Main St
Vergennes, VT
(802) 877-6312

www.Hare.dog

Shop Locally




Explore whiskies from across the United States!
VISIT OUR TASTING ROOM IN VERGENNES



LOST LANTERN
Fridays & Saturdays 1-7pm
11 Main Street
Vergennes, VT
lostlanternwhiskey.com

OTTER CREEK USED BOOKS



ottercreekusedbooks.com

99 Maple Street
Historic Marble Works,
Middlebury
802-388-3241
Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm

Holiday Special!



JANOME Only \$349!

QUILTERS' CORNER
MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC

260 Court St. Suite 4 | Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-3559
M-F 10-5 Sat 9:30-4 / Closed Dec 24-26th
middleburysewnvac.com

EVERY MERRY MIDDLEBURY



December 1st-31st
events for the whole family!

FIND HOLIDAY EVENTS AT
EXPERIENCEMIDDLEBURY.COM

Experience MIDDLEBURY

Give the Gift of Tea



Stone Leaf Tea
Mon-Sat 11am-5pm
stoneleaftea.com

New England's Largest Selection of Chocolates



Adagio Chocolates

Bars, Bulk & Gifts
Shop online or visit us at the store!

52 Main St, Middlebury VT
adagiochocolates.com

Shop local, give unique!

LOCAL ARTISAN GIFTS
SUPPLIES FOR ALL AGES
EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS
AND, YES, WE SHIP!

SPARROW ART SUPPLY
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR SHOPPING LOCALLY?
THE WOODWARE CREW BRINGS SMILES AND HELPING HANDS
WITH EVERY FURNITURE DELIVERY!



WOODWARE

www.woodwarevt.com
802-388-6297

Route 7 South • Middlebury VT
Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays

FINE FURNITURE

New Horizons Club
VISA
MasterCard



YOUNG HUNTER NATHAN Abbott shot this 143-pound buck with a five-point rack in Shoreham during opening weekend of the deer rifle season.

Photo courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle



GREG BUTLER BROUGHT down this 226-pound, 8-pound trophy buck in Shoreham during opening weekend of deer rifle season. It was one of the bigger deer shot locally in recent memory.

Photo courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle

Deer season

(Continued from Page 1A)
in the opening weekend of rifle season.

Bridport's Backwoods Gun & Tackle, in its second year of operation, picked up some of that slack, handling 43 bucks this past Saturday and Sunday (including three at 198 pounds of more). That was an uptick from 2023's total of 27 bucks weighed. But many deer taken in southern Addison County are now probably being weighed at Benson's Lake Horton Country Store.

Secondly, Vermont Fish & Wildlife biologists handled weighing chores this past weekend at the busiest Addison County reporting station, New Haven's Rack 'N Reel. They also did so during Youth/Novice Weekend on Oct. 26 and 27. Their goal was to collect data on the health of the deer herd.

Unfortunately, they also took with them names of successful hunters and the numbers and data on the deer taken. That will be available before rifle season is over, but isn't included here. The *Independent* will include opening weekend hunters' names in the rifle season wrap-up next month. We will also publish a separate, full wrap-up on Youth/Novice Weekend when that information is made available, as well as a full wrap-up of the archery and muzzleloader seasons.

In the meantime, the folks at Rack 'N Reel estimated F&W weighed almost 100 bucks over the weekend, and the station itself handled a few more on Monday morning.

The other six Addison County stations — Backwoods Gun & Tackle, Jerusalem Corners Country Store in Starksboro, West Addison General Store (known as WAGS), C&S Hunting Supplies in East Middlebury, Lincoln General Store, and Green Mountain Trails End in Bristol — collectively weighed 104 bucks.

That would peg the county's opening weekend total at about 200, short of 2023's opening weekend total of 244, but better than 2002's 179. It's safe to say

many hunters came away happy after their weekend time in the woods and fields.

Some were more pleased than others, especially those who took the three largest bucks taken in the county on opening weekend to be weighed at Backwoods Gun & Tackle.

The biggest was one of the larger ones shot locally in recent memory: McGregor Butler brought down a 226-pound, 8-pound trophy buck in Shoreham.

Jamison Bannister took down a 201-pound, four-pointer in Addison, and Todd Seguin killed a 198-pounder with an 8-point rack in Weybridge.

The fourth largest of the weekend belonged to Justin Malzac, who shot a 191-pound, 8-pointer in Middlebury and took it to be weighed at the Lincoln General Store.

The following hunters were successful on opening weekend of rifle season. They are listed by name, town of kill, and pounds and points of the bucks.

BACKWOODS GUN & TACKLE 43

Jeff Fifield, Ripton, 130 lbs.-3 points; Patrick Fifield, Cornwall, 139-5; Victor Fifield, Cornwall, 141-8; Todd Seguin, Weybridge, 198-8; Andrew Warren, Bridport, 160-7; Marilyn Larocque, Goshen, 100-1; Nathan Abbott, Shoreham, 143-5; Kimberlee Gero, Bridport, 165-6; Michael Matot, Shoreham, 130-8; John Gosselin, Shoreham, 152-6; Allen Plouffe, Bridport, 162-8; and Jeff Bishop, Shoreham, 148-4.

Also, Bradley Correia, Bridport, 184-6; Kirk Ringey, Cornwall, 150-8; Eric Manning, Shoreham, 143-6; Mark Reginbald, Orwell, 128-3; Connor Pouliot, Shoreham, 143-5; Ethan Lawrence, Shoreham, 105-6; Joshua Moulton, New Haven, 135-3; Robert Dumas, Shoreham, 114-4; Bryce Wood, Shoreham, 153-3; and Tristan Stearns, Cornwall, 158-5.

Also, James Payne, Bridport, 135-4; Brad Lambert, Cornwall, 135-4; Jamison Bannister, Addison, 201-4; Christopher Gordon, Bridport, 120-5; Theran

Leggett, Orwell, 143-7; Jennifer Jackson, Shoreham, 140-5; McGregor Butler, Shoreham, 226-8; Will Madison, Shoreham, 191-8; Nathan Warren, Shoreham, 120-3; and Jonathan Hescoc, Shoreham, 120-3.

Also, Peter Bevere, Middlebury, 108-6; Troy Audet, Bridport, 148-8; Brian Desforges, Bridport, 162-7; Robin Bordeaux, Middlebury, 124-7; Mark Shimel, Bridport, 156-6; Dale Barber, Shoreham, 152-5; William Bishop, Shoreham, 152-5; Brian Bishop, Addison, 125-4; Seth Pope, Bridport, 146-8; Robert Doane, Shoreham, 151-8; and Alexis Matot, Shoreham, 136-5.

LINCOLN GENERAL STORE 18

Nathan Perry, Lincoln, 104-3; Kenneth Russin, Huntington, 137-6; Eli Schondube, Huntington, 127-4; Jeremie Fitzgerald, Huntington, 106-4; Alex Smith, Bristol, 127-4; Peter Moyer, Starksboro, 130-5; Kenneth Ryan, Lincoln, 133-7; Dan Ober, Barnard, 142-6; and Matthew Kolan, Huntington, 161-8.

Also, David Hall, Starksboro, 109-2; Tod Sisco, Starksboro, 166-8; Ed Lafayette, Lincoln, 139-8; Colby Trudeau, Lincoln, 128-4; Frank Lossmann, Bristol, 147-4; Jeff Masterson, Lincoln, 157-8; Steven Lavalette, Charlotte, 189-8; Justin Malzac, Middlebury, 192-8;

HARE AND THE DOG
Legendary WINE • BEER • SPIRITS
Middlebury • Vergennes
www.Hare.dog

and Eric Hartman, Starksboro, 127-5.

WAGS 2

Charles Ringer, Pantton, 120-4; and Robert Jennings, Bridport, 150-6.

C & S HUNTING SUPPLIES 6

Peter Mackey, Salisbury, 127-5; Mike Palmer, Ripton, 107-4; David Dubois, Middlebury, 95-2; Gabe Cameron, Salisbury, 131-5; (See Hunters, Page 11A)

Check our Black Friday ad next week!

30% off
Deals on select Pet Supplies, Christmas Décor, and more!

*plus see our website, Facebook, or store for details!

KRINGLE CANDLE
BUY 1 GET 2nd at 50% off

Christmas Trees Are Here!

SHOP EARLY!

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street
802-388-4937
Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4
www.MiddleburyAgway.com



At Home Senior Care

Celebrating National Care at Home Month



At Home Senior Care believes that caregivers are the cornerstone of a compassionate and connected community! Whether providing professional care or supporting loved ones as family caregivers, your efforts bring comfort, dignity, and hope to those who need it most.

This November, we celebrate and express our deep gratitude for the dedication and kindness that caregivers bring to their daily roles. Your commitment to supporting loved ones in maintaining their independence, building relationships, and providing expert care enriches their lives and inspires us all.



Thank you, Caregivers, for making a difference in the lives of seniors and families across Vermont!



PRIVATE DUTY HOME CARE

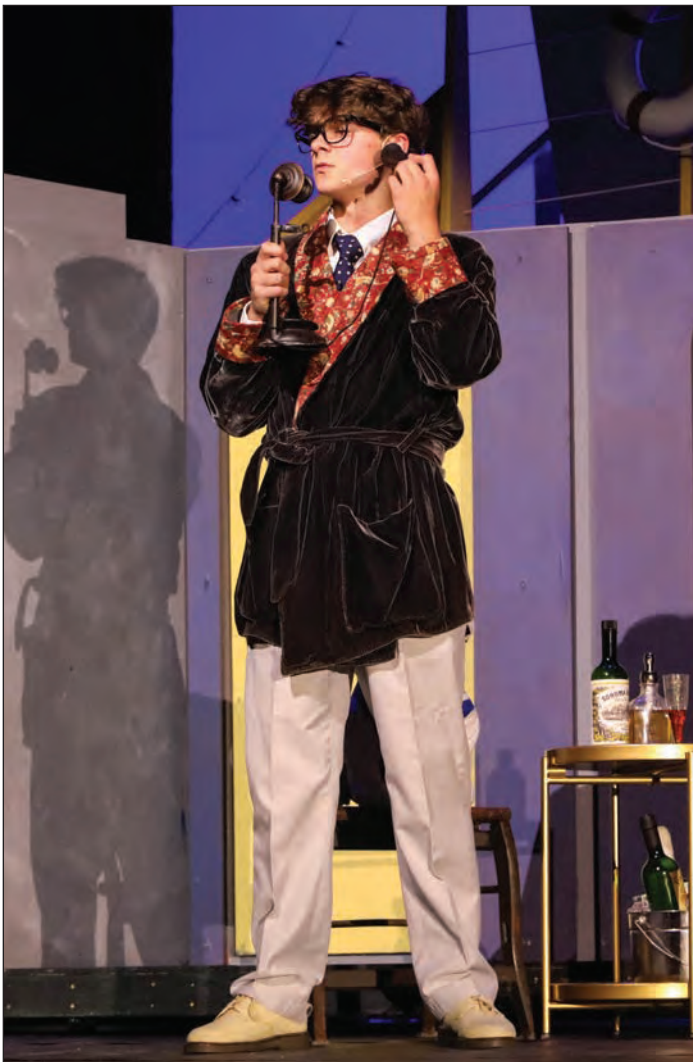
Your Care ~ Your Way

Serving Addison, Bennington, Rutland & Windsor Counties

www.athomeseniors.net | (802) 768-8565



Want to make caring your career?
Scan Here



Song and dance

Nearly 100 Mount Abraham 7-12th grade performers will tap dance, sing and shine their way through the Bristol school's fall musical, "Anything Goes," this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It's a high-energy, toe-tapping musical filled with dazzling dance numbers, witty dialogue and unforgettable songs by Cole Porter. Set aboard an ocean liner, the story follows a cast of colorful characters on a journey of mistaken identities, romance and hilarious antics. Get tickets online at tinyurl.com/MtAbeAnythingGoes.

Seen at a Monday rehearsal are, clockwise from bottom right, Jaret Sturtevant, Kolbey Jimmo, Alina Donaldson, Addy Halby, Beckett Stilwell and Sam Gallivan; Mazin Swebston, Bailey Antos-Ketcham and Lila Brightman; Brightman and Swebston; Quinn Kirshenbaum on telephone; Esme Visco-Lyons, Hazel Stoddard, Bella Hartwell, Gemma Lyles and Scarlet Tarmy; nearly the entire cast; Swebston, Donaldson, Charlie Prouty and Ali Brown; Louisa Guilmette, Molly Mangini, Brightman, David Charlebois and Antos-Ketcham; and finally Keller Obarski, Henry Allred and Prouty.

Photos by Buzz Kuhns





A RECENT DELIVERY of goods from the Vermont Food Bank will provide the Bristol Have-A-Heart food shelf with a boost as it serves local families this holiday season, a time when the nonprofit has seen an uptick in demand. The food shelf recently became a network partner of the Vermont Food Bank, which offers access to more food, grants, training and other resources.

Photo courtesy of Allison Pouliot

Bristol

(Continued from Page 1A)

“So far in 2024 we have averaged 80 households; about 220 people,” she said. “(The holiday season) is not quite, but almost, double what we’ve gotten normally this year. It’s very big, and we’re stocking up and getting ready for that.”

This food shelf’s Thanksgiving distribution will take place this Friday, Nov. 22, from 5-6 p.m. at the St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Bristol. The Christmas distribution will take place at the same time and location on Dec. 20.

The Have-A-Heart Food Shelf doles out packaged bags of food once a month to community members in the Bristol 5-Town area. The food shelf has seen a dramatic increase in demand for its services in recent years, though that spike appears to be leveling off.

“We saw a big increase in the couple of years after COVID, and I think this year we’re seeing levels pretty consistent with what we saw in 2023,” Pouliot said. “It’ll be interesting to see what happens at the holidays because it’s been pretty consistent this year to last year.”

The nonprofit currently spends around \$4,500-\$5,000 each month on food for distribution. The food shelf’s monthly distributions include locally sourced eggs, meat and seasonal produce.

During the holiday season, festive goods like turkey, stuffing, gravy and Olivia’s Croutons (made in Brandon) are given out to local families as well.

This year the Bristol Masons of Libanus Lodge 47 will donate 50 turkeys to the food shelf to include in its Thanksgiving distribution. Pouliot noted the food shelf also provides gift cards to Shaw’s Supermarket for community members to purchase a turkey.

Throughout the growing season the food shelf receives excess produce from local growers to distribute to the community, such

as pumpkins and squash.

“It’s really important to us to not only get people food, but to get people good quality food, and we’re pretty bullish on trying to get people as much fresh produce as possible,” Pouliot said.

The nonprofit is getting a boost in helping supply local families with nutritious food this holiday season and moving forward, as the food shelf in September became network partners of the Vermont Food Bank.

“That gives us access to food that we didn’t normally have,” Pouliot explained. “The food bank has really big purchasing power, so we’re able to get some of the things that we need through them now.”

Those goods will be distributed out of the Vermont Food Bank’s Rutland site and delivered to Bristol for free each month. Pouliot noted that food will be delivered to Bristol with the monthly Veggie Van Go distribution, a partnership between the Vermont Food Bank and Porter Medical Center that doles out produce and other groceries at Mount Abraham Union High School on the third Wednesday of each month.

Becoming a network partner with the Vermont Food Bank will provide some additional benefits for the food shelf.

“It also gives us access to some grants, training and webinars that we didn’t have access to before, as well as just puts us in touch with people around the state that are doing the same work that we are,” Pouliot said. “It’s a really good resource. We’ve been working for a couple of years to become a network partner, so we were very excited when we got news that we were accepted.”

Pouliot noted that in addition to its new partnership with the Vermont Food Bank, the food shelf receives support from community members and local organizations throughout the year.

For example, the Bristol Shaw’s

Supermarket participates in a couple of programs that allow shoppers to support the food shelf, such as by purchasing an item from the food shelf’s wish list at checkout or donating to the Nourishing Neighbors program, which provides money for gift cards that Shaw’s then donates to Have-A-Heart.

Last month fire departments in the 5-Town area organized their annual food drive, which collected 4,241 pounds of food and \$1,511.75 in donations for the Have-A-Heart Food Shelf. Pouliot said the nonprofit also receives contributions from residents and local businesses, as well as small grants from organizations like the Rotary Club of Middlebury and the Middlebury nonprofit thrift store Neat Repeats.

The food shelf also gets support from the community through an annual appeal and, more recently, through appropriations from the five towns of Bristol, Monkton, Starksboro, New Haven and Lincoln approved by voters on Town Meeting Day.

Pouliot emphasized the food shelf’s gratitude for the support it receives from the local community.

“We get a lot of really great support from local groups,” she said.

Hunters

(Continued from Page 9A)

Dwight Dunning, Ripton, 106-1; and Toby Rheume, Salisbury, 175-8.

JERUSALEM COUNTRY STORE 26

Daniel Ingham, Huntington, 130-4; Corey Chenette, Huntington, 126-4; Chad Phillips, Huntington, 147-6; Robert Clarke, Huntington, 132-4; Francis Jennings, Starksboro, 138-4; Michael Olson, Richmond, 122-4; Sierra Ayers, Huntington, 138-6; William Swett, Starksboro, 176-8; Kyle Rivers, Hinesburg, 143-7; Patrick Reen, Lincoln, 131-6; Jay Lestage, Huntington, 155-8; Camie Tracy, Monkton, 171-7; Aaron Thomas, Starksboro, 121-4; and Kyle Ryan, Starksboro, 93-2.

Also, Jordan Mashia, Starksboro, 82-2; Lonnie Menard, Starksboro, 107-2; Jeff Mayo, Lincoln, 98-4; Jay Debono, Starksboro, 98-3; Daniel Brooks, Hinesburg, 133-8; Daniel Gay, Huntington, 130-5; Dana Vautier, Huntington, 140-8; Philip Lenz, Buel’s Gore, 112-4; Allen Mashia, Hinesburg, 104-4; Kirk Jennings, Starksboro, 99-2; Mary Taft, Huntington, 177-6; and Tyler



JAMISON BANNISTER TOOK down this 201-pound, four-point buck in Addison this past weekend, one of two topping 200 pounds reported by six of the seven weigh stations taken this past Saturday and Sunday. Results from New Haven’s Rack ‘N Reel were not immediately available.

Photo courtesy of Backwoods Gun & Tackle

MacKelvey, Huntington, 156-7.

GREEN MT. TRAILS END 9

Shawn Lathrop, Starksboro, 193-6; Paul Jerome, New Haven, 185-4; Michael Kittell, Ripton, 165-7; Nick Lossmann,

Bristol, 142-7; Rhonda Roberts, Middlebury, 125-4; Brian Fortin, Starksboro, 118-2; Kaitlyn Bedell, Monkton, 115-6; Carroll Isham, Hinesburg, 115-3; and Daniel Briggs, Bristol, 102-2.

SAVE OVER 42%

REG. \$39.99-
NOW \$27.99
+\$5.99 SHIPPING

Holiday Fruit Assortment

A festive fruit selection perfect for sharing!

This thoughtfully curated gift box is filled with a variety of handpicked, premium fruits that are perfect for any holiday celebration. Bursting with freshness and flavor, it’s an ideal choice for families, friends, or colleagues looking to enjoy healthy, delicious treats during the season.

- 1 Ruby Red Grapefruit
- 2 Orchard Apples
- 2 Grove Navel Oranges
- 2 D’anjou Pears
- 2 Honey-Sweet Tangerines
- 4 Petite Navel Oranges

CALL 844-473-7988 OR VISIT [HALEGROVES.COM/H5YN97](https://www.halegroves.com/H5YN97)

Order Item #272X, mention Code H5YN97 for your savings.

*Only \$27.99 (reg. \$39.99), plus \$5.99 shipping & handling. Satisfaction completely guaranteed. This gift ships in December at the peak of freshness. Order by Dec. 18, 2024 for GUARANTEED Christmas delivery. AZ, CA, TX & LA order by Dec. 12, 2024.

SINCE 1947 - HALE GROVES, VERO BEACH, FL 32966

IC: H5YN97

Squishy stuff • Sparkly things
Advent Calendars • Candy to eat
Games to play • Puzzles to solve

Come find it all at Simon Says.

Playmobil & LEGO to build
Stuffedies to hug, Markers, Clay,
Backpacks • Nesting Dolls
Giggles and Fun

A GENERAL STORE FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

12 Main Street, Bristol • 802-453-6945
www.simonsaysvt.com

Let’s Drive Electric, Vermont.

Get \$ back

State and federal incentives available when you buy or lease an EV

Save \$ over time

Plugging in is like paying \$1.50 a gallon

Power up

Plug in at home, or at the 300+ public charging stations in Vermont

DriveElectricVT.com

proudly sponsored by
Efficiency Vermont

Scan the code to learn more about state and federal EV incentives

By the way

(Continued from Page 1A)
Bridge School (Middlebury): Plowabunga; Bridport Central School: The Pigeon Drives; Mary Hogan Elementary: Witch Hawk; Red Cedar School (Bristol): Snow Spirit; Ripton Elementary School: Snow Eagle; Salisbury Community School: Snowy Potter; Vergennes Union Elementary School: Snow Master; Vergennes Union High School: The Snowtorious Plow. It should also be noted that Lincoln School District students will soon reveal the name they picked for their local highway department’s plow truck.

As recently reported by the *Independent*, the upcoming renovation of Salisbury Town Hall will drive the need for a temporary home for the building’s largest occupant — the Salisbury Free Library. Library officials are seeking ideas and recommendations from the community for alternative housing for library operations and/or books and furnishings. The Salisbury Community Center is an early contender, but please share your own ideas at salisburypubliclibrary@gmail.com.

The Middlebury area logged an unemployment rate of 1.8% in October, reflecting a 0.3% drop compared to the 2.1% jobless rate in September. That drop ran counter to statewide trends; Vermont in October recorded an unemployment rate of 2.3% — an increase of one-tenth of one percent compared to September. October jobless rates for Vermont’s 17 labor market areas ranged from 1.7% in Burlington-South Burlington to 2.6% in Derby. The comparable

United States rate in October was 4.1%, unchanged from the revised September estimate.

Do you know a senior (at least 65 years old) living in Lincoln who could use a little extra joy this holiday season? A group of Lincolmites is looking to brighten the holiday season for what they’re calling “eight special people or households” within the small community. Organizers specifically want to provide these eight seniors with such things as a holiday card mailed to them, a New Year’s card to ring in 2025, and a goody bag — containing a gift, a few groceries, and a sweet treat — to be delivered on Saturday, Dec. 14. The program is first-come, first-served, so be sure to submit your nominee’s full name and street address by Nov. 22 to carolynabradford@gmail.com.

The United States Forest Service invites the public to select and cut a Christmas tree on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF), with the purchase of a \$5 permit. Permits are now available for purchase either online (an additional \$2.50 service fee applies) or in person at GMNF offices in Mendon, Manchester or Rochester (at 99 Ranger Road). Be aware that there’s a limit of two permits per household per year; trees that are harvested can’t be resold. Trees may only be cut within designated areas as indicated in the GMNF Christmas Tree Harvest Maps, and trees taller than 20 feet aren’t covered by the permit. To learn more and to purchase a permit go to tinyurl.com/mr2ds5ae. Also, be advised that the Forest Service this year will provide

fourth-grade students with a free Christmas tree voucher by registering at everykidoutdoors.gov. Fourth-graders who register must present a printed voucher to redeem a Christmas tree permit.

A group of Middlebury College students is conducting a survey to learn more about the experiences of community members who participate in local farmers markets in the Middlebury area. Your insights will help farmers market organizers understand the opportunities and challenges faced by community participants. The survey is short and takes only take a few minutes to complete. All responses will remain confidential. Take the survey at tinyurl.com/2ph8fbc6.

Be advised that troopers assigned to the Vermont State Police’s New Haven barracks, in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies, will be conducting DUI checkpoints in Addison County throughout November. These checkpoints are focused on people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Vermonters are urged to use a designated driver when necessary.

Average gasoline prices in Vermont have fallen 2.5 cents per gallon during the past week to \$3.09, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 626 stations. Prices in Vermont are 8.8 cents lower than a month ago and 41.6 cents lower than a year ago. The cheapest station in Vermont sold at \$2.75 this week and the most expensive at \$3.29. Meanwhile, the national average price of gasoline fell 0.7 cents to \$3.02 per gallon — down 15.2 cents from a month ago and 27.6 cents from a year ago.

College

(Continued from Page 1A)
programming area; two additional small meeting rooms; a larger community meeting room; and redesigned adult reading rooms and gathering spots.

Middlebury taxpayers, who endorsed the project by a 956-200 vote last May, will be responsible for 25% (through a \$4.4 million bond) of the total \$17 million project cost. The rest is to be covered by \$4 million from the town’s local option tax surplus fund, state and federal grants, \$552,064 in tax credits and rebates, and \$6 million to be raised through private donations.

Middlebury College’s \$1 million gift, to be disbursed over 20 years, now brings Ilsley’s fundraising total to \$5 million in gifts and pledges. “I am overjoyed,” Ilsley Library Director Dana Hart said. “Middlebury College has been a strong supporter of the library for decades, and I so grateful for their generosity. On behalf of the library trustees, and the entire library community, I want to thank (College) President Laurie Patton and the Board of Trustees for this transformational gift.”

David Provost, Middlebury College’s executive vice president for finance and administration, provided some context for the gift. “President Patton was approached by Ilsley Library leadership about participating in the project. The library serves an important role to our community, similar to Town

Hall Theater. The Middlebury leadership feels strongly that as the largest employer in Addison County, we have a role in solving the challenges of our town and region,” Provost said, while acknowledging, “Middlebury employees and families benefit from the town’s library, as do students who work there.”

Hart noted that Ilsley and the college have enjoyed successful partnerships through the years, including student employment placements at the library through the federal work-study program, and collaborations with college professors related to “place-based experiential learning.”

It’s also clear that college students and professors use the library as a space to present lectures and lead public discussions with the community, according to Hart.

“The library is a crucial link between the college and the town, and a space where college students and community members have the opportunity to mingle and connect,” she said.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Ilsley makeover should visit tinyurl.com/5yhpfvut.

So what’s next for the Ilsley project?

Library officials are evaluating bids from companies able to move the library’s collection to around 4,000 square feet of temporary storage space at 75 Meigs Road in Vergennes. This free space will house the lion’s share of Ilsley’s books while the library is under construction, roughly from this coming February to July of 2026.

Ilsley will continue to offer basic services during construction, as the National Bank of Middlebury is allowing the library to operate in a portion of the bank’s historic Duclos building on Main Street.

“Moving a library is a complicated process ... we have over 50,000 physical items to move, and they have to stay in exactly the same order,” Hart said. “It’s also a big job to break down, move, and set up the library shelving. I anticipate that we will close the library to the public on Feb. 1, 2025, and probably remain closed for three weeks while the move takes place. During that time, the Sarah Partridge Branch Library (in East Middlebury) will be open daily to provide library services.”

STONECROP MEADOWS

The college acquired the Seminary Street Extension property in 2022 from Marjorie Mooney for \$1.5 million, with the goal of using it to help solve the

Middlebury-area housing shortage. The institution will sell the property in increments to Summit Properties, which it picked to develop the site for mixed-income housing.

Summit officials have successfully navigated the various state and local permitting hurdles, while assembling financing for the first 80 units of the new neighborhood. Summit COO Zeke Davisson said the company has amassed \$49 million of the estimated \$51.5 million needed to proceed with Stonecrop’s phase one.

The \$2.5 million funding gap is associated with infrastructure needed to serve the new neighborhood, such as roads, street lighting, sidewalks, landscaping and municipal water/sewer connections.

The college’s \$2.5 million investment ensures that infrastructure will be installed on time and on budget, according to Davisson.

If Summit completes the project, the company will reimburse the college’s full \$2.5 million investment, plus a “modest return,” according to Provost, the college’s executive vice president for finance & administration.

“This investment will allow Summit to spread the infrastructure costs over the entire course of the project rather than just during construction and sale of the first 80 units,” Provost said in an email exchange with the *Independent*. “Stonecrop also will be able to offer the houses at a more affordable price consistent with their development goals. Creating more housing that is affordable to an array of individuals and families is critical for Middlebury College and all of Addison County and supports efforts on the state level as well. Using our endowment to invest in a local housing development made good sense to our board.”

Davisson underscored the importance of the college’s financial assist. Absent the \$2.5 million from the college, Summit would have had to either go back to the drawing board — perhaps delaying construction for a year — to find more funding, or to sink all the project subsidies into the first 41 units, noted Davisson.

“What the college’s contribution does is it lets us go forward with the full 80 units — and not risk any of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) sources we have — and charge ahead to meet the demand we know exists,” he said.

Federal ARPA money must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024, and spent by Dec. 31, 2026.

Davisson noted the college’s support of Stonecrop has been evident since day one with the land purchase, and now extends to a key investment as construction nears.

“That bookend of support was at first catalyzing, and now solidifying,” Davisson said. “But for the college’s vision and support, this (project) wouldn’t have even been on the table.”

He also commended Middlebury officials for supporting the project through its permitting and financing phases.

Summit was slated to close on its phase-one financing this week. That sets the stage for groundbreaking on project infrastructure next month, then construction on the first Stonecrop structure — a large multi-family building — in April or May.

“People will start to see things go vertical next spring,” Davisson.

John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.



MIDDLEBURY, VT
VERGENNES, VT

WWW.HARE.DOG

ADDY INDY
WEBSITE

addisonindependent.com



HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION!

The more you BUY, the more you \$AVE!

Includes Fall & Winter Clothing by carhartt PLUS Winter Boots, Winter Hats, Winter Gloves & Winter Socks.

MIX & MATCH TO MAXIMIZE YOUR SAVINGS.

All Your Fall and Winter Clothing Needs for Men, Women and Kids.

carhartt RANGER by Honeywell BERNE KINCO DARN TOUGH

Nov. 25th - Dec. 8th

In stock items only. Cannot be combined with any other sale or offer. Customer gets best discount at checkout.

See store & website for more details

SANTA IS COMING SUNDAY DEC. 8th 12-2 PM

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY

338 Exchange Street

802-388-4937

Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4

www.MiddleburyAgway.com

Closed Thanksgiving Day

Save Money & Reduce Carbon.

with an Electric Heat Pump Water Heater.

vgsvt.com/hpwh



BORN FOR WINTER



PURE SAFETY
PURE WINTER GRIP
PURE DRIVING COMFORT
PURE CONFIDENCE

NOKIAN TYRES

PURE SAFETY
NOKIAN TYRES HAKKAPELIITTA® R5

The inventor of the winter tire crafts legendary winter tires with Scandinavian expertise. Nokian Tyres’ state-of-the-art testing facilities and award-winning technology keep drivers safe on the road. Nokian Tyres is with you on the road to safety.

VISIT NOKIANTIRES.COM/WINTERLEGEND



802-388-7620
Mon-Fri 8-5
countytirecenter.com
33 SEYMOUR STREET,
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753





Shop Locally this Holiday Season

HOPE

(Continued from Page 1A)
to meet clients' emergency needs at the dawn of a new winter.

HOPE has seen an 80% increase in the number of people seeking food at the nonprofit's headquarters at 282 Boardman St. The organization was able to meet needs until recently thanks to what Montross called "a very generous contribution from one person." But those funds have now dried up, meaning HOPE must work harder to meet the county's food needs through small donations, grants and local food drives.

So far this year, the nonprofit's food shelf has served 3,934 Addison County households made up of 8,827 individuals. Those numbers also reflect repeat visitors.

"Calls for food and other assistance rise during the third quarter of each year, and we will be challenged to meet them," Montross stated in an October letter to prospective donors. "Food prices, which rose during the pandemic, have remained very high, and so we will not only need to purchase more food, that food will now cost twice what it did just two years ago."

Adding to the problem: There's no longer a food donation bin at Middlebury's Hannaford supermarket, though the Hare and the Dog liquor store next door has agreed to host one, according to Montross. She said food shelves like HOPE's have fewer sources from which to harvest free provisions.

"We have to pay for more of what used to be available for free, and many items are just not available," she said.

HOPE this fall has also been asked to help a growing number of houseless folks who've temporarily settled in the shire town, either at the Charter House Emergency Shelter or at makeshift campsites in the village area.

The local homelessness problem could get significantly worse this winter, according to advocates like Susan Whitmore, executive director of John Graham Housing & Services.

In a recent op ed for the *Addison Independent*, Whitmore noted the state on Sept. 15 capped its emergency housing program (for those experiencing homelessness) at 1,100 hotel/motel rooms statewide, down from 1,700.

"Our shelters are full and affordable housing waitlists number in the hundreds. Even as many towns and cities have imposed new restrictions on camping in public areas, many households will have no other option but to camp this fall," Whitmore said.

"We're... offering use of our shower, tents, sleeping bags and food that lends itself to a lifestyle devoid of a kitchen," Montrose said in her October letter, noting the HOPE's recent houseless clients included a single mom with two children and an elderly man with a rescue dog.

Montross said HOPE is responding as best it can to the uptick increase in service requests. She thanked the many individuals and groups who have traditionally supported the food shelf, including

CVOEO needs turkeys

MIDDLEBURY — The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) has put out an urgent call for turkey donations to help area low-income residents enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

Turkey donations can be delivered to the Addison Community Action headquarters at 54 Creek Road, Suite A, in Middlebury from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, from now through Nov. 27.

CVOEO's "Feeding Champlain Valley" program has seen a lower number of turkey donations this year, and more birds are needed the nonprofit's Middlebury, Burlington and St. Albans sites.

Feeding Champlain Valley — which serves Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties — is aiming to feed 10,000 neighbors through its "Holidays Without Hunger" campaign that runs through the end of December. This holiday season, an anonymous donor will match all gifts up to \$75,000 through Dec. 31.

Monetary donations received through the "Holidays Without Hunger" campaign will be used to buy holiday meal fixings such as turkeys, vegetables, stuffing and gravy, as well as to support the organization's other support services. To learn more about how to make a monetary gift, food donation, or volunteer, visit feedingchamplainvalley.org.

area places of worship, civic groups like Rotary Club and Knights of Columbus, and Middlebury-area schools that conduct food drives.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOP

This is the time of year when the organization is also trying to ensure that low-income residents have the ingredients for at least one festive family meal and a couple of Christmas gifts for kids who might otherwise have none. To that end, HOPE and its dedicated volunteers are preparing the annual Holiday Shop, which allows parents to "shop" for a few free gifts for each of their children.

Sadly, this year's HOPE Holiday Shop will open later — on Dec. 3, closing on Dec. 23 — with less inventory than in past years. It's a testament to how many households were short on holiday funds last year, according to Montross.

"We served around 100 more children than in the previous year," she said. "Some people are doing early toy drives to bring us more (gift inventory)."

The list of honorary HOPE Santa Clauses is impressive. Heather Potter, HOPE's director of development, noted that area churches are conducting toy drives,

while G. Stone Motors and Stone Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram are doing a "Stuff the Truck" effort to accumulate presents. Two Brothers Tavern and Collins Aerospace are doing toy drives of their own, and Vermont Federal Credit Union has helped boost HOPE's gift inventory. Montross added that Wow Toyz of Vergennes has donated "a wonderful selection of toys," while North Country Federal Credit Union has helped with stuffed animals.

Vermont Federal Credit Union, M&T Bank, National Bank of Middlebury, Sparrow Art Supply, Simon Says, Middlebury Indoor Tennis and Middlebury Agway will all have toy drop boxes, according to Potter.

Middlebury College has also been a longtime supporter of the holiday shop.

"Bonnie's Book Foundation has been extremely generous in providing a wonderful selection of books... and there are certainly others who are certainly doing toy drives within their own companies or organizations that will be very helpful to this effort," Potter said.

So what kind of gifts are in most demand? Montross cited coloring books, board games, crafting kits, books, art supplies, and — especially for teens — gifts cards for such stores as the Vermont Book Shop, Deer Leap Books, TJ Maxx, Old Navy and Target. Montross suggested a \$30-\$50 limit per gift card.

HOPE has been phasing out clothes from its holiday shop, with a few exceptions: Flannel lounging pants for teens, as well as waterproof mittens for teens and children.

In addition to picking out items for their children, parents will be able to select a household gift. The options include such things as crockpots, toasters, stick blenders and panini presses.

Another avenue for Holiday Shop Giving: Pick up one or more of the tree-shaped tags you'll find hanging in various area businesses, including the National Bank of Middlebury. Each tag includes gift suggestions.

Donors can also bring their gifts to HOPE during business hours, or at the organization's warehouse on Saturdays.

Those gifts should be unwrapped. Direct any questions to HOPE at 802-388-3608, at hpotter@hope-vt.org.

Holiday Shop clients must make an appointment for their store visit and fill out a form substantiating they qualify for the service. A shopper can't earn more than 185% of the federal poverty guideline, which is currently \$4,810 per month for a family of four. Come in to fill out the application, or request



EILEEN AND DAVE Bearor have for years ensured that the Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects Holiday Shop on Boardman Street in Middlebury is festively decorated to welcome the many low-income families who will visit to get free gifts for their children. They are shown last week decorating the shop, which will be open beginning Dec. 3.

Independent photo/John Flowers

one via email at receptionist@hope-vt.org.

Dave and Eileen Bearor have been longtime volunteers at the HOPE Holiday Shop. They take special pride and joy in decorating the shop, so it looks extra festive for shopping visits.

"It's more Christmasy when it's all decorated, and people feel more at ease and so happy to see everything look so bright and colorful. It puts a smile on their faces," Eileen said. "You

come in and it's like a Christmas wonderland. And then you see all these toys and gifts. You can't help but get excited."

FOOD BOXES

Along with filling toy wish lists, HOPE will try make sure all Addison County households have access to a nice holiday meal. Households that meet the aforementioned poverty guideline qualify for a holiday food box that includes a turkey, stuffing mix, vegetables, potatoes, fruit, dessert

fixings and other items.

In all, Montross believes HOPE will give out around 400 food boxes to folks needing one for either Thanksgiving or Christmas. Those seeking to reserve a holiday meal must fill out an application; visit HOPE to get one, or use the same contact info (email receptionist@hope-vt.org) as for the Holiday Shop.

Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

You are invited

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024
Sponsored By: 802 Cares

TURKEY DINNER

With all the fixings

NOON TO 2PM

Reserve Your Dinner with 802 Cares
802-345-1451 or 802cares@gmail.com
Walk-ins Welcome • Donations Are Welcome

LOCATION
Addison County VFW Post 7823
530 Exchange St.
Middlebury, Vt.



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER?

Dr. Michael Markowitz Is Accepting New Primary Care Patients

Dr. Markowitz attended medical school at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He interned at University Hospital at Stony Brook University in New York and completed a combined residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at Maricopa Medical Center and Phoenix Children's Hospital in Arizona.

Dr. Markowitz enjoys hiking, biking, and performing as a musician. He is also a craftsman of repairing fretted string instruments.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY
802-897-7000

SHOREWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH
MEDICAL • DENTAL • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

2987 VT Route 22A, Shoreham, VT | CHCRR.org



ATTENTION!

VERMONT STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY CAN ASSIST YOU WITH HOUSING!

Accepting applications for apartments at the following locations:

BRANDON Neshobe House 1 Bedroom	MIDDLEBURY Middlebury Commons 1 Bedroom
VERGENNES Valley View II 1 Bedroom	

*Includes Utilities
Some Restrictions May Apply*

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
VSHA
One Prospect Street
Montpelier, VT 05602-3556
Or
(802) 828-1045 (Voice)
(800) 820-5119 (Message)
(800) 798-3118 (TTY)

 EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY 

ADDISON COUNTY

Agriculture News

Give thanks this holiday season

This season we gather with friends and family. Perhaps you're getting together for a home-cooked meal, a potluck, or a special holiday celebration at the office or workplace. Maybe it's to visit your favorite restaurant. We are fortunate in Vermont to have extraordinary food and beverages in every corner of our state. This time of year, we enjoy feasts with fresh local veggies, meat, dairy, and specialty food and beverages made right here in Vermont.

Your local farmer works many long hours to produce a harvest that all of us may enjoy. You might find this season's bounty at the farm at the farmstand, farmers market, CSA, retail store or co-op, or maybe delivered to your home. Many of our producers can ship your favorite "Taste of

Community Forum

This week's writer is Anson B. Tebbetts, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.



Vermont" right to your kitchen, and Vermonters may efficiently order online to support Vermont farmers.

As we close out 2024, it's also time to think of our Christmas tree growers. They provide us with the experience of getting that "perfect" tree for our family. Memories of a lifetime can be found, and made, at choose-and-cut farms across our

14 counties. If you have a friend or family member that misses Vermont this time of year, some growers will even box up trees, wreaths, or garlands and ship to a home or office. Décor from fresh Vermont trees is as beautiful to smell as it is to see.

The holidays are also a time for giving and remembering those who are less fortunate. The year 2024 was a difficult time for many. Once again, floods and severe weather destroyed homes, businesses and crops this summer. The flooding is gone from the headlines, but the emotional and economic impact is still with countless Vermonters. You can still support them by checking on them, volunteering to help with chores or bringing them a home

(See Tebbetts, Page 15A)



DIGNITARIES CARVE UP some beef at a ceremony late last month marking construction of the new meat-processing plant on the Vermont State University campus in Randolph. Welding sharp knives are, from left, VTSU President Dave Bergh, Meat Facility Director DeMetris Reed Jr. and Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts. The state-of-the-art meat-processing facility is due to open in May. Ben DeFlorio Photography/Vermont State University

Meat processing gets a boost in Vt.

RANDOLPH — Vermont State University (VTSU) recently announced that construction on a new meat-processing facility is underway at its Randolph campus. The new butchery expands the university's Center for Agriculture and Food Entrepreneurship.

"This facility is a pillar of our future trainings and our future degree program," said Glenn Evans, the executive director of the Center for Agriculture and Food Entrepreneurship. "What we are really trying to do is stand up something that is innovative and distinctive but that capitalizes on the needs we see in the state and the region."

While Vermont has dozens of meat-processing plants, it currently does not have one on a college campus to train the next generation of meat industry professionals. The state-of-the-art campus facility will meet this need. The site will include saws, smokers, packaging and sterilization equipment.

Tebbetts emphasized that the butchery facility would not only support the workforce but also benefit farmers, *The Herald of Randolph* reported. "This will offer our farmers some stability,"

"We are thrilled to be home to this innovative center for meat science education."

— DeMetris Reed Jr.

Tebbetts said, according to *The Herald*. "If a business can process more meat, it means more animals on the land. And of course, the consumer wins because they're getting quality local food, supporting their neighbor."

Facility Director DeMetris Reed Jr. added that the facility will benefit not only the future generation of meat professionals and consumers who enjoy the end product, but also Vermont's wide population of hunters.


"We know that a lot of Vermonters like to hunt," Reed said. "We are looking at processing deer, showing them what they can do with the entire carcass."

The facility, which will be called 1787 Butchery, will open

in May 2025. It will feature a digitally integrated classroom, an environmentally controlled processing floor with professional grinders, cutting, storage, and packaging equipment, and a meat smoker to accommodate teaching on cured meats.

Through the completion of the facility VTSU will be able to offer hands-on training and educational programs on several meat science topics, including meat processing, grading techniques, food safety, advanced processing technology and the culinary aspects of meat. By partnering with Vermont businesses active in the meat industry, students will have the opportunity to learn workforce and entrepreneurial skills from innovators in the industry.

"We are thrilled to be home to this innovative center for meat science education," Reed said. "This facility will position VTSU-Randolph at the forefront of meat-processing education in New England, while reinforcing our university's mission of providing practical, career-oriented learning experiences."




Happy Thanksgiving!

From all of us at

Reed's Equipment

Supporting Agriculture in Addison County & Beyond Since 1988

802-759-2562
4373 VT Rte. 17W
Addison, Vermont



Engineering for a better world.



DISCOVER AN ENTIRE ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR YOUR SUCCESS.



Nobody serves your ag credit needs like Farm Credit East.

Farm Credit East was made in agriculture. It's all we do. So every product, every service and every person is dedicated to meeting your financial needs and growing your success. We know agriculture, we understand your business needs, and work to achieve your goals.

Discover the difference at Farm Credit East.

farmcrediteast.com
800.562.2235



Loans & Leases

Financial Record-Keeping

Payroll Services

Profitability Consulting

Tax Preparation & Planning

Appraisals

Estate Planning

Beginning Farmer Programs

Crop Insurance

WOOD PELLETS FOR EVERYONE'S NEEDS!



HARDWOOD SOFTWOOD BLENDS

Pick up or Delivered Pricing!

Call us today to place your order!



88 Seymour St., Middlebury • 802-388-7000



Addison County Solid Waste Management District

We help you reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost. Call us for information on trash and recycling disposal services in your area!



District Transfer Station
1223 Rte 7 South Middlebury, VT
HOURS: Monday-Friday 7 AM to 3 PM, Saturday 8 AM to 1 PM
NO RESIDENTIAL TRASH OR RECYCLING
HazWaste Center:
HOURS: Monday-Friday: 8 AM to 2 PM, Saturday 8 AM to 1 PM
BUSINESSES MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

District Residential Drop-Off
100 Kings Way (off Campground Rd.) New Haven, VT
HOURS: Fridays 7 AM to 2 PM, Saturdays 7 AM to NOON
NO LARGE LOADS OR SPECIAL WASTES

CONTACT US
(802) 388-2333 | acswmd@acswmd.org
AddisonCountyRecycles.org
 [addison.co.waste.mgmt](https://www.instagram.com/addison.co.waste.mgmt)  [addisoncountysolidwaste](https://www.facebook.com/addisoncountysolidwaste)

Farmers access to credit

Welch seeks to make it easier

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Peter Welch, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, this week introduced the Debt Relief and Farm Credit Access Act. The proposed law would update USDA Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans requirements to give farmers greater flexibility in accessing credit and help distressed borrowers restructure burdensome debt.

The Vermont Democrat's legislation will make USDA farm loan programs more responsive to the needs of farmers facing external shocks such as market concentration, disasters, and inflation, to help borrowers absorb losses without risking their farms. The legislation also removes outdated eligibility requirements for USDA farm loans, helping more farmers and ranchers access credit assistance.

"Vermont farmers and growers have relied on USDA farm loan programs to grow and sustain their farms for generations. Making these essential loan programs more flexible will help both new and experienced farmers access crucial financial assistance when they need it most," Welch said in a press release. "This bill improves our ability to lend a helping hand to those who work hard to feed our communities."



SEN. WELCH

In 2022, nearly 25% of small farms had an average debt of over \$200,000, and the average debt of large family farms surpassed \$1.8 million. In the past decade, crippling debt caused by natural disasters has led to the closure of nearly half of Vermont's dairy farms. More recent natural disasters like the brutal back-to-back floods in 2023 and 2024 have left many Vermont farms burdened with debt and with few options for relief. As farming operations in Vermont and across the country continue to face external shocks, farmers need new ways to help absorb losses without risking their farms and livelihoods.

USDA's Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loans are financing tools that help farmers promote, build, and sustain family farms. Direct Farm Ownership Loans are designed to help farmers start, purchase, and expand their operations, while Guaranteed Loans provide vital assistance to farmers who may not meet loan qualifications from a commercial lender.

While both Direct and Guaranteed Farm Loan programs have been effective in supporting farmers, improvements can be made to boost access to these tools, Welch's office said. Currently, arbitrary time limits and onerous experience requirements prohibit

many farmers from accessing USDA loans. Additional limitations on how loans can be used and when loans can be forgiven can hinder the ability to respond to external forces like market concentration, disasters, and inflation. The Debt Relief and Farm Credit Access Act ensures farmers have the flexibility they need to access credit and restructure debt.

Specifically, the Debt Relief and Farm Credit Access Act would:

- Authorize borrowers to use Direct Farm Ownership Loans to refinance debt, helping farmers restructure debt using lower interest rates provided by USDA.
- Increase the lifetime limitation on debt forgiveness per borrower from \$300,000 to \$600,000, matching the loan program limit.
- Remove the authority of preferred certified lenders of Guaranteed Loans to initiate liquidation without Farm Service Agency (FSA) concurrence, ensuring all borrowers are provided equitable access to FSA programs to help resolve delinquency.
- Eliminate the limitation on the number of years applicants may receive Direct Farm Ownership Loans.
- Replaces the three-year experience requirement for Direct Farm Ownership Loans with a one-year experience requirement.
- Provide flexibility on the use of funds reserved for beginning farmers.



A NEW USDA program aims to increase the consumption of organic dairy products, such as those dispensed at this Vermont school cafeteria.

USDA promotes organic dairy in Vermont

VERNON — In an event held at a Vermont organic dairy farm recently, USDA Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt announced the launch of the Organic Dairy Product Promotion (ODPP) program, allocating \$15 million to expand access to organic dairy products in educational institutions and youth programs. Agriculture officials say the program, funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation, will increase consumption of organic dairy products among children and young adults while creating new opportunities for small and mid-sized organic dairy producers. Four national Dairy Business Innovation Centers, including the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) in Vermont, will each be granted \$3.75 million to facilitate the new program.

"Expanding access to a variety of organic dairy products in schools and community programs promotes healthy consumption habits and strengthens local dairy markets," said Under Secretary Moffitt. "Announcing the Organic Dairy Product Promotion program during National Farm to School Month is yet another way to celebrate USDA's commitment to connecting producers to new, local markets and providing youth with healthy, fresh dairy products from nearby farms."

"These funds will provide the catalytic opportunity for organic dairy to be served in new settings

across the region, showing that it is possible to bring locally produced dairy into schools, universities, and other child-focused settings," said Laura Ginsburg, Dairy Strategy and Innovation Manager for the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

The Miller Farm of Vernon hosted the announcement, as well as Vermont Secretary of Agriculture Anson Tebbetts, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle, and Ginsburg. Ginsburg leads the NE-DBIC, which — along with the three other DBIC's at the University of California, Fresno; University of Tennessee; and the University of Wisconsin — will fulfill key program objectives, including:

- Increasing domestic consumption of organic dairy products among children and young adults.
- Diversifying dairy products offered in learning institutions and at other youth and young adult focused program sites.
- Building partnerships with, and networks of, businesses involved in organic dairy product production and the distribution of organic dairy products within the lead organization's region, which aligns with their DBI service area.

"These investments will help grow our farm economy while supporting those who love dairy," said Secretary Tebbetts. "We are

grateful to have these dollars from USDA so more can enjoy milk, cheese, butter, ice cream and yogurt."

"The Northeast dairy industry, comprised of multi-generational family farms, is a critical part of our agricultural economy in the region," said Massachusetts Agricultural Commissioner Randle. "Today's announcement provides new marketing channels for farms, the ability to cultivate greater connections with local schools and institutions and educate and foster connections with consumers to their local farms. We're grateful for this timely announcement from USDA and the support that the Northeast-DBIC provides to Massachusetts dairy farms."

The lead organizations will develop region-specific projects to distribute organic dairy products to K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and other youth and young adult-focused programs and institutions. Lead organizations may also sub-award funds for procurement to dairy businesses, educational institutions including K-12 schools and colleges/universities, or other organizations with industry expertise to implement the program.

For more information on the new program, visit the AMS Organic Dairy Product Promotion program webpage at www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food/odpp.

Tebbetts

(Continued from Page 14A)

cooked meal or treat during the holidays. These acts of kindness often make the world of difference during the hardest of times.

Thank you for all you do to support your neighbors. We are grateful to have the privilege to enjoy the finest foods in the world. And thank you, farmers,

producers and all those who make a living off the land. Your work, and the community we find together here in our brave little state of Vermont, is unmatched.



Be a MEMBER, not just a NUMBER.

Middlebury, VT
802-388-7917
co-opinsurance.com
in f



At Co-op, we're member owned and member committed. Since 1915, we've been providing protection for individuals, farms, and businesses with a large network of local agents, fast and fair claims service, loss control expertise, and affordable rates. At the Co-op, you're a member, not just a number.



HOME • BUSINESS • AUTO • FARM
Middlebury, Vermont • 802-388-7917 • co-opinsurance.com
MEMBER OWNED. MEMBER COMMITTED.



Champlain Valley Equipment
453 Exchange Street
Middlebury, VT
www.champlainvalleyequipment.com

Your hometown
Kubota dealer
of choice.



KUBOTA M4

Comfortable. Reliable. Adaptable.
You can't mention it without saying the word able.

Its ergonomic design and fast, easy electro hydraulic shuttle transmission are just some of the reasons the M4 is part of the #1 selling tractor lineup in the U.S. under 200hp.

Visit your Kubota dealer today for a demo!

KubotaUSA.com



* © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2024. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your local dealer or go to KubotaUSA.com. 24 Months or 15,000 Bales (whichever occurs first).

THT

(Continued from Page 1A)
the premises that included Doug Anderson, the organization’s artistic director.
But rest assured, the new performance, education and set-building space will be used well before the grand opening, much to the delight of Anderson, Mitchell and their THT colleagues. The so-called “THT Annex” includes studios for rehearsals, performances, receptions and arts education. It hosts a scene shop on the sub-level, an educational studio and gallery on the plaza level, and the Doug and Debby Anderson Rehearsal Studio and

gallery on the stage level.
Work will soon begin on a new outdoor plaza that will host performances, celebrations, and serve as an informal gathering spot for the community.
After a lot of site and foundation work that began last year, the addition went vertical in a big way this past summer. Some of the spaces were still works in progress early this week, but their future roles in the overall THT production were unmistakable. Among those spots were a deep elevator shaft, a future kitchen, reception/bar area and an outdoor balcony.
The spacious elevator — the costliest component of the project — will conveniently ferry both humans and set pieces to the main stage area.
Anderson, also the THT’s founder and former executive director, ebulliently marveled at the new construction and the rehearsal studio that bears his name. He noted the high ceiling, ample space and to-die-for views of the Otter Creek, Battell Bridge



TOWN HALL THEATER Artistic Director Douglas Anderson enjoys a stellar view from the new rehearsal studio that bears his and his wife Debby’s name. Workers are making great progress on the new THT addition, slated to be completed early next year.
Independent photo/Steve James

AGWAY

BLACK FRIDAY AND
SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY ONLY
11/29 & 11/30
UP TO
40% OFF
SELECT
SWEATSHIRTS

carhartt

In stock items only. Cannot be combined with any other sale or offer. Customer gets best discount at checkout. While supplies last.

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY
338 Exchange Street
802-388-4937
Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4
www.MiddleburyAgway.com

VERGENNES
GRAND
SENIOR LIVING
Life is Grand Here

JOB FAIR
Wednesday, December 4
1 PM - 5 PM
Bixby Library 258 Main St, Vergennes

With our grand opening set for early 2025, we’re seeking driven, compassionate team members to bring Vergennes Grand to life. At the fair, we’ll accept applications and conduct interviews for positions across all departments.

Join the GRAND OPENING TEAM!

SCAN THE QR CODE
for more information
and to download a job
application form.

Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care
Vergennes, VT | (802) 877-3562 | VergennesGrand.com

and downtown village.
There’s a reason the addition is festooned with a copious number of windows.
“When someone is on that bridge at 8 p.m., they’ll look over (to THT) and say, ‘Look at those kids tap dancing,’ or ‘Look at those opera singers singing over there,’” Anderson said. “Downtown is going to feel alive and lit-up because of all the transparency here.”
The scene shop and rehearsal studio segments of the addition will be among the first put into service, on or around Jan. 5, according to Mitchell.
Anderson will informally inaugurate the new rehearsal space on Feb. 8.
“We’ll have a cabaret here with all my favorite singers. There will be people sitting at tables and there will be a nightclub feel, with the town (lights) glowing behind us. I think it’s going to be exciting,” he said.
Other confirmed users of the addition this winter will include the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (annual meeting), Summit Properties (related to groundbreaking for the Stonecrop Meadows housing development), the Middlebury Community Music Center, Middlebury Acting Company and Middlebury College.
“It’s really taking shape,” Mitchell said of future programming. The organization, in recent years, has sadly had to reject roughly 80% of the requests it receives for use of the facility due to lack of space.
As of Monday, THT was just \$200,000 short of meeting its \$8.2 million fundraising goal for the project.
A “buy a brick” campaign — which invited individuals and businesses to have their names engraved on gray bricks that will form the future outdoor plaza — yielded around \$160,000.
Anyone interested in helping push THT over its fundraising finish line should reach out to Mitchell at lisa@townhalltheater.org.
“This community has been incredibly generous, and we couldn’t be more grateful for the support. As in any campaign the last little bit can be the toughest (to raise),” she said.
Reporter John Flowers is at johnf@addisonindependent.com.

Thank you for contributing
to the Vergennes Lions Club
Online Auction

Due to generous donations from local businesses and community members, the Vergennes Lions Club raised over \$7,500.00 from our recent auction. All proceeds go to support local Lions Club programs. We would like to thank both our donors and our shoppers. The Vergennes Lions appreciate your support!

Auction Donors:

A&D Automotive	Ferrisburgh Bake Shop & Deli	Roberts Energy
A&W All-American Food	Fisher Auto Parts	Rockers Pizzeria
Adam & Ink	Fleet Truck Tires	Rosie’s Restaurant & Coffee Shop
Addison County Farm & Field Days	Grandma’s Cupboard	Route 7 South Sandwich Co.
Alpha by SC	Graph-X	Sanel Auto
Aqua ViTea	Green Mountain Pet & Tack	Sarah L. Frederiksen, Elevate You Well LLC,
Aubuchon Hardware	Greg’s Market and Deli	Sean Dye
Bar Antidote	Halfway House Restaurant	Shannon Jacobson, LMT
Basin Harbor Club	Hare and the Dog	Shaws- Vergennes
Betty Sabourin, CPA.	J. Sonis Designs	Shear Cuts
BJ’s Farm Supply, Inc	Jackie Rivers	Sons of American Legion Post # 14
Black Sheep Bistro	Jackman Fuels	Stone Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Bora’s Welding	Jocelyn Designs	Sweet Hill Farm
Bourdeau Brothers of Middlebury	JR & Sons	Taylor Rental
Brandon RV	Junction Auto Center	The Bridge Restaurant
Bravo Bistro LLC	Karen Taylor	The North Granville Pottery Company
Bridport Creamery	Key Bank	The Stove Depot
Broughton’s Big Country Hardware	Kinney Drugs	Thoughtful Expressions, LLC
Bud’s Barbershop	Lake Champlain Maritime Museum	Three Squares
Champlain Bridge Marina	Larry & Connie Simino	Topper, Inc.
Champlain Valley Equipment	Linda’s Apparel & The Men’s Corner	Tozier’s Restaurant
Champlain Valley Plumbing and Heating	MacIntyre Gas & Oil Services	United Ag & Turf
Champ’s Trading Post	Maple Landmark	Vergennes Area Rescue Squad
Chrimorse.net Computer Services	May Woznak	Vergennes Car Wash
Citizen’s Bank	McGee Chevrolet of Middlebury	Vergennes LEOS
Cole’s Flowers	McKiryher Woodworks	Vergennes Movement
Collette’s Custom Cuts	Middlebury Agway	Vergennes Opera House
Columbine of Sun Spots	Middlebury Courtyard Marriott	Vergennes Police Department
Comfort Hill Kennel	Misty Knoll Farms	Vermont Discount Store
Community Market- Vergennes	Monkton Ridge Orchard	Vermont Farm Table
Cookie Steponaitis	Monument Farms	Vermont Sun Fitness
County Tire Center	Olive Garden	Village Green Market
Crafty Crew 802	Packard of Vermont	Wag-On Inn
Dakin Farm	Panoramic Landscaping & Escavation	Waterfalls Day Spa
Danforth Pewter	Park Squeeze	West Addison General Store
Desabrais Cleaners	Pratt’s Store	Whistle Pig
Diannezdesigns	Queen Bee’s Snack Bar	Woodchuck Hard Cider
Dogface Supply, LLC.	Rack ‘ N Reel Sporting Goods	Woodland Woodworks
Ed Langlois	RK Miles	Woodman Hill Orchard
Farm Credit East - Middlebury	Road Ready Services	Woodware
Feed Commodities	Rob Keith	Wow Toyz
		Yates Family Orchard

SHOP VERGENNES!

Grand
Thanksgiving
Weekend

\$1000⁺
in prizes!

Nov. 29 + 30

Black Friday | Small Business Saturday
all rolled into one
GRAND GIVEAWAY

Look for the blue boxes throughout the
downtown and register at each location.
- **Winners at every participating business** -
Over **30** prizes in all, **10** winners will each take
home **\$100** in local currency, Vergennes Green!

Sponsors:

VERGENNES
GRAND
SENIOR LIVING

VERGENNES
PARTNERSHIP

Coming Up:

Ho Ho Ho Holiday Stroll: Saturday, December 7

Magic on Main: Friday, December 13

www.VergennesDowntown.org

- School News
 - Legal Notices
- Classifieds
 - Police Logs



MIDDLEBURY'S LUKE MADDEN rises above the crowd to head the ball during the Panther men's soccer team's big win in Saturday's first NCAA regional game. The Panthers also won on Sunday and will host an NCAA Sectional this weekend.

Independent photo/Steve James

Panther mens' soccer prevails in NCAA action

To host sectional after defeating Hunter and Vassar in regional tournament

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men's soccer team defeated Hunter and Vassar colleges this past weekend at an NCAA Division III Regional tournament on the Panthers' South Street Field. The Panthers next will host three more schools in an NCAA sectional this weekend.

The winner of that playoff will advance to the NCAA Final Four in Las Vegas, with semifinals on Dec. 5 and the final played on Dec. 7. Three other NESCAC teams, Amherst, Connecticut and Williams, also remain in contention in other sectionals after winning their regionals.

In the upcoming sectional semifinals this Saturday, Middlebury, which improved to 16-1-3 with its two regional wins, will take on Claremont-Mudd-Scripps (15-3-3) at 10:30 a.m. In the second semifinal, at 1:30 p.m. Trinity of Texas (19-0-3) will face Babson (16-1-6). The only team of the three visitors the Panthers have played this fall is Babson: Middlebury topped the Beavers on Oct. 13, 3-1, at home.

Saturday's winners will play at 1 p.m. on Sunday with a trip to Las Vegas on the line.

The Panthers are seeking their second NCAA title, having won the tournament in 2007. The program has reached the NCAA

quarterfinals on three other occasions, including a year ago.

REGIONAL FINAL

This past Sunday, the Panthers subdued Vassar, 2-1, scoring a goal in each half to take a 2-0 lead before staving off a mild Vassar push. The Panthers outshot the

Brewers, 16-10, including a 5-4 edge in shots on target, and amassed a 9-3 advantage on corner kicks. Vassar, which upset Colorado College the day before, wrapped up at 13-4-3.

The Brewers had a chance on a corner kick in the second minute,

but Eli Torrey's shot sailed wide of the right post. In the 13th minute, Vassar goalie Jacob Raphan denied a sharp-angled bid by Tyler Payne for one of his three saves.

The Panthers broke through in

(See Soccer, Page 3B)



PANTHER TYLER PAYNE rips a shot at goal during the first of two Middlebury men's NCAA regional wins this past weekend. The Panthers will host an NCAA sectional this weekend with a trip to the final four on the line.

Independent photo/Steve James

Midd volleyball wins NESCAC playoffs, NCAAs next

By ANDY KIRKALDY

WATERVILLE, Maine — The second-seeded Middlebury College volleyball team defeated top-seeded host Colby, 3-2 (14-25, 25-16, 25-22, 16-25, 16-14), on this past Saturday to claim the program's sixth NESCAC title.

The 16-10 Panthers earned

the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Division III tournament and was set to face Salisbury (24-6) in a first-round match-up at Juniata College at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday. Colby, ranked No. 14 in the nation, dropped to 24-3.

In Saturday's first set vs Colby, the Mules went on a 10-2 run and

eased to the 25-14 victory.

The Panthers erupted for a 14-4 run in the second set on the way to evening the match at 1-1 with a 25-16 victory.

The third set was knotted at 21-21, but the Panthers closed it out with a 4-1 run capped with a double block by Ava Tuccio and

Molly Harrison to secure the 25-22 win and a 2-1 lead.

The Mules then used runs of 9-2 and 7-1 to coast to a 25-16 victory in the fourth set.

In the decisive fifth set, neither side led by more than two points until a Colby kill put the Mules up by 12-9. The Panthers rallied

behind a Harrison kill and a Colby miscue to tie the set at 14-14.

The Panthers went up 15-14 on a Mule attacking miscue before a long rally that ended with a Harrison kill that propelled Middlebury to the title.

(See Volleyball, Page 3B)

HS field hockey stars set

ADDISON COUNTY — Ten members of the Otter Valley, Mount Abraham and Middlebury union high school field hockey teams earned postseason recognition from either the Southern Valley League B Division or the Metro Conference.

Three Otters were named to the SVL B Division first team: Breanna Bovey, Micheala Hobbs and Matelin LaPorte.

Eagle Maris Laperle earned a spot on the Metro Conference First Team.

Tiger Lila Cook Yoder was named to the Metro Second Team, and the senior also made the Vermont Twin State Team.

Also making the Metro Conference Second Team was Mount Abe's Nora Hurlburt.

Receiving Honorable Mention from the SVL B Division was OV's Marissa Dick.

Earning Honorable Mention from the Metro Conference were two Tigers, Maya Breckenridge and Quinn Doria, and Eagle June Yates-Rusch.

Panther field hockey books another final four trip

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The dream of seventh heaven remains alive for the Middlebury College field hockey team.

This past weekend, the 17-2 Panthers won the NCAA Division III Regional they hosted. This coming weekend, two more wins at the NCAA Final Four in Lexington, Va., would extend the program's record string of NCAA titles to seven straight. No other school has won more than three in a row.

The Panthers will face Salisbury (also 17-2) in one NCAA semifinal on Friday at 3 p.m. on the campus of Washington & Lee.

The other two semifinalists are both NESCAC schools: Williams (16-3) and Tufts (18-2), who will meet at noon on Friday. The Panthers did not face Salisbury this season, but defeated Williams at home on Oct. 29, 3-0, and lost at Tufts, 2-1, on Oct. 19.

This past Saturday, the Panthers overwhelmed Bryn Mawr, 9-0, then on Sunday knocked off Johns Hopkins, 3-1.

Senior forward Caroline Segal, who capped a three-goal weekend with Sunday's opening score, said she and her classmates' fourth trip to the final four is as exciting as the first.

"It feels amazing. I'm so incredibly proud of this team," Segal said. "We worked so hard since August to get here. It never gets old. Every season is different. We didn't win the conference championship this year, but we found a way to persevere. And we're so excited to head to Virginia later this week."

Coach Katharine DeLorenzo is pleased a team led by nine seniors has earned another title shot.

"I'm absolutely thrilled," she said. "This group, with such experience and such an intellectual side to them as they approach the game, I would have felt it was an incomplete season not continuing on and playing in the final four."

REGIONAL FINAL

To punch their ticket to Virginia, the Panthers had to get past a familiar foe on Sunday. They had defeated Johns Hopkins (19-4) in each of the past three NCAA finals, and they looked the better team on Sunday, with edges of 25-2 in shots at goal and 9-2 in penalty corners.

Hopkins came out with a game plan of pressing the Panthers' clearing attempts that caused some anxious moments in the back, and on defense they made life difficult on the Panthers. Typically, Middlebury can stickhandle the ball into the scoring circle, but the Jay backs often took the ball away from the Panthers as they tried to do so.

Segal said the Panthers had to rely on their fundamentals to move the ball until they could break down the Blue Jay defense.

"They're an incredibly strong defensive team. They move well together. They block tackle incredibly well," Segal said. "It's just keeping the ball until something opens up, until we earn a corner. So it's really about patience."

DeLorenzo said the team's high IQ also let the coaching staff tweak the Panther's offense to take advantage of the little openings Segal spoke about. DeLorenzo introduced new, more aggressive, penalty corner plays during the week of practices before the regional. Segal's goal on Sunday came on a corner, and four of their Saturday goals came on corners.

"We completely revamped our whole penalty corner operation this week to play more direct," DeLorenzo said. "And it's a very energizing approach, if it works."

It did, and the direct mindset also paid off in the game flow, she said.

"We scored four goals combined yesterday and today on very direct play," DeLorenzo said. "And that was the deciding factor in this game."

(See Field hockey, Page 2B)



THE PANTHER FIELD hockey team poses on Sunday with the placard announcing the program is about to make its seventh consecutive trip to an NCAA Division III Final Four.

Independent photo/Andy Kirkaldy



MIDDLEBURY FORWARD GEORGIANNE Defeo stickhandles against a Bryn Mawr defender during the Panther field hockey team's 9-0 regional semifinal win on Saturday. Middlebury also won on Sunday to advance to the NCAA Division III final four.

Independent photo/Steve James

Score BOARD

COLLEGE SPORTS

Men's Soccer

NCAA Regional at Midd

11/16 Midd vs Hunter	7-0
11/16 Vassar vs Rowan	3-0
11/17 Midd vs Vassar	2-1

Field Hockey

NCAA Regional at Midd

11/16 Midd vs Bryn Mawr	9-0
11/16 Johns Hopkins vs Cortland	5-1
11/17 Midd vs Johns Hopkins	3-1

Men's Basketball

11/16 Midd at U St. Joseph	64-63
11/20 Clark at Midd	Late

Women's Basketball

11/16 Midd vs Milliken (U Chi.)	76-45
11/17 U Chicago vs Midd	66-41
11/20 Midd at Skidmore	Late

Women's Hockey

11/15 Midd vs Hamilton	3-1
11/16 Midd vs Hamilton	3-1

Men's Hockey

11/15 Midd vs Bowdoin	5-0
11/16 Midd vs Colby	3-1

Midd XC runners NCAA-bound

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men’s and women’s cross country teams, both ranked in the top 20 nationally, are heading to Indiana this weekend to compete in the NCAA Division III Championships.

Both teams earned at-large bids for the meet, which is hosted by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and being run on Saturday at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Ind.

The 17th-ranked Panther men have had an outstanding season, highlighted by third-place finishes at the NESCAC Championship and the NCAA Midwest Regional last weekend.

Middlebury’s top runners over the last few weeks have been senior Ziggy Goddard and sophomore Benjamin Hughes. Goddard is competing in his fourth NCAA Championship; Hughes makes his second NCAA.

The 19th-ranked Middlebury women’s team is making its 28th

appearance on the national stage and is seeking the program’s seventh title. The Panthers claimed NCAA crowns in 2000, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2008 and 2010.

Panthers to watch include NESCAC Champion Audrey MacLean, a sophomore who garnered All-American honors a year ago, finishing 10th at the NCAA Championship, and senior Bea Parr, who will make her third appearance at the national meet, having placed 75th last fall.

Schedule

COLLEGE SPORTS	
Men's Soccer	
NCAA Sectional at Midd	
11/23 Midd vs Claremont-Mudd-Scripps..	10:30 AM
11/23 Trinity (Tx) vs Babson.....	1:30 PM
11/24 Final.....	1 PM
Field Hockey	
NCAA Final Four In Va.	
11/22 Salisbury vs Midd	3 PM
11/22 Tufts vs Williams.....	Noon
11/24 Final.....	1 PM
Men's Basketball	
11/23 Stevens at Midd	1 PM
11/25 Plattsburgh at Midd	7 PM
Women's Basketball	
11/23 Union at Midd	3 PM
11/26 Castleton at Midd	1 PM
Women's Hockey	
11/22 Wesleyan at Midd	7 PM
11/23 Wesleyan at Midd	3 PM
11/26 Castleton at Midd	4 PM
11/30 Midd vs Endicott (Platt)	6 PM
Men's Hockey	
11/22 Midd at Tufts	7 PM
11/23 Midd at Conn	3 PM
Northern Shootout at Kenyon	
11/29 Norwich vs Plattsburgh.....	3:30 PM
11/29 Midd vs Marian	7 PM
11/30 Cons/Final	3:30/7 PM

Mens’ hockey starts 2-0

By ANDY KIRKALDY

MIDDLEBURY — The Middlebury College men’s ice hockey team swept two visiting NESCAC foes this past weekend, topping Colby, 3-1, on Saturday after besting Bowdoin, 5-0, on Friday in the Panthers’ season opener.

The Panthers hit the road this weekend, traveling to Tufts on Friday night and Connecticut on Saturday afternoon.

They will then host the annual Great Northern Shootout the weekend after Thanksgiving. Perennial NCAA Division III powers Norwich and Plattsburgh will open the action on Friday, Nov. 29, with a 3:30 p.m. puck drop. The Panthers will follow at 7 p.m. that evening against Marian. The consolation and final will be played at 3:30 and 7 p.m., respectively, on Saturday, Nov. 30.

On this past Saturday, Colby took the lead 34 seconds after the opening faceoff, when Will Molson wristed a shot home from the left faceoff circle.

Middlebury knotted the contest at 6:26 while shorthanded. Wyatt Pastor snagged the puck at the defensive blue line and sent the puck up to Matt Myers, who went two-on-one into the Colby end. Myers faked to his left before going back to his right and tucking

the puck home past Colby goalie Adam Costley.

The Panthers took the lead on a power play with 12:38 expired. Christian Wood started to skate counterclockwise behind the goal, and at the last second sent the puck back from behind the goal to the waiting Jackson Morehouse, cutting toward the right post. Morehouse one-timed a shot inside the post.

Middlebury’s Jack Silverman made it 3-1 at 16:11 of the middle period. Revy Mack gathered the puck at center ice and sent Silverman into the offensive zone, and he buried the mid-range shot.

Despite two third-period powerplays for each team, that was it for the scoring. Andrew Heinze made 39 saves for the Panthers, and Costley stopped 15 for the Mules.

Friday’s win came easier, as the Panthers scored twice in the opening period on the way to their 5-0 win, and Heinze recorded an 18-save shutout. Like Saturday, Middlebury was efficient offensively, scoring five times on 27 shots. Bowdoin goalie Jacob Osborne made 22 saves.

Middlebury took the lead with 6:07 expired, when Andrew Malatesta lifted a Tucker Lamb rebound home. With 2:33 left in the period Jin Lee cashed in a John

(See Hockey, Page 3B)



PANTHER MIDFIELDER AMY Griffin carries the ball during the Panther field hockey team’s 9-0 NCAA regional semifinal win on Saturday. Griffin’s two assists during the game gave her 49 for her career, a program record.

Field hockey

(Continued from Page 1A)

In Sunday’s fourth minute, Panther defender Grace Keefe blasted a shot on a penalty corner that Jay goalie Aubrey Kilgore made a loud pad save on. Later in the period, Kilgore kicked away an Amy Griffin bid on another corner, and she denied Griffin again early in the second period.

Segal’s goal came at 7:16 of the second quarter. She inserted from the left side to Katherine Lantzy, who slid the ball to Keefe. Keefe fired toward the left post to Segal, and she redirected crisply into the cage.

Hopkins converted its only shot on goal with 1:25 left in the half when its press paid off. Megan Chang picked off an errant back pass, spun around the defender near the penalty stroke line, and flicked the ball into the upper left corner. Panther goalie Madeline DiLemme had no chance, and it was 1-1.

But that was the only defensive miscue from a Panther team that has only allowed 16 goals this season. The back line of Keefe, Ellie Hughes and Emily Stone also collectively contributed three shots on goal and two assists on Sunday.

“Our defense is the best in the country,” Segal said. “They are such incredibly strong players, and, as you can tell, they’re also incredibly strong offensive players.”

The Panthers kept threatening in the third period, and Georgianne DeFeo put in the game-winner 6:08 into the quarter. Keefe drilled a drive from the right of the circle that bounced through traffic to DeFeo at the left post for the tap-in.

The Panthers nearly scored again with 27 seconds left in the period, but Segal’s wrist shot hit the right post.

Emma McCann added the pad goal with 7:16 to go in the game. Hughes carried down the left sideline and fed McCann at the edge of the circle; McCann carried the ball across the circle and wristed a shot inside the left post.

It was only a matter of time before that Panthers could celebrate another trip to the final four.

DeLorenzo said the team’s nine seniors have helped create for the Panthers’ high level of execution and teamwork.

“Every single player touching this ball understands where they are within the structure, what the flow needs to be,” DeLorenzo said. “That really sets this team apart from any other team we’ve had...”

Of course, Sunday’s game was the last at Kohn Field for those seniors. Segal spoke of the emotions of the day.

“I’ve been here for four and a half years. I’ve basically grown up on this very field. We just wanted to play our hearts out here,” she said.

“I’m sad to never play here again, as is the rest of my senior class. But we booked our trip down south, so we left with great memories.”

SEMIFINAL GAME

In Saturday’s semifinal, the Panthers dominated No. 15 Bryn Mawr in their 9-0 win. The Panthers outshot the Owls, 41-2, and earned an 18-2 edge in corner kicks.

The 15-7 Owls held the Panthers at bay for 14 minutes, but Middlebury ruled midfield and rarely allowed the Owls past the center stripe.

Late in the first quarter, Middlebury sparked offensively. Segal, Lilly Branka and Megan Fuqua all had great chances before Hanna Medwar gave the Panthers the lead with 1:01 on the clock. Segal bolted down the left side and crossed to Medwar for the tip-in.

Just 1:34 into the second quarter, Branka made it 2-0 on a penalty corner. Griffin took the insert from the left and slipped it back to the left to Branka, who fired inside the left post. Griffin finished with two assists, giving her the program career record of 49.

Bryn Mawr had its best chance midway through the period. A ball deflected to Lucie Burgess behind the defense, and she was alone near the stroke line. But Burgess mis-hit the shot, and DiLemme kicked it away for her only stop. Izzy Redzic also made one save for Middlebury. Two Owl goalies combined for 17 saves.

Segal made it 3-0 at 8:52, carrying the ball to her left through the circle and reverse-sticking back into the goal’s right side. Just before the half the Panthers scored in transition. Lantzy carried into the circle, fed Georgianne DeFeo on her left, and DeFeo found McCann for the redirect on the right post.

Griffin made it 5-0 42 seconds after the break on a reverse sweep, and 1:23 later it was 6-0: On a penalty corner Keefe blasted home a shot.

Middlebury made it 7-0 with 6:43 left in the period when Segal tapped in a Stone pass. Fuqua and Stone added scores on penalty corners in the fourth quarter.

AGWAY

Check our Black Friday ad next week!

30% off Deals on select Pet Supplies, Christmas Décor, and more!

*plus see our website, Facebook, or store for details!

KRINGLE CANDLE BUY 1 GET 2nd at 50% off

Christmas Trees Are Here! SHOP EARLY!

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY 338 Exchange Street 802-388-4937 Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4 www.MiddleburyAgway.com

SUBSCRIBE

Questions? CALL SEAN TODAY!

The Perfect Companion for Stick Season.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT Serving Addison County, Vt. Since 1986

58 Maple St., Midd., VT 05753 802-388-4944 ext 104

Subscribe online addisonindependent.com OR Fill out this form and mail it with payment

Subscriber Name

Mailing Address

Phone Number

Email Address

☐ 10% off as a Senior (65 years and older)

☐ 25% off as a Student

☐ Sign me up to Auto Renew

(ONLY AVAILABLE FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS)

Please circle your subscription option:

Standard Subscription (Print and Digital)

2 YEARS \$125

1 YEAR \$65

6 MONTHS \$35

Digital Only Subscription

1 YEAR \$50

1 MONTH \$10

1 WEEK \$3

Check Enclosed \$

Card #

CCV Exp. Date

Monkton, VT Homeowner Recommends Bristol Electronics

"It's not just that we are using our heat pumps and solar system, it's the fact that we are not contributing to the world's craziness.

If everybody does this in their own back yard, we can all make a huge impact."

John & Mary Howard, Monkton, VT

802-453-2500 BristolElectronicsVT.com FREE SITE EVALUATIONS

Clean food tastes better!

Try AJ Neri Fruit and Vegetable Wash Exclusively at Greg's Market

Locally made with organic oils and herbs. Removes herbicides and pesticides. Certified to USDA organic standards by VOF

Manufactured by Vermont Organic Soap Co. for A. J. Neri

Save \$3.00

A. J. Neri Fruit & Vegetable Wash

Greg's Market 3 Elm St., Middlebury. Limit one coupon per bottle.



A HUNTER DEFENDER and goalie Matthew Heimowitz team up to deny Panther freshman Keagan Harder during Middlebury’s regional win on this past Saturday. Harder proved tough to stop at the regional, scoring three goals during the two Panther victories.

Independent photo/Steve James

Soccer

(Continued from Page 1B)

the 18th minute. Shane Farrell lofted a shot from along the right sideline that sailed into the upper left corner.

In the 26th minute, Vassar’s Joshua Lee collected the ball at midfield and went into the Panther box, but Panther goalie Joey Waterman came off his line to deny Lee’s close-range bid for the more critical of his two saves.

The Brewers had an opportunity five minutes later on a free kick from just outside the box, but Panther center back Luke Maddon cleared Arden Tobolski bending attempt off the goal line.

Middlebury’s Keagan Harter made it 2-0 3:34 into the second half. Harder drew a foul in the box, and on the ensuing penalty kick he tucked his shot into the lower right corner.

The Brewers sliced the deficit in half about four minutes later, when Jared Fiske volleyed home a Torrey cross into the box.

Both teams had chances the

rest of the way. Raphan saved a curling Colin Dugan bid in the 60th minute, six minutes later Tobolski shot wide from the right side, and in the 72nd minute Madden bodied a bid off the left post. The Panthers didn’t allow a shot on goal the rest of the way, and were soon celebrating.

The Panthers’ two goals gave them 53 for the season, a program record. Harder’s goal was his team-high ninth.

REGIONAL SEMIFINAL

On Saturday, the Panthers had no trouble with unranked visitor Hunter College (6-12-2), winning by 7-0. The Panthers outshot their visitors, 37-1, and didn’t allow a shot on two goalies who shared time — Owen Greene and Joe Todd.

Middlebury scored its first in the 10th minute, when Will Sawin fired home the rebound of a Madden header. Hunter’s Ben Avakook hit a post in the 13th minute, and the 1-0 margin stood until the 38th minute, when Harder buried a penalty kick

past beleaguered Hunter goalie Matthew Heimowitz (13 saves and five goals against before being subbed out.)

Two minutes later, Harder struck again, tapping in a ball that Anderson Gardner flicked toward the right post to make it 3-0 at the break.

Middlebury added four second-half goals. With 28:27 remaining, Quinn Pappendick converted a Malik Samms cross. In the 76th minute, Alem Hadzic sent home a cross from Gardner. Hugo Horwitz tapped in a cross from Gardner in the 82nd minute, and five minutes later, Samuel Dolan scored with an assist from Hadzic.

Volleyball

(Continued from Page 1B)

Tuccio finished with a career-best 15 kills and added five blocks during the triumph. Harrison posted her 19th double-double of the campaign with 16 kills and 15 digs. She has 379 kills this fall, moving her into second place in the program’s single-season records. Gabbie

O’Toole dished out 38 assists, giving her 955 this season, good for seventh in program history. Annabella Rando led with 24 digs.

The Panthers reached the final with a 3-0 semifinal win (25-18, 25-22, 25-20) over Wesleyan in the semifinal round at Colby on Nov. 15. Harrison posted 15

kills and 27 assists, and O’Toole contributed 41 assists.

The 3-2 home quarterfinal victory over Bowdoin on Nov. 9 was more tense: The Panther rallied from two sets down to prevail, 27-29, 23-25, 25-21, 25-16, 15-10. Harrison led with 17 kills, O’Toole with 48 assists, and Rando with 35 digs.



Split the defense

MIDDLEBURY DEFENDER GRACE Keefe splits two Bryn Mawr players and heads upfield during the Panther field hockey team’s big Saturday regional semifinal victory.

Independent photo/Steve James

Hockey

(Continued from Page 2B)

Burdett rebound to make it 2-0.

Ryan Pineault made it 3-0 with the Panthers skating five-on-three eight minutes in the second period. Pineault laced a shot from just inside the blue line, with Zach Whitehead getting the first assist.

Lamb found the back of the net 5:07 later with a shot from the blue line, with an assist from

Malatesta, and it was 4-0.

The Panthers capped the scoring 34 seconds into the third frame when Lee sent the puck into the upper left corner after a feed from Burdett.



**BLACK FRIDAY AND
SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY ONLY**

11/29 & 11/30

**UP TO
40% OFF
SELECT
SWEATSHIRTS**

carhartt

In stock items only. Cannot be combined with any other sale or offer. Customer gets best discount at checkout. While supplies last.

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY

338 Exchange Street **Closed Thanksgiving Day**

802-388-4937

Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4

www.MiddleburyAgway.com



Upcoming Events

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

Friday, November 22:
3:30 - 4:45 PM Stick & Puck

Saturday, November 23:
3:00 - 4:30 PM Public Skating

Tuesday, November 26:
9:00 - 11:00 AM Public Skating

Friday, November 29:
3:30 - 5:00 pm Stick & Puck

Saturday, November 30:
3:00 - 4:30 pm Public Skating

**Many public skating events
are held each week.**

**See our website
for latest schedules.**

Memorial Sports Center
296 Buttolph Drive • Middlebury, VT
802-388-1238
info@memorialsportscenter.org
MemorialSportsCenter.org

INTRODUCING THE REIMAGINED

**Beautyrest
BLACK®**

WHERE LUXURY MEETS INNOVATION

WOODWARE

www.woodwarevt.com

802-388-6297

Route 7 South • Middlebury VT
Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays

**FINE
FURNITURE**

New Horizons Club  

Woman injured in Washington Street fire succumbs to injuries

MIDDLEBURY — The woman who was critically injured in a Nov. 14 house fire at 46 Washington St. has died from her injuries, according to Middlebury police.

Middlebury Police Chief Jason Covey said the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner confirmed on Nov. 16 that Lerin Peters, 69, had

died following the fire that swept through the home at which she was residing.

Middlebury police responded — with officials from Middlebury Regional EMS, and the Middlebury and New Haven fire departments — to a report of a structure fire at a home at 46 Washington St. at around 1 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14. Police said a woman, later identified as Peters, was found in critical condition at the scene with burn injuries. Others in the building had successfully evacuated and were uninjured, according to police.

Peters was taken to UVM Medical Center for treatment and an investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing, according to police.

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

- Supported Vermont State Police at an intoxicated driving stop at the intersection of Route 7 and Kelton Drive in New Haven on Nov. 11.

- Assisted with a juvenile issue at a Route 7 South location on Nov. 11.
- Helped a person who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the Court Street area on Nov. 11.
- Investigated a retail theft from Hannaford supermarket on Nov. 11.
- Gave a courtesy ride on Nov. 11 to a stranded Porter Hospital patient.
- Assisted Middlebury Regional EMS on a Washington Street call on Nov. 11.
- Gave a stranded Porter Hospital patient a ride home on Nov. 12.
- Investigated a juvenile complaint at Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS) on Nov. 12.
- Investigated a report of an adult buying alcohol for minors in the South Village Green area on Nov. 12.
- Helped a woman who was experiencing a mental health crisis in the Court Street area on Nov. 12.
- Received a report about suspicious activity at the Lindale

Middlebury Police Log

Mobile Home Park off Case Street on Nov. 12.

- Assisted with a juvenile issue at a Seminary Street Extension location on Nov. 12.
- Responded to a harassment complaint at the Charter House Emergency Shelter on Nov. 13.
- Investigated a retail theft from Hannaford supermarket on Nov. 13.
- Found and destroyed marijuana that had been abandoned on Academy Street on Nov. 13.
- Investigated a suspicious vehicle in the South Village Green area on Nov. 13.
- Assisted with a juvenile issue at MUMS on Nov. 14.
- Served a temporary restraining order on a woman in the Washington Street area on Nov. 15.
- Responded to a report of someone rummaging through a vehicle parked on Short Shannon Street on Nov. 15.
- On Nov. 16, responded to a report of a large, noisy college party at a home at the intersection

of Route 7 South and Middle Road.

- Investigated a car-versus-deer accident on North Pleasant Street on Nov. 16.
- Served no-trespass orders on two individuals at the request of a Court Street business owner on Nov. 16.
- Responded to a car-versus-deer accident on Route 7 South on Nov. 16.
- On Nov. 16, gave a courtesy ride to a woman who had no transportation.
- Gave a courtesy ride on Nov. 17 to an elderly Porter Hospital patient who had been released from care but had no ride home.
- Responded to a report of people yelling in the Court Street area at 10:53 p.m. on Nov. 17.
- Received a report that someone had rifled through an unlocked vehicle parked on Main Street on Nov. 17.
- Investigated a hit-and-run accident involving two vehicles on Court Street on Nov. 17.
- Responded to a report of someone taking money from two cars that had been left unlocked

while parked on Cross Street on Nov. 17.

- Responded to a report of someone rummaging through two unlocked cars parked on Weybridge Street on Nov. 17.
- Cited Shaun M. Adams, 46, of Burlington, for grand larceny and operating without owner's consent after he allegedly stole a vehicle from a Court Street residence early on the morning of Sunday, Nov. 17. Police said Adams was also cited with driving with a criminally suspended license and violating his conditions of release.
- Adams also had an active instate warrant for his arrest, according to police, who added he was lodged at the Marble Valley Correctional Facility for lack of bail pending his court arraignment on Nov. 18. Shelburne police assisted on this case.
- Enforced the town of Middlebury's overnight winter downtown parking ban on Nov. 17. The ban, which took effect on Nov. 1 and extends to March 31, prohibits parking on village-area streets and lots from midnight to 6 a.m.
- Moved along two men found sleeping in an Exchange Street building on Nov. 17.

AGWAY



HURRY IN FOR BEST SELECTION!

The more you BUY, the more you \$AVE!

Includes Fall & Winter Clothing by carhartt PLUS Winter Boots, Winter Hats, Winter Gloves & Winter Socks.

MIX & MATCH TO MAXIMIZE YOUR SAVINGS.

All Your Fall and Winter Clothing Needs for Men, Women and Kids.

carhartt RANGER by Honeywell BERNE KINCO DARN TOUGH

Nov. 25th - Dec. 8th

In stock items only. Cannot be combined with any other sale or offer. Customer gets best discount at checkout.

See store & website for more details

SANTA IS COMING SUNDAY DEC. 8th 12-2 PM

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY 338 Exchange Street 802-388-4937 Closed Thanksgiving Day

Mon. - Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-4

www.MiddleburyAgway.com



HARE AND THE DOG

260 Court St, STE 3 Middlebury, VT (802) 458-8060

211 Main Street Vergennes, VT (802) 877-6312

www.Hare.dog

ADDY WEBSITE www.addisonindependent.com

Power grid shut down due to city gas leak

VERGENNES — Vergennes police stood by at the North Green Street Vergennes Grand Senior Living construction site on the morning of Nov. 14 after a gas leak was reported. During the incident, the area's power grid was shut down for what police said were safety precautions.

The leak was reported and the power shut off in Vergennes and surrounding towns at about 8:45 a.m. Power was restored at around 10 a.m., by which time the gas leak was successfully contained, according to police.

Early on during the incident, city police contacted Vermont State Police to issue a press release to inform the public what was happening and why the area power grid was shut down.

In other action between Nov. 11 and 17, police conducted five

traffic stops, eight cruiser patrols and a VIN inspection; dealt with three false alarms; processed four pre-employment fingerprint requests; and also:

On Nov. 11, calmed a verbal dispute between a First Street couple over the phone.

On Nov. 12:

- Responded to a report of an erratic driver on Route 22A heading toward Vergennes, but soon learned state police had pulled the driver over in Addison.
- Notified an owner that three items of their property had been found; they were either returned or destroyed at the owner's request.
- Logged several more calls from a frequent Hillside Drive caller with what police described as known

Vergennes Police Log

mental health issues.

On Nov. 13:

- Went to Vergennes Union High School to teach "an optional method for school staff to respond to a violent intruder."
- Cited Anthony Booska, 51, of Vergennes, for driving under the influence of drugs, fourth offense, and driving with a suspended license. Police said they responded to the Champlain Farms convenience store after a report of an peron behaving erratically and then allegedly seen using drugs in a vehicle outside. Police allege they saw Booska in his vehicle smoking marijuana.
- Worked with bystanders to push a vehicle back onto Main Street that had slid off the road near the police

station. Police said the operator forgot to put its shifter into "park."

- Took a complaint from a North Green Street resident that a car tire had been slashed. Police were unable to determine if the puncture was intentional.
- Took an online report of a theft from a vehicle in the Shaw's parking lot. An investigation is pending.

On Nov. 14, responded to a two-car accident at the junction of Green and School Streets.

On Nov. 15, checked out a report of a prowler near the Riverside Apartments building; police found no one.

On Nov. 17, cited Trevor Matton, 38, of Ferrisburgh, for disorderly conduct. Police said they were told he "had charged at" a Champlain Farms employee and then had walked off down Main Street while yelling.

VOLUNTEER GREETERS WANTED AT HELEN PORTER

Join our volunteer team!




We are looking for Greeters who have a warm heart and a welcoming spirit to greet everyone who enters Helen Porter. With flexible hours, it's the opportunity you've been waiting for!

If interested, please send an email to PMC-Volunteers@portermmedical.org or call Kelly Walters at 802-382-3444.

THE University of Vermont HEALTH NETWORK

Porter Medical Center


~ Delicious ~ RADIO ~ fresh brewed ~



the Wake Up Crew

with Ted Richards

weekday mornings from 5 to 10



92.1 WVTM

Addison County's Radio Station

921wvtm.com

community calendar

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 customer-care@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.

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.

SATURDAY

Bake sale in Orwell. Saturday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m., Buxton’s Store, 499 Main St. Orwell Fortnightly Club’s is a community-favorite event offering homemade pies, cakes, specialty cookies, and desserts as well as a few select breads for your family or Friendsgiving table. Take baking off your to-do list for the busy week ahead. All proceeds benefit the village and its residents.

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.

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.

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

Death Café of Addison County online. Monday, Nov. 25, 5:30 p.m., Zoom. Facilitators: Peg Bolton, Reyna Morgan-Richer, Jen Guenther and Marie Lennon. Death Café is an international movement started in Europe. At a Death Café, people gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death in a relaxed, open setting. A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objective or themes. It is a discussion group, rather than a grief support or counseling session. Learn more at www.DeathCafe.com. Limited seats: registration required at www.eventbrite.com/e/1077638508789?aff=oddtcreator.

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 attend.

FRIDAY

Holiday Shoppe and craft fair in New Haven. Saturday, Nov. 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., New Haven Town Hall, 78 North St. Shop and raise funds for the Brendon P Cousino Med47 Foundation at its annual Holiday Shoppe and Craft Fair. Maple products, stained glass, quilts, baked goods, jewelry and so much more.

Holiday Craft Fair in Bridport. Friday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Masonic Hall, Middle Rd. Over 50 crafters with handcrafted, quality merchandise.



Sing your thanks

VERGENNES OPERA HOUSE will hold a community hymn sing this Sunday, Nov. 24, at 3 p.m. Local musicians from over a dozen area churches will unite on stage to lead the audience in singing along to traditional favorite hymns and popular contemporary worship songs.

Thomas Webster — A Village Choir, 1847

Continues on Saturday.

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

Holley Jolly Holiday Market in Bristol. Saturday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. Showcasing a curated selection of high-end handmade goods, the market features an array of talented vendors from Addison County and beyond. Make a day of it, and visit all that Bristol has to offer, downtown shops and eateries are just steps away.

Holiday Craft Fair in Bridport. Saturday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Masonic Hall, Middle Rd. See Nov. 29 listing.

WEDNESDAY

Outdoor Winter Village in Brandon. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 4-8 p.m., Central Park, 1 Carver St. An open air market during Moonlight Madness. 20 vendors. Santa from 5-6:30 p.m., carolers, hot chocolate and more. Rain, snow or cold.

Green Burials in Orwell. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 4:30 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. Join a virtual presentation on green burials from Vermont Forest Cemetery, then participate in a conversation about green burials in Orwell with the Mtn. View Cemetery Commission.

THURSDAY

Henry Sheldon Museum evening hours in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m. Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Come to the Sheldon during Middlebury’s Mid Night Stroll. Enjoy our exhibitions, and the model trains display. See The museum’s annual decorated Christmas Tree and Wreath Raffle and purchase tickets and browse the museum store.

Mid Night Stroll in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Shop local this holiday season and support local businesses.

Artisan Market in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m. National Bank of Middlebury, Main St. Middlebury Studio School will hold its annual holiday market. Come find a unique gift and meet local artists.

Middlebury Union High School Music Department concert in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m., MUHS, 73 Charles Ave. Join us for a concert featuring the High School Jazz Band, Concert Band and Camerata Singers. Free and open to the public.

True Crime Podcast Discussion Group in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Iisley Public Library, 75 Main St. Join fellow amateur sleuths for a discussion “They Walk Among US Bennington Triangle.” Renee will facilitate the discussions with prompts and visuals. This program is for participants 18 and over.

FRIDAY

“Gnome for Christmas” bazaar in Bristol. Friday, Dec. 6, 1-4 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish Hall, 11 School St. Featuring crafts shop, bake shop, doll and jewelry shop, wonder jars, attic treasures, face painting, online silent auction, raffles and more. Silver Tea Friday at 2:30 p.m. Bazaar continues on Saturday.

Chocolate Walk in Bristol. Friday, Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Spend your evening browsing stores, nibbling on a delicious chocolate treat (or two or three), and getting your holiday shopping on.

Jazz in the Living Room in Orwell. Begins Friday, Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. An 8-week series where local teens can explore jazz’s deep cultural roots, develop critical thinking, and experience musical improvisation with guest musicians. Through hands-on sessions, participants will learn about the history of jazz and its place in African American heritage while discovering music’s role in shaping our shared history. Taught by local Jazz musician Robert Scarpulla.

Christmas Music night in New Haven. Friday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., New Haven United Reformed Church, 1660 Ethan Allen Hwy. Join us for a time of Christmas songs, readings, and refreshments as we prepare for the holiday season. All are welcome. More info contact Liesbeth at 802-989-4139.

SATURDAY

Mountain View 4-H craft/vendor sale in Bridport. Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Bridport Central School, 3443 Route 22A. Mountain View 4-H is hosting their annual craft/vendor sale at the Bridport Central School this year. Crafters, vendors, a basket raffle, a 50/50 raffle, lunch available and a bake sale. Please help support a great group of kids and a bunch of local sellers.

“Gnome for Christmas” bazaar in Bristol. Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Ambrose Parish Hall, 11 School St. See Dec. 6 listing.

Order of the Eastern Star Craft Fair in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 54 School St. Come check out local crafters and their wares. Stop by for lunch. The Vergennes holiday stroll is happening the same day.

First Saturday festivities in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., downtown. This year’s Very Merry Middlebury kicks off with a day of festive events. Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus from 10 a.m.-noon at Town Hall Theater. Write a letter to Santa. Free horse and wagon rides 10 a.m.-noon. Hot cocoa hut 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Caroling on the steps of the Congregational Church, trains at the Sheldon Museum, holiday crafts at Isley Library and more.

Museum open house in Middlebury. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Enjoy live holiday music, the museum’s annual decorated Christmas Tree & Wreath Raffle, and visit the model trains exhibit. The Kids’ Makerspace will feature seasonal crafting activities, and the Museum Store features many new items that are perfect for all your holiday shopping needs. Free. More info at www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/events or 802-388-2117.

Ho Ho Ho Holiday Stroll in Vergennes. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., downtown. Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet the children at 48 Green St. and happenings at the Bixby Memorial Free Library too. The fun goes into the early evening at City Green — lighting of the trees, firepits, caroling and the arrival of the famous SD Ireland lighted truck. Stay tuned for further details.

Cookies and a craft with Mr. Claus in Shoreham. Saturday, Dec. 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Platt Memorial Library, 279 Main St. Join us for a quieter, simpler visit to Mr. Claus! We’re pleased that our special guest is back again. Write your list for Santa to drop in our official mailbox, make a holiday craft, eat a cookie or a candy cane, and help yourself to a free book. All in the cozy warmth of the Platt Library. This program is free and open to anyone and everyone.

SUNDAY

Breakfast buffet in Vergennes. Sunday, Dec. 8, 8-10 a.m., St. Peter’s Parish Hall, 85 S. Maple St. Omelets to order, scrambled eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, fruit, plain and blueberry pancakes, maple syrup, sausage gravy on biscuits, corn bread, home fries, mini muffins, juice, milk, and coffee. Tickets \$13 adults/\$8 children 8 to 12 years. No cap/cost on family cost.

THURSDAY

Mid Night Stroll in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m., downtown. Shop local this holiday season and support local businesses.

Henry Sheldon Museum evening hours in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m. Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Come to the Sheldon during the Mid Night Stroll. Enjoy exhibitions and the model trains display. See the museum’s annual decorated Christmas Tree and Wreath Raffle and purchase tickets and browse the museum store.

Artisan Market in Middlebury. Thursday, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m. National Bank of Middlebury, Main St. Middlebury Studio School will hold its annual holiday market. Come find a unique gift and meet local artists.

FRIDAY

Holiday movie night in Ferrisburgh. Friday, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m., Ferrisburgh Town Hall, 3279 Route 7. Join the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall. Entry is free. Concessions, such as popcorn, candy and drinks, will be available for purchase. More info at unionmeetinghall@gmail.com.

CALENDAR ONLINE

addisonindependent.com

Shower got you feeling down?
Let us help guide you through the decision process.

wedi
40+ years of combined industry experience
802-388-2500
M- F 7:30-5:30, Sat. 8-1
www.distinctivepaintandinteriors.com
1396 Rte 7 South | Middlebury, VT

150 HANDCRAFTERS

CVU Craft Fair
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30
9 AM - 4 PM

CVU High School
369 CVU Road
Hinesburg, VT

Green Mtn Kettle Corn
Pizza 44 Food Truck

FREE ENTRY - FREE PARKING

50/50 RAFFLE | FOOD & FUN

When the weather dips, OCB has you covered!
Come gather with friends and neighbors for coffee, lunch, and community in our enclosed and heated outdoor seating areas.

OPEN 7 DAYS
MON-SAT 7AM-3PM
SUN 8AM-2PM
DELI OPEN 8AM-2PM DAILY

14 College St, Middlebury, VT | (802) 388-3371 | OtterCreekBakery.com

Addison County Parent/Child Center
info@addisoncountypcc.org • addisoncountypcc.org
388-3171

- Community Playgroups
- Parent Education Classes
- Home Visits
- Pregnancy Prevention Programs
- Parent Training & Child Center

**Helping Young Families
Get The Right Start**

Enjoy 8 weeks of local tulips this January with Four Blooms Farm CSA!

Pickup locations:
Bristol: Four Blooms Farmstand
Bristol: Vermont HoneyLights
Middlebury: Champlain Valley Fuels
Panton: BJ's Farm Supply

Learn more at fourbloomsfarm.com
“Promo code TULIPS for \$5 off”

Reader Comments
Here’s what one reader has to say about us!

A subscriber from Ferrisburgh writes:

“A lifeline to my community.”

Quotes are taken from reader comments submitted with subscription renewals.

ADDISON COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Monkton

Have a news tip?
Contact Liz Pecor at rascal0406@gmavt.net

NEWS

MONKTON — All are welcome to go to the Russell Memorial Library for a presentation by the 802 Homeschool Group on Friday, Nov. 22, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This presentation is from Project Microscope. If you have questions

contact the library at 802-453-4471. Leave a message if no one answers and someone will get back to you.

Also at the library on Saturday, Nov. 23, Chris Koliander will lead a Yoga class from 8 to 9 a.m.

Donations are asked for this class which will go to a local food bank.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Monkton Friends Methodist Church Annual Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those treasured homemade donuts will be available and many other bake sale items including handmade chocolates — another yearly hit! You will be able to purchase pies, cakes, cookies and many other goodies, including whoopee pies. Many other foods will be available, along with gluten-free options. There will be a lunch menu consisting of pea soup, chicken vegetable soup and cheddar broccoli soup in pint or quart sizes that you can eat there or take with you. Assorted sandwiches will also be sold. The bazaar area will have various crafts, miscellaneous treasures and more. Contact Marilyn for more information at 802-453-5192. Come browse, buy, eat and enjoy!

Trees & Wreaths

VERMONT Trade Winds Farm

Holiday Wreaths 6" - 36"
Pre-cut Balsam Trees 3' to 9'
Cut your own trees

Garland • Kissing Balls • Balsam Boughs

884 Rte 74, Shoreham, VT (1 mile east of Rte 22A or 6.7 miles west of Rte 30)
802-897-2448 • vermonttradewinds.com • Open 7 Days 9-5

Trees Grown by People Who Care

PURINTON FAMILY TREE FARM
CHOOSE - CUT

CHRISTMAS TREES • WREATHS
MAPLE SYRUP • MAPLE COTTON CANDY
Open Daily
Mon-Fri: 12PM-4:30PM • Sat & Sun: 9AM-4:30PM
190 Pond Rd., Huntington, VT, 05462 • purintontreefarm.com



Locals learn about seed harvesting

WEYBRIDGE — October 12 was a perfect fall day with warm sun and clear air for the Native Seed Harvesting Workshop at Fran and Spence Putnam's Weybridge gardens, pond perimeter and field. Pollinator Pathway of Addison County, with a grant from Neat Repeats of Middlebury, brought Tobi Schulman of Bird and Bee Native Plants nursery in Jericho to lead 20 registered participants and members of PPAC's board through steps in collecting and storing seeds from native perennials. Seed harvesting is a way to protect and enhance biodiversity, for gardeners to have varieties not readily available commercially and to gain access to free seeds.

Some pointers from Tobi were: carefully label seed packets and include how many different individual plants the seeds represent, harvest a maximum of 10% from any one plant, and obtain landowner permission before harvesting on private property.

A recent college graduate, when asked, said a first interest was in trees, something that developed in free time during the pandemic. From there it was the whole ecosystem and now, native plants and an interest in future work in a native plant nursery. Another recent grad stated that her interest was part of working on a vegetable farm and foraging has strong appeal for her. Others had years and years of gardening experience.

Putnam shared the methods she has used for planting these seeds. Using trays purchased at a nursery, she plants the seeds in moist soil, covers the trays after labeling them and puts them in an eastern location outdoors in the winter. If there is not enough snow or rain, she will



TOBI SCHULMAN, OF Bird and Bee Native Plants in Jericho, leads a recent Pollinator Pathway of Addison County workshop on identifying and collecting native seeds.

Independent Photo/Sarah Pope

water them. In the spring, when the green shoots come up, tending is necessary to prevent them from drying out, and she moves the seedlings, now in tiny peat pots, to a location with enough sun.

Participants left with packets of seeds they had separated from some of the chaff and maneuvered into small packets they had labeled. The seeds were from New

York Ironweed, Swamp milkweed, Black-eyed Susan, Foxglove, native bee balm and more. Some participants took home acorns from white oak and red oak, both of which trees are keystone host plants for many caterpillars that feed our baby birds. Everyone gained new understanding of how to locate, store and utilize harvested seeds.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FROM AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

Middlebury Union High School

Avery Carl

Middlebury Union High School's latest Student of the Week is Avery Carl. Avery is the son of Matthew Carl of Bridport and Lindsay Steadman of Shoreham. His younger brother, Parker, is a sophomore at MUHS, and his sister, Mackenna, is a 7th-grader at MUMS. He has two dogs and three cats. Avery is a well-known member of the MUHS community for his contributions in the classroom and talents as an athlete.

He spends part of each day at the neighboring Hannaford Career Center, where he is in his second year in the Construction Technology program. Avery says, "The program is great!" and goes on to add, "I'm learning real skills and it's fun watching our project come together." That project is building a tiny house that he and his classmates have created literally from "the ground up." He enjoys learning all about construction, electrical and plumbing issues, and being part of a team. Avery says there is never a dull moment in class as there is always something new to learn. The tiny house has been a constant learning experience and watching it all come together has been a source of pride.

A talented athlete, Avery's name regularly appears in the Addison Independent sports pages. He is a member of our wrestling and football teams and last year, as a junior, achieved 100 wins in wrestling. As a ninth-grader he was the state champion in the 132-pound weight class. He plays in two positions on the varsity football team, fullback and linebacker, and has been chosen, along with several other fellow Tigers, to play in the North-South football game at Vermont State University's Castleton campus.

Avery has enjoyed his classes at the high school and notes that he gets to see his grandmother Louise Carl, who is a librarian at MUHS, almost every day. As he looks ahead to next year, he is contemplating several options, a potential career path involving construction or heading off to higher education and pursuing a degree in construction management. Avery is carefully weighing his options, and we are certain that the road ahead holds great promise and look forward to learning what he does next.



Avery Carl
MUHS

Vergennes Union High School

Hailey Dusablon

Hailey Dusablon is Vergennes Union High School's Student of the Week.

Hailey lives in Ferrisburgh with her grandparents, David and Debbie Sordiff. She has two siblings, Kylie and Ethan. Two dogs and two cats round out her home.

Hailey says that she likes to challenge herself in school, pushing herself in classes to learn more overall about stuff that is going on. Her efforts have borne fruit, earning her a regular place on VUHS's honor roll. Of all the offerings at VUHS, Hailey says she likes History and Science the most. Her work in History has been particularly good, and she was given the underclass award for U.S. History. Her favorite class is Modern Citizenship with Mr. Brooks. She says Mr. Brooks always pushes everyone to challenge themselves and to learn more.

When not in school Hailey works at Comfort Hill Kennel in Vergennes. She finds a great deal of joy in her job, since she gets to play with the dogs outside, feed them, and just take care of them. She particularly likes dressing the dogs up in funny outfits for when they take pictures of the animals.

In her free time Hailey likes hanging out with her friends and going to movies. She also values time spent with her family and her pets.

Hailey says high school has taught her to always believe in herself, and she has some advice for younger students. "If a class gets hard or if you are taking challenging classes, do your best," she says. "Keep going and find an adult that you can go to to support you."

Hailey does not yet have an exact plan for after she graduates from high school, but she knows she would like to continue to work with animals, and would like to pursue a career path that allows her to do so. All of us at VUHS wish her well.



Hailey Dusablon
VUHS

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

BTS
BUSINESS TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Telecommunications Sales & Service
Data Cabling • Fiber Optic Solutions
Security Surveillance Systems
John and Jim Fitzgerald
www.bts-vt.com • 802-388-8999

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

Plumbing & Heating
J.W. & D.E. RYAN
Incorporated
Vergennes, Vermont

Keep up the great work,
Hailey and Avery

802-877-3118
Vergennes, VT

Vermont Book Shop

Every Student of the Week will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Gift Card

VBS Creating a Community of Readers Since 1949

JOHNSON LAW OFFICES

Congratulations!

Affordable & client-focused legal services

- Business Law
- Wills, Trusts and Estates
- Government Contracting
- Elder Law
- Property and Tenancy Issues

802-489-5099 or
Brad@LawDCVT.com
28 North Street • Bristol Village

JACKMAN'S OF BRISTOL INC.
SINCE 1930
ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

Way to go,
Hailey and
Avery

64 Jackman Drive • Bristol
802.453.2381 • Jackmansinc.com

Great work,
students!

BLUE SEAL
Farm & Home

57 Alta Wood, Brandon, VT 05733
802-247-9599

Keep your Eye
on your
future goals!

Open every other Monday 8-4:45
and Tues-Fri 8-4:45

Peak View
EYE CARE
27 Main Street, Vergennes

Congratulations,
Hailey and Avery

Rainbow
Pediatrics
802-388-1338
99 Court St., Middlebury, VT

JACKMAN FUELS, INC.
Serving the Champlain Valley since 1945

Congratulations!!

JACKMAN FUELS
205 Main Street, Vergennes
877-2661 • jackmanfuels.com

Thursday & service Business DIRECTORY

auto body restoration
auto repair
auto sales & leasing
carpentry/contractors
cleaning services

computers
construction
duct work & duct cleaning
lawn care

firewood
flooring
landscaping
masonry

AUTO BODY RESTORATION

HILLTOP WELDING
AUTOBODY RESTORATION



Metal Fabrications
Agricultural Repair
Commercial Repair

Auto Body Repair
Rust Repair
Collision Repair

Custom Restoration
Welding Supply Sales

We accept all major credit cards | We accept Insurance claims
Follow our projects on Facebook

f 802-453-7345 | 138 Hunt Road, New Haven, VT

AUTO REPAIR

Hometown Service from Your Hometown Dealers!

Factory-Trained Technicians
Servicing all makes and models



G Stone Motors
36 Boardman St.,
Middlebury
(802) 388-6718
gstonemotors.com

Stone
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
2149 Rt 7 So., Middlebury
(802) 388-9961
stonecdjr.com

REACH THE COUNTY
ADVERTISE HERE
ADDY INDY - 388-4944

AUTO SALES & LEASING

STONE CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM
NEW AND USED CARS AND TRUCKS



Skylar Silloway
Sales & Leasing Consultant

We will take anything in trade!

Bus: 802-388-9961
Fax: 802-388-6708
ssilloway@stonecdjr.com
www.stonecdjr.com



2149 ROUTE 7 SOUTH | P.O. Box 748
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05753-0748

CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS

KEVIN BERRY CONSTRUCTION

Serving Addison and Rutland county.

Provided services include:
new builds, additions, renovations, siding, decks, flooring, painting, doors & windows, and more

Free Estimates. Fully Insured.
Located in Leicester, VT
KevinBerryConstruction@gmail.com

Call, text or email us!
802-989-5290

RAYMOND RENOVATION & NEW CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Handling all phases of residential and light commercial carpentry since 1992

Mark Raymond, Middlebury, VT
802-388-0742
raymondrenovationvt.com

FULLY INSURED

CARPENTRY/ CONTRACTORS

Golden Ruler Construction
AFFORDABLE & HONEST

Residential & Agricultural Construction
Old Home Renovations
Custom Homes • Barns
Interior Painting • General Repairs

Call Jonathan Hescok
2217 Rt. 74, Cornwall
802-462-3737



VERMONT CUSTOM MOLDINGS
www.vermontcustommoldings.com

Quaker Village CARPENTRY

Siding, Windows, Garages, Decks & Porches
New Construction, Renovations and Repairs

Maurice Plouffe
802-545-2251
1736 Quaker Village Road
Weybridge, VT 05753

Melissa's Quality Cleaning Services

Residential & Commercial
GREAT RATES • FULLY INSURED
Reliable & Thorough

802 345-6257



DO YOU CLEAN HOUSES? YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!

COMPUTERS

PC MEDIC of Vermont

The PC Medic of Vermont now offers both on-site and remote computer services for your PC.

Call today to see which type of appointment you need, and get your PC running correctly again!

For an appointment, call The PC Medic of Vermont at 802-734-6815
www.pcmedicvt.com

CONSTRUCTION

Vantage Point Homes



Salisbury, VT
989-3974

New Construction
Additions
Renovations
Project Design

Like us on Facebook! f

PREMIUM BUSINESS SHOWCASE AD

Stand out from the competition when you upgrade your B&S Directory ad with our Premium Business Showcase!

Purchase a quarterly B&S ad package and get one large, full-color ad for only \$200!

This ad space could be yours!

Don't miss this special opportunity to promote your business. Contact your ad rep today to secure your premium B&S package:

christy@addisonindependent.com
jennah@addisonindependent.com
katyf@addisonindependent.com
tomvs@addisonindependent.com

Premium Business Showcase ads are 6 inches wide x 6 inches tall.
Regular open rate is \$250+.

DUCT WORK & DUCT CLEANING

BOOT HILL METAL BENDERS

Specializing in Duct Cleaning
And Duct Work for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
We use 5,000+ cfm HEPA Vacuum Cleaning Systems

We can design, fabricate, seal, insulate, clean, anything to do with your ducted systems.

Buy Local! 802.989.0396
Commercial/Residential • Owner Operated • Fully Insured • Neat & Clean

FIREWOOD

Are you looking for green or seasoned firewood?
Well we've got it all right here in Addison, VT!

We cut, split, and deliver hardwood firewood in 12-24 inch lengths.
And we now offer kiln dried firewood!

Contact us today for a quote!



Gevery Firewood LLC
geveryfirewoodvt@gmail.com
or 802-349-0699

FLOORING

Wales Floors, Inc.

For a free estimate call 877-8323

Fully insured

Custom & non-toxic finishes

Installation refinishing & restoration of residential and commercial wood floors

Over two decades experience!

CHECK US OUT ONLINE AT ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

Chris Mulliss FLOOR & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Stripping - Waxing - Buffing
Carpet Cleaning & Emergency Water Removal

802-759-2706
phone or fax
or
802-349-6050
cell phone

email: cmulliss@gmavt.net
1900 Jersey St., S. Addison, VT 05491

LANDSCAPING

POTENTIAL VIEW



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

802-349-6163

Residential and Commercial property maintenance, upkeep and installation.

Providing a comprehensive list of every possible need with 24/7 response.

Contact us today for a free consultation

MASONRY

FINE DRY STONE MASONRY



JAMIE MASEFIELD
CERTIFIED BY THE DRY STONE WALLERS ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

802-233-4670
jmasefield@gmavt.net

Boost Your Visibility

Advertise in the B&S Directory to launch your business to new heights.

Affordable pricing, stellar placement!

advertising@addisonindependent.com
802-388-4944



Thursday & service
Business & DIRECTORY

painting
plumbing
property maintenance
renewable energy

roofing
rubbish & recycling
siding
snow removal

surveying
taxes
tree service
veterinarians
window treatments

PAINTING




HESCOCK PAINTING
A friendly, professional,
and affordable family business.
Interior Painting
462-3737 or 989-9107
Kim or Jonathan Hescock
hescock@shoreham.net

ARE YOU A
HOUSE PAINTER?

ADVERTISE HERE
THIS FALL!



PLUMBING



Timothy C. Ryan, P.E.
Serving the Champlain Valley
Since 1887
877-3118
Main St., Vergennes, VT



J.D. Fuller
Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
Repairs • New Installations
John Fuller, Master Plumber • 388-2019

Let people know about
YOUR Business!

PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE




RH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
Landscaping • Tree Removal • Lawn Care
Stonework • Other Property Maintenance
802-734-9622
rhpropertymaintenance06@gmail.com




WINTER
IS COMING.
ADVERTISE YOUR
SNOW REMOVAL
BUSINESS HERE!

RENEWABLE ENERGY



Soak Up The Sun!
Don't spend your hard-earned money
making the hot water or electricity that
you use today—
SOLAR IS MORE AFFORDABLE THAN EVER!
We've been here for you for 43 years —
Let us help you with your solar projects today.



Go Green with us —
Call for a FREE on-site evaluation
802.453.9500
BristolElectronicsVT.com

ROOFING



Michael Doran
as seen at Addison County Field Days!
• Standing seam
• Asphalt shingles
• Slate
Free estimates • Fully Insured
mpdoransr@gmail.com
Phone (802) 537-3555

ADVERTISE HERE
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

SEPTIC & WATER



Lincoln
APPLIED GEOLOGY, INC.
Celebrating 40 Years
Environmental Consultants — Licensed Designers
Steve Revell CPG, LD#178 BW
Jeremy Revell LD#611 BW
• Water Supply - Location, Development and Permitting
• On-Site Wastewater Design • Single & Multiple Lot Subdivision
• Property Development & Permitting
• State and Local Permitting
• Underground Storage Tank Removal & Assessment
Toll-Free: 800-477-4384
802-453-4384
Fax 802-453-5399 • Email: jrevell@lagvt.com
163 Revell Drive • Lincoln, VT 05443
www.lagvt.com

SURVEYING



SHORT SURVEYING, INC.
Serving Addison County Since 1991
Timothy L. Short, L.S.
Property Line Surveys • Topographical Surveys
FEMA Elevation Certificates
135 S. Pleasant St., Middlebury, VT
802-388-3511
ShortSurveyingVT@gmail.com



Jason Burt
21 Years Experience

Philo. Surveying
LLC
Serving all of Vermont!
ALTA Surveys • Full Boundary Surveys and Plat
Commercial and Residential Subdivisions
Light Boundary Work and Boundary Line Staking
Easement Surveys • Elevation Certificates
LOMA Surveys • Topographic Surveys
(802) 782-9273 • Philo Surveying LLC • Charlotte, VT
Philosurveying.com • References available

TREE SERVICE



**More than 25 years
of experience!**
• Tree and Shrub Planting, Pruning and Removal
• Brush Management
• Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
• Timber Stand Improvement
• Certified Pesticide Applicator
SCOTT CARLSON, Certified Arborist
Call to discuss your specific tree care or small woodlot needs.
(802) 353-3584 | www.ntatree.com



SARGENT'S
TREE SERVICE
349-7459
Over 30 Years Experience
Fully Licensed and Insured
Call for a Free Estimate: 802-349-7459
sargentstreeservice.com

• Tree Removal
• Tree Pruning
• Storm Damage
Clean up
• Stump Grinding
Serving all of
Addison County

VETERINARIANS

**Bringing Essential Veterinary Care
To you and your pets.**
Serving the dogs and cats
of Addison County
Call for an appointment:
(802) 989-3734
MeganSwaseyDVM@gmail.com
addisoncountyvet.com



Addison County
Mobile Veterinary Services
Megan Swasey, DVM
Mobile Veterinarian • Shoreham, VT

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Your local source for window treatments
from the nation's most popular brands.
Free in-home consultations!



Vermont Window Treatments LLC
Over 20 years experience!
M-F: 8am-5pm
Hours by appointment only
Visit our Facebook page or
check us out on Instagram!
802-989-1531 | 3333 Case Street, Middlebury
 vermontwindowtreatments.com 

JACK OF ALL
TRADES?

CALL 802-388-4944
OR EMAIL [ADVERTISING@
ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:ADVERTISING@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM)
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS.



Advertise your business on these pages for under \$10 per week.
Call 802-388-4944 or email advertising@addisonindependent.com for details.

CLASSIFIEDS

Public Meetings

AL-ANON OFFERS HELP and hope to anyone who has been affected by a loved one's drinking. Middlebury hosts an online meeting Sunday night 7:15pm and a face to face one Wednesday at 1:30pm at CVUUS (2 Duane Court Middlebury near the high school) that you can also access by Zoom. Visit vermontalananonlateen.org for links and list of other meetings in the region. If you'd like to speak to an Al-Anon member, call our answering service (866-972-5266) and an Al-Anon member will call you back.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in person meetings are available. For a list of local virtual meetings visit <http://bit.ly/district9aa>. For more information visit <https://aavt.org/> or call the 24 hour hotline at 802-802-AAVT (2288).

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS is a 12 step program offering recovery from compulsive eating and food behaviors. For meeting times and general information please visit www.oavermont.org or call (802)863.2655.

Public Meetings

VERGENNES FREE THINKERS Founded in 1935 on the principle of one alcoholic helping another to achieve sobriety, A.A. is an effective and enduring program of recovery that has changed countless lives. A.A. has always been committed to making its program of recovery available to anyone, anywhere, who reaches out for help with an alcohol problem. The Vergennes Free Thinkers meeting was created in January of this year to maintain a tradition of free expression, conduct a meeting where alcoholics may feel free to express any beliefs, doubts or disbelief they may have, to share their own personal form of spiritual experience, their search for it, and/or their rejection of it, without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own. Meetings are held with a high regard for compassion and inclusion without judgment or exception. If you think we can help, please join us on Thursdays at 6pm by contacting Vergennes-free thinkers@gmail.com for Zoom and in-person meeting information.

Public Meetings

THE TURNING POINT CENTER of Addison County is open for in-person services, Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm, 54A Creek Road, Middlebury. We are available by phone 24/7 at 802-388-4249.

VERMONT SUPPORT LINE Are you struggling with a challenging situation? Do you have feelings of sadness, loneliness, isolation, anger, or depression? You don't have to face it alone. Talk with a caring person who understands what you're going through today by calling or texting the free and confidential Pathways Vermont Support Line available 24/7 at (833) VT - TALKS.

Services

CONSTRUCTION: ADDITIONS, RENOVATIONS new construction, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, roofing, pressure washing, driveway sealing. All aspects of construction, also property maintenance. Steven Fifield 802-989-0009.

Help Wanted

Services

MELISSA'S QUALITY CLEANING Services. Residential and commercial. Fully insured. Great rates. Reliable and thorough cleaning. 802-345-6257.

ODD JOBS: WEED flower beds, some landscaping, property clean up, brush cutting, lawn work. Call us today, we do other jobs too. 802-999-2194, John.

Services


WE BUY OLD STUFF Estates, collections, antiques etc. Also hunting and fishing items. Call Erik 802-345-0653.

Help Wanted

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

For Sale

2022 CARGO TRAILER look, V-Nose, 6x12, Rear + Mandor. \$3,500 cash. Reach at (850)-520-0941.

PAIR OF 2500W GENERATORS, with kit to combine for 5000W, plus all hoses and regulators. Propane and gas. \$850. for all. 850-520-0941, ronandkayladue@yahoo.com

For Sale

PUREBRED ENGLISH MASTIFF PUPPIES 6wks old looking for their forever home. Wormed & first shots! \$1000.00 call or text (802)349-5587

Help Wanted

For Rent

5,000 SQUARE FEET available. Exchange Street, Middlebury, VT. 802-349-8544.

Help Wanted



Addison County Parent/Child Center

VAN DRIVER JOB OPENING Addison County Parent/Child Center

We are seeking a van driver who will transport children, youth, and parents to our center from around Addison County.

Strong candidates must have a clean driving record and experience with children and families.

Great working environment and benefits. This is a 20-hour position with hours split between mornings and afternoons.

Please contact **Donna Bailey** at dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org



CARPET & FLOORING INSTALLERS NEEDED

Countryside Paint & Flooring seeks full and/or part-time experienced flooring installers - especially carpet installers - with skills in LVT, hardwood, laminate, and vinyl sheet. Ability to install tile a plus.

- Individuals, teams, or subcontractors are welcome!
- Work available throughout Addison County
- Must be reliable, detail-oriented, and customer-focused.

TO LEARN MORE, STOP BY OR CONTACT US TODAY!

PHONE (802) 388-6054 EMAIL zach@cpfv.com

STOP BY 16 Creek Rd, Middlebury, VT



TOWN TREASURER/GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of New Haven is seeking an organized and motivated candidate to serve as **Town Treasurer/Grant Administrator/Assistant Town Clerk**. The position is responsible for keeping all of the Town's funds, a record of taxes voted, billed, and collected, collecting other funds receivable by the Town, and paying orders drawn on Town accounts. As Grant Administrator, the position is responsible for grant administration tasks such as assistance in preparing grant applications, reviewing grant agreements, and managing awarded grants. A bachelor's degree in accounting, public administration, business administration, finance, or equivalent subjects is preferred. Qualified candidates should have at least three years of experience in the areas of accounting, governmental budgeting, municipal operations, and/or finance in either the public or private sector (including experience managing payroll, employee benefits, and accounts payable and receivable.) A combination of the above qualifications may be acceptable. This is an elected position, serving a 3-year term; the candidate must be a New Haven resident. The position is full-time - 30 hours per week. This position is eligible for benefits with flexibility to the right candidate. Salary dependent on experience.

Applications are accepted until the position is filled.

To apply please submit a cover letter and resume, including contact information for three professional references to:

newhaventownclerk@gmavt.net or

New Haven Town Clerk, 78 North Street, New Haven, VT 05472



BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER

Do you love Addison County Fair and Field Days?

Are you a people person and a team player?

Do you have Quickbooks accounting skills?

Marketing experience?

Do you enjoy working with a variety of people and projects?

This may be an opportunity for you!

Addison County Fair and Field Days is looking for a Business Operations Manager to start immediately.

This is a job with varied hours throughout the year, busiest during the Spring, Summer and Fall.

You would report to and work with the Board of Directors, meeting once or twice per month, to plan, organize, and put on the annual fair. This involves recruiting and working with vendors, exhibitors, and entertainment, updating contracts, and providing the timeline to get preparations accomplished. You will respond to fair emails and phone calls, maintain the Quickbooks accounting system, print checks for bills monthly or as needed, and prepare financial reports. This position requires work from home during most of the year and work at the fairgrounds for at least two weeks before the fair and during the fair. Office equipment (printer, laptop, copier) and phone service are provided.

This is an opportunity to work with a great group of directors, be integral to putting together the best agricultural fair in Vermont and have flexible hours in a job working mostly from home.

Please send cover letter and resume to:
BODFieldDays@gmail.com

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities

Opportunities



Do you know ASL?

RSVP of Addison County is searching for a volunteer who can teach American Sign Language to children at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Vergennes once a week.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact RSVP at 802-388-7044.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF GREATER VERGENNES



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**

Addison Independent

CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM

Cash in on our 4-for-3 rates! Pay for 3 issues, get 4th issue free! An ad placed for consecutive issues runs the 4th time for free!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Or, submit your classified ad on our website: addisonindependent.com

DEADLINE: Monday at 5 p.m.

- 25¢ per word • minimum \$2.50 per ad
- \$2 internet listing for up to 4 issues • minimum 2 insertions

• Special 4 for 3 rates not valid for the following categories: Services, Opportunities, Real Estate, Wood heat, Attn. Farmers, For Rent & Help Wanted

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notices | <input type="checkbox"/> Work Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Att. Farmers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card of Thanks | <input type="checkbox"/> Help Wanted | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personals | <input type="checkbox"/> For Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Cars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings** | <input type="checkbox"/> Trucks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free** | <input type="checkbox"/> For Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> SUVs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lost 'N Found** | <input type="checkbox"/> Want to Rent | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Heat | <input type="checkbox"/> Boats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn & Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Wanted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption | | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Rentals |

** 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.

Addison Independent CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent

ALL REAL ESTATE advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500.

Help Wanted




Early Childhood Teacher

Otter Creek Child Center, in Middlebury, VT is looking for an enthusiastic, flexible, and energetic teacher to join our early childhood team.

This is a permanent full-time position, Monday through Friday. Must enjoy spending time with young children and being a team player.

Please email cover letter and resume to office@ottercreekcc.org



Early Childhood Program Director

Otter Creek Child Center, in Middlebury, VT is growing its team and is adding a Program Director. We are looking for an enthusiastic, flexible, and energetic leader to join our early childhood team. This is a permanent full-time position, Monday through Friday. Must enjoy spending time with young children and being a team player.

Please email cover letter and resume to office@ottercreekcc.org

For Rent

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, 2 bedroom house, winter rental. Efficiency unit. Hooker Road. 802-349-8544.

Help Wanted

For Rent

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.

MIDDLEBURY SUGAR-WOOD APARTMENTS is currently taking waitlist applications for 2, 3, 4 bedroom apartments. Minimum occupancy requirements. No smoking/ No pets. Income limits apply. Rent based on income. Equal Housing Opportunity 802-247-0165 TTY: 800-253-0191 www.SummitPMG.com.

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

NEWLY RENOVATED IN BRIDPORT A 2 bed/1 bath standalone unit, with electric and heat. \$1550/ month. 15 minute commute to Middlebury. References required, inquire at 802-758-2369.

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.

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.

Help Wanted

Wood Heat

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

Att. Farmers

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

1ST CUT, SMALL square, \$3.25. 2nd cut small square, \$4.25. 802-377-5455.

Att. Farmers

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

Help Wanted

In print or online, find your dream job with help from the Addy Indy.



addisonindependent.com/help-wanted

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

The Middlebury Selectboard is seeking a Middlebury representative to serve on the Addison County Economic Development Corporation in 2025. This appointment is made annually to serve in the following calendar year. If you are interested in applying, please submit an Application for Appointment (found on the Boards & Commissions page on the Town's website, www.townofmiddlebury.org) to the Town Manager's Office, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, or by e-mail to bdow@townofmiddlebury.org, by no later than Wednesday, December 4th, 2024. If you would like to find out more about this position, please contact us at 388-8100, Ext. 202.

STATE OF VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT PROBATE DIVISION ADDISON UNIT DOCKET NO.: 24-PR-07073 IN RE ESTATE OF: MARILYN WATSON

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the Creditors of: Marilyn Watson, late of Weybridge, Vermont.

We 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 us 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: 11/8/24

Executor/Administrator: Richard G. Watson, III & Susan K. Watson
% Deppman Law, PLC
56 Court Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
802-388-6337
ldppman@midlaw.com

Publication: Addison Independent
Publication Date: 11/21/24
Name of Probate Court: Vermont Superior Court, Addison Unit, Probate Division
Address of Probate Court: 7 Mahady Court, Middlebury, VT 05753

TOWN OF BRIDPORT AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE ON REGULATION OF SPEED

This is NOTICE that the Bridport Selectboard has determined there is a need to lower the speed limit on all of the Mountain Road and Forrest Road. The consideration therefore includes the following: resident requests; the rural neighborhood character; the abutting residential and agricultural/forest land use; bicycle and pedestrian use; and such physical characteristics of the roads as: hilly, curving, narrowness and being gravel roads. The following action is adopted by the Town of Bridport under the authority of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59, 24 V.S.A. Subsection 2291(4), 23 V.S.A. Section 1007 and such other laws of the State of Vermont as are applicable.

The ORDINANCE ON REGULATION OF SPEED of the Town of Bridport adopted May 9, 2005, and as amended by the adoption May 12, 2008 of an AMENDMENT thereto, is hereby further amended as follows in its ARTICLE 3. REGULATION OF SPEED:

A new section "G." as follows is added:

G. 35 MPH on all of both the Town Highway No. 13, also known as Mountain Road, and the Town Highway Nos. 11 and 12, also known as Forrest Road.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided for under 24 V.S.A. Section 1973 in the case of a petition, this amendment of said Ordinance shall become effective 60 days after its adoption on November 12, 2024, by the Bridport Selectboard.

TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT contact either Julie Howlett, the Bridport Town Clerk, at her Office (125 Crown Point Road, P.O. Box 27, Bridport, VT 05734) Tel. No. 802-758-2483 or Drexel Wheeler, a member of the Selectboard, at (1790 Forrest Road, Bridport, VT 05734) Tel. No. 802-373-5479. The full text of the Ordinance Amendment may also be examined at the Bridport Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.bridportvt.org.

RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO PETITION FOR A VOTE ON THE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT Under 24 V.S.A. Section 1973, the qualified voters of the Town of Bridport have the right to petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the Ordinance Amendment. A petition for such a vote must be signed by not less than five (5) percent of the qualified voters of the Town and presented to the Bridport Selectboard or the Town Clerk within forty-four (44) days following the adoption of the Ordinance Amendment.

New Haven Volunteer Fire Dept. installs dry hydrant on Munger St.

NEW HAVEN — The New Haven Volunteer Fire Department completed the installation of a dry hydrant at 2409 Munger Street on Aug. 16. The installation was part of a comprehensive program to improve fire protection in the rural portions of New Haven.

The Fire Department is in the process of improving fire protection in New Haven by installing dry hydrants and other Rural Fire Protection systems to improve the availability and accessibility of water for firefighting purposes. The Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force through the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts provided assistance to the Fire Department in developing a plan to improve water supply in New Haven.

Dry hydrants and other RFP systems are a preferred method of providing water for firefighting in areas where there are no water mains. A dry hydrant consists of a 6- to 8-inch pipe with a fitting to which a pump/tanker truck can attach. The pipe connects to a water source (pond or stream) that can supply at least 60,000 gallons under drought conditions.



MARKET REPORT ADDISON COUNTY COMMISSION SALES

RT. 125 • EAST MIDDLEBURY, VT

Sales for 11/14/24 & 11/18/24

			COST	
BEEF	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Nop Bros	1330	1.44	\$1915.20	
Blue Spruce	1525	1.26	\$1921.50	
Clifford Farm	1805	1.20	\$2166.00	
Bailey Farm	1150	1.20	\$1380.00	
Deer Valley	1530	1.17	\$1790.10	

			COST	
CALVES	LBS.	/LB	\$	
Forbes Farm	84	10.00	\$840.00	
A. Brisson	99	9.50	\$940.50	
Sunderland	85	9.00	\$765.00	
Barnes Bros	99	8.50	\$841.50	
Goodrich	90	5.70 (H)	\$513.00	

Total Beef - 139 Total Calves - 243

We value our faithful customers.
Sales at 3 pm - Mon. & Thurs.
call 1-802-388-2661

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 BRISTOL PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Bristol Development Review Board will hold the following hearings on December 10, 2024, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The hearings will be held in person at the Town Office, located at 1 South Street. The hearing will also be available via Zoom and login information is below.

Appeal by Ash Smith of Zoning Administrator no action decision reissued June 18, 2024, regarding the Lathrop Mill (parcel #225040) subject to Bristol Unified Development Regulations Section 360. Permit #22-403: Thomas North Street LLC (parcel #205112-21) is requesting a preliminary plat review of a 6-unit PUD application subject to Bristol Unified Development Regulations Article IX, Section 931.

Copies of the zoning permit applications and decisions are available for review at the Bristol Town Office during regular business hours.

Remote Access: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/85786761083> • Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823
Phone In: 1-646-558-8656 • Meeting ID: 857 8676 1083 • Passcode: 805823
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85786761083?pwd=RFIWSGFwamJlRG5KOEpCalNlTDczdz09>

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Middlebury Development Review Board will hold a public hearing(s) at the Middlebury Municipal Offices, Large Conference Room, 77 Main Street, Middlebury, VT on Monday, December 9th, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. to consider the following application(s). The hearing will be available to participants via a Zoom video link. The Zoom link will be provided on the meeting agenda posted on the Town's website.

- Application (file #2024-008:178.000-PUD) is a request by McGee Chevrolet of Middlebury for a PUD Amendment to add an overflow parking area at the rear of the property. The property is located at 510 US Route 7, parcel #008:178.000 in the Protected Highway zoning district.
- Application (file #2024-024:255.000-SP) is a request by Ilsley Public Library for a Site Plan review, dimensional waiver and parking waiver related to the expansion and renovation of its existing facility located at 75 Main Street in Middlebury. The Applicant proposes the removal of two earlier additions that were made to the original library and the construction of a new two-story addition and associated sitework. The property is identified as parcel #024:255.000 in the Central Business Zoning district.

The applications will be heard in the order listed. Plans and additional information may be viewed at the Planning and Zoning Office in the Town Offices or by calling 388-8100, Ext 226. Participation in this public hearing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal as an "interested person(s)". Interested persons wishing to participate in this hearing may do so by contacting J.R. Christ at 388-8100, Ext 226 or email to jrchrist@townofmiddlebury.org.

J.R. Christ
DRB Coordinator, AZA

Public Notices Index

Public Notices for the following can be found in this **ADDISON INDEPENDENT** on Pages 10B and 11B

Addison County Courthouse (1)

Bridport (1)

Bristol (1)

Hancock (2)

Middlebury (3)

Ripton (1)

Salisbury (1)

Slate Valley Unified School District (1)

State of Vermont (1)

Stewart Construction (1)

Tri-Town Water (1)

Vergennes Panton Water District (1)

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (1)

FULL PASSPORT SERVICE

The Addison County Clerk located in the **Frank Mahady Courthouse in Middlebury** is available to accept passport applications and provide passport photos.

REGULAR HOURS
Monday - 8:30am to 4:00pm
Tuesday - 9:00am to 12:30pm
Wednesday - **Closed**
Thursday - 12:30pm to 4:00pm
Friday - 9:00am to 12:30pm

APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED
For appointment, go to www.addisoncountyclerkvt.com or call 802-388-1966.

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

Why did the turkey cross the road?

A FLOCK OF wild turkeys stopped traffic in Weybridge recently when they wandered across Route 23. Did they find what they were looking for? We may never know. Photo by Susan Humphrey



Vermonters may be eligible for better health coverage

WATERBURY — Vermont’s open enrollment period opens Nov. 1. During Open Enrollment, Vermonters can sign up for or change their health and dental plans for 2025. Coverage starts Jan. 1, 2025, for those who sign up on or before Dec. 15. Open Enrollment ends Jan. 15, 2025.

This year, many Vermonters will be eligible for better coverage plans at lower premium costs due to increased federal subsidies. The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) encourages everyone to check available plan options on the Vermont Health Connect Plan Comparison Tool to ensure the best possible coverage.

“Now is the time for Vermonters to sign up for affordable, high-quality health coverage for 2025,” said Dr. DaShawn Groves, Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access, which operates Vermont’s health insurance marketplace. “This year, customers enrolled through Vermont Health Connect can take advantage of better coverage plans at lower out-of-pocket premium costs.”

Many Vermonters will be eligible to enroll in plans with higher coverage at a lower monthly premium cost. In 2025, many people will pay less for Gold plans than they would for other, less generous plans. Gold plans provide more value than Silver plans and are available at lower cost for 2025. To receive these savings, Vermonters must enroll through Vermont’s health insurance marketplace, known as Vermont Health Connect. Vermonters can explore the Plan Comparison Tool to find the best available plan.

For plan year 2025, an eligible individual who earns \$40,000 a year could get the lowest-cost Gold plan for less than \$1 a month — a savings of \$1,172 each month. A family of four with a household income of \$100,000 could get a Gold plan for \$155.37 a month — a monthly savings of \$3,044, or more than \$35,000 per year.

“The rising cost of healthcare is one of the biggest concerns for Vermonters,” said Jenney Samuelson, Secretary of Human Services. “This is great news — reduced-cost Gold plans will make a big difference for our community members and residents. It’s important that Vermonters know about the marketplace, how easy it is to get a plan, and how much less they’ll pay than if they buy the same plan directly from an insurance company.”

Over 90% of people who are enrolled through Vermont Health Connect qualify for financial help. Thousands of Vermonters now pay less than \$25 a month for coverage through the marketplace. The increased cost savings available for Vermonters in 2025 make this the perfect opportunity to shop for a plan and benefit from available financial assistance.

Over the last year, the Department of Vermont Health Access was required to review the eligibility of over 200,000 Vermonters enrolled in Medicaid following pandemic-era flexibilities. The vast majority of enrollees remained eligible for Medicaid, but, for those who did not, the health insurance marketplace has provided an affordable, high quality coverage alternative. For Vermonters who have recently transitioned off Medicaid or other

health coverage, qualified health plans are a strong way to regain or maintain continuous health insurance coverage at a low cost. Many Vermonters who no longer have Medicaid coverage may find health plans that, like Medicaid, also have zero (or near-zero) monthly premiums. All qualified health plans available include the same essential health benefits.

It’s best to sign up by Dec. 15 to ensure coverage throughout all of 2025. Coverage will begin on Feb. 1, 2025, for people who enroll between Dec. 16, and Jan. 15, the final day of the open enrollment period.

It’s easy to sign up: Create an account and apply. Tell us about your household. You will be screened to see if you are eligible for subsidies to help pay for a health plan.

The easy-to-use Plan Comparison Tool for 2025 health plans is designed to help you choose a plan to best meets your financial and medical needs.

Assisters are professionals who are trained and certified by the Department of Vermont Health Access to help Vermonters enroll

and maintain health coverage. They can answer questions and walk you through an application. Assisters work for various agencies in the community, such as hospitals, health care providers, and community-based organizations.

Learn how to calculate if employer-sponsored insurance is affordable or if you can get financial help through the

marketplace with this online tool.

Vermonters who want to learn more can join DVHA’s Open Enrollment Virtual Town Halls on Nov. 13 at noon, and Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m. Visit www.VermontHealthConnect.gov, call the Customer Support Center at 1-855-899-9600, contact an in-person Assister near you for more information about Open Enrollment.

Public Notices

can be found in this ADDISON INDEPENDENT on Pages 10B and 11B.

PUBLIC NOTICE POLICY WARNING

The Slate Valley Unified Union School District Board will conduct a public hearing at their meeting on December 2, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. and take action on the following policy:

D3 Responsible Computer, Network, and Internet Use

Copies of the policy are available on the district website at slatevalleyunified.org

Brooke Olsen-Farrell Superintendent of Schools

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Stewart Construction located in Essex Junction, Vermont is seeking bids from qualified subcontractors for a fast-paced, multi-family construction project off Seminary Street Extension in the town of Middlebury, Vermont.

The scopes of work available for bids include but are not limited to: Sitework, Concrete, Structural Steel, Masonry, Wood Framing, Mechanical/Plumbing, Electrical, Fire Suppression and Finishes – both interior and exterior. Minority, Women, Small Owned, & Section 3 Businesses are encouraged to respond. Interested subcontractors must not be debarred from receiving State or Federal funding and must be capable of processing certified payroll with Davis Bacon wages.

Please reach out to info@stewart-construction.com for access to bid documents; bids will be accepted until December 6th, 2024.

TOWN OF SALISBURY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Salisbury is considering making application to the State of Vermont for an Accessibility Modification Grant under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on December 10, 2024 at the Salisbury Town Office to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of community development activities that may be undertaken under this program, the impact to any historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine the proposed statement of projected use of these funds.

The proposal is to apply for up to \$150,000 in VCDP Funds which will be used to accomplish accessibility modifications to the Salisbury Town Hall.

Copies of the proposed application are available at Salisbury Town Office and may be viewed during the hours of 9-3 on Tuesdays; 11-6 on Thursdays. Should you require any special accommodations, or if you would like to participate remotely, please contact the Town Clerk at 802-352-4228 to ensure appropriate accommodations are made. For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) # 1-800-253-0191.

Legislative Body for the Town of Salisbury

PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/ . The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Updates to the Hazard Communication Standard.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 24P046

AGENCY: Department of Labor

CONCISE SUMMARY: The modifications to the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), proposed in this rule making, include revised criteria for classification of certain health and physical hazards, revised provisions for updating labels, new labeling provisions updating labels, new labeling provisions for small containers, new provisions related to trade secrets, technical amendments related to the contents of safety data sheets (SDSs), and related revisions to definitions of terms used in the standard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Dirk Anderson, Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration, P.O. Box 488 Montpelier, VT 05601-0488 Tel: 802-828-4391 Fax: 802-828-0408 E-Mail: dirk.anderson@vermont.gov URL: https://labor.vermont.gov/vosha.

FOR COPIES: Karl Hayden, Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration, P.O. Box 488 Montpelier, VT 05601-0488 Tel: 802-828-5084 Fax: 802-828-0408 E-Mail: karl.hayden@vermont.gov.

TOWN OF RIPTON NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

On 11/11/2024, the Selectboard of the Town of Ripton, Vermont, adopted an Animal Control Ordinance. This notice is published pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1972 to inform the public of said Ordinance and of the citizens’ right to petition for a vote to disapprove the Ordinance. The full text of the Ordinance may be examined at the Ripton Town Office at 1311 VT Route 125, Ripton, VT, and may be examined during regular office hours, or at www.riptonvermont.org.

CITIZENS’ RIGHT TO PETITION FOR VOTE

Title 24 V.S.A. § 1973 grants citizens the right to petition for a vote at a special or annual Town Meeting to disapprove ordinances adopted by the Selectboard. To exercise this right, citizens must present to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk a petition for a vote on the question of disapproving the ordinance, signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the Town’s qualified voters. The petition must be presented within forty-four (44) days following the date of the adoption of the ordinance. Unless a petition requesting a vote is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1973, the Animal Control Ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days from the date of said adoption.

PERSON TO CONTACT

Additional information pertaining to this Ordinance may be obtained by contacting Bill Hunsinger, selectboard member, at billhunsinger@riptonvt.org, or leave a message at the town office at 802-388-2266 during regular office hours.

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

- a.) Moderator
- b.) Clerk
- c.) 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

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY SELECTBOARD MEETING ROOM 116 – LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM TOWN OFFICES – 77 MAIN STREET TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.

Also available via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86969811575 By Phone: +1 646-558-8656 (not toll-free) Webinar ID: 869 6981 1575

For those wishing to watch but not participate:

Selectboard meetings are livestreamed to MCTV’s YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/user/MCTV/Vermont and also broadcast live on Comcast Channel 1071

AGENDA

- | | |
|------|---|
| 7:00 | 1. **Call to Order
2. *Approval of Agenda
3. *Approval of Consent Agenda
3a. Approval of the Minutes of the November 12, 2024 Regular Selectboard Meeting
3b. Acceptance of Selectboard Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
3c. Approval of Renewal Applications for 1 st , 2 nd , & 3 rd Class Liquor Licenses, Outside Consumption Permits, and Entertainment Permits
3d. State Agency of Transportation - Grants-in-Aid - Boardman Street
3e. Consent Agenda Placeholder
3f. Town Manager’s Report |
| 7:05 | 4. *Citizen Comments (Opportunity to raise or address issues not otherwise included on this agenda |
| 7:10 | 5. **Infrastructure Committee - Updates & Recommendations
5a. Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade - Wright-Pierce Recommendation
5b. Library Renovation Moving Contract
5c. Middle Road N. - Road/Sidewalk/Stormwater Contract Award
5d. Seminary Street Ext. - Sewer Lining Contract Award
5e. Chipman Hill Water Tank - Engineering Agreement
5f. SRF Step III Engineering Services Agreement
5g. Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant for Middlebury Skatepark Project |
| 7:50 | 6. **FY26 Budget
6a. Overview of FY26 Budget Timeline
6b. Early view of Potential Major Budget Drivers
6c. Presentation of FY26 Capital Budget Requests, as recommended by Infrastructure Committee |
| 8:00 | 7. *Approval of Check Warrants |
| 8:05 | 8. **Board Member Concerns |
| 8:10 | 9. *Executive Session - Personnel |
| 8:15 | 10. **Action on Matters Discussed in Executive Session |
| 8:20 | 11. *Adjourn |
| | * Decision Item ** Possible Decision |



THANK YOU

FOR THE INCREDIBLE SUPPORT OF OUR

ADDY ALL-STARS!

Since launching this campaign in the early spring, 280 passionate supporters have joined us, raising an amazing \$32,000 to support The Addison Independent, Addison County’s weekly newspaper serving 23 vibrant communities. Your generosity is a testament to the power of local journalism and its role in sustaining our democracy.

As we celebrate this season of giving, we’re reminded that there’s still work to do to ensure The Addison Independent can continue to provide high-quality local news. Our next goal? Reaching **500 ADDY ALL-STARS**. This milestone will help us uphold the vital role local journalism plays in each of our lives.

Support the ADDY ALL-STARS by becoming a sustaining member yourself — or make it a meaningful gift for loved ones this holiday season! By joining, you’re stepping into a movement to protect and sustain local journalism. Your contribution helps preserve the heart and soul of Addison County, ensuring stories are shared, voices are heard, and democracy is strengthened week after week.

THIS SEASON, SHINE BRIGHT AND BECOME AN

ADDY ALL-STAR!

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946



THE ADDY INDY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.

ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM/ALL-STARS

ARTS + LEISURE

The Addison Independent

November 21, 2024



Mary Hogan fifth-grader Matilda Boyce rehearses a scene from "Romeo and Juliet" in class last week. The students are preparing for the culminating event of the Courageous Stage residency program — a live performance on the Town Hall Theater stage, Dec. 5.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES

Courageous classrooms bring larger-than-life roles to the stage

In fair Verona we know too well the desperate tragedy that befalls "two households both alike in dignity" — ah, yes, good ol' "Romeo and Juliet." But what does that play look like when you transport it to the classroom of fourth- and fifth-graders?

BY **ELSIE**

LYNN PARINI

Well, last month, Courageous Stage director Lindsay Pontius and creative director Craig

Maravich began their "Romeo and Juliet" residency in the fifth-grade classrooms at Mary Hogan Elementary School in Middlebury. The duo have been collaborating with the teachers and students, and are gearing up to present Shakespeare's classic "Romeo and Juliet" on the Town Hall Theater stage on Dec. 5.

What have they discovered?

"The students know the themes of honor, loss, mistrust, nobility," said Pontius, who launched the Shakespeare It's Elementary program over



Isaac Rivera (center) is up for a fight as Brady Simpson and Steele Roark watch during rehearsals at Mary Hogan Elementary School last week.

a decade ago. "There's real equity in this work... Everybody can participate and everyone can succeed."

From an academic perspective, the program "delivers a shot of adrenaline to English

Language Arts curriculum," reads the description on the Courageous Stage website, courageousstage.org/shakespeare. "There is a role for every child that will push the limits of their own literacy, creativity and collaboration. Students are introduced to vocabulary, storytelling, design, movement, history and character development."

"There is a lot of power in this language," added Pontius, who was a founding member of Shakespeare & Company's nationally award-winning Fall Festival of Shakespeare that involves thousands of students (grades 7-12) in Massachusetts and New York every year. "The reason I keep coming back to Shakespeare is its big, juicy, expensive words."

"There is something about Shakespeare that speaks to people," chimed in Maravich, who is also the founding program director of Beyond the Page — a program that uses the practices of theater and performance to develop curricula

SEE STAGE ON PAGE 3



A pox on both your houses....

Courageous Stage brings "Romeo and Juliet" to Mary Hogan Elementary School in Middlebury. Students including Robyn Marlaina, Steel Roark, Isaac Rivera, Brady Simpson, Porter Mackey, Zara Trump, Mason Wesley, and Jack Day rehearsed scenes last Wednesday with teaching artists Lindsay Pontius, Craig Maravich and Benjo Torres.

INDEPENDENT PHOTOS / STEVE JAMES



STAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for classrooms, professional development for faculty, and community engagement in student learning spaces across

Middlebury College.

"We might think of Shakespeare as something old and crusty," said Erin Jones-Poppe, operations and marketing manager for Town Hall Theater, and also the parent of Mary Hogan fifth-grader Sebastian Poppe. "The class [through Courageous Stage] is being taught in a really interactive way that energizes students, and gets them to do things they wouldn't normally do."

"There is a way in which Shakespeare taps into the complexities of what it means to be human," Maravich continued. "To step into those moments with visceral, beautiful language... really asks an actor to live out loud. For fourth- and fifth-graders there's a freedom and an innate understanding of profound human themes: What is it to take revenge, to be loyal to your friends, to find ecstatic joy, to feel real grief, disappointment and rage, to be mistreated... to see the cruelty and beauty of the world. Without getting intellectual about it, they know all of these things.... They experience them at home, at school, and on the playground."

Fifth-grade teacher Jan Collins asked her students what they like about Shakespeare and reported "so many positives."

"I think our Shakespeare play is fun because we can prepare to do something big."

—Max Swenton

"I love putting on plays and acting. I love Shakespeare's plays. Putting on plays at school is especially fun because theater turns into an almost everyday thing."

—Tilly Ribaudo

Highlights for Ribaudo include "acting in our groups doing the theater and movement activities. Learning the lines and acting it out is really fun. Having the Courageous Stage theater group come to our classroom to work with us is great. It was really fun writing the song to accompany our act."

Oh, yeah! Did we mention that Bridport's Clint

"THE REASON I KEEP COMING BACK TO SHAKESPEARE IS ITS BIG, JUICY, EXPENSIVE WORDS."

— Lindsay Pontius



Lindsay Pontius gives Mary Hogan student Mason Wesley tips on swordsmanship during rehearsals last week.

INDEPENDENT PHOTO / STEVE JAMES

Bierman is part of this whole program too? He came to the classrooms to help students compose original songs to accompany the scenes.

It's nothing short of magical what happens in this roughly eight-week course.

"I see youth discover these senses of themselves step into these great moments of courage or risk that is really meaningful to them," said Maravich, who resides in Bristol and is, himself, the father of two young kids. "Courageous Stage is small but mighty. Talking as a parent more than anything, I would love if Courageous Stage had a really strong footprint in Addison County or Vermont or rural New England."

That's the idea.

Pontius and Maravich are working hard to develop programming through Courageous Stage that is geared toward students in the classroom, as well as professional development for teachers through digital platforms.

In 2025, Courageous Stage plans to launch a 25-day professional development program for educators that is served in bit-sized, 20-minute digital modules. This is a fully accredited,

asynchronous course designed to equip teachers with strategies for supportive community building and the daily challenges of a classroom.

"I love teachers," said Pontius, who also wears the hat of Education Director at the Town Hall Theater. "I have such great respect for their profession."

What Pontius hopes to do with the professional development programming is refocus educators on the reasons why they chose to become teachers.

"What was their dream to begin with?" She asked. "How do you keep that passion alive? The 'who you are' is key, and unfortunately, there's often more emphasis on the 'what you do' part of the job."

"There's not often the space for teachers to be taken care of, to be nourished, to go back to the reason they chose this vocation," echoed Maravich, who has found that is something folks are hungry for in the "Reimagining the Classroom" course he teaches at Broad Loaf Teacher Network in the summers.

Maravich and Pontius agree with Shakespeare, it's not about "...a story of more woe, Than this of Juliet and her Romeo"; it's all about "how to keep your heart and courage."





**MIDDLEBURY
PERFORMING
ARTS SERIES**

FALL 2024 SEASON

December 4 • 7:30 PM
**BRIJA SKONBERG
JAZZ QUINTET**
\$25/20/10/5

 Tickets on sale now
go.middlebury.edu/pas

Holiday 2024



CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE
BAR ONLY
6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DINNER
4:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE
LONDON GMT TOAST AT 7 P.M.
BAR ONLY
6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

ALL NEW

NEW YEAR'S DAY
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH
11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.



JESSICA'S
AT
SWIFT HOUSE INN

25 STEWART LN.
MIDDLEBURY
802-388-9925
@SWIFTHOUSEINN



"Spring Room, Reading" by Kathy Black.

Juried art exhibition brings 'Color Dance' to Middlebury

The "Color Dance" exhibition at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, is the second annual juried art competition that the Middlebury gallery has hosted. This exhibit will feature the work of a small group of artists carefully chosen by Terry Norton-Wright from a large group of artists throughout the U.S. who have submitted entries in both 2-D and 3-D. This is an exciting opportunity for Edgewater's audience to be introduced to the perspectives of a new roster of fine artists who have interpreted the theme in paint, photography, mixed media, and various 3-D mediums. The work will be on display Nov. 23-Jan. 7, 2025. Celebrate the opening of "Color Dance" on Friday, Dec. 6, from 5-6:30 p.m., at Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, 1 Mill Street. Norton-Wright will announce her first, second and third place winners at the opening reception.

For more information on "Color Dance" a juried group show, visit edgewatergallery.com, call 802-989-7419, or email at info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.



"Fernland #1" by Pamela R. Tarbell.



"Free Range" by Crisrine Kossow.



"Havana Sunrise" by Peter Tilgner.

ART ON EXHIBIT

BIXBY MEMORIAL FREE LIBRARY

258 Main Street, Vergennes

For more info visit bixbylibrary.org or call 802-877-2211.

"Samuel Strong: War Hero and Local Legend" tells the tale of a battle in 1814, as well as the story of this important figure in Addison County history. Strong wore many hats throughout his life — sheriff, farmer, mayor, legislator, business investor, bank founder as well as soldier. On view through spring 2025.

EDGEWATER AT THE FALLS

1 Mill Street, Middlebury

For more info visit edgewatergallery.com, call

802-458-0098 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

"Color Dance" is a juried art competition that features the work of a small group of artists carefully chosen by Terry Norton-Wright. On view Nov. 23-Jan. 7, 2025. An opening reception will be held Friday, Dec. 6, from 5-6:30 p.m., when Norton-Wright will announce her first, second and third place winners.

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.

K. GRANT FINE ART

SEE EXHIBITS ON PAGE 13



ARIES: March 21/April 20. Aries, be careful what you ask for, as things have a funny way of coming true for you this week. Censor your thoughts for now, and perhaps hold your cards closer to the vest.

TAURUS: April 21/May 21. Taurus, you may have a lot of anxious thoughts right now. Friends provide a welcome diversion later in the week, and you also may want to put in more hours at work to stay distracted.

GEMINI: May 22/June 21. Gemini, plans aren't panning out as you'd hoped, so consider other opportunities. Stop and consider all the possibilities as soon as possible and then make a decision.

CANCER: June 22/July 22. Thoughts of love and relationships are on your mind, Cancer. However, you will have trouble expressing just how you feel to others. Think through your words before saying them.

LEO: July 23/Aug. 23. Leo, you are a whirlwind of activity, and this causes a bit of disruption to a normally organized week. Others may remark on how you seem to be all over the place, but you know your limits.

VIRGO: Aug. 24/Sept. 22. It's hard to imagine fitting anything else into your packed schedule, Virgo. Somehow you manage to do it. But the effects could prove stressful. Try lightening your load this week.

LIBRA: Sept. 23/Oct. 23. It's time to plan and prepare, Libra. Take out a pen and paper and start making lists or use a digital planner. It's the only way to remain organized with so much going on.

SCORPIO: Oct. 24/Nov. 22. Matters at home are a priority this week, Scorpio. Focus your attention on tackling things around the house and you'll have more time to devote to fun down the road.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 23/Dec. 21. It might be time to pinch some pennies, Sagittarius. This week you could come up a bit short, and it doesn't bode well for the rest of the month. Consider new revenue streams.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22/Jan. 20. Capricorn, things turn out to be calm this week, and it is surprising how much you can accomplish. This slow pace is just the reprieve you've needed.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 21/Feb. 18. Aquarius, there's not much you can do about a particular problem, so it may be better to stop thinking about a solution. Put your attention toward something you can control.

PISCES: Feb. 19/March 20. Pisces, a few minor tweaks to your schedule and you could be able to tackle a number of tasks this week. Enjoy the productivity.

Show your favorite Knitter some love with a gift card!

Wed-Thurs 11am-5pm
Fri 11-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm
Sun 12-4pm
Closed Mon-Tues

HERMIT THRUSH FIBER CO. 25a Main St. BRISTOL • VT

453-7799
hermitthrushfiberco.com

Middlebury FLORAL & GIFTS

Happy Thanksgiving!

802-388-2800

Leave the centerpiece to us.

Mon.-Fri. 9-5:30, Sat. 10-2 • Rt. 7 So., Middlebury
www.middleburyfloralandgifts.com

FESTIVE Flash Sale

25% off All Fabric Collections!!
(1 yard cut minimum)

Thursday, Nov 21th - Saturday, Nov. 23rd

QUILTERS' CORNER
MIDDLEBURY SEW-N-VAC
260 Court Street, Middlebury, Vt. 05753
802-388-3559 www.middleburysewnvac.com
OPEN: M-F 10-5 and Saturday 9:30-4

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

NOV. 22 — Tina Weymouth, bassist, Talking Heads, (74)
NOV. 23 — Luis Tiant, baseball pitcher (d)

NOV. 24 — Arundhati Roy, writer (63)
NOV. 25 — Joe Dimaggio, baseball player (d)
NOV. 26 — Tina Turner, singer (d)
NOV. 27 — Hilary Hahn, violinist (45)
NOV. 28 — Jon Stewart, comedian (62)

CALENDAR

NOV. 21-DEC. 8
2024



THURSDAY, NOV. 21

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.

LIVE STORYTELLING IN BRISTOL. Thursday, Nov. 21, 6-8 p.m., Holley Hall, 1 South St. A number of presenters will stand up in front of a live audience and tell their true story, live with no notes. For more information about the event, please contact Samara Anderson at anderson_samara@yahoo.com or Katie Male-Riordan, Bristol Library Director, at director@lawrencelibraryvt.org.

"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 midffilmfest.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 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 opera house's 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

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 22 Through the Night: Public Affairs 7 a.m. Here We Are 7:30 a.m. Congregational Church Service 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Church Service 5:30 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 6:30 p.m. Energy Week 7:30 p.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs Saturday, November 23 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Here We Are 6 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 7 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Memorial Baptist Service 5:30 p.m. Eckankar 6 p.m. Energy Week 7 p.m. Catholic Mass 7:30 p.m. Public Affairs Sunday, November 24 Through the Night: Public Affairs 6 a.m. Energy Week 7 a.m. Rep. & Dem. Interviews in VT on the Night of the General Election		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 7:30 p.m. Gov. Scott, Public Affairs Monday, November 25 Through the Night: Public Affairs 4:30 a.m. Energy Week 5:30 a.m. Eckankar 6 a.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 7 p.m. State House, Public Affairs Tuesday, November 26 Through the Night: State House, Public Affairs 8:30 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 9:30 a.m. Eckankar 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Congregational Service 7 p.m. Selectboard [LIVE] 10 p.m. Energy Week Wednesday, November 27 Through the Night: Public Affairs		6:30 a.m. Montpelier Happy Hour 7:30 a.m. Memorial Baptist Service 9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass 10 a.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 4 p.m. Energy Week 5 p.m. Press Conf., Public Affairs 7 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs Thursday, November 28 Through the Night: Public Affairs 5 a.m. Selectboard 8 a.m. Congregational Service 12 p.m. Selectboard, Public Affairs 3 p.m. Leahy Public Policy Forum 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 22 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 23 5 p.m. Burlington Civic Symphony 6:35 p.m. UVM Presidential Lecture Series 8 p.m. Brattleboro Literary Festival 9:30 p.m. Pecha Kucha Night 11 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 5 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Burlington Civic Symphony 7:35 p.m. UVM Presidential Lecture Series 9 p.m. Brattleboro Literary Festival 10:30 p.m. Pecha Kucha Night Sunday, November 24 4:30 a.m. Burlington Civic Symphony 6:05 a.m. CCS Bridging Program 6:35 a.m. Tai Chi 7 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. Pecha Kucha Night 8:30 p.m. Leahy Public Policy Forum 9:30 p.m. UVM Presidential Lecture Series 11 p.m. Moments with Melinda Monday, November 25 5 a.m. All Things LGBTQ 6 p.m. Burlington Civic Symphony 7:35 p.m. UVM Presidential Lecture Series		9 a.m. School Board Meeting/s 3 p.m. OCM - Carmen 5 p.m. At the Ilsley: From The Archives 9 p.m. OCM - Carmen Tuesday, November 26 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 27 6:30 a.m. Tai Chi 6:55 a.m. Chair Yoga 8 a.m. Moments with Melinda 9 a.m. From own Hall Theater 4 p.m. All Things LGBTQ 5 p.m. Moments with Melinda 7 p.m. School Board Meeting/s Thursday, November 28 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. At the Ilsley 11 p.m. From the Archives	

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.

MONDAY, DEC. 2

COMPOSERS IN CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Monday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Come hear exciting new works by student composers from Music 209. Open to the public.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4

BRIA SKONBERG JAZZ QUINTET IN MIDDLEBURY. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. New York-based, Canadian-born musician Bria Skonberg stormed onto the jazz scene with her smoky vocals, blistering trumpet and compelling compositions and arrangements. Tickets: \$25/20/10/5; info at go.middlebury.edu.

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY WIND ENSEMBLE IN BRISTOL. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School Auditorium. Kick off the holiday season with the Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble, conducted by Jerry Shedd and featuring special guest artists Francois Clemmons (narrator) and Mary Bisson (horn). This 40-member ensemble will present a broad range of wind ensemble repertoire, including Aaron Copland's homage to Abraham Lincoln and the world premiere of a work written in memory of Lindi Bortney. Free.

TOP PICK

COMMUNITY STORYTELLING AT HOLLEY HALL

Join Bristol's Lawrence Memorial Library at Holley Hall on South Street this evening, **Thursday, Nov. 21, from 6-8 p.m., for a celebration of local storytelling.** Storytellers will share short, reflective narratives with the community that are true. Come for the chance to hear spellbinding, authentic tales from neighbors and fellow Vermonters.

Interested in sharing a story? Contact Samara Anderson at anderson_samara@yahoo.com. First-time storytellers are encouraged and welcome. For more info visit lawrencelibraryvt.org/events/community-storytelling-at-holley-hall.

THURSDAY, DEC. 5

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN CROWN POINT, N.Y. Thursday, Dec. 5, Coot Hollow. Take a short, easy hike of about two miles to an overlook of a glacial chasm. Stunning views across the lake to a patchwork of fields and the Green Mountains from Killington peak to Mt. Mansfield. The trailhead is about 20 minutes from the bridge at Chimney Point, where we will carpool. Group limit is 8. Contact Ken Corey at 802-349-3733 or kencorey53@gmail.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

ROBERT LUDWIG, ORGANIST IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Dec. 5, noon, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, on the green. An advent concert with music by Bach, Dethier, Muhly and D'Aquin.

MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m., Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Ave. Join us for a concert featuring the MUHS Jazz Band, Concert Band, and Camerata Singers. Free and open to the public.

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY WIND ENSEMBLE IN MIDDLEBURY. Thursday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts School, 72 Porter Field Rd. Kick off the holiday season with the Middlebury Community Wind Ensemble, conducted by Jerry Shedd and featuring special guest artists Francois Clemmons (narrator) and Mary Bisson (horn). This 40-member ensemble will present a broad range of wind ensemble repertoire, including Aaron Copland's homage to Abraham Lincoln and the world premiere of a work written in memory of Lindi Bortney. Free.

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HIKE IN SALISBURY. Friday, Dec. 6, Mills Preserve. Enjoy walking this outdoor "museum" that details the history of land use from sawmills and the iron industry to the production of thimbles and bobbins for the textile industry.

Beautiful, easy walk of 1.7 miles along the Leicester falls and river, which were used to power water wheels and the variety of industries of the area. Contact David Andrews at 802-388-4894 or vtrevda@yahoo.com to register. More at gmcbreadloaf.org.

MUSEUM LECTURE AND LUNCH SERIES IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Dec. 6, 12:30 p.m., Lower Lobby, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Curator Josephine Rodgers will discuss the "Dance of Life: Figure and Imagination in American Art, 1876-1917" exhibition on view at the Yale University Art Gallery. The exhibition explores the American Renaissance, a pivotal yet neglected period in American history, that inspired an ambitious generation of American artists to develop a movement in mural painting that captivated a divided nation. Open to the Public.

ARTIST'S RECEPTION IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Dec. 6, 5-6:30 p.m., Edgewater Gallery at the Falls, Mill St. An opening for "Color Dance," Edgewater's second annual juried art competition will feature the work of a small group of artists chosen by Terry Norton-Wright. More info at 802-989-7419 or email info@edgewatergallery-vt.com.

JAZZ IN THE LIVING ROOM IN ORWELL. Begins Friday, Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m., Orwell Free Library, 473 Main St. An 8-week series where local teens can explore jazz's deep cultural roots, develop critical thinking, and experience musical improvisation with guest musicians. Through hands-on sessions, participants will learn about the history of jazz and its place in African American heritage while discovering music's role in shaping our shared history. Taught by local Jazz musician Robert Scarpulla.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC NIGHT IN NEW HAVEN. Friday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., New Haven United Reformed Church, 1660 Ethan Allen Hwy. Join in a time of Christmas songs, readings and refreshments as we prepare for the

holiday season. All are welcome. More info contact Liesbeth at 802-989-4139.

"THE BROTHERS GRIMM SPECTACULATHON" HOLIDAY PANTOMIME IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. The Addison Repertory Theatre will present its annual pantomime. It's a family-friendly slapstick comedy, and a traditional offering in the U.K. around the holidays. This year, ART's third year presenting one, will feature the fast-paced farce. Repeats on Saturday.

BRIAN MCCARTHY JAZZ ORCHESTRA IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. THT presents Brian McCarthy Jazz Orchestra featuring Ray Vega. This 18-piece jazz orchestra features a guest artist and all new arrangements. The orchestra brings together Vermont's local talent and highlights the evolving jazz community. Tickets \$50 for table seating/\$40 general admissions, available at townhalltheater.com.

DECEMBER VOCAL CONCERT IN MIDDLEBURY. Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Robison Hall, Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Voice students of Carol Christensen and Susanne Peck cap off a semester of study with a lively program of classical and Broadway repertoire. Open to the public.

BROADWAY DIRECT IN VERGENNES. Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. The 19th annual Broadway Direct show is brought to you once again by Bill Carmichael Walsh, Broadway veteran and VOH board member. Bill will be joined by friends directly from the Broadway stages, as well as some amazing local talent to bring yet another powerhouse show to the Little City. Tickets \$20 adults/\$10 students, available at vergennesoperahouse.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

FIRST SATURDAY FESTIVITIES IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., downtown. This year's Very Merry Middlebury kicks off with a day of festive events. Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus from 10 a.m.-noon at Town Hall Theater. Write a letter to Santa. Free horse and wagon rides 10 a.m.-noon, Hot cocoa hut 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Caroling on the steps of the Congregational Church, trains at the Sheldon Museum, holiday crafts at Isley Library and more.

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Henry Sheldon Museum, 1 Park St. Enjoy live holiday music, the museum's annual decorated Christmas Tree & Wreath Raffle, and visit the model trains exhibit. The Kids' Makerspace will feature seasonal crafting activities, and the Museum Store features many new items that are

Come and sing your hearts out in Vergennes on Sunday

Gather together at the Vergennes Opera House once again to join in song for the Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing event on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 3 p.m. This event is free to everyone with a free-will offering welcome to go toward supporting the All Access Project.

"A packed house full of thankful hearts, and immediate requests for us to do this again, prompted us to bring everyone together to present this year's community hymn sing," said Suzanne Rood, Vergennes Opera House board member and concert organizer. "Local musicians from over a dozen area churches have been looking forward to once again joining together to lead the audience in singing traditional favorite hymns and popular contemporary worship songs."

The Champlain Brass Ensemble will start the event, leading the audience in five traditional hymns, followed by a piano duet featuring siblings Micah and Owen Clevensine. The 35-voice Addison County Gospel Choir with featured soloists backed by piano, guitar, bass, and drums will then take the stage and sing modern arrangements of favorite hymns and contemporary praise songs. This event promises to lift your spirits as we focus on all that we are thankful for. Song books will be provided at the door.

Tickets are free, but reservations are suggested. Visit VergennesOperaHouse.org/events for more information and reservations.



A packed house full of thankful hearts at last year's Thanksgiving event demanded a second annual community hymn sing, which will take place on Sunday, Nov. 24, at 3 p.m. Local musicians from over a dozen area churches unite on the Vergennes Opera House 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.

COURTESY PHOTO

Who was Samuel Strong? War hero and local legend explored in new exhibit

When 14,000 British troops marched down from Canada toward Plattsburgh, N.Y., in the fall of 1814, the commander of the U.S. fort there put out a call to Vermont for help. Samuel Strong of Vergennes, a recently retired general in the Vermont Militia, was picked to lead the Vermonters who volunteered to cross the lake and join the fight.

A new exhibit at the Bixby Memorial Free Library in downtown Vergennes tells the tale of that battle as well as the story of this important figure in Addison County history. Strong wore many hats throughout his life — sheriff, farmer, mayor, legislator, business investor, bank founder as well as soldier. The display features one of his actual hats and his golden epaulets on loan from the Vermont Historical Society. From the Bixby Library's historical collection, there is also a handwritten account book and orders he issued requiring individuals to appear before him to settle disputes.

Strong built a beautiful home on Main Street south of Otter Creek which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On view in the exhibit is a photo that captures its recent restoration after years of disrepair.

"Samuel Strong: War Hero and Local Legend" was curated by Nancy Remsen, Bixby Trustee and Chair of the Historical Collections Committee. The exhibit can be viewed in the Kerr Room on the second floor of the library now through spring 2025. Visit bixbylibrary.org for more information.



Learn more about Samuel Strong at the current exhibit in Vergennes at the Bixby Memorial Free Library.

COURTESY PHOTO

PUZZLES

sponsored by SPARROW
ART SUPPLY

ACROSS

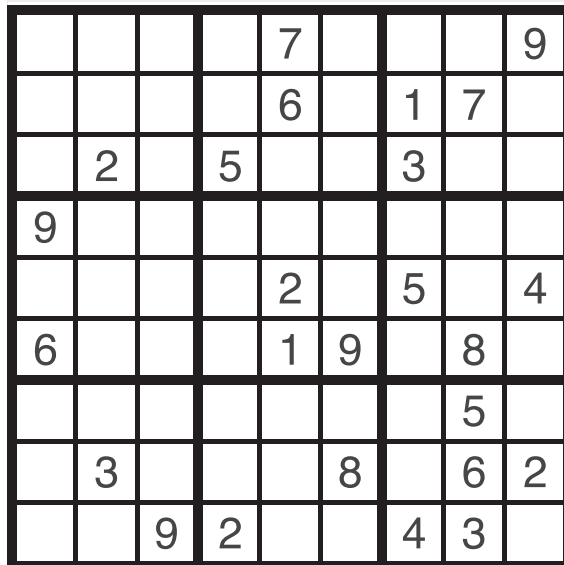
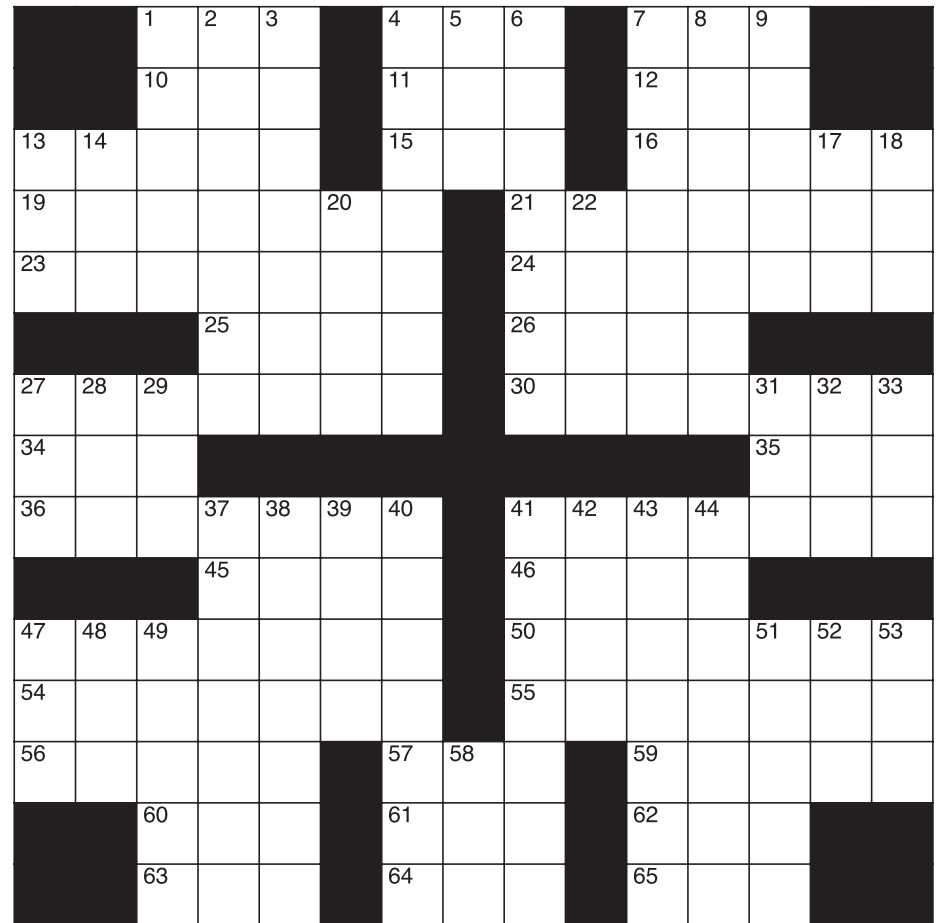
1. Defunct airline
4. Beverage container
7. A team's best pitcher
10. Unit of liquid capacity
11. It comes before two
12. Male child
13. Type of wheat
15. One's mother
16. Upper side of an organism
19. United is one
21. Extraction process
23. A being with lesser divine status
24. People living together in a community

25. Luxury automaker
26. This (Spanish)
27. Semitic language
30. Period for a defined purpose
34. Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
35. Up in the air (abbr.)
36. American marsupial
41. Decadent dessert
45. Aquatic plant
46. About aviation
47. Summer footwear
50. Rugged mountain ranges
54. With tin
55. Cut on the surface of a hard object
56. Wrapped in cloth
57. Defensive nuclear weapon

59. "American Idol" contestant Clay
60. Midway between east and southeast
61. Court decision "___ v. Wade"
62. Born of
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Actress ___-Margaret
65. Not even

DOWN

1. Heat unit
2. ___ Faulkner, American writer
3. Guatemalan town
4. Of funny things
5. Actress ___ de Armas
6. Agents of one's



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.

downfall

7. Takes forcibly
8. Body lice
9. Large nest of a bird of prey
13. Unhappy
14. Popular holiday dessert
17. Habitual drunkard
18. Used of a number or amount not specified
20. Complications
22. Fail to win
27. Before the present

28. Musical genre

29. Flurry
31. 007's creator
32. Indiana Pacer Toppin
33. Midway between north and northeast
37. Feeling
38. Damage another's reputation
39. Mottled citrus fruit
40. Beauty product
41. They man first, second and third
42. Harness

43. Herb

44. Expressed concern
47. Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
48. Consumed
49. Nostrils
51. Gathered fallen leaves
52. Express good wishes
53. Monetary unit of Brunei
58. Japanese Buddhist festival

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

44 Main St
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 989-7225

Tuesday-Saturday
10:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Sundays in December!
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

sparrowartsupply.com
@sparrowartsupply

SPARROW ART SUPPLY

Gift Guides

Not sure what to get your artist?
SHOP OUR CURATED GIFT GUIDES!

For each medium, we picked our favorite materials and shared why any artist would be thrilled to receive them as a present. Check out the guides on our blog at sparrowartsupply.com

ASK A MASTER GARDENER

ALL ABOUT SAFFRON



Deborah J. Benoit is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from North Adams, Mass., who is part of the Bennington County Chapter.

Did you know that the world's most expensive spice comes from a type of crocus? It's true. Saffron is derived from *Crocus sativus*, commonly known as the "saffron crocus."

While blooming crocuses are as common in spring as boldly colored leaves are in autumn, the saffron crocus

BY **DEBORAH J. BENOIT**

blooms in the fall.

Saffron corms (bulbs) are planted in late summer. Grasslike foliage emerges September to October, followed by lavender-colored buds that open to reveal a trio of bright red stigmas in late October and early November. It's the stigmas that, once harvested, become the saffron found on our kitchen spice racks.

senses by offering a strong fragrance, its signature yellow color and a distinctive flavor to numerous cuisines around the world. In addition to its culinary uses, saffron has been used historically as a dye and for medicinal purposes.

It takes approximately 150-170 saffron flowers to produce one gram of spice. That's about 4,000 saffron flowers to produce a single ounce.

What makes saffron such an expensive product in comparison to other spices? It's the labor involved in harvesting those three little, red stigmas. Each saffron flower must be individually handpicked, and the three stigmas carefully removed by hand. Once harvested, the stigmas are dried, becoming the saffron used in dishes such as yellow rice and bouillabaisse.

Iran is by far the world's largest grower of saffron. It is also grown in Afghanistan, Spain and other countries with hot, dry climates. Saffron has been grown in parts of Pennsylvania for over 200 years, mostly for personal use. Research is underway into expanding commercial opportunities for growing saffron in the United States.

Saffron appeals to three of our five

SEE GARDEN ON PAGE 11

AGWAY

Think of Agway when you think of your pets!

Proud to help you provide quality care for all of your pets, we know your animal companions are a central part of your life!

PET FOOD

ASK ABOUT OUR Pet Food Club
Earn rewards for your purchases!

Quality Brands Including:

Pronature

RAW

HEALTH EXTENSION

HOLISTIC SELECT

BLUE

Taste of the Wild

IAMS

Nutro

Fussie Cat

DIAMOND NATURALS

Merrick

ORIS

Aunt Jen's Home Made

Eagle Pack

sojos

inception

Signature

WELLNES

WERUVA

Greenies

ACANA

Everything you need for pet support!

TOYS & TREATS

Accessories & Grooming Supplies

Leashes • Harnesses
Collars • Clothing
Food Dishes
Storage Bins
Beds & Baskets

SELF SERVE

Brushes, shampoos, skin treatment, ointments to keep your pets' coats healthy and problem free!

Kennels, Dog Houses & Carrying Cases

Come in and check the variety we have in stock!

Large & Small Animal Products

Feed • Supplements • Training & Grooming Supplies
Cages, Foods, Treats & Bedding
Bird food, toys and cages
Basics for fish, too!

Wild Bird Supplies

Feeders,
Seed & Suet,
Houses & Accessories.

MIDDLEBURY AGWAY

Open 7 days

Join our email list for preferred customer savings!

388-4937 • www.MiddleburyAgway.com

Mon - Fri 8-6 • Sat 8-5 • Sundays 9-4

YOUR YARD, GARDEN AND PET PLACE™ • www.middleburyagway.com

Saffron is derived from *Crocus sativus*, a fall-blooming plant commonly known as the "saffron crocus."

PHOTOS / DEBORAH J. BENOIT

GARDEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The saffron crocus is hardy to United States Department of Agriculture Hardiness Zone 6 but readily survives in Zone 5 and even Zone 4, according to research conducted at the University of Vermont (UVM). No insulation is required. In fact, researchers discourage the practice of covering plants with mulch because it may attract rodents.

If you're thinking about trying to grow saffron at home, corms are generally available to order in late summer and are shipped at the proper time for planting.

Saffron corms should be plump and firm. Discard any that are shriveled or soft or that display signs of disease.

Select a location in full sun with well-draining soil. Standing water or excessive moisture can rot the corms. In the fall, plant corms about three inches deep, cover with soil and water in. The plants will continue to

grow all winter, going dormant in June.

Lining the planting area with hardware cloth and placing it over the corms can help deter squirrels, chipmunks, mice, voles or rabbits that will dig up saffron corms.

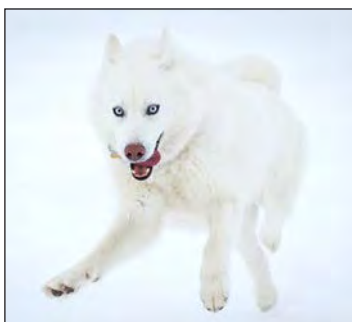
When in bloom, harvest saffron on a dry, sunny day, early to midmorning. Remove each flower by hand, then carefully remove each stigma. Place the stigmas separately on a paper-lined tray to dry.

Like other herbs and spices, saffron should be stored in an airtight container out of direct sunlight and away from heat to preserve its flavor.

Over time, the corms in your saffron bed will multiply. After several years, dig them up and separate the daughter corms from the mother and replant to prevent overcrowding.

Growing your own saffron can be a satisfying and money saving endeavor.

To learn more about saffron, check out the UVM North American Center for Saffron Research and Development at uvm.edu/~saffron.



Pet of the WEEK

What is Pet of the Week?

Here at the Addy Indy we LOVE our pets. We also love publishing here at the local newspaper. So... put them together and you get PET OF THE WEEK, where we publish the news of how fabulous your pets are for FREE!

All you have to do, dear reader with opposable thumb, is send a picture to our news team with a short description of your best buds.

Send us a picture of your pet!

news@addisonindependent.com

Bringing Essential Veterinary Care to You & Your Pet!



Rabies clinic!
Saturday Dec. 14
10 AM - 2 PM.

Dogs and cats only
Rabies vaccines \$25. Cash, check, credit cards accepted
Dogs must be leashed, cats must be crated.
Open to all! Bring proof of previous rabies vaccines if possible.

283 North Orwell Rd, Orwell, VT 05760

(802) 989-3734

meganswaseydv@gmail.com | addisoncountyvet.com



Paws To Consider

with Dr. Bri Letaw, Medical Director,
Bristol Animal Hospital

Q: Can I use Ibuprofen for pain in my dog with arthritis?



A: Ibuprofen is toxic to dogs and can do a great deal of harm if used. Aspirin used to be used more commonly but is not recommended for use as there are serious side effects. There is now more appropriate medication available and gear towards better efficacy in dogs.

Bristol Animal Hospital, 167 Monkton Rd., Bristol
(802) 588-7387 • <http://bristolvtvet.com>



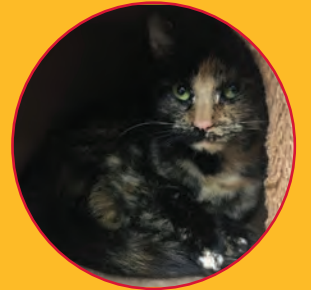
Pets In Need HOMEWARD BOUND

Addison County's Humane Society



Apollonia

Apollonia is an amazing momma cat who raised four kittens. She is now ready to move on from motherhood and be cared for as someone's baby. Apollonia is laid-back, gentle, and sweet. She gets along with other cats, but we are unsure about dogs.



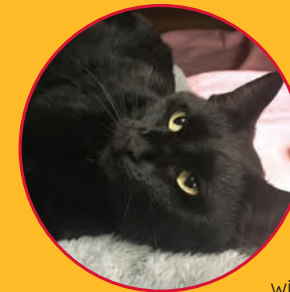
Coral

Coral is a beautiful young momma who is ready for a new start at life! She recently raised four adorable kittens and is looking for a home where she can come out of her shell at her own pace. Coral is nervous in the shelter environment but is sweet and shy. She is around a year old and gets along with other cats and kids and tolerates dogs but would prefer to live in a home without them.



Girly

Girly is a sweet and scraggly-looking old lady. She is friendly and independent. Her favorite things include napping in her hammock, munching on treats, and getting pets. Girly has lived with cats and dogs and tolerates the other senior gals in her room.



Kita

Kita is a petite 3-year-old lady who loves playing with toys and snuggling. She was an indoor/outdoor cat in her previous home and may be open to exploring the outdoors in her new home after settling in. Kita has gotten along well with cats and kids and tolerates dogs but would prefer to live in a home without them.



Bee Gee

Hi there, I'm **Bee Gee**! I've lived with other bunnies before, and I'm friendly and social once I get comfortable with my surroundings. I'm definitely the type to explore new things! Once I've had a little time to adjust, I love checking out my new space and seeing what's around. One of my favorite things to do is munch on veggies (yum!). I've been trying out different greens, and so far, parsley and romaine are my top picks. I can be a little shy at first, but if you're patient and give me time, I warm up and we can be the best of pals. Whether you're a brother or whether you're a mother, we can dance through life together with some tasty snacks and plenty of bunny love!



Want to learn more?

Call or check our website. We may have a pet for you!
802-388-1100 | HomewardBoundAnimals.org
236 Boardman Street | Middlebury, VT



2561 VERMONT ROUTE 17, ADDISON
\$1,099,000

THE HOME

A LOOK INSIDE ADDISON COUNTY HOMES FOR SALE

This Addison homestead has it all

This stunningly well-built and meticulously maintained home sits on park-like grounds with over 30+ private pastoral and wooded acres surrounding it. From every window, look out onto vignettes of perfectly spaced trees and mature plantings and beds. Entertain friends on the beautifully laid patio and welcome neighbors to the wrap-around porch for a visit. Of course, there is plenty to love inside the home as well, with highlights including a first-floor bedroom suite, walk-in pantry, gas fireplace and stone hearth, built-in shelving, loft family room, and a full-sized basement ready to convert to extra recreation or office space. The detached barn complements the attached two-car garage—each is ready for the trappings of all your past times! Though you'll find yourself perfectly content to stay on the homestead, being at the center of Addison County has its benefits. Within minutes you'll be on the shores of Lake Champlain, in one of Vergennes' or Middlebury's most popular eateries, or chatting with your neighbors over coffee at the General Store just up the road.



*This week's property is managed by IPJ Real Estate.
More info at middvermontrealestate.com.*



REAL ESTATE

HOME IS WHERE THE PIE IS!



Grab a sweet slice of real estate this fall!
Contact us and we'll help you connect with Addison County homebuyers, sellers & professionals.

ads@addisonindependent.com

LAKE CHAMPLAIN, ADDISON ~ PRICE ADJUSTED!

256 LAKESIDE LANE
ADDISON VT
\$795,000

FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY for VERMONT LAKEFRONT!
Direct lakeshore highlighted by stunning Lake Champlain views, shale beach & Panton stone seawall. Open-living features a cozy aesthetic with exposed wood detail, a screened porch, copper countertops, three bedrooms plus a loft. Walk-out lower level rec room & storage perfect for lake toys. Quality construction. Yr-round potential.
LA Sue Walsh 802-989-3435



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | **VERMONT REALTY GROUP**

32 MERCHANTS ROW
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

the real estate experts good to know!

(802) 388-9836
WWW.VTREGROUP.COM




creative real estate solutions
IRENE POOLE, REALTOR®



802-989-5563 | IreneVTRE.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 as amended which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or persons receiving public assistance, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD Toll-free at 1-800-669-9777.

the REAL ESTATE COMPANY of VERMONT

Whether you're looking to sell or ready to buy, let one of our professional and knowledgeable agents get to work *for* YOU!



Jill Fraga
Broker/Realtor®



Danelle Birong
Broker/Realtor®



Orion Lazo
Salesperson/Realtor®



Tammy Petersen
Salesperson/Realtor®

www.theRealEstateCompanyVT.com

THREE MAIN STREET | BRISTOL, VERMONT 05443 | 802.453.6161



PUZZLE


SOLUTIONS

NOV. 21, 2024

ADD YOUR PIECE!

BE THE NEXT SPONSOR OF THE PUZZLE PAGE.

EMAIL CHRISTY@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM TO FIND OUT HOW.



	T	W	A		C	A	N		A	C	E	
	S	P	E	L	T	M	A	M	D	O	R	S
	A	I	R	L	I	N	E		E	L	U	T
	D	E	M	I	G	O	D		S	O	C	I
			A	U	D	I			E	S	T	E
	A	R	A	M	A	I	C		S	E	S	S
	G	A	D							A	B	N
	O	P	O	S	S	U	M		B	R	O	N
			A	L	G	A			A	E	R	O
	S	A	N	D	A	L	S		S	I	E	R
	S	T	A	N	N	I	C		E	N	G	R
	C	E	R	E	D		A	B	M		A	I
		E	S	E			R	O	E		N	E
	S	S	R				A	N	N		O	D

3	1	5	8	7	4	6	2	9
4	9	8	3	6	2	1	7	5
7	2	6	5	9	1	3	4	8
9	4	3	7	8	5	2	1	6
8	7	1	6	2	3	5	9	4
6	5	2	4	1	9	7	8	3
2	6	4	9	3	7	8	5	1
5	3	7	1	4	8	9	6	2
1	8	9	2	5	6	4	3	7

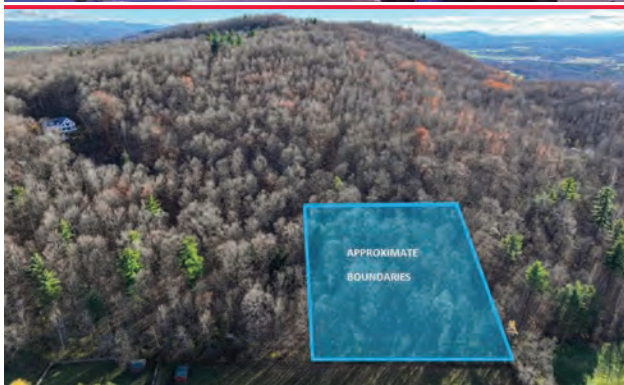


*Congratulations, Sarah Peluso:
Realtor of the Year!*

With 1800 Realtor Members of the Association, this is a significant accomplishment and we couldn't be more proud. First nominated as the Addison County Realtor of the Year her name was then submitted to the Vermont Association of Realtors along with numerous other outstanding peers from across the state. Sarah was awarded the highest honor by the Vermont Association of Realtors in early November and celebrated with her counterparts at the National Association of Realtors Annual Convention last week as **Vermont Realtor of the Year!**

Sarah finished a term as President of the Association in 2023, holds a reputation for exemplary commitment and dedication to the industry and her clients, and has held the Top Producing Agent in Addison County title for 7 years running. She is a long-time and effectual board member of Middlebury's Eastview, a cherished wife, mother of two accomplished children, and a highly active member of the community she has called home since 2000.

Sarah is a remarkable person. We're grateful to call her our colleague and friend.
Congratulations, Sarah!



CHARLOTTE NEW LISTING!
286 HOMESTEAD DRIVE
MLS #5021807 | \$350,000
2.00 ACRES

This 2 acre homesite will have beautiful views of the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain with minimal clearing. Perched up on a hillside with a nice level building site, a State wastewater permit for a three bedroom home is in place! The property is part of the Church Hill Home Owners association, including 32.9 acres of common acreage and pond. This acreage is also adjacent to 180 acres of conserved land with trails throughout. Keep a boat on Lake Champlain, less than 10 minutes away and just 30 minutes to the Burlington International airport. With excellent views and a private location, this land is waiting for your vision!



ipjrealestate.com

34 Main Street, downtown Middlebury
info@ipjrealestate.com | 802.388.4242

EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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.



CALENDAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

perfect for all your holiday shopping needs. Free. More info at henrysheldonmuseum.org/events or 802-388-2117.

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OPEN HOUSE IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m., Middlebury Community Music Centers, 6 Main St. Bring your kids and little ones for a fun-filled day of music, exploration, and celebration. Hands-on musical activities, live performances, giveaways, and special surprises. Donations are welcome to support our scholarship program. No registration is required, but please RSVP if you'd like to attend one of our demo classes. More info at www.mcmcv.org.

FAMILY HOLIDAY CRAFTS IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-noon, Middlebury Studio School, 63 Maple St., 8A. Join us for a morning of festive crafting. Create cards, ornaments, and more while enjoying some light refreshments. All ages welcome. Free and open to the public.

"TO RENDER THIS PLACE AS TENABLE AS POSSIBLE" LIVING HISTORY EVENT IN TICONDEROGA, N.Y. Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Fort Ticonderoga. Witness a pivotal moment in the American Revolution — the winter of 1776. Following the Continental Army's victory at Ticonderoga, the event explores the challenges and triumphs faced by the soldiers as they prepared for a long, harsh winter and the uncertain future of the war. More info at www.fortticonderoga.org.

BROADWAY DIRECT IN VERGENNES. Saturday, Dec.

7, 3 p.m., Vergennes Opera House, 120 Main St. See Dec. 6 listing.

"DIDO AND AENEAS" IN BRISTOL. Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Mount Abraham Union High School, Airport Dr. The Youth Opera Company of the Opera Company of Middlebury, in collaboration with the Vergennes, Mount Abraham, and Middlebury choruses, presents "Dido and Aeneas," a 17th-century opera by Henry Purcell. Directed by Sarah Cullins, conducted by Jeff Buetner, and accompanied by Ronald Romano.

SEAMUS EGAN, MOIRA SMILEY AND YANN FALQUET IN LINCOLN. Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Burnham Hall, 52 E. River Rd. Burnham Presents hosts this trio, sometimes known as the Seamus Egan Project, for its December concert. A show not to miss with this incredible group of artists. Doors open at 7 p.m. Homemade refreshments available. Tickets \$20-\$25 sliding scale. More info at burnhampresents.org/.

KAT & BRETT HOLIDAY SHOW IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., Town Hall Theater, 68 S. Pleasant St. Kat Wright and Brett Hughes, two of Vermont's most beloved songbirds, get together once again in 2024 for their 11th annual VT Holiday Tour. The show, featuring Tyler Bolles on upright bass and Will Seeders on pedal steel guitar, banjo and fiddle, offers up an array of songs of holiday heartbreak and holiday cheer. Table seats \$35/regular seats \$25, available at townhalltheater.org. Cash bar available throughout the show.

ART'S "THE BROTHERS GRIMM SPECTACULATHON" HOLIDAY PANTOMIME IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., Black Box Theater, Hannaford Career Center, 51 Charles Ave. See Dec. 6 listing.

"SKY WAS POSSIBLE" IN MIDDLEBURY. Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m., Mahaney Arts Center, 72 Porter Field Rd. Join us for the Vermont premiere of "Sky was Possible," a song cycle for soprano, flute and piano composed by Middlebury's own Fletcher Professor of the Arts and Music Department Chair Su Lian Tan, with texts by Middlebury President and Professor of Religion Laurie Patton. Free. More info at www.middlebury.edu/events/event/sky-was-possible.

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURY. Sunday, Dec. 8, 4 and 7 p.m., Middlebury Chapel, Old Chapel Rd. An annual celebration of traditional Christmas music and biblical texts of the season. Led by Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life Mark Orten, and Middlebury College Choir Musical Director Jeffrey Buetner. Donations will be accepted for local charities. Large print programs available. American Sign Language interpretation at the 4 p.m. service only.

Green Mountain Panorama



Superbly located. Pleasing Gr. Mt. panorama & pleasant country setting. Rms. are comfortable & attractive - plenty of morning sun. Flooring - hardwood & softwood. Wood stove/brick hearth in LR. Elec. back-up heating. 2.3 A[±] open/wooded ld. A small barn. Being sold 'as is' - not a likely candidate for normal res. financing due to condition. A beautiful opportunity to fix up for owners use or re-sale. Contents are included. \$159,000.



WhittakerRealEstate.com 802-247-6633
(802) 236-9076 (T) (802) 236-9075 (C)
Tom@WhittakerRealEstate.com
Top of the Hill, Brandon, VT

CHECK OUT OUR LISTINGS ONLINE



We take enormous pride in consistently outperforming the market averages - but even more importantly, our clients' expectations with a 99% satisfaction rating.

Contact us today to experience it for yourself.



Ferrisburgh | \$6,795,000
Chris von Trapp
(802) 846-9525



Starksboro | \$699,000
Michael Johnston
(802) 846-9518



Cornwall | \$699,000
Michael Johnston
(802) 846-9518

268 Main St, Vergennes | HickokandBoardman.com | 802-863-1500

Thank You!

We do it ALL for you.

Addy Indy readers deserve the best! That's why we work every day to bring you excellent local coverage of our towns, schools, athletics, businesses, entertainment and more.

CONNECT WITH US f i

@ADDISONINDEPENDENT



PRINT + DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS!

**THE MORE YOU GIVE,
THE MORE YOU SAVE!**

LOCK IN THE BEST RATES NOW!
Just \$65 for a full year of print + digital access.
Senior and Student discounts available!

LOOKING FOR A GREAT GIFT?

GIVE THE ADDY INDY
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

1ST SUBSCRIPTION

**\$2
OFF**

Name of recipient: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address (required): _____

2ND SUBSCRIPTION

**\$3
OFF**

Name of recipient: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address (required): _____

3RD SUBSCRIPTION

**\$4
OFF**

Name of recipient: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address (required): _____

RETURN TO:

The Addison Independent, 58 Maple Street, Middlebury, VT 05753
by mail or in person, or order online at addisonindependent.com

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV _____ Phone # _____

Offer ends Dec. 31, 2024

QUESTIONS?

CALL: 802-388-4944, EXT. 104

EMAIL: SUBSCRIPTIONS@ADDISONINDEPENDENT.COM

ADDISON COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
Serving Addison County, Vt., Since 1946



MOUNT ABRAHAM UNION HIGH SCHOOL'S

THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Issue 53 Fall 2024



SIT READY, READY ALL, ROW!

By Dylan Wells

The Mt. Abe Rowing Team has been around for a while, and although it is technically a club, it still has two coaches, Kyle Dixon and Alex Vukoder. Because rowing is a club, instead of taking the bus, the rowers and coaches have to carpool to rowing destinations and practice.

Dixon first got into rowing when he noticed his friends were wearing shirts that said Hull on them, and he learned that it was a part of Massachusetts where rowing took place. "Turns out, there were a couple of rowing races down in Hull," he explained. "Later, at open house, my friend Liam Knight pulled me over to the table for rowing and had me sign up." When Dixon graduated, he had to take a gap year from rowing, though he did take part in community rowing. Dixon began to miss rowing with a team of consistent rowers, but when he heard his former coach was

looking for drivers to bring people to rowing locations, he was happy to help. He said, "I knew Coach Ed McGuire was always looking for help with driving, and I had a Toyota Land Cruiser that could have seven passengers." After a couple of years, Dixon became a coach.

According to Dixon, McGuire started the Rowing Club in 2008, and people showed very little interest, with only four girls joining the rowing team in the first year. The following year, one of their boyfriends joined and was their coxswain (the person who gives orders to the rowers and directs the boat.) Recently, the club has become more popular.

Dixon likes that rowing is a club sport because, "We're co-ed, we mix middle



Novice Division at Jame Wakefield Finish Line PC: Andrew Rainville

and high school students, we have rowing opportunities for somebody at any skill level, we give opportunity to students to compete in sports who wouldn't normally be able to participate in other sports, we are the only spring and fall sport, and we're able to leave the school for practices."

Devin Wendel, Athletic Director and Activities Coordinator, is one of the main people orchestrating rowing. When asked why rowing isn't a sport, Wendel said, "It

(See ROWING, Page 8)

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF: TURNER ADDS HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH TO SCHEDULE

By Peter Meyer

Cathy Turner is a health teacher in the middle and high school. She has been teaching for seven years in the MAUSD District, with four years at Bristol Elementary School and three years at Mt. Abe.



Turner teaches one of her high school classes

When asked what she likes about teaching Health to high schoolers, Turner said, "I like the amount of time we get to spend with each class. It gives us an opportunity to be a bit more creative with how we teach. I also enjoy how high schoolers can think a bit deeper on Health subjects." When asked what the biggest challenge about teaching Health to high schoolers is, Turner responded, "My biggest challenge is myself. Health topics move fast and I worry that I am not providing the most current ideas. I do my best to stay educated about Health, but I worry that I don't cover it all."

Turner also enjoys teaching Health to middle schoolers, and exclaimed, "I love teaching health to middle schoolers because some of the information is still new to them. I love

taking them on a journey of learning about themselves." Within this journey, there are also challenges. "I want to make sure that I cover everything. I feel a great responsibility to prepare middle schoolers for their future and I don't want to miss anything," she added.

Turner has not always taught health. She explained, "I also taught P.E. at Bristol and I was a high school art teacher in Tucson, Arizona." She added, "I used to teach art and yoga and I would love to be able to teach those things again!" Ultimately Turner wants her students to know "how to be a good human!"

Eighth grader Jillian Cousino and sophomore Tyler Munson have both been in health class recently with Turner. Mun-

(See TURNER, Page 2)

MORE STAFF SPOTLIGHTS
on page 5

THE STARS BEHIND THE CURTAINS OF THE MOUNT ABRAHAM MUSICAL

By Trinity Croft

For many years, Mt. Abe has been known for its wondrous musical performances. From sets full of grandeur and lively choreography to stunning costumes and magical moments, each year's performance is unparalleled, and behind the scenes, true heroes make each show possible.

Jennifer and Ben Allred are the co-directors of all the school musicals. They work incredibly hard to produce something full of grandeur and mysticism, a new show-stopper each year. As well as co-producing the show, Ben Allred makes the phenomenal sets that give the shows the magic touch they're known for.

During our interview, he walked me through the steps he takes every show to construct the sets. From script reading and mood boards to computer models and physical replicas, Ben and his team assembled architectural artworks that cannot be matched.

Jen Allred has been involved in everything theater since childhood. Her parents were performers, and directing became the next phase



Sherwin & Correll flank the Allreds

of her life. She's a natural ringleader who can bring together a room like no one has ever seen. She steers such large numbers into painting a musical experience for our school to see, and she encourages the whole community to get involved. She offered some advice while talking about the rewards of producing a show when she said, "Don't assume you can't do something. One of the best parts of putting on

(See STARS, Page 5)

LANGUAGE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ARE VERY BENEFICIAL

By Eliza Ruble

Many people have studied a foreign language at one time or another, but why is it important to learn a different language?

French teacher Jori Jacobeit believes that language classes are important in schools because "the study of world cultures is such a rich opportunity to expand our perspective, to expand our way of seeing the world." Jacobeit points out that by learning a new language, "you're gaining the ability to communicate with people all around the world."

Languages help us to grow empathy by showing us the perspectives of people from different countries and cultures. Spanish teacher Nathan Shepard stated, "When you can talk to people, you understand people and that brings you closer. It basically, in theory, is the key to world peace--grossly oversimplified, but that you know, if we understood each other, we



Shepard and Jacobeit pause for a picture would not consider them 'the other.' We'll find that there's more similarities and differences in all humans."

Jacobeit added that it's a lot more fun to travel if you can chat with a shopkeeper, or strike up a conversation with the person next to you on the bus. Knowing a different language allows you to order the right dish at a restaurant, or ask for directions. You don't need to travel that far to put your language skills to the test--Montreal is a great place to spend a couple nights having fun with your friends, whether

(See LANGUAGES, Page 3)

Index

Voices	page 2 & 3
Art & Poetry	page 4
Surveys	page 5
Reviews	page 6
Sports	page 7
Crossword	page 8

VOICES

LOGISTICAL FALLACIES: AN ADVICE COLUMN



By Finch

I've been told I'm good at giving advice. The truth is: it isn't that hard. What better way to embrace a God-given gift than publishing it in an outdated media source? I mean, who

would know more about the high school experience than someone who's been a freshman for roughly a month? I am your deeply judgemental, omnipotent, all-knowing, and all-seeing host, Finch. I'll be giving advice to whatever lost, distressed, and confused souls that Mt. Abe and Addison County have to offer.

Dear Finch,
How do I find good internet connection in a state like this? It seems that my email and documents all crash and lag whenever I need it most.

From, Gmail Not Found

Dear Gmail Not Found,

Lord give you strength. Sing the alphabet backwards, circle around the device chanting ancient prayers, throw salt over your shoulder, sacrifice a virgin, and maybe you'll be blessed with stable internet connection. Probably not. Welcome to the Green Mountain State, where cattle are plentiful and bars of service are non-existent. Strap in buckaroo, 'cause it won't change 'till hell freezes over and the cows come home. Yee haw.

Sincerely, Finch

Dear Finch,
How do I prevent myself from punting the seventh graders with their horrific slang? If I hear "skibidi toilet" one more time, I am going to lose it.

From, Someone Who Was Alive Before 2012

Dear Someone Alive Before 2012,

My first instinct is to say drop-kick them. However, I don't want to be held liable in court due to an advice column I wrote freshman year. It's hard not to get irritable, especially when a four-foot-something child is yelling "gyatt" in the halls. All we can do is pray that this phase will end, like "What does the fox say?" Remember: There is no escaping the brain



Art by Ada Fisher '27 inspired by "The Tropics in New York" by Claude McKay

Students in American Studies studied the history and literature of the Harlem Renaissance, then created an artistic visual for a specific poem. Check out more poetry-inspired art on the opposite page.

rot. It will only encroach and spread like a virus. It's already infecting every corner of your brain as you read this. It's already too late. You can flee to any forgotten god and beg, but they will not answer your cries. Brrr skibidi dom dom dom yes yes skibidi doppity deep deep skibidi dom dom dom yes yes skibidi doppity.

Sincerely, Finch

Dear Finch,
Every time I see my friend, they shed their shoes and caress me with their feet. It's becoming a problem. Please send help.

From, a Podophobic in Deep Distress

Dear a Podophobic in Deep Distress,

I'm sending out the battalions as we speak. I can't imagine the inherent terror you must get as you see the Birkenstocks set aside just to be jump-scared by the feeling of Nike socks against your skin. Now, this may sound absurd, but bear with me. Every time they try to touch you with their feet, spray them with a spray bottle of some liquid and play "Shape of You" by Ed

Sheran. They will learn that feet without shoes means the spray bottle. Now, why the Ed Sheran piece? Every time they hear that song they will be filled with fear, and I just think that's funny. I think more people should perform social experiments. This will teach them to keep their Pavlov's dogs away from you.

Sincerely, Finch

ing to the teacher lecture." Munson likes high school health best, because there are more packets and hands-on work to do, and added that the most important thing he has learned in health is that "it doesn't matter what size you are, you can still be large and healthy."

Cousino enjoyed learning about "diet culture, because we learned so much more than last year, and a whole bunch of it last year was just about gender, pronouns, and sexuality, which is still good to learn, but I feel like diet culture is a lot more important to know."

Cousino and Munson both like how they can talk to Turner about school and easily complete their work in her class.

Bananas ripe and green, and ginger-root,
Cocoa in pods and alligator pears,
And tangerines and mangoes and grape fruit,
Fit for the highest prize at parish fairs,

Set in the window, bringing memories
Of fruit-trees laden by low-singing rills,
And dewy dawns, and mystical blue skies
In benediction over nun-like hills.

My eyes grew dim, and I could no more gaze;
A wave of longing through my body swept,
And, hungry for the old, familiar ways,
I turned aside and bowed my head and wept.

That concludes the first edition of "Logistical Fallacies," a very exciting kick-off if I do say so myself. Writing this, I cannot help but feel a bit like a jester, cursed to jingle along and impart my insanity to the masses.

Need advice? Want information on the occult? Do you have an unusual knowledge about worms? Email me at advicefromfinch@gmail.com.

GOLFING WITH MY FAMILY IS ALWAYS A GOOD TIME

By Peter Meyer

My dad and my brothers Sean and Gerhard like to go golfing at the driving range or at our house. I have been golfing for about five years, and my favorite place to golf is at home.

We have a golf course at home that only has one hole. You only have to use two clubs: an iron and a putter. An iron is used for far away, and a putter is used for close up. The best I have ever done on the hole we have at home is three strokes.

Sometimes we go golfing at the driving range, but usually we go golfing in our front yard. I am so good at golfing,



I beat my brothers and my dad all the time. I'm best with my irons, but Pa is the best putter.

I like to swing my iron most, because it makes the ball go far. Pa is always funny when we are golfing. Each time I miss the ball, Pa always jokes and says, "Feel the breeze." We always do a fun handshake at the end.

Vicki Bronson, my Journalism teacher, also loves golfing with her family. When asked what her favorite thing about golfing is, she said, "I love when I make a long putt, but my favorite thing is spending time with my husband and my daughter."

PRIVILEGES INSTEAD OF PARKING PASSES

By Avery Stetson

The parking passes are small pieces of paper with your name and your advisor's name on it that stick to your windshield. They aren't necessary. Also, the seniors should already have their senior privileges by now.



When we first got told about the parking passes, Safety and Wellness coordinator Tony Orvis told us they were to help him know who leaves, if they aren't supposed to leave, and to help him know whose vehicle is whose. He also told us we had a week to get them before Police Chief Bruce Nason was going to patrol the parking lot, and anybody who didn't have a parking pass in their windshield would get their vehicle towed. It's been close to two months and while I've been at school, I haven't seen Chief Nason patrolling the parking lot making sure everyone has them, nor have I seen any vehicle that doesn't have one get towed.

I know a lot of people who got the parking pass for their vehicle, but didn't put it in their windshield, and yet, nothing has happened. Orvis made it clear that everyone who drove to school needed to have one. Now, this makes it seem like they really weren't important, because there have been no consequences for any vehicle that doesn't have one.

Meanwhile, seniors still haven't gotten their privileges yet, and it's already November. We should've had them closer to the beginning of the year. I know we had to vote and agree on what everyone wanted for privileges, and the student council still had to meet with the principal and make sure they were acceptable, but I think we could've been more prepared, to make sure we got them sooner. Because there are a lot of seniors who will be done in the first semester, and if we don't get them soon, seniors will only have their privileges for about two months, which doesn't seem like much of a privilege.

Instead of worrying about the parking passes, I think we should have been more focused on getting seniors their privileges.

AMERICAN STUDIES' STUDENTS CREATE ART OUT OF POETRY



Art by Lux Tierney '27 inspired by "The Heart of a Woman"

By Georgia Douglas Johnson

The heart of a woman goes forth with the dawn,
As a lone bird, soft winging, so restlessly on,
Afar o'er life's turrets and vales does it roam
In the wake of those echoes the heart calls home.

The heart of a woman falls back with the night,
And enters some alien cage in its plight,
And tries to forget it has dreamed of the stars
While it breaks, breaks, breaks on the sheltering bars.



Art by Megan Bowers '27 inspired by "The Dream Keeper" by Langston Hughes

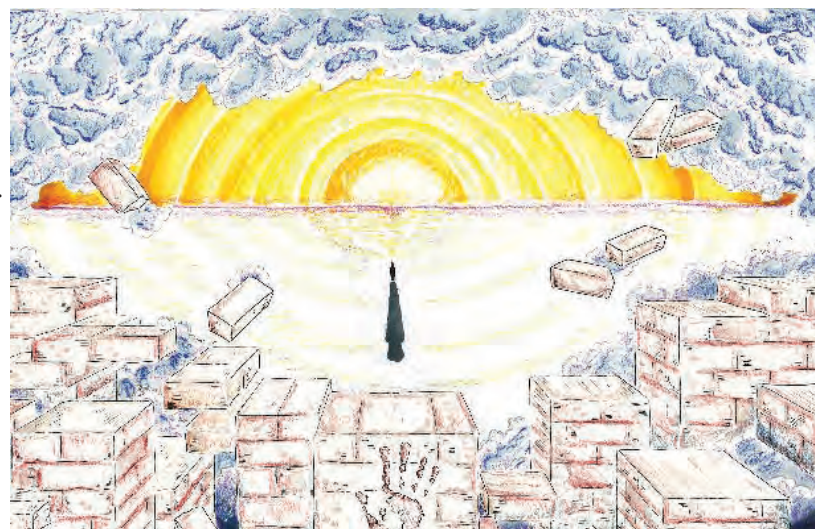
Bring me all of your dreams,
You dreamers.
Bring me all of your
Heart melodies
That I may wrap them
In a blue cloud-cloth
Away from the too rough fingers
Of the world.

Thank you to Katie Burdett for encouraging American Studies' students to share their work here, and to Sam Howe for getting the middle school student to share her writing.



Art by Rhiannon Andrews '27 inspired by "April Rain Song" by Langston Hughes

Let the rain kiss you
Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops
Let the rain sing you a lullaby
The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk
The rain makes running pools in the gutter
The rain plays a little sleep song on our roof at night
And I love the rain.



Art by Charlie Prouty '27 inspired by "As I Grew Older" By Langston Hughes

It was a long time ago.
I have almost forgotten my dream.
But it was there then,
In front of me,
Bright like a sun,—
My dream.

And then the wall rose,
Rose slowly,
Slowly,
Between me and my dream.
Rose slowly, slowly,
Dimming,
Hiding,
The light of my dream.
Rose until it touched the sky,—
The wall.
Shadow.
I am black.
I lie down in the shadow.
No longer the light of my dream
before me,
Above me.
Only the thick wall.
Only the shadow.

My hands!
My dark hands!
Break through the wall!

Find my dream!
Help me to shatter this darkness,
To smash this night,
To break this shadow
Into a thousand lights of sun,
Into a thousand whirling dreams
Of sun!

LANGUAGES

(Continued from Page 1)

going to a club or visiting an art museum. If you speak French, you can connect with the locals, and broaden your knowledge of francophone culture.

Students can use Spanish right here in Addison County! There are many Spanish speaking migrant workers nearby. Some farmers have learned Spanish just to communicate with their employees, in order to finish projects faster and make better personal connections. Shepard even helped translate *The Most Costly Journey*, which is a very moving collection of true stories told in "graphic novel" style about the lives of immigrants in Vermont.

Junior Cole Putnam is taking both French 4 and Spanish 1. He takes these

classes so that he can travel, but also to diversify his learning and expand his horizons. Putnam enjoys meeting people who speak other languages and "learning about other societies in the world as a whole." Putnam believes that "Everyone benefits from taking language classes, even if just to pronounce random words they see that come from another language."

Studying another language is just beneficial overall. It's good for your brain because it encourages you to think in different ways, and builds your confidence. It also provides you with communication skills that can be used in real situations, such as being more specific and putting more thought into your words, regardless of what language you're using. If nothing else, it improves your vocabulary and understanding of English.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CORNER

WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS OF BEING A BOG BODY?

By Lucy Eberhardy

Being a bog body has both good and bad things that go along with it. One of the biggest downsides is that you have to die and your death has to take place in a peat bog, preferably in Europe. However, your sacrifice will help future people learn about the past, granting you eternal fame among the nerds. Your last meal will also be granted eternal fame due to the fact that the future people will want to know what foods used to be eaten. Unfortunately, this requires them to take your intestines out and then stuff them back in your body. Overall, from fame and food to death and intestines, being a bog body has its ups and downs, but you should still consider it when dying.

MORE MIDDLE SCHOOL on page 6



Art by Maria Martin '26 inspired by "Stars" by Langston Hughes

O, sweep of stars over Harlem streets,
O, little breath of oblivion that is night.

A city building
To a mother's song.
A city dreaming
To a lullaby.

Reach up your hand, dark boy, and take a star.

Out of the little breath of oblivion
That is night,
Take just
One star.

ART & POETRY

WE ARE THE PREY By Camille Hamilton '28

The coyotes are killers
They kill the fam'
They gobble us up until dad goes bam
They still chase no matter what we say
For us to them, we are just prey

We tell them to stop
In our loud raspy 'bawks'
But they attack
Whistle we slack
Because we know we can't stay
For us to them, we are just prey

They get hungry
We get ignored
There is no safe space, not even indoors
They tear through the doors
And watch our terror
They are the hunters
We are the prey.

MY STUPID HUMAN By Ellie Newman '28

I wake. I meow.
"Feed me now"
My human does not.

I run. I sit.
I feel so fit.
"Give me attention" I say
My human does not

I lie in the sun
It is so fun
My human picks me up
I say "Stop, release me."
My human does not.



*Saltpig made in Ceramics
By Elsa Masefield '28*

*"My Stupid Human"
and "We are the Prey"
and "Fall Is..." were
written in the style of
"Girls, Can We
Educate We Dads"
by James Berry*



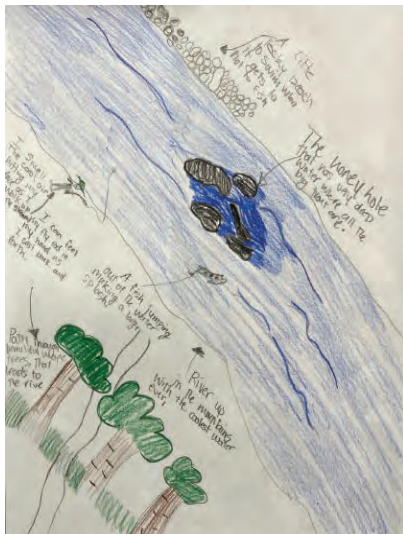
MEMORY MAP POEM By Waydon Cherington '28

A path through beautiful maples, oaks, and cedars
My father and I walk into the clearing
The smell of cool air hits me once I'm past the trees.

We find a river
Up in the mountains with the coldest water ever
Brook Trout leap out of the water
A bunch of rocks creates a deep hole behind them.
I creep up to the spot where I'm going to cast from
and BAM!
A fish and then another and another. Finally...

After two hours of catching fish, we take a break
Sweat drips down my face and runs down my body
A small rocky beach, perfect for swimming

After a day of fishing and catching we head home
Happy, cool and refreshed.



*Bowl made in Ceramics
By Hailey Bartlett '25*

THE EDGE OF THE WORLD By Bayley Burnham '28

We haven't always lived on the edge of the world. Once, we used to live in a cozy village, nested in a valley. Where laughter mingled with the songs of the ocean. This was all before the great storm came... Sweeping away everything we knew, forcing us to seek help and go farther on into the cliffs overlooking the salty smells of the ocean. When we were younger, we would play along the rocks, blocking us from ever touching the mysterious waters. I would dream of what swam among those seas. The elders would tell us stories about the great seas which allowed our imaginations to run free and paint vivid pictures of forever-lasting adventures.

**written in the style of "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros*

TIME

By Maggie Collins '28

So late soon, life's
a gloom. Time's

so fast. We
run back. October

spite. Morning
light. The clock

ticks fast. Final
blast.

*"Time" and "The Leaves" were written in the style of
"We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks*

FALL IS...

By Kai Ludka '28

Fall is change
Fall is death
So things may begin again
So we may look back to how things have been
Fall is change

Fall is sadness
Fall is hope
It is a wish for something better
A want for something real
A cleanse of things that fester
Fall is change

Fall is the start
Fall is the end
The beginning of the dark
The infinity below
But the promise of a spark
Through all harm together we will go
Fall is change



*Mug made in Ceramics
By Lizzie Mikkelsen '25*

THE LEAVES By Nora Hurlburt '28

The leaves. Fall
turn colors, take a new identity

The leaves. Flutter
detached from home, wandering

The leaves. Crush
struck by a stray foot, or tire

The leaves. Disappear
washed away, masked by snow



*Pendant made in Jewelry
By Rhiannon Andrews '27*

OVER THE EDGE By Mazin Swebston '28

Looking out over the edge
I see
The mountains stretching
Away, away from me and
My feet of the cool
Surface of the rock.

I feel the wind
Blowing softly against my face
Willing me to stare at the
Endless expanse of green
And blue, and admire
The white
Of the clouds
In the sky.

I step back
And I am back
on Earth. I glance
back, and say
Goodbye
To the beautiful
Sky.



*Pendant made in Jewelry
By Trinity Croft '28*

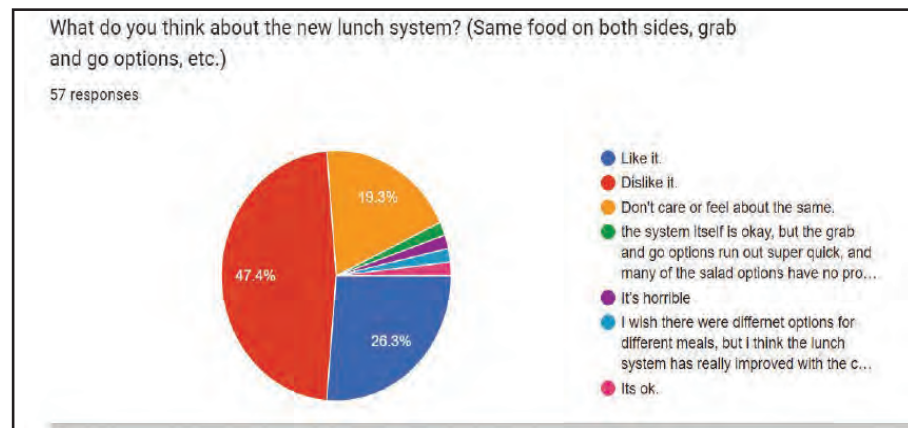
STUDENTS AND STAFF MEMBERS SHARE THOUGHTS ON CHANGES IN CAFETERIA

By Eliza Ruble

A survey was recently conducted to figure out how the Mt. Abraham community members felt about changes to the cafeteria, and 78 students and faculty members responded.

Of the 78 respondents, 58 said that they eat the school lunch at least 1-2 times per week. Nearly 50% of respondents who eat lunch weekly dislike the changes, 26% like the changes, and 25% feel neutral. Last year, students could choose to eat a hot lunch meal from either the large cafeteria or the small cafeteria, which both had different, rotating choices. This year, both sides have the same meal which runs on a six week cycle, so a meal will not be repeated for six weeks. There are also several choices of sandwiches, salads, and other “grab-and-go” options.

Many people expressed frustration over the fact that there are fewer lunch choices this year, especially since the only alternate options are cold lunches, which are smaller and not as filling. However, some voiced support for the grab-and-go meals. These respondents are also pleased that there are the same options available



on both sides, since lines are shorter and students don't have to think about which meal to eat.

Overall, respondents seemed to view the new variety of meals positively, and liked the fact that there are more creative and diverse dishes served. Junior Cole Putnam stated, “I like that they're trying new, multicultural things instead of conforming to the typical American high school fare. It also feels like they're trying to step it up on quality, with mixed, but (in my opinion) overall positive results.”

Students were conflicted about having pizza every Wednesday. While 47% like it, 33% dislike it, and 20% don't care. However, 12 out of 47 people expressed displeasure at the fact that it is served every week. As freshman Luke Goodfellow said, “The pizza was ok for the first weeks, but every week is just too much.” However, some people like the routine. Eighth grader Elliot Olstad remarked, “It's pretty good, and it's nice to have food that you have eaten before so you don't always have to try something new.”

SURVEY SAID...

The new milk machines, which serve fresh, local milk, have been a great success. Of the respondents, 60% like them, 27% said that they are happy the milk machines are there even though they don't use them, and not a single person said that they dislike them. Sophomore Henry Allred is a fan, saying, “They're a really nice addition, in my opinion. It makes it feel more at home. You can also control how much milk you want and it's easier to drink. Monument farms is also a spectacular foundation for that type of drink.”

Executive chef Paul Fucello was able to shed some light on the reasons behind these changes. According to him, the main reason for the switch was to shorten the lines, so that waiting doesn't cut into the eating time. He believes students should have the opportunity to slow down and “have the time to relax and enjoy lunch.” Fucello noted that a very important part of the cafeteria system is the care that goes into the meals. He believes that “there is cooking, in its simplest form, just putting heat to food so you can eat it... and then there's cooking... with love and passion.”

SPOTLIGHT ON MT. ABE STAFF CONTINUED: A SCIENCE TEACHER AND A CUSTODIAN

INTERVIEW WITH SCIENCE TEACHER STEPH ROSSIER

By Peter Meyer with Dylan Wells



Rossier enjoying the outdoors

Stephanie Rossier is a teacher at Mt. Abe who teaches science. She was recently interviewed by our staff.

Peter Meyer: Why did you become a science teacher at Mt. Abe, in Vermont?

Steph Rossier: I became a science teacher in Vermont because I did not want to leave Vermont.

PM: How long have you been teaching and how long have you been at Mt. Abe?

SR: I'm going into my 23rd year of teaching, and I've spent 13 years here at Mt. Abe.

PM: Finally, what is your favorite thing to teach and why?

SR: My favorite course is AP bio because I have taught it only once before.

HALEY MAKES MT. ABE A CLEANER, BETTER PLACE

By Henry Allred

Marilyn Haley is a custodian at MAUHS who has been working for three years as a maintenance keeper for the cafeterias, lobby, and other rooms starting in December of 2021.

According to Haley, she worked in the school's kitchen for five years, serving breakfast prior to working for the custodial department. Because her husband had worked the same job as she does now, this inspired her to transition into cleaning. From Haley's perspective, being a maintenance keeper is described as being fairly

simple and easy to accomplish on a day-to-day basis. If something unexpected or new were to come up during her work hours, she'd find a way to work around it.

The only recognizable challenge that she brought up is being under a time limit which in itself takes time to get more proficient at. Haley arrives at the school at approximately 9:30 a.m. to complete the following tasks:

1. Clean the main lobby
2. Prepare for lunch cleaning duty
3. Vacuum/clean offices
4. Clean the kitchen
5. Clean both small and large cafeterias directly after the first and second lunch periods
6. Clean up the restrooms and the grey house

All of which is to be completed by 6:00pm when she gets to leave.

On a personal level, Haley shared a few details about her life. She said, “I grew up in South Burlington, and graduated from South Burlington High School. I was born in New York and I didn't go to college. I'm married, have two daughters, and we own a pet cat and a pet rabbit. Both my daughters own horses and dogs.”

Something that Haley has said is one of the pleasures of working this job is the company of having kids around when being in the large cafeteria (her favorite room in the building) during active hours.

One of Haley's most favorite hobbies is cooking, which in retrospect supports why she decided to apply for the breakfast job in the first place.

Haley encouraged others to join the custodial staff at Mt. Abe, and suggested either talking to Mike Orvis (lead custodian) directly or searching up “SchoolSpring.com” for anyone who might be interested in applying for a custodial position.



Haley pauses for a photo after school recently

world would be a much better place if everyone were as authentic as Kai Correll.

To every member of the Mount Abraham musical staff, the community owes you many years of thanks. Our shows wouldn't be what they are without help from every one of you. Thank you for your resilience, talent, dedication, and love from the bottom of our hearts.

STARS

(Continued from Page 1)

a show is seeing people have that growth moment of like, ‘Oh. I can do that,’ and lean into their roles and characters. The stage is for everyone who wants it. All it takes is that sort of courage to step up.” She encouraged everyone to join after-school programs and learn to sing, dance, and engage. “Everyone starts somewhere,” she added.

For nine years, Carley Sherwin has performed in and produced musicals with Mount Abraham. After an entire high school career as a performer, she continued pursuing musical theater in higher education. Following college graduation, Sherwin came back as a stage manager. As a stage manager, she sees a lot in a day, juggling the technological and artistic aspects that come with putting on a show. She takes notes and is incredibly knowledgeable about everything show-related. You forgot a cue? Sherwin knows. You missed a line? Sherwin has your back. She makes sure every light or special effects cue is performed at the exact right time in

every show. She's dedicated, doing a bit of everything to help keep the show going. Her final message was “Keep coming to them...they're super fun. There are few huge events that rival the musical theater programs here. It's just fun to have 500 people in the same room seeing the same thing at the same time.”

Another key piece of the theater department puzzle is Kai Correll. Correll starred in many of the musicals put on at Mount Abe in his youth. He does a bit of everything, ranging widely from creative decisions to standing in for a missing cast member during rehearsal. When asked about the hardest part of making a musical, Correll said, “The biggest challenge is remembering to let go and enjoy the process. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in procuring a perfect product that we lose sight of the simple joys that come from what we do.” This quote illustrates how Correll is a source of inspiration and confidence for all the young participants in the musicals. Correll is eccentric and full of life and kindness no longer believed to exist as such. He is so fully himself. The

BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE “SHAKES LOOSE” IN SEQUEL

By Henry Allred

Tim Burton's film classic from the 1980's revives from the netherworld as the 2024 *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* made its successful long-awaited debut in theaters this September.

The movie's exterior cinematography shots were filmed in East Corinth, Vermont, accurately portraying the fictional village of Winter River, Connecticut like it did in the original. East Corinth is a neighborhood close enough to Addison County that you could take a little weekend visit there! The rest of the film was also shot in London and Culver Studio in California.

Its cast features a return of the one and only Micheal Keaton, who knocks it



out of the park with his refreshed role of Beetlejuice. Other recognizable members include Jenna Ortega, Willem Dafoe, Winona Ryder, Monica Bellucci, and even Danny Devito makes a cameo. If you liked or really seemed to enjoy the original movie, you will most certainly like this one.

It's filled to the brim with wacky, thrilling, chaotic moments with a story that very much complements its original predecessor. Previous cast members such as Alec Baldwin, Geena Davis, Jeffrey Jones, and Glenn Shadix unfortunately did not make an appearance in this film because of the director confirming that the plans he had for the sequel did not include the characters they portrayed.

This sequel adds so much more depth and polish to the original and creates a bigger meaning for itself. Take the “Shrunk-en” (humanoid creatures with shrunk heads) for example. They are given a much bigger spotlight in this film, being comedic minions instead of getting the very brief bit they had in the original. The artistic direction in this film is brilliant, especially the costume designs which are very creatively done and fitting to the nature of Tim Burton's mind.

On one hand, I wouldn't exactly recommend this movie to people who are completely unaware of the world and idea of Beetlejuice, as you would most likely have a hard time grasping why things are the way they are or what is actually happening. For example, it does get off the

REVIEWS

rails in a lot of parts throughout the movie and has rather unfitting music here and there. The movie introduces a few new major characters, such as Delores and Wolf Jackson, who are pretty strongly written and illustrated. However, their objectives and resolutions get a bit sloppy toward the end. These new characters sort of lead themselves into a weird, comical “end.”

Nevertheless, these cons should not at all take away from the experience of this movie as a whole, as it is still a very fun, comedic film that is a significant revival to its predecessor and an absolute thrill to watch.

Review: 8.5/10 Highly recommended

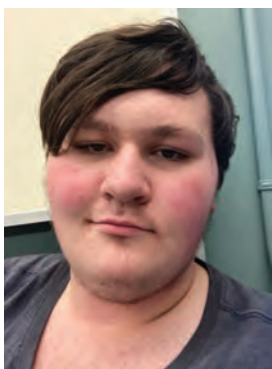
* * *

SNAP'S OFFERS DINER-STYLE FARE THAT'S A CUT ABOVE

By Dylan Wells

Snap's is a classic diner located in Bristol, Vermont, that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They serve a wide range of food, from a common burger to French toast until 1 pm. Of course, this is food that you'd expect from a diner.

When visiting Snap's you are welcomed by the warm heat of the oven and a statue of a man handing out mints. Two large tables and multiple booths take up most of the floor, while a small area is dedicated to a small bar and the cash register that leads into the kitchen. At each booth, there is a unique piece of Bristol history with a framed photo, making for some fun history lessons while you wait for your food.



Most of the decorations are just a bunch of clocks on the wall that don't even work, which can be a bit of an eyesore if you're just staring at the wall.

Snap's menu is filled with almost every type of diner food you'd expect, which can get a bit overwhelming, but when I go, I always get the same thing. When I order my food, I always get the chicken tenders, which come with fries and cole slaw. I don't eat the cole slaw, but I do drink a milkshake; normally I order the chocolate milkshake or the Vermont Milkshake. The best part of this meal is the fries; they are just the right amount of crunchy and soft, filling your taste buds with such great flavor. You'll have to eat

them yourself to understand the pure amount of flavor they produce. However, the chicken tenders are hit or miss. Snap's doesn't make their chicken tenders fresh; instead, they are frozen and thrown into a deep fryer for a couple of minutes. So, depending on the delivery, the chicken tenders can be excellent or not good at all. As for the milkshakes, they are almost as good as the fries, if not a little bit better.

As for the service, this is where things go bad. Everything is fine when you first get your menu and have your food given to you. After that, someone will just hand you the check without you even asking for it. Most of the times when I have gone recently, the waiters never check up on me to see if my food is alright, which can be a big problem. One time I noticed a fruit fly in my drink and asked a waiter about it, but they didn't seem bothered by it at

all and just handed me a new cup, and she even said, “Sometimes that happens.” Once you are served, you might get the feeling that they want you out as soon as possible. They don't yell at you, but they don't check up on you and make you feel like they want you to leave.

Snap's is a pleasant-looking place with a friendly appearance on the inside and historic photos of Bristol, and the menu can be overwhelming (in a good way) with how many choices there are, but the service just isn't good. Having bad service can ruin a restaurant's reputation, and stop future customers from coming in.

While the food is the main reason to go to Snap's over the other restaurants on the street, it's mainly because they are a diner and offer a lot of different choices. In the end, I would recommend going to Snap's at least once to try their food, but just don't expect the best service. If you don't mind mediocre service, then it's an good spot to go grab a quick bite to eat.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Framing a Special Artifact Paragraphs explain how people's perspectives shaped the sources they created.

By Matthew Steele '29

The artifact I would hang is my hat. It is a kind of comfort zone for me if I'm not wearing it I feel self-conscious and generally uncomfortable. Another reason this is a special object to me is that it is from a really special place: a family camp called Timberlock. It's an amazing spot right on Indian Lake in the Adirondack Mountains. I have been going there almost every year since I was two. My dad bought this hat for me at the camp's gift shop last summer and I have worn it ever since. I would hang this artifact in my room to remind me of all the great memories I've had while wearing it.



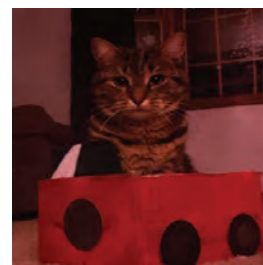
By Kendall Huizenga '30

My special artifact is six pins and pearls. I chose to frame this artifact because it is something I've had almost my whole life. I would hang my artifact above my bed. The story behind my artifact is that it was my great grandma's and she gave it to my great aunt so when she died, I got a lot of her jewelry and things. Overall, my artifact is important because it reminds me of my great aunt.

Thank you to Karyn Norris, Sam Howe & Colleen Kiley for encouraging Middle School students to share their work here and on page 8.

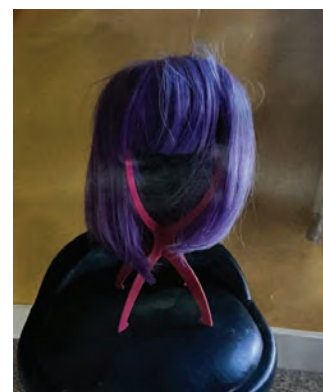
By Saylor Goddard '30

My special artifact that I would frame is my Grandma's wig. I chose this artifact because she died from cancer, and I really miss her so it would be nice to have that to remember her by. I would hang this in my room so I can remember her every day when I wake up and when I go to sleep. The story behind this artifact is she got diagnosed with lung cancer and ended up living a year longer than she was supposed to. Overall, this artifact means a lot to me and my family.



By Cameron Sawyer '29

My special artifact that I would frame is a photo of my cat named Bonnie in a cardboard box that my brothers made. I chose this artifact because I love my cat. I would hang this in my room because she is my favorite. The story behind this artifact is it is my favorite photo of my cat. Overall, this artifact means a lot to me because it is my only cat and I love her very much.



CALM QUIET POND by Hannah Perkins '29

The nice calm quiet pond,
My friend asks a question but I can't respond

Ducks swam by, making ripples in the water,
The ducks look far away, maybe at least an acre?

Moving the leaves on the trees blew a calm quiet breeze,
I could sit here all day eating dark red cherries

* * *

FOR ONE MORE
ARTIFACT & A POEM,
SEE

MORE MIDDLE SCHOOL
on page 8

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: GIRLS' SOCCER ELEVEN HAVE STELLAR SEASON

#2 HAZEL GUILLMETTE By Isla Underwood

We can't even put into words what you have done and continue to do for this team. Your relentless work effort and constant positive energy radiates through this team and it's what has made you such a great captain. You are someone everyone looks up to as you always give 110% to your teammates as you repeatedly fight for the ball up top. Your fun and loving energy is part of why the team has clicked so well this year, constantly cracking jokes, dancing, and hyping this team up. We love you lots and will miss you!



#11 LAUREN COUSINO By Isla Underwood

There's a reason Lauren was chosen as one of the best midfielders in Vermont, because she is the heart of our team, no matter how tough a game, she leads by keeping everyone grounded through her calm and collected nature. She is unstoppable on the field with her technical chops, ready to beat any player one v one or get herself out of any pressure. Lauren is also an amazing teammate, communicating on and off the field making our team better every practice and game. But she is also someone I can go to for a laugh or advice, she does it all. Lauren, we love sooooo much and will miss you lots!!



#13 ABBA PARKER By Morgan Laroque

On the field, Abba is nothing short of phenomenal. She has an incredible ability to read the game and make split-second decisions that change the game in our favor. Beyond her talent, Abba has had a profound influence on our team culture. She always knows how to lift our spirits, whether we're facing a tough opponent or dealing with a loss. Her positivity is contagious, and it's made us all better players and teammates. This team can all agree on how much we love you, and Abba, you will be missed!



#3 LILY BENOIT By Molly Burgess

Lily has been the heart of our defense, and as a senior, her impact goes far beyond her performances on the field. Her kindness, positivity, and quiet leadership have created a bond within our team that will be deeply missed. Her ability to read the game and shut down attackers has been vital to our success. We'll miss not just her defensive skill, but the way she lifts everyone around her with support and encouragement. Lily, we are incredibly grateful for everything you have given to this team. We will miss you!

#8 HAZEL STODDARD By Lila Brightman

Hazel has been an absolutely essential part of our team, whether it's when she's on the field as a powerhouse in midfield or off the field as a leader. She is tough and strong, not afraid to get right in the middle of a play and shut it down. She has an eye for the game, able to observe the tiniest details and communicate them with the team through amazing advice. Her additions to our pre-game, half-time, and post-game conversations are often why we can turn a game around and pull through with a win. Off the field, she brings her humor and leadership skills to the team and is a crucial part of the team's atmosphere. We love you and will miss you so much, Hazel!



#18 SAFI CAMARA By Lila Brightman

Since the first day of tryouts this year, Safi has proven what an incredible leader she is. She is endlessly positive and encouraging, able to lift the team from any bad mood. Having Safi as one of our captains was a constant reassurance of the great leadership on our team. She is an incredibly hard worker, never seeming to get tired when she's sprinting up and down the wing. Her love for the game is contagious and continues to inspire all of us. Getting to play alongside Safi this year has been an incredible privilege. Her skill as a player, influence as a leader, and amazing choreography skills will be sincerely missed. We love you, Safi!

#22 LOUISA PAINTER By Sophie Underwood

What makes Louisa stand out is her spirited personality. Whether it's sprinting her hardest as striker, keeping things light during tough practices, or lifting the team's energy lou is always there! You've brought joy, laughter, and a spirit that will always be remembered. We are grateful for the memories, the hard work, and the friendship you've given to us all. Whether it's sharing your knowledge, offering encouragement, or just



being someone I can look up to, over your 4 years you've helped shape this team. Your diving headers, relentless sprints as a striker, and celebratory leaps after every goal are moments we'll never forget. Lou, we love you and can't wait to see what's next for you!



#10 WHITNEY DYKSTRA By Morgan Laroque

Whitney has exemplified what it means to be a true leader. She leads not just with words, but with actions. Whether it's her relentless work ethic during practice or the encouragement she offers to each of us, she embodies the spirit of teamwork. What sets Whitney apart is her ability to connect with each team member. She takes the time to listen, encourage, and mentor. Along with Whitney's amazing personality she is a beast on the field. No matter how fast or how good of

footwork an opponent has I never worry knowing Whitney is behind me to back me up. It has truly been a blessing to play with Whitney over the years and I am forever grateful for her.

MGR. ESME VISCO-LYONS By Sky Macdonald

Esme is a very treasured member of this soccer team. Whether that means keeping everything running smoothly and organized, capturing our best moments as our excellent photographer or just being our ultimate hype man 24/7, we love you for it. The support that you continuously bring to practices, games, and to our team in general is what pushes us all to be better people on and off the field. Your positive energy and encouraging words inspire us to be our best and we thank you so much for that. Your contribution towards this team will never be taken for granted, you are so appreciated within this team and your hard work will not be forgotten.



#73 ROSEMARY BEHOUNEK By Olivia Sawyer

Let me tell you about our fearless keeper, Rosemary. From day one, Rosemary has been a pillar of strength and determination for our team. With every incredible save, she has not only protected our goal but also inspired us to push harder. Rosemary stepped right into her role this season with a positive attitude and unwavering confidence that has been key to our success. Rosemary, thank you for your hard work, dedication, encouragement, and beautiful spirit. We will miss you so much as a goalie and even more as a teammate! We love you Rosemary!



#20 MACKENZIE GRINER By Payton Shepard

McKenzie, you've been an incredible teammate both on and off the field. Your hard work, amazing defensive skills, and positive attitude have inspired and motivated us all this season. You've played a crucial role in our team's success, helping the Eagles secure the wins! It's been an honor to play alongside you this year. Your encouragement and dedication has made a huge difference. Thank you for everything, McKenzie—we'll miss you so much and wish you all the best in your future endeavors!



HUGE thanks to Mark Bouvier for sharing ALL the photos on this page! Check out Mark's website and show your support:
<https://markbouvierphotography.smugmug.com/>

ROWING

(Continued from Page 1)

is considered a club and not a sport because it is not recognized by NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) or the VPA (Vermont Principal's Association) as a sport. Because it is not recognized as a sport, rowing does not require student participants to adhere to the same requirements that athletes do in order to be eligible. This is the same for other activities such as the fall and spring musicals, and other non-athletic clubs/groups." Wendel added, "Over time, we have worked to support the club in the way of providing a paid stipend to the advisor of the group."

Rowing has three main things to remember: "sitting ready" is getting ready to dip your oar into the water, "ready all" is leaning as far as you can forward with your oar in the water, and "row" is when you lean backward, pulling the oar toward yourself. There are three different classes of rowing: Novices are new to rowing, Intermediates aren't experts, but they aren't new, and Experts, who have the most races each year, are considered the best of the club.

One of the newest members of the rowing team is a sophomore novice named Henry Allred, who joined rowing later than the average rower, and explained, "I have friends that do it and it seemed fun." When someone joins rowing, it's either fun for them or they hate it, but Allred explained that he enjoys the sport so far. "It's kind of repetitive, but it's fun." As a novice, Allred has room to expand the skills he'll need to continue next year. "I'll most likely do it next season or year," he added.

Novices become intermediate rowers with more time spent on the team, rowers go up in class. Being an intermediate is much harder because you are expected to know everything about rowing, especially how to stay in time with fellow rowers. Most intermediate rowers don't notice much of a change, except that the coxswain is much more demanding and giving harder orders. Despite it being harder, most intermediate rowers hope to become expert rowers who'll be put into a four-oar boat.



Vukoder celebrates at the Head of the Weir PC: Andrew Rainville



Graphic by Bruce Babbitt

The Bird's Eye View

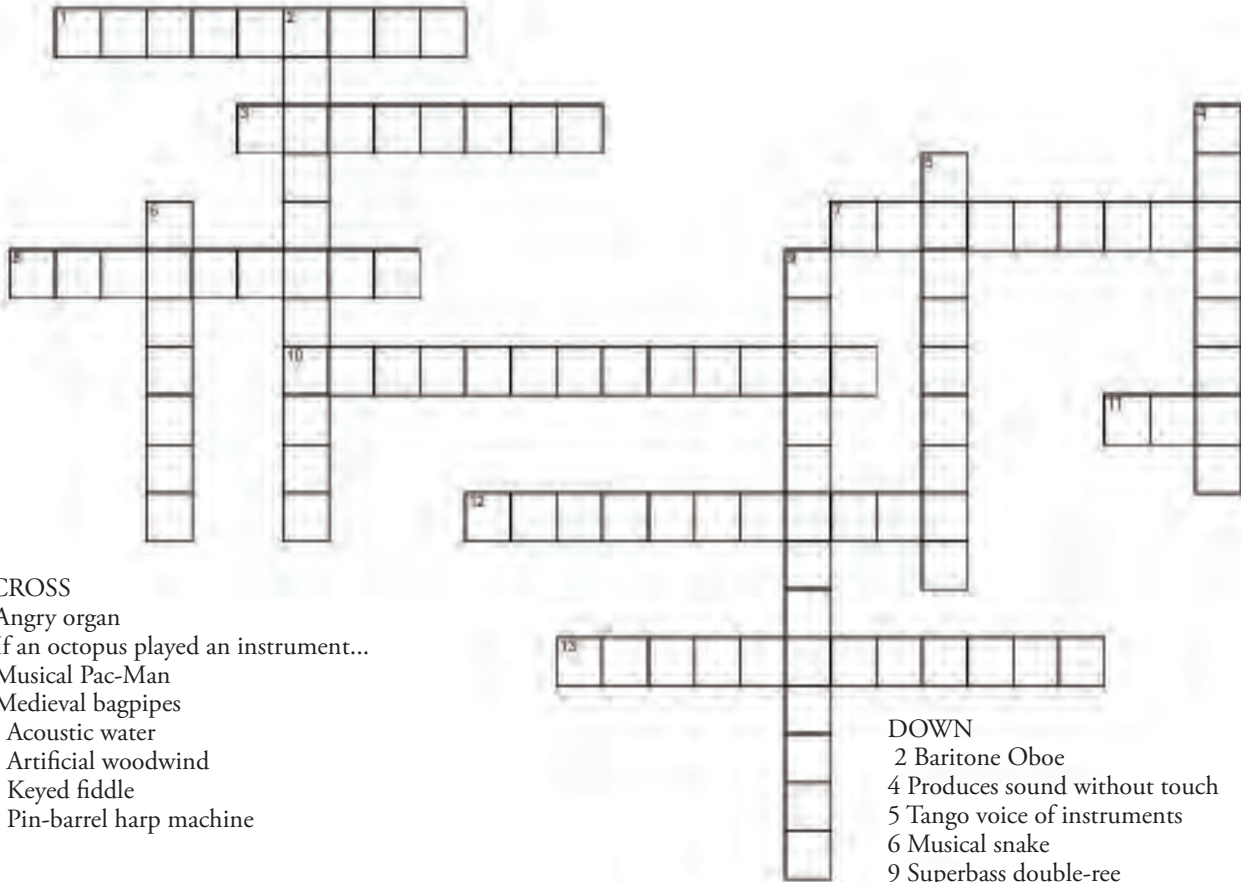
Contact:
Mt. Abraham Union High School
220 Airport Drive
Bristol, VT 05443
Phone: (802) 453-2333 x62095
Fax: (802) 453-4359

Staff: Dylan Wells '26 Avery Stetson '25 Peter Meyer '25
Eliza Ruble '28 Trinity Croft '28 Henry Allred '27
sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/

Advisor Vicki Bronson
vicki.bronson@mausd.org

RARE INSTRUMENTS

A CROSSWORD BY HENRY ALLRED



- ACROSS
- 1 Angry organ
 - 3 If an octopus played an instrument...
 - 7 Musical Pac-Man
 - 8 Medieval bagpipes
 - 10 Acoustic water
 - 11 Artificial woodwind
 - 12 Keyed fiddle
 - 13 Pin-barrel harp machine

- DOWN
- 2 Baritone Oboe
 - 4 Produces sound without touch
 - 5 Tango voice of instruments
 - 6 Musical snake
 - 9 Superbass double-ree

For the solution go to: <https://sites.google.com/a/anesu.org/birds-eye-view/home/puzzles>

Junior Gretchen Toy is an expert who rows in a six-oar (six-rowers) expert boat. As an expert, Toy has been able to see most of what rowing has to offer, but not all because there is so much more to rowing than what is practiced at Mt. Abe. "I have learned a lot from rowing, including the amount of strength and endurance it requires to be successful," Toy said. She would like to keep rowing, adding, "I could definitely see myself rowing in college." As expert is considered to be the toughest class of rowing, Toy shared some of her experience, "It takes hard work to be in the experienced boat. You have to

not only be physically in sync with your teammates, but you also have to be in constant agreement and communication with them, which can be difficult at times."

No matter what grade you're in at Mt. Abe, you can join the Rowing Team and enjoy the glory of the waves and blisters on your hands. You'll learn to Sit ready, Ready all, and Row! If you're interested in joining, please email kyle.dixon@mausd.org

MORE MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Continued from Page 6)



By Noella Harris '29

My special artifact that I would frame is half of a rock that my sister has the other half of. I chose this artifact because it shows how close we are and it also symbolizes us being 1/2 of the whole that we are together. I would hang this in the small library right across our room because then every time I left the room I could remember throughout my day of the bond we have to brighten up my mood from the beginning, but I would also put it there because I have no place in our room to hang it. The story behind this artifact is not really much since we only got it a couple months ago from our mom but it's still something that I would frame due to how I think of it. Overall, this artifact means quite a bit since it adapted such a meaning over time.

THE RHYTHM OF HOOFBEATS
by Lylla Covey '30

In the show ring, where dreams were spun,
We walked, we trotted, we cantered as one.
Your hooves on the ground, my heart in the sky,
Together we soared, you and I.

In the walk-trot-canter, we found our stride,
With grace and elegance, side by side.
The crowd would watch, their eyes aglow,
As we performed our dance, a beautiful show.

Your mane flowing like a river of gold,
In every movement, a story was told.
The bond we shared, so deep and true,
In every stride, I felt it with you.

Through the highs and lows, we faced it all,
In the show ring, we stood tall.
Every round, every turn, a memory made,
In the light of the arena, our fears would fade.

But time, it moves with a steady hand,
And fate, it plays a different strand.
The day arrived when we had to part,
With tears in my eyes and a heavy heart.

I held you close, whispered my love,
As you took your place in the heavens above.
Free from pain, in fields so wide,
In my heart, you will always reside.

The show has ended, and you've taken flight,
In my dreams, you ride each night.
Thank you, dear friend, for the joy you brought,
In every moment, in every thought.

The arena is silent, but I still hear,
The echoes of our journey, the memories clear.
Though we had to part, our bond remains,
In the rhythm of hoofbeats, in the fall of rain.